



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, February 24, 2026

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

Zoom Option was available.

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**Members Present:** Roberta Anthes (Chair), Connie Barker, Bobby Moske, Lura Jones, Pranay Gupta, Ginger Souders-Mason

**Members Absent:** Tanya Phares, Jennifer Rienks, Pranav Bhanushali

**Guests:** Cicily Emerson (HHS), Julia Dorman (HHS), Loretta Rogers (HHS - Secretary), Kristin McGee (presenter) via Zoom

**Members of the Public:** None

**Handouts:** *Agenda; Draft Minutes of January 27, 2026, meeting; Biennial Report for 2026-2027*

1. **Call to Order:** Roberta Anthes called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** Loretta Rogers called the roll.
3. **Approval of the Agenda - VOTE:** Roberta Anthes asked members to review and approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded and passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the January 27, 2026, Health Council of Marin Meeting – VOTE:** Roberta Anthes asked members to review and approve the minutes of the January 27, 2026, meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and passed unanimously.
5. **HCM Council Chair's Report:** Roberta Anthes reviewed the agenda for the night, including Kristin McGee's presentation, a review and vote on the revised interview questions, a discussion of the Biennial Goals with possible assignments. She reported that applicant John Quigley will not be present at this meeting and so his interview will not take place.
6. **Health & Human Services Updates:** Julia Dorman gave a PowerPoint presentation providing an update. She reported the following:
  1. Marin County HHS Public Health has been awarded national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. Notification was received on February 12, 2026. Public Health will need to apply for reaccreditation in 2031. In the meantime, Public Health will work to improve performance management, branding and communications.
  2. The federal government terminated several grants, which will impact health education, screening activities at encampments and in the County jail, including HIV, HCV and STI testing, treatment outreach, and harm reduction strategies. The California attorney general, Rob Bonta, is suing the Trump administration over this decision. HHS is hoping the expenses will be absorbed with other temporary funding. We should learn more after March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

3. She briefly reviewed the Community Health Assessment (CHA) priorities
  4. Public Health is contracting with BluePath Health to support the Healthy Marin Partnership (HMP) Youth and Transitional Age Youth Healthcare Work Force Development (WFD) Initiative. This month, BluePath Health met with Social Services to learn more about Employment and Training programs and invited them to join the HMP WFD initiative.
  5. Public Health released a new e-bike dashboard. It will be presented at a special commission meeting on March 4, 2026.
  6. The Board of Supervisors has declared February Children's Dental Health month.
  7. On March 3, 2026, there will be an in-person Psychological First Aid training put on by the Marin Medical Reserve Corps.
  8. Public Health has engaged a local contractor to establish a framework to reduce Marin City's life expectancy gap by advancing racial equity, strengthening local partnerships and improving access to care. Public Health is currently working on refining Marin City's health profile.
  9. Public Health is currently submitting quarterly public health reports to the Board of Supervisors which include district-specific spotlights.
  10. She urged members of the Council to subscribe to the bi-weekly Public Health Status Updates.
  11. She answered a few questions from Board members. Roberta Anthes asked if a member of the Board of Supervisors could present to the Council on the Marin City initiative.
7. **Guest Speaker: Kristin McGee, Elementary Educator re Behavioral Health Challenges** – The speaker introduced herself and provided a brief description of her background. She is a member of the Marin Coalition for Student Success. She gave a brief PowerPoint presentation, called "Social, Emotional and Behavioral Needs." This presentation will be sent to the Council members after the meeting. She reported the following:
1. Teachers are working on providing crisis support to students, fostering strong family connections, providing early intervention rather than crisis response, and improving classroom engagement.
  2. There is not a lot of healthcare happening in schools. Marin schools no longer have full-time school nurses. The most a teacher can do is suggest wellness checks, etc. to parents. Bobby Moske asked if there is a forum for students to talk about issues at home. Kristin stated that resources for mental health in the schools are very limited, but one-on-one counseling is available with their therapist, if requested.
  3. She reviewed what she does every day, identifying and discussing with staff those students who have challenges. She noted that the Marin County Office of Educations does provide interns for psych support. There are two interns who are each available six hours per week. If teachers note problems, there are mandated reporters that they can go through.
  4. Cicily Emerson reported on this program: As part of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI), the California Department of Health Care Services launched the CYBHI Fee Schedule program, a first-of-its kind effort to make it easier for students and families to get outpatient mental health and substance use disorder support when, where, and how they need it. This program creates a sustainable reimbursement pathway for Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and public institutions of higher education (IHEs) to receive funding for services rendered at a school or school-linked site. The program sets the reimbursement rate for a certain set of outpatient, school-linked services rendered to children and youth who are:
    1. Under the age of 26,
    2. Enrolled in public TK-12 schools or institutions of higher education (e.g., California Community Colleges), and

3. Covered by Medi-Cal managed care plans, Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service, health care service plans, and disability insurers.

