



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

2022 - 24 BUDGET

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS BIENNIAL REPORT

Please note that this report should reflect accomplishments for the 2020-22 budget cycles (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022) and goals, initiatives, etc. for the upcoming two year budget cycle (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024). The next time this report will be updated will be for the 2024-2026 budget cycle (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026).

Please fill out all sections. Click on the gray boxes where prompted to enter text. Any sections that are not applicable can be notated as "N/A".

I. Commission Name/Title

The Health Council of Marin

II. Commission Purpose/Mandate

In a paragraph or two, please describe what is the purpose or mandate of the Board/Commission

The purpose of the Health Council of Marin is to advise the Board of Supervisors and the Marin County Department of Health & Human Services on public health and environmental health issue, to advocate for the development and allocation of resources to assure quality and accessible health care, and to educate regarding issues affecting the health and well being of citizens of Marin County.

Always reminding the Marin County Board of Supervisors of the The Precautionary Principle, derived from the Wingspread statement reads, "When activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically": Include in these measures the rights and need for accommodation of people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS) as well as people with electrohypersensitivity from electromagnetic fields (EMFs) and radiofrequency radiation (RFR).

III. Accomplishments for 2020-22 Budget Cycles

Provide a summary in 1-3 paragraphs or bulleted points of the Board/Commission's accomplishments for the 2020-22 budget cycle (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022)

- Presentation by Clarence Cryer, CEO of San Quentin State Prison, who spoke on the challenges and opportunities to build a healthy connection between San Quentin and the local community in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic

- Provide written feedback to the Board of Supervisors on matters of health raised in their 2021 Legislative Agenda. Issues addressed included the Shelter First initiative, preventative healthcare measures, environmental toxins and the public charge rules
- Presentation on Keeping Pesticides Out of Our Environment by Health Council President Ginger Souders-Mason. She was joined by Rika Gopinath of Yard Smart Marin; Suzanne Bontempo of Our Water Our World; and Howard Bunce of the Marin Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
- Viewing of a specially prepared video compilation of presentations given by Dr. Don Huber, Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology at Purdue University, to a group of farmers in 2015. The subject matter was the danger of the use of glyco-phosphates in pesticides and the genesis of prions in the soil where these chemicals are used. He reviewed the harmful effects on soil, plants, food, animals and the human body when foods treated with glyco-phosphates are consumed.
- Drafted and sent letter to BOS outlining dangers of glyco-phosphates and encouraging increased funding to organizations committed to reducing access to and use of glyco-phosphates
- Drafted and sent letter to BOS encouraging the investigation of local ordinances requiring employers to provide paid sick leave to employees quarantined due to Covid-19 and whether such an ordinance would be appropriate for our County
- Drafted and sent letter to BOS highlighting the critical dangers of the ongoing removal of copper telephone landline service by the telecom industry in the wake of planned and unplanned power outages
- Drafted and sent letter to BOS informing on newly discovered health effects of electromagnetic frequency (EMF) technology and recommending safeguarding the health of the people in our County from the harmful emissions of EMF technology to the extent possible
- Viewed a webinar on Air Pollution sponsored by the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment. Four Stanford-affiliated panelists discussed new evidence on the health impacts of exposure to wildfires and wildfire smoke, and the implications on what individuals and policymakers can do to reduce impacts
- Interview with Mark Squire, owner of Good Earth Natural and Organic Foods, who discussed health through food choices
- Michelle Perro, MD, presented to the Council on the dangers of quats, aka quarternary ammonium compounds, in sanitizing agents. This was a particularly timely topic as sanitization product use is on the rise due to the Covid pandemic. Dr. Perro, who has written articles on the topic, covered human dermatologic, respiratory and reproductive issues associated with quat use and discussed effective alternatives such as pine oil and hydrogen peroxide
- Council member Ross gave us an update on the state of fire prevention and fire suppression efforts in Marin County and as well as in California. She highlighted the grave dangers associated with cell towers in close proximity to trees and shrubbery old and/or dry due to the drought.
- Scott Reed, a health policy expert specializing in orthopedic devices, gave an update on developments in joint replacement surgery in the U.S. Key points included the increasing use of oxidized ceramic zirconium in knee and hip replacements, the declining use of titanium (now used in less than 1% of cases), better outcomes data with total hip replacements vs hemi replacements, and the importance of timing surgery as close to the time of injury as possible.
- Hosted a public forum on electromagnetic fields (EMF) and radiofrequency radiation (RFR) and their effects on people, flora and fauna. Keynote address was given by internationally recognized speaker, Dafna Tachover.

IV. Goals and Key Initiatives for 2022-24 Budget Cycle (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024)

List the Board/Commission’s most important goals (up to 5). These goals should be statements that reflect your highest priorities, which may or may not change over time.

For each goal below, list (up to 5) key initiatives (activities) the Board/Commission will be working towards to achieving a particular goal. Typically, initiatives are discrete activities that can be achieved over the course of one or two years.

Goal #1: Continue to research the effects of EMR/RFR on humans and the environment.

2022-24 Key Initiatives to Achieve Goal #1 – List up to 5 bullet points

- A. *Oppose*** efforts that would restrict local authority over telecommunications siting, zoning and placement within local jurisdictions, including small cell installation in local communities and public rights-of-way (eg.5G wireless technology). Local control increases the chances of opt-outs for people who do not want those emanations on their property, especially those who react adversely to them
- B. Inform local jurisdictions** of the recent legal finding by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals that the FCC’s unmodified renewal of old exposure standards was “arbitrary and capricious.”
- C. Continue to research and present** information regarding the adverse effects of 5G.
- D. Classification of RFR & EMR are Environmental Toxins and Protect the rights** of people with Electromagnetic Field (EMF) and Radio Frequency Radiation (RFR) sensitivities
- E. Support efforts to provide WIRED high-speed internet**, that we have already paid for in full, to seniors, rural communities, the San Rafael Canal area, schools and other underserved communities of Marin, including infrastructure development for underserved areas, training for underserved populations, competition and redundancy, and local franchise authority and public right-of-way management. (as long as 5G is not part of the efforts to bring internet to the citizenry mentioned above).

