

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

Members in Attendance: Niels Tangherlini, Barbara Conner-Anderson, Gail Herrick, Gloria Thornton, Peg Strub, Lisa Kroon, Richard Castro and Beth Saiki

Absent Members: Kathy Thomas Perry, Karen Cohn and Maria Elena Alioto.

Guests and Staff: Tirtza Rosenberg and Anjali Nath

**Membership**

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.

The team consists of H-1 paramedics who have opted to not become firefighters in the recent merger. They are being placed on ambulances as a third person. This third person will be doing outreach.

**Data Review and Discussion**

Peg Strub and Anjali Nath reviewed the Payer Survey Analysis provided by a consultant.

Anjali explained that 11 surveys were sent out. We received 9 responses. For purposes of the summary 8 were considered. Brown and Toland was separated because they are a medical group as opposed to the actual payer.

Some of the observations and conclusions reached from the surveys are:

Medical Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All cover peak flows except one</li> </ul>
Disease/Health Management Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the plans have a disease/health management program for asthma</li> <li>• None require a referral from a primary care provider</li> <li>• Four of the nine plans offer home visits</li> <li>• Common coverage is for: medical supplies, identification of the severity of the condition, review of pharmacy claims and patient education and assessment</li> </ul>
Health Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six of the plans pay for health education classes</li> <li>• All provide written materials</li> <li>• The HMO providers offer materials in an average of 5 languages.</li> </ul>
Case Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seven of the nine plans offer a case management program</li> <li>• Generally transportation is provided</li> <li>• Email is used</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Languages seem sufficient</li> </ul>
Pharmacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulary update seem to be available on Website, easy access</li> </ul>
Continuous Quality Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All plans monitor provider performance.</li> <li>• Feedback is happening</li> <li>• CMEs are happening</li> <li>• Would expect higher #s for ER usage and hospitalizations</li> </ul>

Peg noted that 67% include asthma action plans in their program. Gloria stated it is a requirement, but whether or not it is actually done, or understood by the patient, is another question. Neils commented that the action plans given to students as part of the Open Airways teaching have been filled out and are being followed.

A discussion was held regarding asthma video games. Gloria Thornton spoke about a video game produced by Steven Spielberg. **Gloria will check to see if she still has a copy and will bring it to a meeting.**

44% of the plans offer home visits by partnering with a home health agency.

Six plans pay for health education. A discussion was held regarding asthma classes and how difficult it is to get people to come. One suggestion was to link the teaching with a doctor's appointment.

Some plans offer "incentives" to see their physicians. The "incentives" are asthma-related gifts if you go to your doctor.

Remaining Needs/Questions:

- Check with Health Net SF regarding incongruities around coverage of medical supplies **(Lisa Kroon to follow-up)**
- See if we can get breakdown of kids served per health plan

Gloria Thornton explained the eligibility structure under San Francisco Health Plan and through MediCal. **Anjali and Peg will draft a chart that will provide a clear picture of the structure.**

Gail Herrick asked what will be done with the information gathered. Beth Saiki responded the information is being gathered about where the gaps and needs are. Then a decision will be made regarding which ones to advocate for. Neils stated the information needed is which providers are not providing what is needed, then the committee needs to advocate with those providers.

Gloria suggested a way to approach would be to look at ways to help the providers make things better. What needs to be decided is how to analyze the data. Is it in terms of kids, or youth, or adults and how do we let them know what the resources are and how to use them.

A discussion was held regarding how to analyze the clinical survey data. **Anjali will contact Haroon to look into further analysis options.**

### **Discussion on Extended Strategic Planning Meeting**

The purpose of the meeting(s) is to gather all the information and to decide, with the input of the guests, to identify ways to address the problem areas.

It was suggested to have two meetings in order to include the various guests:

Meeting #1:

- Clinical guests invited for purpose of information gathering and brainstorming around potential priority recommendations
- Agenda may include: processing data findings, What we think, where we are headed, finalizing needs and gaps, ways to address these, prioritize 1-2 solutions

Meeting #2:

- Focus on Advocates to guide us in developing our advocacy campaign

### **Possible Guests**

The following are people to be invited as guests:

Shannon Thyne, UCSF  
Nan Madden, SFGH  
Vicky Legion  
Dee Epps-Miller, Southeast Medical Center  
Rajiv Bhatia  
Michael Van Duren  
Dr. Michael Drennan  
Margaret Brodtkin (from Coleman Advocates)  
Sue Janson, UCSF

Representatives from:

CHN – Tom Waddell  
Chinatown Public Health Clinic  
Health Net  
An AIDS activist  
NEMS (Dr. Daniel Chain and Lind Dien)  
Mission Neighborhood Health Center ( Dr. Sikety)  
CPMC – St. Luke's  
SFHP (via David Bergman)  
Doctors and Nurse Managers

Gail Herrick suggested asking the above people what they would like to see addressed if they can't attend the meeting.

Beth will get descriptions of the initial ATF focus groups to the committee.

**Meeting Adjourned (2:10p.m.)**