



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND POPULATION HEALTH TASK FORCE

**COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND
POPULATION HEALTH TASK FORCE**
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TASK FORCE CHAIRS
Gilda Noori, MD, MPH
Chad Monk, MPH

June 30, 2024

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gilda Noori, Co-Chair
Chad Monk, Co-Chair
Theresa (Missy) Nitescu, Former Co-Chair

SUBJECT: **COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND POPULATION HEALTH TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES
REPORTING PERIOD: JANUARY 2023 TO JUNE 2024**

Dear Board of Supervisors,

The Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force (Task Force) would like to express its appreciation for your ongoing commitment to the priorities of community-based prevention, health equity and racial justice in Los Angeles County. Comprised of public health experts, healthcare providers, academicians, executives and staff from local, state, and national organizations, the Task Force advises the Board of Supervisors and the Department of Public Health (Public Health) on public health priorities, initiatives and practices and provides guidance on primary strategies for improving population health to promote healthy, equitable communities. The urgency to stay ahead of the curve to prevent further health inequities among residents, improve outcomes, eliminate existing health inequities, and create improvements in our approaches to maintain a forward-thinking health system, among other reasons, make it imperative that the County harnesses its subject matter experts represented on the Task Force toward a shared vision of a healthy and equitable Los Angeles County. With all of this in mind, the annual progress report below describes the activities and accomplishments of the Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force between January 2023 and June 2024.

Part I. Cover Sheet

The Commission Liaison for the Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force is Ava Cato-Werhane, Director, Department of Public Health - Office of Planning, Integration and Engagement - Planning Unit. Ms. Cato-Werhane may be reached at acato-werhane@ph.lacounty.gov.

Task Force Contact Information

- Physical address: 313 North Figueroa Street, Room 708, Los Angeles, CA 90012
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Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force Members:

Dahlia Alé-Ferlito · Celia Brugman · Grace Cotango · Augusto (Goose) Dolce · Kenny Green · Dana Guerin ·
Naomi Iwasaki · Gina Johnson · Margaret B. Martinez · Chad Monk · Theresa (Missy) Nitescu · Gilda Noori · Carmen Perez ·
Jennifer Ponce · Cori Racela · Hector M. Ramirez · Venezia Ramirez · Tiara Sigaran · Benjamin Torres · Debra M. Ward

Task Force Members:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Dahlia Alé-Ferlito	City of Los Angeles, AIDS Coordinator's Office
Celia Brugman	Kaiser Permanente
Grace Cotangco	Prevention Institute
Augusto Dolce	God's Pantry
Kenny Green	Centinela Youth Services
Dana Guerin	Community Member
Naomi Iwasaki	Los Angeles Metro, Office of Equity and Race
Gina Johnson	Northeast Valley Health Corporation
Margaret B. Martinez	Community Member
Chad Monk*	National Health Foundation
Theresa "Missy" Nitescu*	Northeast Valley Health Corporation
Gilda Noori*	UCLA Dept. of Epidemiology / WISE & Healthy Aging
Carmen Perez	Community Member
Jennifer Ponce	TCC Family Health
Cori Racela	Western Center on Law & Poverty
Hector M. Ramirez	National Disability Rights Network
Venezia Ramirez	USC Environmental Justice Research Labs
Tiara Sigaran	Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH)
Benjamin Torres	Community Development Technologies Center (CDTech)
Debra M. Ward	YWCA of San Gabriel Valley

* Co-Chairs during this reporting period

Please note: Task Force Members do not represent the views of their organizations and functions as individuals.

Part II. Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force Mission Statement

The Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force's mission is to:

- Report to the Board of Supervisors (Board) with priority recommendations to promote health, equity, and community well-being in Los Angeles County (LAC) with a focus on population health improvement.
- Make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Public Health) on public health priorities, initiatives and practices that will achieve health equity and healthy communities.
- Serve as the advisory body to the Center for Health Equity (CHE).
- Provide leadership and strategic direction for community health planning in LAC, which includes the Community Health Assessment (CHA), Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), and other strategic efforts to promote strong population health, health equity and racial justice.

