



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Larry Meredith, Ph.D., Director

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMUNITY HEALTH &
PREVENTION SERVICES

Marin HIV/AIDS Care Council Meeting
MINUTES
(Approved 1/14/2009)
December 10, 2008
4:30p.m. - 6:30p.m.
3240 Kerner Blvd.
San Rafael, CA 94903

899 NORTHGATE DRIVE, SUITE 415
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903
PHONE: (415) 473-4340
FAX: (415) 473-6266

Council Members Present: Roy Bateman, Will Boemer, Kevin Cronin, Robert Ferguson, Wade Flores, James Frazier, Peter Hansen, Jennifer Malone, Craig Richard, David Witt.

Council Members Absent: Jeff Byers (LOA), Walter Kelley (AU).

Staff Present: Deborah Gallagher, Chris Santini, Michael Schieble, Jenny Stephens, Sparkie Spaeth.

Public: Jon Botson – Marin County Specialty Clinic, Elaine Flores, John J. Grima, MHSA – Heath Clinic Administrator, Steve Manley – SF Care Council Co-Chair, Norge Santana, Greg Zhovreboff – SF Care Council Support.

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:45.m. by Council Chair Flores.

II. Roll Call

Roll was called by Council Support. Quorum was established with 9 of 11 Members present. CM Witt arrived at 4:51p.m. and increased the attendance to 10 of 11 Members present. CM Byers (LOA) is on a medical leave of absence (December 8, 2008 e-mail). CM Kelley (AU) was absent and unexcused.

Roll Call was followed by an audio recorder sound check due to the new meeting location.

III. Review and Approval of Agenda – VOTE

The agenda was reviewed. Chair Flores stated a request that the “XI. Division of Public Health Report” be moved to an earlier time in the agenda. The agenda order was edited to, “VII. Division of Public Health Report.

CM Boemer motioned to approve the edited agenda. CM Frazier seconded.

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

IV. Review and Approval of October 8, 2008 Minutes – VOTE

Note: 4:51p.m. Dr. Witt arrives and is acknowledged by the Chair.

CM Cronin requested that the “Next Step – CM Cronin to present access to care issues by category.” be edited. The topic was suggested as a possible agenda discussion item, not a report or presentation.

CM Richard made motion to approve the edited October 8, 2008, minutes. CM Hansen seconded.

A voice **vote** was conducted. Ayes were heard. None were Opposed. CM Boemer and CM Bateman Abstain. The October 8, 2008, edited minutes were approved.

V. General Announcements

Chair Flores announced that the San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council will meet on December 12, 2008, from 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. to develop a three year comprehensive plan. Goals and objectives will be identified, which will include the change from the REGI database to AIRES database. Marin Care Council Members were encouraged to attend.

CM Boemer reported on the December 10, 2008, C.A.E.A.R. Coalition monthly conference call, which consisted of ten Coalition Members. Comments were made about the pending change in public policy, including an AIDS Czar after January 20, 2008.

CM Boemer stated, "I would like it put into the record that www.change.gov which is the transition, Obama transition site is open to input from anybody and everybody." "...commentary around the [C.A.E.A.R.] group is that it is not just for show."

1.) Council Members were encouraged to register comments on www.change.gov. The website is open to anyone who would like to communicate ideas, concerns, or suggestions, like an AIDS Czar and to provide input to President Elect Obama and his Transition Team. CM Malone suggested that the Care Council as a whole submit a message. CM Bateman asked if the C.A.E.A.R. Coalition had developed a paper of "starting points" that the Council could endorse. CM Boemer agreed to look into it

CM Boemer continued that there were additional comments on:

2.) AIDS and housing. 3.) It appears to be likely that there will be a three year extension of the Ryan White Act. 4.) The new Presidential Administration will have healthcare reform as a high priority "for Daschle". CM Boemer stated, "... [Daschle] who will probably be the new H.H.S. Secretary. 5.) A National AIDS strategy in the first 100 Days. 6.) CM Boemer commented, "There was a wrap-up of the Consumer Initiative". Starting in May of 2008, the C.A.E.A.R. Coalition conducted fifteen Consumer meetings. The West Coast included Los Angeles and Palm Springs. Consumer feedback has also been received from an on-line survey (www.caear.org / HIV Consumer Services Survey). CM Boemer, "It is a really good effort to get the commentary and input from the Consumer into the dialogue".

