

**How the California Department
Public Health
Rejected COVID-19 Treatment
Information Officer 2
Ronald Owens'
Emails
(Pages 2-7)**

AND

**How the California Department of Public Health
Rejected COVID-19 Vaccine Health Risks Warnings
Regarding Department of Health and Human
Services Secretary Xavier Becerra's Concerning
April 14, 2022
COVID-19 Vaccines
'Are Killing People...'
Comment
Information Officer 2
Ronald Owens'
Emails
(Pages 8-62)**

Color Code Key:

- From CDPH Staff Member
- Sent: Day, Month, Date, Year and Time
- From: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>

Ivermectin Successfully Treats COVID-19 Patients

From: Egel, Corey@CDPH <Corey.Egel@cdph.ca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 5:45 PM

To: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: FDB Advisory re. Ivermectin and COVID - heads-up

Good evening, Ron:

We don't have an issue with you providing a head's up or sharing information. However, before reaching out to CDPH leadership, please run all information pertaining to the fight against COVID-19, or another health topic by Ali and I first so that we may consider the best way to proceed.

The excerpt from your email (below) is not your area of expertise. Furthermore, California/CDPH/FDB does not approve the use of pharmaceuticals – that is under federal/FDA jurisdiction (and requires clinical trials, etc.).

- But most importantly, in addition to warning people against using veterinarian ivermectin, CDPH has an even greater opportunity to take the national lead — indeed the international lead— in saving lives by investigating or advocating for the use of properly dosed ivermectin by the medical community. It would behoove CDPH to look at therapeutic treatment, such as ivermectin.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Corey

Corey Egel
Assistant Deputy Director
California Department of Public Health
Office of Communication

From: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:16 PM

To: Starr, Mark@CDPH <Mark.Starr@cdph.ca.gov>; Egel, Corey@CDPH <Corey.Egel@cdph.ca.gov>

Cc: Walker, Connie@CDPH <Connie.Walker@cdph.ca.gov>; Samperio, Sheila@CDPH

<Sheila.Samperio@cdph.ca.gov>; Siador, Christine@CDPH <Christine.Siador@cdph.ca.gov>; Aragon,

Tomas@CDPH <Tomas.Aragon@cdph.ca.gov>; Klein, Miren@CDPH <Miren.Klein@cdph.ca.gov>; Dover,

Tiffany@CDPH <Tiffany.Dover@cdph.ca.gov>; Bay, Ali @CDPH <ali.bay@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: FDB Advisory re. Ivermectin and COVID - heads-up

Hello Dr. Starr and Corey,

I want to share some great news with you in case CDPH receives media coverage about this topic.

Dr. Pierre Kory, a lung and ICU specialist, said more than 8,000 COVID-19 patients have been successfully treated with ivermectin.

As you'll read in this: <<https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Testimony-Kory-2020-12-08.pdf>> 16-page "Homeland Security Committee Meeting: Focus on Early Treatment of COVID-19" U.S. Senate testimony he provides data "supporting ivermectin as a potential global solution to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Late last year, Dr. Kory summarized existing clinical studies in the prevention (over 2,400 patients), early treatment (over 3,000), and late treatment (approached 3,000) phases of COVID-19.

"Nearly all studies are demonstrating the therapeutic potency and safety of ivermectin in preventing transmission and progression of illness in nearly all who take this drug," Dr. Kory testified before the U.S. Senate's Homeland Security Committee on December 8, 2020.

Dr. Kory, former Chief of the Critical Care Service and Medical Director of the Trauma and Life Support Center at the University of Wisconsin, said that ivermectin "is highly safe, widely available, and low cost" in the treatment of COVID-19.

"I have seen so many vibrant fathers and mothers of families die in my ICU," said Dr. Kory, who has led ICU's and personally treated over 100 hospitalized COVID-19 patients in New York City, Greenville, South Carolina and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "And most importantly, the majority are minorities, black and Latino's --many of them poor and often without access to private doctors for early treatment. I have never seen such a disparity in any other illness I treat."

I care deeply for all humanity, but as a black man, Dr. Kory's statement really resonated with me.

Dr. Kory is the president of Front Line COVID-19 Critical Care Alliance" (FLCCC), "a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to developing highly effective treatment

protocols to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and to improve the outcomes for patients ill with the disease.” He and six other physicians founded FLCCC in March, 2020. (Click/touch on this <<https://covid19criticalcare.com>>“Front-Line” link to read more on FLCCC’s website).

This <<https://covid19criticalcare.com/about/the-flccc-physicians/>> link has Dr. Kory’s bio as well as the bios of his other colleagues (Dr. Paul E. Marik, Dr. Flávio A. Cadejani, Dr. Joseph Varon, Dr. Jose Iglesias, Dr. Keith Berkowitz and Dr. Fred Wagshul), which includes all of their curriculum vitae.

Dr. Kory tweeted <<https://twitter.com/PierreKory/status/1446312291302055940?s=20>> on October 7, 2021 (and I’m quoting him verbatim) “between 100-200 United States Congress Members (plus many of their staffers & family members) with COVID.. were treated by a colleague over the past 15 months with ivermectin & the I-MASK+protocol at flccc.net [<https://covid19criticalcare.com/>] none have gone to the hospital. Just sayn’.”

Responding to those who asked him “for sources/names,” Dr. Kory subsequently tweeted that “(1) this came from a highly credible source inside Congress who has asked to remain anonymous” and “(2) I would never divulge the medical treatments of individual members, nor do I know them myself.

“I fully stand by this tweet.”

Click/touch on this <<https://covid19criticalcare.com/ivermectin-in-covid-19/>> link to read FLCCC’s “Ivermectin in COVID-19.” Perhaps our subject matter experts can reach out to Dr. Kory and his colleagues.

In accordance with performing my essential function as a CDPH Information Officer II, which is to advise “department staff of the public relations implications of department policy decisions,” I want to provide you all this heads up just in case CDPH is scrutinized and receives media coverage about this topic.

But most importantly, in addition to warning people against using veterinarian ivermectin, CDPH has an even greater opportunity to take the national lead —indeed the international lead— in saving lives by investigating or advocating for the use of properly dosed ivermectin by the medical community. It would behoove CDPH to look at therapeutic treatment, such as ivermectin.

In closing, it’s been a week and I want to apologize for just now responding. This is probably the most important email I’ve sent in my 27-year career in California state service. Sending you this important information required a great deal of preparation; it required time to carefully research, read, and process Dr. Kory’s DHS testimony. Additionally, drafting this email necessitated mentation, an additional investment of time and critical reflection.

In this time when so many Americans have lost loved ones, friends and coworkers, I reflect on the loss of my own 89-year-old mother on June 13, 2021. While she didn’t

succumb to COVID-19, her death from multiple myeloma –a cancer of plasma cells-- causes me to empathize with the survivors whose loved ones died from COVID-19. It is my hope that by this careful review of this research and information we may be able to save countless lives, not only in the United States but throughout the world.

Thank you for your time and your careful consideration.

