

Board of Supervisors Asthma Task Force
Minutes of Meeting held on February 24, 2003
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA

Members In Attendance: MariaElena Alioto, Richard Castro, Barbara Conner-Andersen, Dierdre Epps-Miller, Carla Furtado, Marie Hoemke, Louise Hill, Lisa Kroon, Jennifer Mann, Louise Kimbell, Julie McKown, Carolyn Noble, Ann Togia, Carl Rose, Deanna Rossi, Beth Saiki, Peg Strub, and Joan Hall,

Absent Members: Mary Higgins, Veronica Lightfoot, Ann Melamed, Anne Heinline, Trish Bascom, Jim Calonico and Rose Toney,

Guests and Staff: Tirtza Rosenberg, Nancy Warren, Neil Gendel, May Ling Dea, Anne Kelsey, Kim Coates, Sandra Estrada, Ardis Hanson, Tony Anderson, David Bergman, Camile Wise, Maria Luz Torre, Karen Cohn and Katy Ekegren.

(* = pending appointment)

1. Introductions, Agenda Revisions, Approval of Minutes

There were no agenda revisions. The minutes of the October 2002, December 2002 and January 2003 meetings were reviewed. The spelling of Ardis Hanson's name was corrected in the January minutes. All three sets of minutes were approved with the one correction.

2. CDC Grant

Ardis Hanson, of San Francisco Unified School District's Healthy Kids, spoke about the new Center for Disease Control Asthma Project. The main goal is to get the "Open Airways Program" in schools. This is a 6-week curriculum. Next year, in the second year of funding, they will be looking for volunteers. Two plans are to provide some asthma education for staff and faculty in the schools and to communicate with medical community regarding what is needed in schools. The first training will be March 6. There will also be outreach to the parents of children with asthma where, along with other information, they will be given an asthma action plan. The plan is to reach 25 schools by next year.

Neil Gendel asked which other organizations they are working with. Ardis responded they are working with: HERC; SF General and other community organizations.

Neil asked if this would be connected with tracking school of children with asthma? Ardis responded they would be looking at children's attendance rates and academic rates.

Carla Furtado asked if the student health inventory form that has been developed would be used. Ardis responded that could be used, but there will be a more comprehensive survey sent to the parents.

3. Telemedicine Grant

Dr. David Bergman, from Stanford, presented information on the Telemedicine Project. This was initially part of a project funded by the David and Lucille Packard Foundation

which was looking at asthma management in hospital based clinics. One of the items of particular interest was combining the information from the clinics together particularly having facilitated asthma complications among asthma experts. The studies were done at San Francisco General Hospital, the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital and the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. The study identified problems with getting to the clinic or hospital and getting the services necessary. There were also problems with coordinating with primary care providers. Additional funding was then received from the California Endowment. It was found that through a telemedicine link the program could be brought to the schools and thus improve the standard of care.

The program has been working with the Asthma Resource Center, HERC, San Francisco Unified School District and Stanford University. Three elementary schools in the Bayview-Hunter's Point community have been targeted. The population of the project will be kindergarten through 4th grade. The children involved will be identified through school health records and the ISAAC survey.

Some of the components of the survey are a home assessment, asthma action plans to the primary care physicians and the school personnel, spirometry and pulmonary function testing will be done in schools to determine asthma severity.

The program will also be using 'I-trax', which is an asthma software to develop a program to link to a web-based program to list asthma action plans and guidelines and make them available to school and other health care personnel.

The outcomes of the study will be to have a Child Health Survey for asthma that will be a quality of life survey, pulmonary function testing on the children and knowledge and satisfaction surveys.

Carl Rose asked if the project will be testing indoor air quality in the schools. Dr. Bergman stated that is not in the budget at this time.

Nancy Warren asked if the e-coordinator web site would eventually be available to all schools. He responded that it is an available resource and what he hopes to demonstrate is the impact of having this information accessible.

Katy Ekegren asked if part of the documentation will include asthma-related absences from schools, and would this just be elementary schools? This information will be part of the Child Health Survey and from attendance data from schools. Also looked at will be performance data from standardized tests to see how that relates to the disability of asthma.

Neil Gendel commented about the behavior changes in the child while waiting for the medication to take effect. He also asked if some of the children tracked in the survey would be from child development centers. Dr. Bergman stated they will be looking at children who are going from child development centers to kindergarten and what happens to the children as they make the transition.

