

Yolo County Health Council

March 9, 2023

Minutes

ANTHONY VOLKAR, CHAIR
NICKI KING, CO-VICE CHAIR
CHESTER AUSTIN, CO-VICE CHAIR

YOLO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

GONZALEZ BUILDING, COMMUNITY ROOM

25 NORTH COTTONWOOD STREET

WOODLAND, CA 95695

The Yolo County Health Council met on the 9th Day of March 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in-person in the Gonzalez Building, Community Room, 25 North Cottonwood Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Anthony Volkar, District 1; Ximena Diez-Jackson, District 2; Carri Ziegler, District 3; Leon Schimmel, District 4; Valerie Olson, District 5; Michelle Famula, At-Large Member; Pat Moore-Pickett, At-Large Member; Lori Duisenberg, First 5 Yolo; Jeneba Lahai, Yolo County Children’s Alliance; Nicki King, Local Mental Health Board; Ozmar Aburto, CommuniCare Health Centers; Mark Ho, Kaiser Permanente; Chester Austin, Northern Valley Indian Health; Deven Merchant, Sutter Health; Margaret Trout, UC Davis; Stacey McCall, Winters Healthcare; Sherri Olswang, Woodland Healthcare

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Dawn Myers, Commission on Aging & Adult Services; Tatyana Bak, Elica Health Centers; Jessica White, Elica Health Centers; Kathryn Power, Partnership HealthPlan of California; Dustin Lyda Partnership HealthPlan of California; Tandy Burton, Woodland Healthcare

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Deputy Supervisor Sheila Allen, District 4; Brian Vaughn, Public Health Director; Jaspreet Kaur, HHSa; Robert Herrick, Public Health Epidemiologist; Julian Lopez, Public Health Epidemiologist; Mary Ann Limbos, HHSa; Mark Bryan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Jon Li

9:00 A.M. CALL TO ORDER

The March 9, 2023, Health Council meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Anthony Volkar, Health Council Chair.

1. WELCOME – Anthony Volkar, Chair

2. ROLL CALL – Jaspreet Kaur, Interim Secretary

A roll call for voting members was taken, and the quorum was confirmed.

3. VOTE ON APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND THE FEBRUARY 9, 2023 MINUTES – Anthony Volkar, Chair

Motion: Chester Austin **Second:** Deven Merchant **Discussion:** None **Agenda Vote:** Passed Unanimously
Minutes Vote: Passed Unanimously

4. STATE AND COUNTY UPDATE – Mark Bryan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

- Mark Bryan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
 - All departments will be presenting their annual updates to the Board next week, as the Board will take them into consideration while crafting the budget.
 - Next two weeks, National Weather and State expect another atmospheric river to be coming through. The Office of Emergency Services is coordinating with the cities to address the situation.
 - The Board has accepted a grant to put a new library in Davis, expected to open in 2026.

5. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UPDATE – Sheila Allen, Deputy Supervisor, District 4

- Sheila Allen, Deputy Supervisor, District 4: 33:02
 - The Board of Supervisors had a presentation on the high level of evictions with the end of COVID flexibilities. Many people are being evicted, a good number of them are those with disabilities and older adults. There is some time and attention that needs to be put into this and it has some clear health and public health implications. The health council should likely receive an update on that in the future.

6. HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE – Brian Vaughn, Public Health Director

Summary of the items covered in the presentation [Health Officer Update](#)

- Local and State COVID-19 emergencies have ended.
 - Local

- Declared March 2020 (LE & LHE)
 - Ended Feb. 28, 2023
 - Enabled mutual aid, reimbursement, liability protection
 - State
 - Declared March 2020
 - Ended Feb. 28, 2023
 - Enabled flexible staffing (who can do what where)
 - Federal
 - Declared January (PHE) and March 2020 (NE)
 - Ends May 11, 2023
 - Enables universal coverage of tests, vaccine, treatments
- The pandemic has changed.
 - COVID-19 Resource
 - Knowledge: March 2020 – Very low; Today - Moderate
 - Testing: March 2020 – Scarce; Today - Widely available
 - Vaccine: March 2020 – None; Today - Widely available
 - Personal protective equipment: March 2020 – Low; Today - Widely available
 - Treatment: March 2020 – None; Today - Widely available
- COVID has not gone away; COVID response continues.
 - Testing: Free tests in vending machines continue indefinitely.
 - Vaccination: County-run clinics and DoorVax continue while free supply lasts.
 - Treatment: SesameCare telehealth available through June 2023.
 - Outbreak Investigation: Ongoing support of congregate care settings.
 - Communication/Reporting: Continues with reduced frequency.
 - Orders: Local Health officer authority to issue orders remains.
- Local HO Isolation Order rescinded 3/1.
 - Effective March 1, 2023 at 12:01am, Mass Isolation Order of the Yolo County Public Health Officer rescinded
 - Follow isolation instructions from CDPH and CDSS
 - CDPH [General Public Guidance](#)
 - CDPH [K-12 Schools Guidance](#)
 - CDPH SNF Worker Guidance ([AFL 21-08](#))
 - CDPH SNF Resident Guidance ([AFL 22-13](#))
 - CDSS LTCF Guidance ([PIN 23-02-ASC](#))
 - Follow workplace exclusion requirements in [Cal/OSHA Non-Emergency Regulations](#)
- Additional COVID-19 guidance changes coming.
 - **Isolation**
 - As of March 13, CDPH will no longer require a negative COVID test in order to end isolation after 5 days.
 - Instead, persons can end isolation after 5 days if feeling better and don't have fever. Applies to general public and employees.
 - Employees will still be required to wear a mask in workplace for 10 days from start of infection per Cal/OSHA Non-Emergency Regulations
 - **Masking**
 - As of April 3rd, CDPH will no longer require universal masking in healthcare, correctional, and shelter settings.
 - Instead, masking will be recommended in these settings based on COVID-19 Community Level

