

**Board of Supervisors Asthma Task Force
Minutes of Meeting held on June 23, 2003**

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

Members In Attendance: MariaElena Alioto, Louise Kimbell, Barbara Conner-Andersen, Richard Castro , Marie Hoemke, Peg Strub, Carolyn Noble, Deanna Rossi, Beth Saiki, ,
Absent Members: Diedre Epps-Miller, Carl Rose , Louise Hill, Carla Furtado, Veronica Lightfoot, Julie McKown, Salem Prouty, Ann Melamed, Ann Togia, Mary Higgins, Trish Bascom, Rose Toney, Jim Calonico *Tony Anderson and Lisa Kroon.

Guests and Staff: Tirtza Rosenberg, Nancy Warren, Neil Gendel, *Karen Cohn and Marie Luz Torre,
(* = pending appointment)

1. Introductions, Agenda Revisions, Approval of Minutes

The agenda was rearranged to list the first presentation as Meetings with Individual District Supervisors, then the Parent Voices Update. Added to the agenda was a presentation of the School Bond Alert. Approval of the May minutes was postponed due to lack of a quorum.

2. Meetings with Individual District Supervisors

Nancy Warren spoke about meeting with the individual district supervisors prior to the presentation. The purpose of the meetings is to give a brief overview to the individual supervisors on what asthma is and what can be done before the presentation to the Board of Supervisors on July 17. The plan is to have at least one Asthma Task Force member from each committee and Nancy attend the various meetings. There will be handouts from each committee to give to the supervisors. Nancy will give them fact sheets. The meetings will be 30 minutes in length. The group will meet downstairs in the cafeteria of the light court ½ hour before each meeting.

Nancy passed around a sign up sheet for appointments with Gavin Newsom, Tom Ammiano, Fiona Ma, Bevan Dufty and Sophie Maxwell.

3. Presentation to the City Services Committee – July 17

Nancy announced the hearing will now be on July 17. The City Services Committee meets a 9:30 am. Nancy is requesting that time be set aside for Asthma Task Force testimony.

The Committee consists of Gavin Newsom, Fiona Ma and Bevan Dufty is the chairperson. Sophie Maxwell will be present.

Karen Cohn explained the City Services Committee hears any proposal where the city will accept money, spend money or influence how the city provides services.

Nancy stated the presentations will be focusing on the prioritized recommendations of each committee. The committee chairs will each present an overview and Deanna Rossi will present as overview of the Task Force. Time will be stopped when a member of the Board of Supervisors asks a question. Sophie Maxwell, and possibly other

supervisors will be given questions to ask in order to stop the clock and have time to expound on a point.

The Task Force presenters are given one to three minutes each.

Sarah He, Supervisor Maxwell's aide, suggested the presentations be one to two minutes and the total number of presenters be 15. Sarah suggested that something be presented that the chair can do within the committee meeting that would have the same weight as a general resolution.

A partial list of people who would testify would include: a child with asthma, a parent of a child with asthma, a grandparent of a child with asthma, a representative from the Department of the Environment, a representative from Literacy for Environmental Justice, someone from the schools and a clinician who will talk about the importance of the asthma action plan. A suggestion was made to include an adult with asthma.

The Environmental Committee's presentation will focus on code enforcement in the Housing Authority sites and Department of Building Inspection. Karen Cohn stated she plans to use two maps, one showing the districts of the supervisors the other showing the Housing Authority sites with an overlay.

She will also address the various agencies which are involved and how they can interact to improve asthma conditions.

The second issue that will be discussed is about outdoor air monitoring in high traffic areas which are used by trucking, Muni, and general congestion which cause problems for asthmatics and suggestions of what can be done to improve the situation.

Nancy Warren spoke about the School Committee's plan for their presentation.

The first part of the presentation will be about the Asthma Action Plan. What it is. Why it is important.

The second part of the presentation will be about the implementation of the San Francisco School District's indoor air quality and integrated pest management policy.

Peg Strub commented that she was concerned that a statement regarding asthma education was not being made. Beth Saiki responded that while the committee does want to act on education, they felt the Parent Voices Advocacy Project has been making progress on this.

