



**County of San Diego
HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting | Zoom | CAC Rm 302**

**Tuesday, July 15, 2025 3:00pm to 5:00pm
MEETING MINUTES**

SEAT	DISTRICT	PRIMARY	ALTERNATE	ATTEND	PRESENTERS	HHSA SUPPORT
1	1				Center for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Assessment of Chemical Exposure Results for the Tijuana River Valley Region by Sayone Thihalolipavan, MD, MPH, Public Health Officer , Public Health Services Administration	Sayone Thihalolipavan, M.D., M.P.H. , Public Health Officer, PHS, HHSA
2	1	Dr. Suzanne Afflalo IP	Samhita Ilango IP	✓		Elizabeth Hernandez, Ph.D. , Director, PHS, HHSA
3	2	Barry Jantz, CHAIR IP		✓		Jennifer Tuteur, M.D., FAAFP , Chief Medical Officer, MCS, HHSA
4	2	Victoria Floyd Z		✓		Jamie Beam, M.P.A. , Director, MCS, HHSA
5	3	Todd Walters				Adrienne Yancey, M.P.H. , Assistant Director, PHS, HHSA
6	3	Deanna Alexander-Myers				Anuj Bhatia, DrP.H. , Deputy Director, PHS, HHSA
7	4	James Lepanto IP		✓		Joshua Beidler, M.S. , Admin Sec II, PHS Admin, HHSA
8	4	Geysil Arroyo, VICE CHAIR IP		✓		Susan Callies , Admin Sec IV, PHS Admin, HHSA
9	5					Talq Tera , Information Technology Analyst, PHS Admin, HHSA
10	5					
11	SDC Med Soc	Paul Hegyi	Jennipher Ohmstede			
12	HASDIC	Dimitrios Alexiou	Caryn Sumek IP	✓		
13	HC Partners	Tim Fraser IP	Lauren Abrams	✓		
14	Consumer Center	Joanne Franciscus IP	Kris Jacobs	✓		
15	BHAB	Judith Yates IP		✓		
16	Healthy SD-PRO	Dr. Harriet Seldin IP		✓		
17	Healthy SD-Con	Jack Dailey IP	Alexander Perez	✓		
18	3		Dorothy Greene			
19	3		Aida Galindez IP	✓		
20	2		Besma Coda			

Attendance Key: **IP** = In person, **Z** = Zoom

<p>I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>A. Roll Call</p> <p>B. Remarks from the Chairperson</p> <p>C. Approval of July Agenda</p> <p>D. Approval of June Meeting Minutes</p> <p>E. HSAB Attendance Confirmation</p>	<p>A. Roll Call</p> <p>a. Barry Jantz called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.</p> <p>b. Dr. Suzanne Afflalo, Samhita Ilango, Barry Jantz, Victoria Floyd, James Lepanto, Geysil Arroyo, Caryn Sumek, Tim Fraser, Joanne Franciscus, Judith Yates, Dr. Harriet Seldin, Jack Daley, Aida Galindez</p> <p>B. Remarks from the Chairperson</p> <p>C. Approval of July Agenda</p> <p>a. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Tim Fraser and seconded by Dr. Harriet Seldin.</p> <p>b. Roll Call: All members in attendance voted Aye.</p> <p>D. Approval of June Meeting Minutes</p> <p>a. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Harriet Seldin and seconded by Jack Dailey.</p> <p>E. HSAB Attendance Confirmation</p>
<p>II. PUBLIC COMMENT (not related to agenda items)</p>	<p>There was no public comment.</p>
<p>III. INFORMATIONAL ITEM</p> <p>A. Center for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Assessment of Chemical Exposure Results for the Tijuana River Valley Region, Sayone Thihalolipavan, MD, MPH, Public Health Officer, Public Health Services Administration</p>	<p>A. Update (Dr. Thihalolipavan):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CASPER Results: Have been working on for 2 years. County declared as an emergency/local emergency; Site visit conducted related to this today. Asked the federal government to complete their health assessments. • ACE Study assessed individual level impacts that was primarily completed through a self-reflected survey by people who live in the affected areas including parents and guardians. • CASPER vs. ACE: CASPER was a household summary of responses. ACE went beyond CASPER as it was available online and parents could answer for individual children. Almost 2100 completed surveys. • ACE Study Results (Dr. Thihalolipavan): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demographics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Majority who responded were Hispanic; 172 Spanish surveys completed ▪ Most affected because they live there ▪ 25% of workers had direct contact w/contaminated rivers or beach water and were primarily people in protective services ○ Thoughts/concerns: 92% concerned about sewage crisis; 86% concerned about drinking water quality ○ Impact on Daily Life: Most responded yes; Only 20% did not take extra steps to avoid area ○ Mitigation (reduce smell/etc.): Closed windows, etc.; candles/incense/oil (Note: When burning incense/etc., you are creating more compounds); Air purifiers (Does include compounds that help absorb gases; better than air filters because they help absorb gases). ○ Most believed area was not safe ○ Drinking Water: 70% drink bottled water ○ Sewage Smell: 92% reported sewage smell; 57% reported severe smell ○ 1 in 4 had direct contact with contaminated water

