



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND POPULATION HEALTH TASK FORCE

**COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND
POPULATION HEALTH TASK FORCE**

313 N. Figueroa St., Suite 708
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 288-8556
www.TaskForce.ph.lacounty.gov

TASK FORCE CHAIR

Damon Nagami

January 31, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Damon Nagami, Chair

SUBJECT: **COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND POPULATION HEALTH TASK FORCE - 2021
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, academics, and executives and staff from local, state, and national organizations, the Task Force advises the Board of Supervisors, the Alliance for Health Integration (Alliance), 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, dedicated advocates, and public health, health care, academic and community-based leaders 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 2021 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 Susan Blackwell, Assistant Director of the Department of Public Health Office of Planning.

The Task Force's physical address is 313 North Figueroa Street, Room 708, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The phone number is (213) 288-8556 and fax number is (213) 481-2739.

Task Force's website: www.TaskForce.ph.lacounty.gov.

Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force Members:

Sonya Young Aadam · Manal Aboelata · Everardo Alvizo · Tamika Butler · Betzabel Estudillo · Dahlia Ferlito
Michelle Fluke · Cathy Friedman · Nancy Halpern Ibrahim · Anisha Hingorani · Nomsa Khalfani · Jim Mangia
Margaret Martinez · Chad Monk · Damon Nagami · Elisa Nicholas · Theresa "Missy" Nitescu
Maryjane Puffer · Cori Racela · Margaret Smith · Amanda Staples · Benjamin Torres · Albert Young

Task Force Members:

Sonya Young Aadam, California Black Women’s Health Project (*Appointed by Nominating Committee*)
Manal Aboelata, Prevention Institute (*Appointed by SD 2*)
Everardo Alvizo (*Appointed by Nominating Committee*)
Tamika Butler, Tamika L. Butler Consulting, LLC (*Appointed by SD 1*)
Betzabel Estudillo, Nourish California (*Appointed by Nominating Committee*)
Dahlia Ferlito, City of Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator’s Office (*Appointed by Nominating Committee*)
Michelle Fluke, Antelope Valley Partners for Health (*Appointed by SD 5*)
Cathy Friedman, Peace Over Violence (*Appointed by SD 3*)
Nancy Halpern Ibrahim, Esperanza Community Housing (*Appointed by Nominating Committee*)
Anisha Hingorani, Advancement Project California (*Appointed by SD 3*)
Nomasa Khalfani, Essential Access Health (*Appointed by Nominating Committee*)
Jim Mangia, St. John’s Well Child and Family Centers (*Appointed by Nominating Committee*)
Margaret Martinez, ChapCare (*Appointed by SD 5*)
Chad Monk, National Health Foundation (*Appointed by SD 2*)
Damon Nagami, Natural Resources Defense Council (*Co-Chair*) (*Appointed by SD 3*)
Lauren Nakano, Beach Cities Health District (*Co-Chair*) (*Appointed by SD 4*) *
Elisa Nicholas, TCC Family Health (*Appointed by SD 4*)
Theresa Nitescu, Northeast Valley Health Corporation (*Appointed by SD 5*)
Maryjane Puffer, The Los Angeles Trust for Children’s Health (*Appointed by Nominating Committee*)
Cori Racela, Western Center on Law & Poverty (*Appointed by Nominating Committee*)
Margaret Smith, Policy Council, Los Angeles County Office of Women’s Health (*Appointed by SD 4*)
Amanda Staples – JPMorgan Chase (*Appointed by Nominating Committee*)
Benjamin Torres, Community Development Technologies Center (CDTech) (*Appointed by SD 1*)
Sonya Vasquez, Community Health Councils (*Appointed by SD 2*) *
Albert Young, Allied Pacific IPA/Network Medical Management (*Appointed by SD 1*)

**Task Force member served until December 2021*

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, the Alliance for Health Integration (Alliance; formerly known as the Health Agency), 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 Alliance for Health Integration’s 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 comes together to think, strategize, take collective action, and inform Public Health, the Alliance for

