

The Health Council of Marin

Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Conference Center 1st Floor, 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, Bobby Moske, Ginger Souders-Mason

Members Absent: Connie Barker

Guests: Fay Zenoff (via Zoom), Julia Dorman (HHS), Kristen Seatavakin (HHS), Barbara Ryan, Steve Par, Mimi Katz, Beverly Pena, April Graham (Zoom), Brooke Cosby (Zoom), Caitlyn (Zoom), Lauren (Zoom), Shannon (Zoom), Pamela (Zoom), Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: *Agenda; Minutes of March 26, 2024,*

1. **Call to Order:** President Kevin Hogan called the meeting to order at 7:13 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 Jennifer Rienks, and passed unanimously.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the March 26, 2024, Health Council of Marin Meeting.** President Kevin Hogan asked members to review and approve the minutes of the March 26, 2024, meeting. The motion was made by Sandy Ross, seconded by Bobby Moske, and passed unanimously.
4. **Presentation: Marin County Health & Human Services: OD Free Marin by Fay Zenoff:** Fay Zenoff, Senior Program Coordinator for OD Free Marin, introduced herself. She reported that she has been in her present position since August 2023. She has been a resident of Marin County since 1998 and is now sixteen years sober. She shared her screen and gave the following PowerPoint presentation on OD Free Marin. She will send her presentation to Loretta Rogers who will send it on to all the Health Council of Marin members. She reported the following:
 1. **The Problem:** Drug overdose is the leading cause of death among Marin residents 55 years of age and younger. Marin has more than one fatal overdose and 5 – 10 non-fatal overdoses per week. Updated statistics can be found at the www.odfreefreemarin.org data dashboard.
 2. **OD Free Marin:** It is a community-based coalition focused on overdose prevention. It was originally founded in 2014 as RxSafe Marin, focused at that time more on abuse of prescription drugs. It provides a coordinated, collective, evidence-based response. Hundreds of people are involved. It is funded by the PH general fund, opioid settlement funds and grants.
 3. **Action Teams:** OD Free Marin has four action teams: Education and Outreach, Intervention Treatment & Recovery, Justice System and Youth. Each team has two chairs, one community member and one member of Public Health. The teams meet either monthly or bimonthly. The each have SMART goals which are aligned with CDPH strategies.
 4. **Strategies:** Strategies include (1) broad education through advertising, social media and outreach; (2) Narcan distribution with the aim of providing it free or low cost to as many agencies and individuals as possible; (3) providing access to treatment.
 5. **Five Steps to Reverse an Opioid Overdose:** (1) Recognize the symptoms; she encouraged everyone to educate themselves on these symptoms; (2) Call 911, even if the person appears to be recovering; (3) Give first dose of Narcan; it can take a few minutes to see the effects; (4) Provide aftercare; stay with the patient even when the patient

appears to have recovered. Educate yourself on this aspect. (5) Provide rescue breaths if the patient is not breathing. This is one breath per five to six seconds.

6. **Q&A:** She then answered a few questions from the Council members. Bobby Moske asked about providing services such as Narcan, fentanyl strips to drug users and associates now that the Spahr Center has closed. Roberta Anthes asked about Narcan expiration dates (after two years). Jennifer Rienks asked about how statistics were determined on the dashboard and if an overdose occurred in another county for a Marin resident, would that appear on the dashboard (Yes.) Ginger Souders-Mason asked about the Youth team and education on overdose at high schools. Bobby Moske reported that there is now an Intervention person in emergency rooms full-time to direct patients to resources and next steps. Kevin Hogan asked if the Intervention team also included therapy (Yes). Bobby Moske reported on obstacles to MAT.
5. **Report from the Nominating Committee:** Sandy Ross reported the following:
 1. The Nominating Committee had approved the following slate of officers: Kevin Hogan for President, Roberta Anthes for Vice President and Barbara Wientjes for Secretary. Sandy Ross moved that this slate of officers be approved by the whole Council. The motion passed unanimously.
 2. The Nominating Committee has approved the following members to Nominating Committee: Barbara Wientjes for Chair, Bobby Moske for member, and Pranav Bhanushali for member. Sandy Ross moved that this slate be approved by the whole Council. The motion passed unanimously.
 3. Sandy Ross reported that the application and approval process for membership on commissions is currently evolving. She will continue to follow up and report at the next meeting.
6. **Report from Executive Committee.** President Kevin Hogan reported that there was no Executive Committee meeting this month and so there was no report.
7. **HHS Update:** Loretta Rogers reported the following:
 1. **COVID:** The current rate of infection in Marin County is low. The current variants are JN.1 and KP.2. The FDA has not yet decided on the vaccine for this fall.
 2. **H5N1 Bird Flu:** H5N1 began in wild birds and has spread globally. It has now passed to mammals, particularly cows. There have been three cases of H5N1 in humans in the United States but so far none in California. At present, it does not appear to pass easily to humans. Those who have acquired the illness all worked closely with livestock and had only mild illness. The CDC and Marin Public Health continue to monitor.
 3. **E-Bike Safety Legislation:** E-bike accidents are a growing phenomenon in Marin County. The Marin County Board of Supervisors, Marin County Public Health and other jurisdictions have joined in lobbying for E-bike Safety legislation at the federal level. Former Marin County Supervisor and current State Assemblyman Damon Connolly has introduced such legislation at the state level.
 4. **State \$28 billion Budget Deficit:** Governor Newsom announced recently a \$28 billion deficit in the state budget. There is a concern that funds for the Future of Public Health initiative will be cut. This will affect many programs, including Marin's Outbreak Prevention and Infection Control program. The Marin County Board of Supervisors, Dr. Matt Willis and other jurisdictions are lobbying the California legislature to retain this funding. The state budget will be finalized on June 15, 2024.
8. **President's Update:** President Kevin Hogan stated the following:
 1. He thanked the Council for retaining him as president.
 2. He reported that he met Cicily Emerson. The Board of Supervisors appreciated the report sent by the Council. It will be entered into the Board minutes, probably in July.
 3. The Health Council will return to its original mission to advise the Board of Supervisors and HHS, its topics in line with current HHS priorities. However, the mission will no longer include environmental health which is now being covered by a separate commission. There was brief discussion, pointing out that the environment is a factor in many health issues, so clarification may be needed on this issue. Sandy Ross provided some brief history.
9. **Members Updates:** President Kevin Hogan asked for member updates.

1. Ginger Souders-Mason reported on recent studies showing pesticides such as glyphosates affect sperm counts and autism.
 2. Jennifer Rienks reported on a conference she attended at which the California State Health Officer, Dr. Tomas Aragon, spoke regarding the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on life expectancy in California. The figures are available in the California State of Public Health Report which is available online.
 3. Sandy Ross reported that the U.S. Access Board is holding a webinar on Title II on June 6, 2024, from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. She also reported that there have so far been no human cases of West Nile Virus in California. Good news.
 4. Roberta Anthes reported on a new trend in young men to engage in "*scentmaxxing*," an effort to be highly scented. She mentioned gender dysmorphia/dysphoria as a possible side effect according to Harvard studies linking phthalates (used in fragrances) to these conditions.
 5. Bobby Moske reported on new studies regarding autism.
10. **Public Comment:** Nine members of the public made comments to the Council.
11. **Adjournment:** The motion to adjourn was made by Ginger Souders-Mason, seconded by Sandy Ross, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 25, 2024.