CM Malone announced that M.A.P. will host a Holiday party on December 19, 2008, from 3:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. Clients will receive Holiday gift baskets made up by students and families from Mill Valley Middle School. A sign-up is required for special Holiday food boxes.

CM Flores announced on December 15, 2008, from 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. at 25 Van Ness Blvd. in San Francisco, there is a meeting of the San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council to discuss the three year comprehensive plan. Chair Flores recognized Greg Zhovreboff, the Director of the San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council Support. Mr. Zhovreboff commented, "...what we are doing this time around is updating, it is not a fully recreated plan..." and he continued with an informative overview of the process to develop the goals and objectives of the three year comprehensive plan. CM Flores encouraged Marin Care Council Members to attend.

CM Malone announced that M.A.P. is receiving a daily donation of pastries from Starbucks.

Public Comment: None

VI. Public Comment – None

VII. Division of Public Health Report

Sparkie Spaeth 1.) S. Spaeth reported that the Division of Public Health is working on budget exercises of a 10% budget cut scenario for 2009-'10, in 5% increments. In the current budget year, 2008-'09, budget cut scenarios had been previously developed. S. Spaeth commented, "...the State has not figured out what it's doing yet." "...I have not heard that there is anything that will [*tape inaudible*] affect the County." 2.) S. Spaeth introduced John J. Grima, MHSA – Health Clinics Administrator (Director). J. Grima welcomed the Care Council to the new Health and Wellness Campus by saying, "welcome to the Campus". J. Grima stated, "...I've been here since August [2008] as the Health Clinic Administrator and I think that most of you know that we have now combined all of our Specialty Clinics, which include; HIV, TB, STD's, and immunizations with the OB-GYN Clinic and we are all located on this campus. It has been an interesting process combining all the clinics, adopting policies and procedures that fit across the board, so its' been a kick". Mr. Grima is a native San Franciscan and last employed with the Haight / Ashbury Clinic in San Francisco. J. Grima commented, "...I'm looking forward to working with HIV Program[s] here. I have a long history with HIV care.... and welcome to the Campus". S. Spaeth added, "We are so happy to have you here...the HIV and STD Programs located together, work better and meet the national model." Some of the other services available on the Campus are; W.I.C. (Women, Infants, and Children), Children and Family Services, Mental Health, Medication Clinic, Youth and Family Mental Health Services, and the Marin Specialty Clinic.

VIII. Chair Report

Chair Flores 1.) Council Members were recognized and awarded Certificates of Appreciation for the completion of their terms and service; Will Boemer – Care Council Co-Chair, Wade Flores – Care Council Co-Chair, Peter Hansen – Membership Committee Co-Chair, and Dr. David Witt – Community Outreach and Advocacy Committee Co-Chair. 2.) Chair Flores commented on his experience being interviewed and thanked the Marin Independent Journal for the World AIDS Day coverage. Copies were available of the Marin Independent Journal article, “Beating The Odds – San Rafael Survivor among hundreds in Marin”. 3.) Greg Zhovreboff and Steve Manley were introduced and asked to give a brief introduction.

Greg Zhovreboff introduced himself as the Director of HIV Health Planning Council Support. He has been in the San Francisco position for three months and was in a similar role for five years in Santa Clara County. Council Support is housed at Shanti and has a staff of five. This is Shanti’s 35th year of working with people with AIDS / HIV and breast cancer. The San Francisco EMA is unique in that it is the only EMA with a Consumer Rights Advocate. The Advocate helps guide a Client with a grievance with a particular Agency through the process and often resolves issues informally. Often, the long formal process that is time consuming is avoided.

G. Zhovreboff noted that San Francisco is the only EMA in Northern California and it is surrounded by some of the largest Transitional Grant Areas. G. Zhovreboff described the importance of working together after the reauthorization and stated, “...figuring out how we, as such a large EMA can support the other communities we have cross over with. I’m sure we have Clients that go out to Sonoma or come in to Marin....”.