- Yolo County Health Officer Order requires workers in healthcare settings who are not vaccinated against influenza to wear a mask during flu season (Nov 1 – April 30)
 - **Vaccination**
 - As of April 3, CDPH will no longer require healthcare workers to be vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19
 - Federal rules still apply in Medicare- and Medicaid-certified facilities (QSO-23-02-ALL)
- Yolo's COVID-19 case rate is relatively low and stable.
- SARS-CoV-2 local wastewater trends are mixed.
- XBB.1.5 is now dominant variant.
 - XBB.1.5 now causing 86% of cases
 - Evades immunity from vaccine and prior infection
 - Bivalent vaccine ~50% effective in preventing symptomatic infection
 - BQ variants no longer dominant
 - BQ.1.1 (9%) and BQ.1 (3%)
- Yolo COVID-19 hospitalizations are low.
- 443 Yolo residents have died from COVID-19.
- CA COVID-19 deaths now at similar rate as flu.
- 74% of Yolo County residents are vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Respiratory virus season continues.
 - COVID-19, RSV, HMPV, adenovirus, and rhinovirus are all circulating
 - Take action to protect yourself and your community:
 1. **Vax** against flu and COVID
 2. **Mask** indoors
 3. **Wash** hands regularly
 4. **Stay home** when sick
 - Masks required for all in healthcare, homeless shelter, and correctional settings (until 4/3)
- Norovirus activity is high and rising.
 - Norovirus highly contagious
 - Causes vomiting and diarrhea
 - Spread through direct contact with sick person, contaminated food/water, contaminated surfaces
 - Protect yourself and family
 - Frequent handwashing with soap and water (sanitizer doesn't work well)
 - Disinfect surfaces with bleach-based cleaner or disinfectant EPA-registered as effective against norovirus
 - Wash fruits and vegetables

7. PUBLIC HEALTH BRANCH UPDATE – *Brian Vaughn, Public Health Director*

- CHEAC legislative committee has a record number of bills, with a significantly higher budget deficit than what was proposed in the governor's budget, which may have implications for Public Health.
- There is a one-time funding cut of \$50-75M for workforce training in Public Health approved in last year's budget, and a significant amount of COVID funding ending this year.
- A jail health RFP has been released, and will soon release an ambulance RFP.
- Started the process for an after-action report for COVID with the Office of Emergency Services to assess agency readiness for similar agencies. Feedback will be collected through interviews and surveys.
- Burnout and high vacancy rates are major concerns for the agency, and there is a significant backlog of medical enrollments. An emergency team is being assembled to address the backlog.

8. YOLO COUNTY MORTALITY REPORT CONTINUED DISCUSSION – *Robert Herrick, Public Health Epidemiologist*

- Chronic heart disease and lung cancer rates have decreased due to reductions in smoking.

- Alzheimer’s disease and dementia deaths have increased, likely due to an aging population.
- Improvements in life expectancy across various demographics were observed.
- Before the pandemic, Yolo County had higher than State average drug-induced deaths, but it is below the State average now. We have not seen the same increase in drug-related deaths, homicides, and suicides in other parts of the US.
- Suicide, firearms, and homicide rates in Yolo County are also lower than in the State.
- Chronic diseases are still the major causes of death, even in the era of COVID.
- COVID is the third leading cause of death for 2020-2021, but still well below cancer or chronic heart disease.
- Preventable deaths are the major causes of death for residents under 45 – but a small part of total deaths.
- Clear disparities in deaths and life expectancy by race and place – these vary by cause of death.

9. HEALTH COUNCIL OFFICER NOMINATIONS – Brian Vaughn, Public Health Director

- Nomination committee will be formed in April and election is coming up in May.
- An email will be sent out and interested individuals can submit their candidacy via email.

10. BRAINSTORM FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS – Anthony Volkar, Chair

- Nicki King, Local Mental Health Board
 - Information on mental health issues in young people in K-12 population.
- Leon Schimmel, District 4
 - The work of the childcare planning council.
- Michele Famula, At-Large Member
 - Discussion among the health council about their role as far as mental health services within the county.

11. REPRESENTATIVE REPORT OUT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jeneba Lahai, Yolo County Children’s Alliance
 - April is child abuse prevention month. Child Abuse Prevention Council will be hosting a traveling exhibit called “The Lisa Project”. The opening session will be on April 17th, 2023 in West Sacramento for community leaders.
- Michele Famula, At-Large Member
 - League of Women Voters, there will be a health care presentation in Davis Public Library on March 15th, 2023. On March 27th, 2023, there will be a discussion about mental health in Woodland.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

ADJOURNMENT

1. NEXT MEETING – April 13, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jaspreet Kaur

Jaspreet Kaur, Interim Secretary
Yolo County Health Council