--ron

From: Starr, Mark@CDPH <Mark.Starr@cdph.ca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 5:01 PM

To: Egel, Corey@CDPH <Corey.Egel@cdph.ca.gov>

Cc: Walker, Connie@CDPH <Connie.Walker@cdph.ca.gov>; Owens, Ronald@CDPH

<Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>; Samperio, Sheila@CDPH <Sheila.Samperio@cdph.ca.gov>; Siador,

Christine@CDPH <Christine.Siador@cdph.ca.gov>; Aragon, Tomas@CDPH

<Tomas.Aragon@cdph.ca.gov>; Klein, Miren@CDPH <Miren.Klein@cdph.ca.gov>; Dover, Tiffany@CDPH

<Tiffany.Dover@cdph.ca.gov>; Bay, Ali @CDPH <ali.bay@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: FDB Advisory re. Ivermectin and COVID - heads-up

Hi Corey,

Excellent. Thanks for the help with this, and timely.

--Mark

From: Egel, Corey@CDPH <Corey.Egel@cdph.ca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 4:50 PM

To: Starr, Mark@CDPH <Mark.Starr@cdph.ca.gov>

Cc: Walker, Connie@CDPH <Connie.Walker@cdph.ca.gov>; Owens, Ronald@CDPH

<Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>; Samperio, Sheila@CDPH <Sheila.Samperio@cdph.ca.gov>; Siador,

Christine@CDPH <Christine.Siador@cdph.ca.gov>; Aragon, Tomas@CDPH

<Tomas.Aragon@cdph.ca.gov>; Klein, Miren@CDPH <Miren.Klein@cdph.ca.gov>; Dover, Tiffany@CDPH

<Tiffany.Dover@cdph.ca.gov>; Bay, Ali @CDPH <ali.bay@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: FDB Advisory re. Ivermectin and COVID - heads-up

Hi Mark,

Agency doesn't appear to have any concerns. Feel free to post tomorrow as planned.

Thank you,

Corey

From: Starr, Mark@CDPH <Mark.Starr@cdph.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 3:17 PM

To: Egel, Corey@CDPH <Corey.Egel@cdph.ca.gov>

Cc: Walker, Connie@CDPH <Connie.Walker@cdph.ca.gov>; Owens, Ronald@CDPH

<Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>; Samperio, Sheila@CDPH <Sheila.Samperio@cdph.ca.gov>; Siador,

Christine@CDPH <Christine.Siador@cdph.ca.gov>; Aragon, Tomas@CDPH

<Tomas.Aragon@cdph.ca.gov>; Klein, Miren@CDPH <Miren.Klein@cdph.ca.gov>; Dover, Tiffany@CDPH

<Tiffany.Dover@cdph.ca.gov>; Bay, Ali @CDPH <ali.bay@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: FDB Advisory re. Ivermectin and COVID - heads-up

Thanks Corey. In case it is helpful, you'll see that many of the "News and Updates" items posted on our website (link below) have also received media coverage. There is specific/unique value to including such items there for our stakeholders. --Mark

From: Egel, Corey@CDPH <Corey.Egel@cdph.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 2:39 PM

To: Starr, Mark@CDPH <Mark.Starr@cdph.ca.gov>

Cc: Walker, Connie@CDPH <Connie.Walker@cdph.ca.gov>; Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>; Samperio, Sheila@CDPH <Sheila.Samperio@cdph.ca.gov>; Siador, Christine@CDPH <Christine.Siador@cdph.ca.gov>; Aragon, Tomas@CDPH <Tomas.Aragon@cdph.ca.gov>; Klein, Miren@CDPH <Miren.Klein@cdph.ca.gov>; Dover, Tiffany@CDPH <Tiffany.Dover@cdph.ca.gov>; Bay, Ali @CDPH <ali.bay@cdph.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: FDB Advisory re. Ivermectin and COVID - heads-up

Hi Mark,

Since this topic has received media coverage, before the advisory is posted online, I will share with Agency Comms for review and approval. I will keep you posted.

Thank you,
Corey

From: Starr, Mark@CDPH <Mark.Starr@cdph.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 2:08 PM

To: Bay, Ali @CDPH <ali.bay@cdph.ca.gov>; Egel, Corey@CDPH <Corey.Egel@cdph.ca.gov>; Walker, Connie@CDPH <Connie.Walker@cdph.ca.gov>; Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>
Cc: Samperio, Sheila@CDPH <Sheila.Samperio@cdph.ca.gov>; Siador, Christine@CDPH <Christine.Siador@cdph.ca.gov>; Aragon, Tomas@CDPH <Tomas.Aragon@cdph.ca.gov>; Klein, Miren@CDPH <Miren.Klein@cdph.ca.gov>; Dover, Tiffany@CDPH <Tiffany.Dover@cdph.ca.gov>
Subject: FDB Advisory re. Ivermectin and COVID - heads-up

Hello Comms folks,

Attached is an advisory regarding the misuse of ivermectin to treat COVID. It provides specific warnings and information from FDB, based on the CDC Health Advisory (https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/pdf/CDC_HAN_449.pdf), for consumers and includes some basic reco's for healthcare providers. We plan to post it here on FDB's website: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/Pages/FDBPrograms/DrugSafetyProgram.aspx> on **Friday, Oct 8th**, and it will be ADA compliant. Please let us know if there are any concerns or other feedback.

Additional context: In response to ongoing media attention regarding the unapproved use of human and veterinary Ivermectin products for the treatment of COVID-19, it is important to provide accurate and easily accessible guidance to combat the dangerous misinformation surrounding such uses. The unapproved use of ivermectin has placed an increased burden on poison control centers, resulted in multiple cases of toxicity nationwide, and created a shortage of veterinary ivermectin products. Educating the public via multiple means is important to protect human health, prevent product shortages, and encourage individuals to consult with their doctor for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19.

Thanks.

Mark

**Secretary Xavier Becerra's Concerning
April 14, 2022
COVID-19 Vaccines
'Are Killing People...'
Comment Emails**

From: Bay, Ali @CDPH <ali.bay@cdph.ca.gov>

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 2:41 PM

To: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>

Cc: Micek, Brian@CDPH <Brian.Micek@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra's Concerning COVID-19 Vaccines 'Killing People' Comment

Thanks for your email, Ron.

Ali

From: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 11:58 AM

To: Bay, Ali @CDPH <ali.bay@cdph.ca.gov>

Cc: Micek, Brian@CDPH <Brian.Micek@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra's Concerning COVID-19 Vaccines 'Killing People' Comment

Hello Ali, The White House held a “Convening on Equity” virtual summit on Thursday, April 14, 2022, and I watched it this past weekend.

During that summit, as seen and heard at the 45:50 mark of this <[https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://youtu.be/_VhHn06REHM_!!AvL6XA!iOQbqQTEgrhdTJ0pmLiXk3SFpgn-q7suqrAzZ83GX7ILTflhh5N3DuOKaRRKzK-KNCiMRw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://youtu.be/_VhHn06REHM_!!AvL6XA!iOQbqQTEgrhdTJ0pmLiXk3SFpgn-q7suqrAzZ83GX7ILTflhh5N3DuOKaRRKzK-KNCiMRw$)> Official White House YouTube video, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said the following:

“...Secondly, by having better data, we can do a couple of things. Vaccines a year ago today, by the way, we know that vaccines are killing people of color, blacks, Latinos, indigenous people at about two times the rate of white Americans. So on vaccines last year, we saw that about two-thirds of white American adults had received at least one shot of vaccine...”

