



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



**MARIN HIV/AIDS CARE COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**June 10, 2026**

**Marin County Health & Wellness Campus, Room 109**

Meeting conducted in person and via Zoom

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Lisa Warhuus, PhD  
DIRECTOR

Lisa M. Santora, MD, MPH  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Melanie Thompson, DO  
DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

3240 Kerner Boulevard  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
415 473 4163 T  
415 473 2326 F  
TTY Dial 711  
[marinhhs.org/public-health](http://marinhhs.org/public-health)

**I. Call to Order**

CM Linda Dobra called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

**II. Roll Call**

Alexey Nizovskikh (via Zoom), Emily Sims, Rosemary Lukholo, Wade Flores, Julie Dowling, Linda Dobra

Council Members Arriving Late: Julie Case, Paul Edson, Bobby Moske; Elaine Flores (via Zoom)

Council Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Nga Le (HHS), Loretta Rogers (HHS), Maritza Martin (HHS); Deborah Gallagher (HHS); Andrew Kwon (HHS) (via Zoom)

Public Present: Joe Donohue (via Zoom), Mark Meier, Nika Sajed, Julia Black (via Zoom), Steve Olive

**III. Review and approval of Agenda – VOTE**

CM Linda Dobra asked members to review and approve the draft agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

**IV. Review and Approval of Minutes – VOTE**

April 8, 2026, meeting minutes – CM Linda Dobra asked members to review the April 8, 2026, meeting minutes. The motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

**V. General Announcements: None**

**VI. Public Comment:** Mark Meier introduced himself as a client for 27 years. He expressed concerns and stated that he would like to work with the Care Council members. He stated that he was nominated to speak on behalf of a group of people who were afraid to come. He has a history of activism but is no longer as active now as he is ill. He stated that he was

not happy that the Spahr Center closed without informing the clients beforehand.

- VII. Ryan White Services – AHF Update: Joe Donohue** – Joe Donohue reported that all eligible clients are now getting a food voucher. Also, they are being provided with home supplies. AHF has two women's groups. He reviewed the resources AHF has available. AHF currently has 145 clients and are looking to include more of the eligible population. The next CAB meeting is not yet scheduled but these meetings are generally held quarterly. Details will be shared once a date is determined.
- VIII. Ryan White Services – HHS Update:** Nga Le reported that all HHS Oral Specialty Services funds are accounted for and spent. We have received a lot of requests for same, but case managers will no longer make requests at this time.
- IX. Prevention Program Report:** CM Linda Dobra reported that they are still doing outreach at Home Depot. Prevention efforts have expended to testing available via machine, HIV test kits and more. At the Jail, testing is being done for HIV, Hep C plus syphilis, starting with female inmates.
- X. Division of Public Health Report:** Nga Le reported that the Deputy Public Health Officer, Dr. Melanie Thompson, has resigned and will leave at the end of August. There is an open position in the Communicable Disease program for a Support Service Worker II – Bilingual.
- XI. Presentation – Epidemiological Data:** Deborah Gallagher introduced herself and gave a PowerPoint presentation, a hard copy of which was provided to members. Her report was on the epidemiology of HIV in Marin.

  - a. She reviewed the HIV reporting requirements of California.
  - b. She gave the 2024 statistics. In the US, there were 38,497 newly diagnosed patients.
  - c. She reported all reported HIV/AIDS infections in Marin residents from 1981 to 2025. The total, including San Quentin, is 2,200, with 1,348 deaths and 852 living cases. The number of new cases has been declining in the last two years, with 15 in 2024 and 9 in 2025.
  - d. She reviewed the characteristics of diagnosed people. 80% were male, 19% were female with 1% transgender. Male-to-male sexual contact accounted for 60% of the transmission risk factors, with up to 20% for heterosexual contact. Two-thirds of new cases were between the ages of 20 and 39 years old. All other age categories are decreasing. The number of new cases among Hispanics is increasing while it is decreasing among whites and blacks.
  - e. Regarding continuum of care, she reported that 93% of newly diagnosed HIV cases were in HIV care, with 87% achieving viral suppression in 12 months.
  - f. As of the end of 2025, 609 people with HIV were living in Marin, with 84% being male, 14% female and 2% transgender. 60% of them are aged 55 and older.
  - g. She reviewed the percentage of California Medi-Cal enrollees with HIV in care and the causes of death among people living with HIV in

Marin County, 2021-25. Among 51 deaths in the past five years, 7 were HIV-related.

- h. She then answered questions from members and attending public. Mark Meier asked if “being in care” meant the patients are taking medication. Deborah Gallagher stated that this was not clear.

**XII. Presentation of Results of 2025-2026 Client Satisfaction Survey:** Andrew Kwon introduced himself and gave a PowerPoint presentation, a hard copy of which was provided to members.

- a. He reviewed the survey process which is confidential and available to be completed either online or via hard copy. 183 surveys were sent out and 75 were returned. A \$40 gift card was provided as an incentive to send in a response.
- b. He reviewed the demographics. Among the respondents, 60% were male, 24% were female and 16% were unknown. 44% were white, 25% were Hispanic; 9% were black; 5% were Asian, and 15% declined to state.
- c. He reviewed the eight service categories and the satisfaction scores for each. The Food Gift Cards received the highest score, and the Health Insurance Premiums received the lowest, but all received satisfaction scores of 77% or higher. The Emergency Funds received the highest dissatisfaction score of 11%.
- d. He reviewed the respondents’ self-reported health. There was very little change from last year. 96% reported that their health was good or very good.
- e. The respondents’ top five health concerns were (1) Fatigue (2) Lack of money for daily living (3) Depression or anxiety (4) Chronic pain; and (5) Lack of food. This highlights the importance of supportive services.
- f. He then went over how the respondents prioritized the services. The Food Gift Cards were ranked first, and the transportation services were listed last.
- g. Open-ended responses were collected. He summarized these and identified the most often reported concerns. These were wanting easy access to services, communication problems, and insufficient funds for food cards. He listed the additional services that were requested such as legal services and housing and homeless services.
- h. He then went over the Appendix which gave the satisfaction scores for each of the eight service categories.
- i. He then answered questions. Mark Meier asked when oral health started. Nga Le explained that it used to be provided by Marin Community Clinics, but they withdrew. After that, funds can be provided for specialty care only. There needs to be more client education as to what services are available.

**XIII. Community Forum Planning:** CM Linda Dobra reviewed what had already been decided regarding the Community Forum, i.e. the date, location, etc. The date/time is on Wed. Oct. 21 from 5:30-7:30 pm at 3240 Kerner. Maritza stated that she asked for presentation topics from

survey respondents. The results were provided to members in hard copy. There was general discussion. Among suggested topics were aging with HIV, the high cost of housing, long-term care, medical advocacy, outreach to the Hispanic community, and educating clients on what services are available, how to access them and how to navigate the system. Nga Le stated that she can arrange to have interpretation services available at the Forum. Nga Le and Maritza Martin will summarize the results of the discussion and present them at the August meeting.

**XIV. Next Steps – New Business:** CM Linda Dobra brought up the need for recruitment. CM Bobby Moske said that he provided a flyer for other councils and can do the same for this one. CM Julie Case suggested locations to place flyers. Newly created flyers need to be approved by the Council. CM Linda Dobra pointed out that the Council needs more members who are providers. Nga Le will send out the application for Council membership to the members.

**XV. Adjourn at 5:01 pm**

**Next Meeting:**                   **August 12, 2026, 3:00 to 5:30 pm**  
                                          **Location: 3240 Kerner Blvd, Rooms 109/110**  
                                                          **In Person and via Zoom**