

Public Health Advisory Board
 909 12th St., Suite 200, Sacramento, CA. 95814
 (916) 447-7063 * FAX 447-7052 * E-mail: phab@communitycouncil.org

Meeting Notes: January 3, 2007

Members present: Matt Hedges (chair), Chris Wood, Leslie Benson, Joan Hurlock, Anthony Russell, Scott Seamons, Dr. Glennah Trochet (ex-officio), Dr. Dorothy Pitman (ex-officio).
Members absent: Leticia Garcia (excused), Steve Soto (excused), Carolyn Goetze (excused), Ana Negron (excused), Vicki McGahan (excused), Terri Mack (excused), Susan Viccio.
Guests attending: Dr. Raymond Wilson, Barbara Fox, Bernice Walton, Linda Kimura, Donna Paul.
Staff: Alan Lange, Kevin O’Keefe.

Issues	Discussion	Action/Recommendation
Introductions		
Chair’s Report	<p>The Chair made several announcements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PHAB currently does not have a member residing in District 5 (Supervisor Nottoli’s district). If any PHAB members know of a candidate who resides in District 5, please suggest that they apply. • All PHAB members are required to sit on a sub-committee. Any member not currently sitting on a committee should contact staff. • In the past, PHAB members have also sat on standing committees (Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition, Dental Health Advisory Committee, HIV Health Services Planning Council, Perinatal Child Health Advisory Committee, Sacramento Alliance to Prevent AIDS, Tobacco Control Coalition). Any member wishing to sit on one of these standing committees should contact staff. • Terri Mack and Susan Vicchio were officially appointed as new members of the PHAB by the Board of Supervisors in December. Vicki McGahan was officially re-appointed to the PHAB by the BoS in December. • The PHAB’s Nominating Committee recommended Barbara Fox and Dr. Raymond Wilson for appointment. • All PHAB members are required to take an ethics course. Information about an online ethics course currently offered by the California Fair Political Practices Commission was included in the monthly PHAB packet. 	<p>> PHAB members will take care of their ethics course requirement.</p>
Approve Meeting Notes	<p>The approval of the Minutes from the PHAB Meeting held on December 6 was tabled until February because of the lack of a quorum.</p>	<p>> Approval of Minutes tabled until February due to lack of a quorum.</p>
DHHS Updates	<p><u>Primary Care Division:</u> Dr. Dorothy Pitman updated the PHAB on several Primary Care Division issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The holiday seasons usually brings on a lull in Primary Care services, however, this was not been the case in December. Primary Care was able to meet the demand. • There is a renewed interest in SB 1534 (which gives counties the discretion to use public funds to provide services to undocumented immigrants). Dr. Pitman referred to a Sacramento Bee article regarding this issue. Questions were raised as to how newly elected Supervisor Jimmie Yee feels about this issue. Yee’s vote could potentially serve as a swing vote regarding this issue, which will have implications with the county budget, and demands placed on local emergency rooms. <p><u>Public Health Division:</u> Dr. Trochet updated the PHAB on several Public Health Division issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year’s flu season has, thus far, been a mild one. It is hoped that successful flu shot promotion is partially responsible. 	<p>> Staff will set up a meeting with newly elected Board of Supervisor Jimmie Yee to discuss public health issues, including SB 1534. > Staff will compile an analysis of the Governor’s newly developed health care plan. > Staff will research the issues faced by the Public Health Lab so that a policy recommendation to the Board of Supervisors can be developed.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norovirus has struck the county. Public health has been working with local long-term facilities, which have been hit hardest, to combat the norovirus. Efforts are underway to prepare for the potential of another heat wave this summer. In March, Public Health will begin an education program to help the county prepare for this possibility. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will make a speech on his newly developed health care plan on January 8. Several proposals are currently being considered by the Governor, all of which will potentially impact county services. This is an issue that the PHAB will want to keep on its radar. Dr. Trochet said that Public Health will share its analysis of the Governor’s plan as soon as it is completed (probably in time for the PHAB’s meeting in March). Sandra Tougaw has resigned as Director of the Public Health Lab, effective in March. Tougaw cited the fact that the Public Health Lab, which is one of the premiere facilities in the state, is unable to retain microbiologists because Sacramento County does not offer competitive wages to these classifications. The trickle down effect of this has created safety issues that led to Tougaw’s resignation. Dr. Trochet described the situation at the Public Health Lab as a “crisis” because the county will not be able to hire a qualified replacement for Tougaw until this wage discrepancy issue has been addressed. The impending retirement of the lab’s three Senior Microbiologists in 2008 will serve to further exasperate this situation because the same scenario will play out again. Dr. Trochet stressed that this is an issue that if not addressed soon, may result in the closure of the Public Health Lab. Should this happen, all the work that is done at the Public Health Lab will have to be contracted out, which will likely cost the county more than the \$200,000 a year it would take to bring the wages in questions in line with what other counties offer their microbiologists. A question about the Human Papilloma Virus was raised, which led to a discussion about the cost of vaccinating people against this virus (approximately \$350/dose). Dr. Trochet suggested that this may be an issue that the PHAB may wish to develop a policy recommendation in the future. <p><u>Public Health Promotion & Education Program Update:</u> Division Chief Bernice Walton gave an overview of the Public Health Promotion & Education Program. Walton briefly talked about each of her division’s programs, how they are funded (162 contacts totaling approximately \$28.4 million with three other contracts pending), and how they are staffed (261 total positions equaling 239 full-time positions). She also talked about some of her division’s program achievements as well as the challenges that will be faced in the future.</p>	
Sub-Committee Updates	<p><u>Education & Outreach (EOC):</u> Chairperson Leslie Benson presented the EOC Work Plan for 2007. This plan focuses on: presenting policy briefs to the Board of Supervisors, as necessary, and modifying briefs for public dissemination, as appropriate; and, holding public forums in each of the five supervisorial districts on issues specific to each district.</p> <p><u>Research & Evaluation (REC):</u> Joan Hurlock presented the REC Work Plan for 2007. Using the PHAB’s Evaluation Criteria, the REC prioritized public health issues in Sacramento County in its final meetings of ’06. In order to ensure that the PHAB’s efforts will have an impact, the REC has prioritized four issues to be addressed, including: Universal Health Care; Coronary Heart Disease; Breastfeeding Initiation & Continuation; and, Sexually-Transmitted Diseases.</p> <p>A discussion ensued about Trans Fats ensued and how New York City recently became the first U.S. city to ban them. It was suggested that this is an issue that the PHAB could look into and that Sacramento County might consider becoming the first U.S. county to ban trans fats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Staff will work with both the Education & Outreach, and Research & Evaluation Committees to develop a Policy Recommendation regarding the Public Health Lab issue. > Staff will research Trans Fat. > Members will identify ways that the PHAB can impact the prioritized public issues.
Announcements	<p>Dr. Trochet distributed a recently published overview of the Public Health Division.</p> <p>Leslie Benson announced that S.T.O.P. Hepatitis C Task Force will be holding its 4th annual Holiday Event on Friday, January 12, at the County’s Primary Care Center.</p>	
Adjourn		Next meeting: February 7.