- Physical Health: People experienced worsening symptoms such as headaches
- Medical Care: 31% sought medical attention
- Mental Health: 65% experienced mental health symptoms related to sewage crisis
- GAD-2 Scale: 28% scored high (clinical anxiety)
- PHQ-2 Scale (Depression): 21% experienced depression within last 2 weeks – related to severity of smell
- Key Findings (Federal Data) (County website has other information): Majority concerned about air quality; association with severe sewage smell and higher on scale
- ACE & CASPER (household vs. individual): Came to similar conclusions such as concerns about drinking water, health; prefer word of mouth and want action
- **COSD Action (Dr. Thihalolipavan):**
 - Meet regularly with groups and partners including South Bay school districts, South Bay Health Community Centers. All Agency Meeting with all government partners including cities, APCD, PHS, etc. in which the goal is to move this further along and address root causes
 - California delegation, ASTDR public health assessment (2-year assessment) that is analyzing various items including air data, soil, sediment, and other items. The second report will be ready in early 2027; contact Ben to receive updates on this.
 - Working with CDPH: Pushing for state to declare as public emergency (State of Emergency); pending result of request.
 - Months of monitoring data including APCD
 - Drinking Water: Ensure people do not link with TJ River Water Valley from our tap water drinking system. Educate the public to ensure they understand these are not connected. Last Fall Dr. Kadakia sent a letter to educate the public. We would like more testing data. A lot of water agencies report to the state water board.
 - Mental Health Concerns: Provider community to ask patients about their mental health. Meeting with BHS to strategize as we have contracts with local schools.
 - APCD Air Purifier Distribution Program: Not typical, comes with refills, mailed directly to public
 - TJRV Environmental Dashboard (One Stop Shop; partnership with UCSD): Pulls data from various sources to access information
 - Communications via social media including Instagram and Facebook; 231,000 impressions so far
 - Communication Plan: Mass email to ACE respondents (emails from survey)
 - Hot Spot Mitigation: Foamy area near Saturn Blvd with increase of hydrogen sulfide (water drops and creates foamy area); working with the City and Navy including IBWC (looking at ozone, etc.)
 - ACE Dashboard: Comprehensive website
 - Focus on root cause and do source control; 100-day plan
- **Questions/Concerns/Feedback:**
 - CDPH not responding? (Judith Yates)
 - Answer: Gave presentation and attempting to connect with CDPH. Ex: Mitigation of Hotspot (City declared health emergency) (Dr. Thihalolipavan)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Declared a similar emergency. State said did grant state emergency as multiple jurisdictions are usually affected. (Dr. Hernandez) ○ EPA recently visited and promised to go back. No response from EPA yet; they would make a priority. EPA administration did visit. (James Lepanto) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 100 Day plan is supposed to take 2 years; Having discussions w/Mexico (Dr. Thihalolipavan) ○ Military Seals train in contaminated water (James Lepanto) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More justification for the federal government to act (Dr. Thihalolipavan) ○ About 50 % of air purifiers distributed. Can they be sent to all homes within zip codes? (Samhita Ilango) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are limited resources. Everyone should be notified. Heard from a Community Health Worker that if sign up for air purifiers then can't participate in lawsuit which is not true. (Dr. Thihalolipavan) ○ Regarding medical care data, are there any efforts to connect with managed care