

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

APPROVED MINUTES

Advisory Council Public Health Committee
1:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 13, 2007

- 1. Call to Order – Roll Call.** Chairperson Bramlett called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. **Present:** Chairperson Jeffery Bramlett, Janice Kim, Ph.D., Steven Kmucha, MD., Ms. Linda Weiner, and Mr. Brian Zamora. **Absent:** Ms. Cassandra Adams, and Ms. Licavoli-Farnkkoph.
- 2. Public Comment Period:** Correspondence was sent to the members of the Public Health Committee from Ms. Gross of Hayward regarding two power plants in Hayward. Chairperson Bramlett will find out more information regarding the content of the letter and follow up with a response on behalf of the Public Health Committee.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of February 14, 2007:** Dr. Kmucha moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Mr. Zamora, carried unanimously.
- 4. Continued Discussion on Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) and Asthma:** Chairperson Bramlett indicated doing two things at the meeting which included: 1) Report from Mr. Zamora on contact with the Association of Bay Area Health Officers; 2) Summary of discussions to begin preparation of a report to Chairperson Glueck and the Council.

Mr. Zamora reported that members of the Association of Bay Area Health Officers expressed interest in Indoor Air Pollution and Asthma; however, they would like to focus their limited resources and attention on Particulate Matter. The Association offered the services of Dr. Tony Iton, Health Officer in Alameda County as a delegate to the Committee. Mr. Bramlett requested staff coordinate with Dr. Tony Iton for a presentation at its next meeting.

Ms. Weiner reported that the list of all Bay Area Asthma coalitions and current information she collected was given to Mr. Peter Hess, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer. Mr. Bramlett requested staff provide the committee members with a copy.

Dr. Kmucha stated that coordinating with the County Medical Associations of Sonoma, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Alameda, and Contra Costa would be ideal. Many of the Associations have Environmental or Public Health Committees and have shown informal interest in working with the Air District's Public Health Committee. Dr. Kmucha also noted that the new Chairperson of the Environmental and Public Health Committee for the San Mateo County Medical Association, Michelle Caughey, with her Committee have identified six potential topics out of numerous lists with asthma as a priority. Dr. Kmucha is on the Committee and will act as a liaison. He also stated that San Mateo County Supervisors have set up a panel to decide what to do with the uninsured and under-insured. The panel will deliver their

recommendation on extending coverage by about 400% in poverty and work on preventive care and the treatment of chronic illnesses.

Mr. Bramlett suggested that before the next meeting, a list of county medical associations with contact information and addresses be created and attached to the recommendations that will be submitted to Chairperson Glueck. Dr. Kmucha will draft a list and bring to the next meeting.

Dr. Kim echoed that she spoke recently at the Santa Clara County Medical Association, which has a very active environmental health group. She commented that one of the priorities of the medical association is to address indoor air quality. Dr. Kim also noted that with regards to the state, there are potential resources for funding opportunities because there are various agencies in the state system that are very involved in environmental issues related to asthma. Dr. Kim stated that there are websites that have fact sheets in different languages that talk about asthma.

Mr. Bramlett reminded those present that request to the Committee on Indoor Air Quality and Asthma was refined in a February 14, 2007 meeting. The changes include the Air District's request for recommendations regarding its role on interfacing with the public, county health officers, and non governmental agencies on asthma as it relates to air quality (indoor and outdoor). Mr. Bramlett also stated that the next step will be to come up with a written draft to guide the project.

Dr. Kmucha questioned if the Committee had met the request of Air District staff with regards to indoor air quality and the role that the Air District will play in controlling indoor air quality.

Mr. Bramlett responded that the concern expressed by the Air District was that of the public calling for assistance from the Air District. Also, staff would like both short and long term advice in order to respond to this issue accordingly. Mr. Bramlett requested staff be present at the next meeting to confirm this request or to clarify for the Committee what is wanted.

Dr. Kim suggested that some long term plans the Air District may consider would be acknowledging tobacco smoke as a problem in our communities. The state is planning to put emission standards on some products that are sold in California.

Ms. Weiner added that the comprehensive list of regional resources and internal audits of toxicity and emissions within the Air District is a good project. She also commented that the state level is coming up with lots of regulations on emissions that will fall upon local agencies.

