

Public Health Advisory Board
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Meeting Notes: October 3, 2007

Members present: Leslie Benson, Joan Hurlock, Vicki McGahan, Dr. Robert Meagher, Chris Wood, Leticia Garcia, Scott Seamons, Dr. Raymond Wilson, Dr. Glennah Trochet (ex-officio), Dr. Dorothy Pitman (ex-officio).
Members absent: Matt Hedges (excused), Dr. Anthony Russell (excused), Steve Soto (excused), Barbara Fox (excused), Ana Negron, Terri Mack.
Guests attending: Supervisor Roger Dickinson, Bernice Walton, Mary Ann Bennett, Donna Paul, Gary Parent, Dave Casey
Staff: Alan Lange, Kevin O'Keefe.

Issues	Discussion	Action/Recommendation
Introductions	Chair Matt Hedges was unable to attend the PHAB meeting in October so Chris Wood stood in as Chair.	
Chair's Report	<p>The Chair made the following announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Perinatal & Child Health Advisory Committee postponed their twice-annual presentation to the PHAB that was scheduled for this meeting; • The Board of Supervisors officially appointed Dr. Robert Meagher to the PHAB on September 12; • The PHAB Nominating Committee will convene on October 19 to interview Donna Paul for membership; • The PHAB Executive Nominating Committee will convene on October 19 to determine the make-up of the PHAB's Executive Committee for 2008; • The Board of Supervisors approved its \$2.1 billion budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year on September 13 without having to cut any programs. The Board was able to address the budget deficit by eliminating vacant positions; • Teresa Stark, who is a lobbyist for the California Medical Association was scheduled to present to the PHAB in November. Due to a scheduling conflict, Stark has postponed her PHAB presentation until March of 2008. 	
Approve Meeting Notes	The PHAB was unable to approve its Minutes from 8-01-07 and 9-05-07 due to a lack of quorum.	* Minutes from 8-01-07 and 9-05-07 were not approved due to a lack of quorum.
Presentation: Supervisor Roger Dickinson	<p>Supervisor Roger Dickson gave a presentation to the PHAB regarding his constituency in District I, his thoughts on public health, and the role of the PHAB. Dickinson was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1994 and has the longest tenure among members of the current Board.</p> <p>Dickinson's District is in the northwest quadrant of Sacramento County and his constituency is a diverse one made up of people from all backgrounds, ethnicities, political philosophies, and religions. District I, which is the poorest of the five Sacramento County Supervisorial Districts, that is affected by several public health issues, including: socio-economic issues associated with health; teen pregnancy; access to health care; and, child abuse. During his tenure as a member of the Board of Supervisors, Dickinson has advocated for numerous public health issues, including: HIV/AIDS and STD's; fluoridation; health coverage for kids; needle exchange; infant health; tobacco cessation; tuberculosis; medically indigent programs; welfare reform, and, disaster and terrorism preparedness.</p> <p>Dickinson has served on a plethora of committees and commissions during his tenure with the Board of Supervisors, including: the Sacramento County First 5 Commission, with whom he is currently served as Chair; the State Association of Counties; and, the National Association of Counties, with whom he previously served as Chair of their Human Services Steering Committee.</p>	* Staff will continue to try to get the remaining members of the Board of Supervisors and/or their Chiefs of Staff to speak before the PHAB in the future.

Dickinson said that he felt that Member Advisory Boards (MAB) such as the PHAB serve an important purpose in County government and he stressed that members of the Board of Supervisors take their efforts and input very seriously.

Members of the PHAB had several questions and comments for Dickinson, including:

- The volume of patients visiting the County Primary Care Center on a daily basis is increasing and stretching its medical staff to its limit. Dickinson concurred that financial restraints have put considerable pressure on the County Primary Care Center and its clinics. He said that he hopes that this situation will see some change once the State of California is able to arrive at a consensus regarding Health Care Reform;
- County residents prefer visiting the County Primary Care Center instead of local clinics because it is a new facility and its staff has a good reputation for being able to care for patients. Dickinson shared that monies from Prop 86 were instrumental in the construction of the County Primary Care Center. He also pointed out that it is important for County residents to understand that with the construction of the County Primary Care Center that the quality of medical care in the County has improved;
- Local hospitals are currently experiencing many challenges because of the increased volume of patients and everyone in the health care field gets anxious when financial issues related to health care are on the BofS agenda. Dickinson explained health care delivery is indecipherable to virtually everyone and agreed that cost containment issues faced by the health care field are difficult to address. He explained that Geographic Managed Care programs have not helped remedy the situation. Local health care systems and the County will have to continue to work together to take care of residents;
- What kind of issues will the County face regarding the 2008-09 budget? Although it is early to begin speculating about such matters, Dickinson said that the projections for next year's budget aren't good and that the County may face as much as a \$40 million shortfall. Another factor to consider is that next year is an election year. He stressed that when law enforcement talks about their need for more officers on the streets that this carries a lot of weight. Health care issues, however, aren't something that the average person thinks much about until they are faced with a crisis. Dickinson said that this is an area where the PHAB can have an impact by continuing to advocate for such issues. The MAB's, he said, are the best vehicle for communicating issues to the BofS;
- What is the best way to "sell" the concept of public health to the public? Dickinson said there are more avenues to provide education regarding public health these days than previously with issues like childhood obesity, nutrition, and smoking cessation. He pointed out that speaking about these issues from the perspective of the community rather than each individual, and how much it is costing the community is an effective means of communication. Translating issues to how they relate to an individual's pocketbook may provide an opening for discussing the larger issues of public health;
- What public health issues do you expect to see initiatives in the future? Dickinson mentioned several issues, including; disaster preparedness, medication issues in the jails, homeless and mental illness issues; and,
- The Medically Indigent Program continues to be a hot topic. Do you have any suggestions for how the PHAB should continue to advocate for this issue? Dickinson said that there are two sides to this issue, the emotional side and the anecdotal side. He stressed not to rely solely on the emotional side when the PHAB makes its case because the BofS can't make decisions based solely on these emotional arguments. Talk about the economic impact of treating people in emergency rooms who are in crisis rather than treating people at clinics before their issues become a crisis.

PRESENTATION: PCHAC Update	The Perinatal & Child Health Advisory Committee (PCHAC) requested that their semi-annual update presentation be postponed until another time.	* Staff will re-schedule the PCHAC update presentation.
DHHS Updates	<u>Primary Care Division:</u> Dr. Dorothy Pitman explained that as a result of the positions eliminated as a result of the 2007-08 County Budget, that Primary Care continues to be challenged by the increased number of patients it is seeing. Dr. Pitman, who noted that referrals are up 40 percent over last year, explained that Primary Care needs a larger budget in order to increase its staff and keep up with this increased patient load. <u>Public Health Division:</u> Bernice Walton shared that the Back To School Flu Clinic will start up in two weeks. This program serves seniors, children, and other who are at-risk.	
Sub-Committee Updates	<u>Education & Outreach Committee (EOC):</u> The scheduled EOC meeting in September was cancelled because staff was ill. Leslie Benson shared that 21 Public Health Surveys were solicited on September 24 at the Rite Aid at the corner of Franklin and Florin. The EOC is currently working on its Work Plan for 2008. <u>Research & Evaluation Committee (REC):</u> Staff shared that the REC has been working on a number of issues, including: Breastfeeding Friendly Action Plan; Breastfeeding Friendly Survey; Trans Fat recommendation; Rental Inspection Programs; Condom Distribution in the County Jail; Defibrillators in Public Places; and, it's Work Plan for 2008.	
Announcements	None.	
Adjourn		Next meeting: November 7, @ 12 noon.