

Yolo County Health Council

April 13, 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 13th Day of April 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; Leon Schimmel, District 4; Valerie Olson, District 5; Michelle Famula, At-Large Member; Pat Moore-Pickett, At-Large Member; Dawn Myers, Commission on Aging & Adult Services; Sherri Olswang, Woodland Healthcare; 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; Kathryn Power, Partnership HealthPlan of California; Deven Merchant, Sutter Health; Margaret Trout, UC Davis

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Carri Ziegler, District 3; Tatyana Bak, Elica Health Centers; Jessica White, Elica Health Centers; Stacey McCall, Winters Healthcare; Tandy Burton, Woodland Healthcare

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Deputy Supervisor Sheila Allen, District 4; Mark Bryan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Brian Vaughn, Public Health Director; Dr. Aimee Sisson, Health Officer; Jaspreet Kaur, HHSA; Jon Li

9:00 A.M. CALL TO ORDER

The April 13, 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 – Nilufar Ceyhan, Secretary

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

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

Motion: Deven Merchant **Second:** Michelle Famula **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
 - Budget season at the State and County level.
 - Knights Landing Park and Bryte Park are moving forward.
 - New South Davis Library is also moving forward.
 - Office of Emergency Service is working on the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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

- Sheila Allen, Deputy Supervisor, District 4
 - Starting the work on the Strategic Plan. The strategic plan includes Thriving Residents, Robust Economy, Flourishing Agriculture, and Safe Communities.

6. HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE – Dr. Aimee Sisson, Health Officer

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

- SARS-CoV-2 local wastewater trend is downward.
- Yolo COVID-19 hospitalizations are low.
- Respiratory virus season continues.
 - COVID-19, 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
- Masking requirements have changed.
 - As of April 3, masks no longer required in healthcare, correctional, and shelter settings
 - Masking recommended in these settings based on COVID-19 Community Level
 - Facilities able to develop own policies
 - 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)
- Norovirus still active.
 - 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
- Marburg outbreaks in Equatorial Guinea and Tanzania.
 - CAHAN sent Thursday, 4/6 to Yolo providers
 - Marburg virus related to Ebola, causes hemorrhagic fever
 - 2 separate outbreaks in Equatorial Guinea (35 cases, 27 deaths) and Tanzania (8 cases, 5 deaths)
 - Spread through contact with blood or other body fluids
 - No vaccine or treatment available
 - Reservoir is Egyptian fruit bat
 - No cases outside of Equatorial Guinea and Tanzania
 - Risk of MVD in US is low
 - CDC is monitoring returned travelers from Equatorial Guinea and Tanzania
- Numerous recent Health Alerts/Advisories sent.
 - 3/2: Increased Chikungunya Virus Activity in Paraguay and Associated Risk to Travelers
 - 3/3: Measles Exposure at a Large Gathering in Kentucky, February 2023 and Global Measles Outbreaks
 - 3/24: FDA Warns about the Risk of Xylazine Exposure in Humans
 - 3/27: Review of COVID-19 Policies, Including Upcoming Changes
 - 3/30: Norovirus Advisory
 - 4/3: Importance of Providing Pregnancy Status when Reporting Syphilis Cases
 - 4/5: Updates on Identification, Laboratory Testing, Management and Treatment, and Vaccination for Mpox Virus
 - 4/6: Marburg Virus Disease Outbreaks in Equatorial Guinea and Tanzania

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

- Legislation season at the State, many bills are being monitored.
- State budget cuts and training cuts made in the Governor's proposed budget.
- More than 90% of COVID funding going away next year.
- After-action report for interviews regarding COVID coming in the next couple of months.
- Mental Health Services Act three-year plan is being put together.
- Hired a new Public Health Nurse for the Home Visiting Program and continue to recruit others.

8. YOLO MEDI-CAL BACKLOG – *Nolan Sullivan, HHS Agency Director*

- Yolo County is currently experiencing a significant surge in eligibility applications for CalFresh, Medi Cal and CalWORKS. This surge coupled with major technology changes and staffing shortages had led to significant delays in benefit processing and long wait times in the office and on phones.
- Backlog Scope and Size
 - 6,629 unprocessed applications for all public assistance programs

