

California Medical Leadership Forum for Public Health/Preventive Medicine

40th Meeting (13th using Video)

September, 12th 2023, 8:00-9:30 am PST

MINUTES

This meeting used a Zoom account from CAPM with phone access provided. “Handouts” (i.e., the agenda, last meeting’s minutes, Bylaws amendment) were attached to the email notice. All attendees except those participating by phone could enter information in “Chat.” Web references for agenda topics were embedded in the agenda.

Dr. Mankar, newly appointed Vice Chair, began the meeting at approximately 8:12 as Chair Dr. Hattis was delayed due to technical difficulties. The new format of reserving roll call for the end of the meeting and beginning meetings with Special Topic Presentations was reviewed and the first Special Topic Presentation was introduced.

1. Special Topic: Drug Overdose Deaths and the Addiction Crisis

Ariana Nelson, MD, UC Irvine: Associate Professor of Anesthesia provided an excellent presentation, “Combating Opioid Overdose Deaths, Novel Approaches.” This included consideration of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention interventions and concluded with a brief discussion of the Harm Reduction Interest Group at UCI SOM by Student Doctor Andrew Kinoshita. (See attached slide deck for reference)

- Student Doctor Kinoshita indicated, although limited, some medical schools are including addiction and harm reduction into medical curriculum.
- At UCI they are using a 2-pronged approach being engaged in harm reduction and learning about addiction relevant to clinical medicine when they become providers.
- SD Kinoshita described interventions in Santa Ana that include distributing naloxone and fentanyl test strips. They are also looking into alternative ways of taking drugs as alternative to syringe IV drug use.
- They partner with community organizations that have built community trust and also provide resources such as water and food snacks in addition to the harm reduction supplies.
- They also bring in guest speakers for the medical students to provide exposure and opportunities to shadow while other teams might work with buprenorphine treatments. The goal is that the combination of active engagement in harm reduction and lectures on a variety of related topics as well as opportunities in clinical settings will help students implement harm reducing and other advocacy as future physicians.

Question and Answer Period:

- Dr. Hattis joined the meeting, and in addition to providing background about the new vice chair (see below), asked a few questions regarding the first special topic presentation:
 - 1 Dr. Hattis wondered if there was any evidence that an initiative to allow pharmacies to sell syringes OTC was working and if there would be benefit to

teaching IV drug users to inject a ½ dose and waiting until injecting the rest in order to reduce accidental overdose.

- a Student Doctor Kinoshita noted that Dr. Nelson had to leave for clinic but that he would relay the question to her.

ii. **Adam Leventhal, PhD, USC:** Clinical psychologist and public health scientists with Keck School of Medicine at USC and the Dept. of Population and Public Health Sciences and Director of US Institution of Addiction provided an excellent slideshow presentation.

- o Dr. Leventhal provided background on the Institute for Addiction Science as a university-wide transdisciplinary institute at USC with goal of collaborative research.
 - 1 This includes 84 faculty across 11 colleges and schools at USC. Dr. Leventhal invited contact by others who are interested in the institute and ways to collaborate. Further information is provided in the slide deck that he has shared with the forum.
 - 2 Dr. Leventhal highlighted current trends in the opioid epidemic and discussed a new emerging threat of the tranquilizer drug xylazine that is being combined with fentanyl.
 - a The opioid antagonist, naloxone, may not be sufficient when fentanyl is mixed with xylazine and supportive breathing might be necessary.
- o Dr. Leventhal discussed the removal of the prior regulation and requirements to prescribe buprenorphine.
- o Dr. Leventhal discussed concern around modern non-tobacco oral nicotine products and hemp derived cannabis products that are posing new addiction risks.
 - 1 there is a recent commentary in JAMA (Harlow, et al) discussing concerns in a loophole in Farm Bill and laws related to Cannabis products.
- o USC is an FDA-funded tobacco center of regulatory science. They focus on adolescent behavioral epidemiology and will be focusing on the oral nicotine products and social media and marketing.
 - 1 Dr. Leventhal and staff would be eager to discuss with others collaborative efforts at USC and with UCSF, which also has a tobacco center.
 - 2 The tobacco policy centers are designed to impact local and state policies.