Ali, I stopped the video, scrolled back and rewatched it. I watched Secretary Becerra’s comment several times, to make sure I heard what I thought I heard. I noticed he did not pause when he said *“we know that vaccines are killing people of color, blacks, Latinos, indigenous people at about two times the rate of white Americans.”* He did not correct himself.

Susan Rice, the Biden Administration’s Domestic Policy Advisor, and Shalanda Young, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, heard what Secretary Becerra said. The two women (both people of color, along with, I might add, Secretary Becerra) did not react. They didn’t ask if he misspoke. They didn’t ask “Secretary Becerra, did you make a mistake and would you like to clarify?”

What Secretary Becerra said is most concerning —hence this email, which I started drafting around 4 am.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has messaged/branded that COVID-19 vaccines “are safe and effective.”

But according to Secretary Becerra, as verified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) <[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://openvaers.com/covid-data ;!!AvL6XA!iOQbqQTEgrhdTJ0pmLiXk3SFpgn-q7suqrAzZ83GX7ILTflhh5N3DuOKaRRKzK_HBNH-dA\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://openvaers.com/covid-data)>, vaccines have not been “safe and effective” for many people.

More than 1.25 million reports were filed on VAERS, co-managed by the CDC, which is a United States federal agency under Secretary Becerra’s own Department of Health and Human Services.

Please note the numbers through, April 8, 2022:

- 26,976, Deaths
- 149,527, Hospitalizations

- 127,492, Urgent Care
- 187,893, Doctor Office Visits
- 9,615, Anaphylaxis
- 15,110, Bell's Palsy
- 4,496, Miscarriages
- 13,819, Heart Attacks
- 38,605, Myocarditis/Pericarditis
- 50,100, Permanently Disabled
- 6,379 Thrombocytopenia/Low Platelet
- 30,293, Life Threatening
- 41,556, Severe Allergic Reaction
- 13,413, Shingles

If you recall on October 13, 2021, I apprised CDPH management of great news. Since I am the Office of Communications liaison with Center for Environmental Health (CEH) program staff I was excited to inform Dr. Mark Starr, Deputy Director, CEH, as well as then-Office of Comms Assistant Deputy Director (ADD) Corey Egel, that lung and ICU specialist Dr. Pierre Kory said more than 8,000 COVID-19 patients have been successfully treated with ivermectin. I copied Dr. Tomás Aragón, Director, CDPH; Christine Siador, Assistant Director, CDPH; Miren Klein, Assistant Deputy Director, CEH; and Connie Walker, Assistant Division Chief, CEH. CDPH Analysts Tiffany Dover (CEH) and Sheila Samperio (Director's Office) were also included in that email thread. That email thread was initiated and sent by Dr. Starr, because he wanted the Office of Communications to express any concerns or feedback to an advisory that was to be posted on CDPH's website regarding the misuse of ivermectin to treat COVID.

I imbedded, in that email, this

<<https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Testimony-Kory-2020-12-08.pdf>> link of Dr. Kory's 16-page testimony titled: "Homeland Security Committee Meeting: Focus on Early Treatment of COVID-19." In that December 8, 2020, testimony Dr. Kory provided data "supporting ivermectin as a potential global solution to the COVID-19 pandemic." (I have since learned that health officials in Uttar Pradesh, a state in northern India, have successfully used ivermectin to treat its people and that area is COVID free). I also reported that Dr. Kory, who was the former Chief of the Critical Care Service and Medical Director of the Trauma and Life Support Center at the University of Wisconsin, said that ivermectin "is highly safe,

widely available, and low cost” in the treatment of COVID-19. Dr. Kory also reported “between 100-200 United States Congress Members (plus many of their staffers & family members) with COVID.. were treated by a colleague over the past 15 months.” I imbedded several other links to buttress ivermectin’s effectiveness. I provided this head’s up, just in case CDPH would have been scrutinized and received media coverage about this topic. But most importantly, as I stated last October, I provided this head’s up so CDPH could take the national lead —indeed the international lead— in saving lives by investigating or advocating for the use of properly dosed ivermectin by the medical community.

Then-ADD Egel responded that my email is not my “area of expertise,” and directed me to “run all information pertaining to the fight against COVID-19, or another health topic” to you and him first, “so that we may consider the best way to proceed.”

Thus, pursuant to and accordance with Corey’s directive --since you two are my immediate supervisors, I am sending you this email, as the Office of Communications Deputy Director, and I’m copying Brian Micek, Media Team Supervisor.

Secretary Becerra's concerning COVID-19 vaccines “killing people” comment is ever more concerning, especially since the day after (April 15, 2022) CDPH announced <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR22-075.aspx> California will increase COVID-19 vaccine access for children.

I’ll close on a personal note. A 76-year-old close family member was in relatively good health, considering her age. She took the vaccine last March. Her health rapidly declined. This time last year she was in and out of the hospital. Unable to take care of herself, she moved in with another closer relative. I am sad to report she died last July.

We’ll never know whether the COVID-19 vaccine had anything to do with her rapid declining health and eventual death. But in light of Secretary Becerra’s concerning comment last Thursday and in view of this alarming VAERS data, I wonder if my family member’s death was indeed vaccine related.

Perhaps it would be prudent that CDPH management, California Health and Human Services Agency officials and Governor's Office personnel be made aware of Secretary Xavier Becerra's concerning comment and VAERS data.

Thank you.

—ron

From: Micek, Brian@CDPH <Brian.Micek@cdph.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 4:14 PM
To: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>
Subject: Response to E-mails from 10/13 and 4/18

Ron:

I understand from previous communication that you have sent Ali, Corey and myself, your concern regarding COVID-19 vaccines. As you are aware, it is in conflict with the Department's stance and research findings on vaccination. If you feel you need to learn more about CDPH's official position, all COVID-19 communication for department employees can be found here: [COVID-19 Communication for CDPH Employees \(sharepoint.com\)](#).

As such, the management team will not have any additional response to your questions.

In addition, please refrain from sending these types of email communications in the future. I am concerned your personal research efforts may be a misuse of both state time and equipment. If you'd like to receive updates on the Department's COVID-19 communications, feel free to periodically check the link provided above.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss further in a future one on one meeting.

Thank you,

Brian

Brian E. Micek
Media Team Supervisor
California Department of Public Health, Office of Communications
www.cdph.ca.gov
www.covid19.ca.gov

From: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 4:54 PM

To: Bay, Ali @CDPH <ali.bay@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: FW: Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra's Concerning COVID-19 Vaccines 'Killing People' Comment

Hello Ali, we're approaching the six month anniversary of my April 18, 2022 email, and I'm sad to report that there's been an increase of people injured/died from COVID-19 vaccines, according to VAERS.

