

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, California 94109

APPROVED MINUTES

Advisory Council Public Health Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 12, 2006

- 1. Call to Order – Roll Call.** Chairperson Bramlett called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
Present: Jeffrey Bramlett, Chairperson, Cassandra Adams (10:30 a.m.), Janice Kim, M.D., (10:08 a.m.), Steven Kmucha, M.D., Karen Licavoli-Farnkopf, MPH, Linda Weiner.
Absent: Brian Zamora.
- 2. Public Comment Period.** There were no public comments.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of October 10, 2006.** Dr. Kmucha moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Mr. Bramlett; carried unanimously.
- 4. Discussion on Indoor Air Quality and Asthma:** *The Committee discussed indoor air quality and asthma.*

Councilmember Janice Kim, M.D., arrived at 10:08 a.m.

Chairperson Bramlett opened the discussion on the issue of indoor air quality (IAQ) and asthma and stated that to date no responses had been received by the District staff on the letter that was sent in October, 2006 to the city and county health officers. Mr. Bramlett reviewed two of the proposed items listed in the letter and asked Committee members for their ideas on how the Committee might proceed further on these items: (1) consider collaboration in the creation of seminars/summits with relevant and interested groups to gather information and develop action plans to disseminate this information to address IAQ; and (2) to work to improve the interface between public health and the general medical community about these issues.

Ms. Licavoli-Farnkopf opined that the letter was good background material but that it needed to be more specific with regards to the information that the Committee is trying to obtain from the city and county health officers. It would be helpful to define what the Committee means when discussing collaboration with the various groups. The Committee needs to be more specific about what it is trying to achieve for the District and what the next steps might be in dealing with the complex issue of IAQ and asthma.

There was a lengthy discussion about the development of an agenda for a summit and sharing it with the public health officers to obtain their feedback and input. There could be a key contact person from each county that might review the agenda and provide input with regards to what they might like to include in the seminar/summit. Mr. Bramlett stated that he would prefer not to develop an agenda without engaging the city and county health officers in the process. Mr.

Bramlett reminded the Committee that the strategy from last year was to try not to recreate new steps but to build on the existing information and programs that were already in place.

Dr. Kmucha commented that there is good evidence that shows that IAQ deteriorates in the winter months when there are a lot of respiratory cases. Also, there is a huge disconnect between the public health department and the medical community. Physicians do not have a lot of time to spend on the public health side. The public health community is working on community issues and a lot of that information does not seem to filter down to the physicians treating individual patients. There are a lot of issues related to IAQ and it would be helpful to get an idea of what questions the District is faced with when they receive phone calls from the public. This might provide the Committee with a better idea on what to focus on while developing recommendations for the District.

Peter Hess, Deputy APCO, stated that the Air District staff is looking at what type of coordination is needed, or how staff should be moving towards interfacing with the health community in the areas of IAQ and asthma. The District receives many inquiries from the public wanting to know the impact and relationship between IAQ, outdoor air quality and their effect on asthma. This topic was given to the Public Health Committee to work on so that the Committee could provide the District with recommendations on how the District might interface with the public, county health officers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and what the District's role might be on this issue.

Mr. Hess stated that he and Jack Broadbent, Executive Officer/APCO, had met with the Bay Area County Health Officers Association offering them the opportunity to establish firmer ties between the county health officers and the Air District.

Councilmember Cassandra Adams arrived at 10:30 a.m.

Ms. Weiner suggested that a brief questionnaire be mailed out to the health departments to find out what type of inquiries they receive and what type of tools might help them as a resource. In response to Ms. Weiner's inquiry as to what parameters or authority the Air district has over IAQ and asthma, Mr. Hess stated that in the regulatory area, the District has the authority to regulate certain air contaminants, e.g. paints used in homes, plastic sealers, coatings, consumer products and other types of air contaminants that would go into the ambient atmosphere.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding possible short-term and long-term recommendations that the Committee might make for IAQ and asthma. Members commented that there are several asthma coalitions in every county and that the District should tap into existing coalitions and work in partnership with them in being a resource to the public. It was also suggested that the Community Outreach Manager of the District should interface with the public health officers. Dr. Kim suggested the California IAQ Working Group's website as a resource, and possibly having the District's web pages linked to other resources.

Mr. Hess suggested the following next steps for the Committee to consider: (1) the District staff would make a presentation to the Committee at its next meeting. The presentation would include items such as what the District is currently engaged in for IAQ and asthma; how many phone calls and other inquiries the District receives; how much time is spent on each inquiry, etc; (2) identify the various health coalitions involved on the issue of asthma in order to tap into those resources; and (3) Mr. Hess would contact Brian Zamora, since he represents the public

health agencies, to discuss the recent letter that was mailed to the city and county health officers and to find out possible reasons as to why none of the health officers responded to it.

5. **Committee Member Comments/Other Business.** Dr. Kim referred to a new article titled “Wood Smoke Health Effects: A Review” that has recently been published by Inhalation Toxicology. She could not distribute copies to the Committee members, at this time, because of potential copyright issues; however, she mentioned that she would look into the issue of obtaining copies for the Committee.

Mr. Bramlett requested the members to think of possible issues that they might like the Committee to work on during 2007, and to bring their list of ideas to the Council’s Retreat on January 10, 2007. Mr. Bramlett also mentioned that he would like to change the day when the Public Health Committee meets each month from a Tuesday to some other day during the week, based on his availability.

6. **Time and Place of Next Meeting.** The date for the next meeting will be discussed and finalized at the Council’s Retreat on January 10, 2007.
7. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

/s/ Neel Advani
Neel Advani
Deputy Clerk of the Boards