Question and Answer Period:

- o Dr. Hattis asked what has been discussed at the federal meetings that Dr. Leventhal has been at.
 - 1 Dr. Leventhal shared that he is a senior advisor for the Biden Harris Administration Office of National Drug Control Policy, and this is the most forward thinking the federal government has been utilizing an all 'hands on deck' approach. He added this is the first time the federal govt. has used the phrase "harm reduction" in discussions.
 - 2 Dr. Leventhal noted there is money n form of block grants and thru SAMSA allowing communities to address the drug problem in various ways. This includes monies to address effective harm reduction, medication assisted

treatments and evidence-based methods to treat substance use disorder, prevent substance use disorders and reverse opioid overdoses.

2. Welcome Greeting, Explanation of Today's Agenda: Ron Hattis

Following the question-and-answer period of Dr. Nelson's topic, Dr. Hattis joined and greeted the group, briefly reviewed the agenda, and formally introduced Dr. Mankar as Vice Chair. The meeting then resumed with our second special topic presentation by Dr. Leventhal as noted above.

3. Roll Call and Reports by School, Organization, or Agency

Dr. Hattis mentioned a few new names on the zoom call and asked for clarification. The captured attendance is listed by category as noted below; Any new updates provided by attendees provided is noted here.

California Academy of Preventive Medicine (CAPM)

- Don Lyman: Reported that he is working on legislative affairs with most attention in the legislation is currently on the budget act. Ron mentioned that there are some bills that the CAPM is supporting if time permitting, will discuss at end of meeting.
 - After roll call, Don discussed issues with climate change recognizing perspective on topics such as epidemics typically take a primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention approach.
 - In relation to climate change there is a list of primary prevention activities such as how much CO2 to release into the atmosphere and topics that have traction in Washington and elsewhere.
 - However, he is having difficulty coming up with secondary and tertiary prevention categories that we should be investing in now as this is a peculiar issue to apply this mindset to.
 - Don asked if anyone has ideas on this, he would be happy to receive them before they begin work on policy sessions. New legislature ends soon but this could be worked on for next year.
 - It would be helpful to have ideas how to approach climate change policy in terms of secondary and tertiary prevention.
 - Ron Hattis responded that he developed an alternate classification system for primary prevention while at Loma Linda dividing into stage 1 and stage 2.
 - Stage 1 being avoidance of the causes of disease.
 - Stage 2 being mitigating acquiring the disease in spite of exposure, which amounts to harm reduction, examples being use of condoms and clean needles.
 - Ron added Climate Change is a high priority and we may return to it in future meetings. He mentioned that Ashley McClure has co-founded CMA Climate Champions.
 - Michael Rodriguez shared information in the Chat:
 - Re Climate change and Ron's mention of Ashley E. McClure, MD

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- She is a Primary Care Internist at Kaiser, and is Co-Founder and Co-Director of Climate Health Now. Contact: ashnessy@gmail.com.

- Ron Hattis: Had been Secretary of this Forum, now is Chair.
- Sumedh Mankar: Vice Chair, newly-appointed by Chair Ron Hattis.
 - Sumedh stated he is excited about new role and will be able to contribute more to the Forum. He is currently working for Blue Shield of California's Promise Health Plan, as Senior Principal Medical Director for Operations. They are working on the CalAIM implementation throughout the health plan and it is interesting to see connections and how it works to serve the most vulnerable patients in our state as spread out thru different organizations we have here.
 - Ron asked Jessica what insurance for undocumented participants will be available under CalAIM.
 - Jessica stated it has been available if under 26 y/o or over 49 y/o but the 'hole' in the middle will be dealt with in January 2024. There will also be more dual eligible 'Medi-Medi' (Medicare plus Medi-Cal) access.
 - Ron added this is extremely important as only federally qualified health centers and charitable clinics have been able to address primary care for undocumented persons, and we have a huge number in California whose health has been compromised by lack of coverage.
- Susan Bradshaw: Past-President, was also present.

State Government

California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

- Jessica Nunez de Ybarra: CDPH Medical Officer, Community Health
 - Emphasized importance of academic partnerships; they are exploring how those with UC Office of the President can come together with state government and local health departments and academia when new threats emerge. In particular, COVID is an example how organizations were able to activate together. There were funds that came down from federal and state coffers to devise actions such as the wastewater surveillance and other partnerships with private industry.
 - The question now is how to maintain and what is sustainable as the funding is being eliminated. In 2023 they received funding for what was called the Future of Public Health.
 - This was an investment in infrastructure of Public Health and ability to maintain certain infrastructure and workforce. Efforts are underway in at least 6 areas, particularly workforce as well as development of emergency response data, community engagement, community health improvement, and communications.
 - Beginning to look at staff development and local and state level. Also looking to leverage resources by partnering with communities and Medicaid, the Department of Health Care Services.