Children, youth, and families will not pay out-of-pocket expenses and there will not be any impact to their existing insurance plan nor deductibles.

5. Addressing food scarcity, schools now provide breakfast as well as lunch. Neglect, abuse, and alcohol abuse are all issues. Bobby Moske stated that he would like to have the interns meet with each student for a ½ hour a week to talk about whatever is bothering them. Kristen pointed out that there were not the resources needed to provide that level of service although it was very desirable. She and her colleagues are working very hard to make sure all students are supported, working with County-wide systems which she listed.
6. She and her colleagues are working to assure students have a healthy learning environment, i.e. classrooms that are safe, at comfortable temperatures, with appropriate accommodations. This involves capital improvement work funded by grants.
7. Trauma-informed training for teachers and families is also provided. This is a product of a collaboration between schools and family service providers. Roberta Anthes asked about confidentiality restrictions. Kristin stated that she always gets her principal involved. When students report abuse, they work with mandated reporters.
8. Food scarcity, access to mental health care, and afternoon childcare and supervision are critical issues for families. Money to provide these services comes ultimately from the state. Limited providers in the area is a challenge in mental health care. Their therapist makes presentations in all classrooms once a month, teaching children coping skills. However, this is a far cry from individual one-on-one sessions. There was general discussion regarding available funds, scarcity of providers, the fact that services are often provided only during the school year, affordability of life in Marin, burn-out among teachers, the effects of cell phones and other issues. Bobby Moske brought up his speakers' bureau. There is a gap in after-care for school.
8. **Membership Update – VOTE:** Roberta Anthes reported that Pranav Bhanushali has revised the list of standard questions to be asked of applicants for membership on the Council. This revision was based on decisions made in the January 27, 2026, HCM meeting. Roberta read out the questions and asked for feedback. She noted that in the revised list, Council members will be able to ask the applicant one or two questions of their own based on the applicant's resume. Bobby Moske moved to accept the questions. Roberta Anthes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
9. **Continued Discussion of HCM Biennial Goals for 2026-27:** Roberta Anthes invited members to discuss the first goal and volunteer to do research. She would like to form an ad hoc committee to work on a report, survey, questionnaires, etc. Bobby Moske volunteered to contact all hospitals and find out how many behavioral health providers they have. He will report his findings at the next meeting. Roberta Anthes volunteered to research why there are so few primary care providers in Marin. Pranay Gupta volunteered to create a questionnaire for doctors and have it ready for the next meeting. Lura Jones will research how many people in Marin will lose Medi-Cal. Connie Barker reported on the consequences of losing insurance for the disabled and that there is no "Plan B." The plan is to form an ad hoc at the next meeting. Those members who are not on a committee will be valuable for reviewing reports. Julia Dorman suggested setting up a timeline for working on a report to be submitted to the Board of Supervisor. She suggested dividing the work into quarters. Cicily Emerson reported that there is a lot of data available through Epidemiology. Connie Barker reported that the Brown Act has been changed to accommodate people with disabilities, allowing them to attend all meetings via Zoom.
10. **HCM Council Members:** Roberta Anthes asked Council members for any updates.

1. Connie Barker reported about issues before the California legislature re needed Medi-Cal support. She remarked that people off Med-Cal is something that can be leveraged politically.
  2. Ginger Souders-Mason referenced a Public Health paper by Linda Birnbaum, PhD and Howard Hu, MD, MPH, ScD, published in the July 2025 edition of the American Journal of Public Health. A copy of this article will be sent to all Council members. Ginger stated that Marin residents deserve to be healthy and they cannot be healthy as long as there are toxins in Marin drinking water, such as lead, arsenic, aluminum and fluoride. She listed the harm to human health that these toxins cause. She strongly urged that Marin water no longer be fluoridated.
11. **Public Comment:** None.
12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at the Kerner Campus, at 3240 Kerner Blvd., San Rafael, CA 94901, beginning at 6:00 pm.