More than 1.25 million reports were filed on VAERS through April 8, 2022. More than 1.43 million reports were filed on VAERS through September 30, 2022. That's a difference/increase of approximately 18,000 reports.

The first table displays the overall picture, and the second table displays what's going on in California.

Through 4/8/22 9/30/22	Difference/Increase	Through
• 26,976, Deaths 4,354	31,330	
• 149,527, Hospitalizations 0,279	179,806	3
• 127,492, Urgent Care	136,486	8,994
• 187,893, Doctor Office Visits	207,576	19,683
• 9,615, Anaphylaxis 449	10,064	
• 15,110, Bell's Palsy	16,104	994

- 4,496, Miscarriages 5,078
582
- 13,819, Heart Attacks 16,830 3,011
- 38,605, Myocarditis/Pericarditis 52,896
4,291
- 50,100, Permanently Disabled 58,630 8,530
- 6,379 Thrombocytopenia/Low Platelet 9,108 2,729
- 30,293, Life Threatening 34,304 4,011
- 41,556, Severe Allergic Reaction 44,999 3,443
- 13,413, Shingles 14,830
1,417

Age Range State Died Life Threat Perm
Disabled Hospitalized Myocarditis Anaphylaxis Miscarriage TotalReports

Age Range	State	Died	Life Threat	Perm		
Disabled	Hospitalized	Myocarditis	Anaphylaxis	Miscarriage	TotalReports	
6 MO-5 YR	CA	0	1	0	7	2
5-11	CA	1	6	8	25	8
12-18	CA	4	44	38	227	1
19-30	CA	21	102	137	286	1
31-49	CA	54	313	583	769	2
50-64	CA	124	381	575	829	1
65-80	CA	216	304	334	916	1
81-121	CA	158	101	76	311	2
ALL AGES	CA	639	1272	1779	3530	8

Source: [States Summaries - OpenVAERS](#)

According to this “Electronic Support for Public Health–Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (ESP:VAERS)” document, “adverse events from drugs and vaccines are common, but underreported. Although 25% of ambulatory patients experience an adverse drug event, less than 0.3% of all adverse drug events and 1-13% of serious events are reported to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

“Likewise, fewer than 1% of vaccine adverse events are reported. Low reporting rates preclude or slow the identification of “problem” drugs and vaccines that endanger public health.”

(Source:

<[https://urldefense.com/v3/ https://openvaers.com/images/r18hs017045-lazarus-final-report-20116.pdf ;!!AvL6XA!x5rSrH_nKn5W9aJ0dO2ALixsV8TYXkt8r6hjT_Oa5a1rL2IBSMLCJUHB9U-CntANvUbYX_POUVRD4Fz-IGVg-GcGV1YQ2U\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://openvaers.com/images/r18hs017045-lazarus-final-report-20116.pdf;!!AvL6XA!x5rSrH_nKn5W9aJ0dO2ALixsV8TYXkt8r6hjT_Oa5a1rL2IBSMLCJUHB9U-CntANvUbYX_POUVRD4Fz-IGVg-GcGV1YQ2U$)>

We’re at 31,330 deaths. Could it be that the death amount is actually 13 times more? If that’s the case the death count is in the millions.

The small pox vaccine program was halted after two deaths, this August 22, 2003 New Scientist reported. (Click/touch on this <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn4074-us-smallpox-vaccination-plan-grinds-to-a-halt/>> link to read the article titled: “US smallpox vaccination plan grinds to a halt.”

Out of public health concern and in the interest of full disclosure do you think it’s time that people should be informed that COVID-19 vaccinations carry a significant risk of injury or death?

–ron

From: Bay, Ali @CDPH <ali.bay@cdph.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 2:41 PM
To: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>

Cc: Micek, Brian@CDPH <Brian.Micek@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra's Concerning COVID-19 Vaccines 'Killing People' Comment

Thanks for your email, Ron.

Ali

From: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 11:58 AM

To: Bay, Ali @CDPH <ali.bay@cdph.ca.gov>

Cc: Micek, Brian@CDPH <Brian.Micek@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra's Concerning COVID-19 Vaccines 'Killing People' Comment

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Thank you.

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From: Owens, Ronald@CDPH

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 4:54 PM

To: Bay, Ali @CDPH <ali.bay@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: FW: Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra's Concerning COVID-19 Vaccines 'Killing People' Comment

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Difference/Increase	
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• 149,527, Hospitalizations 30,279	179,806
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• 9,615, Anaphylaxis 449	10,064
• 15,110, Bell's Palsy 994	16,104
• 4,496, Miscarriages 582	5,078
• 13,819, Heart Attacks 3,011	16,830
• 38,605, Myocarditis/Pericarditis 14,291	52,896
• 50,100, Permanently Disabled 8,530	58,630

• 6,379 Thrombocytopenia/Low Platelet 2,729	9,108
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• 41,556, Severe Allergic Reaction 3,443	44,999
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Age Range Hospitalized	Myocarditis	State Anaphylaxis	Died Miscarriage	Life Threat Total Reports	Perm Disabled
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6 MO-5 YR	CA	0	1	0	7	2
5-11	CA	1	6	8	25	8
12-18	CA	4	44	38	227	1
19-30	CA	21	102	137	286	1
31-49	CA	54	313	583	769	2
50-64	CA	124	381	575	829	1
65-80	CA	216	304	334	916	1
81-121	CA	158	101	76	311	2
ALL AGES	CA	639	1272	1779	3530	8

Source: [States Summaries - OpenVAERS](#)

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Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 4:14 PM

To: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: Response to E-mails from 10/13 and 4/18

Ron:

I understand from previous communication that you have sent Ali, Corey and myself, your concern regarding COVID-19 vaccines. As you are aware, it is in conflict with the Department's stance and research findings on vaccination. If you feel you need to learn more about CDPH's official position, all COVID-19 communication for department employees can be found here: [COVID-19 Communication for CDPH Employees \(sharepoint.com\)](#).

As such, the management team will not have any additional response to your questions.

In addition, please refrain from sending these types of email communications in the future. I am concerned your personal research efforts may be a misuse of both state time and equipment. If you'd like to receive updates on the Department's COVID-19 communications, feel free to periodically check the link provided above.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss further in a future one on one meeting.

Thank you,

Brian

Brian E. Micek
Media Team Supervisor
California Department of Public Health, Office of Communications
www.cdph.ca.gov
www.covid19.ca.gov

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If you recall on October 13, 2021, I apprised CDPH management of great news. Since I am the Office of Communications liaison with Center for Environmental Health (CEH) program staff I was excited to inform Dr. Mark Starr, Deputy Director, CEH, as well as then-Office of Comms Assistant Deputy Director (ADD) Corey Egel, that lung and ICU specialist Dr. Pierre Kory said more than 8,000 COVID-19 patients have been successfully treated with ivermectin. I copied Dr. Tomás Aragón, Director, CDPH; Christine Siador, Assistant Director, CDPH; Miren Klein, Assistant Deputy Director, CEH; and Connie Walker, Assistant Division Chief, CEH. CDPH Analysts Tiffany Dover (CEH) and Sheila Samperio (Director's Office) were also included in that email thread. That email thread was initiated and sent by Dr. Starr, because he wanted the Office of Communications to express any concerns or feedback to an advisory that was to be posted on CDPH's website regarding the misuse of ivermectin to treat COVID.

