

The Health Council of Marin

Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 25, 2023

First Floor Conference Room, MarinHealth Medical Center, 250 Bon Air Rd., Kentfield

Zoom Option was available

Members Present: Kevin Hogan (President), Roberta Anthes, Kawa Chiu, Connie Barker, Sandy Ross, Jennifer Rienks, Ginger Souders-Mason, Bobby Moske, Barbara Wientjes

Members Absent: Jo Prabhu

Guests: Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: *Agenda; Minutes of March 28, 2023, Health Council of Marin monthly meeting*

1. **Call to Order:** President Kevin Hogan called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** President Kevin Hogan asked members to review and approve the agenda without the presentation by Diana Lopez. The motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Ginger Souders-Mason, seconded by Roberta Anthes, and passed unanimously.
3. **Approval of Minutes of the March 28, 2023, Health Council of Marin Meeting.** President Hogan asked members to review and approve the minutes. Barbara Wientjes asked that Item 10.3 be amended to read as follows: "Barbara Wientjes reported that the FCC wants to assure that everyone has access to the Internet, which is a great thing, but it should be noted that the FCC wants to do it solely by wireless. The safer option is hard wire via fiber optics and ethernet. This is because of the risk and harm of wireless technology on children's health and the health of other vulnerable populations." Kawa Chiu asked that the minutes reflect that she was not able to attend due to technical difficulties. President Hogan moved to approve the minutes with the two amendments. Jennifer Rienks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Meeting Protocols for the return to in-person meetings:** President Hogan reported that since the Health Council of Marin's general meetings are public meetings, they are governed by the Brown Act. This means that all meetings must be in person. Members can attend via Zoom only two times per year and only in cases of emergency. If there is a quorum, members who cannot attend can audit the meeting via Zoom but cannot vote.
5. **Report from the Nominating Committee:** Sandy Ross stated that the nominating committee nominated the following members for next year's nominating committee: Sandy Ross, Kawa Chiu and Barbara Wientjes. She moved that this new committee be approved by the Council. The motion passed unanimously. Sandy Ross also reported that the nominating committee nominated the following members as officers for the coming year: Kevin Hogan for President, Roberta Anthes for Vice President and Jennifer Rienks for Secretary. She moved that these new officers be approved by the Council. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Report from Executive Committee.** President Hogan announced that Jo Prebhu resigned from the Health Council of Marin, effective today. Robert Anthes reported on the results of the April 11, 2023, Executive Committee meeting:
 1. The Health Council of Marin 2022-2024 Goals and Key Initiatives were discussed and the following decisions were made:
 - Goal 1, A. - Discontinue because ordinances have been established.
 - Goal 1, B. - Barbara Wientjes will write regarding a decision by the DC Circuit Court for Boston as part of the Ad Hoc Committee
 - Goal 1, C, D, E. - Barbara Wientjes, Connie Barker, and Bobby Moske will write up the progress made on these items as part of Ad Hoc Committee. Sandy Ross will weigh in.
 - Goal 1, F - Roberta Anthes will write up the progress made on this issue under the topic of "Air as Habitat" as part of Ad Hoc Committee. The topic of Outdoor Environmental

Toxins (Goal 4) will be moved to Goal 1, F. and will be included in the "Air as Habitat" report.

2. Bobby Moske and Connie Barker will get a clear definition of disability. Some resources they might investigate are:

<https://adata.org/faq/what-definition-disability-under-ada>

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/GME-0009LOPS.PDF>

<https://mdsafetech.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Letter-of-Accommodation-for-EMS-EHS-Patient-8-15-22-Final.pdf>

3. The Executive Committee decided to leave the other Goals pretty much intact.

4. Regarding the Legislative Proposals:

NO to AB 46 Informed Consent for Meds, AB 478 Wildfire Insurance Bill, AB 222 Older Adults Included in the California with Disabilities Working Group, AB 979 Family Councils in LTCFs.

MAYBE to AB 1036 EMS Transport, AB 1309 LTCF Transfer Reqs, AB 1313 Case Management for Elders, AB 1387 In-home Help Strategy, AB 1417 Report Elder Abuse, SB 742 Homeless Report, AB 1451 Health Crisis Unit Treatment, AB 1536 \$\$ for Disabled Immigrants.

