

DRAFT

**Board of Supervisors Asthma Task Force
Minutes of Meeting held on November 22, 2004**
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA

Members In Attendance: Richard Castro, Karen Cohn, Kathy Thomas Perry, Beth Saiki, Peg Strub, Julie McKown, Neil Gendel, Lisa Kroon, Veronica Lightfoot, Gloria Thornton, Gretchen Skaggs, Marie Hoemke and Carl Rose.

Absent Members: Deirdre Epps-Miller, Barbara Conner-Andersen, MariaElena Alioto, Jim Calonico, Ann Melamed, Trish Bascom, Louise Kimbell, Aimee Ganz, Mary Higgins, Rose Toney, Lucille Valdivia and Louise Hill.

Guests and Staff: Marin Kimotho, Anjali Nath, Vince Fabris, Ann Kelsey Lamb, Tirtza Rosenberg, David Bergman, Gail Herrick, Lee Samson and Maria Luz Torre.

(* = pending appointment)

1. Introductions, Agenda Revisions, Approval of Minutes

There were no revisions of the agenda. September minutes were approved. The October minutes were accepted, but not approved due to the lack of a quorum in October.

2. Telemedicine Project

Dr. David Bergman spoke about the Telemedicine Project. The Telemedicine Project is a school-based program that reaches out to children with asthma. Part of the goal is to use technology and community resources to teach self-management skills to the children and parents.

Dr. Bergman distributed data showing the baseline statistics of his study and the baseline spirometry results. These children had a significant function burden. However, on average they did very well in the spirometry testing.

Based on a 55% return rate of the ISAACS surveys that were sent to the children, 27-33% of children in the target schools had symptoms had asthma. 21% of parents or guardians did not know their children had asthma. Only 20% of the children knew how to care for themselves.

The CHSA Results measured the physical, social activity and emotional health of the child and family.

The program has been able to reach out to children with asthma, some of whom didn't know they had asthma, communicate to their physician and get them plugged in to the appropriate health care.

The program has also increased information and awareness in parents and staff and has found a way to work with the providers to provide access to needed care.

Dr. Bergman stated there have been various funding sources and the Mayor will be touring the site and hopefully more support will come out of that tour. Kathy Thomas Perry will also be on the tour, representing the Asthma Task Force.

In January Kathy Thomas Perry will be going before the Building a Healthier San Francisco Collaborative Committee, a subcommittee of the Hospital Council, to talk about various projects and funding. Kathy asked the Task Force to consider which community based programs they

would like to support and at what level of commitment. Further discussion of which programs to support will be tabled until January, after the tour.

3. Committee Reports

Schools and Childcare Committee

Julie McKown reported the Schools and Childcare Committee are forging ahead with the resolution regarding the indoor air quality Tools for Schools in the School District. The committee met with Dan Kelly, President of the Board of Education.

The committee is also working on its time-line, regarding unfinished business in the committee as well as what the committee hopes to accomplish if the Task Force is extended.

Beth Saiki stated that Dan Kelly has received the draft of the resolution, but was concerned about budget issues. He then asked that the resolution be revamped to state that the Board of Education is asking Superintendent, Arlene Ackerman to develop a plan for how to institutionalize the Tools for Schools Program.

Anjali Nath and Gretchen Skaggs reported the ChildCare Committee has drafted a letter and a survey to be sent to the child care community to assess the needs in asthma education and training. The survey also asks if they would have any interest in working with, or joining, the committee. A round table discussion will be scheduled, hopefully for sometime in January.

Environmental Committee

Karen Cohn reported the committee met with Supervisor Maxwell to update her on the work with the Housing Authority. The committee is presenting their recommendations to the Housing Authority. Supervisor Maxwell will also send a letter and call the Housing Authority to a hearing. It is likely that the hearing will be in January. Through the work of Aimee Ganz, some of the recommendations are already being worked on.

Clinical Committee

Peg Strub reported that the committee is working on letters to be sent to Dr. Mitch Katz addressing the web sites, phone lines, public health nurses and training of public health and other nurses.

The committee would like to partner with Parent Voices to have a contest to determine which health plan in San Francisco has the best web site on issues related to asthma. The winner is to be announced on World Asthma Day. The two criteria for rating the webs sites would be: accessing care and asthma information.

Kathy Thomas Perry asked the committee to consider what resources it needs to complete its work.

Advocacy Coordinator's Report

Anjali stated the CAFA funding will end the end of February. She will then be ½ time from March through June.

Planning Committee

Karen Cohn spoke about the Progress Report. In reviewing the authorizing legislation she found the obligations point out the following purposes for the Task Force: legislative action; city-wide strategies; recommendations of funding priorities; recommendations of city policies. So far the city-wide strategy has been accomplished through the Strategic Plan. Karen suggested listing the resolutions by the Task Force which address the other purposes. Further discussion of the report was tabled until the December meeting.

4 Introduction of Resolutions

Item 1 (Voting): Members agreed to request the ALA seek funding to provide support staff and other support for its work (whether as a legislated body or in the event of a sunset date, as a coalition based group). It is further resolved that the chair is authorized to prepare letters of support to potential grantors on behalf of the Task Force.

Peg Strub moved the resolution be accepted. Seconded by Gloria Thornton. The motion passed.

Item 2 (Voting): Members agreed to move the date and meeting time of the next Asthma Task Force Meeting to December 13 to accommodate the holiday. The motion passed.

Item 3 (Voting): Members agreed to request an extension of the sunset date for an additional year or more.

Item 3 (Voting): Members agreed that today's discussion on the sustainability of the task force lead to a vote on the actions to take on renewing our status.

5. Presentation by Parent Voices

Maria Luz Torre spoke about a resolution to be presented to the Board of Education. Studies have shown that children who ride in a bus should sit in the front because the pollution goes to the back of the bus. Pollution inside the bus is 5-20% higher than outside. The state of California has identified diesel exhaust as a known carcinogen.

The contract for the school busses will expire in August, 2005. Laidlaw has held the contract since 1972. There are 77 regular education busses, serving 10,000 children and 158 special needs busses, serving 1500 children.

Parent Voices is asking the School District to install air particulate traps and to use low sulfur fuel emission. They would like a letter of support from the Task Force.

Karen Cohn offered to ask Mitch Katz for a letter of support.

Karen Cohn moved that the Task Force write a letter of support. The motion was seconded by Peg Strub. The motion passed.

6. Logo Survey Questionnaire

Karen Cohn reported she tried to speak directly to the artist and was unable. Further discussion on the logo survey will be tabled until December.

7. Nominations for office of Chair and Vice Chair of the ATF

Karen Cohn and Gloria Thornton were nominated for Chair. Gloria Thornton declined. Julie Mcknown was nominated for Vice Chair. Election is to be held in December.

Announcement:

Karen Cohn announced there will be a Mold Workshop December 7, 2004 from 8 – 4 at the County Fair Building, 9th and Lincoln Way.

Martin Kimotho announced he will be leaving HERC at the end of the year.

Meeting Adjourned (4:00p.m.)

The next meeting will be December 13, 2004 at 2:00. The meeting will be combined with a baby shower for Beth.