

The Health Council of Marin

Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Marin General Hospital

250 Bon Air Road, Conference Room C

Greenbrae, CA 94904

Members Present: Jennifer Rienks (President), Kent Angerbauer, Connie Barker, Allan Blau, Marvin Mars, Sandy Ross, Derice Tao, Barbara Walter, Barbara Wientjes

Members Absent: Ann Spake

Guests: Julie Burford, Stan Burford, Julia Isaac, Claudia Schimmer, Sparkie Spaeth (HHS), David Wientjes, Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: *Agenda; Ceres Community Project of Marin brochure; Ceres Community Project of Marin menu for the week of May 21, 2015*

1. **Call to Order:** At 7:08 pm, President Rienks called the meeting to order.
2. **Introductions of members and guests**
3. **Presentation by Ms. Julie Burford of the Ceres Community Project of Marin.** Ms. Burford reported that she is the founder of Ceres Community Project in Marin County. It is four years old. However, Ceres was originally founded in Sebastopol in 2007. There are now ten different Ceres organizations throughout the U.S. The purpose of Ceres is:
 1. To deliver healthy, organic, sustainably produced food to cancer patients undergoing treatment. The food is gluten-free and dairy-free. [Barbara Walter pointed out that research shows that 80% of cancer patients undergoing treatment are malnourished and so this is a great benefit and would help reduce the number of re-admissions to hospitals.] Because of funding, breast cancer patients are giving priority.
 2. To empower Marin youth by enlisting their efforts in supplying these meals. Youth who work in Ceres kitchen receive training as food handlers and become certified, thus acquiring an employable skill.
 3. To provide support and connection to ill people.
 4. To bring organic, sustainably produced food to new audiences.
 5. To develop community through these efforts

Ms. Burford reported that Ceres currently provides food to about 25 families a week which totals about 50 people. When Ceres takes on a patient who lives with others, Ceres provides meals for the whole family. A meal bag is prepared on Wednesday and delivered every Thursday. The meal bags contain five to six dishes along with a menu sheet which describes each dish along with a greeting card created by one of the kindergarteners at Bacich Elementary School.

Ceres has served about 300 Marin families a minimum of twelve weeks and a maximum of twenty-four weeks. Ceres generally has ten to twelve teens volunteering to do food preparation, under the supervision of their chef, Trudy Schaeffer. They commit to four hours a week for three months. Ceres has served 45,536 meals over its four year existence and trained 260 teens and served about 300 patients.

She stated that their efforts are limited due to lack of funds and lack of enough access to a large commercial kitchen with cold storage. She reviewed their current funding sources and efforts to find the kind of commercial kitchen that they need.

She stated that Ceres is following their teens as they leave for college and jobs in order to document the impact that Ceres had on them. They are also doing surveys of their patients and teens about their Ceres experience.

There was general discussion about where extra funding could be found.

4. **Additional Agenda Item:** Sandy Ross moved to add to the agenda as an emergency item the County's planned use of glyphosate. The motion was seconded by Allan Blau. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Approval of the minutes of the April 28, 2015 meeting:** Although the minutes had not been distributed to the entire Council, President Rienks had reviewed and approved them. She suggested that the Council formally approve the minutes as they are now; Loretta Rogers will send out the minutes to the entire Council after the meeting; and any needed amendments can be made at the next meeting. Sandy Ross so moved. Barbara Walter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Proposed recommendations to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) following last month's presentation on mental health services in Marin.** President Rienks reviewed the information provided by the mental health services panel at the April meeting as recorded in the minutes. There was brief discussion and the following recommendations were proposed:
 1. The HCM will recommend to the BOS that mobile housing i.e. a van, modular or trailer, be provided to Coastal Health Alliance to provide extra needed space for mental health services and other uses.
 2. The HCM will recommend to the BOS that a resource directory of mental health services in Marin County be created, electronically, and maintained.
 3. The HCM will recommend to the BOS that they support changes to HRSA regulations that currently prohibit the billing of medical and mental health services to the same patient on the same day.
 4. The HCM will support the County's efforts to provide permanent shelter for the homeless, halfway houses and the relocation of the detox center.
 5. The HCM will recommend that the BOS support the construction of sub-acute mental health facilities in Marin.

Sandy Ross moved that President Rienks and Barbara Walter be tasked with developing resolutions for each of these items. Connie Barker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Change to HCM by-laws:** Sandy Ross moved that the HCM direct the Parliamentarian to work with the County Counsel to re-word the by-laws to reduce the number of seats on the Council. The proposed wording will be presented by the Nominating Committee to the full Council for its consideration. In the meantime, the Council should advise the County not to make any appointments to the HCM until this matter is decided. Barbara Walter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sandy Ross stated that the new number of seats on the HCM will emerge from discussions with County Counsel and come to the HCM for discussion and decision; twelve seats was mentioned as a possibility.
8. **Glyphosate resolution:** Sandy Ross reported that the urgency of this item developed in the past few hours over pending use of glyphosate on Ring Mountain tomorrow. Supervisor Sears has today asked Marin County Parks and Open space to hold off on the application. Sandy Ross moved that the HCM make this recommendation to the BOS: "The World Health Organization has classified glyphosate as 'probably carcinogenic to humans.' Health Council of Marin recommends the County of Marin cease use of glyphosate and any pesticide considered a carcinogen, possible or probable, in or on any county-owned or leased property." Connie Barker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
9. **AB 366:** Barbara Wientjes moved that the HCM recommend to the BOS that they support AB 366 which would reverse cuts in payments to doctors who treat Medi-Cal patients plus provide other funding. Barbara Walter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **Topics for the June and July 2015 meetings:** President Rienks asked about the presentations for the June and July 2015 meetings. There was brief discussion. Marvin Mars and Kent Angerbauer were tasked with consulting with Sparkie Spaeth and bringing in a speaker to talk about the Active Aging Initiative at the June 2015 meeting. President Rienks reported that in Connecticut which she visited several years ago, she noticed that where glyphosate was sold, there were signs in multiple languages warning about the health hazards of using this product. Also, there was a requirement to notify neighbors when it is used. She suggested that this be the topic for the July meeting and that a speaker be found to present.
11. **Adjournment:** Barbara Walter moved that the meeting be adjourned. Marvin Mars seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.