Mr. Bramlett then reviewed past discussions of the committee as they related to the standard report format (i.e. importance and or implications, key issues, recommendations). With respect to importance and or implications, particular attention was given to asthma triggers and review of those most related to the Air District's area of influence – environmental irritants. General environmental exposures such as allergens, animals, plants, protein, irritants, weather changes, viral

sinus infections, exercise, reflux disease, medication, food and anxiety have been linked to the exacerbation of asthma.

Irritants, triggers most related to the Air District's area of influence, discussed included air pollutants like tobacco smoke, wood smoke, chemicals, ozone, occupational exposures to dust, gasses, fumes, strong odors like perfumes, household cleaners, cooking fumes, particulates from frying, paints and furniture, coal, chalk, talcum powder, and changing weather conditions. Some of these issues, the Air District is working on and some are beyond its boundary.

Mr. Bramlett also reviewed possible corrective actions the committee has discussed previously. This included the following items for consideration:

1. Continue current efforts in controlling chemicals in the air including industrial/occupational vapors, dust, gases and fumes. This also includes existing efforts to address ozone, industrial and restaurant cooking fumes, paints and vanishes, and many other types of airborne particulates.
2. Continue work to reduce the impacts of wood smoke on the general population and for the benefit of asthma sufferers.
3. Develop and distribute a pamphlet for the Air District's own use that supports existing agency and non-governmental organization's work in this area. One way this might be done is by preparing information similar to that of the California Air Resources Board.
4. Encourage callers to work with a health care provider to obtain an accurate diagnosis, identify triggers, remove or control triggers.
5. Train Air District staff on the background science, relative to the relationship between indoor and outdoor air quality and asthma.
6. Increase the coordination with County Health Officers and organizations that results in:
 - a. More collaborative effort in which air quality facts (i.e., sample results) may aid health officer/agency work to reduce asthma triggers and cases.
 - b. More efficient response to callers by referring them more accurately to the correct resource at the caller's local (county) level.
 - c. Work with schools, and through public health nurses where available, to disseminate the Air District's information.
 - d. Provide callers with a list of references that are sensitive to people of different language preferences and who may not have internet access (physical or ability).
 - e. Include in appropriate media releases, in addition to the other information, a consistent educational message that when the air quality is poor, a person can have an exacerbation of respiratory and cardiac problems. Also, that there are many triggers that exacerbate asthma and, that on any day when a person has an exacerbation, it is due to days or even weeks of accumulating effects that result in the episode.
7. Develop program measures to track volume of calls, type of referral made, number of inspections made, classification of inspection conclusion as to if the trigger is thought to be primarily due to an indoor or outdoor source.
8. Keep the Advisory Council informed as the program reaches significant milestones in its development and implementation.

Dr. Kim commented on the relationship between indoor and outdoor air quality. She stated that ozone is a reactive molecule and ambient levels can react with certain cleaning products and furnishings in the house. The outdoor air pollution get indoors especially with living close to freeways.

5. Committee Member Comments/Other Business:

- Ms. Weiner suggested that the Committee meet in the smaller room if there are no public speakers or presentations.
- Mr. Bramlett related that Mr. Hess is retiring and members are welcome to make donations for a gift to Mr. Hess.
- Dr. Kmucha made a suggestion to the Committee of inviting someone to talk on the health effect of traffic exposure on people sitting for a long period of time with regards to outdoor pollutants and indoor due to lack of availability of fresh air.
- Dr. Kim stated that she would be happy to make a presentation on the “health impact of residential proximity to busy roads”; there are epidemiologic studies and the mechanics involved with it.
- The Committee agreed on Dr. Kim making a presentation regarding “residential proximity and indoor exposure to pollutants.” This presentation is tentative and Chairperson Bramlett will inform other subcommittees to see if they are interested in the presentation.
- Dr. Kim also mentioned work she and her colleagues are doing on the health impacts of climate change and suggested this may be of interest. The Committee agreed and Mr. Bramlett will look into inviting members of the other committees.
- Mr. Bramlett surveyed members present to determine if a quorum exists for the August meeting. As quorum did not exist; the August meeting was canceled.

6. Time and place of next meeting: Wednesday, October 10, 2007, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

7. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

/s/ Chioma Dimude
Chioma Dimude
Acting Executive Secretary