

NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

November 27, 2017

Eric D. Hargan
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201
RE: FR Doc No: 2017-19501

Dear Acting Secretary Hargan:

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), I write in support of the nomination of Dawn Terashita Gastelum, MD, MPH, FACPM to serve on the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). NACCHO is the voice of the nearly 3,000 local health departments across the country. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work daily to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities.

Dr. Terashita serves as a Physician Specialist and Medical Epidemiologist for the Acute Communicable Disease Control Program for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, as well as the founder and Chief of the Healthcare Outreach Unit. This unit is responsible for acting as liaison between public health and all healthcare facilities, investigating healthcare outbreaks, coordinating the National Healthcare Safety Network LA County group, and serving as a consultant for healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) in the county. In this role, she manages the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity funding for HAIs, antimicrobial resistance, and Ebola and has worked to advance innovative programs to prevent and control HAIs through collaboration, persistence, and with a forward-thinking perspective that puts the work of her team at the forefront of local health departments doing this work.

Dr. Terashita's extensive expertise and experience in infectious diseases, internal medicine, epidemiology, public health, and particularly HAIs, would make her a valuable addition to the Committee. Her understanding of infection prevention and control, antibiotic stewardship, and reporting of HAI surveillance data, particularly at the intersection of public health and healthcare, will be invaluable to helping the committee make recommendations that are evidence-based, progressive, and realistic.

Furthermore, Dr. Terashita has shared this perspective through her participation on national, state, and local committees and is widely recognized and respected in her field. She has served on the governance committee and as a general council member on the Council for Outbreak Response: Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Pathogens (CORHA) since its inception. She sits on the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists HAI Standard Committee, where she helped to draft the *Standardized definition for Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) and recommendation for sub-classification and stratified reporting*. She has also been appointed to the NACCHO Infectious Disease and Prevention Control Workgroup and the California Department of Public Health Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Advisory Committee where she has been chair of both the Central Line

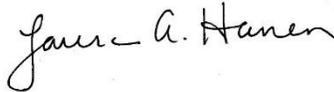


Associated Blood Stream Infections Reporting subcommittee and the Safe Injection Practices subcommittee.

As the frontline of public health and in a key position to facilitate a coordinated approach to HAIs, local health departments are a valuable partner for health care providers, hospitals, and researchers in combating HAIs and antimicrobial resistance. Considering the vital role of local health departments in protecting communities from HAIs and antimicrobial resistance, engagement of practitioners directly involved in the public health application of national recommendations is critical. Dr. Terashita's experience, substantial work in LA County, and advisory capacities enable her to provide comprehensive policy and program perspectives to provide advice and guidance to the Secretary of HHS; the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the Deputy Director of the Office of Infectious Diseases, CDC; the Director of the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), CDC; and the Director of the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, NCEZID, CDC, regarding the practice of infection control and strategies for surveillance, prevention, and control of healthcare-associated infections, antimicrobial resistance, and related events in settings where healthcare is provided.

Dr. Terashita would be a valuable addition to HICPAC, and we give our strongest recommendation for her candidacy. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Cantu, Director, Infectious Disease and Immunization at 202-507-4251 or mcantu@naccho.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura A. Hanen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Hanen, MPP
Interim Executive Director & Chief of Government Affairs

Attachment: Resume