I imbedded, in that email, this

<<https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Testimony-Kory-2020-12-08.pdf>> link of Dr. Kory's 16-page testimony titled: "Homeland Security Committee Meeting: Focus on Early Treatment of COVID-19." In that December 8, 2020, testimony Dr. Kory provided data "supporting ivermectin as a potential global solution to the COVID-19 pandemic." (I have since learned that health officials in Uttar Pradesh, a state in northern India, have successfully used ivermectin to treat its people and that area is COVID free). I also reported that Dr. Kory, who was the former Chief of the Critical Care Service and Medical Director of the Trauma and Life Support Center at the University of Wisconsin, said that ivermectin "is highly safe, widely available, and low cost" in the treatment of COVID-19. Dr. Kory also reported "between 100-200 United States Congress Members (plus many of their staffers & family members) with COVID.. were treated by a colleague over the past 15 months." I imbedded several other links to buttress ivermectin's effectiveness. I provided this head's up, just in case CDPH would have been scrutinized and received media coverage about this topic. But most importantly, as I stated last October, I provided this

head's up so CDPH could take the national lead —indeed the international lead— in saving lives by investigating or advocating for the use of properly dosed ivermectin by the medical community.

Then-ADD Egel responded that my email is not my “area of expertise,” and directed me to “run all information pertaining to the fight against COVID-19, or another health topic” to you and him first, “so that we may consider the best way to proceed.”

Thus, pursuant to and accordance with Corey’s directive --since you two are my immediate supervisors, I am sending you this email, as the Office of Communications Deputy Director, and I’m copying Brian Micek, Media Team Supervisor.

Secretary Becerra's concerning COVID-19 vaccines “killing people” comment is ever more concerning, especially since the day after (April 15, 2022) CDPH announced

<<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR22-075.aspx>>

California will increase COVID-19 vaccine access for children.

I’ll close on a personal note. A 76-year-old close family member was in relatively good health, considering her age. She took the vaccine last March. Her health rapidly declined. This time last year she was in and out of the hospital. Unable to take care of herself, she moved in with another closer relative. I am sad to report she died last July.

We’ll never know whether the COVID-19 vaccine had anything to do with her rapid declining health and eventual death. But in light of Secretary Becerra’s concerning comment last Thursday and in view of this alarming VAERS data, I wonder if my family member’s death was indeed vaccine related.

Perhaps it would be prudent that CDPH management, California Health and Human Services Agency officials and Governor’s Office personnel be made aware of Secretary Xavier Becerra's concerning comment and VAERS data.

Thank you.

–ron

From: Owens, Ronald@CDPH

Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 2:14 PM

To: CDPH EXEC CivilRights <CivilRights@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: Are My Civil Rights Being Infringed Upon For Sharing COVID-19 Vaccinations Have Killed Thousands & Injured Millions?

Hello Civil Rights Unit:

My name is Ronald Owens, and I have been an Information Officer 2 (IO II) at the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) —now Office of Communications— since March 2, 2009.

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I care deeply for all humanity, but as a black man what Secretary Becerra said “we know that vaccines are killing people of color” resonated with me and deeply disturbed me.

So on April 18, 2022 at 11:58 a.m., I sent an email to Office of Communications Deputy Director Ali Bay, and copied Media Team Supervisor Brian Micek, because Secretary Becerra’s statement shocked, alarmed and concerned me. In order to get management’s attention I titled the subject line: “Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra’s Concerning COVID-19 Vaccines ‘Killing People’ Comment.”

In that email I informed Bay and Micek what Secretary Becerra said. I stated that CDPH has messaged/branded that COVID-19 vaccines “are safe and effective.” I noted these vaccines have not been “safe and effective” for many people. I reported that more than 1.25 million reports were filed, 26,976 people died and thousands have been injured by COVID-19 vaccines. I listed the number of hospitalizations (149,527), urgent care visitations (127,492) and doctor office visits (187,893). I listed the current number of the types of injuries people sustained. Those injuries are anaphylaxis (9,615), Bell’s Palsy (15,110), miscarriages (4,496), heart attacks (13,819), myocarditis/pericarditis (38,605), permanently disabled (50,100), thrombocytopenia/low platelet (6,379), life threatening (30,293), severe allergic reaction (41,556) and shingles (13,413).

The data I listed is from Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS), co-managed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is under

Secretary Becerra's Department of Health and Human Services. I noted would it be prudent that CDPH management, California Health and Human Services Agency officials and Governor's Office personnel be made aware of Secretary Xavier Becerra's concerning comment and VAERS data. Responding at 2:41 p.m., Bay thanked me for my email and copied Micek.

On October 13, 2022 at 4:54 p.m., I emailed Bay a nearly six month update. I noted that I was sad to report that there's been an increase of people injured/died from COVID-19 vaccines, according to VAERS. I reported, as of Monday October 3, 2022, 1,424,789 injury reports have been filed, and 31,330 people have been reported to have died from COVID-19 vaccines. (That's a 4,354 increase of people who died). Again, I listed the current number of hospitalizations (179,806), urgent care visitations (136,486) and doctor office visits (207,576). Again, I listed the number of injuries people sustained. Those types of injuries are anaphylaxis (10,064), Bell's Palsy (16,104), miscarriages (5,078), heart attacks (16,830), myocarditis/pericarditis (52,896), permanently disabled (58,630), thrombocytopenia/low platelet (9,108), life threatening (34,304), severe allergic reaction (44,999) and shingles (14,830).

In this email I also included how many Californians reported injured (82,824) and died (639), according to States Summaries - OpenVAERS webpage. I concluded my October 13 email by reiterating we're at 31,330 deaths, but the small pox vaccine program for healthcare workers back in 2003 was halted after two deaths. I also noted some medical subject experts indicated VAERS data reflects a small number of actual injuries and deaths.

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I assert the quote I shared of a federal governmental health official who commented about the risks of COVID-19 vaccine at a public meeting, the data I provided from federal websites which substantiates COVID-19 vaccine risks, and the question I asked whether the public should be informed of these risks --so they can make decisions for themselves and their children-- does not fall under "personal research efforts."

Simply put, I was doing my job, yet management threatened me with disciplinary action because of it.

My "State of California – Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Public Health Information Officer II Duty Statement" indicates I am to advise "department staff of the public relations implications of department policy decisions." In addition to being accused of potential wrongdoing, management directing me to "please

refrain from sending these types of email communications in the future” conflicts with 20% of my “essential functions,” as stipulated in my “Duty Statement.”

