

**Healthcare Equity Advisory Council**  
Tuesday, August 19, 2025

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Community Council Members  
Present**

Alejandra Valencia – Chair  
Hugo Tapia  
Kimberly Thomas-Kelley  
Emily Bridges  
Liz Diaz-Querol, MD  
Juana Zaragoza  
Jacqueline Avena

**Community Council Members  
Absent**

Bianca Farmer  
Yvonne Gutierrez  
Martha Shapiro  
Kimberly Cofield  
Celia Daniels

**Interpreter**  
Anna Rangel

**Administrative Council Members  
Present**

Theresa Cho, MD – Chair  
John Fankhauser, MD  
Lizeth Barretto  
Loretta Denering, DrPH  
Vikram Kumar, MD  
Deanna Handel  
Rigoberto Vargas

**Administrative Council Members  
Absent**

Shannon Burke  
Kristina Swaim

**Minutes**  
Andrew Berner

**Other Attendees**

Kate English  
Amy Towner  
Lucas  
Lydia Collins, PhD  
Sarah Garcia  
Grissel Marquez  
Jennifer Palamino  
Luis Gonzalez  
Aslan (community  
belong)  
Minako Watabe, MD  
Lisa Griffins  
Martha Garcia  
Arthur

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:40p.m. by Chair Cho.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The July 22, 2025, meeting minutes were reviewed.

**ACTION:** Upon a motion made by Chair Cho, seconded by Council Member Tapia the July 22 minutes were approved as submitted.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR AGENDIZED ITEMS & ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.**  
None

**5. NOMINATION AND VOTE FOR A SECOND THREE-YEAR TERM FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS: KIMBERLY COFIELD, EMILY BRIDGES, LIZ DIAZ-QUEROL-MD, KIMBERLY THOMAS-KELLEY, HUGO TAPIA, AND JUANA ZARAGOZA RETROACTIVE TO APRIL 2025.**

**ACTION:** Upon a motion made by Council Member Vargas, seconded by Council Member Handel the motion was approved.

**6. NOMINATION AND VOTE ON MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION MEMBERS: SENIOR CONCERNS, EL CONCILIO, DIVERSITY COLLECTIVE OF VENTURA COUNTY, CABRILLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, AND VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION RETROACTIVE TO FEBRUARY 2025.**

DISCUSSION: Appointed members from each of the Community Based Organizations may not be aware of the commitment needed to participate in this Council and the Council will follow up with each of the CBOs to confirm their commitment. A new vote will be held once all CBOs understand their commitment.

**7. NOMINATION AND VOTE TO APPROVE CELIA DANIELS TO REPRESENT DIVERSITY COLLECTIVE OF VENTURA COUNTY AS A VOTING MEMBER.**

**ACTION:** Upon a motion made by Council Member Fankhauser, seconded by Council Member Bridges, the motion was approved.

**8. FACILITATED RETREAT SESSION – PART 1 OF 2: REGROUNDING IN PURPOSE, BUILDING GROUP IDENTITY, AND STRENGTHENING COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS**

Session led by Kate English. There will be a virtual presentation on Monday, September 22, 2025, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. This will be an informal orientation with no motions or votes.

**9. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, 2025.