Part III. Historical Background

The Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force was established by the LAC Board of Supervisors on August 11, 2015 in the motion that approved the establishment of the Health Agency. The Task Force is responsible for reporting to the Board with priority recommendations for health, equity, and community well-being.

The Task Force membership is a strong, diverse and cutting-edge set of local leaders who come together to think, strategize, take collective action, and inform Public Health and the Board of Supervisors regarding health equity priorities for LAC. (See full list of current Task Force members in Part I. Cover Sheet.) The Task Force represents an innovative model for harnessing the County's subject matter expertise on community-based prevention and health equity – two essential elements of a high-functioning health system.

The members of the initial Task Force cohort began their appointment in 2016 by developing, adopting, and

elevating Principles of Equity (POE) to serve as operating principles for the Task Force and the County of Los Angeles. Since then, Task Force members have made key recommendations on a wide array of policy matters, including advising on the development of the Center for Health Equity; advising on the development and implementation of the strategic plan for the Office of Violence Prevention; providing feedback on the priorities for the Alliance for Health Integration; assisting in the development of the County's Anti-racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative; advocating for environmental health protections near neighborhood oil & gas drilling; contributing to the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), a community-driven strategic plan for Public Health and county stakeholders to collectively improve the health of residents in LA County, where Task Force members co-convened meetings with community partners to seek input on CHIP strategies; providing input on the County's COVID-19 response including continuing to provide equity-related recommendations to Public Health on COVID-19 vaccine distribution and communication efforts in impacted communities; informing the County's WHAM [W (stormwater), H (housing), A (parks) and M (transportation)] measures with a public health and equity lens; and advocating for and supporting the Supervisors' unprecedented efforts to begin phasing out oil drilling within unincorporated parts of the County.

The fourth and current cohort of the Task Force (June 2022 to May 2025) continues to strengthen Task Force processes and procedures, including developing a roadmap of their work ahead. This cohort began as a composition of 14 new and 10 returning members and held its first meeting in August 2022. They began their term by serving as key advisors for the Center for Health Equity's (CHE) Action Plan Extension and now advising Public Health and CHE on the consolidated Community Health Equity Improvement Plan (CHEIP). This consolidated plan aligns the Department's efforts to better address health and inequity in Los Angeles County. They have also continued to strategize around key priorities, further exploring the intersections between equitable land use and public health; equitable county contracting and expanding on the Task Force's advocacy around violence prevention.

Part IV. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA)

Beyond a standard approach to DEIA, the Task Force has made a commitment to advancing health equity and racial justice since its inception. Commissioners on this Task Force are some of the County's foremost advocates on issues of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility and they bring their knowledge, perspective and skill to the commission and its workgroups. Examples of how the Task Force incorporates DEIA into nearly every aspect of its work include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The Task Force charter and its group meeting agreements, developed by the Task Force, are designed to emphasize inclusion, tolerance, and respect for diverse perspectives from Task Force members, members of the public and all stakeholders. These agreements are reinforced at all meetings and revisited regularly and with each subsequent cohort.
- In an effort to operationalize the Principles of Equity, the Co-Chairs reviewed the Task Force Charter to ensure that the Principles are fully embraced and embedded within all Task Force processes, structures, and functions.
- The Task Force has actively shared their Principles of Equity with other Los Angeles County Commissions, Departments, and community-based organizations and advocated for their adoption and implementation.
- Task Force members voted to re-affirm their commitment to center racism as a public health issue and have elevated racial equity considerations in their respective recommendations to the County.

Part V. Summary of Progress

This brief report provides an overview of Task Force activities from January 2023 through June 2024. During this reporting period, the Annual Report timeframe shifted from a calendar year reporting cycle to a fiscal year reporting cycle. Therefore, this report combines the 2023 calendar year and remaining half of the 2023-24 fiscal year. The next Annual Report will cover the 2024-2025 fiscal year period (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025).