- For example, CalAIM is looking to reinvent how to invest and spend Medicaid dollars.
 - Approximately 86% Medicaid for certain primary care supports.
 - 15.5 million Californian’s have Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California)
 - Jan. 2024 the expectation is that anyone who meets poverty threshold will qualify for comprehensive Medicaid regardless of documentation.
- Dept. of Public Health and local health are working with DHCS as they launch more support for community health workers and other team-based services. Jessica hopes for collective exploration of these investments. We are all working across our “silos” of usual separated activities.
- Regarding the academic partnership U. of California office of the President, they are focusing on health security.
 - Dr. Carrie Byington and Director Dr. Tomas Aragon are working to develop memoranda of understanding on how we can more efficiently work together. There is a successful modeling consortium across many of the UC Campuses that has been successful in anticipating changes, such as during COVID.
- Ultimately, it boils down to relationships, and CDPH values all of those invested in upstream sustainability and prevention and take these opportunities seriously.
- Jessica notes the academics and medical students are often trained in ways that are competitive. She asked, how do we teach kindness, compassion and working and thinking about each other because you all are the greatest asset we have in California to protect the health of the people.

Deleted: Kerry Binghamton

Health Officers of California (HOAC)

- Todd Stolp, sitting in for Kat de Burgh
 - Todd mentioned the topic of opioid dependency and overdose prevention has been under discussion with the health officers.
 - Dr. Vorath, Medical Director at Fresno Poison Control Center and temporary Health Officer in Fresno County, presented on the opioid addiction problem.
 - Dr. Tavelli from Contra Costa will also present a program that has been quite successful with the prehospital care system which consists of 4 tiers:
 - Overdose receiving center.
 - Naloxone distribution and education by EMS when arrive at site.
 - Paramedic-administered buprenorphine in the field.
 - System referrals after a recovered overdose.
 - Links to this California Brief program were put in the Chat, and listed here.
 - Todd referred the group to the California Bridge program as an approach that partners public health programs effectively with the prehospital care system:
 - <https://bridgetotreatment.org/addiction-treatment/ca-bridge/>

- Todd noted a gap in providing services to youth.
 - He shared that the National Health Education Standards have been rewritten by two separate organizations of health educators but with very little input from public health or clinicians. It is an unfortunate loss to not have input.
 - Encouraged to look into the National Health Education Standards and consider what we can do to improve Public Health in grades K-12.

California Medical Association, CMA:

- Alecia Sanchez was present.

Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of CA (OPSC):

- Holly Macriss, Executive Director OSPC was present.

Alliance of Academics for Public Health Equity:

- Michael Rodriguez reported that his Alliance is of all the schools and programs of public health in the state of California working in collaboration with community organizations.
 - They are monitoring bills in the legislature noting there is interest in preventive medicine bills that address behavior. This includes youth health, including addiction and opiates, but many other issues such as gun violence. He noted there has been a gun ammunition tax that was passed.
 - There is a bill to expand mental and behavioral health access for high school students that would not require parent's permission that has passed.
 - They recently received funding from California Dept. of Public Health (soon to be public) focused on mental health issues in youth up to 24 years of age with a preventive focus and community centered interventions. Priority is to investigate how stigma can be minimized in the individual young person as well as those around them which is often a major problem. This grant is through the Public Health Institute, and Michael will help manage it. It is for 30 million dollars, and 25 million will go to entities throughout the state. RFP's are being developed currently for anyone who might be interested.
 - In the Chat, Michael added related information. He thanked Jessica for reviewing CDPHs great work! They just finished a successful academic community partnership funding program. He would love to connect and to help "connect the silos." mrodriguez@phi.org

Schools of Medicine (Allopathic and Osteopathic)

North:

- Touro University COM:
 - Traci Stevenson (Forum Secretary)
 - Traci shared that TU-COM is working on increasing opportunities for our Street Medicine initiative with connections with Partnerships insurance. The Street Medicine elective and work is integrated with Drug Safe Solano in effort to

address opioid problems in housing insecure up in Solano County. She appreciates the great talks and information shared today on what others are doing and continuing to learn from the experts.

