



VENTURA COUNTY

HEALTH CARE AGENCY

HealthCare Equity Advisory Council

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 16, 2024
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Large Conference Room, VC Public Health Administration
2240 E Gonzales Rd., Suite 200, Oxnard, CA 93036

HEALTHCARE EQUITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

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PUBLIC COMMENTS BY EMAIL:

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE EITHER A GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT OR COMMENT ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM BEING HEARD, YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT VIA EMAIL BY 9:00 AM THE DAY OF THE MEETING TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: HEACCouncil@VENTURA.ORG. PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN YOUR EMAIL: (A) MEETING DATE, (B) AGENDA ITEM NUMBER, (C) SUBJECT OR TITLE OF THE ITEM, (D) YOUR FULL NAME. DURING PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEM SPECIFIED IN YOUR EMAIL, YOUR EMAIL WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD.

OPENING

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. APPROVAL OF February 20, 2024 MINUTES**
- 4. ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR AGENDIZED ITEMS & ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (up to 10 minutes)**

REGULAR AGENDA

- 5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (5 minutes)**
- 6. BYLAW DISCUSSION: Expansion -- Named Entities (25 minutes)**

7. REPORT: Public Safety Racial Equity Advisory Group (15 minutes)

BREAK

8. DISCUSSION: Objectives and Framework Plan FY 24-25 (40 minutes)

9. DEPARTMENT UPDATES if any (5 minutes)

10. MEMBER COMMENTS AND CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) (5 minutes)

- a. Council member comments, updates, and discussion
- b. Next scheduled meeting: June 18, 2024

11. ADJOURN

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection on the Ventura County HEAC website: [Healthcare Equity Advisory Council \(vchca.org\)](http://vchca.org) subject to staff's ability to post the documents prior to the meeting.

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**Healthcare Equity Advisory Council
Tuesday, February 20, 2024
Minutes**

Community Voting Members Present:

Emily Bridges
Dr. Liz Diaz-Querol
Juana Zaragoza
Kimberly Kelley

Voting Members Absent:

Kimberly Cofield – Co-Chair
Hugo Tapia
Alejandra Valencia

Staff Present:

Steven Auclair
Kate English
Dr. Gabriela Cazares
Lisa Griffiths
Selfa Saucedo
Dr. Minako Watabe

Administrative Voting Members Present:

Barry Zimmerman – Co-Chair
Dr. Theresa Cho
Dr. Loretta Denering
Dr. John Fankhauser
Kristina Swaim

Administrative Voting Members Absent:

Rigoberto Vargas

Guests:

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:42 p.m. by co-chair Zimmerman.

2. ROLL CALL

- 3. APPROVAL OF December 19, 2023 MINUTES** Motion by Ms. Kelley, second by Ms. Bridges. Approved.

4. ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR AGENDIZED ITEMS & ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Armando Vargas inquired about official guidance on the use of face masks and information on the prevalence of COVID.

Face masks are not mandated in the community, but encouraged in sensitive areas, like health care settings. Masks are available in clinical settings where their use is indicated (i.e., when treating symptomatic patients).

There are multiple respiratory illnesses going around: flu, Covid and RSV, many cases in the hospital, as usual for this time of year. The availability of vaccinations has been a game changer for hospital operations. Valley Fever is transmitted differently, by dust and environmental contact.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

6. UPDATE: Agency initiatives, activities, and project status

a. Behavioral Health

- i. A Health Equity Administrator has been hired to support equity initiatives. Very close to filling a Health Navigator position.
- ii. The department is conducting a deep data dive to assess service levels and access, for review with the Latino Disparities Reduction Committee.

b. Ventura County Medical System leadership is participating in the 2nd cohort of the CAPH (California Association of Public Hospitals) health equity program, defining goals and learning how to promote equity work. Initiatives, once identified, will typically take about a year to implement.

c. Hospitals:

- i. Trilingual translation program: a grant application is in process. Positions must be created, approved, and funded.
- ii. The VCMC/SPH strategic planning process, led by Lisa Griffiths, will include HEAC community member input.
- iii. Health Equity Dashboard:
 1. We have data, broken down by race, languages, zip code, surrounding birth equity (maternal outcomes, morbidity, C-section rates, breast feeding); as well as quality measures such as diabetes control, cervical and breast cancer screening.
 2. Now expanding metrics to look at ER data, statistics on patients leaving without seeing a doctor, access to elective surgeries, and likelihood of readmission to hospital.
 3. Data will provide an overview, reveal disparities and drive decisions
 4. We have made a lot of progress over the past two years with maternal outcomes (non-U.S. born, Hispanic patients)
 5. Focus on collecting information on social determinants of health (housing, transportation, food insecurity,) in order to perform warm handoffs to social services.

7. DISCUSSION: Evaluation of council structure, future direction and objectives

a. Wrap up of last meeting's exercise with Kate English (see attached)

- i. Social & Cultural Inventory takeaways: hone our lens to take advantage of the experience and strengths of the group, to help guide activities.

b. Planning for 2024:

- i. **What:** Which initiatives should we work on, where do we want to push info

out to the community, where do we need feedback on our work?

- ii. **How:** Do we schedule topics formally, structure agenda to achieve goals?
- iii. **Who:** Should we develop a hybrid structure, with organizations having representation as well as individuals?

c. Group comments

- i. Build a calendar out for the year, to focus on specific initiatives.
- ii. More emphasis on deliverables.
- iii. A hybrid model of individual and group representation would provide broader lenses.
- iv. Allow the agency to bring forward initiatives in development, to receive feedback based on strengths of this group.
- v. Identify biggest opportunities based on data.
- vi. Carve time into agendas to hear *what we are missing*, in addition to building on initiatives we have developed.
- vii. Ensure as many community voices as possible, and make sure we involve them in the process, allow for contributions at an appropriate stage of development.
- viii. Increase outreach for people that can't make the meetings.
- ix. Keep existing community seats and add up to four organization seats, still a manageable size, for greater outreach impact and community input. Include groups that represent the medical population served (i.e., those from southern Mexico and first generation immigrants.)
- x. Communicate via email ahead of next meeting so we can get input on agendas, initiatives.

8. MEMBER COMMENTS AND CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

- a. Agenda item: What can our health system do better?
- b. Comment from public member/nursing student Ms. Laura Gluck: Include more organizations to share information and link up available resources.

9. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.