

**Public Health Advisory Board**  
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**Meeting Notes: February 7, 2007**

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

Issues	Discussion	Action/Recommendation
<b>Introductions</b>		
<b>Chair’s Report</b>	<p>The Chair made the following announcement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Raymond Wilson and Barbara Fox were officially appointed to the PHAB by the Board of Supervisors on December 31, 2006.</li> </ul>	
<b>Approve Meeting Notes</b>	<p>The approval of the Minutes from the PHAB Meetings held on December 6, 2006 and January 3, 2007 were approved unanimously without changes.</p>	<p>* M/S (Benson, 1<sup>st</sup>; Soto, 2<sup>nd</sup>) to approve PHAB Minutes from December 6, 2006 meeting.          * M/S (Benson, 1<sup>st</sup>; Soto, 2<sup>nd</sup>) to approve PHAB Minutes from January 3, 2007 meeting.</p>
<b>Tobacco Control Coalition Update</b>	<p>Carolyn Martin gave an update on the Tobacco Control Coalition (TCC), which has a membership of approximately 30 members. Martin explained that smoking is not a protected right and that the TCC is currently working on a smoke-free, multi-unit housing campaign in the city of Sacramento. A recent survey determined that 70 percent of multi-family housing tenants would prefer to live in a smoke-free environment. The Sacramento City Council unanimously passed the first Resolution of its kind in the United States calling for 25 percent of all multi-unit housing to be smoke-free. The TCC is working with Code Enforcement and Public Health to develop an extensive public recognition campaign to address this issue. The TCC also distributed over 600 packets to apartment house owners/managers on this issue at the Rental Housing Association Expo in September ’06. The TCC will be making a presentation to the County about smoke-free, multi-family housing next week.</p> <p>Sacramento City and County, as well as Elk Grove and Rancho Cordova have passed ordinances in 2004 requiring all tobacco retailers to purchase a license. A 2005 survey revealed that illegal tobacco sales to minors had dropped by 80 percent in the city and 50 percent in the county. A violation results in a 30-day license suspension.</p> <p>As a result of public education campaigns in the last 15 years about the health risks associated with smoking, the number of people who smoke has significantly decreased. California has seen a 20 percent decline in lung cancer during this period.</p> <p>The Sacramento City Council recently passed an ordinance designating all of its 200 parks as smoke-free.</p>	
<b>DHHS Updates</b>	<p><u>Primary Care Division:</u> Dr. Dorothy Pitman talked about compensation issues for Primary Care physicians. Over the past five years, the cost of living in Sacramento County has increased dramatically while wage compensation has not. As a result, Primary Care has experienced increased difficulty in hiring and retaining qualified physicians. For example, Primary Care has had a vacancy in its radiology department for the past five months which it has not been able to fill. As a result, there is a backlog of work in radiology and work</p>	<p>* Research &amp; Evaluation Committee will look into compensation issues at Primary Care.</p>

	<p>that used to take two to three days to complete now takes two to three weeks. Dr. Pitman requested that the PHAB consider researching this further.</p> <p><u>Public Health Division:</u> Dr. Trochet said that there has been a worldwide outbreak of the nano virus and that it has hit at local schools. This nano virus has been gastro-intestinal in nature, not respiratory.</p> <p>Dr. Trochet also shared that the Sacramento City Council recently approved a needle exchange ordinance. Two organizations have already applied to the county to accept used needles and distribute new ones. Additionally, Kaiser Permanente’s Pharmacies and Rite Aide are considering participating in this program.</p> <p><u>Public Health Immunization Assistance Program Update:</u> Health Program Coordinator Lynnann Svensson was unable to attend the PHAB meeting and make her presentation due to extenuating circumstances.</p>	
<b>Public Health Lab Policy Recommendation</b>	<p>The Research &amp; Evaluation Committee met twice in January to develop a Public Health Lab Policy Recommendation. Several edits were made, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing the third paragraph to read: “In discussing this issue with the County Health Officer, Dr. Glennah Trochet, and Public Health Lab Director, Sandra Tougaw, the Public Health Advisory Board has growing concern about the ability of the Public Health Lab to retain needed staff to assure proficient operations.”</li> <li>• Adding the following to the end of the fifth bullet point: “This has created recruitment issues because of Federal Laws requiring that the Director of the Public Health Lab have doctoral level qualifications. Salaries should be commensurate with the Ph.D. credentials required. The current salary levels are too low for these Federal regulations.”</li> <li>• Adding a bullet point that states: “Although there were recent labor negotiations, the compensation issues for microbiologists at the Public Health Lab were not addressed.”</li> <li>• Adding the following paragraph: “The budget increases for lab staff have been recommended by the County Health Officer and Public Health Lab Director in the last three years and that they have not been addressed. As a result, the situation at the Public Health Lab is now at a critical stage.”</li> </ul> <p>The PHAB voted unanimously to approve the Public Health Lab Policy Recommendation with the changes listed above.</p>	<p>* M/S (Russell, 1<sup>st</sup>; Garcia, 2<sup>nd</sup>) to approve Public Health Lab Policy Recommendations with changes.</p> <p>* Staff will make recommended changes to Public Health Lab Policy Recommendation.</p>
<b>PHAB Work Plan '07</b>	<p>The PHAB reviewed the 2007 Work Plans for both sub-committees. Three changes were made to the Research &amp; Evaluation Committee’s Work Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the second paragraph under the heading Coronary Heart Disease, the words “at the January 3 meeting” was replaced with “at future meetings.”</li> <li>• Trans Fats was added to the list of issues related to Coronary Heart Disease that the PHAB will consider looking into.</li> <li>• Under the heading Sexually-Transmitted Diseases, the bullet point “mandate screening for adolescents” was replaced with “Encouraging physicians to appropriately address sexual screenings for adolescents.”</li> </ul> <p>The PHAB voted unanimously to approve the Public Health Lab Policy Recommendation</p>	<p>* M/S (Hedges, 1<sup>st</sup>; Soto, 2<sup>nd</sup>) to approve PHAB Work Plan '07 with changes.</p> <p>* Staff will make recommended changes to Work Plan '07.</p>
<b>PHAB Sub-Committee Updates</b>	The updates from the PHAB’s Research & Evaluation Committee and the Education & Outreach Committee were tabled until March.	
<b>Announcements</b>		
<b>Adjourn</b>		Next meeting: March 7.