

Sacramento County Public Health Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2019 (12:00 PM - 1:30 PM)

Meeting Location

Primary Care Center
4600 Broadway
Sacramento, CA 95820
Conference Room 2020

Moderator: Dr. Steven Orkand

Scribe: Dr. Steven Orkand

Board Attendees: Jennifer Anderson, Jofil Borja, Sandy Damiano, Paula Green, Steve Heath, Olivia Kasirye, Farla Kaufman, Barbara Law, Steven Orkand, Emmanuel Petrisor, Jeff Rabinovitz, Christina Slee, Kimberly Sloan, Phillip Summers, Kathleen Wright, Jack Zwald

Board Members Excused: Felicia Bhe

Board Members Absent: None

Guests: Dennis Catanyag, Megan Floyd, Chris Hunley, Annie Tat

Meeting Opened at 12:10 PM

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Orkand welcomed PHAB members, speakers, and guests.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the December 2018 meeting were accepted with one correction: Jack Zwald was present.

PHAB Vacancies and Appointments

All positions on the Board and Executive Committee are filled.

Public Health Division Report

Dr. Kasirye

Dr. Kasirye reported that cases of influenza are increasing in the County.

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) staff have been working very hard to earn accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board. Accreditation is a process whereby public health departments are measured against a nationally recognized set of standards. This effort has been ongoing for several years and has been endorsed by the Public Health Advisory Board. The accreditation process is encouraged by the Center for Disease Control and many public health jurisdictions around the country have achieved accreditation. In California, 13 of the 61 local health jurisdictions have achieved accreditation, including major counties such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego and Santa Clara. There may be financial incentives for county health departments to achieve accreditation since they may receive increased funding.

Formal application requires a fee and must be supported by the Board of Supervisors. Board support has been requested in the past, but is not yet granted. Dr. Kasirye will prepare further description and documentation for the next PHAB meeting and request our continuing support for accreditation by 2020. A handout was provided.

Primary Health Division Report

Dr. Damiano

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Dave Magnino, EMS Administrator, will provide an update at the February PHAB meeting. He will discuss proposed fees for new programs. New fees would allow the hiring of more staff. However, there has been a trend toward decline in one of the main revenue sources, Maddy Funds (from Vehicle Code fines), so hiring would be limited.

Correctional Health Services

Pamela Gandy-Rosemond, Juvenile Medical Services (JMS) Program Manager, will split her time between JMS and Adult Correctional Health. This is due to decreased volume of juveniles detained at the Youth Detention Facility but the increased needs of Adult Correctional Health. She is the Senior Nursing Director for Adult Correctional Health.

Juvenile Medical Services will begin the process of seeking National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC) accreditation in 2019.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

We just received news yesterday that additional funding will permit WIC to function through at least March, despite the federal shutdown.

The State will reduce the WIC base grant by 4.5% for FFY 2020-2022 based on decreased caseload. This comes to approx. \$243,000. Caseload is down state-wide due to decreased births.

The Staff are working on budget documents for the county budget submission, and this will include the reduced funding.

State WIC is rolling out electronic cards to replace the current paper food checks and should improve the shopping ease for families. This will roll out in September.

Medi-Cal Managed Care

Molina Healthcare of California, one of the Medi-Cal providers, recently terminated Golden Shores IPA. There have been other changes in the independent provider associations this last year. This makes it difficult for patients.

Dr. Damiano also reported her impression that in the future the new Governor would like to move pharmacy services from Medi-Cal Managed Care to fee-for-service. This would be a huge change, allowing competitive bidding and great potential savings. The Governor has also proposed to extend Medi-Cal pediatric and young adult services for the undocumented from age 19 to age 26. This would allow Healthy Partners to charge Medi-Cal for services to this expanded population. Finally, the Governor has proposed creating a State Surgeon General position.

Environmental Lead in Sacramento County

Guest Speaker:

Megan Floyd

Environmental Health Specialist, Drinking Water Program

California Code 22 Regulations define a public water system as one that serves the public, at least 25 individuals, at least 60 days of the year. There are smaller tier systems. Transient non-community systems include parks, restaurants, and others, where food preparation, hand washing, and similar activities take place. Non-transient, non-community water systems serve at least 25 individuals, at least 180 days of the year. This might include a public building or a school. The next tier includes homes, where water is used on a regular basis. If more than 200 units are served, it is a large water system controlled by the State Water Resources Control Board. The County's Environmental Management Department has had a mandate from the State since 1992. It oversees 154 small water systems. 76 of these must do regular lead and copper sampling. Of these, 15 are schools or daycare centers.

The lead and copper rules were established in 1991 by the Federal EPA. They regulate how and when the elements are to be tested. There are rules governing how long water is to remain in pipes, how they are flushed, and how the water content is measured. The "action level" for lead is 15 parts per billion. Samples are typically taken from pipes that may yield consumable water. Megan provided details about how water is to be tested.

