

## The Health Council of Marin

Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, March 26, 2024

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

Zoom Option was available

**Members Present:** Kevin Hogan (President), Roberta Anthes, Sandy Ross, Barbara Wientjes, Jennifer Rienks, Pranav Bhanushali

**Members Absent:** Connie Barker, Ginger Souders-Mason, Bobby Moske

**Guests:** Cicily Emerson (Public Health Division Director - HHS), Pooja Mhatre (Epidemiologist - HHS), Haylea Hannah via Zoom (Epidemiologist - HHS), Janine Pera, Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

**Handouts:** Agenda; Minutes of February 27, 2024,

1. **Call to Order:** President Kevin Hogan called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** President Hogan asked members to review and approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the February 27, 2024, Health Council of Marin Meeting.** President Kevin Hogan asked members to review and approve the minutes of the February 27, 2024, meeting. The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
4. **Presentation: Marin County Health & Human Services: Healthy Marin Life Expectancy:** Cicily Emerson, Pooja Mhatre and Haylea Hannah each introduced themselves. Then, Pooja Mhatre shared her screen and gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled: “Using Community-Level Life Expectancy to Guide Health Equity Strategies: Marin County, CA.” She will send a copy of this presentation to Loretta Rogers who will distribute it via email to the Council members. She reported the following:
  1. **Overview of the County:** She reported that Marin County has a population of around 260,000 people. It was ranked the healthiest California county for 13 of the last 14 years. It has high wealth status and a high average life expectancy but also the greatest racial disparity.
  2. **Life Expectancy Dashboard:** In developing data for the dashboard, they looked at life expectancy at birth and causes of premature death (death occurring before age 75). Factors affecting health outcomes and life expectancy include health behaviors, access to clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment. The dashboard provides data on the sub-county level by ethnic group, by census tract (neighborhood, and by resource levels (Health Places Index). She showed the dashboard’s interactive county map and demonstrated how to use it.
  3. **Results:** She reported that Marin County has an average life expectancy of 85.2 years compared to 81.0 years for the state of California as a whole and 76.4 years for the United States. Life expectancy in Marin County by ethnicity shows that African-Americans have the lowest at 77.1 years and Asians have the highest at 88.7 years. Hispanics have 87.1 years and whites have 85.2 years. Marin City has the lowest life expectancy at 77.1 years and Sausalito (Waldo Point) has the highest at 92.0 years. She reviewed the leading causes of death which were (1) Cancer, (2) diseases of the circulatory system, (3) overdose, and (4) suicide.
  4. **Goals and Strategies:** She then reviewed the County’s goals and strategies for dealing with the causes of premature death and life expectancy disparities. Among the goals were increasing the number of Medi-Cal patients with well-controlled diabetes by 10% and reducing the number of residents experiencing food insecurity by 10% all by 2025.

Among the strategies mentioned were OD Free Marin's Naloxone distribution and outreach to reduce overdoses, improving access to care, and more.

5. **Q&A:** She then answered a few questions from the Council members.
5. **Report from the Nominating Committee:** Sandy Ross reported that she has no knowledge of how various commissions handle nominations for membership. She is looking for that person in the County to discuss this issue with. Cicily Emerson said that she would be willing to find this out and let Sandy know. Sandy Ross also reported that there are two empty Provider seats and two empty Consumer seats. There is one application so far and no due date. There is a problem with recruiting older residents as the application can only be submitted online. There is no hard copy application form that can be filled out and mailed in. This excludes people who are not computer-literate or disabled.
6. **Report from Executive Committee.** President Kevin Hogan reported that there was no Executive Committee meeting this month and so there was no report. He does plan to have an Executive Committee meeting in April.
7. **HHS Update:** Cicily Emerson reported the following:
  1. **New Director of the Department of Health & Human Services:** She reported that Dr. Lisa Warhuus has been named the new Director of HHS. She has been on the job for a little less than a month. Cicily Emerson gave a brief description of Dr. Warhuus' background and credentials.
  2. **Public Health Accreditation:** Cicily Emerson reported that Marin County Public Health has made a successful application for Public Health Accreditation. She described what this means.
  3. **Community Health Improvement Plan:** Marin County is working with partners to determine priorities and to draft this plan.
  4. **Community-wide Forum to Address Fentanyl Crisis:** Loretta Rogers reported that there will be a forum to address the fentanyl crisis, scheduled for April 10, 2024, at 6:30 pm. This will be announced on the Public Health Update this Friday along with instructions on how to register for this event.
8. **President's Update:** President Kevin Hogan reported the following:
  1. there will be an Executive Committee Meeting in April. On the agenda will be (a) the placement of Public Comment in the agenda along with a determination of the amount of time to be allotted to each speaker and clarification as to what topics can be addressed, what Council members responses should be; and (b) review of the by-laws.
  2. Regarding the Ad Hoc Committee Report, President Hogan has received no update from Supervisor Rodoni on when or how this report will be presented to the whole Board of Supervisors.
9. **Members Updates:** President Kevin Hogan asked for member updates.
  1. Barbara Wientjes gave an update on landlines. She reported that about one million people in California are affected by the replacement of landlines. There was brief discussion of this issue.
  2. Jennifer Rienks reported
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 8:40 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 23, 2024.