Health Integration, 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 is the only advisory body in the County with a sole focus on primary prevention and population health. 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 first cohort of Task Force members (2016-2018) had a foundational role in defining how the Task Force would advance its mission. By developing, adopting, and elevating Principles of Equity to serve as operating principles for the Task Force and the County of Los Angeles, the 25 Commissioners, some of the County's foremost advocates on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion, brought their knowledge, perspective and skill to the commission and its workgroups. The Task Force also enlisted the assistance of consultants from the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (G.A.R.E.) to provide formative training and facilitation capacity building to galvanize and ground the commissioners at a pivotal moment in history; conducted a national scan of equity initiatives to inform the development of the Principles of Equity; and developed a set of group agreements that emphasized inclusion, respect and tolerance for all.

The second cohort of the Task Force (June 2018 to May 2020) served as key advisors to Public Health on the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) 2020 – 2026, a community-driven strategic plan for Public Health and county stakeholders to collectively improve the health of all community members. The Task Force supported the development, vetting and selection of CHIP policies and strategies for the three community-selected CHIP priority areas of (1) protection of public health near neighborhood oil and gas development sites, (2) violence prevention, and (3) access to quality affordable housing. In this key role, the Task Force co-convened meetings with community partners to seek input on CHIP strategies and supported CHIP stakeholder engagement activities, including resident engagement sessions and key informant interviews. As advisors and key partners on the CHIP, the Task Force reviewed and provided feedback on the draft CHIP goals, objectives and strategies. Due to the pandemic, Public Health has had to postpone the completion of the CHIP.

The third and current cohort of the Task Force (June 2020 to May 2022) began during a time of unprecedented challenge and societal upheaval: the devastating COVID-19 pandemic was taking hold globally and across the U.S., while the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and others prompted widespread mass protests to systemic and racial injustices in the summer of 2020. In response, this cohort renewed its commitment to centering the Task Force's Principles of Equity (Appendix A) and racial justice when addressing opportunities to improve population health, while also elevating as a top priority the importance of incorporating equity into the County's COVID outreach and operational strategies. As discussed in greater detail below, this term has been extraordinarily productive, with the Task Force advising on the County's COVID-19 response, including vaccine rollout and communicating with BIPOC communities; advancing the County's Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Initiative through advocacy and amplifying the work of community partners; and advocating for and supporting the Supervisors' unprecedented efforts to begin phasing out oil drilling within unincorporated parts of the County. The current cohort also continues to strengthen Task Force processes and procedures, including developing a roadmap of their work ahead and issues that they are tracking, and is extremely proud of the accomplishments that are referenced in this report.

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 our 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 application includes a set of questions about applicants' backgrounds across several dimensions of representation and diversity (e.g., age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, diversity in LA County geography - Service Planning Areas) so consideration may be given in the selection of new members. This diversity of representation has contributed to DEI in the recommendations the Task Force provides in their priority areas.
- The Task Force developed a charter and group meeting agreements which 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.
- As the Task Force operationalizes the Principles of Equity, zero tolerance for racial and ethnic discrimination and/or gender-based differences will be considered in a review and update of the Task Force Charter.
- The Task Force has actively shared the Principles of Equity with other Los Angeles County Commissions, Departments, and community-based organizations and advocated for their adoption and implementation.
- During this cohort, 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 2021. Further details can be provided upon request.