Micek’s allegation is quite unsettling. It’s a subtle threat tantamount to managerial retaliation, because I shared unpopular yet factual information. I don’t know if it was Micek who originally drafted this “concerned your personal research efforts may be a misuse of both state time and equipment” allegation, or whether Bay directed him to write this allegation, as a response to my October 13, 2022 email which I only sent to her. Whoever thought of this allegation has besmirched my character and impugned my humanitarian motives. I dislike stating this because I like Bay and Micek. I like working for them. With the recent addition of Assistant Deputy Director Melinda McRae—an accomplished communications professional who I was instrumental in selecting as an Information Officer 1 at OPA back in 2009-- the Office of Communications has a great managerial team. My genuine personal liking for them aside --I must defend myself. It’s imperative that I stand up for my rights, particularly since Micek’s/Bay’s allegation can possibly result in me being reprimanded, suspended or terminated.

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Thank you for reading my email, considering my predicament and responding to my questions.

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Information Officer 2
Office of Communications
California Department of Public Health
Personal Cell: 916-997-9804

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Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 4:03 PM

To: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: Are My Civil Rights Being Infringed Upon For Sharing COVID-19 Vaccinations Have Killed Thousands & Injured Millions?

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From: Owens, Ronald@CDPH

Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 11:26 AM

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Subject: FW: Are My Civil Rights Being Infringed Upon For Sharing COVID-19 Vaccinations Have Killed Thousands & Injured Millions?

Hello Civil Rights Unit:

Civil Rights Unit exists to address racial inequality, discrimination and harassment. Do you think the optics here raises any racial inequality, discrimination and harassment red flags?

A Latino (Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra) informs two African American women (Biden Administration Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice/Office of Management and Budget Director Shalanda Young) before thousands of viewers on The White House's official YouTube channel that COVID-19 "vaccines are killing people of color, blacks, Latinos, indigenous people at about two times the rate of white Americans." A black man (me) warns two white superiors (Ali Bay and Brian Micek) of this alarming news. The two white superiors (Bay and Micek) threaten their black subordinate (me) with personnel action because the subordinate informed them of an unpopular yet factual public health information that can save lives. CRU is informed that white management threatened to retaliate against black subordinate for performing essential duties as an Information Officer 2, and responds unless I "have additional information to provide to support a violation of CDPH's EEO policies" they have no jurisdiction?

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One last question: Has Ali Bay and/or Brian Micek been apprised of me contacting CRU?

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Good Afternoon Mr. Owens

We are in receipt of your secondary email which you are now alleging that you were threatened with personnel action by White superiors because of your race, Black, for performing your essential functions. As stated in the original response from this office, if you had additional information you may file a complaint with this office via the link provided. For your convenience, the form is attached for your completion and return to this email.

The information you have communicated with this office has been held in this office only. There has been no communication with anyone outside of this office.

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Micek’s allegation is quite unsettling. It’s a subtle threat tantamount to managerial retaliation, because I shared unpopular yet factual information. I don’t know if it was Micek who originally drafted this “concerned your personal research efforts may be a misuse of both state time and equipment” allegation, or whether Bay directed him to write this allegation, as a response to my October 13, 2022 email which I only sent to her. Whoever thought of this allegation has besmirched my character and impugned my humanitarian motives. I dislike stating this because I like Bay and Micek. I like working for them. With the recent addition of Assistant Deputy Director Melinda McRae –an accomplished communications professional who I was instrumental in selecting as an Information Officer 1 at OPA back in 2009-- the Office of Communications has a great managerial team. My genuine personal liking for them aside --I must defend myself. It’s imperative that I stand up for my rights, particularly since Micek’s/Bay’s allegation can possibly result in me being reprimanded, suspended or terminated.

Can management reprimand, suspend or terminate me for sounding the alarm in the future that COVID-19 vaccination injuries/deaths are rising? Can I face disciplinary action for sharing unpopular yet factual public health information that management doesn’t want to know, but they/and the public need to know? Is this considered harassment? Are my civil rights being infringed upon, because I shared COVID-19 vaccinations have killed thousands and injured millions?

Thank you for reading my email, considering my predicament and responding to my questions.

Sincerely,

—ron
Ronald Owens
Information Officer 2
Office of Communications
California Department of Public Health
Personal Cell: 916-997-9804

From: Micek, Brian@CDPH <Brian.Micek@cdph.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 5:06 PM

To: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: Conduct During August 22, 2022 Team Meeting

Ron:

This email is to provide you with immediate direction related to your inappropriate conduct and insubordination during our daily team meeting on August 22, 2023.

During the meeting you attempted to share your personal beliefs about the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in response to a media inquiry. When Deputy Director Bay asked you to stop discussing this misinformation in this meeting, you continued to talk over her and argue your point which ultimately resulted in the meeting having to be shut down.

As a CDPH employee, you act as a representative of the department. Your statements and information shared is likely to cause confusion with the department's policies, official position, values, and/or views, and may be offensive to those who do not share in your personal beliefs. Going forward, you are directed to always remain professional, courteous, and to refrain from making statements which could be perceived as the department's official position.

Brian

Brian E. Micek
Media Team Manager
California Department of Public Health, Office of Communications
www.cdph.ca.gov
www.covid19.ca.gov

From: Owens, Ronald@CDPH

Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 5:02 PM

To: Siador, Christine@CDPH <Christine.Siador@cdph.ca.gov>

Cc: Bay, Ali @CDPH <ali.bay@cdph.ca.gov>; Micek, Brian@CDPH <Brian.Micek@cdph.ca.gov>; McRae, Melinda@CDPH <Melinda.McRae@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra's COVID-19 Vaccines "Killing People..." Comment & Management's Retaliatory Actions for Me Reporting It

August 24, 2023

To: Christine Siador
Assistant Director

From: Ronald Owens
Information Officer 2 (IO2)
Office of Communications

Re: HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra's COVID-19 Vaccines "Killing People..." Comment & Management's Retaliatory Actions for Me Reporting It

On April 14, 2022, United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra spoke at The White House's "Convening on Equity" virtual summit. At the 45:50 mark of the Official White House YouTube video streaming the summit Secretary Becerra said the following: "...*Secondly, by having better data, we can do a couple of things. Vaccines a year ago today, by the way, we know that vaccines are killing people of color, blacks, Latinos, indigenous people at about two times the rate of white Americans. So on vaccines last year, we saw that about two-thirds of white American adults had received at least one shot of vaccine...*"

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I care deeply for all humanity, but as a black man what Secretary Becerra said, "we know that vaccines are killing people of color," resonated with me and deeply disturbed me.

So, on April 18, 2022, at 11:58 a.m., I sent an email (**first attachment**) to Office of Communications Deputy Director Ali Bay and copied Media Team Supervisor Brian Micek because Secretary Becerra's statement shocked, alarmed and concerned me. In order to get management's attention, I titled the subject line: "Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra's Concerning COVID-19 Vaccines 'Killing People' Comment."

