



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
COMMUNITY HEALTH &  
PREVENTION SERVICES

## Marin HIV/AIDS Care Council Meeting MINUTES

(Approved 03/12/08)

March 12, 2008

4:30p.m. - 6:30p.m.

899 Northgate Drive - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
San Rafael, CA 94903

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**Council Members Present:** Roy Bateman, Will Boemer, Wade Flores, James Frazier, Peter Hansen, Walter Kelley, Jennifer Malone, David Witt.

**Council Members Absent:** Jeff Byers, (AE), Pam Lynott (LOA).

**Staff Present:** Cicily Emerson, Deborah Gallagher, Chris Santini, Michael Schieble, Sparkie Spaeth.

**Public :** Lisa Albert – Sonoma County AIDS Commission, Jon Botson – Marin County Specialty Clinic, Shari Brenner – Sonoma County, Kevin Cronin – Marin AIDS Project, Herb Light – Project ReConnect, Craig Richard, Scott Voelte – Project ReConnect.

### I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:35p.m. by Co-Chair Flores.

### II. Roll Call

Roll was called by Council Support and quorum was established with 7 of 9 Members present. CM Hansen arrived at 4:38p.m. after roll call. The final attendance was 8 of 9 Council Members present. CM Byers (AE) was absent and excused. CM Lynott is on a Leave on Absence (effective 03/04/08).

### III. Review and Approval of Agenda – VOTE

The agenda was reviewed. CM Frazier motioned to approve the agenda as published.

A voice **vote** was conducted. All were in Favor. None were Opposed. The agenda was approved unanimously.

### IV. Review and Approval of February 13, 2008 Minutes – VOTE

CM Boemer indicated that "**Public** : Jon Boston – Marin County Specialty Clinic" was misspelled, the correct spelling is "Botson".

CM Witt made motion to approve the February 13, 2008, minutes with correction. CM Kelley seconded.

A voice **vote** was conducted. All were in Favor. None were Opposed. The February 13, 2008, minutes were approved with correction.

### V. General Announcements

CM Malone announced that she would need to leave the meeting early. Having reviewed the agenda, she added that there were votes scheduled that would be impacted.

Public Comment: None

### VI. Public Comment – None

## **VII. Co-Chair Report**

Co-Chair Boemer 1.) Reported that the CAEAR Coalition conducted their pilot meeting on February 29, 2008, in Chicago. The focus of the community meeting was “Staying in Care”. “What should exist to stay in care?” The meeting had (80) total attendees. Fourteen Consumers spoke at the open microphone. A “tool kit” has been developed for community meetings, which may benefit the Marin Care Council and the Community Outreach and Advocacy Committee as they host community forums. 2.) Introductions of Public Visitors and Council Members. Since many of the Public present were associated with the Sonoma County – “Project ReConnect” presentation, Co-Chair Boemer led a round-robin introduction of the Marin County Council Members, Council Support, and Visitors.

Public Comment: None

## **VIII. Membership Committee Report**

Committee Co-Chair Frazier reported on the March 4, 2008, Membership Committee Meeting. 1.) Two of the Applicants for Care Council were present; Kevin Cronin and Craig Richard. 2.) Work was done on a Council Exit Interview. A set of questions was identified and need to be finalized. 3.) CM Lynott had requested a leave, which started on March 4, 2008. 4.) Copies of the updated and reformatted “Marin HIV/AIDS Care Council New Member Orientation – Handbook/Resource Guide” were available. Prior copies of the handbook would be exchanged for a current copy. 5.) CM Boemer and CM Frazier attended the San Francisco Membership Meeting on March 10, 2008.

Public Comment: None

## **IX. Community Outreach and Advocacy Report**

Co-Chair Witt reported 1.) The next scheduled COAC meeting will be the fourth Tuesday of the month, March 25, 2008. 2.) The next scheduled Community Forum will be in May 2008.

Public Comment: None

## **X. Report from Project Reconnect**

Lisa Albertson from the Sonoma County AIDS Commission gave an overview of Project ReConnect and introduced the Presenters. Some of the introductory comments were; “The old model no longer serves our Clients”, “Getting out of themselves and their four walls is part of ReConnect”, and “For many [ Long Term Survivors] AIDS is no longer our primary concern”.

In Sonoma County 1,200 to 1,300 Consumers are in care.

