



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Meeting Notes

**California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
Proposition 64 Advisory Group (P64AG)
November 6, 2020, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Members on Conference Line	
Denise Galvez	Victoria King-Watson
Seth Ammerman, MD	Amanda McAllister-Wallner
Ruben Cantu	Bonnie Midura
Timmen Cermak, MD	Lynn D. Silver, MD
Jim Keddy	Paula Wilhelm
Veronica Lewis	Jevon Wilkes
Martin D. Martinez III	Judy Babcock
John de Miranda	

Non-Members Present
Matt Cervantes, Sierra Health Foundation (SHF)
Palvinder Kaur, SHF
Noemi Avalos, SHF

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Denise Galvez, Youth Services Section Chief, DHCS

Victoria King-Watson, Branch Chief, DHCS

Galvez opened the meeting and introduced Victoria King-Watson, who attended on behalf of Marlies Perez, introduced DHCS support staff, and facilitated the personal introductions of each member.

King-Watson expressed her appreciation to members for their selfless and continued efforts to help young people during these uncertain times. She reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives.

Contract Update

Denise Galvez, DHCS

Galvez provided an update on the anticipated budget for fiscal year (FY) 2019-20 versus the actual budget. Galvez also announced that all Round 1 contracts and invoice payments were made to state agencies that receive Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention, and Treatment Account funding. Additionally, she said the California Department of Education would expand funding for child care vouchers specifically for families affected by COVID-19 in Round 2. DHCS is executing Round 2 contracts with the California Natural Resources Agency and California Department of Public Health.

Round 2 Milestones

Denise Galvez, DHCS

Galvez announced the milestones accomplished for Round 2. She also added that the funding parameters and options for Elevate Youth California (EYC) Round 2 were determined, given the successes, challenges, and missed opportunities from Round 1.

In partnership with DHCS, SHF launched the EYC website, www.elevateyouthca.org.

The community data collection tool is complete. DHCS developed and released the Round 2 Youth Substance Use Prevention and Disorder Request for Application (RFA), and community programs were selected and awarded funding.

Round 2 Community RFA Announcement

Denise Galvez, DHCS

Galvez announced that the RFA was released on September 3, and DHCS received 135 applications before the October 2 deadline, confirming the considerable interest in the need for substance use prevention programs.

Galvez noted that SHF held two webinars to review the funding opportunity. After reviewing the applications, DHCS awarded 32 sub-grantees approximately \$29.7 million to fund community-based substance use prevention programs. The sub-grantee list would be emailed to members after the meeting, along with a press release.

Galvez asked members to focus their attention on two California maps provided with the meeting materials. She explained the first slide shows the locations where Round 2 applications were submitted, and the second slide shows the recipients of Round 2 awards. She added that DHCS wanted to incorporate all of the suggestions from members to ensure that any outliers from Round 1 awardees were included.

Survey Results and Technical Training Assistance Response

Matt Cervantes, Director of Health Programs, SHF

Palvinder Kaur, Program Officer, SHF

Noemi Avalos, Evaluation Officer, SHF

Cervantes introduced SHF's newest member, Palvinder Kaur, who is taking over the day-to-day duties as Program Officer. Kaur replaced Nora Dunlap, the previous SHF Program Officer.

Cervantes began by stating that in June 2020, SHF invited EYC-funded partners to participate in an online survey to understand better the effects of COVID-19 on their work, particularly organizational needs and community challenges in engaging youth and family, and the challenges their community is experiencing due to the pandemic. The survey also focused on identifying topics for technical assistance. SHF saw

tremendous social unrest, so it was critical to administer the survey to understand the organizational needs to support EYC sub-grantees.

Cervantes introduced Avalos, who explained that the slides illustrated 25 responses to the survey representing 19 funded partners. The first survey questions asked about changes to their organizations since the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a statewide shutdown.

Avalos next discussed the main issues and challenges facing communities due to the pandemic when it comes to addressing substance use. Many respondents mentioned that the pandemic exacerbated resource disparity among individuals who already struggled to meet their needs. Most partners are actively engaging in addressing those challenges and conditions presented by the pandemic. She reviewed strategies utilized most by funded partners to engage youth.

Cervantes then explained that SHF's response to partner needs has remained flexible since awarding grants in March 2021. Since awardees applied for this funding under entirely different circumstances, partners have had to pivot in real time. SHF offered budget and work plan modifications to a number of organizations as they held virtual meetings and youth listening sessions. SHF allowed grantees additional time to ramp up their projects due to the pandemic.

Cervantes explained the need for increased flexibility with deliverables and changes in work plans. He suggested training sessions for cohort partners in at least four areas:

1. How to expand youth engagement.
2. How to promote civic engagement in youth.
3. How to increase nonprofit sustainability.
4. How to address the digital divide.

A brief discussion followed regarding technology assistance, capacity building, sharing resources, and innovative strategies to reach youth during social distancing and the surrounding impacts of the pandemic.

The Cambodian Family (TCF) Partner Presentation

Vattana Peong, MPH – Executive Director, TCF

Sophia Chhoeng, Director of Youth, TCF

Peong thanked members for presenting the current EYC work they are completing in substance use disorder prevention. Peong provided a brief background on TCF. He explained the programs and services provided, including community and mental health, youth development, and civic engagement and immigration.

He discussed how COVID-19 has impacted their programs. TCF canceled all in-person meetings and has been meeting virtually. They have continued to be responsive to community needs and maintained their relationship with the community.

Peong introduced Sophia Chhoeng, who announced the Empowered Southeast Asian and Latinx Youth for SUD Prevention Program, which is the program they developed with their awarded EYC funding. Chhoeng explained how they conducted their listening sessions to maintain youth privacy that allowed them to feel comfortable and safe throughout virtual interactions. She highlighted some of the results from their listening sessions.

Lunch Break

Fathers and Families of San Joaquin (FFSJ) Partner Presentation

Sammy Nunez, Executive Director, FFSJ

Daniel Mendoza, Data Analyst, FFSJ

Armani Poe, Youth Fellow and Organizer, FFSJ

Nunez introduced a video and gave a brief presentation on current problems they are dealing with and how they are addressing barriers. He discussed FFSJ's mission and vision and outlined their EYC-funded program.

Nunez explained the four stages of management to leadership: building trust, building understanding, building/organizing, and ultimately building youth leaders. He espoused the importance of culturally rooted healing with mentors who have "been there, done that," and who were impacted by the same systems as youth in their program.

Mendoza reviewed how they have been engaging youth during COVID-19 social distancing requirements to build their life skills while battling substance use disorder issues. Mendoza reported questions asked by youth during three focus groups and five individual narrative interviews aimed at assessing client needs.

Poe discussed her struggles and experiences while emphasizing how FFSJ has positively affected her. Nunez and Mendoza closed the presentation and thanked everyone for attending.

Members expressed praise for the FFSJ's work. Member Paula Wilhelm voiced concern over the lack of culturally relevant services in San Joaquin County. Nunez and Mendoza indicated that an increase in bilingual services would help address the need for culturally appropriate services as clients come from out of state, and even out of the country, to obtain services. Nunez also asserted the importance of meeting people where they're at and providing wraparound services.

Next Steps

Denise Galvez, DHCS

Galvez outlined the Round 2 project timeline.

Member Comment/Questions?

Members praised the community partners.

Public Comment/Questions?

No public comments.

Closing

Denise Galvez, DHCS

Galvez thanked participants, especially the presenters who delivered informative and detailed presentations.