- UC San Francisco:
 - George Rutherford has recently returned from a sabbatical at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He was asked whether there are similar problems to our opiate crisis in England. George replied there is not, although he is not sure why.
 - UCSF reported they were awarded a grant from HRSA to train one preventive medicine resident a year at the Fresno Campus.
 - 1 They are looking for applicants who have finished residencies in emergency medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, OBGYN, etc.
 - 2 It includes a year of Public Health at Cal and a year of training at UCSF Fresno County Health Department.
 - 3 Interested candidates can reach out to Roz Plotzker.
- Stanford School Of Medicine:
 - Eleanor Levin was present.
 - Dean Winslow (guest)
 - Dr. Winslow provided link in the Chat with information on SAFE (Scrubs Addressing Firearm Epidemic) and related trainings.
 - <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYofuirqjojHdZ2ibUs2caCPHLzbo60ZZlo#/registration>.

Central and South

- California Health Sciences University:
 - Sara Goldgraben was present.
- California University of Science and Medicine:
- Loma Linda University:
 - Cristina Reyes de la Paz (guest) was present.
- UC Irvine:
 - Arianna Nelson (presenter).
 - Andrew Kinoshita (medical student presenter, guest).
- University Southern California:
 - Adam Leventhal (presenter)
 - Dr. Leventhal shared the following commentary and contact information in Chat:
 - He congratulated Dr. Nelson and Andrew for a great presentation and for all of the important work they are doing at UCI. He offered to be contacted as a resource on drug policy, at adam.leventhal@usc.edu.
 - He also alerted the group about a new training program for addiction counseling that's being launched next year at USC after a 1-year planning phase, thanks to funding from HCAI. <https://dworakpeck.usc.edu/news/48-million-grant-provides-transdisciplinary-workforce-development-opportunities-for-students>

- Howard Hu was present.
- Jo Marie Reilly
 - Jo Marie Reilly shared the following information in the Chat:
 - The USC Keck School of Medicine has three addiction medicine 4th year electives which she oversees and would be happy to share more about: (1) a new 4th year inpatient 2-4 week elective at the LA County Hospital started in June 2023; (2) a 2-4 week outpatient elective which is in a variety of outpatient addiction Med community based clinics; and (3) 2 week online addiction medicine course. We have an initial publication in the J. of Addiction Sciences published last year which showed an increase in knowledge and comfort with counseling patients among medical students taking the outpatient and online electives.
 - Jo Marie clarified that the addiction medicine program at the county is a fellowship rather than residency. This addiction medicine fellowship that started last year is run by the Dept. of Psychiatry at the County Hospital.

Schools of Public Health

UC Berkeley:

- Jared Mazzanti, School of Public Health, does inter-departmental coordination.

5. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of June 13, 2023 had been distributed in advance, and there were no additions or corrections.

6. Next Virtual Meeting:

- Prior to announcing next tentative meeting date, Ron asked if any further comments by attendees and solicited ideas for discussion at the next meeting.
- Ron noted with 3 officers now, we can make executive decision but always want input from participants.
- Ron suggested discussing Climate Change again in one of our upcoming meetings, and noted daily catastrophes that are destroying things faster than they can be rebuilt. He noted time to rebuild after floods and fires that have much less time to rebuild as they are occurring more frequently. He notes we have our work cut out for us.
- Sumedh noted that since we are about to launch into CalAIM in 2024 that this may be an appropriate topic to discuss in our December meeting. Considering CalAIM has unique features, he was wondering if it would be a benefit to this group to have an expert come to talk.
- Ron stated this could be the Dept. of Healthcare Services who were not at the meeting today. He will reach out to them. He is excited about developments of increasing coverage.
- Don agreed and suggested Jessica may be able to help with this.
- Michael Rodriguez agreed that this would be a good idea, and we can all learn more about this as well as look to where the remaining coverage gaps are. He is aware that CalAIM has innovative programs but there will still be work to identify areas of need and what preventive medicine this organization could provide input for and take a proactive role.

- Michael added that we would not necessarily be political but we could take an active role in shaping policy around these important issues.
- Ron added that this group took the unusual step in writing to CDPH asking some funding was devoted to challenges that were increasing causes of death. The response was that this group was asked to provide advice.
- Ron added we will work on this for the next meeting in December. The meeting was concluded at approximately 9:42.
- The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 12, 2023.

Submitted by Traci Stevenson, Secretary, with minor editing by Ron Hattis

Minutes approved 12/12/23, corrections added.