

ELECTRONIC MUSIC FESTIVAL (EMF) TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary – September 30, 2015

TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT: Vincent Amerson (CEO), Stan Brawer (LACFD), Paul Capraro (Pomona PD), Dardy Chen (CEO), Cathy Chidester (DHS), Phil Cocker (LACFD), Wesley L. Ford (DPH), Mark Gluba (Pomona Deputy City Manager), Michael Jordan (DPH-EH), Clayton Kazan (LACFD), Kevin Klar (LACFD), and Glen Stanley (LAC Sheriff)

TASK FORCE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Dennis Cross (LACFD), Alexander Li (DHS), Byron Prewett (LACFD), and Sheila Williams (CEO)

GUEST REGISTER: Roel Amara (DHS), Melina Bakshi (DPH-EH), Rachel Barbosa (BOS-SDI), Ford Englerth (Live Nation), Jason Henry (P75 Star News), Janine Jordan (Electronic Music Alliance), Melodie Larson (County Counsel), Jordan Judkins (Loma Linda Children’s Hospital), Bennedict Lee, PhD (DPH), David Loomstein (Electronic Music Alliance), Christine Nieto (DPH-SAPC), Jen Perry (Loma Linda Children’s Hospital), Joseph Petitt (Drug Policy Alliance), Stephanie Raby (DHS), Gary Richards (Hard/Live Nation), Mario Salcedo (DPH-SAPC), and Thomas Sannasardo (Dance Safe LA),

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: Meeting Agenda; EMF Task Force Meeting Minutes, dated 9/23/15; PowerPoint Presentation on Introduction to Ecstasy, Electronic Music Festivals, and Policy Recommendations in Los Angeles County; Los Angeles County Task Force on Raves and Electronic Music Festivals, Final Recommendations for all Future Raves and Electronic Music Events (2010), Current EMF Task Force Members and Associated Agency Names; and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Invitee List

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Response, Action, Follow-up
Call to Order	Chair Wesley Ford called meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., Quorum was present.	
Welcome and Introduction of Task Force Members and Guests	<p>Chair Wesley Ford asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves and include what agency they are representing.</p> <p>Chair Ford asked if anyone had any changes to the 9/23/15 meeting minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cathy Chidester’s name to be corrected - Correction to statement made that Ben Lee worked with Electronic Music Alliance on the resource guides and recommendations 	<p>Corrections will be made and reflected in minutes set for approval at next committee meeting</p>

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<p>Report on 2010 Task Force from Ben Lee, PhD</p>	<p>Ben Lee (DPH) showed the Public Service Announcement (PSA) developed by event promoters during the assembly of the 2010 Task Force. He later informed the Task Force that the PSA was shelved due to non-payment from the Los Angeles Coliseum commission to event promoters.</p> <p>Janine Jordan (EMA) added that the PSA has been shared throughout electronic music community and is available to the public.</p> <p>Ben Lee (DPH) continued with his power point presentation based on efforts from the 2010 Task Force. (2010 Task Force was developed from a Board motion after the death of a 15 year old female who died of drug overdose after attending a rave at the Los Angeles Coliseum.) The presentation provided history of raves and background on designer drugs such as Ecstasy. Review of this presentation and the information from it will be used to develop new recommendations.</p> <p>A section of the presentation explained that MDMA (methylenedioxy-methamphetamine), more commonly known as Ecstasy is mostly swallowed/ingested in a pill form, but can also be snorted, smoked, or injected. At the time the presentation was created (2010), the average pill form dosage was 80-125 milligrams. Today's (2015) average pill dosage is anywhere between 200-300 mg.</p> <p>Primary side effects or reasons why people take ecstasy is that it is a mood and/or pleasure enhancer: increased energy, feeling of well-being or happiness, self-confidence, and emotional closeness. Some of the dangerous side effects include: increased heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature, dehydration, and death. Onset of effects timeline is 20-40 minutes after taking. Peak timeline of effects is between 60-90 minutes after taking.</p>	

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	<p>Chair Ford stated that the Subcommittees take a look at previous 2010 recommendations and update those as necessary.</p> <p>Some of the recommendations that came out of the 2010 Task Force were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce the age limit to 18 and over (currently the age limit is 16 years of age, but some have been identified as young as 12 or 13 years old.) • Conclude music no later than 2 a.m. • Alcohol sales end 30 minutes before last performance and restricting it to limited locations at venue • Crowd control/occupancy would be controlled based on arena size and consider emergency response ratio and access • First Aid – roaming paramedics • Ensure surrounding area hospitals are aware of event • Allow attendees to remain at venue for up to 1 hour after the conclusion of event – allow time to cool down and sober up if necessary. Along with playing soft/calming music and either provide or sell non-alcoholic drinks (ex: water and/or Gatorade) • Amnesty boxes – allow patrons to drop any illegal drugs they may have on them into boxes before entering the event without fear of being cited. Later use substances confiscated to test type of drugs being use/distributed • Limiting carry-ons and accessories into event: backpacks, purses, stuffed animals, etc. • Sound – use some type of earplugs to limit potential hearing loss/damage • Security – having strategic placement of security stations and secure fencing • Sobriety check points surrounding event area • Monitor social media to maintain awareness and deter possible threats • Work with promoters to send out messages during intermissions about staying safe, hydrated, know when to ask 	

