

The Health Council of Marin
Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, June 26, 2012
Marin General Hospital
250 Bon Air Road, Conference Room C
Greenbrae, CA 94904

Members Present: Ann Spake (President), Carrie Asman, Allan Blau, Jacob Leone, Karin Ludwig, Marvin Mars, Jennifer Rienks, Sandy Ross, Barbara Selby, Derice Seid Tao, Barbara Wientjes

Members Absent: Connie Barker, Sarah Koenig, Pat Krantzler, Ruth McCambridge, Kathleen Richard,

Guests: Sparkie Spaeth (Marin HHS), David McGuinness (Senior Placement Consultant with ESP), Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes of the May 22, 2012 meeting, Goals 2012-13, By-laws, History, Marin General Hospital Behavioral Health Program presentation, HHS Mental Health and Substance Use Services Integration presentation, two Substance Use Services brochures, HIV/AIDS in Marin County – an Epidemiologic Profile, Dr. Larry Meredith’s letter of June 26, 2012, with accompanying answers to the Health Council of Marin’s questions regarding the proposed closing of the Public Health laboratory

1. **Call to Order:** Ann Spake, Health Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.
2. **Approval of the minutes of the May 22, 2012 Regular Meeting:** Allan Blau moved to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2012 meeting. Jacob Leone 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 that late this afternoon she and the rest of the Health Council members received a letter from Dr. Larry Meredith along with his answers to some of the questions submitted to him by the Health Council regarding the proposed closing of the Public Health laboratory. She doubted that members would have had sufficient time to review the response from Dr. Meredith prior to our meeting.
6. **Treasurer’s Report:** Karin Ludwig reported that she still has to meet with Allan Blau to effect the transfer of Treasurer’s materials from him to her.
7. **HHS Report:** Sparkie Spaeth reported the following:
 - a. She sent the HCM members a link to shingles information, per their request. She learned from the Public Health Institute that the incidence of shingles has increased but mainly in older adults. Vaccination is recommended for this age group.
 - b. The Public Health Officer recruitment has begun. Recruitment closes on July 6, 2012. The announcement is on the County’s website.
 - c. She provided the HCM members with an epidemiological profile of HIV/AIDS in Marin County. The County has an HIV/AIDS specialty clinic at the Kerner Blvd. campus. The County receives Ryan White funding through the San Francisco Department of Health; it amounts to approximately \$700,000. The County just got a new CDC Prevention grant through San Francisco and with that funding the County has hired a new HIV/AIDS testing and outreach counselor. She then reviewed the data on incidence of HIV/AIDS in Marin.

- d. H&HS has studied a lot of data regarding healthy eating and active living, deciding what the priorities are for our community. California is sending funds to local health departments to build infrastructure to deal with chronic disease. The first priority is healthy eating. Marin County will be receiving \$260,000 from USDA through the state to devote to this task.
 - e. If any the of members have any questions about any H&HS programs, they are to tell Ann Spake and she will convey them to Sparkie who will do her best to respond.
8. **Orientation – Council By-laws:** Sandy Ross reviewed the history of the Health Council of Marin and its role and responsibilities. This is covered in the hand-out. She emphasized that the most important service that the HCM provides is to bring to the attention of the BOS and Dept. of Health critical issues that are not recognized by the medical mainstream. She provided examples.
9. **Regarding the by-laws,** the HCM’s purpose is to advise the BOS and H&HS on health issues, 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. No more of half of the HCM members can be providers. This is to assure that both providers and recipients of service are represented. She reviewed some of the by-laws. A copy has been sent to all members already.
10. **Goals / Annual Report:** Jacob Leone reviewed the HCM goals for new members and as a refresher for the old members. A copy of the goals has already been distributed to all members.
11. **Public Health Lab Ad Hoc Committee Request:** Carrie Asman made the following motion: “In order to be able to make an informed recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Public Health lab closure, the Ad Hoc Committee asks the Health Council to support a request to the Board of Supervisors for additional time to adequately gather and review all information pertinent to the proposed lab closure.” This motion was seconded by Allan Blau. President Ann Spake gave a little background to this request. There was brief discussion. Allan Blau 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. The motion passed unanimously.
12. **Task Force Meetings:** The Environmental Health and Access to Care Task Forces met separately for about 30 minutes.
13. **Reports from the two Task Force Meetings:**
 - a. **Jennifer Reinks** reported for the Access Task Force. The Task Force decided the following:
 - i. Follow up with Gary Najarian with questions that we had from his presentation to the HCM so we can go forward with recommendations to the BOS. This covered the various data, trends on alcohol and drug use plus data on use across age groups, especially drug use among seniors as we want to provide services for them.
 - ii. Follow up with Dr. Craig Lindquist regarding the indicators that the County is looking at to monitor the transition to the Partnership Health Plan.
 - iii. Encourage the County to encourage the appropriate stakeholders to engage in some long-term planning for the provision of mental health services.
 - iv. Find out more information regarding mental health services that the County needs to provide through the educational system, particularly for children afflicted with autism.
 - v. The Task Force will provide President Ann Spake with a summary of the results of their Access to Care Survey.
 - b. **Sandy Ross** reported for the Environment Task Force.

- i. For July, Barbara Wientjes will look into and report back regarding compact fluorescent bulb and LED lights.
- ii. Will ask the BOS to suggest to Marin General that they have a member of the HCM on their building committee in terms of making the hospital accessible to people with environmental illness, electro-magnetic and chemical sensitivities. We will refer to the report from 2001 that has percentages in Marin. We will present this resolution in July.
- iii. Sandy Ross will give the HCM an update on Smart Meters in July.
- iv. Carrie and Barbara are working on putting together a panel to be scheduled for next March to deal with research and information on toxicity in air, water and food, Lyme, heavy metals, etc. Julie Griffiths was suggested as one of the speakers.
- v. Will come back with a suggestion in July to remind the BOS subsequent to the letter Ann Spake already sent regarding housing close to transit.

14. **July 2012 HCM Meeting:** President Ann Spake reported that the July meeting will be an update. No presentations are scheduled. Members who have agenda items should send them to Ann.

15. **Announcements:**

- a. Karin Ludwig brought to the attention of the HCM the Marin Community Foundations Human Development Report. It provides an interesting portrait of Marin. She provided some history, background and a review of the contents of the report. More copies can be obtained.
- b. Jennifer Reinks reported on the settlement of \$21.5 million with Sutter. She also wants to put on the agenda the renewal of the 30-year lease between Marin Health Care District and Marin General Corporation. She provided some background. Jennifer will make a presentation regarding this matter to the HCM.

16. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.