



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

Theresa “Missy” Nitescu, MS, RDN, CHSP
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January 31, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Theresa “Missy” Nitescu, Co-Chair
Gilda Noori, Co-Chair
Damon Nagami, Former Co-Chair

SUBJECT: **COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND POPULATION HEALTH TASK FORCE –
2022 CALENDAR YEAR ANNUAL REPORT**

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 2022 activities and accomplishments of the Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force.

Part I. Cover Sheet

The Commission Liaison for the Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force is Ava Cato-Werhane, Planning Manager, of the Department of Public Health - Office of Planning, Integration and Engagement, Planning Unit. Ms. Cato-Werhane may be reached at acato-werhane@ph.lacounty.gov.

Task Force Contact Information

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Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force Members:

Dahlia Alé-Ferlito · Oliver Brooks · Celia Brugman · Russia Chavis · Grace Cotangco · Augusto Dolce · Kenny Green
Naomi Iwasaki · Cathy Friedman · Nomsa Khalfani · Margaret B. Martinez · Chad Monk
Jovita Murillo · Damon Nagami · Theresa “Missy” Nitescu · Gilda Noori · 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
Oliver Brooks	Watts Healthcare Corporation
Celia Brugman	Kaiser Permanente
Russia Chavis	Russia Chavis, Inc.
Grace Cotangco	Prevention Institute
Augusto Dolce	God’s Pantry
Cathy Friedman	Peace Over Violence
Kenny Green	Centinela Youth Services
Naomi Iwasaki	Los Angeles Metro, Office of Equity and Race
Nomsa Khalfani	Essential Access Health
Margaret B. Martinez	ChapCare
Chad Monk	National Health Foundation
Jovita Murillo	Charles Drew University
Damon Nagami	Natural Resources Defense Council
Theresa “Missy” Nitescu*	Northeast Valley Health Corporation
Gilda Noori*	UCLA Dept. of Epidemiology / WISE & Healthy Aging
Jennifer Ponce	TCC Family Health
Cori Racela	Western Center on Law & Poverty
Hector M. Ramirez	National Disability Rights Network
Venezia Ramirez	USC Keck School of Medicine - Division of Environmental Health
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*

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 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.
- Provide leadership and strategic direction for community health planning in LAC, which includes the Community Health Assessment (CHA), Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), 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 represents a diverse, cutting edge “table” where a strong and diverse set of local leaders 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; developing and implementing 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; and 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.

During calendar year 2022, the third cohort of the Task Force served its last year and the fourth cohort began. The third cohort (June 2020 to May 2022) renewed its commitment to centering the Task Force's Principles of Equity and racial equity when addressing opportunities to improve population health. This term was extraordinarily productive, and its last year included the Task Force's ongoing 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 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 2024) continues to strengthen Task Force processes and procedures, including developing a roadmap of their work ahead. This cohort is comprised of a combination of 14 new and 10 returning members and held its first meeting in August 2022. They are beginning their term by serving as key advisors on the update to the new Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)/Center for Health Equity's (CHE) Action Plan Extension. This consolidated plan aligns the Department's efforts to better address health and inequity in Los Angeles County. They have also begun strategizing around key priorities, further exploring the intersections between the built environment and public health; and expanding on the Task Force's advocacy around violence prevention.

Part IV. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

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.
- Task Force members voted to re-affirm their commitment to center racism as a public health issue and have elevated racial equity considerations in their respective recommendations to the County.

Part V. Summary of Progress

This brief report provides an overview of Task Force activities from January through December 2022. Further

details can be provided upon request.

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

Built Environment & Public Health

In 2022, the Task Force prioritized issues at the intersection of the built environment and public health and, approved the creation of the Built Environment & Public Health ad hoc committee. Through this committee, the Task Force has been tracking the implementation and funding of the County’s “WHAM” Measures: W (stormwater), H (housing), A (parks), and M (transportation). This Task Force committee is also monitoring and supporting the County’s and City of LA’s unprecedented efforts to begin phasing out oil drilling while planning for a just transition.

Task Force members participated in the County’s WHAM committee meetings to track health equity policy considerations and promote the Principles of Equity. They met with and discussed incorporating the Principles of Equity within the Department of Public Works for all future decisions regarding WHAM projects. Additionally, the Built Environment and Public Health ad hoc committee developed policy recommendations for delegation visits with BOS representatives and Health Deputies regarding equitable implementation of WHAM. The committee also drafted a letter to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the Task Force in support of their oil well ordinance that will prohibit new oil drilling and declare existing oil drilling a non-conforming use. This year the committee received an update from the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) on the LA County’s Climate Vulnerability Assessment. The ad hoc committee provided -CSO with recommendations on how that office could engage the community with the results of their report. They also received an update from Public Health’s Environmental Health Division on the new office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health and will be tracking its progress in the coming year. Additionally, the committee will continue to explore environmental justice issues, such as the health equity impacts of the storage of cargo containers in local communities of color.