- Current average processing times are 54 days for CalFresh and 151 days for Medi Cal, State mandated processing times (30 days and 45 days).
- **Contributing Factors**
 - Caseload - Significant Application and Caseload Surge throughout COVID Pandemic and the high number of students signing on.
 - Technology - Switch to the CalSAWS Eligibility Benefits system in October 2022.
 - Hiring and Budget - County has historically been lean in hiring eligibility staffing above and beyond what can be supported by state and federal allocations. County is experiencing delays in hiring and significant vacancy rates.
- HHSa stood up a Department Operations Center (DOC) to work exclusively on handling applications beginning April 10. This is a massive agency-wide effort to ensure this problem is corrected and our clients are served as quickly as possible. This DOC will be implementing several key measures which we anticipate should clear the initial backlog within 90 days.
- **Prevention**
 - Two full classes of Public Assistance Specialists (14 new FTE and 6 FTE being trained in Medi Cal) are in training. These new hires filled the bulk of our remaining vacancies, but we will still have roughly enough for one more class to start within the next few months.
 - Requested the addition of two additional teams of Public Assistance Specialists and Service Center Administrative Specialists in our 23/24 Budget.
 - HHSa is working with County Welfare Director's Association to lobby for increased CalFresh Benefits at the state level.
 - HHSa has been participating on the California Department of Social Services CalFresh Allocation Update Work Group to advocate to adjust the CalFresh Allocation Methodology.
- **Emerging Issues**
 - CalFresh Emergency Allotments ended March 31, impacting all 14,000+ households in Yolo County currently on CalFresh. Each household experienced a minimum reduction in benefits of \$95 per month, though many households lost much more.
 - All counties must now start processing Medi-Cal renewals starting with April 2023 renewals and terminate ineligible/non-compliant beneficiaries from the program as early as July 1, 2023.
 - Ongoing CalFresh Surges in Student Eligibility at UC Davis. Over the past several years, the county has significantly invested in outreach efforts to our student populations at UC Davis and Woodland Community College. These efforts have been very successful but drive a massive surge every September.
 - CalAIM continues to revolutionize the way Medi-Cal benefits are utilized and significantly expands access to a variety of services. There are some sizeable expansions to homeless and justice involved populations. While we welcome these changes, they are very complicated and laborious to implement, there will also be a sizeable amount of work involved.
 - Undocumented Medi-Cal Expansion to 19-25 and 50+ age groups. 26-49 age groups in January of 2024. Children have been covered. With several recent legislative changes, Full Scope Medi-Cal eligibility has been expanded to a significantly larger population. This is a really great change but again comes with lots of additional administrative and casework.

9. YOLO EVICTIONS' PROTECTIONS' UPDATE – Nolan Sullivan, HHSa Agency Director

- Staff were asked to compile information that could indicate whether evictions in the county were being impacted by the lapsing of State and Federal COVID Eviction preventions. Unfortunately, this data is not currently centrally collected. HHSa staff have worked with partners in the eviction prevention space to assess whether we are seeing indicators of need countywide.
- Legal Services of Northern California (LSMC) is one of the primary recipients of eviction support. Their data does not capture all of the county evictions but is a good primary indicator. LSMC has reported a 57% increase in 3 day pay or quit notices had occurred post-COVID protections.

- CalWORKS also has an eviction prevention component for local low-income families. Over the last calendar year we have also seen significant increases in eviction support for local families. Some months by as much as 300%. The chart below shows the number of referrals and dispositions of those referrals. While the data doesn't present the whole picture, there is an indication there is significant growing need in the County of Yolo and resources continue to be limited to address this growing need.
- Yolo 211 indicated 41% of calls July-December 2022 concerned housing.

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

- Received an application from Anthony Volkar for his second term as the Health Council Chair.
- Valerie Olson nominated Ximena Diez-Jackson to be the Co-Chair of the Health Council and Ximena Diez-Jackson accepted the nomination.
- Voting for the nominations will be conducted in the next meeting.

11. BRAINSTORM FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS – *Anthony Volkar, Chair*

- Jeneba Lahai, Yolo County Children's Alliance
 - BOS Presentation Ad Hoc Committee
- Deven Merchant, Sutter Health
 - Mobile Medicine White Paper Presentation
- Nicki King, Local Mental Health Board
 - Joint meeting with the Local Mental Health Board
- Leon Schimmel, District 4
 - General HHS Budget, Grants, and Funding Overview
- Other potential future items suggested:
 - Health Council interest in issuing a letter for Medi-Cal backlog with recommendation
 - Adult Day Center presentation
 - Ambulance RFP
 - Other vaccination rates affected by COVID
 - CalAIM

12. REPRESENTATIVE REPORT OUT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jeneba Lahai, Yolo County Children's Alliance
 - The Lisa Project opening reception on April 18
- Anthony Volkar, Chair
 - "All In! for Children and Youth" session hosted by Yolo County and the Yolo County Office of Education
- Dawn Myers, Commission on Aging & Adult Services
 - Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance is having its annual fundraiser
- Kathryn Power, Partnership HealthPlan of California
 - Partnership is reactivating its Community Health Worker Scholarship with City College
 - Transportation services for members will be inhouse
- Deven Merchant, Sutter Health
 - Birthing Center is having its grand opening on May 4th.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

ADJOURNMENT

1. NEXT MEETING – May 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Yolo County Health Council

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The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Nilufar Ceyhan

Nilufar Ceyhan, Secretary
Yolo County Health Council