

The Health Council of Marin

Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Sausalito Room, MarinHealth Medical Center, 250 Bon Air Rd., Kentfield

Zoom Option was available

Members Present: Kevin Hogan (President), Roberta Anthes, Sandy Ross, Ginger Souders-Mason, Barbara Wientjes, Jennifer Rienks, Pranav Bhanushali, Bobby Moske

Members Absent: Connie Barker

Guests: Janine Pera, Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: *Agenda; Minutes of January 23, 2024,*

1. **Call to Order:** President Kevin Hogan called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** President Hogan asked members to review and approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Sandy Ross, seconded by Bobby Moske, and passed unanimously.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the January 23, 2024, Health Council of Marin Meeting.** President Kevin Hogan asked members to review and approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024, meeting. Jennifer Rienks moved to approve the minutes. Roberta Anthes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Report from the Nominating Committee:** Sandy Ross reviewed the list of Health Council of Marin (HCM) members and their terms. She stated that the HCM has six consumer positions and five provider positions. Among the consumers, Sandy Ross and Ginger Souders-Mason's terms are up in April and they must reapply for membership. Among the providers, Jennifer Rienks and Pranav Bhanushali's terms end in April and they must reapply as well. She noted that one Consumer seat and one Provider seat, Seats 2 and 11, are open.
5. **Report from Executive Committee.** President Kevin Hogan reported that there was no Executive Committee meeting this month and so there was no report.
6. **HHS Update:** Loretta Rogers reported the following:
 1. **COVID:** Marin County Public Health continues to monitor COVID infection levels in Marin County via wastewater testing, outbreaks, hospitalizations, and variants. The current infection level is medium and remaining steady. The current dominant variants are JN1 and B.1.1 / BA.1. There are 12 new hospital admissions. Six COVID patients are hospitalized. There are zero patients in the ICU. There are seven outbreaks in facilities and two in schools, same as last time. About 29.7% of Marin residents have received the new monovalent vaccine.
 2. **Respiratory Illness:** For the first time this season, COVID, RSV and flu infections are trending downward. This is consistent with prior seasons. RSV and flu are predictably seasonal but COVID is unpredictable and can surge any time of year depending on variants and other factors.
 3. **Marin is the Healthiest County:** Marin County has been named the healthiest county in the United States. However, many health disparities exist which are reported on a new dashboard on the Marin County website.
 4. **Measles and TB on the rise:** Measles is on the rise again globally. Vaccination is the best protection. TB cases are also on the rise. Marin County has about 10 active cases per year. It is best prevented by early detection and treatment.
 5. **Marin County Public Health Dashboards:** The Marin County website now has a number of new dashboards which provide information on a variety of health issues; such as, COVID, life expectancy, hepatitis C, HIV, RSV/Flu, and more. It can be found [here](#).

6. **988 – Lifeline for Suicide and Crisis Intervention:** 988 is the number to dial or text for urgent help in a time of mental health or substance use crisis, or even witnessing another person deal with a behavioral health challenge. It is staffed 24/7.
7. **Presentation:** The presenter did not attend and so therefore there was no presentation.
8. **President’s Update:** President Kevin Hogan reported that he and Roberta Anthes met with Supervisor Rodoni, at 4:00 pm on Thursday, February 15, 2024, requesting that he work to get the Board of Supervisors to accept the report. He will work to get it on the Board of Supervisors’ agenda. President Hogan also asked HCM members to suggest new ideas to research in the future. President Hogan’s preference is mental health. He stated that members could look at the topics lists in the Biennial Report and select one for the Council’s focus. The overall purpose is to select a topic that will align with HHS’s agenda. There was some brief general discussion. Bobby Moske reported that top HHS topics are homelessness, mental health and addiction and stated that mental health problems always have comorbidity. Jennifer Rienks suggested researching how private therapists could receive insurance payments for mental health treatment; at present most private therapists do not accept insurance, making it unaffordable for a lot of people.
9. **Members Updates:** President Kevin Hogan asked for member updates.
 1. Ginger Souders-Mason reported that there was a court trial in San Francisco, on January 31, 2024, “Food & Water Watch v. EPA” in the court of Judge Chan. Food & Water Watch was suing the EPA over their failure to act as prescribed under The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The latest research is showing that infants being dosed with fluoride contaminated drinking water in utero and as an infant have a lowered IQ. We are awaiting the judge’s decision which is due any time now.
 2. Roberta Anthes reported that large numbers of people support keeping landlines and oppose AT&T’s proposal to end them.
 3. Barbara Wientjes reported that there was a power outage in her area in West Marin.
 4. Ginger Souders-Mason reported that after the last HCM meeting she woke up at 2:30 am that night/early morning with pain in her back, legs, etc. She speculated that it was due to air quality in the conference room. Barbara Wientjes speculated that her pain could have been caused by EMF.
10. **Public Comment:** Janine Pera made a comment to the Council.
11. **Adjournment:** The motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.