

Informal Meeting

Board of Supervisors Asthma Task Force Minutes of Meeting held on March 24, 2005 City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA

Members In Attendance: Karen Cohn, Neil Gendel, Marie Hoemke, Julie McKown, Gretchen Skaggs, Peg Strub, and Gloria Thornton.

Absent Members: MariaElena Alioto, Barbara Conner-Andersen, Mary Higgins, Deirdre Epps-Miller, Richard Castro, Beth Saiki, Lisa Kroon, Trish Bascom, Rose Toney, Veronica Lightfoot, Louise Kimbell, Kathy Thomas Perry, Aimee Ganz, Carl Rose. Winna Davis and Louise Hill.

Guests and Staff: Anjali Nath, Tirtza Rosenberg, Micah McLorin, Ardis Hanson, Gail Herrick, Lee Samson, Jon Golinger, Natasha Madaris and Raymond Manion.

(* = pending appointment)

1. Introductions, Agenda Revisions, Approval of Minutes

There were no revisions of the agenda. Due to a lack of quorum, approval of the February minutes was postponed. Following are the notes of the informal meeting that was held.

2. Committee Housekeeping Items

Karen introduced the new logo on this meetings agenda. Anjali will see if it can be reduced.

Tirtza distributed a draft of members, and active participant contact list. Corrections were requested.

3. Review of ATF Extension Process

An ordinance will be drafted to acquire a new sunset date. At the same time the number of voting seats will be reduced. Karen Cohn reviewed the meeting attendance records for the past year and the records may be part of the consideration for reducing the seats. Everyone will need to reapply for their seats. Julie will review the membership to suggest who else needs representation.

4. World Asthma Day

Karen reviewed the decision of the Planning Committee to have the project for World Asthma Day be a PSA put together by Jon Golinger. Over the last five years, Mr. Golinger has organized many media events for organizations.

A discussion was held to elicit ideas for the PSA. Some of the ideas were:

- It's as important to take your medicine as it is to control your environment.
- What does the Task Force do.
- What is the School District doing to promote the communication between doctors, parents and the schools?
- What does the parent, who suffered a very large loss in her life, have to say? What would she say to other parents?

- There is a high death rate in children due to asthma. It is a disease that must be taken seriously.
- If you are diagnosed with asthma you will be put on a controller medication that needs to be used daily, whether you are sick or well. It is a chronic disease that needs to be managed daily.
- If you are using a spray you need to use a spacer, and you shouldn't be embarrassed. Possibly get and quote from a child.
- Promote the work that ATF has done to make the schools healthier places to be.
- An emphasis on the partnership between parents, children and the medical profession.
- While we don't know the cause of asthma, we do know what triggers it. What we know about triggers and what we can do around the home, at school and in the environment at large to help clear triggers.
- The public needs to know what uncontrolled asthma looks like and what the signs of an emergency are. It will raise awareness.
- The connection between air pollution and asthma.
- Empower patients to ask for appointments with specialists.
- Promote the new assembly bill AB2185.
- Bill of children's rights.
- Push the Asthma Action Plan. Have a plan for home and school.
- Point out the fact that asthma can be deadly for children and adults. You might not grow out of asthma.

4. Guest Speaker – Office of the Controller

Monique Zmuda, of the Controller's Office, spoke to the Task Force regarding city budgeting.

The three year report provides information to the Mayor's Office as to what the analysts believe the budget will be next years and the two subsequent years. The economy is going up. The City anticipates more income from property taxes, business taxes and income taxes. The evaluation also includes cost of living increases.

There is a problem that needs to be solved in the next three years. The charter for the City requires that the budget be balanced.

Ms. Zmuda went on to describe how to make inroads to policy makers. This year the Chair for the Budget Committee is Supervisor Ammiano. The members are: Chris Daily, Shawn Ellsberg, Fiona Ma and Jake McGoldrick. They have a resolution, which will be submitted next Thursday, describing their process. It states the departments, in submitting their budgets, have to identify their missions and goals, their strategic plans and identify their performance measures. The board will be having general matter hearings on a number of departments regarding the performance measures and goals. They will also be holding hearings regarding specific topics.

The board will then consider the "Enterprise Budget. This includes budgets that don't get money from the general fund or general taxes. They receive their funds from the business they do.

The Mayor has asked everyone to reduce their budgets to accommodate cost of living and to develop contingency plans for further reduction.

This year the Mayor is having meetings with department staff and advocates to talk about the budget. He is also having focus groups.

The board can change, cut or add to a department budget, as long as the changes are within the legally available funds.

Ms. Zmuda reviewed the schedule for department hearings. She recommended that the Task Force go to one of the Advocate Meetings and give a very short presentation of what the Task Force's priorities are. Also, suggest funding sources, or what could be cut to support the work of the Task Force.

Announcements

Micah McGorin, HERC Coordinator, announced the Armani Johnson Camp next week and an Asthma Walk-A-Thon on March 26.

Marie announced that Natasha Maderas invited the Task Force to unveiling of the memorial to her son at 1520 Oakdale on March 25 at 11:00 a.m.

Anjali announced that California Endowment intends to fund CAFA and the Task Force for three more years.

Ardis Hanson thanked the Task Force for bringing the Kaiser Play, ARrsthma, to the John Muir School. They have now used the play in four different schools and it's being very well received.

Meeting Adjourned (4:00p.m.)

The next meeting will be April 25, 2005 at 2:00.