

**Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee
Quarterly Meeting Planning Subcommittee Meeting**

**Teleconference Minutes (Approved)
Thursday, July 29, 2021**

Meeting ID: 896 0533 1288

OHE-AC Members Participating:

Jo-Ann Julien, Subcommittee Chair
Califia Abwoon
Valentine Antony
Jessica Buendia
Sarah de Guia, AC Chair
Ana Gonzalez Seda
Nahla Kayali
Shireen Malekafzali, AC Vice Chair
Nancy Rodriguez
Michael Witte
Angelina Woodberry

Members Absent:

Angela Ball
Kismet Baldwin
Robin Carter
Lisa Folberg
Aaron Gardner
Simran Kaur
Patricia Lee
Yvette McShan
Vong Mouanoutoua
Hector Ramirez
Terra Russell-Slavin

State Officials/Staff:

Rohan Radhakrishna, OHE Deputy Director
Ana Bolanos, Assistant Deputy Director, OHE
Amanda Hooker, Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator

Speakers from the Public:

Sheila James, US Department of Health and Human Services, Region IX

11:00 a.m. Convene Meeting and Welcome | Roll Call | Agenda Review

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Jo-Ann Julien, Subcommittee Chair, called the teleconference meeting of the Office of Health Equity (OHE) Advisory Committee (AC) Quarterly Meeting Planning Subcommittee to order at 11:00 a.m., welcomed everyone, and reviewed the meeting agenda. Roll call was taken; a quorum was achieved.

Amanda Hooker, Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator, reviewed the meeting protocols.

11:05 a.m. Debrief Second Quarter AC Meeting

Presenter:

- Sarah de Guia, Advisory Committee Chair

AC Chair de Guia provided a brief review of the highlights from the June 15, 2021, AC meeting. She asked for feedback on what worked or did not work at the last meeting to help in planning the next few meetings.

Questions and Discussion

Ms. Buendia stated the Governor's Office has appointed Lynn von Koch-Liebert as Executive Director of the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC).

AC Vice Chair Malekafzali stated appreciation for the level of engagement with Deputy Director Radhakrishna at the last meeting. The AC can be a more powerful group when it stays connected with the Deputy Director in this way.

AC Vice Chair Malekafzali stated she left the last meeting still questioning how the housing conversation was going to be moved into something that can support or influence or advance equity for the OHE.

Subcommittee Chair Julien stated she thought the meeting was in a good place as compared to the last two to three years of meetings. She stated it was exciting to have Deputy Director Radhakrishna's leadership and participation, full staff and AC Membership, and a meeting focus area. It felt like there was great traction, engagement, and momentum that she hoped would be continued through the September meeting and beyond. The meeting formula was a good balance of input, presentations, and updates.

AC Chair de Guia asked how the AC Members want to engage in these spaces around issues and topics that do not fall under the jurisdiction of the OHE. Housing is one of those topics. There are potential partnerships with SGC and other departments and agencies, but it not something that the OHE has control over. She noted that there is an opportunity for the OHE to change its role within the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to the extent it can inform and work with other agencies and departments. She asked AC Members to be open to other opportunities to inform the great work that is about to be given to the OHE and how it may connect into other issues and initiatives that the Governor and other agencies are taking up.

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Ms. Abwoon stated racial equity and housing somehow intersects heavily. She asked for the focus to continue on the same trajectory – to discuss the intersectionality and how it impacts individuals in a negative way.

11:15 a.m. Discussion with Rohan

Presenter:

- Rohan Radhakrishna, Deputy Director, OHE

Deputy Director Radhakrishna thanked new Assistant Deputy Director Ana Bolanos for bringing permanent core support to the OHE during this time of tremendous growth, and AC Subcommittee Members Gonzalez Seda and Kaur, who have assisted in prior weeks around the selection and prioritization of the four candidate profiles being sought for the next round of AC Membership.

Deputy Director Radhakrishna provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of OHE updates, Health and Safety Code Section 131019.5 A-N social determinants of health, what state and local health departments can and cannot do, ways health departments and community-based organizations can work together, and his vision and ideas for working impactfully with the AC.