Where does lead in drinking water come from? From old pipes in homes. Before 1986, there was lead in the solder used in connecting pipes. Fixtures and connectors also may have lead. Lead may also be a contaminant in the soil that leeches into the groundwater. Megan showed pictures of corroded pipes and discussed ways to remedy this.

A few months ago contamination was discovered at Grant High School. The school serves 1400 students plus staff. The school was built in the 1930s and some areas have original piping and fixtures. It is served by one well, and there is a backup system from the City. The school had been in compliance, and monitoring was required only every 3 years. There was a fire on July 9, 2018. They fought the fire by draining water from their well, but they also needed to tap into an emergency connection with Sacramento. After the fire, water sat in the pipes for 2 weeks, and when tested showed lead contamination. Twin Rivers Unified School District was notified, and plans were made to notify parents and students. Social media played a big role in all this. All water faucets were put out of service. The swimming pool was closed. School was in session, so a modified cafeteria was put in place. Pipes, connectors, valves, and fixtures were replaced. Water was retested in December and levels were safe. The school will remain on an accelerated testing regimen for the next 2 years. The cost of repairs and associated expenses was close to \$1 million. This was paid by Twin Rivers Unified but partly offset by a grant.

Dr. Kasirye added that with the increasing age of our schools, more such episodes will occur.

Guest Speaker:

Dennis Catanyag

Environmental Specialist, Child lead screening

Dennis is part of the prevention program. Data for children who are screened for lead goes into a data system. When lead levels are elevated, and public health nurse notifies the family. If the level is high enough, a certified lead inspector is dispatched to test the child's environment along with the nurse. The inspector evaluates spices, cosmetics, and other factors. Lead is absorbed through mucous membranes, and not generally through the skin. Early poisoning is asymptomatic. Long term exposure in younger children can lead to learning disabilities, low IQ., slowed growth. Paint has been a major source of exposure for children. Lead-based paint was banned in 1978, but persisted for many years in older homes. Children would eat or suck on paint chips coming from the walls or window sills. Another source of exposure is lead-based gasoline, which contaminates soil. This was also banned.

More recently, other sources of contamination have been discovered. Dishes and pottery from Mexico may have lead-based paint or glazes. Occasionally there are Prop 65 warnings. Some hobbies present danger: fishermen are exposed to lead in their sinkers. Toys and jewelry may also be sources of lead exposure.

Paint dust and soil have been the principle sources of exposure in the past, but demographics are changing in Sacramento County. There is a large Afghan immigrant population, and in this group medicinals and cosmetics from the home-country may have lead contaminants. Surma (kohl) is a popular item used in mascara. It is used in cultural and religious ceremonies as well as for fashion. In the Middle East, it is manufactured from lead sulfide. This comes in various formulations, including powder. When these are discovered, County inspectors explain the risks to children, then remove them from the home.

Sindoor is used in cosmetics in India. This is used to dot the forehead, signifying that a woman is married, but also for other purposes. It may be 37% lead. Children exposed are at risk. At times, various essential oils and other products have been positive for lead. Some are used as folk remedies.

Turmeric is a popular product at present. Samples from Afghanistan have contained lead, probably because lead is added to increase the weight and cost. Cumin and fennel have also been contaminated. Lead has even been found in prescribed medicines from India.

The emphasis in lead testing has been on children, since they are more susceptible neurologically. The test for lead is not part of a routine panel for adults. Dr. Rabinovitz asked if all children should be tested or if the focus should be on water contamination.

Dr. Kasirye explained that more frequent exposure comes from old homes (lead paint), soil, and the foreign products mentioned. The CDC recommends that screening be directed only at high risk populations. Dr. Rabinovitz pointed out that we may not always know which populations are at high risk, since wealthier families might use the cosmetics. Education for pediatricians is important to make sure that screening is available for high-risk children. Dr. Rabinovitz wondered whether a questionnaire could be developed to help the doctors screen immigrant families. It was suggested that PHAB could help develop an educational piece for the Medical Society's magazine, read by many pediatricians. Dr. Rabinovitz offered to prepare this. Dr. Kaufman mentioned that she has other information sources and will get these to Jeff.

Discussion and/or Action Topics for 2019

In the last month, members submitted possible discussion and/or action topics for 2019. Dr. Orkand distributed a ballot that included 12 nominated items. Board members were asked to rank their choices, 1st to 5th, and to submit their ballots. Dr. Orkand will tabulate the scores and present them at the next meeting.

Jofil Borja and Dr. Kasirye both pointed out that, under the topic of Violence in Sacramento County, a discussion of violence initiated by police might be overly long and delicate for this body.

Public Comment

There was none.

Announcement

Dr. Orkand and Paula Green will meet with Supervisor Kennedy this afternoon to plan for a meeting in his office regarding a distracted drivers' program for high schools in Sacramento County. Jofil Borja mentioned that legislation to extend the graduated drivers license program would likely be brought to the new governor.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 PM

Minutes prepared by Steven Orkand, Chair.