

**Board of Supervisors Asthma Task Force**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on September 23, 2002**  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA

**Members In Attendance:** MariaElena Alioto, Jim Calonico, Barbara Conner-Andersen, Dierdre Epps-Miller, Carla Furtado, Marie Hoemke, Louise Kimbell, Lisa Kroon, Veronica Lightfoot, Jennifer Mann, Julie McKown, Deanna Rossi, Beth Saiki, Peg Strub Joan Hall, Ann Togia, and Richard Castro, M.D.

**Absent Members:** Mary Higgins, Louise Hill, Ann Melamed, Carolyn Noble, \*Rebecca Logue-Bovee, and Rose Toney.

**Guests and Staff:** Tirtza Rosenberg, Nancy Warren, May-Ling Dea, Neil Gendel, Anne Kelsey, Bhavani Kludt, Katie Sternfels and Cotys Winston.

(\* = pending appointment)

### **1. Introductions, Agenda Revisions, Approval of Minutes**

The agenda was revised to include a presentation of a request from Karen Cohn and Ann Kelsey will talk about RAMP. Minutes for the August meeting were corrected to read that Ann Togia was present in August. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Deanna Rossi announced that the Rules Committee has officially appointed Richard Castro to the Task Force. Also appointed is Carl Rose for the Lung Health Organization seat. It is believed that Carl Rose is a respiratory therapist doing work in indoor air quality.

### **2. Breathing Exercise**

Bhavani Kludt is an asthmatic who has gotten relief from the symptoms through using Yoga and now teaches Yoga. She led the Task Force in a breathing exercise to demonstrate how this can be helpful in loosening chest tightness.

### **3. CAFA**

Anne Kelsey described CAFA, Community Action to Fight Asthma. CAFA is a state-wide initiative funded by the California Endowment. CAFA consists of: 12 local coalitions across the state, including the Asthma Task Force; 3 regional centers that provide technical assistants and a state coordinating office. RAMP is one of the regional centers.

The purpose of the grant is to develop asthma coalitions to alert communities of environmental triggers of asthma in the hope that this will eventually lead to policy change to support the reduction of environmental triggers.

Each group, in their first year, has two goals: to develop the coalition and work on their work/strategic plan.

Anne Kelsey gave a brief history of RAMP. RAMP was founded in 1996. Originally its purpose was to implement a regional model to address chronic illness. The President of the Public Health Institute spoke to various organizations to decide which health issues really need to be addressed. Asthma was the illness identified. The mission is now to work with six county regions to facilitate the collaboration.

One of the main functions is to act as a clearinghouse for information. This is done through attendance of regional meetings, and a WEB site in addition to the clearinghouse. RAMP also provides technical assistance with strategic plans, mission statement, etc.

RAMP has a monthly outreach meeting, this month featuring MariaElana Alioto. These meetings are open to the public, just notify RAMP if you would like to attend.

The five coalitions are: Alameda County, which serves Oakland and Berkeley; Solano county, which serves Vallejo and Dixon; Contra Costa County, which serves the west county; Sonoma County, which serves specific parts of Santa Rosa and San Francisco. San Mateo County is not part of CAFA, but is working with RAMP.

#### **4. Karen Cohn**

Deanna Rossi presented an update from Karen Cohn regarding the child who died at Burnett Child Development Center. Karen has asked anyone who has factual testimony, and would be interested in testifying, to fill out a form stating when they would be available to meet with her. Tirtza gave her FAX number, 554-8938, to send the forms to. The testimony has not been scheduled yet.

#### **5. Death of 13 year old**

A discussion was held regarding the death of a 13-year old child from asthma.

Veronica Lightfoot spoke about the lack of training that the staff of the Child Development Centers have regarding asthma. Beth Saiki stated she was contacted by a parent at Burnett Child Development Center who asked if she would be willing to do an asthma training for them.