Questions and Discussion

AC Chair de Guia asked about the conversation to have at the September meeting to integrate Deputy Director Radhakrishna's vision and ideas into the agenda to leverage the AC.

Deputy Director Radhakrishna suggested giving him a moment to complete mapping out the future and integrating feedback from various sources and then meeting with him prior to the September meeting to discuss possible options.

Subcommittee Chair Julien asked about the possibility of the AC doing road shows and listening sessions.

Deputy Director Radhakrishna stated he and Dr. Tomas Aragon, Director and State Public Health Officer, CDPH, are interested in that. He suggested strategizing for the future while waiting for the COVID-19 pandemic to calm down.

Subcommittee Chair Julien volunteered local health departments to partner with the OHE on health equity efforts.

Public Comment

Sheila James, Regional Minority Health Analyst, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Region IX, offered the federal Office of Minority Health (OMH) and Region IX in San Francisco as partners. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important for the OMH to reimagine how to engage with state partners. Partnering with the regional office will help the federal office understand how to partner and what partnership in a real and intentional way looks like using the state model.

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AC Vice Chair Malekafzali stated the AC has a role to play. She asked how to transition this into a conversation about changes that need to be made in how the AC and the OHE work together.

Deputy Director Radhakrishna asked the AC to be the OHE's eyes and ears, and to tell the OHE when it needs to change course to help capture innovation on the ground.

11:25 a.m. Planning for Third Quarter September Advisory Committee Meeting

Presenter:

- Jo-Ann Julien, Subcommittee Chair

Define Theme and Goals for Third Quarter Meeting

Subcommittee Chair Julien asked if the September meeting will include an update presentation from Deputy Director Radhakrishna and a continued conversation on housing.

AC Chair de Guia agreed that they would be a large part of the meeting but also suggested including report outs from a report that was done by the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN), ChangeLab Solutions, and Prevention Institute that did key interviews about how community-based organizations responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. She suggested continuing the housing conversation by asking how to continue this conversation going forward, if there are additional speakers that should be invited to the table or just create space on the agenda to have a conversation and reflect on the presentation, or if there is a specific request from this group around who should be invited to that meeting to provide additional information or perspective.

Deputy Director Radhakrishna shared that, on the housing front, public health could and should play the strongest role on the prevention side. He asked Meredith Lee to share her thoughts on the prevention aspect of housing, but she was unable to speak due to technical difficulties.

Subcommittee Chair Julien asked what is meant by the prevention aspect of housing.

Deputy Director Radhakrishna stated he is not an expert in that area but noted that there is a spectrum – individuals who are mildly, moderately, or severely housing insecure. Before they end up on the streets experiencing homelessness, there is a variety of evidence-based interventions that one can do to prevent individuals from being unhoused. This is another part of the spectrum rather than getting current unhoused individuals into supportive housing.

Ms. Kayali suggested more education and outreach for resources. Individuals who become homeless often do not know where to go or how to access resources.

Plan Agenda for Third Quarter Meeting

Subcommittee Chair Julien summarized that the September meeting will include housing, possibly with Meredith Lee presenting on the SGC and Health in All Policies (HiAP) work on prevention and early intervention. She asked about other speakers who

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should be invited for the housing component or if there is an exercise or activity that AC Members can do. She stated she is interested in the climate change and weatherization component of housing to learn about plans or thoughts around heating and cooling systems for housing and what is needed to get ready for the next set of challenges that climate change will bring.

Subcommittee Chair Julien continued summarizing that the September meeting will include a presentation on the CPEHN report.

Public Comment

“R” suggested a presentation on housing insecurity assessments for vulnerable populations to prevent potential public health inequities. The speaker requested a discussion on Assembly Bill (AB) 2218.

AC Chair de Guia stated the AC cannot take action on legislation. She stated she would speak with the OHE to see if it would be appropriate to discuss a piece of legislation.

11:55 a.m. Closing Comments and Adjournment

AC Chair de Guia asked Subcommittee Members to send any additional suggestions for the September agenda to staff.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.