



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**

December 10, 2025

Marin County Health & Wellness Campus, Room 110

Meeting conducted in person and via Zoom

3:00 – 5:00 pm

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I. Call to Order

CM Rosemary Lukholo called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

II. Roll Call

Alexey Nizovskikh (via Zoom), James Frazier, Emily Sims, Rosemary Lukholo, Paul Edson, Linda Dobra, Julie Dowling

Council Members Arriving Late: Bobby Moske, Julie Case, Wade Flores, Elaine Flores, Jimi Amos

Council Members Absent: None.

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

Public Present: Marcelino Alcorta, Joe Donohue

III. Review and approval of Agenda – VOTE

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

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes – VOTE

- a. October 8, 2025, meeting minutes – CM Rosemary Lukholo asked members to review the October 8, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion to approve the October 8, 2025, meeting minutes was made by CM James Frazier, seconded by CM Julie Dowling and passed unanimously.

V. General Announcements:

- a. CM Linda Dobra stated that she heard good feedback about the World AIDS Day event. It was well attended. It was a lovely event. Marcelino Alcorta stated that it meant a lot to those who attended.
- b. CM Julie Case stated that the World AIDS Day event was a lovely event. She acknowledged what a good job Vivalon did. She stated that this was the first year that World AIDS Day was not acknowledged in the press or by the Administration.

- VI. Public Comment: None.**
- VII. Ryan White Services – AHF Update: Marcelino Alcorta –** Marcelino Alcorta reported that Vivalon has a lot of programs and offers a lot of opportunities for people to connect and support each other. The women's group is going well but the men's group needs some work and can use the assistance of AHF. CM Emily Sims reported that there will be a potluck and a presentation for the men's group.
- VIII. Ryan White Services – HHS Update:** Nga Le reported that HHS still provides medical case management. There is a flyer regarding oral specialty care services for our case managers to help distribute for which there is funding through RW Part B. The maximum has been increased to \$5,000 for this fiscal year. MCC and Marin Orthodontics are our approved vendors. Patients are to work through their case managers for care. We are only a few months away from the end of the fiscal year for Part A, which is Feb. 28, 2026. The end of the fiscal year for Part B is March 31, 2026.
- IX. Prevention Program Report:** CM Linda Dobra reported that the program is slowing down its outreach in the community due to the winter season. HIV and Hep C testing continues at the jail. They have done prevention education at Ritter. Izzy Martinez has taken over Alejandra Wood's position. Ritter continues to provide harm reduction services. It is still RSV season, and she urged members to be up to date on vaccination.
- X. Division of Public Health Report:** Nga Le reported that the SNAP funds were restored. There was a fire in the Canal area in August. The Canal Alliance reported that they are very close to finding permanent housing for all victims of the fire.
- XI. Presentation – National Landscape – Presenter: Marcelino Alcorta – AHF Western Bureau Chief:** Marcelino Alcorta gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Medicaid & Medicare Changes in 2026-2027: Implications for HIV Care in Marin County – Healthcare policy impacts on HIV treatment services." A hard copy of the presentation was not provided to the Council members before the meeting but will be sent out by email later. In this presentation he provided detail on the implications of the One Big Beautiful Bill. It could be that ACA subsidies will be going away which means people will need to pay double premiums. The Ryan White (RW) funds cannot completely offset the deficits caused by this change. This could mean a disruption of treatment for HIV patients. It looks like this is going to be a tough year.
 - a. **Medicaid:** Starting on Jan. 1, 2026, the enhanced federal matching rate will end. There will be a work requirement of 80 hours a month for able-bodied individuals. Verifying work requirements will be a burden on the states. Patients must recertify every six months; this requirement was suspended during the Pandemic.
 - b. **Key changes in California, starting January 1, 2026:** No one who is undocumented can apply for Medicaid. Therefore, the undocumented should be encouraged to apply before the end of this year. Those already enrolled will continue to be covered. Asset limits have been

reinstated. Dental funding has been cut. If people are preparing themselves for these changes, support is going to be limited.