CHIP/CHE Action Plan Extension

In September 2022, the Task Force approved the creation of an ad hoc committee to advise on the CHIP/CHE Action Plan Extension. To bring equity to the forefront, the alignment of the CHIP and CHE Action Plan was brought forth to the Task Force for consideration given their similar efforts to create an actionable plan and work with community partners to improve health and address inequity in Los Angeles County. In this effort, the Task Force has been advising Public Health on community engagement strategies to use in this process and presentation of content the CHIP/CHE Action Plan Extension should include.

County’s Anti-racism, Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative

In 2022, a member of the Task Force continued to serve on ARDI’s advisory board. Through that capacity, the Task Force advised ARDI on the strategic planning process and plan (outcomes, metrics, and goal targets), strategic plan initiatives, and the stakeholder engagement plan, including participation in listening sessions, and informed the State of Black Los Angeles County report. Additionally, ARDI presented updates to the Task Force on its strategic planning process and community engagement efforts. Task Force members participated in the community engagement process to inform the County-wide racial equity strategic plan.

COVID-19 & Racial Equity

In 2022, the Task Force’s COVID-19 & Racial Equity ad hoc committee continued to meet to track COVID-19 related community health equity needs in the most impacted communities; however, it was decided to sunset the committee since a seat on the Public Health COVID-19 Community Advisory Council (COVID-19 CAC) was reserved by the Center for Health Equity for a member of the Task Force. In this capacity, the Task Force continues to provide equity-related recommendations to Public Health on vaccine distribution and communication efforts. The COVID-19 CAC advises Public Health’s:

- Engagement with the community

- Pandemic response strategies meant to improve meaningful and equitable approaches to COVID-19; and
- Related recovery efforts for highly impacted communities.

Since the Task Force member joined the COVID-19 CAC, the Council provided input and recommendations on:

- Strategies that DPH should consider pursuing to increase mpox vaccination rates based on lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Resources, information or service gaps in Public Health’s engagement with schools and school aged children regarding vaccines; and
- How to support capacity building within organizations to sustain the Community Health Worker Outreach Initiative model and the kind of technical assistance organizations would need to secure county contracts.

Violence Prevention

Two members from Task Force continue to serve as part of the founding cohort of OVP’s Community Partnership Council (CPC), which has facilitated ongoing communication and collaboration between the OVP and the Task Force. Task Force committee leads work closely with Public Health to contribute to the progress of OVP’s CPC, including providing input on the design of the County’s new Crisis Response and Violence Intervention Program (CRVIP).

The Task Force, in alignment with efforts from OVP’s Community Partnership Council, submitted a letter to the County’s District Attorney (DA) in support of their Restorative Enhanced Diversion for Youth (REDY) program.

B. Served the Department of Public Health

The Task Force provided input and support to the Center for Health Equity in the following ways:

- Served on the COVID-19 Equity Community Advisory Council (CAC) and advised the Center on equitable COVID-19 vaccine distribution and communications.
- Created an ad hoc committee to support community engagement and planning for the CHIP / CHE Action Plan Extension 2018-2024.
- Received an update on the Social Determinants of Health Board Motion and shared recommendations.

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.
- The Task Force sent a letter to the District Attorney’s office supporting the launch of the pre-filing diversion program for youth known as the Restorative Enhanced Diversion for Youth (REDY) program.
- The Task Force advocated for and supported the Supervisors’ bold actions to begin the process of phasing out oil drilling across unincorporated County lands, which will improve community health and promote environmental justice.
- Members of the Task Force met with most of the health deputies to discuss and strengthen relationships with the Board Offices. They shared Task Force priorities, made recommendations on issues pertaining to the built environment and alternatives to incarceration, learned about the priorities of each respective supervisor and identified opportunities to strengthen collaborations.

D. Implemented Operational Changes in 2022 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 the priority and emergent public health issues that Task Force cares most about.
- Scheduled meetings with Board offices to share recommendations on Task Force priorities and receive updates on Board priorities.
- Continued to track the County budget process and monitored when to weigh in on priority issues at the most strategically advantageous times.

Part VI. Upcoming Year 2023

In the coming year, the Task Force plans to focus on four areas: equitable contracting and operationalizing the Principles of Equity; violence prevention; the CHIP/CHE Action Plan Extension; and the intersection of the built environment and public health, while also tracking emerging public health issues such as new COVID-19 developments, Mpox, and the fentanyl crisis. Task Force members will also continue to track and collaborate with the ARDI Initiative’s Advisory Board as well as engage with the new Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health. The Task Force will also continue serve on the Public Health’s COVID-19 Community Advisory Council.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. We stand ready to work alongside the Department of Public Health, the Center for Health Equity and the Board 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,



Theresa “Missy” Nitescu
Task Force Co-Chair



Gilda Noori
Task Force Co-Chair



Damon Nagami
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