



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Meeting Notes

Proposition 64 Advisory Group

March 10, 2022

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Webex Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Denise Galvez	Ruben Cantu
Martin Martinez III	John de Miranda
Jim Keddy	Brinn Langdale
Veronica Lewis	Nicole Coxe
Paula Wilhelm	Lynn Silver
Ryan Tattersfield	Jacqueline Tompkins
Angeline Azevedo	Amanda McAllister-Wallner

Opening Remarks and Introductions

*Denise Galvez, Operations Branch Chief, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
Natasha McGee-Jones, Emerging Trends Unit Chief, DHCS*

Galvez opened the meeting by thanking the Proposition 64 Advisory Group (P64AG) members for attending the first meeting of the year. Galvez made a brief announcement regarding her new role as Operations Branch Chief. Galvez will be working on DHCS' Behavioral Health Prevention Plan and will invite the members to the listening sessions in the coming weeks. Galvez summarized the DHCS Information Notice (IN) regarding the renewal of the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System waiver released in March 2022 located at [IN 22-005](#). After membership introductions, Galvez reviewed a few housekeeping items.

Proposition 64 Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention, and Treatment Account (YEPEITA) Milestones

Natasha McGee-Jones, DHCS

McGee-Jones introduced herself and went over the agenda and objectives for the meeting. The DHCS P64 team were introduced and provided an update for each contract. The contracts include California Department of Social Services (CDSS), DHCS, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA).

Contract Updates and Round 4 Budget

Natasha McGee-Jones, DHCS

McGee-Jones provided an update on the pending 2022-23 Governor's budget. The amount of \$356,921,000 is allocated to state departments through interagency agreements for Round 4 YEPEITA funding.

CDSS – \$258,690,750. Funds will be used to subsidize early learning and care programs by expanding additional funding for childcare slots through general childcare contractors.

DHCS – \$68,604,000. One percent of the funds allocated to DHCS are used for administrative fees and the remaining allocated to The Center at Sierra Health to sub-grant to communities through the Elevate Youth California (EYC) program.

CDPH – \$12,000,000. Funds will be used for surveillance, research, and evaluation, including the purchase of survey questions for the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance, California Healthy Kids Survey, and California Adult Tobacco Survey. The funds will also be used to create cannabis risk education and prevention materials.

CNRA – \$17,626,000. Funds will be used to support programs providing youth access to natural or cultural resources with a focus on low-income and disadvantaged communities including, but not limited to, community education and recreational amenities to support youth substance use prevention and early intervention.

Elevate Youth California Cohort Updates

Palvinder Kaur, Program Officer, Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management (The Center)

Matt Cervantes, Director of Health Programs, The Center

Cervantes shared that the Round 3 Innovation Track awardees were announced in February 2022. In addition, Cervantes discussed the 2021 annual report with data representative from October 2020 – November 2021 and spoke enthusiastically on the amount of support that youth are receiving through this program. As a result of the restrictions of the pandemic, youth engagement has been a challenge for both The Center and the programs. Youth engagement has increased significantly from 2020 and of the young people engaged, 10% identified with the LGBTQ2S+ community.

Much of the programming is collaborative driven or supporting partnerships within the community. There is a much broader stakeholder listserv from last year which is encouraging.

Cervantes explained that there is a significant amount of Technical Assistance (TA) provided from The Center to partners and potential partners that are attempting to apply for funds. To date, The Center has provided 2,745+ hours of TA which begins at the application process and continues through the closure of the contract. In addition to The

Centers' listening sessions, the programs are required to hold at least one listening session. From October 2020 – November 2021 there were 88 listening sessions throughout California.

The Center's listening sessions conducted in 2021 were centered on young adult engagement and harm reduction. The Center found that young adult engagement was missing and made it a priority to focus on increasing engagement. In May 2021, The Center contracted with California Youth Connection who conducted a virtual listening session to better understand why young adults turn to substance use and how to best support them.

Regarding prevention, The Center found it was important to implement education programs created by youth and adults with shared life experiences. This provides safe spaces for transparent and empathy-driven conversations around substance use, harm reduction, mental health, and racial/health equality. Strategies – Initial and continued engagement is extremely important. Mental health – Round 1 started during the beginning of the pandemic – it was very important to understand how the pandemic was affecting young people. There was an increase of mental health issues and many youth stated that they did not have a safe space.

In closing, the EYC Round 3 Capacity Building Track Request for Application was released in February 2022, announcing awarded partners in May 2022. The Center is currently planning for a Youth Convening in 2022 (pandemic restrictions pending).