Peg Strub reviewed the plan for the Clinical Committee. She plans to state that asthma is the most common, chronic disease of childhood and is very common chronic disease in adults. Statistics shows anywhere from 5 to 7% of the population live in Bay View/Hunter's Point area.

She will go on to cover the problems patients have getting a diagnosis of asthma and then receiving the proper care.

Nancy Warren spoke about the plan for the Community Committee. The speaker will give a general overview of the recommendations and reasons, including who has asthma, where asthma is more prevalent. There will also be a tie in to asthma awareness and other community organizations who are working on asthma.

Deanna Rossi will give a brief overview of the Asthma Task Force, the Asthma Action Plan and the Strategic Plan.

4. Press Conference Preparation

Nancy Warren stated there will also be a press conference July 17. Beth Saiki is hiring someone to work with the press.

Nancy said there needs to be a clear objective and purpose going into the press conference. Some ideas are to have children present, some engaging visuals, like little school buses, poster board of treatment by figures of kids ...

Theo Rigby spoke about a project he has been working on with Veronica Lightfoot. He is a free-lance photographer who has been taking pictures of children in Bay View/Hunter's Point with asthma, some using their inhalers and nebulizers. He has been taking portrait shots of children with asthma and how it affects their lives. He is planning to have his pictures published in the Chronicle in the fall. He offered to have his pictures used as an exhibit for the press conference.

Niel Gendel suggested that pictures also be used of various machines which cause problems.

Karen Cohn suggested having a picture of a large crowd and then identifying every 14th person as someone who has asthma.

Maria Elena Alioto stated she just returned from a meeting of the Asthma Council in Washington DC. She has contacts with the Mothers of Asthmatics Allergy and Asthma Newsletter and they would like an article, with pictures to be distributed nationwide.

Nancy Warren will check to find out what time the Task Force will be presenting to the Board of Supervisors. She will then arrange the press conference time. She will email everyone to let them know the schedule.

5. Membership Changes

Deanna reviewed some changes in the membership of the Task Force. Carla Furtado has not officially resigned yet, but she is planning to resign. Karen Cohn stated Gloria Thornton, the person who now has Carla's old position at Blue Cross, will be applying for the seat. Ann Togia has left HERC, but has not officially resigned from the Task Force. Carolyn Noble is resigning and June is her last meeting. Peg Strub will contact Kathy Thomas- Perry about applying for Carolyn's seat.

6. Parent Voices Update

Marie Luz-Torre distributed a copy of the Parent Voices resolution which was passed by the Board of Education.

7. School Bond Alert

Niel Gendel presented information regarding an upcoming school bond. The School District will be moving ahead with its Master Plan. However, at this time, there is no money in the budget to cover what is asked for in the Master Plan.

The Board of Education is proposing a bond for at least \$250MM for the November ballot to finance the renovation. What is unknown is if the bond money will be used for improvements of indoor air quality. The money may be used to settle a lawsuit regarding ADA problems.

Neil asked the Task Force, or the individual members, to support having the bond measure be about healthy schools, not just ADA.

The meetings where this will be discussed are July 8 and 15 at 555 Franklin at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to speak, call the day before to get on the list. Beth Saiki, Niel Gendel and Marie Luz Torre plan to attend the meeting.

Neil suggested adding a statement about the bond measure to the July 17 press conference.

Beth suggested the Task Force write a position letter and possibly have a statement published in the voter's pamphlet.

7. New Business, Public Comment, Announcements

Karen Cohn announced that Wednesday, June 25, 2003 there will be Board of Supervisor's testimony about the budget. Yes We Can is organizing a last ditch effort to get funding for their community health workers. The workers at SF General will be laid off August 31. The meeting will be held from 6 to 8:30.

Beth Saiki suggested writing a letter of support for Yes We Can.

Karen also said the Mission Neighborhood Health Center health worker, Gilma Cruz, is facing lay off.

The next Environment Committee meeting is July 8, from 2 – 4, at 1390 Market Street, Suite 210.

The School Committee will meet July 15, from 4 – 6 at HERC.

The Planning Committee is to be announced.

The Clinical Committee will meet July 28 beginning at 1:00.

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