- c. **In Jan. 2027**, the undocumented will have to pay a \$30 monthly premium for non-pregnant people enrolled in Medi-Cal. People between ages of 19 and 64 must work or volunteer 80 hours per month. They must renew Medi-Cal every six months.
- d. **Dental Coverage:** He reported that routine dental care for undocumented adults will be cut in July 2026, leaving only emergency services available. These cuts may worsen oral health, negatively impacting antiretroviral therapy adherence and quality of life. Coverage loss will increase demand on RW and community-based services, exacerbating resource strain.
- e. **MediCare 2026-2027 Reforms:** Starting in 2026, MediCare will cap annual out-of-pocket costs at \$2,100 and negotiate prices for 10 major drugs to reduce expenses. Telehealth flexibilities will end in January 2026 except for behavioral health services, affecting remote healthcare access. By 2027, MediCare will expand negotiated pricing to 15 additional drugs, focusing on chronic conditions common among PLWH.
- f. **Populations Most Impacted and HIV Care Continuum:** Undocumented adults, low-income PLWH, MediCare-dependent older adults, Latino/Latina/Latine and Asian communities face the greatest HIV care challenges. Coverage loss disrupts the HIV care continuum which can increase HIV transmission risk and create unmet needs in housing, food security and transportation. Enhanced bilingual case management and navigation services are essential to address these challenges.
- g. **Funding Priorities and Recommendations:** Expand support services, expand case management, increase premium and cost-sharing assistance to improve healthcare access. Protect oral health services and maintain food and emergency financial support. Invest in community health workers and collaborate with legal services to address immigration-related fears. CM Linda reported that HIV self-tests are coming on market and will help with some of the challenges.
- h. **Key take-aways – questions and data needs.** He recommended that the Council identify programs that need expansion and reprioritize services to address uninsured population growth. Accurate forecasting of needs is vital. He recommended the collection of data on PLWH losing Medi-Cal, undocumented individuals on ART/PrEP, churn rates, emergency dental trends and MediCare costs. Data should then be used to guide efficient resource allocation. He pointed out that this information is currently not available on the street level, so community education is needed. The goal is to preserve viral suppression and prevent new HIV infections.
- i. **Q&A:** CM Bobby Moske pointed out the problem of lack of providers. It is very difficult to get a new doctor, dentist, psychologist, psychiatrist, etc. CM Julie Case reported that a nurse could not get a

job in the Bay Area because she did not have enough experience; she had to accept a job in Oregon.

XII. BREAK – None

XIII. Policy Overview: Nga Le stated that her plan is to review only two or three policies with the Council at each meeting. During this meeting, she reviewed the Development of Full Council Agenda policy, last approved on 10/5/2005. There were a few questions. She then reviewed the Internal Document Handling Policy, also approved in 2005. There were no comments on or suggested changes to these policies.

XIV. Meeting Calendar Review: Nga Le reviewed the 2026 HIV Care Council Meeting Calendar. She noted that there are no conflicts with holidays this year. The meetings are on the second Wednesday of every other month. The August meeting, which concerns allocations, is 2.5 hours long. There was a question about when the Community Forum is to be held. Nga Le stated that the date is to be determined by the Council. Setting that date can be an agenda item for the next meeting.

XV. Next Steps – New Business: Nga Le and Maritza Martin reported that a couple of members are up for renewal. She has questions for them which should be filled out and returned to Maritza Martin before the next meeting. The members up for renewal are James Frazier, Julie Case, Julie Dowling, Bobby Moske, Alexey Nizovskikh, Jimi Amos, Elaine Flores, Wade Flores, and Linda Dobra. There are only three questions to be answered.

XVI. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 4:47pm.

Next Meeting: **February 11, 2026, 3:00 to 5:00 pm**
 Location: In Person and via Zoom