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

Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) / Measure J Implementation Ad Hoc Committee

Participants: Sonya Young Adam, Everardo Alvizo, Dahlia Ferlito (lead), Nomsa Khalfani, Chad Monk, Elisa Nicholas, Cori Racela, Amanda Staples, Benjamin Torres

The ATI/Measure J Implementation Ad Hoc committee was created at a pivotal time of racial equity reckoning and its intersection with health equity to advance Task Force priorities related to Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative and Measure J implementation. In 2021, the Ad Hoc fostered relationships with community partners who participated in the LA County Alternatives to Incarceration roadmap development, as well as other campaigns such as efforts to remove law enforcement from healthcare settings. In its one-year tenure, the Ad Hoc developed letters to the Board offices advocating for decarceration in the time of COVID, removing law enforcement from County health care settings, and the closure of Men's Central Jail. The committee crafted talking points on these issue areas that provided guidance to Task Force members during Board office visits. The Ad Hoc also began cultivating a relationship with the County's ATI office representatives and, through its advocacy efforts, determined that further education was needed by Task Force members to better understand the County's budgeting process to allow the Task Force to lift community voices and advocate for community ATI-related priorities during that process.

COVID-19 & Racial Equity Workgroup

Participants: Manal Aboelata (lead), Tamika Butler, Nomsa Khalfani, Jim Mangia (lead), Margaret Martinez, Damon Nagami, Lauren Nakano, Elisa Nicholas, Missy Nitescu, Maryjane Puffer, Sonya Vasquez (lead)

The Task Force has continued to advise Public Health and the Board of Supervisors on its COVID-19 response.

Task Force members named to the County’s COVID-19 Vaccine Workgroup and Equity Committee were instrumental in guiding those entities’ recommendations during the initial vaccine rollout across the County, focusing particularly on addressing access in communities of color that have historically been underserved and have been most negatively impacted by the pandemic. The Task Force also advised the Center for Health Equity and Public Health Executive leadership on its development of the CDC Health Disparities grant and informed its creation of Public Health’s COVID-19 Community Advisory Committee to engage the public in advising Public Health on pandemic response strategies meant to improve meaningful and equitable response to COVID-19 and related recovery efforts for highly impacted communities. In its role, the Task Force also provided equity-related recommendations to Public Health on vaccine distribution and communication efforts.

Built Environment & Public Health

Participants: Chad Monk (lead), Damon Nagami

In 2021, the Task Force prioritized issues at the intersection of the built environment and public health and, as such, has been tracking the implementation and funding of the County’s “WHAM” Measures: W (stormwater), H (housing), A (parks), and M (transportation). The Task Force also has been building a relationship with the Department of Regional Planning to elevate the importance of health in all policies and the Task Force’s Principles of Equity and is 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.

Affordable Housing

Participants: Maryjane Puffer (lead)

In 2021, the Task Force continued to track the affordable housing policy priorities prioritized through the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process. The affordable housing policy priorities include policies that will inform the work of the Task Force in the current cohort and will be used to elevate recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and other County Departments that are focused on tenant protections and rent stabilization.

Violence Prevention

Participants: Sonya Young Aadam (lead), Cathy Friedman (lead)

In 2021, the Task Force’s Violence Prevention Ad Hoc Committee continued to provide support and input on the development of the strategic plan for the County’s Office of Violence Prevention (OVP). 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 ad hoc members serving on the CPC are engaged in an ongoing review and finalization of the OVP Strategic Plan goals and on the development of an OVP Implementation Plan, which would include the creation of a coordinated, community-based Crisis Response and Violence Intervention Program (CRVIP) strategies. Task Force leads actively advised on the need and development of the OVP regional coalitions including the recently released RFP.

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

Participants: Nomsa Khalfani, Tamika Butler, Lauren Nakano

In 2021 members of the Task Force participated in ARDI’s Community Advisory Board providing recommendations to ARDI on the priorities for their strategic plan as well as opportunities to inform the vision and goals of the County’s ARDI work.

B. Served an Advisory Role to the Department of Public Health

Provided Input and Support to the Center for Health Equity. The Task Force:

- Shared recommendations on the Department’s CDC health disparities grant application and community engagement strategies.
- Provided input on the development of the COVID-19 Community Advisory Council (CAC).

