

**Board of Supervisors Asthma Task Force  
Minutes of Meeting held on March 24, 2003**

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

Members In Attendance: MariaElena Alioto, Barbara Conner-Andersen, Mary Higgins, Marie Hoemke, Louise Hill, Lisa Kroon, Louise Kimbell, Julie McKown, Ann Melamed, Carolyn Noble, Deanna Rossi, Beth Saiki, Peg Strub, , Veronica Lightfoot, Rose Toney, and Joan Hall,

Absent Members: Richard Castro, Dierdre Epps-Miller, Carla Furtado, Ann Togia, Carl Rose , Trish Bascom, Jim Calonico.

Guests and Staff: Tirtza Rosenberg, Nancy Warren, Neil Gendel, May Ling Dea, \*Karen Cohn, Ardis Hanson, \*Tony Anderson, Stacey Herrera and Charlene Williams.

(\* = pending appointment)

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

There were no agenda revisions. Minutes for the January meeting were corrected to read: The spelling of Barbara Conner-Andersen's name was corrected; Page 1 paragraph five should read "health inventory form"; Page 2 paragraph three "I-tract "was corrected to "I-trax"; Page four paragraph nine was corrected to read "HIPPA". The minutes were approved as corrected.

### **2. Asthma Walk**

Marie Hoemke introduced Heidi Shell and Ellen Brout from the American Lung Association to talk about the upcoming "Blow the Whistle on Asthma" Walk.

Ellen stated this will be the first asthma walk in San Francisco. Last year the American Lung Association held 70 walks throughout the country. This year there will be over 100. The purpose is to raise funds and awareness for the ALA's fight against asthma.

The walk will be Saturday, October 18, in Golden Gate Park. It will be a 5K walk. There will be four walks in the Bay Area: East Bay, Santa Clara, San Francisco and Santa Rosa.

Heidi spoke about the work that the Lung Association is doing in the Bay Area. In addition to working with the Unified School District to introduce Open Airways for Schools into the School District, working with Parent Advocates and health care providers, the ALA also funds a lot of research. The ALA also does advocacy for clean air policies and tobacco control.

Heidi suggested a Team from the Asthma Task Force could participate in the Blow the Whistle on Asthma Walk and that the individual organizations represented at the Asthma Task Force could have teams. Carolyn Noble suggested she contact the pharmaceutical companies be contacted for sponsorship.

### **3. Pharmacy Project**

Lisa Kroon and Sharon Youmans talked about a project involving her School of Pharmacy and Safeway. The pharmacy students will be at several Safeways (16<sup>th</sup> and Potrero, Webster and Geneva and Mission) and will be available for free asthma

education counseling. This will include meters, peak flow meters and various inhalation products.

Sharon explained the program titled BEEP (Breathe Easy Education Project) will be in "underserved" areas where the rate of asthma is high. The program will consist of setting a time, once a month, where families can go to the stores and receive asthma education. Safeway has said they are willing to go to locations where there is a need, but Bayview has no Safeway store. They will go to Bayview, if a location can be found. This may eventually be tried with other providers in other counties.

Beth Saiki suggested keeping a binder of interventions which are being done by various agencies.

#### **4. Update on Written Plan**

Nancy Warren reviewed the next steps for the Strategic Plan. The final plan date is April 21. During the month of April the various committees will meet to identify the top two recommendations to pursue. Also in April, Sophie Maxwell's office will identify the best route for the presentation of the Strategic Plan. Rajiv Bahtia will request the Health Commission to allow the San Francisco Department of Health to review and approve the Strategic Plan. Sometime during April to June the plan will be presented. Immediately after that, the first piece of proposed legislation will be presented.

In a meeting with Supervisor Maxwell, the various options for presentation were discussed. These would possibly include: a press conference; testimony and meetings with individual supervisors.

Neil Gendel pointed out that many of the recommendations do not require legislation. Nancy responded that while that is true, Supervisor Maxwell is very keen to press forward with some of the recommendations, turning them into codes and legislation. At this point, the committees need to identify which recommendations need to be pressed forward into legislation, and which recommendations are most important to the committees.

Nancy asked for a list of people who will be acknowledged in the Strategic Plan. Beth offered a chart of all the people who were interviewed.

#### **5. Meeting with Supervisor Sophie Maxwell**

Deanna Rossi, Beth Saiki, Rose Toney, Marie Hoemke, Peg Strub, Marie Alena Alioto and Nancy Warren met with Supervisor Sophie Maxwell.

Deanna reported that the terms of the Task Force will expire the end of June, 2003. Supervisor Maxwell will help getting the terms extended.

Supervisor Maxwell is very pleased with all the work that has been done by the Task Force. She will be reviewing the recommendations. She would like the Task Force to go before the Board of Supervisors with an ordinance to be passed.

