

The Health Council of Marin

Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Marin General Hospital

250 Bon Air Road, Larkspur Room

Greenbrae, CA 94904

Members Present: Sandy Ross (Vice-President and Parliamentarian), Allan Blau, Rodger Faulkner, Walter Kopp, Sandra Lew, Jennifer Rienks, Derice Seid Tao,

Members Absent: Constance Barker (excused), Mary Fraser (excused), Neka Pasquale, Barbara Wientjes (excused)

Guests: Lisa Santora, MD (Marin County Deputy Public Health Officer), Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: *Agenda; HCM By-laws; Marin County Dept. of Health & Human Services organization chart*

1. **Call to Order:** At 7:10 pm, Vice-President Sandy Ross called the meeting to order.
2. **Introductions:** All attendees introduced themselves and welcomed the new members, Rodger Faulkner and Walter Kopp and the guest, Dr. Lisa Santora. The secretary, Loretta Rogers, swore in the new members.
3. **Public Comment Time:** None.
4. **Approval of Minutes of the June 12, 2017 meeting:** Jennifer Rienks moved to approve the minutes. Sandra Lew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Presentation regarding the closing of the County's specialty and dental clinic by Dr. Lisa Santora, Deputy Public Health Officer for Marin County:** Dr. Santora first reported on two of the County's current H&HS projects and then addressed the closing of the clinics:
 1. **Health Information Exchange:** This project's goal is to have all patient records available on-line to hospitals, clinics, laboratories and providers throughout the county. This information portal is called Marin Health Gateway. Marin General Hospital and Marin Community Clinics are already on this network. Prima will be added in the third year of this project and Kaiser in the fourth year. County H&HS plans also to mine the data on this portal in order to better focus services and interventions.
 2. **Whole Person Care:** The concept of Whole Person Care (WPC) is premised on the idea that the best way to care for people with complex needs is to address all their needs, including medical, behavioral, socioeconomic, etc., in a coordinated and integrated way without the patients having to navigate multiple programs and systems. California's Section 1115 Medicaid waiver, *Medi-Cal 2020*, includes a \$3 billion pilot program to improve care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries by supporting local efforts that embrace the WPC philosophy. Marin County applied for and received a WPC grant. The funds from the State were received in August 2017. This is a four-year program, aimed at the most vulnerable and top 10% users of our medical systems. The majority of their ailments are opioid and alcohol addiction and brain trauma. Frequently, these patients are involved with the criminal justice system, probation, food stamps, behavioral health and other programs. In order to coordinate all these services, WPC emphasizes case management. WPC promotes a values-based model where money follows the patient. H&HS is in the process of doing an assessment of all Marin's homeless and working to get them all housing. H&HS has found that treatment is more successful when the problem of housing is solved for these people. She described efforts to obtain housing by enlisting the skills of property managers and real estate agents; they were much more successful than case managers, arranging for 25 new apartments for the homeless.

3. **Closing of Dental and Specialty Clinics:** This concerns the County's dental clinic on 4th Street in San Rafael and the Specialty Clinic at 3260 Kerner Blvd. at the County's Health and Wellness Campus. The Specialty Clinic treats HIV/AIDS, STD, and TB patients and provides immunizations. Following a decision by the Board of Supervisors on September 12, 2017, the ownership and management of these clinics will be turned over to Marin Community Clinics (MCC). The dental clinic will probably transition in early November, closing on a Friday as a County clinic and re-opening the following Monday as an MCC clinic. The Specialty Clinic transition will probably take longer as a number of services and providers must be in place before it can be effected. Lisa then went over the reasons for this move. These included (1) the fact that MCC can pull down more federal funding per patient per visit than the County can; MCC gets \$200.00 per patient and the County gets \$30.00 per patient. (2) Providing patients with one medical home i.e. MCC, is the best concept for good overall care. (3) The previous transitions of the OB/GYN clinic to MCC and the County lab to the Solano regional lab were very successful. (4) This move will get the County out of clinical care and allow it to concentrate on public health. (5) This move will save the County about \$1 million per year. The County is in on-going talks with the union, MAPE, over this move. The union has been unfavorable to this move as 44 employees are affected. The County is working to minimize the impact on staff. Twenty-five of the staff members have been re-assigned to other County programs. The remaining staff members are providers and have been offered jobs at MCC. This matter is not yet settled. Lisa then answered questions from HCM members.

6. **Health Council Member Reports and Announcements:**

1. Sandy Ross noted that it had been a long time since the HCM had regular reports from the Dept. of Health & Human Services regarding current issues and efforts. No one had really replaced Sparkie Spaeth when she retired. The current representative is Erin Cochran who has not attended HCM meetings. Sandy stated that if Erin cannot attend, then a written report would be appreciated.
2. Jennifer Rienks is working to make Dr. Jacob Leone's presentation on Lyme Disease available to HCM members via the Internet. She will advise members when it is successful.
3. Jennifer Rienks reported that she has learned that Lyft is working with hospitals to provide patients with rides to and from their appointments. As a result, the hospitals' "no show" rates have gone down.
4. Walter Kopp reported that *Whistlestop* is moving forward with plans to relocate to a former PG&E location at 999 Third Street in San Rafael.
5. Jennifer Rienks reported that Conscious Kitchen has initiated a pilot project to provide healthy, good-tasting meals to under-privileged children at two schools in Contra Costa County. There have been positive, measurable results in terms of student attendance, attentiveness in class and class performance.
6. Walter Kopp reported that the Lions Club is funding both eye exams and eye glasses for children in the Canal district.
7. Rodger Faulkner inquired about the Vial of Life program which was active a few years ago and seems to have faded. Loretta Rogers will inquire as to its present status and report back to the Council via email.
8. Jennifer Rienks announced that a lecture on end of life will be held next Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the conference center of Marin General Hospital.
9. Walter Kopp alerted the Council to an organization called Operation Access wherein doctors can donate their time to perform needed surgery on needy patients. These surgeries are performed at Marin General, Kaiser and other locations. He suggested that the Council schedule a presentation on this worthy organization.
10. Sandy Ross was asked why meetings and other Council events were not publicized in the newspaper. Sandy explained that she had explored this option but was told by the Board of Supervisors Commissions office that there were some 77 commissions and they could not keep up with making public announcements for all of them. Also, advertising for a meeting/event cannot be done until after the agenda is published.

7. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.