Advised Public Health on Initiatives and Practices to Achieve Health Equity

- Advised the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) on the development of its priorities included in their Strategic Plan, including the office’s programmatic and policy focus areas and approaches for their community engagement efforts in the Community Partnership Council (CPC) and neighborhood councils. Two Task Force members, Cathy Friedman and Sonya Young Aadam, represented the Task Force in this County Council.
- Advised the County and Public Health’s COVID-19 vaccination rollout through the LA County COVID-19 Vaccine Workgroup and Equity Committee. Recommendations were provided on the COVID-19 vaccine distribution efforts with a particular interest in advising on equitable vaccine distribution and communication efforts to hard-to-reach populations. Two Task Force members, Jim Mangia and Sonya Vasquez, represented the Task Force in this County Workgroup.
- Advised the Public Health’s Office of Communications on strategies to increase vaccination rates amongst Latino and Black communities in the County.

C. Served the Board of Supervisors

The Task Force served the Board of Supervisors in the following ways:

- Task Force members provided testimony in support of strategies, policies and approaches that advance health equity and community-based prevention in Los Angeles County, including the Care First, Jails Last Alternatives to Incarceration Workgroup (ATI) Final Report.
- Appointed Task Force members have provided direct advisement and support to their Supervisor based on Board request, such as advisement on COVID-related county policies.
- Members of the Task Force participated in the LA County’s Antiracism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative’s Community Input Advisory Board.
- The Task Force submitted letters to the Board addressing recommendations on the plan for closing Men’s Central Jail addressing COVID-19, racial justice, Alternatives to Incarceration, and the closure of Men's Central Jail.
- The Task Force advocated for and supported the Supervisors’ bold actions in September to begin the process of phasing out oil drilling across unincorporated County lands, which will improve community health and promote environmental justice.

D. Implemented Operational Changes in 2021 to Increase Impact

- Created a 12-month roadmap document for tracking Task Force priorities.
- Developed action plans for Task Force priority areas of ATI / Measure J Implementation, COVID-19 & Racial Equity, Built Environment & Public Health, Violence Prevention, and Affordable Housing.
- Established Ad Hoc Committee, Workgroups, and Task Force Member Liaison roles to diversify, track and address the priority and emergent public health issues that Task Force cares most about.

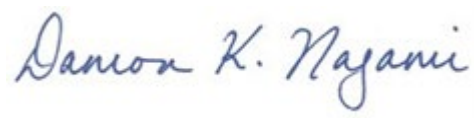
Part VI. Upcoming Year 2022

In the coming year, the Task Force plans to prioritize more durable, longer-term Task Force objectives, including building and maintaining collaborative relationships with Supervisors’ offices, and understanding the

County budget process and timeline, and how the Task Force can advocate effectively for increased resources for prevention, population health, and equity priorities. The Task Force continues to track areas of interest including the County's COVID-19 response, the built environment and public health efforts through the County's WHAM measures and the phase out of oil drilling in unincorporated areas of LAC, the Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative and Measure J implementation, the Antiracism, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative, and affordable housing. Task Force members will also continue to serve as advisors on the Office of Violence Prevention's Community Partnership Council and on the new 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, the Alliance for Health Integration, 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,



Damon Nagami
Task Force Chair

Cc: Board Health Deputies
Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force

Appendix A: Principles of Equity

Principles of Equity

The *LA County Community Prevention and Population Health Taskforce* was established by the Board of Supervisors in 2015, and is comprised of public health practitioners, non-profit leaders, policy advocates with diverse expertise in social justice, workforce development, school and community wellness, injury and trauma prevention and resilience, and women's health. Appointed by County Supervisors and Department of Public Health, we serve as an advisory body that explores the racial, social, political, and environmental causes of health inequities and advances effective and community-driven solutions to create a more just and inclusive LA County.

Every person living in LA County should have an equal opportunity to live a long, healthy life. Gaps in health outcomes - based on race, income, zip code, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, and/or immigration status – must be eliminated through intentional resource allocation and targeted interventions to repair and prevent the impact of poorer health outcomes experienced by marginalized communities. This also includes people with complex health challenges, severe mental health concerns, disabilities and those experiencing homelessness, while we improve the overall health of County residents and prevent illness and injury.

