

**Board of Supervisors Asthma Task Force**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on March 22, 2004**  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA

Members In Attendance: Kathy Thomas Perry, Beth Saiki, Lisa Kroon, Julie McKown, Le Conte Dill, Gloria Thornton, Marie Hoemke, Mary Higgins and Karen Cohn.

Absent Members: MariaElena Alioto, Richard Castro, Barbara Conner-Andersen, Peg Strub, Jim Calonico, Ann Melamed, Carl Rose, Aimee Ganz, Veronica Lightfoot, Diedre Epps-Miller, Louise Hill, Trish Bascom, Salem Prouty, and Rose Toney,

Guests and Staff: Tirtza Rosenberg, Neil Gendel, May- Ling Dea (for Louise Kimbell), Anne Kelsey Lamb, Anjali Nath, Deanna Rossi, Diane Bailey, Yan Oi Wong and Vicki Legion.

(\* = pending appointment)

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

There were no revisions of the agenda. The February minutes were corrected to read: Page two, Schools and Childcare Committee should read that Anne talked about air quality in schools: The Schools and Childcare Committee meetings are held at RAMP, not HERC; Shel Rosenblum was corrected to Shelley Rosenblum; Page three, 10<sup>th</sup> paragraph was corrected to read “support a city endorsement”; Page four, Resolution #20040223-PC-3 was changed to state the resolution is asking the Health Department to have an ongoing data analysis of support to the Task Force; Page two, Schools and Childcare Committee, second paragraph was corrected to read “within the committee’s priority recommendation on IAQ in schools.”; Page three, resolution 6, third paragraph was corrected to read “as mainly giving a letter of support...” ; page one, Clinical, paragraph two was changed to “survey asking the clinical providers if they communicate with the child care or school settings.”

### **2. Special Presentation:**

#### **Diane Bailey**

Beth Saiki introduced Diane Bailey. She spoke about the California Air Resources Board’s Diesel Reduction Plan. This is one of the issues that CAFA is advocating for.

Ms. Bailey stated that while diesel has long been associated with cancer, it is also associated strongly with asthma. New research is coming out saying that, in some cases, it may actually cause asthma. Some of the gluts in diesel exhaust and particulate matter are asthma triggers in themselves. Diesel also releases a lot of nitrogen oxide which are precursors to ozone and smog. This is a very serious pollution problem throughout the state of California. Most of it is truck traffic related, but there are many other diesel sources, such as locomotives, ships and construction equipment.

In 1998 the Air Resources Board designated diesel as a toxic air contaminant. Diesel in the state of California was then found to be attributable to over 70% of the air toxics. The Diesel Risk Reduction Plan was written in October, 2000, to try to address the problem.

EPA has a non-road rule for off road equipment. That could, potentially, be adopted in April.

The problem is it doesn't address issues with existing vehicles and equipment. Often the diesel equipment will last a long time without being improved. The Diesel Reduction Plan will address "in use" equipment.

The first rule will address transit busses. Other rules which have passed recently include regulation of refuse trucks, the stationary diesel engine, portable engines and refrigerator trucks. In the summer, 2002 the School Bus Idling Rule was passed. The Board has created Safe School Zones, where within 100 meters of the schools virtually no vehicle engines are allowed to idle.

Ms. Bailey asked for the Task Force's support in the following areas: Advocacy in signing letters of support; attending and testifying at hearings.

A rule that is coming before the California Air Resources Board deals with the trucks that are polluting more than their fair share using the chip-reflash device. During the 1990s trucks were being manufactured that polluted up to two to three times more than emission test results after the testing was over. They were caught, but haven't fixed the problem.

Another rule is the Transit Bus Rule. At this time there are no diesel busses that meet California standards. The options now are to roll back the standards, leave old busses on the road or allow non-compliant busses to be purchased. The council is looking for ways to stop standards from being rolled back and still meet the emission reduction.

Another rule coming up would set strict limits on how much time a truck can idle. Trucks would have to be plugged in at truck stops, or smaller, cleaner engines would have to be bought.

### **Vicky Legion**

Vicky Legion is with Community Health Works which is a partner of San Francisco State University, Department of Health Education and City College of San Francisco, Health Science Department. In 1997 she began working with asthma through Yes We Can Urban Partnership. Yes We Can has worked with Mission Neighborhood Health Center and Excelsior Clinic and partnered with the Pediatric Asthma Clinic at San Francisco General Hospital to implement a team model of close case management for asthma. In addition, Yes We Can works with Kaiser Permanente and National Initiative on Childhood Health Quality.

Vicky Legion presented Children's Asthma Management Program. The program is an effort to stabilize 30 clinics which were funded and started children's asthma clinics around the state. These clinics were funded by either the CAFA initiative, the California Endowment or the Childhood Asthma Initiative. The funding for these clinics will sunset in summer of 2004. The goal is to have MediCal stabilize and make permanent this kind of care, by having the funding be part of the California State Budget this year. The reason to be presented is that it is cost saving.

A survey was done of four chronic diseases, in three states, to determine a model for the preventive care. The best model found was Family Pact. Family Pact pays for prevention oriented services, then the provider can bill for the unstable, severe asthma services on top of the monthly capitation. This would not be for the uninsured or the uninsurable.

