



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



The Health Council of Marin

Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Rooms 109/110 at 3240 Kerner Blvd., San Rafael, CA

Zoom Option was available.

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Members Present: Kevin Hogan (President), Sandy Ross (via Zoom), Bobby Moske, Jennifer Rienks, Ginger Souders-Mason, Barbara Wientjes, Connie Barker (via Zoom)

Members Absent: Roberta Anthes, Pranav Bhanushali

Guests: Cicily Emerson (HHS), Julia Dorman (HHS), Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Members of the Public: None.

Handouts: *Agenda; Minutes of September 24, 2024, HCM meeting*

1. **Call to Order:** President Kevin Hogan called the meeting to order at 6:21 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 Jennifer Rienks, seconded by Bobby Moske and passed unanimously.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the September 24, 2024, Health Council of Marin Meeting.** President Kevin Hogan asked members to review and approve the minutes of the September 24, 2024, meeting with the one addition provided by Barbara Wientjes. The motion was made by Jennifer Rienks, seconded by Bobby Moske, and passed unanimously.
4. **Nominating Committee Report:** Sandy Ross reported that no applications have been received and the Nominating Committee did not meet; therefore, there is no report. She reminded members to keep the meetings fragrance free.
5. **Review Presentation Calendar and Health Council of Marin Priorities:**
President Kevin Hogan shared his screen and gave a PowerPoint presentation.
 1. First, Kevin Hogan reviewed the relationship between the Health Council of Marin (HCM) and the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). The HCM advises the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and HHS on public health issues, advocates for the development and allocation of resources, and educates on issues affecting the health and wellbeing of Marin residents. HHS maintains HCM website postings, agendas and minutes, supports meeting logistics, coordinates stakeholder and subject matter expert presentations, and provides data on public health issues.
 2. Kevin Hogan reviewed the presentation that had been made so far to the HCM along with the dates on which they were made. He reminded the members that the idea was to focus presentations on the topics in the biennial report and on topics that were in alignment with HHS goals.
 3. He reviewed the other boards and commissions that are dedicated to topics related to those of interest to the HCM. Bobby Moske stated that all these boards and commissions are struggling to fill their membership. Kevin then reviewed the PH priorities, which were (1) Overdose Prevention (2) Access to Care (3) Life Expectancy (4) Climate Change (5) Outreach Prevention & Control. There was general discussion.

4. Kevin then reviewed identified goals and key initiatives, such as (1) mental health continuity of care (2) aging continuity of care (3) Conservatorship standards (4) Recognition and Treatment of People with Disabilities. There was general discussion. Kevin asked for consideration of how the HCM moves forward in achieving their goals. It would be good to produce another paper to provide to the BOS. Jennifer Rienks brought up how many people who are eligible for programs but are not aware of them and not signed up. How are we doing with that and where can we do more. Bobby Moske brought up how difficult it has been for him to get people signed up and he is a case manager. How much more difficult would it be for a member of the general public. General discussion. Julia Dorman acknowledged data points made by Jennifer Rienks, and HHS is now looking into the data. Bobby Moske talked about the difficulty in getting mental health treatment. Kevin brought up that mental health is stigmatized and not dealt with which leads to alcoholism, drug abuse, suicide, etc. Doing a paper on that would be helpful. Access to care and continuity of care. Next slide: Identify continued priorities i.e. align with HHS? Align with other efforts? Identify gaps. General discussion. Kevin said that this something HCM could discuss for a while and then narrow down to something doable. At that point, an ad hoc committee could be appointed, ultimately ending with a report to the BOS. Talked about recruitment and review of the bylaws. First Five Marin / HEAL programs.
5. **Planning Calendar (8 meetings per year at least):** List of suggested topics and activities for 2025. There was general discussion on this list.
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:** Cicily Emerson reported the following:
 1. **COVID:** The current rate of infection in Marin County is low. The current variants is KP.3.
 2. **New Deputy Public Health Officer (DPHO):** She reminded HCM members that Dr. Melanie Thompson will start with the County as the new DPHO on October 28, 2024.
 3. **Public Health Accreditation:** She stated that the accreditation process should be complete in 2025. She listed the benefits of accreditation and provided a brief report on the status of accreditation efforts.
8. **President's Updates:** President Kevin Hogan had no updates. He asked the members to look over the bylaws and biennial report before the November meeting.
9. **Members Updates:** President Kevin Hogan asked for member updates.
 1. Connie Barker reported that her partner Jan is doing better. But her medical problems have been extensive. It included pelvic fractures. The wound care was not well done.
 2. Ginger Souders-Mason reported that there is a service available that is a green and low-cost alternative to traditional burial or cremation. This service turns a dead body into compost. The cost is \$4,500 and the process takes 45 days.
 3. Connie was re-elected to her Board and will work next year on state-wide bargaining. There is a good chance of efforts succeeding.
10. **Public Comment:** None.
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, November 19, 2024, at the Kerner Campus, at 3240 Kerner Blvd., San Rafael, CA 94901, beginning at 6:00 pm.

