

# Maternal Child Adolescent Health Advisory Board Minutes

April 6, 2023

Members	
Attendees	Absent
Renée Alger	Jill St. Peter
Elizabeth Vermilyea	
Annie Nicol	
Jeff Miller	
Carla Denner	
Catherine Barrisford	
Allison Murphy	
Stephanie Montez	
Mayra Gallegos	
Erin Reed**	
Gina Cuclis	
Rocio Monter	
Kathy Kane	
Melissa Apuya	

\*Excused absence

\*\*Pending Approval by Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

**Staff Present** Janette Allee, Administrative Aide, Laura Turner, MSN, RN, PHN, MCAH Coordinator.

**Guests** Terese Voge, MPA, Health Program Manager, Public Health Division

**Call to Order** Dr. Renee Alger called the meeting to order at 12:34 pm.

**Meeting Minutes** Gina Cuclis motioned to approve the February minutes. Kathy Kane seconded the motion,

Monter-Aye

Vermilyea-Aye

Murphy-Aye

Barrisford-Aye

Miller-Aye

Kane-Aye

Cuclis-Aye

Gallegos-Aye

Apuya-Abstain

Nicol-Aye

Alger-Aye

Montez-Aye

Nicol-Aye

Denner-Aye

and the minutes were approved.

**PVH Closure Letter** Gina Cuclis provided some input to include in the letter regarding the previous closure of Sonoma Valley Hospital's birthing center a few years ago. In addition to PVH's closure of its birthing center, this would result in no birthing center services for the entire southern half of Sonoma County. There was also a request to include birth data for all Sonoma County Hospitals and this information was distributed for 2016-2022. Laura Turner, MCAH Coordinator spoke about a recent call she was on that Marin County organized regarding the potential closure and stated that Novato Hospital's birthing center had also closed leaving the radius without this service even larger. The closure, which they call a 'break in service', of PVH's birthing center is planned to occur on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Members noted that this in addition to the two other birthing centers that have also closed in Sonoma County appears to be a trend and asked what PVH is doing in anticipation of the closure. The answer was that they are training emergency staff at all emergency departments. This information brought up more concerns such as traumatic birth experiences, the capacity of hospital emergency departments, traffic issues, and the geographic space to get to each location. PVH was designated to be a stand-

alone birth center. Catherine Barrisford added that her concern is that if this continues there is no way to reverse it. Without OBs and anesthesiologists in place, we won't be able to train the next cycle and it's very difficult to get back what you have lost. Dr. Miller added that the crux of the matter is we don't have enough information because it may be about ensuring the best safest care. Allison said that she heard they didn't put an RFP out for anesthesiologists until they already decided to close, Laura said PVH said they did but had difficulties finding applicants because they had low numbers of patients and the cost of living was too high.

**PVH Closure Letter Vote** Gina Cuclis motioned to send a letter to the Director of Health Services and Health Officer regarding the concerns surrounding the potential closure of the PVH birthing center.

Kathy Kane seconded the motion,

Monter-Aye

Vermilyea-Aye

Murphy-Aye

Barrisford-Aye

Miller-Aye

Kane-Aye

Cuclis-Aye

Gallegos-Aye

Apuya- Aye

Nicol-Aye

Alger-Aye

Montez-Aye

Nicol-Aye

Denner-Aye

and the motion passed

**Next Steps Cannabis Lounges and Tobacco Retail License Policy** The Tobacco Retail License (TRL) Policy had been pulled from the Board of Supervisors (BOS) calendar with no rescheduled date in the future. The AB conversation left off discussing the link between trauma and smoking and whether this would disproportionately affect those already impacted without supports in place. Terese Voge added that there will be no personal use laws only point of sale penalties and offered to share with the group a matrix. She also stated that the BOS won't move on the matter unless it hears from the public. This topic will be added to June's agenda.

Terese Voge spoke about a dispensary in Cotati planning open a smoking lounge, they have gone to the city council and still need to set up the licensing, this is a high fee in the tens of thousands of dollars, and it also requires an HVAC system and a health permit from our department, so it won't be soon. Dr. Alger stated that this board will be ready when the time comes as they have good documentation and educational information prepared from their presentations.

**State Legislation** Melissa Apuya reported that Assemblymember Damon Connolly has introduced a bill that anyone born after 2007 would not be able to buy tobacco, but a Democratic leader would not have the bill heard and advised him to introduce a new bill. There are many new bills related to women's health. Currently, they are on Spring Break and will return next week. Two bills of significant interest to this board are AB 710 and AB 1478 both relate to grants and increased funding for local health programs and women's health services.

**Staff Report** Laura announced that a Perinatal Service Coordinator will be starting on April 18th. Lucy Tyralla will be replacing Liz George who is retiring. Lucy was already a home-visiting nurse in our Nurse-Family Partnership program, and she comes from the east coast and is bilingual.

**Correspondence** No Correspondence received.

**Announcements** Dr. Vermilyea reported that potential changes are coming to the MHSA Mental Health Services Act, the Governor announced that he plans to divert money from that fund, this is concerning, and she requests it to be added to a future agenda. Dr. Alger agrees and it will be added to a future agenda.

**Public Comment** No members of the public were present.

**Meeting Adjourned** The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

**Passed Motions**

Minutes from March were approved.

**Handouts**

Birth numbers from Sonoma County hospitals

**Action Items**

Vote to send a letter to DHS Director and Health Officer regarding the PVH closure approved

**2022-2023 Meeting Dates**

May 4	Thursday	12:30-2:00	625 5 <sup>th</sup> Street, City View Rooms
June 1	Thursday	12:30-2:00	625 5 <sup>th</sup> Street, City View Rooms
August 3	Thursday	12:30-2:00	625 5 <sup>th</sup> Street, City View Rooms
September 7	Thursday	12:30-2:00	625 5 <sup>th</sup> Street, City View Rooms
October 5	Thursday	12:30-2:00	625 5 <sup>th</sup> Street, City View Rooms
November 2	Thursday	12:30-2:00	625 5 <sup>th</sup> Street, City View Rooms
December 7	Thursday	12:30-2:00	625 5 <sup>th</sup> 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>