

Public Health Advisory Board
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Meeting Notes: December 6, 2006

Members present: Chris Wood (chair), Leticia Garcia, Ana Negron, Anthony Russell, Matt Hedges, Joan Hurlock, Vicki McGahan, Tina Roberts, Steve Soto, Dr. Glennah Trochet (ex-officio).
Members absent: Leslie Benson (excused), Scott Seamons (excused), Keith Yamanaka (excused), Carolyn Goetze (excused) Keith Andrews (ex-officio).
Guests attending: Staci Syas, Dr. Karen Tait, Joe Barba, Alex Kilter, Dr. Raymond Wilson, Barbara Fox, Bernice Walton, Maria Villapando.
Staff: Alan Lange, Sara Wolf, 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"> • Tina Roberts and Keith Yamanaka, both of whom have resigned their membership (effective December 31, 2006) due to time restrictions, were recognized for their contributions to the PHAB. • The PHAB Nominating Committee convened on November 1 and interviewed three candidates. Terri Mack and Susan Vicchio were recommended to the Board of Supervisors for appointment to the PHAB in the Community Member category. The PHAB Nominating Committee will re-convene on December 20 to conduct three more interviews in the category Public Health Care Professional. • Dr. Trochet set up a tour of the Public Health Lab immediately following the PHAB’s meeting. • The PHAB’s three committees will be meeting in the next two weeks to complete Work Plans for 2007. These meeting include: Executive Committee, December 8; Education & Outreach Committee, Dec. 15; and, Research & Evaluation Committee, December 18. 	
Approve Meeting Notes	The Minutes from the PHAB Meeting held on November 1 were approved unanimously without changes.	* M/S (Soto, McGahan) to approve minutes; approved unanimously.
Sub-Committee Updates	<p><u>Research & Evaluation (REC):</u> The PHAB has been informed that the Board of Supervisors is not going to hear SB 1534 because it does not require the county to change how it is currently doing business. The REC brought talking points endorsing SB 1534 (which gives the counties the discretion to provide health services to undocumented immigrants) before the PHAB for approval so that the PHAB can have a position on record in case future action is needed. A discussion ensued and it was decided that the final bullet point, which suggests that more efforts need to be made to educate the public on how to appropriately access county primary care programs and services, needs to be a separate issue delineated from the SB 1534 Talking Points. It could be phrased as a separate recommendation. The PHAB then voted to unanimously to approve these SB 1534 Talking Points.</p> <p><u>Education & Outreach (EOC):</u> The EOC had not met since the last PHAB meeting, so there was no update.</p>	<p>* M/S (Soto, Roberts) to approve SB 1534 Talking Points with suggested revision; approved unanimously.</p> <p>* Staff will make changes to SB 1534 Talking Points and keep on file should the issue appear on a future Board of Supervisors’ agenda.</p>
HIV Prevention Plan Update	County HIV Prevention Program Coordinator Staci Syas gave the PHAB a progress report on the HIV Prevention Plan Needs Assessment. The last time the HIV Prevention Plan received a comprehensive Needs Assessment was in 1995 and a lot has changed in terms of the HIV epidemic in the interim. The Needs Assessment looked specifically at four groups, including: younger MSM’s (Men having Sex with Men); injection drug users (both methamphetamine and heroin); African-American and Latino MSMs; and, women of color. A total of 376 people were surveyed. This information gave SAPA an updated picture of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and allowed them to prioritize populations and strategies with which to address this issue. The HIV Prevention Plan Needs Assessment goes before SAPA on December 20 for approval. It will then be taken before the Board of Supervisors.	<p>* Staff will get finalized HIV Prevention Plan to PHAB members once it has been approved by SAPA.</p> <p>* Education & Outreach Committee will brainstorm ways to help SAPA outreach the HIV Prevention Plan.</p> <p>* The PHAB will consider engaging in efforts to improve coordination between School Districts and Public</p>

	A discussion ensued about sex education in the school system. Sex education curriculum currently varies from school district to school district, and classroom to classroom. It was suggested that the PHAB look into a standardized way in which the schools can teach both abstinence and safe sex education.	Health.
DHHS Updates	<p><u>Public Health Division:</u> Dr. Trochet updated the PHAB on several issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacramento County was poised to receive less funds in the next fiscal year from the Ryan White Act to provide HIV/AIDS-related services and programs. Newly-proposed guidelines were to provide more money to rural areas and less to urban areas. As a result, states like California and New York, where there is a greater concentration of people living with virus, were looking at having to cut programs and services. The federal legislature, however, is taking another look at this issue and it appears that urban areas will be receiving more Ryan White Act funds than originally expected. • Federal budget cuts to Tuberculosis Elimination programs will face a five percent cut in funds in each of the next five years. Tuberculosis rates in Sacramento Co. are among the highest in the state (with most cases being reported by refugees). Major budget cuts to the program could be damaging. Dr. Trochet suggested that this is a subject that the PHAB might consider looking into in the future. • Pandemic Flu planning continues with a focus on the local business community and local school districts. • It has been a fairly mild flu season thus far. Annual comparisons of statistics suggest that children who receive the flu mist miss fewer days. Sac. Co. has been a leader in immunizing school children. • The Sacramento City Council, which already passed the Pharmaceutical Sale of Syringes this year, will address a Needle Exchange Program at its meeting on January 23, 2007. • Public Health programs and services are facing budget cuts for the 2007/08 fiscal year. Although public health nurses received a pay adjustment for the upcoming year, microbiologists did not. As a result, the county regularly loses its microbiologists to other counties and the private sector that pay. • Dr. Trochet introduced John Rogers, who is the new director of the Environmental Management Department. Rogers spent the last 24 years working in Mendocino County, where he served as their director of Environmental Health for the last 10 years. <p><u>Primary Care Division:</u> No update provided.</p> <p><u>Public Health Preparedness & Response Program Update:</u> Dr. Karen Tait gave a presentation on the Public Health Preparedness & Response Program. This program, which was formed in 2003 and is grant-funded, focuses on the development of plans and methods to protect the public against health threats such as bio-terrorism, naturally-occurring infections, and all hazards that threaten the public's health (disaster preparedness). Dr. Tait talked about how the program is staffed, program's achievements (such as: the California Health Alert Network; web-based reporting of communicable diseases; a new training site at McClellan for law, fire, public health, and emergency operations; and, collaborating with UC Davis on the recently-published Disaster Preparedness Guide), program initiatives (such as how it is working on disaster preparedness), and the challenges the program faces (such as finding independent funding, developing a stronger public health infra-structure, and staff retention).</p>	<p>* Staff will research ways that the PHAB can take a position regarding the recent changes at the federal level regarding tuberculosis elimination.</p> <p>* Staff will research pay rates for microbiologists in Sacramento County as they compare to other counties in the state.</p>
PHAB Slate of Officers for 2007	<p>Matt Hedges volunteered his name as a candidate for Chair. Joan Hurlock removed her name from consideration. Members voted on proposed officers.</p> <p>The PHAB Executive Committee for 2007 will consist of: Matt Hedges, chair; Leticia Garcia, vice chair; Chris Wood, at-large member; and, Scott Seamons, at-large member.</p>	<p>* M/S (Russell, McGahan) to approve the slate of PHAB Officers for 2007; approved unanimously.</p>
Announcements	<p>Matt Hedges announced that the two vacancies remain on the Human Services Coordinating Council. Outgoing Chair Chris Wood, who has served as PHAB's Chair for the last two years, was recognized for his leadership and contributions during his tenure as chair.</p>	
Adjourn		Next meeting: January 3, 2007.