In that email I informed Deputy Director Bay and Supervisor Micek what Secretary Becerra said. I stated that CDPH has messaged/branded that COVID-19 vaccines "are safe and effective." I noted these vaccines have not been "safe and effective" for many people. I reported that more than 1.25

million reports were filed, 26,976 people died and thousands have been injured by COVID-19 vaccines. I listed the number of hospitalizations (149,527), urgent care visitations (127,492) and doctor office visits (187,893). I listed the current number of the types of injuries people sustained. According to VAERS those injuries are anaphylaxis (9,615), Bell's Palsy (15,110), miscarriages (4,496), heart attacks (13,819), myocarditis/pericarditis (38,605), permanently disabled (50,100), thrombocytopenia/low platelet (6,379), life threatening (30,293), severe allergic reaction (41,556) and shingles (13,413).

The data I listed is from the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS)

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On October 20, 2022, at 4:14 p.m. Supervisor Micek (**third attachment**) responded. In summary he stated my concern "is in conflict with the Department's stance and research findings on vaccination."

He embedded a link describing COVID-19 communication policies for CDPH employees for me “to learn more about CDPH’s official position.” He indicated “management team will not have any additional response to your questions.” He directed me “please refrain from sending these types of email communications in the future.” He stated he was “concerned your personal research efforts may be a misuse of both state time and equipment.”

The optics here are concerning. A Latino (Becerra) informs two African American women (Biden Administration Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice/Office of Management and Budget Director Shalanda Young) before thousands of viewers on The White House’s official YouTube channel that COVID-19 “vaccines are killing people of color...” A black man (me) warns two white superiors (Deputy Director Bay and Supervisor Micek) of this alarming news. One white superior (Supervisor Micek), acting reluctantly on behest of his white superior (Deputy Director Bay), threaten black subordinate (me) with disciplinary action because subordinate (me) informed them of a statement made by a federal governmental health official publicly commenting about the risks of the COVID-19 vaccine. Secretary Becerra’s comments had implications affecting the lives of racial minorities.

The data I provided was from federal websites documenting COVID-19 vaccine risks. And the question I asked whether the public should be informed of these risks --so they can make decisions for themselves and their children-- does not fall under “personal research efforts.”

My March, 2009 (unsigned) “State of California – Health and Human Services Agency/Department of Health Services’ Public Information Officer II Duty Statement” (**fourth attachment**) states I am to advise “department staff of the public relations implications of department policy decisions.”

In addition to being accused of potential wrongdoing, management directing me to “please refrain from sending these types of email communications in the future” conflicts with 20% of my “essential functions,” as stipulated in my “Duty Statement.”

Simply put, I was doing my job, yet I was threatened with disciplinary action because of it.

During the intervening months I have been emotionally tormented about hearing so many people dying suddenly or dying unexpectedly. The mother (Dr. Barbara E. Cahoon-Young) of my sister-in-law (Stephanie Owens) I anonymously referenced in my first email to Deputy Director Bay was injected with two Moderna COVID-19 vaccines in March of 2021. Dr. Cahoon-Young died on July 4, 2021, of severe pulmonary hypertension resulting in congestive heart failure. She was a public health professional. She graduated summa cum laude at the University of California, Berkeley’s School of Public Health. She was a public health scientist at the Alameda County Public Health Department. She also studied AIDS at an Oakland clinic and conducted research on Hepatitis C. The then-Department of Health Services, now the California Department of Public Health, certified Dr. Cahoon-Young on February 8, 2002, to be a public health microbiologist at its Richmond, California Public Health Laboratory. She retired as Placer County Public Health’s Public Health Lab Director on July 14, 2010. It’s been more than two years and my sister-in-law, her husband/my brother Leonard Owens as well as the rest of our family are still grieving Barbara’s death.

On August 22, 2023, at our 3 p.m. Media Team Afternoon Inbox Triage Teams (virtual) meeting, there was a discussion amongst my colleagues whether VAERS is credible indicating COVID-19 vaccine injuries and deaths. Feeling the emotional weight of so many people, particularly Dr. Cahoon-Young, who have died or have been injured from COVID-19 vaccines the past couple years, I felt compelled to

share with team members what Secretary Becerra said. I was so emotional I messed up on the quote. Deputy Director Bay rudely interrupted and talked over me. She tried to stop me from divulging to my team members what Secretary Becerra said more than 16 months earlier. I informed my colleagues that Becerra's comment is still on the White House's official YouTube Channel. Deputy Director Bay repeatedly asked me to stop talking. She directed Supervisor Micek to terminate the call. I said I will not stop talking because it's the truth. However, the call was abruptly terminated at about 3:20 pm. According to my recollection those who witnessed the incident were: Information Officer (IO2) Robert Barsanti, IO2 Matt Conens, IO2 Virginia Gaglianone, IO2 Wendy Hopkins, Assistant Deputy Director Melinda McRae, Associate Governmental Program Analyst Christy Riolo, IO2 Mark Smith, Information Officer 1 (IO1) Rebecca Waas and IO1 Doua Yang.

Supervisor Micek sent me a disciplinary email (**fifth attachment**) on August 23, 2023, about my "inappropriate conduct and insubordination." Probably acting reluctantly on behest of Deputy Director Bay, I was falsely accused of sharing my "personal beliefs about the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines." I was told that I was "discussing this misinformation." Moving forward I was "directed to always remain professional, courteous, and to refrain from making statements which could be perceived as the department's official position." I fail to understand how relaying comments made by a federal government official constitutes "personal beliefs" and "misinformation." I didn't share my opinion. I shared what Secretary Becerra said and I backed it up with data from federal government websites. I'm merely the messenger. My responsibility to my supervisors is to share information they need to know.

Supervisor Micek shows good leadership by encouraging subordinates (my colleagues and friends) to share information that he may not necessarily want to know but needs to know. In an email (**sixth attachment**) he sent to me on August 24, 2023, Supervisor Micek acknowledged that he shared my concern with Human Resources that I am facing discrimination in the workplace from the Office of Communications management team. He reminded me of my rights and said that if I feel that I am being discriminated against or subjected to a hostile work environment, I have the right to report a complaint with the Department's Civil Rights Unit.

It is my duty as a CDPH Information Officer 2 to elevate this issue with you, so CDPH senior leadership, California Health and Human Services Agency officials and the Administration be made aware of Secretary Xavier Becerra's concerning comments plus supporting VAERS data and inform you of the false accusations and retaliatory efforts of my management team.

In closing I must note this sobering data. As of August 11, 2023, more than 1.5 million (precisely 1,585,094) people have been injured and there have been 35,911 deaths as a result of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Attachments

1. IO2 Ronald Owens' Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra's Concerning COVID-19 Vaccines 'Killing People' Comment email, April 18, 2022
2. IO2 Ronald Owens' FW: Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra's Concerning COVID-19 Vaccines 'Killing People' Comment, October 13, 2022
3. Supervisor Brian Micek's Response to E-mails from 10/13 and 4/18 email, October 20, 2022
4. IO2 Ronald Owens' (unsigned) IO2 Duty Statement, March, 2009
5. Supervisor Brian Micek's Conduct During August 22, 2023 Team Meeting email, August 23, 2023

6. Supervisor Brian Micek's Follow-up to Yesterday's 1:1 meeting - hostile work environment email, August 24, 2023

From: Siador, Christine@CDPH <Christine.Siador@cdph.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 4:09 PM

To: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra's COVID-19 Vaccines "Killing People..." Comment & Management's Retaliatory Actions for Me Reporting It

Hi Ron,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns. My condolences on the loss of your family member.