Peg Strub suggested getting Sophie Maxwell to declare a state of emergency in the schools.

Dee Epps-Miller spoke about problems she has had getting asthma education in the schools and the generic problems within the school system that create an atmosphere for this type of situation.

Neil Gendel spoke about the joint meeting with the Board of Education and the Board of Supervisors. One part of the agenda was when the Board of Education first found out about the master plan, which includes Tools for Schools, education and having the facilities become more environmentally healthy. The School District has now appointed Trish Bascom and Ann Heinline to the Asthma Task Force.

Another item that came up at the joint meeting was the clinics at the schools. There are now seven high schools with clinics. The Department of Health, and other people, are now looking at middle schools and elementary schools. No one is talking about more nursing care in the Child Development Centers. At this time there is one nurse for

4,000 children, at 47 sites, including children in after school and preschool from K through 5 or 6. Neil suggested that there should be a demand to have clinics to care for the children at the Child Development Centers, where the health issues begin.

Peg Strub added that asthma education should be given to every teacher at every school.

Beth Saiki responded that the School District does put out a catalog of courses that some of the newer teachers can get more education. There is now a grant to provide training on indoor air quality on October 9.

MariaElena Alioto moved that the Task Force approach Sophie Maxwell to declare a state of emergency on behalf of the Asthma Task Force. The motion was seconded by Veronica Lightfoot. The motion passed. Dee Epps-Miller and Veronica Lightfoot will contact Sophie Maxwell.

Anne Kelsey distributed copies of "Strategies for Addressing Asthma".

Neil Gendel suggested that the Task Force speak to Danny Gillery, a new member of the Board of Education. He is somebody who will be able to speak to the School District.

Louise Kimbell suggested a letter be sent from the Asthma Task Force to Sophie Maxwell.

Jennifer Mann stated there is a grant to follow up on deaths caused by asthma in people under the age of 35.

## **6. Discussion – Possible Action Item**

Carla Furtado moved that a decision be made to have providers or interviewees or stakeholders have communication maintained with them so they may see the documents for comments within a reasonable time. Jennifer Mann seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

MariaElena Alioto suggested that clinical interviewees and stakeholders be invited to the presentation of the strategic plan for further support. This also keeps them in the loop and builds a relationship with them.

Dee Epps-Miller suggested that the final report be shown to experts and leaders for content and accuracy, before being submitted.

Lisa Kroon suggested that everyone from a focus group and/or interviewees be sent a copy of the strategic plan.

## **7. Subcommittee Reports- Status of Key Holder Interviews**

Nancy Warren reported that nine focus groups have been done. The two remaining are Cantonese parents and Adults with asthma.

Marie Hoemke spoke about her interviews with top administrators in the school system. Many had done extensive research to become informed just before the interview. They all expressed interest in being kept in the loop.

Nancy Warren distributed a copy of the external stakeholders for individual interviews. Dee Epps-Miller corrected the list, stating that Brenda Lopez is now the head of DCYF.

### **8. Strategic Planning Next Steps**

Nancy Warren talked about the fact that the strategic plan is due in February and there is still a lot to be done. She distributed a “needs assessment analysis workplan for each committee”. Dee Epps-Miller pointed out that this does not include a statement of findings. Nancy stated that the subcommittees will make findings, then the whole Task Force will make recommendations.

Nancy Warren distributed a transcript summary to be filled out by those who did interviews.

The various subcommittees broke into separate groups to discuss how each group will meet to discuss the findings and report back to the group with recommendations.

### **9. New Business, Public Comment, Announcements**

Anne Kelsey announced that November 1, on KQED, a program will air, featuring Veronica Lightfoot.

There is a Pediatric Asthma Forum on Wednesday, October 2, 2002 at Children’s Hospital in Oakland.

The next Asthma Task Force Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, October 28, 2002** from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at City Hall, located at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 278, San Francisco.

### **8. Meeting Adjourned (5:00 p.m.)**