ASTHMA TASK FORCE

SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Schools, Child Development, and Home based Childcare Settings Committee

Date: February 3, 2004 **Location: Health & Environmental Resource Center (HERC)**

Members present: Mary Higgins, Julie McKown, LeConte Dill, Louise Hill, Rose Toney, Marie Hoemke

Members absent: Jim Calonico, Dee Epps-Miller, Beth Saiki, Veronica Lightfoot, Ann Melamed, Peg Strub (Excused)

Guest: Shelly Rosenblum, US EPA, Region 9, Indoor Environments Team

Advisory: Stacey Samek, Child Development Program (SFUSD); Neil Gendel, Healthy Children Organizing Project

Item	Meeting Notes/Decisions	Desired Outcome	Due
I	**Introductions & sign in.** **Facilitator: Marie/LeConte** **Recorder: Marie**		
II	**Review agenda & set time**		
IV	**Reports** 1. Marie gave a brief overview of Schools/Child Care Committee as well as a review of Schools/Child Care Committee's Priority Recommendation # 6, including existing SFUSD IAQ policy **2. Overview of Indoor Air Quality in the School-Setting –Shelly Rosenblum, District 9, EPA** ALA, Amanda Purcell, invited Shelly to 1996 Roundtable held in Bayview Huntrs Point—topics included asthma epidemic and outdoor air quality. A process was needed to evaluate air in schools—needed a program = Tools for Schools. Communication was an issue—schools no longer had on-site engineers. The resultant lack of maintenance, custodians & mechanics resulted in deterioration to where schools are no longer healthy. At a minimum, school staffing should be brought to CASBO levels. A driving force, Acting Superintendent Linda Davis, wanted Administrators to go through IAQ training—was unable to get it on the calendar before she left. Need someone from above to direct—need the Superintendent and the Board of Ed to say that health and basic maintenance are priority. Current Superintendent, Ackerman, saw the results of basic maintenance when she was in Washington, DC. IAQ Tools 4 Schools is a voluntary program that helps people understand that simple changes = dramatic improvements. It is common sense—old knowledge brought to the fore. Ease of maintenance is important—a level of understanding has to be throughout the system and at all levels. Slide presentation may be viewed at http://www.shellyjeri.net/My_Homepage_Files/Page1.html Is Tools 4 Schools the answer?—yes; should be done; knowledge grows; lose tolerance for what exists.		

Training for all Administrators & Principals is the beginning. Principals designate school site coordinator to enforce with staff. Issues include: cluttered classrooms, cleaners/chemicals brought to school (e.g. not unusual to find bleach & ammonia together in schools—earthquake zone—spills = death!!), plants, laminator (discharges toxic fumes—needs a hood/vent to outdoor—or may use outdoors), ceiling mold & algae common = need to facilitate drying, vacuuming/mopping systems/walk-off mats needed, need to know about implications of finding rat droppings, esp. in air ducts. A simple measure is putting streamers on air vents to be able to visually insure air flow.

Individuals make a difference—e.g. Carver E.S.

The SFUSD IAQ committee established itself ad hoc, volunteers with passion. We've demonstrated that Tools for Schools is successful and that our ad hoc committee has been successful in demonstrating that. However, without upper administration support, we will not be successful in developing a sustainable IAQ Program district-wide. Hene Kelly, previous chair, retired—meetings not held. Hene working on EPA IAQ Grant--informs she may call a meeting—ATF will request representation.

3. Brainstorm Ideas on How to Approach Recommendation # 6

Ideas for changes to advocate for

1. Tools 4 Schools in all schools
2. Top-down direction of Superintendent & Board of Education
3. Mechanism in place to sustain/institutionalize—--see proposal of Francis Offermann of Indoor Environmental Engineering "Occupant Indoor Air Quality Complaint Response System for SFUSD."
4. Review existing policy—EPA to advise
5. Make public—ask for help vs. "hiding" issues
   - Conditions—post what it takes to maintain the school & what the school has
   - What is in place--are doing all we can

   Public has no knowledge of what it takes to maintain a school

   Media campaign--get the message out
6. Include parents in education program—School Site Council, PTA, PPS, Parents Advocating for Youth (Coleman Advocates—Sandy Fewer)
7. Include students

   Advocacy = Youth Commission, 3 Nationwide organizations

   Educational Programs

   Environmental Science Club—involve custodians

Questions that emerge

1. District should have an Environmental Health & Safety Program
2. Environmental Committee appointed by the Superintendent
3. Tools for Schools--Need data system = reduced cost, efficiency
4. Date to make presentation to Board of Education & Superintendent—include slides

Areas where more information is needed

	1. Review summary report from EPA for SFUSD 2. Wish list of what John Bitoff and Ed Ochi want 3. Review interview with John Bitoff for Strategic Plan 4. Insight into revising IAQ policy—what isn't there & what needs to be there? 5. Search for community resources—big mucky mucks		
IV.	**Next steps:** Recommend to Planning Committee that meetings be scheduled with new Supervisor Alioto-Pier and Board of Education Commissioner Hiles for briefing on Strategic Plan.	Marie will bring up at Planning Meeting	2/9
V.	**Unfinished business:** (hold over to next meeting) a. Review draft IAQ policy letter prepared by Neil Gendel to solicit information from the district on the status of implementation of the IAQ policy b. Follow-up on last meeting's suggestion to work with DAT and Board of Education to identify mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the asthma action plans. c. Rose asks about follow up with Bevan Dufty, concerns at Mission High d. Contact: John Bitoff, Ed Ochii for committee meeting on 2/17 SFDPH Hene Kelly for March to report on EPA IAQ grant in 25 schools		
VI.	**Next meetings of committee:** a. Tuesday, February 17, 4-6 p.m. at HERC b. March—dates to be determined		