As you have stated, you have the right to file a complaint if you feel you are being discriminated against or harassed. You may find a list of CDPH Employee Complaint Resources on our intranet: [Employee Complaint Resources \(sharepoint.com\)](#). You may also utilize the services provided by the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) [Employee Assistance Program \(sharepoint.com\)](#) for any needed support.

In response to the information you provided related to COVID-19 vaccines, the department relies on scientific and medical experts when formulating public health guidance and policies. These experts rely on data and provide information on all aspects of medical interventions. The Office of Communications team is not positioned to be able to advise on the technical, scientific aspects of COVID-19 vaccines and it is appropriate for management to direct the team to focus on their role.

FYI - I did view the video you referenced. It appears that Secretary Becerra misspoke and was actually discussing deaths associated with COVID-19, not the vaccines.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns and I encourage you to work with your management team to clarify your role and responsibility within the Office of Communications.

Respectfully,

Christine

Christine Siador, MPH
Assistant Director
California Department of Public Health
phone: (916) 584-6428
email: christine.siador@cdph.ca.gov



From: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 5:01 PM

To: Siador, Christine@CDPH <Christine.Siador@cdph.ca.gov>
Cc: Bay, Ali @CDPH <ali.bay@cdph.ca.gov>; Micek, Brian@CDPH <Brian.Micek@cdph.ca.gov>; McRae, Melinda@CDPH <Melinda.McRae@cdph.ca.gov>
Subject: HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra's COVID-19 Vaccines "Killing People..." Comment & Management's Retaliatory Actions for Me Reporting It

August 24, 2023

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Assistant Director

From: Ronald Owens
Information Officer 2 (IO2)
Office of Communications

Re: HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra's COVID-19 Vaccines "Killing People..." Comment & Management's Retaliatory Actions for Me Reporting It

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In closing I must note this sobering data. As of August 11, 2023, more than 1.5 million (precisely 1,585,094) people have been injured and there have been 35,911 deaths as a result of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Attachments

1. IO2 Ronald Owens' Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra's Concerning COVID-19 Vaccines 'Killing People' Comment email, April 18, 2022
2. IO2 Ronald Owens' FW: Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra's Concerning COVID-19 Vaccines 'Killing People' Comment, October 13, 2022
3. Supervisor Brian Micek's Response to E-mails from 10/13 and 4/18 email, October 20, 2022
4. IO2 Ronald Owens' (unsigned) IO2 Duty Statement, March, 2009
5. Supervisor Brian Micek's Conduct During August 22, 2023 Team Meeting email, August 23, 2023
6. Supervisor Brian Micek's Follow-up to Yesterday's 1:1 meeting - hostile work environment email, August 24, 2023

From: Owens, Ronald@CDPH
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Micek, Brian@CDPH <Brian.Micek@cdph.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: Counseling Memo

Hello Brian, I acknowledge receipt of said memo, am emphatically opposed to it and thus decline to sign it.

--ron

From: Micek, Brian@CDPH <Brian.Micek@cdph.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 9:17 AM
To: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Counseling Memo

Hi Ron,

I need to set a deadline for response to this memo. Can you sign or let me know that you're declining to sign the memo by Friday (9/29) of this week.

Thank you,

Brian

From: Micek, Brian@CDPH
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 12:07 PM
To: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>
Subject: Counseling Memo

Ron,

On Thursday September 21 we met to discuss the issuing of this counseling memo.

Please sign and submit back to me.

Thank you,

Brian

Brian E. Micek
Media Team Manager
California Department of Public Health, Office of Communications
www.cdph.ca.gov

California Department of Public Health
MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 21, 2023

TO: Ron Owens, Information Officer II
Office of Communications (Comms)

FROM: Brian Micek, Media Team Manager
Office of Communications

SUBJECT: Counseling Memorandum

This memo is to discuss your insubordinate and discourteous conduct. This memo is further intended to direct you in immediately correcting this concern. This documentation sets forth measures for addressing these issues in an effort to resolve them. This Counseling Memorandum is not intended to be disciplinary in nature.

On August 1, during a media team meeting, Melinda McRae, the Comms assistant deputy director, discussed the department's efforts to share information with the public and concerns about the impact conspiracy theories have on the department's communications. You expressed your personal views that perhaps there was truth to information that is contrary to the department's stance. Ms. McRae reminded you and the entire team that the responsibility of the Comms' media team is to report the facts and data and not to speculate beyond the information provided by the department's experts.

On August 17, during a media team meeting, Ali Bay, the Comms deputy director, discussed her role and that of the department's in response to an investigation that had resulted in news reports of misinformation and conspiracy theories. You replied directly to Ms. Bay twice in that meeting, stating that "all politicians lie" or words to that effect. Your comments were unwarranted and discourteous.

On August 18, at an all-staff meeting, Ms. Bay again discussed her role and that of the department's in response to an investigation that had resulted in news reports of misinformation and conspiracy theories. She reminded the team to not speculate about the matter and not to share information beyond the facts that were outlined in approved talking points.

On August 22, during a team meeting, you began to share your personal beliefs about the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in response to a media inquiry. Ms. Bay asked you to stop discussing your personal beliefs in the meeting. You continued to talk over her and argue your point which ultimately resulted in the meeting having to be shut down. In addition to the above reminders to not share personal beliefs, you were previously provided similar direction, specific to the COVID-19 vaccine. In October 2022, in response to your sharing personal beliefs about the COVID-19 vaccine with Ms. Bay, you were directed to stop sharing misinformation about the vaccine in the workplace.

You are again directed to separate your personal beliefs, including but not limited to those related to the COVID-19 vaccination, from your job duties at CDPH as an Information Officer II. The department relies on scientific and medical experts when formulating public health guidance and policies. The study and analysis of vaccine effectiveness, and the formulation of public health guidance is not within the scope of an Information Officer II.

Further, you are to speak in a matter that is respectful and professional to your colleagues and chain-of-command. You are to follow the direction provided, including the direction to not share personal beliefs at team meetings.

Your conduct during the team meeting was unacceptable and will not be tolerated by the Department. This memo is not intended to constitute adverse action. However, the Department may take adverse action against you for the incidents cited in this memo, as well as any future incidents.

This memo shall be placed in your Official Personnel File for a period of one (1) year, at which time you may request it be removed with management approval. Please sign below to indicate that you have received a copy of this memo, and that I have met with you to discuss its contents.

Ron Owens, Information Officer II
Comms

Date

Brian Micek, Media Team Manager
Comms

Date



From: Micek, Brian@CDPH <Brian.Micek@cdph.ca.gov>
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To: Owens, Ronald@CDPH <Ronald.Owens@cdph.ca.gov>
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Media Team Manager
California Department of Public Health, Office of Communications
www.cdph.ca.gov

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Ron Owens, Information Officer II

Date

Comms

Brian Micek, Media Team Manager
Comms

Date

Updated on October 19, 2023