

DRAFT

**Board of Supervisors Asthma Task Force
Minutes of Meeting held on April 26, 2004**

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

Members In Attendance: Kathy Thomas Perry, Beth Saiki, Lisa Kroon, Julie McKown, MariaElena Alioto, Richard Castro, Gloria Thornton, Marie Hoemke, Veronica Lightfoot, Mary Higgins, Carl Rose, Peg Strub, Rose Toney and Karen Cohn.

Absent Members: Le Conte Dill, Barbara Conner-Andersen, Jim Calonico, Ann Melamed, Aimee Ganz, Deirdre Epps-Miller, Louise Hill, Trish Bascom, Louise Kimbell and Salem Prouty,

Guests and Staff: Tirtza Rosenberg, Neil Gendel, Anjali Nath, Jan Stensland, Ardis Hanson (for Trish Bascom) and Lucille Valdivia.

(* = pending appointment)

1. Introductions, Agenda Revisions, Approval of Minutes

There were no revisions of the agenda. The March minutes were corrected to read: The Schools and Childcare Committee meetings are held at HERC not RAMP; Page four, item three, corrected to state that Lisa Kroon's statement regarding a fine was her reporting of a Board of Pharmacy model. The minutes were accepted as corrected.

2. Presentation, Dr. Rajiv Bhatia, DPH

Dr. Bhatia spoke about the most recent data on asthma. Statistically, over the last ten years the asthma hospitalization rate in California has declined in all age groups and all ethnicities. This is also true for San Francisco. The hospitalization rate in San Francisco has dropped faster than in California as a whole. San Francisco had been near the worst and has now improved its standing to 11th worst for children and 13th worst for adults in the state. This information is limited in that it talks about hospitalizations without taking into account home visits and doctor visits.

Neil Gendel stated that according to the information he has received the highest increase in prevalence rate is children 0 to 5 nationally. Neil asked if that is also true in San Francisco.

Dr. Bhatia defined "prevalence" as the proportion of people in the population with the condition, asthma. He went on to state the prevalence depends on how asthma is defined. There has also been an increased awareness in asthma causing conditions which might have been called asthma in the past are now not diagnosed as asthma and vice versa. Dr. Bhatia believes the prevalence has flattened out.

Dr. Bhatia spoke about barriers people have expressed to improving their environmental situations, i.e., fear of eviction, lack of money... The people had been told by doctors, environmentalists, etc. what to do, but they have social barriers preventing them from taking the needed steps. One of the ways the Department of Public Health is looking at these problems is a land management issue. Currently there is a project to rezone the Eastern Side of San Francisco, i.e., SOMA, Potrero Hill, Mission, Showplace Square and Bay View/Hunter's Point. DPH is working on a Health Impact Assessment to increase support for more affordable housing, safe housing, access to exercise, grocery stores, etc. Quite often when research is done to deal with health inequities, the actual findings are that it increases inequities. The people with the most advantages seem to be those who will take advantage of opportunities they are presented. Dr.

Bhatia asked the Asthma Task Force consider who they might like to be a stakeholders or participant in this effort. He also asked the Task Force to consider in what ways social conditions might be barriers in achieving the recommendations.

The people in the Eastern Side of San Francisco are looking at land use planning. DPH is talking to stakeholders who are interested in land use planning or whose interests are related to land use planning. The question now is “What would being involved in land use planning mean to you?” The second step would be to convene a representative group of people at a stakeholders council as a decision making body. They will go through a facilitated process to make the connections between land use and health and sustainability well being. From there, recommendations will be made to planning regarding how land use quality in San Francisco can be healthier. The council will then either research questions brought up or have experts available to testify. They will then prioritize the recommendations to make to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors and to the general public.

Kathy Thomas Perry asked that Task Force members think about what information they would like from DPH and email the requests to her.

3. Introduction of Resolutions

Resolution 20040426-PC-1

Recognition of the Chair and members of the Schools, Childcare Development, and Home Based Childcare Settings Committee of the San Francisco Asthma Task Force on May 4, 2004, World Asthma Day.

