

## The Health Council of Marin

Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, July 26, 2016

Marin General Hospital

250 Bon Air Road, Larkspur Room

Greenbrae, CA 94904

**Members Present:** Jennifer Rienks (President), Kent Angerbauer, Connie Barker, Allan Blau, Sandra Lew, Sandy Ross, Ann Spake, Tara Waterman, Barbara Wientjes

**Members Absent:** Mary Fraser, Derice Seid Tao

**Guests:** Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

**Handouts:** *Agenda; History – Health Council of Marin; Health Council of Marin Bylaws; Responsibilities of Council Members; EPA: Don't Allow More Radiation in Drinking Water!; Microwave frequency electromagnetic fields (EMFs) produce widespread neuropsychiatric effects including depression; Letter from President Jennifer Rienks on behalf of the Health Council of Marin (HCM) to the Board of Supervisors requesting that a member or members of the HCM participate as a member of the BOS community stakeholder group for educating the public regarding the use of toxins, etc. on private property.*

1. **Call to Order:** At 7:04 pm, President Jennifer Rienks called the meeting to order.
2. **Introductions:** All attendees introduced themselves.
3. **Public Comment Time:** None.
4. **Approval of the minutes of the June 28, 2016 meeting:** Sandy Ross moved to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2016 meeting. Ann Spake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Presentation by Megan Scott, Marin County Public Health Preparedness:** Megan Scott was not able to attend the HCM meeting tonight, so she will be scheduled for another meeting. There was brief discussion. It was decided that the HCM will invite Dr. Matt Willis to speak to the HCM at either the September or October meeting, depending on his schedule. Once Dr. Willis chooses which monthly meeting he wishes to attend, the HCM will invite Megan Scott to speak at the other.
6. **Health Council Orientation for New Members:**
  1. **History:** Ann Spake stated that the Health Council was established as an advisory council to the Board of Supervisors in the 1960's and 1970's. It advises the Board on health issues, advocates for the development and allocation of resources to assure quality and accessible health care, and generally informs the Board on issues affecting the health and well-being of the citizens of Marin County. She reviewed, here and there, the list of presentations and topics investigated by the Council and recommendations made to the Board since 2012. She handed out a complete list of presentations and topics to all members.
  2. **Bylaws:** Sandy Ross stated that the Council meets ten times per year on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The Council does not meet in August or December. She then handed out draft copies of the bylaws and reviewed them briefly. She also handed out a sheet stating the responsibilities of HCM members. She recommended that the new members review the Boards and Commissions Handbook which can be found online at Marin County's website here: <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/bs/boards-and-commissions/member-handbook> Also, new members are urged to see the video regarding the Brown Act which can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PI3gth-veo>

7. **Discussion of public education regarding glyphosates and possible recommendations to the Board of Supervisors:** Ann Spake informed the HCM that the Board of Supervisors has voted to set aside a budget of \$100,000 over a two-year period for the purpose of educating the public regarding the harmful effects of using pesticides and of encouraging the public to stop using pesticides on private property. Ann had contacted Supervisor Katie Rice to find out what decisions had been made for the use of this money. Katie Rice informed Ann that the plan was to set up a committee of County and community stakeholders like RxSafe Marin whose purpose was outreach and education of the public regarding pesticides. In addition, an Open Space team would provide preliminary outreach to the public on this issue. Ann prepared a letter to be sent by President Rienks on behalf of the HCM to the Board of Supervisors recommending that one or more members of the HCM be made members of the stakeholders committee. Ann handed out copies of the letter and read it aloud. After general discussion, the following changes to the letter were recommended:
1. In the fourth paragraph, the first sentence should read “Our advice to the Board of Supervisors has been consistent ... “ in other words the words “and the Marin County Open Space District” should be eliminated as the HCM does not advise the Open Space District.
  2. In the final paragraph, the word “representative” should be made plural as the HCM would like more than one member to be on the stakeholders committee.
  3. In the final paragraph, the word “citizens” should be replaced with the word “residents.”
  4. In the fourth paragraph, IPM should be spelled out.

Ann Spake moved that the letter be approved with the above changes and sent to the Board of Supervisors. Sandy Ross seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **President’s Report:** President Rienks reported the following:
1. Marin General is breaking ground for a new hospital on Thursday, July 28, 2016.
  2. *Conscious Kitchen* has a school lunch program and is now initiating a breakfast program as well. It means that the kids have to arrive early to get breakfast which was difficult for many of them. Other schools offer “breakfast after the bell” to address this problem. Overall, the results have been impressive at these school, including better test scores. President Rienks sent this information to Judi Shils of *Conscious Kitchen* and recommended that the HCM urge the BOS to encourage establishing “breakfast after the bell” in schools with a high proportion of free or reduced lunch. She suggested the HCM consider bringing in a speaker on this program in November. President Rienks will investigate identifying a suitable speaker.
  3. Laws that govern earthquake safety do not affect private schools. President Rienks recommended that the HCM look into this.
  4. President Rienks recommended that the HCM look into how Laura’s Law is working in other counties. Where is the data? What has been their experience? Allan Blau and President Rienks will get speakers on this topic.
  5. In October / November, the HCM must send the Board of Supervisors its recommendations for the lobbyists in Sacramento regarding statewide legislation. Kent will do research and report back at the September meeting on pending legislation at the state level which may interest the HCM.
9. **Health Council Member Reports and Announcements:**
1. Barbara Wientjes announced that the EPA’s new guidance would allow for increased levels of radiation in drinking water in the case of an emergency. She passed out copies of an article regarding this issue. She urged members to write to the EPA Administrator protesting this new guidance.
  2. Barbara Wientjes also announced that there is new legislation in the California Assembly allowing the elimination of landlines. She passed out copies of a study regarding the widespread neuropsychiatric effects of microwave frequency electromagnetic fields
  3. Tara Waterman spoke briefly about the safety issues regarding cyclists in Marin. She will research and schedule speakers on this issue.

10. **Agenda for the September 2016 Meeting:** President Rienks will invite either Dr. Matt Willis or Megan Scott to speak at the September or October 2016 meeting. She will ask Dr. Willis to choose which month fits his schedule and then invite Megan to the other monthly meeting.
11. **Adjournment:** Allan Blau moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Connie Barker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.