Karen Cohn asked if spending money had been discussed. Deanna responded that determining the cost of the recommendations should be part of the next step in the process. The committees will need to keep in mind which recommendations will be put before the Board of Supervisors and which will be put before the School Board and how much money will be asked for with each recommendation given the current budgetary crisis in the city.

Neil Gendel stated that while financial expertise on how things are financed in the city are outside the purview of the Task Force, Supervisor Maxwell does have that expertise.

Marie Hoemke pointed out that different committees in different Commissions in the city are asking for similar issues as the Task Force. These will be combined for resolutions and presented together.

Karen Cohn offered to contact a planner from the Health Department to act as a consultant. After the individual committees meet and decide which one or two recommendations they want to pursue, then the subcommittee will meet with Karen and the planner.

#### **5. CAFA Grant – Phase II**

Beth Saiki spoke about the California Endowment Plan and the funding for the next two years.

So far the Strategic Plan has been funded by the California Endowment's Community Action to fight asthma, the state Prop. 10, and the Kaiser Permanente/ALA Partnership. CAFA funded 12 asthma initiatives through the state, including the Task Force. Five of the 12 coalitions were from the Bay Area.

The focus of the CAFA initiative is to reduce environmental factors to school age children with asthma. The emphasis of the initiative is on policy change. In years two and three the California Endowment will fund the efforts of asthma coalitions to advocate for policy changes to reduce environmental risk factors. The Task Force is not limited to environmental recommendations.

Beth reviewed the goals of the objectives of CAFA for years two and three and a flow chart of who the people are at CAFA.

The funding for the next two years is \$150,000 each year. The funding will be used to pay for Nancy's services, media campaigns and materials. Beth has sent an email to everyone inviting them to participate in a series of three meetings to discuss how the endowment grant will be used. The first meeting was last week. The next meeting will be held tomorrow morning at 1390 Market Street, Suite 230.

Karen asked if the \$150,000 per year has already been completely budgeted. Beth responded that \$5,000 is let over from last year, which is being added to this year. One

item that will be discussed in the meetings will be the idea of funding a Parent Advocacy group that is currently being funded by the Prop. 10 grant.

Beth also suggested contacting Coleman Advocates, or a similar group, to recruit parents of children with asthma to push forward on one of the recommendations from the Strategic Plan.

Peg Strub asked what the other CAFA Task Forces are doing? Beth suggested that Anne Kelsey come to a meeting and speak on what the others are doing.

Neil Gendel spoke about the two existing alliances, Healthy Public Housing and the Alliance for Healthy Public Schools. He spoke about various parent advocacy groups which are connected with the two alliances and the fact that they are also looking at some of the same issues as the Task Force.

## **6. World Asthma Day**

Deanna asked the Task Force for ideas regarding what to do on World Asthma Day, May 6, 2003.

Rajiv Bhatia, Department of Public Health, dropped in to invite the Task Force to use the 4:00-5:00 slot at the Health Commission on May 6. This would be for information, not testimony.

Karen Cohn stated that Leticia Medina, Children's Environment Health, is working with the Spanish media. The conflict, however, is the amount of material the station has for Cinco De Mayo. It's possible some of the asthma material will not be aired until later.

Karen Cohn has some money from the Prop. 10 grant which could be used for this.

Karen attended a meeting of the African American Health Initiative. Several radio stations and a cable station were willing to help out. The group felt oral testimony would be an effective way to reach people. The approach would be one of a "social justice" issue.

Karen stated there is also the possibility of arranging something with the Cantonese media, through David Lo of her staff. Also the Health Department has a Public Information Officer who may be able to help.

Karen suggested that, if the Task Force plans to address the Health Commission, the plan should be cleared with Supervisor Maxwell and possibly she and Mitch Katz address the Health Commission together.

Peg Strub suggested having the Kaiser Theater Group perform as part of World Asthma Day. Marie Hoemke suggested they could possibly perform at the John Muir school, which is near City Hall. Possibly children from that school and others could come to the performance.

Maria Elana spoke about the program for Asthma Awareness Day on Capitol Hill, Washington DC. She suggested this might be a good model for San Francisco which would involve the Board of Supervisors.

Veronica Lightfoot suggested that the School District be contacted and asked to recognize Asthma Awareness Day. Ardis Hanson responded that the Weekly Administrative Directive for April will focus on Child Abuse and Asthma. The May focus has already been chosen for 2003, but 2004 is a possibility.

Veronica Lightfoot, Carolyn Noble, Karen Cohn, Rose Toney and Maria Elana Alioto will serve on a World Asthma Day subcommittee. Karen Cohn will chair. Beth suggested this be linked to the Planning Committee.

### **3. New Business, Public Comment, Announcements**

Karen Cohn announced she had brought several articles for distribution which use the word "prevention" regarding asthma.

The next Asthma Task Force Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 28, 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.)**