

## The Health Council of Marin

Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Conference Center 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MarinHealth Medical Center, 250 Bon Air Rd., Kentfield

**Zoom Option was available.**

**Members Present:** Kevin Hogan (President), Roberta Anthes (via Zoom), Sandy Ross, Connie Barker, Jennifer Rienks, Pranav Bhanushali, Bobby Moske, Ginger Souders-Mason

**Members Absent:** Barbara Wientjes

**Guests:** Julia Dorman (HHS), Kristen Seatavakin (HHS), Cicily Emerson (via Zoom), Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

**Handouts:** *Agenda; Minutes of May 28, 2024, HCM meeting*

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 by Sandy Ross, seconded by Ginger Souders-Mason, and passed unanimously.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the May 28, 2024, Health Council of Marin Meeting.** President Kevin Hogan asked members to review and approve the minutes of the May 28, 2024, meeting. The motion was made by Sandy Ross, seconded by Ginger Souders-Mason, and passed unanimously.
4. **Presentation: Marin County Health & Human Services: “Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP),” presented by Kristen Seatavakin**
  1. Kristen Seatavakin, Senior Department Analyst, introduced herself. She has been working for the County since 2013. She stated that tomorrow, she will send her presentation to Loretta Rogers who will send it on to all the Health Council of Marin members.
  2. **Definitions - CHA:** Kristen states that the CHA was a community health needs assessment based on comprehensive data collection and analysis to determine Marin’s key health needs and issues. It is performed to help determine where resources should be allocated to best meet community needs. It enables public health officials and other organizations to monitor trends in health status, identify health priorities, and determine availability of resources. It is performed every three years in tandem with an assessment requirement for non-profit hospitals under the Affordable Care Act. A CHA is also a requirement for accreditation for the Marin County Public Health Division.
  3. **Definitions - CHIP:** The Community Health Improvement Plan is based on the CHA and is a long-term effort to address the public health problems that have been identified. It sets priorities, develops policies and defines actions to be taken with the goal of improving the health of the community.
  4. **Guiding Principles:** She reviewed the guiding principles of the CHA and CHIP which are that they must be community-driven, strategic and involve partners.
  5. **History:** The CHA process began about 20 years ago. Each non-profit hospital in Marin County produces its own assessment every three years under the umbrella of the Healthy Marin Partnership (HMP). In collaboration with HMP, Marin County Public Health produces a higher-level summary for their use.
  6. **Healthy Marin Partnership (HMP):** This is a collaborative, established in 1996, consisting of organizations committed to advancing health equity in Marin County. Its focus tends to be on upstream prevention. Examples of initiatives include Children’s

health insurance coverage and the Healthy Fair/Healthy Community initiative. She reviewed the membership organizations.

7. **Process:** Kristen reviewed the 8 Phases of the assessment process and the data sources. Copies of the CHA can be found at [www.healthymarin.org](http://www.healthymarin.org)
8. **Demographics:** She reviewed the demographics of Marin County and the health indicators that were collected and analyzed along with inequities among ethnic groups. She also reviewed the priority health needs as determined by Marin's hospitals and HMP. She also reviewed various publications or briefs that are available.
9. **Community Benefit Funds:** Each of the non-profit hospitals (Kaiser, MarinHealth and Sutter) has community benefit funds which will be directed toward their health priorities as determined by their assessments.
10. **2024 CHIP, currently in development, key priorities:** They are (1) Overdose Prevention; (2) Improved access to care; (3) Increase life expectancy by reducing premature heart disease; (4) Preparing vulnerable communities for disaster due to climate change; (5) Outbreak prevention and control. She reviewed the goals on each of these priorities. An example of a goal is a 10% reduction in Marin residents experiencing food insecurity.
11. **Q&A:** She then answered a few questions from the Council members. Jennifer Rienks asked about how suicides are counted i.e. were residents who committed suicide outside the county counted? She also urged consideration of the aging population and the effects of housing policy. She also asked about the status of accreditation. Cicily Emerson stated that issues affecting the aged were the focus of the Commission on Aging. There was general discussion on the lack of affordable housing and on what the focus of the Health Council should be going forward.
5. **Report from the Nominating Committee:** Sandy Ross reported that there was no meeting of the Nominating Committee and therefore no report.
6. **Report from Executive Committee.** President Kevin Hogan reported that there was no Executive Committee meeting this month and therefore no report.
7. **HHS Update:** Loretta Rogers reported the following:
  1. **COVID:** The current rate of infection in Marin County is medium. Increased infectivity is due to increased gatherings and travel. The current variants are JN.1 and KP.2. On June 5, 2024, the FDA decided that the vaccine for this fall will be based on the JN.1 variant.
  2. **H5N1 Bird Flu:** There have been no human cases in California. The CDC and Marin Public Health continue to monitor.
  3. **Sunlight and Skin Cancer:** With the arrival of summer, exposure to sunlight for Marin residents increases. Residents are encouraged to apply sunscreen, wear hats and protective clothing and get checked by their provider.
  4. **Suicide Dashboard:** She announced a new dashboard on the Marin County website and reviewed some of the statistics.
  5. **Dr. Lisa Santora confirmed as next Public Health Officer:** Cicily Emerson reported that at the June 4, 2024, the Marin County Board of Supervisors confirmed Dr. Lisa Santora as the new Public Health Officer for Marin County, replacing Dr. Matthew Willis who is retiring. Dr. Santora's first day in her new position will be September 3, 2024.
  6. **Announcements:** The Fruit and Veggie Fest will be on June 29<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the 3240 Kerner Blvd. Campus.
8. **President's Update:** President Kevin Hogan had no updates.
9. **Members Updates:** President Kevin Hogan asked for member updates.
  1. Sandy Ross reported that at their June 20, 2024, in San Luis Obispo, the California Public Utilities Commission unanimously passed two items affecting the future of use of landlines in California. The Commission dismissed AT&T's application for relief from its Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) obligation, and also passed an "Order Instituting Rulemaking to Consider Revisions to the Commission's COLR Rules." The first vote denies AT&T's application, preserving legacy landline service at this time, while the second initiates a process through which the 1996 COLR rules will be examined in the light of changes in telecommunication since that date. The scope of content from the

public meetings can be found on the CPUC docket. [apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/a2303003](https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/a2303003). There was general discussion and additional information provided by several Council members.

2. Cicily Emerson suggested that the Council move its meeting location to the Health & Wellness Campus at 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael, CA 94901. Several members voiced concerns for members with chemical sensitivities. President Hogan stated that this issue will be placed on the July 23, 2024, HCM meeting agenda. Sandy Ross and Roberta Anthes stated that they will visit the Campus to investigate whether or not that location would pose health issues for Council members.

10. **Public Comment:** None.

11. **Adjournment:** The motion to adjourn was made seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 23, 2024.