A. Elevated Opportunities to Improve Population Health and Reduce Health Inequities in LA County Through Collective Action in Priority Issue Areas

Equitable Land Use

In 2023, the Task Force prioritized issues at the intersection of land use and public health and approved the creation of the Equitable Land Use Ad Hoc Committee. Through this Committee, the Task Force has been tracking the development and implementation of the County's Infrastructure Initiative, evaluating the county's role in the removing the freight storage in South LA, reviewing potential actions and providing recommendations on preventing Legionnaires Disease, and providing insight into priorities for DPH's Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health, and the Equity in Infrastructure Initiative with the Department of Public Works.

Ad hoc members met with community stakeholders and land use experts on the County's Infrastructure Initiative throughout early 2023, which led to formal recommendations sent to the Board of Supervisors Health Deputies in June 2023. Additionally, members discussed and provided guidance to the Department of Public Works' Equity in Infrastructure initiative, ensuring community-based prevention practices were being considered when planning for the initiative was underway. Throughout 2023, Ad Hoc Committee members provided the newly formed Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health guidance on community engagement and strategies around studies regarding the County's oil and gas drilling phase out. In early 2024, the Ad Hoc members reviewed LACDPH's report, "Evaluating Strategies to Prevent Legionnaires' Disease and Improve Disease Surveillance and Response" and discussed the local expert's best practices for preventing the disease. In February 2024, the Task Force sent the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in a letter of support for model 2 outlined in the report.

Lastly, the Task Force will continue work on this priority for the upcoming year, approving the Healthy and Equitable Land Use Ad Hoc Committee in March 2024.

Community Health Equity Improvement Plan

In November 2023, the Task Force formed an Ad Hoc Committee to serve as advisors to CHE to inform the development and implementation of the next Community Health Equity Improvement Plan (CHEIP). The CHEIP represents the consolidation of what was previously two separate plans: a Community Health Improvement Plan and a Center for Health Equity Action Plan. The CHEIP outlines a plan for Public Health, its partners and stakeholders to collectively improve the health of residents in LA County. The four priority areas highlighted on the CHEIP includes Environmental Justice, Infant and Maternal Mortality, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Congenital Syphilis, and Violence Prevention. In this role, the Ad Hoc Committee provides feedback to the CHEIP development process, updates the Task Force at quarterly meetings, and advises on the application of community engagement strategies to health equity objectives and dissemination efforts of the plan. The plan is expected to be finalized in the summer of 2024.

Equitable County Contracting

In November 2023, the Task Force formed a short-term workgroup to identify equitable County contracting issues and developed a list of recommended solutions for County contracting practices. In February 2024, the Task Force approved the creation of the Equitable County Contracting Ad Hoc Committee to draft recommendations for equitable contracting practices at Public Health and Los Angeles County that support the local infrastructure of community-based organizations.

County's Anti-racism, Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative

During this reporting period, a member of the Task Force continued to serve on ARDI's Community Input Advisory Board. Task Force members participated in community sessions, led by ARDI, regarding the State of Black Los Angeles County report and Latinos Experiencing Homelessness efforts. Information gathered by Task Force members were disseminated and shared throughout their own community networks.

Additionally, a representative from ARDI presented updates at a regularly scheduled quarterly Task Force meeting.

COVID-19 CAC

In 2023, the Task Force continued to be represented as a member of Public Health's COVID-19 Community Advisory Council (CAC), hosted by the Center for Health Equity. In this capacity, the Task Force continued to partner with community leaders of organizations that serve those most impacted by COVID-19 to provide equity-related recommendations to Public Health's response and recovery efforts. As part of the CAC, the Task Force supported and informed on a range of topics including the following:

- COVID-19 Community Investments
- Expiring Emergency Declarations
- Ongoing COVID-19 Response Strategies
- COVID-19 Communications/Messaging and Media Campaigns
- K-12 School Based Strategies

Meetings were held monthly until the CAC concluded its engagement in November 2023.

