



**Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency  
Health Advisory Committee (HAC)  
Meeting Minutes/June 10, 2024**

<b>Place:</b>	Tulare County Government Plaza – RMA Main Conference Room	<b>Start Time:</b>	1:00 p.m.
	5957 S Mooney Blvd, Visalia, CA 93277	<b>End Time:</b>	2:30 p.m.
<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	Supervisor Amy Shuklian, Dr. Ana Coll, Candace Hilvers, Dr. Thomas Overton, Alexandra Yates, Nilsa Gonzalez, Ryan Gates, Melissa Mertz		
<b>Committee Members Absent:</b>	Lali Witrago, Marie Macedo, Cynthia Bartlett, Christina Rodriguez, Frank Ardon		
<b>Guests/Staff Present:</b>	Karen Elliott, Staci Chastain, Jennifer Madrigal, Sean Roberts, Janilee Cena, Laura Vilar, Luis Cortez, Anthony Gracian, Arcellie Santos		
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>		<b>SCHEDULED ACTIONS RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>PERSON (S) RESPONSIBLE</b>
<b>I. Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order by Chair Shuklian at 1:02 p.m.		CHAIR
<b>II. Introductions</b>	Round table introduction with members present.		ALL
<b>III. Public Comment</b>	No public comments.		
<b>IV. Action Items</b>			CHAIR
<b>a. Approve Minutes from April 8, 2024</b>	Candice Hilvers motioned for her approval, which Melissa Mertz seconded.		
<b>V. Reports / Discussion Items</b>			
<b>a. Public Health Preparedness Program (PHEP)</b>	<p>Overview presentation of the services that are provided by Tulare County Public Health Preparedness (PHEP), program responses, and highlights.</p> <p>Why is PHEP needed? Most traditional disasters have a major public health aspect, and as emergencies increase, PHEP staff become subject matter experts and can provide immediate responses to emergencies and take</p>		Sean Roberts, Emergency Services Specialist II



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	<p>proactive steps to address them.</p> <p>The Tulare County PHEP oversees the following programs: Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP), Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PanFlu), Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC), and Disaster Supply Stockpile.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The MOAC program plays a vital role in a variety of disasters and coordinates medical needs across the entire healthcare spectrum to provide a singular countywide point of contact for healthcare needs outside of normal business hours. Staff are available 24/7/365.</li></ul> <p>March 2023 Flood Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Nursing Home Evacuation:</b> A nursing home was threatened with flooding, and its generator had less than 24 hours of reserve fuel. Staff were unable to access the site and the facility needed to be evacuated. PHEP coordinated with ambulance providers to provide secure transportation for oxygen-dependent patients, provided ADA bus transportation for wheelchair-bound patients and coordinated with CalFire/City of Porterville Fire to assist in loading and offloading patients to safety. The evacuation took less than 3 hours, patients were relocated to the Porterville Development Center, and within 3 weeks, PHEP staff coordinated their transportation to repatriate.</li><li>➤ <b>Tule Reservation Medical Evacuation:</b> Five patients with acute medical conditions (including some with dialysis) who resided on the reservation were unable to evacuate their homes since the only road out of the area was inaccessible. PHEP coordinated efforts with Tule Reservation EMS and</li></ul>		
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	<p>Skylife Air Ambulance to secure helicopter transportation. Additionally, coordination with the City of Porterville and Sierra Medical Center was arranged to receive patients directly into the emergency room. All patients received medical care and were relocated safely.</p> <p>➤ <b>Establishment of Exeter Shelter:</b> Evacuation orders were created for immediate sheltering. Within 90 minutes of notification, PHEP coordinated efforts to provide an alternative care support trailer using stockpiled supplies that were used throughout the duration of the shelter's use. Over 100 evacuees, including children and persons with access and functional needs, were provided services.</p> <p>All coordinated efforts resulted in a successful outcome for each event. Public Health Director, Karen Elliott shared that PHEP has worked so much in coordination with other MOAC counties and regions. She shared that although the team of four is small, they are a very strong part of Public Health.</p> <p>WASH Grant: Tulare County PHEP was one of five counties to receive a grant from NAACHO and CDC to include persons experiencing homelessness in emergency planning. This allowed the creation of "push packs" which consisted of prepackaged goods necessary to support the needs of the unhoused population. During the 2023 March floods, PHEP assisted over 100 individuals experiencing homelessness. Push packs continue to be deployment-ready for future emergencies.</p> <p>Other PHEP Successes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Distributed over 200,000 COVID-19 tests, and N95 masks.</li><li>2. Coordinated over 140 Vaccination Events</li></ol>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Provide Training/ EOC</li><li>4. Exeter Power Outage- Provided water and ice at the Cooling Shelter.</li></ul>		
<b>b. Strategic Plan</b>	<p>2023-2028 Strategic Plan</p> <p>Presentation on the Public Health Branch’s Reaccreditation efforts by providing an overview of the strategic plan’s timeline, priority areas, goals, and objectives. The timeline consisted of research, planning, engaging staff, monitoring, and implementation.</p> <p>In 2023, Strategic Plan priority areas were identified to guide the work of the programs and departments over the next five years. The priority areas are Public Health Safety and Protection, Community Mobilization and Health Promotion, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Organizational Excellence, and Health Informatics.</p> <p>Within each priority area, there were goals and objectives that aligned with the priorities set by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), other regional and state initiatives, HHSA, and the Public Health Branch. The goals and objectives included public safety and protection, community engagement, health promotion, health equity throughout the department, building a skilled and competent workforce, creating a culture of continuous quality improvement and result-based accountability, and advancing information and data management for the branch.</p> <p>Dr. Col asked about accessible education and how information is translated into other languages. Tiffany shared that staff was currently training on the Relay Language Line that would provide them with the resources needed to assist the public with providing alternative language interpretation and document translation</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Tiffany Fode, Public Health Manager Laura Villar, Accreditation Coordinator HHSA/Public Health</p>



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	services.		
<b>VI. VII. Member Announcements</b>	<p>Ryan Gates shared that it's an exciting month for Kaweah Health, with over 130 residents in 6 different programs graduating. Kaweah Health also received a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant. 4-year grant for their work on the Maternal Health/Farm Worker Study. Ryan stated that there are inequities in this population.</p> <p>Chair Amy Shuklian shared that Mooney Grove Park Dog Park opened to the public on June 8, 2024.</p> <p>Public Health Director, Karen Elliott shared with the committee that the 2023 Community Health Improvement Plan and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP) was published on the County website.,.</p>	<p>Mila will send the HAC members the link to access the CHA/CHIP on the County website.</p>	ALL
<b>VIII. Agenda items for the next meeting</b>			HAC
<b>VIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting</b>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on August 12, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., in the RMA Main Conference Room - 5957 South Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, CA 93277.</p>		
<b>Minutes Prepared By</b>	Mila Orth, Department Secretary, HHSA/Public Health		



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