We recognize the important role that the County plays in building healthy communities through effective partnerships and the provision of needed resources – such as health care, parks, food access, housing and transportation. We hold a deep sense of urgency and understanding that County strategies and investments currently leave too many of our residents disadvantaged by poorer health and safety outcomes. It is imperative that all County departments understand and are prepared to address these immediate needs by embarking on the longer-term work necessary to transform its practices; and, challenge social and racial injustices to undo a legacy of biased policies and practices that have led to and perpetuate inequities.

With a shared commitment to justice, inclusion and fairness, the following principles provide elements essential for improving population health and promoting healthy, equitable communities:

HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES

Health is influenced by a range of social, physical, and economic conditions - such as racism, poverty, and unequal access to healthy environments. Health in All Policies (HiAP) is a collaborative approach that integrates and articulates health considerations into policymaking across sectors to improve the health of all communities and people encompassing everything from promoting healthy behaviors to creating environments that make the healthy choice easier. LA County programs and staff will consult, convene and/or collaborate across Departments to implement inter-sectoral, evidence-based/informed prevention and intervention strategies that demonstrate a shared responsibility for improved health outcomes across all County policies and processes.

INCLUSION

LA County recognizes that residents hold expertise on the impacts that racism and other social injustices have on the health of their communities and should play a key role in deciding how resources are spent and which interventions are best suited to address community needs. Understanding the power dynamics inherent between institutions and residents, Department staff will work closely with community members and leaders to build authentic, collaborative partnerships and processes and institutionalize opportunities and resources for shared decision-

making at critical junctures in Department planning, implementation, reporting, and analysis that is universally accessible to all LA County residents.

ACCOUNTABILITY

LA County operates with a sense of urgency and responsibility to achieve racial, social, and environmental equity. All Departments will institutionalize accountability mechanisms using data-driven action plans with baselines, benchmarks and measures of success to enhance transparency and ensure that programmatic and policy changes have equitable community-level impact.

DATA ACCESSIBILITY

LA County understands and demonstrates that “their” data belongs to the residents of LA County. Departments will democratize the collection and analysis of timely, disaggregated, and access to community-specific data to create action plans and accountability mechanisms for delivering on equity, particularly for historically marginalized communities, such as Asian/Pacific Islanders, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQ individuals, and immigrants. LA County will ensure that findings validate and lift up the lived experiences of the County’s diverse residents, while also ensuring highest standards for use and confidentiality protections.

RESOURCES

LA County will direct, prioritize, and coordinate investments to narrow health inequities by making targeted investments in communities that disproportionately experience poorer health outcomes. County data used to direct funding and staffing will take into account the impact of historic disinvestment and procedural inequities that have persistently contributed to unequal access to health resources and opportunities in low-income communities, communities of color and other defined population groups.

INCLUSIONARY HIRING

LA County will adopt and proactively implement new strategies and tools that will effectively dismantle unjust and biased institutional practices, systems, and policies related to hiring procedures, training, sub-contracting and career pathways for prospective and current County employees, contractors, and County-funded agencies. Departments will ensure that all contractors comply with labor standards, pay prevailing wages, and prioritize hiring workers from local and disadvantaged areas and apprenticeship programs for formerly homeless, foster and emancipated youth, Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) participants, and Transitional Subsidized Employment (TSE) workers. Additionally, the County will establish partnerships with organized labor and community advocates to create opportunities for the formerly incarcerated to attain quality jobs after release, emphasizing, wherever feasible, local hire and the development of job pipelines that lead to well-paying careers within the County.

CONTRACTING AND PROCUREMENT

LA County believes that contracting agreements have the power to uplift and promote economic growth and security to advance equity and climate resiliency. As such, funding opportunities will be aligned to promote local purchasing and strong labor standards. To that end, efforts will be made to prioritize partnerships with local Small Business Enterprises (SBEs), Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs), Minority and Women Business Enterprises (MWBEs), and LGBT Business Enterprises (LGBTBEs) to benefit historically underserved communities.