

**Draft**

**Board of Supervisors Asthma Task Force  
Minutes of Meeting held on January 24, 2005**

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA

Members In Attendance: Karen Cohn, Deirdre Epps-Miller, Barbara Conner-Andersen, MariaElena Alioto, Peg Strub, Julie McKown, Neil Gendel, Mary Higgins, Rose Toney, Gloria Thornton, Gretchen Skaggs and Marie Hoemke.

Absent Members: Richard Castro, Kathy Thomas Perry, Beth Saiki, Lisa Kroon, Trish Bascom, Louise Kimbell, Aimee Ganz, Veronica Lightfoot, Carl Rose. Winna Davis and Louise Hill.

Guests and Staff: Marin Kimotho, Anjali Nath, Vince Fabris, AnneKelsey Lamb, Tirtza Rosenberg, Ray Manion, Gail Herrick, Lee Samson and Maria Luz Torre.

(\* = pending appointment)

### **1. Introductions, Agenda Revisions, Approval of Minutes**

There were no revisions of the agenda. November minutes were approved.

### **2. Election of Chair and Co-Chair**

Karen Cohn was elected as the new Chairperson. Julie McKown was elected as the new Vice Chairperson.

### **3. Committee Reports**

#### Schools and Childcare

Gretchen Skaggs reported the ChildCare group did not meet in December due to the holidays. Beth has supplied the group with her research. They are planning to host a round table discussion in February.

Marie Hoemke reported the Schools Committee has submitted their second resolution, regarding indoor air quality, to the Board of Education. This resolution asks to have the Tools for Schools institutionalized, and committing the district to have a coordinator and ongoing program. The Board of Education has accepted the resolution. It is being sent to committee.

The committee is working on its timeline and prioritizing the remaining recommendations.

Julie McKown stated the committee is waiting for a report at the end of the school year which will tell how well the Asthma Action Plans worked. How were they received? What were the obstacles?

Marie stated a District Asthma Nurse was assigned to work with the Telemedicine Project. She is now on a six month maternity leave and has not been replaced.

The District Asthma Team is beginning the data processing system in the school district database. They are developing a grid to show the enrollments in all the schools which will show the various medical conditions of the children.

Anne Kelsey Lamb reported that a law has passed making sure that students have access to their medication if their parents or guardian and medical care provider sign off that they are able and responsible to do that. Deanna Rossi wrote an overview of the law.

Neil Gendel spoke about the high performance school standards.

### Environmental Committee

Karen Cohn reported she did a briefing at the Housing Authority Staff Meeting regarding the recommendations. The committee is now waiting for a response. What came out of the briefing is that they would really like help with educating the tenants.

Tom Rivard, an industrial hygienist with DPH, spoke to the Environmental Committee about a project he is involved with regarding noise monitoring, based on traffic volume, and air quality monitoring. His work is similar to what is asked for in resolution two.

As far as continuing the committee, it is unclear at this time what will be needed regarding the Housing Authority. Also work will begin on private housing, which includes the majority of the remaining recommendations. The goal is to increase healthy housing in the private housing market.

Dee Epps-Miller asked if there will be a regulation to landlords regarding what is considered a healthy home. Karen responded there are already regulations in place.

Karen also suggested that if the Task Force does continue, the committees might want to look at where they overlap.

### Clinical Committee

Peg Strub stated the Clinical Committee has finalized their letter that will go to Mitch Katz. The letter will be copied to others who will be asked if meetings can be arranged.

### Advocacy Coordinator's Report

Anjali Nath reported that she and Karen Cohn met with Sarah He, Supervisor Maxwell's assistant. Sarah said that Supervisor Maxwell will recommend that the Asthma Task Force be extended beyond the June sunset date, but no more than two years.

Karen added that there was also a message from her to get focused on legislative action and maybe stretch beyond the strategic plan itself.

Dee Epps-Miller suggested the Task Force look to other supervisors for co- sponsorship to build a greater constituency on the Board than just Supervisor Maxwell. Karen said the Planning Committee will discuss the idea of having at least two sponsors for everything that is presented. Also, along with the resolution to extend the Task Force, there could be a renewal of education of the Board of Supervisors about the mission of the Task Force.

## **4. Introduction of Task Force Actions**

### Membership and Quorums

Karen stated the Planning Committee will be reviewing attendance at the next meeting and asked that Task Force members think about how they see their involvement in the future.

### 2005 Calendar

A discussion was held regarding changing some of the meeting dates in 2005. Karen announced that May 3 is World Asthma Day. November and December meetings will probably be switched to the previous week.

### Annual Report

A discussion was held about the method of listing who the various committee members represent and how they are listed in the Annual Report. Dee Epps-Miller commented that the history of how the Task Force came to be needs to be added.

Gloria Thornton moved the Annual Report be approved with the changes. Peg Strub seconded. The Report was approved with the changes.

### BHSF Presentation

Karen spoke about the Building a Healthier San Francisco presentation on February 3. Kathy Thomas Perry got us on the agenda to interact with this group who is a member of the Hospital Council. Karen is planning to attend and has invited the rest of the Task Force. It will be held in the morning at Chinese Hospital. The report is on the DPH and Northern California Council for the Community's web sites.

### Request and Recommendation for Special Meeting

The Planning Committee will discuss further clarification of the Asthma Task Force's role in sustaining asthma programs in the community.

### Outreach role of the ATF

Karen spoke about the idea of ATF outreach. When new legislation is passed, does the Task Force want to have a role in disseminating the legislation? Marie Hoemke stated that with some new legislation that passes, the information doesn't get out to everyone who needs to know. The Task Force needs to think of whom they want to have the Board of Supervisors appoint to be responsible for getting information out to parents and doctors when new legislation is passed.

## **5. ATF Logo Update**

Karen Cohn presented the final draft of the ATF logo. A suggestion was made to change "Asthma Education" to "Asthma Awareness". The logo was accepted with the revision.

## **6. Public Comment/Announcements**

Marie Hoemke distributed information about the Asthma Education Center (formerly the Asthma Education Resource Council) in Marin. .

Neil Gendel spoke about Project Connect which is run by the Mayor's Office. The goal is to determine what the needs are of the low income neighborhoods. A report has now been published and can be found on MOCD's web site. Bay View/Hunter's Point Co-Op Housing listed asthma as one of their concerns. This was also a concern for the Tenderloin and

Chinatown. Project Connect is now planning to put together a committee to address the concerns.

Gloria Thornton stated the Governor's budget has now come out, along with his plan to redesign MediCal. He is looking to insure the funding for disproportionate share hospitals continues to have a waiver written so other federal funds are available. He is also asking for monthly premiums for all MediCal members over 100% of the federal poverty level.

Anne Kelsey Lamb announced that RAMP is having a regional round table discussion on addressing asthma in schools on January 26. It will be held in Oakland from 10 – 4.

Anjali announced that John Gollinger is available. There are some funds to pay him.

Anjali stated she is actively looking for grants to fund staffing and asked that people tell her if they know of any grants for her to look into.

Marie Hoemke announced Ann Melamed sent her announcements of the SF PTA's dinner will be held at the Miyoko Hotel February 4, 2005 to celebrate 100 years of the PTA.

**Meeting Adjourned (4:00p.m.)**

The next meeting will be February 28, 2005 at 2:00.