G. Zhovreboff announced that the 8th Annual CAEAR Coalition Partnership Awards Dinner is December 12, 2008, at 6:00p.m. at the Bently Reserve in San Francisco. The event is co-hosted by the San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council and CAEAR. The dinner will be followed by an awards presentation. Marin Care Council Members were invited to attend. G. Zhovreboff added, “.... this will be a great opportunity to meet all the Members of the San Francisco Council”.

Steve Manley introduced himself as a Co-Chair of the San Francisco HIV Health Planning Council. S. Manley commented, “... I’m a little bit jealous of your facility here because currently we are homeless.” “We are looking for a new facility.”

S. Manley encouraged the Marin Care Council Members to attend the San Francisco Council meetings the last Monday of each Month. There will not be a December meeting and the next meeting is the last Monday in January, January 26, 2008.

S. Manley added, “Please feel free to attend. I think our Council as a whole, we really like to hear from San Mateo and [the] Marin areas and Counties because it’s very easy for us to assume that a lot of our issues are the same and a lot of them are. We all suffer from the same pain of budget cuts and those kinds of things, but there are some areas that are unique and different. I know a couple of them from Marin and Wade [Chair Flores] and Sparkie [Spaeth] do a great job of bringing those to our attention and that’s very important. I want you to feel free to join in.”

S. Spaeth added that the Marin Care Council is looking forward to hosting the San Francisco EMA in the coming year.

CM Bateman asked G. Zhovreboff if the Consumer Advocate has heard enough from Marin Client’s and researched unmet needs and barriers to service. G. Zhovreboff responded, “I don’t think so to be honest.” “I don’t know if there were any Clients from Marin last year.” He continued that Consumer Advocate position has been expanded to include data collection and reporting and going forward to working with and doing outreach to the Program Managers and their equivalents in San Mateo and Marin. In the past, the scope may have been limited to Ryan White- funded programs, but going forward assistance will be given to Clients with any program funded through the San Francisco Department of Public Health, including Prevention and Ryan White Programs. G. Zhovreboff stated, “...that the Clients that are seen are a subset of the Client population because they have multiple diagnosis or issues that would otherwise make it difficult to go through the [formal] bureaucratic process.” S. Manley added, “Joe [Joe Lynn - phone:415-863-8131] has no official authority or power to force anyone to do anything, but he is an extremely good mediator.” Issues are often quickly resolved through an informal process with the Providers.

S. Manley asked if there were any cases that the Council was aware of from Marin. CM Malone was aware of a Marin Client that had used the Consumer Advocate service.

CM Boemer and Chair Flores stated that there was a requirement that Marin Council Members attend a San Francisco meeting.

Public Comment: None

IX. Membership Committee Report.

Membership Co-Chair Frazier 1.) Introduced and read the qualifications of Care Council Applicant, Norge Santana. Chair Flores added favorable comments about N. Santana and his help with the most recent community forum.

CM Frazier motioned to approve Norge Santana as a member of the Care Council. No second required.

Public comment: None

A roll call voted was conducted and Norge Santana was unanimously approved as a Member of the Care Council.

VOTE:

AYES: Roy Bateman, Will Boemer, Kevin Cronin, Robert Ferguson, Wade Flores, James Frazier, Peter Hansen, Jennifer Malone, Craig Richard, David Witt.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

2.) Co-Chair Frazier reported that recruitment activities continue by the Membership Committee. Females are needed, either HIV+ or HIV-. Chair Flores added that direct recruiting is needed by all Council Members and applicants can be either HIV infected or affected. 3.) Co-Chair Frazier reported that the Membership Committee was reviewing the policies on absences [meeting attendance] and probation.

Public comment: None

X. Community Outreach and Advocacy Report.

COAC Co-Chair Boemer gave a recap of the November 6, 2008, Community Forum. Laura Thomas spoke about Ryan White information and Paul Dalton spoke about medication and treatment. Both speakers were thanked. Co-Chair Boemer noted that the Community Outreach and Advocacy Committee had not met to debrief on the Forum. A recap of the Client surveys was distributed and the "raw data" and "PC" [Public Comments] were reviewed. Follow-up requested by a Client who wrote a question on a survey was assigned to CM Witt. Co-Chair Witt added, "...this was the first South County Forum. It drew from Novato and San Rafael and from all around the County." Questions about the data followed and will be reviewed at the January meeting of the Community Outreach and Advocacy Committee. S. Spaeth commented, "I appreciate the data collected."

