

## The Health Council of Marin

Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Marin General Hospital

Larkspur Room, 250 Bon Air Road

Greenbrae, CA 94904

**Members Present:** Barbara Wientjes (President), Roberta Anthes, Connie Barker, Allan Blau, Bridget Gleason, Bobby Moske, Jennifer Rienks, Sandy Ross

**Members Absent:** Kevin Hogan, Derice Seid Tao

**Guests:** Kathy Koblick (HHS), Vicki Sievers (Marin Outreach Coordinator for EMF Safety Network), Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

**Handouts:** *Agenda; Letter to Board of Supervisors on 5G Ordinance; Roberta Anthes' list of best provisions for town and county ordinances to protect communities from the harmful effects of 5G; Americans for Responsible Technology list of scientific studies; 1800 MHz Public Exposure Guidelines; Stop 5G! hand-out; What are EMFs? Brochure; Brain scans of cell phone radiation absorption at different ages card; EMF Safety Card; Public Health Warning card*

1. **Call to Order:** President Barbara Wientjes called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
2. **Introduction of Members:** All attendees introduced themselves.
3. **Public Comment Time:** None.
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Sandy Ross requested that two more items be added to the agenda: (11) Report from the County by Kathy Koblick; and (12) Report from the Board by Connie Barker. With these additions, Sandy Ross moved to approve the agenda. Bridget Gleason seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Approval of the minutes of the June 4, 2019, meeting:** Sandy Ross requested the deletion of one sentence in the minutes in Item 6, sub-item 1 "No more than half of the providers can be retired." With that deletion, Sandy Ross moved to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2019 meeting. Bobby Moske seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Approval of the June 24, 2019 letter on the 5G Ordinance sent to the Board of Supervisors by the Executive Committee:** Sandy Ross moved to approve the letter. Roberta Anthes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
7. **Nominating Committee – Presentation and vote on Slate of Officers:** Sandy Ross reported that the slate of officers for the next term was determined by the Executive Committee. President Barbara Wientjes, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved that the Council approve the following slate of officers for the next term: Sandy Ross for President, Roberta Anthes for Vice President and Kevin Hogan for Secretary. There was no need for a second. The motion passed unanimously.
8. **Nominating Committee – Presentation & vote on Nominating Committee:** Sandy Ross explained that the former president is always on the Nominating Committee for the next term and is always the chair. Sandy Ross, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved that the following members form the Nominating Committee: Barbara Wientjes (chair), Bobby Moske, Bridget Gleason. There was no need for a second. The motion passed unanimously.
9. **Presentation and 5G Update:** Vicki Sievers, Marin Outreach Coordinator for the EMF Safety Network, presented a 5G update. The EMF Safety Network's website is <http://emfsafetynetwork.org/>. Vicki Sievers began by providing a little information about her background. She is a retired school teacher. Some years ago, she contracted a gastro-intestinal illness that did not respond to conventional medical treatment. She finally went to a naturopath who cured her illness in four days. This introduced her to alternative medicine. Important books

along her journey were by Stephen T. Sinatra, such as “Reverse Heart Disease Now.” She provided some history of electricity delivery and monitoring systems and cellular technology. She stated that no electricity is safe. Smart Meters were introduced in 2010 and the public was never consulted; it was never optional for customers. There were reports of harmful health effects of Smart Meters, particularly when placed close to bedrooms or areas where people spend a lot of time. She referred to the book, “The Dark Side of Smart Meters” by Rob Gates. Among the health problems associated with over-exposure to cell phone, WiFi and Smart Meter frequencies are fatigue, tinnitus, leg cramps, headaches, brain fog, cardiac arrhythmias, and problems with learning, sleep and balance. She reviewed the various generations of cellular network technology

1. **1G:** This is the first generation of wireless cellular technology, introduced in the 1980’s. It supports voice only calls. Phones using it had poor battery life and voice quality, little security, and were prone to dropped calls.
2. **2G:** This second generation was introduced in 1991. It supports call and text encryption, SMS, picture messages and MMS.
3. **3G:** This third generation was introduced in 1998. It offers faster data transmission, Internet access, and video calling.
4. **4G** – the current standard: This fourth general was introduced in 2008. It supports gaming services, mobile HD TV, and video conferencing.
5. **5G** – This new generation would support self-driving cars, AI and other services that require higher data speeds. Other possibilities are remote surgery, touchy-feely Internet, drones and virtual reality. What is unique to 5G is that it uses a different part of the spectrum i.e. 300 Ghz. These waves are shorter, faster and more harmful. There are no 5G phones yet.

Vicki reported that Sacramento already has 5G and already health problems are being reported. She handed out and discussed the 1800 MHz Public Exposure Guidelines and pointed out that the United States has the most permissive guidelines. She also pointed out that the FCC is a “captured agency” i.e. an agency that is controlled by the high technology industries. There are only people from the technology companies on this board. By law i.e. the 1996 Telecommunications Act, no local jurisdictions can impede implementation of new technology due to health concerns.

Vicki then showed a short film of a number of citizens speaking during Public Comment Time at a recent meeting of the Sacramento City Council, complaining of health problems caused by 5G.

President Barbara Wientjes then spoke about her personal experience of electro-magnetic sensitivity and lots of anecdotal evidence of harm. She also passed out a long list of studies, attesting to the harmful effects of EMF exposure.

Roberta Anthes then spoke about what can be done locally to prevent or delay the implementation of 5G in Marin County through county and city ordinances. She passed out a hand-out listing ordinances that have been passed already by various Marin cities that are effective as well as the status of ordinances at the County level. She mentioned efforts at the state and federal level. She urged Council members to recommend additional ordinances to the Board of Supervisors to prevent 5G roll-out in Marin County. There was general discussion.

10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm. There will be no meeting in August. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 24, 2019.