Maria Alena Alioto asked how many times the children will be contacted. There will be four encounters during the school year.

Dee Epps-Miller asked what the role will be of the health inventory form that was developed by ARC. She also stated that at the current time there is no system which captures the health record of the children from pre-school system to elementary school system. She pointed out that, with bussing, a lot of the children who start out in school together will go to various different schools, some of which will not be the "targeted" schools and they will be lost to the study.

4. Parent Voices – letter of support for Parent Voices advocacy project.
Discussion and Voting Item.

Beth Saiki introduced two speakers from Parent Voices, Maria Luz Torre and Sandra Estrada. Beth explained that the Children's Environmental Health Promotion of the Department of Public Health received a grant from the California Department of Health Services to work on addressing the needs of children with asthma under five years of age in San Francisco. (San Francisco is one of the 12 communities in the state that received this grant.) Yes We Can and the American Lung Association has been subcontracted to carry out components of the grant. The American Lung Association is subcontracting Parents Voices to handle the Parents Advocacy Project.

Parents Voices has drafted a resolution addressed to the Board of Education which states that since a growing number of children with asthma spend most or part of their day in pre-school, all teachers and staff should be trained on asthma warning signs, medications, environmental control and emergency protocols. The resolution goes on to request that Child Development Programs devote at least two hours of teacher and staff development training on asthma management and emergency response, and that printed information about warning signs and steps which should be taken in an emergency situation, be posted in all classrooms. This resolution is to be implemented starting the following school year, 2003/2004.

The two "targets" for the resolution are the School Board and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Dee Epps-Miller pointed out that SB 1553 states that as of January 1, 2001, when licensing is renewed City College training now includes asthma training with the required CPR training. Beth Saiki stated that while this is required, the training varies widely, sometimes the training consists of being given a handout.

The Task Force agreed to send a letter of support, to go along with the resolution, requiring that every year there is at least two hours of asthma training for teachers and staff in the Child Development Program and that there would be a requirement of a posting of information on asthma warning signs and how to respond in an emergency.

Carla Furtado suggested that the term "good emergency plan" be standardized.

Marie Hoemke moved that the Asthma Task Force support the efforts of the Asthma Relief for Kids through Parents Voices and the resolution to be presented to the Board of Education. Carla Furtado seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5. Contacting external stakeholders

Nancy Warren asked everyone to call the people they interviewed and let them know they will be receiving a letter from the committee chair and a copy of the draft for that particular section. They are being asked to comment on the section and send their comments to the chairs by March 7. She also asked that everyone send the chair of their committee all the contact information they have on the people they interviewed.

Carla Furtado suggested that the chairs add a statement to their letter saying that we look forward to their public support and future input.

6. Strategic Plan. Discussion and Voting Item

Nancy Warren distributed copies of the strategic plan draft. This is the same draft that was emailed to everyone with the exceptions of: introduction; executive summary; process of the strategic plan and the ATF description. Nancy asked that everyone review those sections and send their comments to her. The deadline is March 10.

A possible addition will be a dedication to the children who have died of asthma in San Francisco.

Nancy asked that people compile their lists of who should go in the Acknowledgement Section.

Karen Cohn stated that two things need to be considered. First that not all deaths are preventable. Second there is a difference between preventing uncontrolled asthma and preventing new cases of asthma. Part of the audience may disagree with some of the introductory statements. Karen will do some research into how this may be reworded.

A suggestion was made to draft a sidebar to cover the issue of "prevention of asthma".

Barbara Conner-Andersen spoke about what effect HIPPA, a privacy act to protect persons and their medical records, may have regarding the implementation of the recommendations.

Dee Epps-Miller moved that today's draft for dissemination to the external stakeholders for their review of their sections of the recommendations be approved. Jennifer Mann seconded. The motion passed.

7. New Business, Public Comment, Announcements

Deanna Rossi announced that there was an article on the front page of the San Francisco Chronicle, February 11, 2003. It was a good article, except it used the CHIS data. Deanna sent a letter to the editor, which has not been published.

Karen Cohn will be taking Jennifer Mann's seat on the Task Force. Jennifer will continue attending the meetings as long as possible.

The next Asthma Task Force Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, March 24, 2003** from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at City Hall, located at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 278, San Francisco.

Meeting Adjourned (4:00 p.m.)