plans, enhanced data, impact of cost of care, are there any discussions regarding tracking health data providers? (Jack Dailey) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is difficult to collect data. On our website, there is a weekly report that shows data. Federal health surveys are helpful and validate what the community is hearing. Fiscal impact of this crisis to individuals and businesses. Exploring ways to look at fiscal impact. (Dr. Thihalolipavan) ○ Can we look at 2/3 that were admitted to ICU. Did they delay getting care? (Judith Yates) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Get extra consent. (Dr. Thihalolipavan) ○ Grass Roots (Ex.: During AIDS crisis, came from faith based) Could communication come from faith-based communities (messengers that people trust) (James Lepanto) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use CHWs as there are HHSA events in South Region; take advantage of opportunities to message through those. APCD working with other stakeholders. International Border Steering Committee. Met with TJ River Taskforce – work w/APCD for messaging. (Dr. Thihalolipavan) ○ Communication Methods: 70% said email. 4,524 initiated, only 2,099 completed. Were email addresses obtained? (Geysil Arroyo) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some started; however, did not complete; a few duplicated. Not every question was mandatory. It is typical for surveys that some do not complete. (Dr. Thihalolipavan) ○ Survey: Some forced to complete, some concerned about privacy. Is there an information technology way of dealing with this? (Dr. Seldin) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ According to our federal government partners, it is typical for some not to complete (Dr. Thihalolipavan) ○ The more we can use our vehicles to get the word out. (Barry Jantz) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BOS was briefed first. Happy to educate other groups not on list. (Dr. Thihalolipavan) ○ Thank you to County. If state government and federal government don't come forward, the cycle will continue affecting people's lives and generations. (James Lepanto)
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IV. CHAIR'S REPORT A. Youth Engagement B. Community Inspiration Awards	A. Youth Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none">James Lepanto and Barry Jantz met with Terra Lawson-Remer's office regarding where we were to engage youth. Help them hone it down to what we are asking their input on; weigh on couple of main issues.<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Would youth be appointed by BOS? (even as subcommittee)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leave as Advisory Committee to BOS. The Chair of Committee would serve as a member of this Board (Youth representative between the ages of 18-25). (James Lepanto)2. 18-25 age limit due to liability; concerns about minors. Will attempt to go younger such as 16. We would take lead from County Counsel on this. Put together information email to rest of BOS. Office of Strategy and Innovation, County Counsel, and HHSA staff. Need to move it now instead of talking about it.Reach out with informational email – what we are doing; has gone through BOS Chair's office; developing timeline for implementation. Using expertise from Strategy and Innovation. Final logistics of implementing this. It is important to have a youth voice as another demographic. We are the pilot for the county. Voices we don't often hear from. (James Lepanto) B. Community Inspiration Awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none">James Lepanto is leading effort as well. Follow up at future meeting.
V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS A. Subcommittee and Work Group Updates	A. Subcommittee and Work Group Updates: None <ul style="list-style-type: none">May be asked soon on legislative program

