

Maternal Child Adolescent Health Advisory Board Minutes

June 2, 2022

Members	
Attendees	Absent
Jeff Miller	Hannah Watson*
Ashley Chavez	Stephanie Montez*
Mayra Gallegos	Annie Nicol*
Renée Alger	Kathy Kane*
Gina Cuclis	Elizabeth Smith
Melissa Apuya	Rachel Napoli
Carla Denner**	
Elizabeth Vermilyea**	

*Excused absence

**Pending Approval by Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Staff Present Janette Allee, Administrative Aide,

Staff Absent Colette Mc Geough, RN, PHN Supervisor, MCAH/CHVP Director

Guest Department of Health Services (DHS) Director Tina Rivera, BS

Call to Order Dr. Jeff Miller called the meeting to order at 12:34 pm and introductions were made.

Meeting Minutes Dr. Miller requested one change to the May minutes, to remove the word “punishment” and replace it with the word “suspension” instead. Gina Cuclis then motioned to approve the May minutes, Renee Alger seconded the motion to approve, and the minutes were approved.

Discussion Dr. Miller welcomed Director Rivera to the meeting and thanked her for coming. He then gave her some background on the MCAH Advisory Board (AB), and its mission to promote the physical, social, and emotional health and well-being of women, children, and adolescents by sharing resources amongst the agencies that are represented, and also to advise the MCAH Director and the DHS as well as the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Currently, the AB has been working on defining the population they serve more inclusively than the above definition to align with the state and to include fathers and all other family units present in the county that may not feel included by the above definition. The AB membership includes health professionals, elected official representatives, school health personnel, representatives from community agencies, and county agencies who work with families and the public.

Dr. Miller continued by saying, the AB has been working on increasing its visibility over the last six months and has had each of the Board of Supervisors come to its meetings to talk with them about how they can best advise them and assist with improving the health of the population they serve. Dr. Miller also mentioned that shortly after Dr. Gabriel Kaplan arrived at his new position as Director of Public Health he attended an MCAH AB meeting and they had a very fruitful discussion. It is along these same lines that they have invited Director Rivera here today to collaborate and promote the health of families and see how she envisions them working together in the future.

Director Rivera thanked the group for inviting her and stated that these groups are extremely important for our county. She mentioned that the Home Visiting Programs; Field Nursing (FN), Nurse Family Partnership (NFP), and Teen Parent Connections (TPC), have needed advocacy and the county has been working and strategizing for years to find sustainable funding for these programs. Dir. Rivera mentioned that she and Health Program Manager Brittany Lobo have also met with Congressman Mike Thompson to request sustainable funding for the NFP program and have not received a firm answer. Nevertheless, Dir. Rivera announced to the AB that she is happy to report that we have received additional funding within our department to be able to at least look forward to the next two to three years without having to go to the BOS or strategize with sister departments. Dir. Rivera added that despite securing funding for the next few years she assured the members that she will continue to advocate for sustainable funding for the Home Visiting Programs stating that the

programs and the outcomes of the programs speak for themselves. She continued by saying that she has been following the outcomes over the last several years and it has been phenomenal what these programs have achieved, the work has been bar none, and she is excited to be a part of this work.

Director Rivera also agreed with Dr. Miller on the importance of visibility, stating that however we can engage more people and bring more awareness to our programs and inform them of how we can support them is fantastic. We need to think about how to better integrate with our community. In coordination with Human Services, they are implementing a “No Wrong Door” Initiative which involves designing a brochure listing all the programs, and training all front-line staff to know what services are offered, and where to connect each person. Look forward to future outreach campaigns that are planned such as hosting Facebook channel events, digital health fairs, and physical booth health fairs as well.

Dr. Miller thanked Director Rivera for coming to the meeting and said that he looked forward to working with her in the future.

The topic then moved to the next agenda item which was the revised letter in support of prohibiting flavored tobacco and e-cigarette devices as requested by Impact Sonoma and the Tobacco-Free Sonoma County Coalition to present to the Board of Supervisors.

Carla Denner commented that cannabis is also an issue that should be addressed and Dr. Miller suggested making this a future agenda item.

Gina Cuclis motioned that the letter should be approved, Melissa Apuya seconded the motion and the letter was approved.

State Legislature Melissa Apuya reported that yesterday the top-line budget priorities were released and that the legislature has to pass a budget bill by June 15th in order for members to get paid and for the last two years they have been getting an on-time budget, so she expects the vote to happen by June 15th. The actual budget bill will be in print next week which will give exact dollar amounts and more specific details but she pulled some highlights from yesterday’s release that are relevant to this group to share. She noted that there are some budget dollars set aside for health care services for maternal care, dollars for Medi-Cal coverage for children, an approved ten million dollars for this coming year, as well as 20 million dollars for ongoing Medi-Cal for children ages 0-5 years, a back in the budget item under Public Health there is an appropriation for car seats for infants for one million dollars. It will be interesting to see what this program is and how this will be distributed across the state. There is also a continuation of the pandemic from the governor as well as the legislature that has appropriated more dollars for food banks and food access for families, and a continued appropriation for that as well is a statewide diaper and wipes distribution. Melissa mentioned a previous question of whether Medi-Cal extension for postpartum mothers to 12 months postpartum, stating that she didn’t see this in the top line budget items, but once the bill goes to print but she will be able to know for sure. Next week she will be able to share more specific details and tell members more information and that if anyone is interested in a specific line item they can reach out via email and she will respond.

Correspondence Viveka Rydell Anderson and Natalie Johnson, have submitted their resignations. Health Action 2.0 has agreed to present to the AB at the August meeting.

Staff Report No report.

Announcements – Dr. Miller announced that membership is dwindling due to several resignations and asked Janette to send out the list of categories open, we currently have six vacancies, and with Natalie leaving that also leaves the Vice-Chair position open, and he asked members to consider candidates they may know and discuss with them and forward their information.

Carla Denner announced an upcoming webinar titled The Collaborative Approach to Improving Maternal Health <https://events.uniteus.com/events/a-collaborative-approach-to-improving-maternal-health>

Elizabeth Vermilyea announced that CPI is offering Spanish Cannabis Decoded presentations to the LatinX community and if you are interested and have a location they are happy to come out. This is an informative seminar meant to educate parents about teen use.

Ashley Chavez announced that 4C's is providing N95 masks to all childcare providers, regardless of licensing. If a friend, neighbor, or grandparent provides childcare in their home they can also come and receive free masks so please share this information. There are plenty of masks available and these masks can serve a double purpose by also being used during fire season.

Reminder no meeting in July due to the Independence Day Holiday.

Public Comment

Brittany Lobo, Health Program Manager for Home Visiting (HV) Programs was present and she said hello and that she was glad to hear Tina chime in about our programs and that it was encouraging to hear.

Meeting Adjourned- The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Passed Motions	
Minutes from May were approved. The letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of prohibiting flavored tobacco and e-cigarette devices as requested by Impact Sonoma and the Tobacco-Free Sonoma County Coalition was approved.	
Handouts	
Action Items	
Impact Sonoma Letter approved	

2022 Meeting Dates			
August 4	Thursday	12:30-2:00	625 5 th Street, City View Rooms
September 1	Thursday	12:30-2:00	625 5 th Street, City View Rooms
October 6	Thursday	12:30-2:00	625 5 th Street, City View Rooms
November 3	Thursday	12:30-2:00	625 5 th Street, City View Rooms
December 1	Thursday	12:30-2:00	625 5 th Street, City View Rooms
MCAH AB WebSite			
https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/public-health/maternal-child-and-adolescent-health/maternal-child-and-adolescent-health-advisory-board			