The LGBTQ Center OC Presentation

Stephanie Camacho Van Dyke, Native Way Program Director, The LGBTQ Center Orange County (OC)

Dan Pham, Elevate Youth Leader, LGBTQ Center OC

Vivian Pham, Elevate Youth Leader, LGBTQ Center OC

Manual Antunez, Youth Coordinator, LGBTQ Center OC

Ana Marson, Youth Programs Assistant, LGBTQ Center OC

Yanel Bueno, Mental Health Counselor, LGBTQ Center OC

Van Dyke thanked the members for the opportunity to present during the P64AG meeting. Van Dyke explained the importance of developing a culture shift for mental health and substance use advocacy through positive engagement and opportunity to engage local youth provided by the funding from EYC.

Antunez explained the LGBTQ Center OC's Elevate Program creates opportunities for LGBTQ youth to increase their advocacy and leadership skills. Through a trauma-informed, health-centered and asset-based approach, youth leaders will work to effect transformative and peer-led policy, systems, and environmental change in Orange County.

Prior LGBTQ Center OC Participants, Vivian and Dan Pham were motivated to become board leaders. Vivian Pham shared that people who are part of the LGBTQ community were not supported during my High School (HS) years. Pham wanted to become involved and provide them support. When Pham graduated HS, she wanted to become involved within the community and started as a volunteer. After volunteering she became a member. Throughout Phams' role, she is able to share information to educate youth within and outside the community.

To provide context for program need, 39% of LGBTQ youth reported they considered attempting suicide in the past year; 71% of youth felt sad and hopeless; 71% of youth were discriminated against because of sexual orientation or gender identity; and 87% of LGBTQ youth know the importance of reaching out to organizations that are LGBTQ focused.

Bueno discussed the mental health services that are offered through the grant. Trauma-informed counseling services are offered for up to 10 sessions. If additional services are needed, youth are referred to the counseling department. The LGBTQ Center OC offer's mental health process groups which provide coping skills, help youth understand in addition to process emotions. The goal is to use preventative coping skills to prevent the desire to turn to substances. In addition, The LGBTQ Center OC offer's trauma informed educational community series, direct service to students, and outreach and education.

Marson mentioned members Ezra, Jules and Lilly who were not able to attend the meeting today. Ezra, Jules and Lilly provided direct youth feedback when asked about what motivated them to become youth leaders, sharing experiences as part of the program, contributions to the program, and the impact on the EYC for queer and trans youth in the next 2-3 years.

Member Update

Jim Keddy, Executive Director, Youth Forward

Lynn Silver, Senior Advisor, Public Health Institute

Keddy advised that in December of 2021 the cannabis industry received a lot of media coverage resulting in proposal of eliminating the cannabis cultivation tax. Keddy noted if the cultivation tax revenue source is eliminated and suspended, we would see a significant decline in the programs we have been discussing today.

Keddy has started to organize and bring awareness of the possible cannabis cultivation tax being eliminated around the state. Keddy put together a letter for the state in mid-February that was signed by 152 organizations expressing opposition to this proposal. The letter spelled out how this would have a direct negative impact on young people living in poverty.

Lastly, Silver provided details on a recent bill introduced, SB 1097, The Right to Know Act. The bill would require all retailers to provide information on safer use and health warnings to consumer and graphic health warnings on cannabis products. This creates an opportunity to engage the Legislature on what's happening in the cannabis world.

Round 4 Planning

Denise Galvez, DHCS

Galvez shared the breakdown of EYC grant tracks, listing the required reporting profiles for each. Galvez briefly covered the differences between each track in addition to the amounts that were released with each track.

Meeting attendees had questions, concerns, and feedback for future rounds with most items addressed during the meeting. Several members had concerns regarding the reasoning for reduction of \$50M between Round 3 and Round 4 funding, yet tax revenue went up 55% last year. Galvez reached out to Department of Finance (DOF) and will provide DOFs response to stakeholders via e-mail.

Galvez thanked the group for their participation and input throughout the meeting. She then asked the group to reach out to the P64AG email with any additional feedback to be considered. Galvez announced that DHCS will publish the P64AG meeting minutes online in the coming week to make available to the public and the members.

In addition, it was confirmed that the P64AG meetings will likely remain virtual given that not everyone is in the Northern California area and allow greater participation.

Finally, Galvez discussed the project timeline from Feb 2022 – May 2022. DHCS released the 2021 annual report and next month will be finalizing the DHCS contract with The Center for Round 4. In May, DHCS will be awarding the Capacity Building Track. Next P64AG Meeting is in July 2022.

Public Comment

Mitchell Colbert – works with a cannabis vaping company and would like to know how to register for future meetings and if this meeting is recorded. Galvez explained where to find the information online and how to locate the meeting minutes from each meeting.

Closing and Next Steps

Denise Galvez, DHCS

Galvez thanked the P64AG members for their feedback and adjourned the meeting.