

Board of Supervisors Asthma Task Force
Minutes of Meeting held on September 27, 2004
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA

Members In Attendance: MariaElena Alioto, Deirdre Epps-Miller, Karen Cohn, Lisa Kroon, Peg Strub, Kathy Thomas Perry, Beth Saiki, Julie McKown, Neil Gendel, Gloria Thornton, Gretchen Skaggs, Carl Rose, and Lucille Valdivia.

Absent Members: Richard Castro, Barbara Conner-Andersen, Jim Calonico, Rose Toney, Mary Higgins, Ann Melamed, Trish Bascom, Louise Kimbell, Marie Hoemke, Veronica Lightfoot, Aimee Ganz, and Louise Hill.

Guests and Staff: Tirtza Rosenberg, Vince Fabris, Ann Kelsey Lamb and Gail Herrick.

(* = pending appointment)

1. Introductions, Agenda Revisions, Approval of Minutes

There were no revisions of the agenda. The August minutes were approved.

2. Committee Reports

Schools/Child Development Committee

Julie McKown reported the committee has now met with Eddie Chin, Joe Linz and Mark Sanchez on the School Board, as well as Sandra Fewer from Coleman Advocates. The committee is working on the possibility of establishing a Child Care Committee.

The Committee has been working on a cost analysis of implementing the Tools for Schools Program.

A letter has been sent to Superintendent Ackerman supporting the District's full implementation of the Indoor Quality Guidelines. Neil Gendel will represent the Task Force at the meetings. Neil has also met with Jeff Draper, the new Executive Director of the School District's Facilities Department.

Environmental Committee

Karen Cohn reported a financial recommendation grid has been prepared.

The committee is still having trouble finding tenants who will speak about their perspective. Karen has been in touch with Black Infant Health and San Francisco Tenant's Organizations to try to recruit someone who can give feedback on how the committee is approaching the issues.

Work has begun on the second recommendation, regarding air monitoring. The recommendation has been passed on to Tom Rivard, Industrial Hygienist, with the Department of Public Health for review.

Clinical Committee

Peg Strub reported the Clinical Committee had a very successful meeting with 20 guests, ranging from University Professors to people from various health plans, who advised that a sub goal for the committee should be to improve the care coordination and linkages for providers and patients to the various systems of care and resources available. A second meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 18.

Ad Hoc Membership

Kathy Thomas- Perry sent letters to Supervisor Maxwell and the Rules Committee to inform them of LeConte Dill's resignation.

Nominations were open to fill the Vice-Chair seat. Karen Cohn was voted in as the temporary Vice-Chair until next year's election.

Community Based Organization and Tenant's Right Seats are also available.

Planning Committee Report

Kathy Thomas Perry stated the Task Force is due to sunset in June. The group needs to decide if it wants to ask for an extension, or close out the work as a Task Force and form a collaborative, or some other variation?

Beth Saiki pointed out that funding for the Task Force comes from CAFA. This grant will also be ending at the end of February. There will be a little left over to pay for Anjali's salary for a couple of months after February. There is how that the California Endowment will provide additional funding, but nothing definite at this time.

MariaElena Alioto gave a presentation about asthma at Skyline College last weekend to the College of Respiratory Therapy. She pointed out that the Task Force would be a way for the therapists to get involved. Hopefully, some new members will come out of the presentation.

Neil Gendel commented he would like to see the Task Force include a focus on private housing where children are exposed to many of the conditions which exacerbate asthma. He went on to state that there are probably other issues to be addressed by the Task Force, either new or issues that have not been completed. The questions for the Task Force at this time are: What is the need? Does the Task Force think that it can meet the need, without funding or with funding?

Kathy invited everyone to make a list of what you want, or what you see the role of the Task Force to be in the future? How would the committee continue to work together without staffing? Submit your letters to Tirtza. Beth suggested putting together a survey.

Karen Cohn suggested devoting a ½ hour of time out of next month's meeting, plus extending the meeting for another ½ hour, to discuss this issue.

Kathy Thomas Perry reminded everyone the American Lung Association Walk is October 16. Don't forget to sign up. Supervisor Maxwell has sent letters to all the supervisors and Department Heads asking for people to sign up to walk.

Advocacy Coordinator's Report

Anjali Nath reported she has done some research and found that there is interesting in forming a Child Care Committee. Gretchen Skaggs, Stacy Herrera and Anjali will work together on the formation of the committee. A suggestion was made to do a survey to find more interested parties and topics of interest for the committee.

Beth reported she distributed a draft of the Annual Report at the last Planning Committee. She received comments from Kathy and the Committee Chairs. Kathy Thomas Perry suggested this report be held until a comprehensive report can be done on all the accomplishments of the Task Force. This current report would be considered a progress report.

Karen Cohn pointed out that as a legislated body, certain reports must be filed.

Neil stated all attempts should be made to make this a living document, an advocacy tool, that will carry on to the new Board of Supervisors and will make the case for continuing the Task Force.

Anjali commented that the November and December meetings may have to be moved due to the holidays. The November meeting is currently scheduled for November 22. Thanksgiving is November 25. The December meeting is currently scheduled for December 27.

3. Task Force Logo

Karen Cohn presented the choices for a Task Force Logo and stated the most popular was the design with a butterfly. There was, however, an objection to using the image of a child. Maria Elena Alioto strongly objected to the image and stated she is willing to work with the designer. Karen will talk to the designer about having a grayed adult image behind the child to show all ages. If the designer is unable to accommodate changing the image the Task Force will go with the image of the child.

4. Discussion of letter writing process – Request for ATF input

Discussion tabled until next month.

5. Public Comment and Announcements

Anne Kelsey Lamb announced RAMP will be having a meeting on diesel Friday, October 1, 2004.

Beth Saiki announced she is five months pregnant. The baby is due in February. She will be off work in February and March.

6. Presentation

Gail Herrick, PHN gave a presentation on Emergency Room Data and asthma incidents.

Four years ago Gail was assigned to work in the Asthma Clinic at San Francisco General Hospital. The model for the clinic is to see a child three times and then send them back to their primary care physician. The children usually cycle back to the clinic and are seen about nine or ten times.

Some services which are provided by the clinic, which the primary care might not have time for, are: an in depth evaluation; trauma care; skin testing; give them an action plan; supply the family with bed covers; intensive education and a home visit with a health educator.

San Francisco General also has an Urgent Care Clinic which operates similar to an Emergency Room. Asthma is one of the highest diagnoses in Urgent Care Clinic. Approximately 40

children are seen per month in Urgent Care for flares of asthma. In two years of tracking data, 1030 children have been seen in urgent care. 69% are male. 31% are female. African-American and Latino children are over represented, possibly due to the population base around the hospital. 33% were Latino/Hispanic. Asians comprise 24%. ½ the population seen was under 5 years old. 35% of the children seen were with San Francisco Health Plan. 7% only were Blue Cross. About 25% of the children seen don't have a primary care physician.

Gail goes through the admitting logs on a daily basis and pulls the names of all the children who've been seen for respiratory problems. She then logs them in her book and the computer. She contacts the doctors and the family Gail, and two community health workers do on-site education with the families when the child is in Urgent Care. When appropriate, Gail will facilitate the child being seen by the Primary Care, suggesting to the doctor that the child be screened for asthma.

Shannon Thyne and Nan Madden, who Gail works with, give regular in-services to residents as they work in Urgent Care. A lot of the work being done is to sort out which medications are covered under each insurance plan and inform the doctors.

Meeting Adjourned (4:15p.m.)

The next meeting will be October 25, 2004 at 2:00.