Gloria Thornton suggested the AIDS enhanced capitation program be looked at.

David Bergman suggested looking at the CCS function, which would allow partnering with the Children's Hospital Lobby of California.

Vicky Legion asked that the Task Force endorse the Asthma Management Program. She also asked that people go to a Budget Committee to testify in mid to late April and early May.

Vicky Legion announced that Barbara Garcia will be putting the asthma team and health workers at San Francisco General Hospital on civil service.

### **3. Introduction of Resolutions**

#### **IAQ Bill – Resolution**

Shall the Task Force support this bill and shall the Task Force ask Sophie Maxwell to support this bill?

Beth Saiki spoke about AB 2863, a bill authored by Fran Pavley. Fran Pavley is a Democrat from Agora Hills who is a former teacher.

The purpose of the bill is to improve indoor air quality in new and existing schools and to protect the health of students and faculty.

Beth asked the Task Force to submit a letter of support in favor of the bill.

Community Action to Fight Asthma and the American Lung Association are co-sponsoring the bill. Representatives from various coalitions throughout the state participated in the drafting of the bill.

Beth went on to state she feels this bill will help to further the work of the Schools and ChildCare Committee. This bill would require existing schools to conduct self assessments to identify indoor air quality concerns. It would also require schools to develop an indoor air quality management plan based on the EPA's indoor air quality Tools for Schools Kit and present the plan to the Board of Education. The school district is then required to report back to the Board of Education on the progress the schools are making in implementing these plans.

It also requires school districts to incorporate The California Collaborative for High Performance Schools in the construction of new or remodeled schools.

There is no funding attached to this bill. Despite the fact it requires a plan to be drafted, it does not require the schools to take action. The bill will require the schools to identify and document the issues and start to think of how the issues will be resolved.

Marie Hoemke stated that while there is no funding to the bill, this bill will enable the schools to let the public know what some of the problems are.

A question was raised regarding whether or not Supervisor Maxwell should also be asked to write a letter of support. A suggestion was also made to have the Board of Education write a letter.

Karen Cohn suggested offering incentives for being compliant.

Lisa Kroon reported the Board of Pharmacy imposes a fine for those who don't comply with pharmacy rulings. This could be used as a model.

Neil Gendel talked about the fact that the focus of schools is, appropriately, education. There is no focus on healthy buildings which hinder children being able to receive the education.

The resolution was tabled due to lack of a quorum.

**Trucking Computer Chip modification Resolution:**

Shall the Task Force support a requirement that all chips be modified as recommended by the American Lung Association and RAMP?

Beth Saiki stated that CAFA is asking the Task Force to support regulations in the Diesel Reduction Plan. Kathy Thomas Perry pointed out that writing letters of support was covered in Resolution 20040223-PC-6.

Kathy will talk to Supervisor Maxwell regarding the need for quorum to pass resolutions.

**4. ALA Lobby Day**

LeConte Dill reported she and some students from Thurgood Marshall High School from the Bay View went to Sacramento to talk to legislators regarding what is going on with their local districts. It went very well.

**5. World Asthma Day**

Anjali Nath reviewed the various ideas for World Asthma Day.

The Kaiser Troupe has been reserved. A discussion was held regarding where to have the troupe perform.

Anjali suggested having a proclamation, from the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor for presentation.

John Gollinger has been contacted to work with the Task Force for press coverage of the events of the day. He can work on an article, or an op-ed in the paper. He can also arrange a press availability/meet. This would entail getting a group together for interviews and having them be available to the press at one time. Another possibility is a press conference. Beth Saiki stated John Galinger will need four key messages.

Vicky Legion and possibly RAMP will be doing op-ed pieces also. Kathy Thomas Perry suggested having an Op-Ed piece about Telemedicine in Bay View.

Karen Cohn stated she is willing to have a newsletter and case study documents published by that day, and media purchases of radio air time. Karen asked that articles submitted be about services which are still available.

Neil Gendel suggested publishing a list of challenges that need to be faced, i.e. what is being worked on with the School District, the Housing Authority...

Neil Gendel suggested going to the individual supervisors and asking them for commitments from the individual supervisors and the members of the Board of Education.

Kathy Thomas Perry suggested having children demonstrate on the City Hall steps with signs regarding asthma or indoor air quality.... Tirtza reminded the Task Force a suggestion was made last year to have asthmatic children be in front of City Hall with signs stating how many days they missed from school last year.

Gloria Thornton suggested having an event either in, or including, the children from the Tenderloin to make people more aware of asthma issues in the Tenderloin.

Neil Gendel suggested having a middle school child talk about how their life has been affected by asthma and how it inhibits their participation in various things.

LeConte Dill will contact the schools regarding the availability of children for the day.

The tentative plan for the day is: the press conference at 10:30; 11:00 the students arrive and City Hall to meet with the supervisors; 11:30 or 11:45 the children have lunch and enjoy the Kaiser Theater.

Anjali Nath pointed out that May is Asthma Awareness Month. Maybe Asthma Awareness Day could be a kick off to the month.

**Meeting Adjourned (5:30p.m.)**