Kathy Thomas Perry presented Resolution #20040426-PC-1.

Peg Strub asked that her name be taken off the acknowledgement. Stacey Herrera, James Calonico and Neil Gendel were added to the list of people being acknowledged.

The resolution was moved by Peg Strub; seconded by Gloria Thornton and passed

Resolution #20040426-PC-2

Creation of a review and advocacy process for policy, legislation, ordinances, ballot measures or any position that shall place the opinion, support or opposition of the San Francisco Asthma Task Force on public record.

Kathy Thomas Perry explained this is a resolution to create a process to review bills, policies, ordinances, ballot measures or other items brought before the task force.

Peg Strub asked that the final paragraph be stricken until a specific criterion has been formulated.

Karen Cohn asked that the last two paragraphs be stricken with the resolution ending with “Be it further resolved that the Planning Committee shall bring forward a criteria for review by the San Francisco Asthma Task Force.”

The resolution was moved by Karen Cohn; seconded by Rose Toney and passed.

Resolution #20040426-PC-3

Requesting that Supervisor Maxwell formally invite non-voting participants to serve on the Asthma Task Force that will include: the Department of the Environment, the Fire Department/EMS Division, and a voting participant from the Health Authority.

Kathy Thomas Perry announced Maria Luz Torres is interested in joining the task force and is also a member of the Health Authority.

This resolution is asking that Supervisor Maxwell send a letter to the Department of the Environment and the Fire Department/EMS Division inviting them to have a seat on the task force.

A discussion was held regarding informing the Health Authority that Maria Luz Torres, a member of their organization, will be joining the task force and request that she represent them.

Karen Cohn explained the issue is voting and non-voting members. This resolution is asking for two non-voting members, Department of the Environment, and one voting member, Health Authority, to be invited to join.

The resolution was moved by Karen Cohn; seconded by Mary Higgins and passed.

4. ATF Survey Presentation – Beth Saiki

Beth Saiki reviewed the findings of the Asthma Task Force Satisfaction Survey which the members of the task force completed between September and November, 2003. The results of the survey were analyzed by an outside consultant. Anjali and Beth then summarized her findings. Beth reviewed the responses that pointed out areas which needed improvement.

MariaElena Alioto asked about the time period people were considering when answering the survey. Beth stated it was from the beginning of the task force until November, 2003.

5. World Asthma Day

Karen Cohn talked about the newsletter she is preparing for distribution at World Asthma Day.

Karen passed around copies of the logo for the Asthma Task Force that will be used on the newsletter.

Beth Saiki introduced Jon Gollinger, the person who was contacted to help with the press coverage on World Asthma Day.

Jon Gollinger reminded everyone the Press Conference will be at John Muir School next Tuesday, May 4, at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend the event. The focus will be recognition of the School District primarily for progress over the last year. Open Airways is planning to be there. Arlene Ackerman and Supervisor Maxwell will speak. The lung van will

be parked nearby and spirometry testing will be offered. After the Press Conference, the Kaiser Permanente Education Theater will perform.

6. Meeting with Supervisor Maxwell

Kathy Thomas Perry, and the Chairs of the subcommittees will be meeting with Supervisor Maxwell tomorrow to get some direction from Supervisor Maxwell. Kathy reviewed the proposed agenda for the meeting.

A suggestion was made to have Supervisor Maxwell write letters to have various members excused from work to all them to attend the monthly meetings. Kathy Thomas Perry suggested having a conference line available for those who can't make it to the meetings. Another suggestion was to change, or vary, the times of the meetings. Kathy asked that people email her alternative dates and times.

7. Committee Reports

Clinical

Peg Strub displayed the poster that had been created for the AAAAI conference. While creating the poster, Peg noticed that while the Schools and Childcare Committee has a lot of advocacy seats, the other committees don't. She asked that this be considered when appointing others to the task force.

The Schools/Childcare and Environmental Committees deferred their reports until next month due to time restraints.

8. New Business

Saturday, October 16, 2004 there will be another Blow the Whistle on Asthma Walk sponsored by the American Lung Association.

Meeting Adjourned (4:30p.m.)