Goal #2: : Overall Continuity of Care for the Elderly, Poor, and Mentally Ill

2022-24 Key Initiatives to Achieve Goal #2 – List up to 5 bullet points

A. No Place like Home Initiative - Given passage of AB 1618 (the “No Place Like Home Initiative”) in 2016, which provides for a \$2 billion bond for the construction and rehabilitation of permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals with mental illness funded with existing Proposition 63 allocations, work to ensure that program guidelines acknowledge Marin’s unique challenges as it competes for statewide bond money allocations.

Provide information on construction and rehabilitation of housing using low VOC and other low and non-toxic products to help make the housing safe and available to people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities.

Make recommendations for electrical wiring and internet services that will protect people with Electromagnetic Field (EMF) and Radio Frequency Radiation (RFR) sensitivities.

B. Acute and Transitional Mental Health Care Services

Aging and Disability Resource Connection• Invite speakers from HHS, OES, to discuss the following:

- How can Telehealth Services and Electronic Visit Verification be utilized to support this program?
- Is there consideration to have some funds utilized for Assisted Living (AL) services (when needed) when home is no longer safe? E.g., County AL Housing Center.
- How to aid affected populations that may not have resources to properly prepare for emergency/disaster. For example, Medicare and Medi-Cal pay for most all DME and its “re-supply” post disaster but not for equipment to allow those affected to remain in home, such as a residential generator, ability to evacuate to location outside of affected area (safe use of evac centers), or the supply communication devices.
- Support and expand PGE programs for back-up batteries for people on life support.
- Ways to support improved benefits, wages, and training for caregivers to ensure that there are enough attendants so that aging and people with disabilities remain cared for in their homes

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C. Support SB 926 which provides ways to keep cash as a viable option in the California economy so that essential workers, caregivers and marginalized citizens without bank or credit cards can purchase vital services and products. Cash viability would also be necessary in the cases of natural disasters, internet crashes or power outages when credit/debit cards won’t work. –

- D. Encourage financial and civic support of Whistlestop’s “Healthy Aging Campus,” a centralized location for health services, socialization, activities, and low-income housing (a model for other cities, counties, and states to note).

Goal #3: Indoor Environmental Toxins: Support funding for further studies on the health effects of exposure to indoor environmental toxins.

2022-24 Key Initiatives to Achieve Goal #3 – List up to 5 bullet points

- A. Support legislation that mandates proper labeling on products and that overhauls weak federal legislation. Research and recommend ways in which to implement clean measures in all medical facilities (acute care, sub-acute, rehab/therapy, assisted living communities, etc.).
 - 1. Look for speakers such as Russ Hauser on the effects of environmental toxins: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/profile/russ-hauser/> - see relevant articles listed in his profile
- B. Support measures that protect all people from chemical exposure, especially people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS). including but not limited to listing all chemicals that comprise the ingredient “fragrance” in any given product

Goal #4: : Climate Change & Outdoor Environmental Toxins

2022-24 Key Initiatives to Achieve Goal #4 – List up to 5 bullet points

A. Support measures that address climate change:

- Encourage the Board of Supervisors to review the lawsuit filed by the South Coast Air Quality District - joined by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District - which challenges the Trump administration's rollback of the Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicles Rule.
- Support the use of more solar panels on public buildings & the tops of warehouses to generate clean electricity for the Grid. Consider the

reinstallation of electric trains to reduce the traffic jams that are also using up massive amounts of fossil fuels as cars sit and idle.

- B. Investigate and recommend measures to reduce outdoor toxins** such as air pollution emanating from dryers due to toxic fragranced detergents and fabric softeners.
- C. Continue to research** the connection between EMF/RFR and fires (overloaded poles, drying of foliage), and fires caused by Smart Meters.
- D. Research measures to suppress fires and** the toxic air pollution they produce, while recognizing that controlled burns, properly conducted, can reduce fire hazards. Support accelerated efforts to reduce overgrown dry foliage and combustible materials in Open Space and overgrown empty lots throughout Marin (the use of hand-clearing, goats, and prescribed burns

Goal #5: Recognition and Treatment of People with Disabilities

2022-24 Key Initiatives to Achieve Goal #5 – List up to 5 bullet points

- A. Convey that recent legislation** has mandated that agencies designate local NGOs to assist with people with disabilities during emergencies such as earthquake, fire, and utility shut-offs.
- B. Connect with MCIL and other agencies and institutions and ask their assistance** with measures such as maintaining copper landlines for people with disabilities, many of whom cannot deal with or afford cell phones, are electrohypersensitive, and/or are hearing impaired. Caption Call phones only work on copper landlines.
- C. Encourage training of emergency personnel** in appropriate handling of people with environmental disabilities—for example, not wearing fragrances, turning off cell phones, and not idling ambulances while loading passengers.
- D. Address concern that many blue zone spaces** are not large enough for growing sizes of wheelchairs and other electronic conveyances

V. Key Challenges and Issues

Please list any challenges in achieving your 2022-24 budget cycle goals.

1. The general lack of knowledge within the community.
2. The economic drive behind untested innovation and rush to install untested systems.

VI. Additional Board/Commission Comments

We appreciate the Board of Supervisors' and staff's efforts to protect its citizenry via ordinances.

VII. Department Comments

If applicable, please provide any comments from the County department that this board/commission works with.