

**Board of Supervisors Asthma Task Force**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on March 27, 2006**  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA

Members In Attendance: Karen Cohn, Neil Gendel, Gloria Thornton, Rose Toney, Anjali Nath, Julie McKown, Marie Hoemke, Mary Higgins, Peg Strub, Natasha Madaris, Micah McLorin, and Kimberley Knox.

Absent Members: Benjamin Heckman, Barbara Conner-Andersen, Winna Davis, Trish Bascom, Deirdre Epps-Miller, MariaElena Alioto; Melina Whitehead, Louise Kimbell, Veronica Lightfoot, Aimee Ganz, and Louise Hill.

Guests and Staff: Gail Herrick, Tirtza Rosenberg, Raymond Manion, Lee Samson and Kate Lorenzen

(\* = pending appointment)

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

January and November minutes were approved. The agenda was revised to include a visit from Connie Chan, the new Legislative Assistant for Supervisor Maxwell

**2. Membership Ordinance Update**

Anjali Nath and Connie Chan attended the Rules Committee Meeting. They submitted a request to eliminate some of the seats. The change will be voted on March 28, 2006.

**3. Budget Update**

Karen Cohn reported the Kaiser Community Benefits officer, Lara Salee, told her the committee is considering the Task Force's request for \$5,000 to support community education. They are also considering the Hospital Council proposal for asthma case management teams. Lara has also said she would like to attend the Task Force monthly meetings.

**4. Clinical Committee Update**

Peg Stub introduced the speakers for the Clinical Committee.

Karen Cohn stated about 65 people participated in the Asthma Certification Course. So far, 37 people are registered for the examination. The reviews of the course showed a very positive response with many comments on how much people learned. There was a request for more information on special needs. Mary Higgins is presenting a review, for the test, on Tuesdays and Thursday s. Gail Herrick stated she is also acquiring a video of the course.

Peg Strub stated the next step is what is tentatively being called the "Asthma Interest Network". Monday, October 16 will be the first meeting. These will be lectures on different topics about asthma to keep everyone up-to-date. The target audience will be the people who attended the course, but it will be open to others.

Peg Strub reported on the Web site. There are three different way of entering the wed site: for patients and parents; providers; people looking for services. There will be a branch for the San Francisco Unified School District which will include the asthma action plans. There will be education materials and links to national, state and city organizations; various health plans;

information about healthy housing. There will also be a contact for people who do not have computer access.

Marie Hoemke reported the Schools Committee and the Clinical Committee are working together to develop and folder for clinicians who care for children.

## **5. Communication Development**

Anjali Nath met with Kate Lorenzen and the people from the Public Media Center. The goal of the meeting was to pull together the various needs of the different committees and determine an overarching campaign that can be created. The decision was that the various committees have very specific goals and objectives. An overarching campaign would not work. The Public Media Center will be available when needed to assist the different committees.

PMC reminded the committee that they felt the PSA the Task Force has is very powerful and should continue to be utilized.

A discussion followed about the possibility of campaign that would address the mental health issues and family issues around asthma. It was agreed that this would initially be addressed by various committees, then be part of a public campaign.

The five objectives for the communication strategy are: asthma management; Tools for Schools; Public Housing; Private Housing; Promoting the Clinical Committee website.

## **6. Connie Chan**

Connie Chan, the new the new Legislative Assistant for Supervisor Maxwell , introduced herself to the Task Force. She will be meeting with Anjali Nath soon to be briefed on the activity of the Task Force.

## **7. Evaluation**

Anjali Nath has participated in her first evaluation call for CAFA. The Environmental Committee's housing issues have been chosen as the first priority outcome, so she is involved in Housing Cluster calls. She was able to connected with people from other coalition is the state who have chosen housing issues. They were able to share successes and challenges. Karen stated what the committee is evaluating is the Public Housing tenants perception of change due to the work of the committee.

Kate Lorenzen stated there are also cluster groups looking and schools and outdoor air quality. They will be developing ways of evaluation that will then be shared with the other coalitions.

Karen Cohn suggested researching evaluation of non-service related projects.

Anjali announced that in the next month she, Karen and Gloria will be calling members of the Task Force to "check in" for about 15 minutes to get thoughts and feedback on participation in the Task Force.

## **8. RAMP Schools Roundtable Report**

Kate Lorenzen hosted an annual roundtable discussion last Tuesday. This one focused on schools. Kate reported the topic was "Creating an Asthma Policy". Three school districts were invited to attend: Oakland, Ravenswood from San Mateo and Vacaville from Solano County. They presented their processes on getting asthma policies passed in their school districts. About 35 people from Public Health Departments, schools, working coalitions... The discussions included tactics, what works, what doesn't work, HIPPA; and a representative from state Department of Health Services who gave a breakdown on how the California Healthy Kids Survey works and other data resources. Also the Wellness Policy was discussed to be expanded to include asthma management.

### **9. World Asthma Day**

Mary Higgins reported she spoke to Susan, from PMC. They are working on posters and a program of speakers. Mary has sent invitations.

Marie Hoemke offered the EPA has a planning guide for World Asthma Day on their website: <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/awm.html>

Supervisor Maxwell will be out of town and unable to attend.

The focus of the speakers will be on Project Clean It Up. Statistics and pictures will be available for the press. Pictures will also be displayed of Asthma Camp.

### **10. Brainstorm Possible Speakers/Information Topics for future meetings.**

Suggestions for speakers at future meetings are:

Dr. Ackerman

An update from Connie Chan regarding Supervisor Maxwell's activities and how we could interact

Advocacy at the Board of Supervisor level

Training on how to introduce legislation to the Board of Supervisors

How to use data on asthma

Dr. Lisa Johnson, Director of CHN

### **11. Announcements**

Mary Higgins announced HERC's Asthma Walk will be on 6301 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to Monster Park on May 6.

Peg Strub stated a small asthma fair will be held at Kaiser on Tuesday, June 8.

Karen Cohn announced she represented several Asthma Task Force members at a hearing sponsored by the Tobacco Free Project to stop smoking at bus stops.

Anjali Nath announced September 16, 2006 will be the Breathe California Walk.

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

The next meeting will be April 24, 2006 at 2:00.