Public Comment: C. Santini announced that in February 2009 the Client Satisfaction Survey would be conducted and completed on February 22, 2009. Clients in the Care database that are "share Clients and are willing to have mail [sent] to their homes will receive a survey in the mail and for completing it , will receive \$20 Safeway gift card". "65 people have completed the survey in the past". CM Cronin asked about soliciting feedback from non-share Clients. A discussion followed during the Public Comment. It was agreed that the Client Satisfaction Survey process would be discussed at the January Council meeting.

XI. Discussion and Draft of 2009 Council Calendar.

J. Stephens provided a draft of the 2009 Annual Calendar. Additions included: 1.) June 2009 – Training and preparation for the budget allocation. 2.) February 2009 - Report / update from the Infrastructure Work Group. 3.) CM Witt – Scheduled budget "check-ins", so possible budget cuts are "pre-discussed". 4.) CM Bateman – Issues related to funding sources, information on the impact of the recession, and insurance issues. 5.) S. Spaeth – Impact on MediCal budget and number of people enrolled. www.memib.gov. 6.) CM

Cronin – Issues with Clients, e.g. people coming out of jail. 7.) Chair Flores – June 2009 “Top 5 priority changes.”. 8.) CM Bateman Joint Prevention / Care Council meeting (target May 2009). 9.) Report from COAC on “under served” and a “different approach to outreach”. 10.) CM Batemam – Report from County Lobbyist on funding changes to MediCal and Social Services. 11.) CM Malone – Report on “fees for services”, new fees including insurance co-pays, deductibles, and issues. 12.) CM Witt – a standing agenda item: “Changes in funding cuts and the economic [impact], benefits [impact], and [impact to] Social Services Providers.” 13.) Chair Flores – Fall 2009 San Francisco EMA visit to Marin. Note: September change of San Francisco Council Chairs. 14.) Chair Flores – Report by Bill Bloom. Repeat San Francisco presentation on budget cuts.

Public Comment: None

XII. Update and Report on Monthly Spending.

C. Santini distributed a report titled; “Expenditure Tracking 2008-2009”.

C. Santini reported that there continues to be a shift of unspent funds, approved by the Council from the Residential Substance Abuse category to the Outpatient Substance Abuse category. The Food category money will be spent in the budget year and the cards may be carried over to 2009-'10. Extra food cards are scheduled for distribution in November and December. Food cards will also be need for the Client Satisfaction Survey.

Public Comment: None

XIII. Care Council Meeting Location Change.

The consensus was to meet in January 2009 at the Wellness Campus.

Public Comment: None

XIV. New Business

Public Comment: None

Next Step –

- Agenda Item: CM Witt - Report on how changes in the economy are impacting health insurance.
- Agenda Item: C. Santini – (January 2009) Marin County Client Satisfaction Survey. Discuss process and reaching non-share Clients.
- Agenda Item: Marin County Lobbyists to report on (possible) changes to Medical and Social Services that will impact Marin County.
- Agenda Item: S. Spaeth: Report on Marin County budget reduction scenarios 2009-'10. Outline impact to services in the 5% reduction plus additional 5% reduction. Discuss impact on Ryan White usage.
- All Council Members – www.change.gov Individual messages to President Elect Obama.
- WB – Research if the C.A.E.A.R. Coalition has a transition statement that the Marin Care Council could endorse to President Elect Obama.
- WF– Report San Francisco New Member Orientation dates..
- JS - Name placard Norge Santana.
- JS – Post notice of Change of Meeting location on Website.
- DW – Respond the Client / Forum question.
- Tour of the Marin Health and Wellness Center.
- Develop messaging for Health and Wellness Center.
- Hosting the San Francisco EMA monthly meeting in 2009.
- Report from Infrastructure Work Group.

Next Meeting: January 14, 2009, 4:30p.m.-6:30p.m.

Parking Lot:

- Care Council self evaluation. Compare to mission statement.

XV. Meeting Adjourned at 6:24p.m.