The ReConnect mission: “The ReConnect task force works to support people with HIV to re-imagine our futures. We seek to address social, emotional and vocational needs and to equip individuals to make positive steps to explore new possibilities which lead to satisfying, meaningful and healthy lives.”

The presentation followed a handout titled; “Re-Imagining the Future Through Project ReConnect”. “Tools for Providers and Clients to Re-engage with the Community”. The presentation is scheduled for the EIP Conference in Long Beach, California on April 15, 2008.

Herb Light and Scott Voelte presented:

- Project Reconnect is: engagement and purpose, optimism and excitement, self sufficiency, a paradigm shift from dying to living, adding to your life and not giving up anything, and Consumer designed and individualized.
- A time line of the AIDS Epidemic was presented. In 2006 project ReConnect was named and introduced. In 2007 ReConnect requirement was included in all Sonoma County Service Provider contracts. In 2008 Reconnect Advocates increase participation. It is anticipated that in 2010 Sonoma County will lose Ryan White – Part A funding and that Consumers will be fully reconnected to the larger community.
- A matrix worksheet of the ReConnect resources already in the area.

- A concentric circle diagram of the ReConnect Community with the individual Consumer in the center.
- A worksheet using the circle diagram of the ReConnect Community to develop a “bridge program”. The exercise identifies individual needs and community activities and resources.
- Current Challenges.
- Project ReConnect is re-thinking, re-imagining, re-doing, and re-living.
- ReConnect benefits are psychological, personal, medical, and physical.
- Each Member of the ReConnect sphere; Individual [Consumer], Provider, and Community challenges and benefits were defined.
- ReConnect Mission.
- “What is Project ReConnect for Us”, lessons learned and contact information. A summary.

Questions and answers followed the presentation. Shari Brenner of Sonoma County participated in answering some of the questions. Sources of funding for the ReConnect project, questions about self-sufficiency, and culture change were the focus of the discussion.

The Marin Care Council was engrossed in the presentation and grateful for the efforts of the ReConnect Task Force. CM Bateman typified the response, “Really Impressed! Did this come out of the Sonoma Experience?” S. Spaeth commented, “The system [of care] is already narrowing. Sonoma County is way out front! [Marin County is] very interested in entertaining suggestions on contracts”.

Public Comment: C. Richard- “Thank You!”

## **XI. Epidemiology Presentation**

Deborah Gallagher, Epidemiologist from Marin Public Health presented, “Public Health, Surveillance, & Epidemiology” – “How they are related and what happens to the data”. The presentation followed a handout. The goal of the presentation was to have Council Members understand the public health model in Marin County, how epidemiology supports the model, and how the data is gathered and presented.

The presentation answered the question, “what is public health?” The vision is healthy people in healthy communities. The mission is promoting physical and mental health and the preventing disease, injury, and disability.

The public health model of assessment, policy development. and assurance as an on-going process was defined. As a result of the three core public health functions, ten essential services result.

The presentation included; public health surveillance, surveillance considerations, California names based HIV Reporting, a definition of epidemiology, ways to present epi-data, measures of disease – frequency and incidence, and limitations. The “HIV/AIDS in Marin County – Data as of February 21, 2008” (*See Attachment #1*) was reviewed and how the data is used for Ryan White application was detailed.

Questions and answers were taken during the presentation. A blank (green) reporting form titled, “Adult HIV/AIDS Confidential Case Report” was distributed as the source document of much of the data.

D. Gallagher concluded her presentation stating, “While surveillance and epidemiology can provide important and necessary information, they are only one piece of the puzzle. Additional information is often needed to make decisions that affect public health”.

Public Comment: None

## **XII. Division of Public Health Report**

C. Spaeth reported 1.) The Title 1 report to the EMA was filed and received. 2.) The County ha had to do a

5% reduction for FY 08/09 budget and is developing an additional 5% decrease scenario based on a total budget decrease of 10%. C. Emerson is an “extra hire” funded by the County. The decrease scenario may impact the availability of having county funds for Care Council support.

C. Emerson Announced that “Client Satisfaction Survey” results would be presented in April.

Public Comment: None

**XIII. Next Step – New Business**

- Diversity Training and Issues.
- 2008-'09 Allocation and additional funds.
- Review and evaluation of Infrastructure Work Group recommendations.
- Next Meeting April 9, 2008, 4:30p.m.-6:30p.m.

**XIV. Meeting Adjourned at 6:28p.m.**