

Board of Supervisors Asthma Task Force
Minutes of Meeting held on July 26, 2004
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA

Members In Attendance: Richard Castro, Barbara Conner-Andersen , Deirdre Epps-Miller, Kathy Thomas Perry, Veronica Lightfoot, Beth Saiki, Lisa Kroon, Julie McKown, Gloria Thornton, Rose Toney, Mary Higgins, Peg Strub and Lucille Valdivia.

Absent Members: Karen Cohn, MariaElena Alioto, Jim Calonico, Carl Rose, Ann Melamed, Marie Hoemke, Trish Bascom, Louise Kimbell, Aimee Ganz, and Louise Hill.

Guests and Staff: Tirtza Rosenberg, Neil Gendel*, Anjali Nath, Gail Herrick, Heidi Schell, Jill DiGiacomo, Ann Kelsey Lamb, Gretchen Skaggs*, Natasha Madaris, Anna Lee and Sraddha Mehta.

(* = pending appointment)

1. Introductions, Agenda Revisions, Approval of Minutes

There were no revisions of the agenda. The June minutes were corrected to read: Page 4, Under public comment, Armani died in 2002; Page 1, under School and Childcare, last paragraph, the Asthma Action Plan was implemented last January. They will be going to scale. The minutes were approved as corrected.

2. Sub-Committee Reports

Schools and Child Development Committee

Julie McKown reported the committee has continued to set up meetings with the key stakeholders revolving around indoor air quality and resolution of the Tools for Schools Program. The committee met today with the Vice President of the PTA. Meetings will be set with Dan Kelly, Arlene Ackerman and Dennis Kelly (President of the Teacher's Union). Niel Gendel has been keeping the committee posted on the high performance guidelines and how

Kathy Thomas Perry stated the resolution to institutionalize the Tools for Schools Program in the district must be presented to the full Task Force.

Environmental Committee

Niel Gendel reported the committee has been working on understanding what is going on with the Housing Authority. The committee has just met with some people from the Housing Authority. Anjali Nath stated the committee's goal is to have the recommendations finalized by the end of August.

Kathy Thomas Perry suggested sending a letter to the tenant's association so both sides are informed of the process.

Dee Epps-Miller stated she had received fliers from Karen Cohn to recruit more tenants from Housing Authority. There was a very low response.

Clinical Committee

Peg Strub stated the Clinical Committee is working on the payer survey and the clinic survey. A formal analysis has been done of the payer survey. The clinic survey is being reformatted.

The committee is planning a big strategic meeting and has been brainstorming on who to invite. Following the strategic meeting will be an advocate's meeting.

Captain Neils Tangherlini of the SF Fire Department, Paramedic Division introduced himself. He, and his team of 13, have been involved in Open Airways, and have been doing spirometry working with HERC. They have been doing spirometry on children and will be expanding to include adults. They will also be available to do home visiting for environmental assessments.

Advocacy Coordinator's Report

Anjali Nath reported that all the committee's are moving along. Everyone is very close to developing their recommendations.

Planning Committee

Kathy Thomas Perry stated she will contact members who are in danger of having their membership revoked due to lack of attendance.

Kathy introduced the two new members:

Lucile Valdivia is a parent of four children (two who have asthma). She is a family day care provider. She will be filling a Tenants seat.

Gretchen Skaggs is the Health and Mental Health Welfare Manager at Wu Yee Services.

Kathy reported that LeConte Dill has resigned due to a change in her employment. Niel Gendel is applying to fill the vacant seat and will go before the Board August 11.

Anjali reviewed the currently empty seats:

- 12 - MediCal Managed Care
- 21 - Property Interest
- 23 - Department of Human Services
- 24 - Department of Children and Families
- 26 - Commission for Children and Families
- 30 - HUD

Kathy reported that HERC has not lost their funding, but is suffering a gap in funding. The employees are temporarily laid off. This is the second year this has occurred.

CAFA Update

Beth Saiki distributed copies of the CAFA newsletter. Included in the newsletter is an article on the accomplishments of the San Francisco Asthma Task Force, specifically the Schools and ChildCare Committee. CAFA is planning on publishing two additional newsletters.

Anne Kelsey Lamb stated that last week many of the CAFA coalitions had representatives in Sacramento to talk to the California Air Resources Board about regulation regarding truck idling. The regulation would prevent trucks from idling more than five minutes.

CARB has published a report on the effect on pollution on indoor air quality. Niel Gendel pointed out a quote which stated, "one investigator calculated pollutants emitted indoors have a thousand fold greater chance of being inhaled than do those same pollutants being inhaled

outdoors.” Neil went on to point out a list of all the pollutants people are being exposed to in their homes and their connection to a variety of health impacts. Neil stated that it is important to address what the hazards are in private housing.

3. Creation of a Child Care Committee

Anjali Nath reported about the possibility of creating a Child Care Committee. The reason this was suggested by the Planning Committee is there are two parts to the “Child Care World” in San Francisco. Some child development centers are run by the San Francisco School District, some are private. The Schools and Child Care Committee is working on child development centers run by the School District. The new committee would work on the centers not run by the School District.

Lucille Valdivia spoke about the need for more information and support in the private child development centers.

Natasha Maderis offered to be a resource for any parent with asthmatic children.

Anjali will talk to individuals who are interested in serving on a Child Care Committee.

4. Annual Report of Asthma Task Force Accomplishments

Anjali Nath reviewed the rough draft on an Annual Report she and Beth Saiki has created. They asked for comments from the Task Force before the report is submitted to Supervisor Maxwell. Kathy suggested

5. Asthma Walk

Heidi Schell and Jill DiGiacomo from the American Lung Association presented a video on the upcoming Blow the Whistle on Asthma Walk in October. The goal this year is to raise \$250,000.

This year is the centennial year of the Lung Association, which was originally formed to fight Tuberculosis. The focus has now grown to include: asthma; indoor and outdoor air pollution; diesel fuel; environmental justice issues; smoke free housing units; research and more.

Heidi also stated there will be two sessions of “Living with Asthma” offered. The first is July 28 from 7 – 8:30 in San Mateo. The second is August 5 from 7 – 8:30 in San Francisco.

Meeting Adjourned (4:00p.m.)

The next meeting will be August 23, 2004 at 2:00.