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	<p>and where to go for help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand out and post (signs/billboards) educational material <p>Educational/Informational cards were initially distributed, but was halted by Board of Supervisor Antonovich's office, because the language did not enforce the County's zero tolerance drug policy but instead advertised harm reduction.</p> <p>It was initially stated that these recommendations were not implemented because of the Board of Supervisor's non-approval and scandalous allegations of the Coliseum Commission, however numerous Task Force members stated that the Medical Response and Safety and Security related recommendations were implemented, used, and have been modified over the years as needs change.</p> <p>Gary Richards (Live Nation) added that although the Board of Supervisors did not approve the 2010 Task Force recommendations, Live Nation has implemented most of the recommendations that were created.</p> <p>Discussion was brought up about other drugs besides ecstasy that is currently out there. Suggestions of changing ordinances that would allow on-site testing to be conducted at events without fear of promoters being penalized. Another recommendation was made to have a toxicologist provide information on what is currently out there.</p> <p>Rachel Barbosa (BOS Solis) recommended that the Task Force include that any recommendations created/modified be revisited every 5 years.</p> <p>Chair Ford asked for clarity of what the Board of Supervisors passed and rescinded after the 2010 Task Force recommendations where presented.</p>	<p>Mario Salcedo (DPH) will find signed copies of 2010 board motion, amendments, and recommendations.</p>

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<p>Reports from subcommittee leads</p>	<p>Chair Ford moved towards reports from the subcommittees</p> <p><u>Medical Response</u> Stephanie Raby (DHS) reports on behalf of Cathy Chidester.</p> <p>All 2010 motions are still being implemented at each event. Handout that unfortunately was not made public before meeting and could not be distributed, outlines each of the health related and ER medical services recommendations from 2010. Health related items that were incorporated are: weather and hydration, which has been put into their pre-hospital care policy for mass gatherings and special events. Fire and EMS providers are given an event briefing before each event. They are told what to look for, signs and symptoms of drug use, heat related injuries, and watch for dehydration.</p> <p>Other recommendations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earplugs have always been provided at the events for no cost, all they have to do is go to the first aid station. • Signage has been incorporated, roaming teams, as well as mass gathering and special event policies. • Physician and other staffing recommendations on site at event which greatly reduces eR visits. • Promoter and Fire Department, within jurisdiction, communicate with their organization at least 1 week prior to event to allow enough staffing at hospital or sufficient planning for event. • Review policy every 2 years to enhance and increase recommendations. 	

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	<p>Current committee members are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Los Angeles County Fire • Los Angeles City Fire • Pasadena City Fire • City of Long Beach Fire • Laurie Sepke - Pomona Valley Medical Center • Dr. Li from Department of Health Services • Dr. Kazan from Los Angeles County Fire Department <p>Committee is incorporating best practices from San Francisco and San Diego. They are also using evidence-based articles from the United Kingdom to look at staffing patterns.</p> <p>For 2015, the committee would like to recommend expanding the footprint of the venue to include the parking lot as a way to decrease transports that might be event related reduce hospital visits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend hours for care providers to stay on site at event and give patrons enough time to sober up. • Allow care center to stay operational up to 4 hours post event, which will have a great impact and avoid/reduce number of transports and people being sent to the hospital. <p>Chair Ford recommended to forward draft to each subcommittee for review</p> <p><u>Safety and Security</u> Subcommittee will be taken over by Captain Holly Perez from the Sheriff's Department who was unable to make it today, but has been connected with members of the committee and will have information to provide by next meeting.</p>	<p>Roel Amara (DHs) responded that once draft is completed it will be forwarded.</p>

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	<p><u>Best Practices and Education</u> Will be working on developing messaging as well as health and safety recommendations. Will also provide updated resources and best practices.</p> <p>Suggestion was made to look at the last 4-5 years including family reunification, staging at care centers, full screening. Include information to be handed out at next event.</p> <p><u>Electronic Music Community – Janine Jordan (EMA)</u> Comments on the fear and concern of the Rave Act and the legal repercussions for promoting harm reduction. What is allowed to be done or said? What does the policy really look like? One of the things that the committee plans to work on is messaging that is appropriate and reaches the music population. Adds there is a stereotype when it comes to the word or name “Rave” as well as the clothing, jewelry, and language used on internet or in blogs. Electronic Music Festivals is part of pop culture. The fashion behind the culture is not paraphernalia. Fear of the 2003 RAVE Act and it is unconstitutional and violates the 1st Amendment. Mention of Prop 47 which now states possession of MDMA (a.k.a. “Molly”) is now classified as a misdemeanor rather than a felony.</p> <p>Subcommittee members to be finalized and sent before next meeting.</p> <p>Chair Ford requests for all subcommittees to supply the names and titles of its members to Mario Salcedo before the next meeting.</p> <p>Chair Ford requests that each subcommittee send a draft of their report and what they are working on 3 days in advance of 10/15/15 meeting so that other subcommittees can address any items/issues that are being worked on.</p>	<p>Subcommittee leads are to supply Mario Salcedo and/or Christine Nieto with committee member’s names.</p>

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	EMA will have a presentation on drugs for the 10/30/15 meeting.	
Public Comments (Comments from the public on Items of Interest within the Task Force Subject Matter Jurisdiction)	<p>Chair Wesley Ford made a move for public comment.</p> <p>Question: What does success look like?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reducing the impact to the hospitals/ERs 2. Eliminate tragic deaths 3. Produce guidelines and policies that enables Los Angeles County to host large events safely and effectively. To not overload the EMS system and ensure they are consistent and continue to improve them 	
Adjourn to the next meeting	<p>Next meeting is scheduled to take place:</p> <p>Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. 1000 S. Fremont Ave. Alhambra, CA 91803 A9 East Building Ground Floor Conference Room G-2</p>	<p>Mario Salcedo to send out future meetings dates and times.</p>