

The Health Council of Marin

Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Marin General Hospital

250 Bon Air Road, Conference Room C

Greenbrae, CA 94904

Members Present: Ann Spake (President), Kent Angerbauer, Allan Blau, Connie Barker, Judith Coombes, Karin Ludwig, Marvin Mars, Jennifer Rienks, Barbara Selby

Members Absent: Jacob Leone, Sandy Ross, Paul Roye, Derice Tao, Barbara Wientjes

Guests: Sparkie Spaeth (HHS), Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: Agenda, "One Warm Coat" flyer, "Let's Get Ready for Obamacare!" flyer

1. **Call to Order:** President Spake called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. A quorum was achieved at 7:16 pm, at which time the meeting began officially.
2. **Introductions:** All members and guests introduced themselves.
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **Approval of the minutes of the December 3, 2013 Regular Meeting:** Marvin Mars moved to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2013 meeting without change. Allan Blau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **President's Report:**
 - a) President Spake reported that the HCM's legislative recommendations were presented to the Board of Supervisors at the Board's December 17, 2013 meeting. The recommendations were included in the Board's proposed 2014 LEGISLATIVE PLAN AND GUIDELINES and they were adopted and sent to the Board's lobbyists. President Spake also learned that the Board begins to formulate its recommendations after Labor Day each year. This means that the HCM should prepare its legislative recommendations in July, ready to submit in September.
 - b) President Spake also reported that she had a conversation with Supervisor Sears at a Christmas party. Supervisor Sears is now President of the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Sears was interested in knowing more about the Health Council, its members, its purpose and its plans. President Spake recommended that we invite the Supervisors to HCM meetings when there will be speakers presenting on topics which may be of interest to the Supervisors. At present, there is no official schedule for the HCM to report to the Board. Supervisor Sears thought it would be valuable for Councils and Commissions who are advisory to the Board, such as our Health Council, to present their work annually at a Board of Supervisor's meeting at a regularly scheduled time.
 - c) On January 11th, there was a "One Warm Coat" event at *Whistlestop* which allowed members of the community to connect with multiple services within the County including assistance in signing up for ACA. Tomorrow night, there will be a "Let's Get Ready for Obamacare!" event in Marin City from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at the Marguerita Johnson Senior Center. We were asked to support these events as a co-sponsor.
 - d) President Spake announced, at the request of Dr. Sandy Ross, that there will be a showing of the film, "Take Back Your Power" on February 2, 2014, at 3:00 pm at the San Rafael

Community Center, 618 B Street, San Rafael. This film is about Smart meters and the Smart grid.

- e) President Spake recommended that the HCM send out thank-you letters to all persons who have presented to the Council. Loretta Rogers offered to type these up and send them out.
 - f) President Spake reported that the terms of eight of the present HCM members are coming to an end. These eight are: Ann Spake, Connie Barker, Kent Angerbauer, Jacob Leone, Paul Roye, Barbara Selby, Barbara Wientjes, and Karin Ludwig. Those who wish to continue on the Council must re-apply for membership using the same application form. The deadline for submitting these applications is February 21st. They will then be considered by the Nominating Committee. Recommendations must be submitted to the County Clerk by April 25th. Appointments will be made by the Board of Supervisors on May 6th. President Spake also reported that there are two provider vacancies which have not yet been filled and for which no applications have yet been received despite the usual publicity. President Spake recommended that members recruit providers for these two vacancies as they are able.
 - g) President Spake reported that terms for the HCM officers are also coming to an end, including her term. According to the by-laws, HCM officers can serve in the same position for only two consecutive terms. President Spake requested recommendations from the members. The Nominating Committee will meet in March.
 - h) President Spake reported that the Annual Report is coming due. The County's form must be used. The HCM will have to work on it in February and finalize it at the March meeting. She asked for volunteers to work on the report. Jennifer Rienks suggested that each committee meet and report on the progress made on each of their items; then, someone can volunteer to integrate all the committee reports into the County's form. This was agreed and will be put on the agenda for the February meeting.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Allan Blau stated that the HCM's bank account needs a new signatory. He offered to be that person, but needed to be appointed Assistant Treasurer. Judy Coombes moved that Allan Blau be appointed Assistant Treasurer. Karin Ludwig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
7. **Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, previously tabled:**
- a) Mental Health and Substance Abuse – This is a request to support the development of a Mental Health and Substance Abuse Screening and Resource Referral Guide. After discussion, it was decided to table this recommendation until after the Survey on Patient Resources was done; then, it would be known if the Referral Guide is needed. Kent Angerbauer moved that this recommendation be tabled. Alan Blau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b) Regional Task Force Survey on Patient Resources – After discussion, Jennifer Rienks provided revised wording for this recommendation. Jennifer Rienks moved that this recommendation be reworded. Kent Angerbauer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. At the end of the meeting, Jennifer Rienks provided the following re-wording for future review by the HCM: “Recommend a survey of health and social service providers in Marin to access their perception of 1) the availability of community resources/programs to refer clients to meet client health and social service needs; 2) how they learn about and access referral resources in the county and beyond; and 3) solicit their ideas to improve provider's ability to refer clients to available resources.”
 - c) Marin's Aging Population – There was brief discussion of this recommendation. Sparkie Spaeth reported that there was a strategic planning process going on in the County regarding the aging population and she recommended that we table our recommendation until we have more information about these plans as related to provision for specific needs. It was also suggested that the Regional Task Force Survey on Resources would also provide some guidance related to services available to seniors. Judith Coombes moved that this recommendation be tabled until further information is obtained. Barbara Selby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
8. **Review of Committee Planning for February and March meetings:**

- a) **February Meeting:** President Spake reminded the HCM members that there would be speakers on Mental Health and Substance Abuse at the February meeting. She asked members to provide questions in advance that they would like the speakers to address. There was general discussion. Members suggested they would like a description of the County's mental health/substance abuse programs. They would like the topic of prescription drug abuse and alcohol abuse among the elderly and youth in Marin addressed. As County Mental Health deals only with seriously mentally ill individuals, members would like to know how patients enter the system.
- b) **Future Meetings:** Allan Blau suggested that a speaker be brought in to talk about autism, what services are available, etc. There was brief discussion and agreement to invite such a speaker to present at the May 2014 meeting. Allan Blau agreed to work on getting such a speaker.

9. **Health Council Member Reports & Announcements**

- a) Kent Angerbauer reported that an email was sent out January 15th, with a link to a video about participating in Councils and Commission and the requirements of the Brown Act. He asked if the HCM follows Brown Act requirements. President Spake informed him that Sandy Ross as Parliamentarian is responsible for that task. She also stated that earlier in the year we had a showing of the video at the hospital before our regular Council meeting for members who needed to complete that requirement.
- b) Judy Coombes asked about absent members. President Spake informed her that members who are providers are excused for absence more often based on their professional on-call responsibilities. In the past, when members have excessive unexcused absences or are unable to sustain their participation, the Council has recommended to the County that they be removed and vacancies be posted such as the two vacancies currently open on the Council.
- c) One member suggested that the provider positions be filled by recently retired providers.
- d) Connie Barker reported that the offices of the Public Assistance Advisory Board are difficult to reach, especially for people with children. Sparkie Spaeth said that she would find out who was on the Board and report back. President Spake mentioned that there is a serious access problem for those who need social services in Southern Marin due to distance. Northern offices are difficult to reach for those dependent on public transportation and the wait times especially when accompanied by young children are also a disadvantage.

10. **Adjournment:** Judy Coombes moved that the meeting adjourn. Jennifer Rienks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.