

The Health Council of Marin
Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, July 24, 2012
Marin General Hospital
250 Bon Air Road, Conference Center
Greenbrae, CA 94904

Members Present: Ann Spake (President), Carrie Asman, Connie Barker, Allan Blau, Marvin Mars, Ruth McCambridge, Jennifer Rienks, Sandy Ross, Barbara Selby, Derice Seid Tao, Barbara Wientjes

Members Absent: Sarah Koenig, Pat Krantzler, Jacob Leone, Karin Ludwig, Kathleen Richard

Guests: Sparkie Spaeth (Marin HHS), Matt Krainz, Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: Agenda; Minutes of the June 24, 2012 meeting; Decision of the American Academy of Environmental Medicine opposing installation of SmartMeters; “Health Risks associated with SmartMeters” by Poki Stewart Namkung; Ordinance No. 3576; Ordinance No. 3552; presentation by Barbara Wientjes “Energy Efficient Lighting – CFL bulbs, LED bulbs – Health and Environmental Concerns;” “Health Concerns Associated with Energy Efficient Lighting and their Electromagnetic Emission” by Dr. Magda Havas; “Environmental and Health Concerns Associated with Compact Fluorescent Lights” by Magda Havas and Tom Hutchinson; “SmartMeter Update for Health Council of Marin” by Dr. Sandy Ross

1. **Call to Order:** Ann Spake, Health Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.
2. **Approval of the minutes of the June 24, 2012 Regular Meeting:** Allan Blau asked for a change in Item 11 of the minutes to state that he had suggested a fact-finding visit to the Sonoma lab in Santa Rosa by members of the HCM. This was agreed and Carrie Asman and Marvin Mars volunteered to accompany Allan Blau on this visit. Sandy Ross moved to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2012 meeting with Allan Blau’s change. Derice Seid Tao seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Introductions:** All members and guests introduced themselves.
4. **Public Comment:** None.
5. **President’s Report:** President Ann Spake reported the following:
 - a. Dr. Larry Meredith has contacted President Spake to set up a phone conference with him on Thursday. He is interested in finding ways to work together with the Health Council as he wants to have a good working relationship. President Spake will report back to the HCM regarding this phone conference at the next meeting.
 - b. David Haskell has contacted President Spake with regard to his interest in *Healthy Eating and Active Living*, a County program. He has a PowerPoint presentation that he is very eager to give to the HCM so that the HCM is aware of what he is doing and what he thinks is important for the HCM to know about and support. As there was no objection, President Spake will invite him to present at the September meeting.
 - c. Carrie Asman suggested that HCM’s educational material be placed on HCM’s County webpage for the benefit of the public in keeping with the HCM’s stated educational mission. Sparkie Spaeth explained that the County was currently redesigning the entire County website. Loretta Rogers stated that until the County website redesign is complete, changes can be made to the current HCM webpage and links to educational materials can be posted there. There was general discussion. President Spake suggested that this item be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** None.
7. **HHS Report:** Sparkie Spaeth reported that the recruitment for the Public Health Officer position closed as of July 6, 2012. She has been informed that six candidates have passed the MQs. Interviews will take place the last week of August and first week of September.
8. **June Task Force Updates:**
Environmental Health
 - Barbara Wientjes gave a presentation on the health impact of fluorescent bulbs and LED lights. Her presentation is appended to these minutes. This presentation was followed by a demonstration of the amounts of "dirty" electricity, microwaves, etc. emitted by CFL bulbs, halogens, LEDs and incandescent bulbs and the effectiveness of Stetzer filters.
 - Dr. Sandy Ross gave an update regarding SmartMeters. This was followed by general discussion. She gave information regarding how to opt-out of the SmartMeter. Also, she advised that the current legal process regarding the reduction or elimination of opt-out fees is still on-going with the CPUC and a decision is due in January 2013. There will be four public meetings in California on this issue, the nearest one in Santa Rosa on a date to be announced. A copy of Dr. Ross' presentation is appended to these minutes.
 - Dr. Sandy Ross presented a motion from the Environmental Health Committee, requesting that the HCM ask the BOS to request that a HCM member be placed on the Marin General Hospital building committee. As the motion came from committee, it did not require a second. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Dr. Sandy Ross presented a motion from the Environmental Health Committee that the HCM send another letter to the BOS supporting our prior recommendation on avoiding residential development in close proximity to major roads and freeways and the retention of the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act). President Spake stated that this motion is related to the fact that the County will have its scoping session on August 9th to consider amendments to the County-wide plan with regard to housing. The HCM is urging the BOS to keep in mind air quality requirements, recommending a minimum of 500 ft. separation of housing from major roadways and freeways. There was brief discussion. President Spake passed around a copy of the original letter. The motion passed unanimously.

Access to Care: Jennifer Rienks presented the following updates:

- She emailed Dr. Craig Lindquist regarding the indicators that the County is looking at to monitor the transition to the Partnership Health Plan. He has asked for more detail as to what those indicators might be. She will continue to follow up.
- She sent an email to Gary Najarian following up on HCM questions regarding drug and alcohol treatment services. There was a lot of data HCM was hoping to see such as ER admissions for alcohol and/or drugs for different age groups and ethnicities, etc. especially drug use among seniors as we want to provide services for them. This is information HCM would like to have before making recommendations to the BOS.
- She had the results of the Access to Care Survey. There were areas that stood out such as the difficulties adolescents on MediCal experience in getting psychiatric services. There are really long waits, e.g. two months or more. The same difficulties are experienced by adults. She will write this up. Barbara Wientjes commented that reimbursements to pharmacists have been reduced which results in reduced access to care for many patients. There was discussion regarding the impact of the new health care laws on the poor and disabled.

Ad Hoc:

- President Spake passed around letters regarding the status of Safe Chemicals Act and now is the time to write to Congress people.

- Connie Barker reported on the HCM request to the BOS for an extension of time regarding the Public Health lab for more inquiry. The HCM would like to delay a decision until November. A letter from the HCM to that effect has been drafted and she will report on any response. Connie Barker also reported that the letter and response to questions that the HCM received last month from Dr. Meredith had been reviewed and there are more questions remaining. She will follow up.
 - Allan Blau reported that he and Marvin Mars visited the Sonoma County lab in Santa Rosa. They both reported on their findings. These will be written up and presented to the HCM. Jennifer Rienks reported that she is a member of an ad hoc committee that the BOS is forming to study this issue. Marin County has shifted its focus to the Solano lab. If Marin chooses Solano as its regional lab, it would not be on a fee-paying basis, but on a joint-governing basis. The first meeting of this ad hoc committee will be on August 6th and will include a trip to the Solano lab. Jennifer will join the HCM's Ad Hoc Committee for this issue.
9. **Adjourn:** Jennifer Rienks motioned to adjourn. Barbara Selby seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.