Violence Prevention

Two members from the Task Force served as liaisons to continue the monitoring and evaluation of current efforts by County Programs and Community Based Organizations supporting the work in violence intervention. The liaisons participated in training efforts around Gun Violence Temporary Restraining Orders and discussions surrounding Care First Community Investment funding which brings resources to re-entering and violence-affected individuals.

B. Served the Department of Public Health

The Task Force provided input and support to the Center for Health Equity in the following ways:

- Served on the COVID-19 Community Advisory Council (CAC) and provided input to the DPH efforts to address the changing landscape of COVID-19.
- Created an ad hoc committee to advise on the development of the CHE Action Plan Update and Extension and the planning for the Community Health Equity Improvement Plan (CHEIP).
- Provided input and feedback regarding county equity contracting practices.
- Provided input to the development of the Community Public Health Teams.
- Provided input on the Mental Health Toolkit for Parents.
- Provided input on SAPC's response to the Opioid Epidemic.

C. Served the Board of Supervisors and the County of LA

The Task Force served the Board of Supervisors and the County of LA in the following ways:

- Members of the Task Force participated in the LA County's Antiracism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative's Community Input Advisory Board.
- The Task Force sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors supporting Model 2 to prevent Legionnaires' Disease in Los Angeles County.
- The Task Force sent an email to the Health Deputies of the Board of Supervisors to express their appreciation and provide further recommendations regarding the Infrastructure Initiative initiated by Supervisor Mitchell's and Kuehl's April 5, 2022 motion.
- Members of the Task Force continued to meet regularly with the health deputies to identify opportunities for promoting racial and population health equity in County processes. They shared Task Force priorities, made recommendations on issues pertaining to equitable land use and alternatives to incarceration, learned about the priorities of each respective Supervisor and identified opportunities to strengthen collaborations.

D. Implemented Operational Changes between January 2023 and June 2024 to Increase Impact

The Task Force implemented new operations to increase impact in the following ways:

- In support of the Board of Supervisor adoption of the County Land Acknowledgement, the Task Force formed a short-term workgroup to review Task Force practices, charter and other operational documents. This resulted in the updating of Task Force documents and practices to share our commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation to the original inhabitants of LA County.
- Created a 12-month roadmap document for tracking Task Force priorities.
- Established Ad Hoc Committees and Task Force Member Liaison roles to diversify, track and address priority and emergent public health issues.
- Scheduled meetings with Board offices to share recommendations on Task Force priorities and receive updates on Board priorities.
- Updated the language in Task Force charter and extended their term to consist of 3 years.

Part VI. Upcoming Fiscal Year 2024-2025

The Task Force is currently undergoing a 12-month prioritization process and have tentatively identified the following priority areas for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year:

- Promoting equitable contracting practices in supporting the local community-based organization infrastructure
- Operationalizing the Principles of Equity
- Advising Public Health on the development and implementation of the Community Health Equity Improvement Plan
- Advancing policies in the intersection of land use and public health
- Black Maternal and Infant Health
- Affordable and Accessible Housing
- Workforce Pipeline Enhancement and Development

In addition to their identified priorities, Task Force members will also continue to track, collaborate and engage with ARDI's Community Input Advisory Board, the Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health, the state budget and its impact to our priorities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. We stand ready to work alongside the Board, the Department of Public Health and the Center for Health Equity to advance population health, community-based prevention, and health equity. We believe that this Task Force will continue to be a vital resource to the Board and all residents of Los Angeles County.

In partnership,



Chad Monk
Task Force Co-Chair



Gilda Noori
Task Force Co-Chair



Theresa "Missy" Nitescu
Former Task Force Co-Chair

CC: Board Health Deputies
Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force