



# 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

Chad Monk, MPH  
Grace Cotangco, MPH

June 30, 2025

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Chad Monk, Co-Chair  
Grace Cotangco, Co-Chair  
Gilda Noori, Former Co-Chair

SUBJECT: **COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND POPULATION HEALTH TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES  
REPORTING PERIOD: JULY 2024 TO JUNE 2025**

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 July 2024 and June 2025.

### **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](mailto:acato-werhane@ph.lacounty.gov).

#### Task Force Contact Information

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#### **Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force Members:**

Dahlia Alé-Ferlito · Celia Brugman · Marc Carrel · Grace Cotangco · Augusto (Goose) Dolce · Kenny Green · Dana Guerin · Naomi Iwasaki · Gina Johnson · 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
Marc Carrel	Breathe Southern California
Grace Cotangco*	Prevention Institute
Augusto Dolce	God's Pantry
Kenny Green	Centinela Youth Services
Dana Guerin	Cedars Sinai / Planned Parenthood
Naomi Iwasaki	Los Angeles Metro, Office of Equity and Race
Gina Johnson	Northeast Valley Health Corporation
Chad Monk*	National Health Foundation
Theresa "Missy" Nitescu	Northeast Valley Health Corporation
Gilda Noori*	UCLA Dept. of Epidemiology / WISE & Healthy Aging
Carmen Perez	SEED Health Solutions Consulting
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 Equity Improvement Plan (CHEIP), 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. Principles of Equity**

Beyond a standard approach to DEI, 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 and inclusion and they bring their knowledge, perspective and skill to the commission and its workgroups. Examples of how the Task Force incorporates DEI 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.

### **Part V. Annual Work Plan**

The Task Force is currently undergoing a 12-month prioritization process and have tentatively identified the following priority areas for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year:

- Operationalizing the Principles of Equity
- Advancing policies around the intersectionality 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 Departments developing equitable county contracting practices, ARDI's Community Input Advisory Board, Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health, and the state budget and its impact on our priorities.

### **Part VI. Summary of Progress**

This brief report provides an overview of Task Force activities from July 2024 through June 2025.

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

##### **Healthy and Equitable Land Use**

During the current reporting period, the Task Force prioritized issues around the intersectionality of land use and public health by continuing the work of the Healthy and Equitable Land Use Ad Hoc Committee. Through this Committee, the Task Force has been tracking the development and implementation of the City and County oil and gas well decisions, providing insight into priorities for DPH's Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health (OEJCH), and remaining engaged with the County's infrastructure initiatives (such as Infrastructure LA and the Department of Public Works' Equity in Infrastructure).

The committee engaged with the Department of Public Works (DPW), inviting representatives to present updates for the Equity in Infrastructure Initiative. In addition to facilitating these discussions, committee members also supported DPW by promoting its publication and gathering community feedback. Additionally, committee members researched and tracked issues related to the Chiquita Canyon Landfill and will continue monitoring community engagement, providing recommendations to DPH and the Board of Supervisors as needed.

Throughout 2024, committee members conferred regularly with the Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health (OEJCH) to support and/or provide guidance on Office priorities. In July 2024, the committee provided recommendations for strengthening objectives related to partnership and collaboration with LA County's environmental justice communities in the OEJCH strategic plan. Under the committee's leadership, the Task Force supported OEJCH's efforts to bolster resources for the comprehensive cleanup of the former Exide facility in Vernon, CA and the surrounding communities by submitting a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in November 2024 in support of the site's Superfund designation.

##### **Community Health Equity Improvement Plan**

During the current reporting period, the Task Force Ad Hoc Committee continued 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 include Environmental Justice, Infant and Maternal Mortality, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Congenital Syphilis, and Violence Prevention. In this role, the Ad Hoc Committee continued to provide feedback to the CHEIP development process, updated the Task Force at quarterly meetings, and advised on the application of community engagement strategies to health equity objectives and dissemination efforts of the plan. The plan was finalized in September 2024 and the Task Force members played a vital role in disseminating the plan through their networks of community partners.