FOR FURTHER REVIEW: SB 311 Medi-Cal Buy-In, SB 37 Older and Disabled Adults Hospital Stability, SB 17 Tax Credit Older Adults, AB 1537 SNF Direct Care Spending, AB 1644 Food and Nutrition.

7. **HHS Update:** Loretta Rogers shared her screen and gave a PowerPoint presentation. She reported the following:
 1. **COVID:** Marin County Public Health continue to monitor COVID via wastewater testing, outbreaks, hospitalizations, and variants. The current dominant variant is Omicron XBB.1. Overall, community infection rates for COVID, flu and RSV are medium and remain steady.
 2. **Opioid Crisis:** Overdose rates continue to increase. Accidental drug overdose is now the third most common cause of death in Marin after cancer and heart disease. On average, Marin ambulances respond to two non-fatal overdoses per day.
 3. **Other HHS News:** In September, Marin County will move from a .org domain to a .gov domain. Email addresses for County employees will follow this format: FirstName.LastName@marincounty.gov. Their old .org email addresses will still work for one year after the change to .gov addresses is effected.
8. **Presentations: Biennial Report:** President Hogan stated that this was covered in the Executive Committee report.
9. **Determine speakers for future meetings:** There was general discussion. It was determined that the topics / speakers for the remaining HCM meetings for 2023 would be as follows:
 1. **May 23:** Jennifer Rienks will invite a speaker from MarinHealth Medical Center to speak on indoor toxins.
 2. **June 27:** The Ad Hoc Committee will report on Goal 1, B, C, D, E, F as well as on the definition of disability.
 3. **July 25:** Diana Lopez will speak about a possible alignment of legislative priorities between the Health Council of Marin and the Commission on Aging
 4. **Sept. 26:** Bobby Moske will invite a speaker from Marin County's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services to present on the state of mental health services in Marin, and partnerships with Healthy Marin Partnership and the Marin County Office of Education.

5. **Oct. 24:** Bobby Moske will invite a speaker from Marin County's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services to present on substance use disorder in Marin County.
6. **Nov. 28:** The legislative calendar and a biennial report update.
10. **Council President Update** – President Kevin Hogan stated that he won't be able to continue on Marin Commission on Aging Legislative Committee (time constraints) but will attempt to continue participation on the food security committee.
11. **Updates from Council Members:** President Kevin Hogan asked for updates from Council members.
 1. Barbara Wientjes reported that a former FCC attorney claims FCC fails for follow environmental laws and never considers the cumulative effect of radiofrequency radiation, never authorizes the removal of a tower, never revokes a license even when evidence shows emissions in excess of FCC guidelines, and only once in her tenure levied a fine, thought never collected/enforced the action. Also, there is a webinar on cell towers in national parks, etc. on May 4, 2023.
 2. Ginger Souders-Mason reported: (1) In a pre-print paper out for review, the number of live births has decreased since the advent of the Covid vaccinations. Given the Pfizer papers reported, all natural mother/fetus barriers are known to be breached by the vaccines. This is not totally unexpected. The reduction in live births is quite substantial. "Data revealed a 27-fold higher risk of miscarriage and a more than twofold increased risk of adverse fetal outcomes across six different categories following COVID-19 shots." (2) A paper focused on adverse reactions on facemasks should be made available to all Health Council Members for them to decide for themselves if mandatory masking is appropriate or of value in disease control. This paper reviewed 2,168 studies. (3) Food insecurity is a problem many face and some reject out of feelings of embarrassment or reluctance to admit the need. We had a chef come to our home and make a presentation to a group of friends on how to harvest and what plants to harvest that grow wild in our yard. It was fun, tasty and educational. Additionally, Ginger ran into Nancy West, a former Health Council member.
 3. Sandy Ross reported that a Congressional report stated that the COVID-19 virus came from the Wuhan lab. Jennifer Rienks expressed skepticism as the report came from a Republican dominated House. There was brief discussion.
 4. Connie Barker reported on 1) a bill in the Assembly that the SCIU sponsors that would require caregivers to be given living wages and benefits. (2) she reported on an old article by David Horowitz about the AIDS crisis; (3) she will keep her mask.
 5. Kawa Chiu reported that she had attended an excellent training provided by the Marin Medical Reserve Corps which included side-walk CPR, AED training, "stop the bleed" and Narcan training. She recommended it.
12. **Public Comment:** None.
13. **Adjournment:** Ginger Souders-Mason moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bobby Moske seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm. The next meeting will be on May 23, 2023.