

The Health Council of Marin
Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 23, 2019
Marin General Hospital
250 Bon Air Road, Larkspur Room
Greenbrae, CA 94904

Members Present: Barbara Wientjes (President), Allan Blau, Connie Barker, Kevin Hogan, Bobby Moske, Jennifer Rienks, Sandy Ross, Derice Seid Tao

Members Absent: Bridget Gleason, Claudia Schimmer

Guests: Kathy Koblick (HHS); Dr. Lisa Santora (Deputy Public Health Officer – County of Marin), Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: *Agenda; Organizational Chart for the EOC (Emergency Operations Center); flyer for the June 4, 2019 “Empowered Elder Workshop” at the Marin County Board of Education*

1. **Call to Order:** President Barbara Wientjes called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** President Barbara Wientjes welcomed all attendees and all attendees introduced themselves. The new member, Bobby Moske, provided some of his background as well as his introduction.
3. **Public Comment Time:** None.
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Sandy Ross moved to approve the agenda without amendments. The motion was seconded by Kevin Hogan. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Approval of the minutes of the March 26, 2019, meeting:** As the March meeting consisted of the presentation by Dr. Jei Africa on suicide prevention at Jason’s Restaurant, no minutes were taken. Therefore, there were none to approve.
6. **Nominating Committee Report:** Sandy Ross reported that with the swearing in of Bobby Moske as a new member, there is now only one open seat on the Council. It is a Consumer seat. However, Claudia Schimmer is moving out of the area and therefore her Provider seat will soon be open. Sandy Ross urged HCM members to recruit for two new members.
7. **Presentation by Dr. Lisa Santora, Deputy Public Health Officer for Marin County, on Marin County’s Public Health Emergency Preparedness efforts to address behavioral health issues during and after small to large scale disasters:** Dr. Santora explained that the County has an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which is a central command and control facility, responsible for emergency preparedness and emergency/disaster management. The County’s EOC used to be housed at the Civic Center but about six years ago was re-located to the Sheriff’s Office at 1600 Los Gamos Drive, San Rafael. It is a very modern facility with workstations already set up and ready for every position on the EOC org chart.

Each town and city in Marin County has their own disaster response organization; the cities of Novato and San Rafael each have their own EOC. The County government respects these local jurisdictions and only gets involved in an emergency response when requested by the affected jurisdiction. She explained how the EOC is funded, mainly through the Dept. of Homeland Security.

The EOC is structured according to the Incident Command System (ICS) which is universally used throughout the country. In a disaster, the person in charge is the Incident Commander. Under him/her are four main branches: Operations (carrying out disaster response); Logistics (obtaining, organizing, providing materiel); Planning (intelligence gathering and planning for the

next operational period) and Finance (documenting staff engaged, time spent, and materiel used for later reimbursement by FEMA). Marin's Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) is responsible for two major areas: (1) Mass Care and Shelter, and (2) Medical Health. The programs involved are Public Health, Environmental Health and Behavioral Health.

A position in the EOC is the Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC). This position is held by either Matt Willis, Lisa Santora or the new EMS Administrator, Kim Bowman. The MHOAC is responsible for monitoring and ensuring adequate medical and health resources are in place during a local emergency and is authorized to make and respond to requests for mutual aid from out of Marin County. Behavioral Health is involved in all aspects of disaster preparedness and response.

The 2017 wild fires were the last time that the EOC was activated. In assisting with that disaster, a lot of weaknesses and gaps were exposed. They were:

1. We discovered that while all government employees are disaster service workers, most were not ready to assist. The tasks required of them would be very different from those they performed in their regular job. HHS is now creating trainings for all employees to instruct them in their duties as disaster service workers.
2. We needed bilingual behavioral health people in the shelters and had very few to draw on.
3. We needed behavioral health people to work on family reunification.
4. Evacuation planning and drills are needed to assure that patients and community members are evacuated out of harm's way in a timely way. Individuals and institutions need to be prepared with a "go-bag" filled with their medications and other personal needs.
5. We need a better, more coordinated, integrated system for volunteer management. We have started a new team in the Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC) called the Surge Team. This would allow medical and behavioral health professionals to sign up for disaster response, to be called out ONLY in case of a deployment; they would not be required to participate in MMRC meetings, drill, exercises, trainings, etc.
6. Evacuation plans / disaster planning for the elderly, the handicapped, etc. need to be developed. The general public needs to be educated on this issue and engaged.

There was a question and answer session in which transportation barriers, language barriers and other issues were discussed.

8. **Presentations Scheduled for the rest of the year:** There was brief discussion. Jennifer Rienks will arrange for a speaker for the May 2019 meeting. The subject will be gaps in mental health services in Marin County. She advised that Marin Community Clinics has greatly expanded their mental health services recently. Barbara Wientjes will arrange for a speaker for the July 2019 meeting; the subject will be 5G.
9. **Updates – 5G: None.** Sandy Ross did report that a lot of communities around the country are saying "no" to 5G.
10. **President's Report:** None.
11. **HCM member reports and announcements:** None.
12. **Adjournment:** Sandy Ross moved that the meeting be adjourned. Kevin Hogan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 28, 2019.