### **Equitable County Contracting**

During this reporting period, the Equitable County Contracting Liaison continued to draft recommendations for equitable contracting practices at Public Health and Los Angeles County that support the local infrastructure of community-based organizations. The Liaison participated at a public stakeholder meeting in late October and shared a list of recommended solutions for County contracting practices by early January 2025. The Liaison concluded their work by inviting the Directors of the Los Angeles County's Internal Services Department (ISD) and Department of Economic Opportunities (DEO) to the February 2025 Task Force meeting and facilitated a constructive conversation around implemented measures promoting Equitable County Contracting practices. The Task Force approved to continue the Liaison position to remain engaged and periodically report updates to the Task Force on the County's efforts to renovate and improve Equitable County Contracting practices.

### **Affordable and Accessible Housing**

During this reporting period, the Affordable and Accessible Housing Liaisons monitored and tracked county-level actions related to the development of affordable housing and related accessibility issues. The liaisons actively participated in several community and organizational meetings related to homelessness, housing, aging, and disability in Los Angeles County; including community listening sessions regarding homelessness in Service Planning Areas 2 (SPA 2) hosted by LAHSA, a presentation on safety for individuals with dementia, and Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHSa) board and committee meetings. The liaisons elevated issues around community engagement, particularly for Spanish-speaking communities, during LAHSA community listening sessions. These concerns were communicated with the Board of Supervisor's Health Deputies during regular quarterly meetings. Additionally, the liaisons requested to present to the LACAHSa Board on our Task Force's "Principles of Equity" and highlight the need for people with lived experience being more involved with the agency's board and decision-making process. That presentation has yet to be conducted.

### **Black Maternal and Infant Health**

During this reporting period, the Black Maternal and Infant Health Liaisons explored ways to ensure known disparities in morbidity and mortality associated with pregnancy, childbirth and infancy in Black residents of Los Angeles County are evaluated and addressed, elucidating actionable mechanisms to reverse the multigenerational effects of overt and structural racism, implicit and explicit bias, using a strength-based community engagement approach. Community experts were convened in August 2024, January 2025 and April 2025 to broaden liaisons' understanding of the root causes of these disparities, effective interventions including bright spots in the county, and Los Angeles County policies and funding necessary to address these disparities. The Liaisons will continue to meet with community experts and will create a document to track the successes in Black maternal health in both private and public sector work to advocate within the County for resources to keep improving the lives of our Black mothers and babies. The Liaisons will continue to monitor for opportunities to support and advocate through letters, emails and public comment, and elevating recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to ensure that public health is at the forefront of issues related to reversing the multigenerational effects of racism on Black women and infants.

### **Workforce Pipeline Enhancement and Development**

During this reporting period, the Workforce Pipeline Enhancement and Development Liaison workgroup analyzed data and conducted a landscape review to understand workforce challenges and identify opportunities in the mental health, health, and social justice sectors. Their key focuses were:

1. Supporting promotores, community health workers, and peer educators by securing funding/contracts for consistent health education and services addressing social drivers of health.
2. Creating structured pipelines for youth internships and clear career pathways in these fields.

The Liaisons collaborated with community-focused entities to gain insights into local needs and efforts and consulted experts to deepen their understanding of County-funded workforce development initiatives. They will continue engaging with experts and monitor opportunities to support and advocate for youth workforce pipeline development.

### **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 and provided updates at the regularly scheduled quarterly Task Force meetings. The Task Force remains ready to support ARDI, as needed.

### **B. Served the Department of Public Health**

The Task Force provided input and support to the Department of Public Health in the following ways:

- Continued an ad hoc committee to advise on the development and dissemination of the Community Health Equity Improvement Plan (CHEIP).
- Actively engaged in a focus group, providing valuable insights and feedback from the development of the Department's Strategic Plan.
- Provided input to the Department of Public Health regarding prioritized areas of work to inform the strategic use of resources and help advance County priorities around population health and equity

### **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.
- Provided input and feedback regarding county equity contracting practices.
- The Task Force sent a letter to the US Environmental Protection Agency supporting the superfund site designation of the Former Exide Facility and the impacted communities surrounding the site in Vernon, California.
- 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 July 2024 and June 2025 to Increase Impact**

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

- 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.

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



Grace Cotangco  
Task Force Co-Chair



Gilda Noori  
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