

The Health Council of Marin

Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Marin General Hospital

250 Bon Air Road, Larkspur Room

Greenbrae, CA 94904

Members Present: Barbara Wientjes (President), Connie Barker, Kevin Hogan, Sandy Ross, Claudia Schimmer, Derice Seid Tao

Members Absent: Allan Blau, Bridget Gleason, Jennifer Rienks

Guests: Kathy Koblick (HHS), Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: *Agenda; County of Marin 2018 Federal and State Legislative Programs and Legislative Policy Guidelines; Marin BOS 2018 Legislative Platform*

1. **Call to Order:** President Barbara Wientjes called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** President Barbara Wientjes welcomed all attendees and all attendees introduced themselves.
3. **Public Comment Time:** None.
4. **Approval of an Amendment to the Agenda:** Sandy Ross moved that the approval of the June 26, 2018, minutes be added to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Kevin Hogan. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Approval of the minutes of the June 26, 2018, meeting:** Derice Seid Tao requested that the June 26, 2018, minutes reflect that her absence from that meeting was excused. With the requested change, Sandy Ross moved that the minutes be approved. Claudia Schimmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Approval of the minutes of the September 25, 2018, meeting:** Sandy Ross requested that a sentence be added to the end of the eighth paragraph on page 2, the paragraph beginning, “Steven Scott then spoke ...” Here is the sentence to be added: “He stated that at present there was no way to block EHF millimeter waves, whereas with some EHF devices such as Smart Meters and “dirty electricity,” there are relatively effective ways of blocking them.” With the requested amendment, Sandy Ross moved that the minutes be approved. Claudia Schimmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
7. **Presentation by Kathy Koblick regarding Marin County’s Department of Health & Human Services’ priorities and legislative platform.** Kathy Koblick stated that she didn’t really have a presentation to give but rather some information she received from Robert “Dan” Eilerman, the Assistant County Administrator. She passed out two handouts: *County of Marin 2018 Federal and State Legislative Programs and Legislative Policy Guidelines; Marin BOS 2018 Legislative Platform*. She stated that the first document gives policy direction to County staff and programs. She explained that if she applied for a grant that was connected to and in line with the policies already stated in this document, then she can proceed without further approval. However, if the grant is not connected to or aligned with these policies, the grant application would have to be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The members of the Council reviewed the document and noted that several items fit with the Council’s concern regarding 5G wireless small cell technology, specifically on Page 4, Item 3 – “Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation;” Page 8, Item 10 – “Next Generation communications System for the Marin Emergency Radio Authority;” Page 18, Item 2 – “Telecommunications/Franchise Authority and Public Education and Government Access Television (PEG) Channels.” Kevin Hogan pointed out that the last several lines of this last item

appear to support the Council's position on 5G. It was suggested that the Council rewrite their second letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding 5G technology to reference these policy items. Following the Precautionary Principle, the Council can urge the Board of Supervisors to hold off on implementing 5G technology until more studies have been completed regarding its possible health and fire hazards. In the meantime, fiber optic cables can be installed which are safer. While the initial outlay for fiber optic cable installation can be more expensive than 5G, it is cheaper and less hazardous than 5G in the long run.

5G is a timely issue as it is being rolled out now. It was suggested that the President, Barbara Wientjes, meet with one of the Supervisors to discuss this matter.

Sandy Ross moved that Kevin Hogan, Connie Barker and Barbara Wientjes meet to determine a process for approaching the Board of Supervisors regarding this issue and to draft a letter to the Board, to be presented for approval to the Council at the November meeting. Kevin Hogan agreed that he would contact Dan Eilerman at deilerman@marincounty.org to research.

Kathy Koblick stated that she will bring the 2019 Guidelines to the Council as soon as they come out.

Kathy also asked what kinds of information the Council members want her to bring to the Council at future meetings. Sandy Ross stated that in the past, when Sparkie Spaeth was the HHS representative to the Council, Sparkie would keep the Council updated as to what program, priorities, initiatives were being pursued by the department. Sometimes Sparkie would report on meetings that she had attended which she thought would be of interest and importance to the Council. The Council can have a recurring agenda item at each meeting for any report that Kathy may feel called upon to give. This was agreeable to Kathy Koblick.

8. **Presentations Scheduled for the rest of the year:** There was general discussion of this topic. It was agreed that there will be a presentation on Suicide Prevention at the November 2018 meeting; Jennifer Rienks is arranging this. There is no meeting in December. Claudia Schimmer is arranging for Mr. Mark Dale to present on RxSafe Marin in January; so far, she has not been able to confirm the date with Mr. Dale. Connie Barker will arrange for a presentation on LGBT health issues among older, long-term HIV survivors and among older adults with long-term chronic conditions.
9. **Updates – 5G and Others:** President Barbara Wientjes gave an update on efforts around Marin County to limit or prevent the roll-out of 5G technology. This was information that she obtained from Vicky Siebers. (1) Fairfax has Ordinance #20 which limits what can be installed on telephone poles and excludes 5G; (2) San Anselmo City Council is meeting tonight for a second public reading of the proposed ordinance which is in its final form. The San Anselmo Council is very interested in the health dangers of 5G; (3) Corte Madera is considering an ordinance; (4) San Rafael is studying the ordinances of other jurisdictions. A presentation on this issue will be made at the December meeting of the San Rafael City Council. Public comment can be made at the November 5th meeting. (5) Regarding the unincorporated areas of West Marin, two of the County Supervisors, Damon Connolly and Dennis Rodoni are interested in this issue. They are looking into fiber optic cables as an alternative. (6) Novato has not acted on this issue. Novato residents must be made aware of it. (7) Petaluma has already passed an ordinance requiring poles with 5G small cells must be 1500 ft apart and must have a 50 ft. set-back. In addition to the health hazards of 5G, President Wientjes pointed out the fire hazard they represent; downed power poles have caused wild fires in Malibu and Santa Rosa. Boulder, CO has already brought in fiber optics and they have their own electrical grid.

Sandy Ross pointed out that people are looking into getting the FCC to change the language of their regulation to allow considerations of health and environmental hazard when considering upgrading technology. She also pointed out that 5G dries out vegetation which increases fire danger. Also, fire departments in the state of California have an exemption from 5G installation.

10. **President's Report:** None.

11. **HCM member reports and announcements:** Kevin Hogan suggested as a topic for a future presentation mental health issues resulting from disasters. This is a very timely issue. The mental health needs of survivors of recent wildfires overwhelmed available resources. The County is vulnerable to wildfires and so an important part of disaster preparedness would be training of responders to address anticipated mental health needs.

Connie Barker reported that efforts to reform EVV are at a stand-still. Good faith efforts are being made to implement the law in a way that is as accommodating to patients and care-givers as possible.

12. **Adjournment:** Kevin Hogan moved to adjourn the meeting. Connie Barker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Marin General Hospital in the Larkspur Room.