**VI. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
LEADERSHIP REPORT**

Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez, Director, PHS



Health Services Advisory Board Meeting Public Health Services Report

July 15, 2025



PHO Update: Dr. Thihalolipavan

- Water Agency in our County was considering removing fluoridation in water. Postponed for now. (Dr. Thihalolipavan)
- Dental Society & Medical Society – Hopefully, we can address concerns. Federal side is different. If group voted for something, if later different people have to re-work on issues. (Dr. Seldin)
- New tool: CalHeat score; there are a series of 6 webinars on this. East County/rural areas experience high heat on regular basis. Cool Zone data is on the bottom. Investing millions of dollars. (Dr. Thihalolipavan)
 - If you look at real time, able to see cool zones (Barry Jantz)
- CDPH request for feedback: Can still go to website to look at information. State thinking about prevention and adapting into workflows. (Dr. Thihalolipavan)
- Community Disease updates: (Dr. Thihalolipavan)
 - IMD – higher numbers than average over last few years. Quick action needed. Pride happening soon.
 - WNV detections in Rolando and La Mesa. So far to coordinate with them. Know what to look for as providers.
 - Not in flu & RSV season. Covid on decline; not Covid season.

- Measles: CDC released report – since last 30 years, highest number of cases nationally. Almost 1300 cases. At turn of century, measles was eradicated. Now, most contagious disease known to man, there is an uptick. 3 deaths in Texas – all unvaccinated. The only thing that changed is the forcefield dropped to 93% from 95%. Cracks in shields allows measles to enter communities. So far, San Diego County has no measles cases. California has had 17 cases, but none in San Diego County.
 - Younger folks don't understand how big of deal measles was. Time lessons people's concerns. Some – general hysteria, maybe some bias for people. (Barry Jantz)
 - People's grandparents vaccinated or may have had measles. Anyone before 1957 is considered immune because they had measles. Hesitancy to not vaccinate; have seen loss of trust from certain communities more than others; shift to homeschooling. (Dr. Thihalolipavan)

Director's Update: Dr. Hernandez

- Federal Funding Update:
 - Not good news. Big Beautiful Bill impacted CalFresh Healthy Living – about \$4.7 million of public health funding since 2013. Working with leadership to look at mitigations. End date for funding is 9/30. Working with staff. It is heart wrenching as this funding specifically goes to low-income communities. Not everything will continue. (Dr. Hernandez)
 - Haircuts regarding Public Health Emergency Preparation Grants: Evaluating Hospital Preparation Programs. (Dr. Hernandez)
 - News from Peoria: Not providing health care to undocumented individuals (Tim Fraser)
 - ICS: County created and elevated to ICS due to no health care to undocumented individuals. Evaluating in terms of seeing the impact. (Dr. Hernandez)
 - \$4.7 million CalFresh funding cut plus other funding cuts (James Lepanto)
 - CDC Health Disparities Grants stopped back in March 2025. Due to legal action, we can spend down funding. (Dr. Hernandez)
 - Mas Fresco Program: Funding coming out of general-purpose fund (Dr. Afflalo)
 - Hospital preparedness program haircut elaboration (Dr. Hernandez)
- Board Letter Forecast: Review and accept TB program funding
- 9/30: MCH Block Grant and Perinatal
- Media and community events: PEI radio ads
- Vector Control Program Open House
- 7/11: All Inclusive Day of Play and Resource Fair hosted by CCS
- 6/11/25: San Diego Featured Abstracts – ISWAVLD – 2 veterinarians
- Featured in 7th Annual Minority Health Special Issue: TJ River Valley, TB Program, Smoke, Diabetes, health disparities
- Highlights
 - 6/18/25: NACO awards in 3 areas: WD, Lab-Antimicrobial, LGBTQIA
- Next Month: Public Health Advocate Camp

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding letters to consent calendar. (Tim Fraser)
VII. ROUNDTABLE	<p>Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Fair at Jackie Robinson YMCA. Two events – Sports Physicals and a Health Fair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We saw close to 98 students for sports physicals and 350 for the health fair • Health Fairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Offer 3-4 times per year at Crawford High School and usually have 100-110 students ○ Next health fair is on 8/6 from 10-3pm ○ Continue to receive more vendors. The goal is to reach as many underinsured and marginalized communities. ○ Cost: Low fee for Humane Society, microchips, etc. ○ Now have UCSD Eye Mobile for free eye exams and free glasses ○ Trying to get dental; La Meastra used to come ○ Continues to grow. Goal is to identify people who are at risk and offer breast exams. There are a lot of new diabetics. Attempting to prevent strokes, heart disease, and health disparity issues. ○ Big draw for food distribution: Feeding San Diego and San Diego Food Bank ○ Lots of volunteers and vendors; 45-50 come each month ○ At least 4 booths including refugee, BIH, health living are consistent ○ Send out 1400 flyers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Action Item: Email electronic copy of health fair flyer to Anuj Bhatia and he will send to group. • District 1 race decided and swearing in is next week • Technically, there is a vacancy for D1. Samhita Ilango and Dr. Suzanne Afflalo received letters to reapply. Call the office to reapply. Some staff in D1 may carry over and/or some may transition. • Notifying other CEOs. Department of Strategy and Innovation has a ListServ in Newsletter for all organizations to communicate with others.
VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items)	None.
IX. ADJOURN	Meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm.
Next Meeting	<p>HSAB Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, August 5, 2025</p> <p>CAC: 1600 Pacific Hwy San Diego, CA 92101, Room 302, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm</p>