

Maternal Child Adolescent Health Advisory Board Minutes

February 6, 2024

Members	
Present	Absent
Dr. Renée Alger	Dr. Milana PeBenito**
Dr. Elizabeth Vermilyea	Alexandra Rios**
Erin Reed	
Allison Murphy	
Catherine Barrisford	
Dr. Jeff Miller	
Dr. Michael Perry	
Flora Henningsen	
Stephanie Montez	
Gina Cuclis	
Melissa Apuya	

*Excused absence

**Pending Approval by Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Staff Present Brittany Lobo, MCAH Director, Janette Allee, Administrative Aide, Nicole Bonkrude, Health Information Specialist II (Zoom), Emily Gonzalez-Demont Health Information Specialist II (Zoom), Laura Turner Senior Public Health Nurse, MCAH Coordinator.

Guests Shauna Hamilton, LMFT, PPSC, Wendy Worms, Social Worker, both from Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE).

Call to Order Dr. Renée Alger called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. and introductions were made.

Meeting Minutes

Allison Murphy-Aye

Melissa Apuya-Aye

Gina Cuclis-Aye

Flora Henninsen-Aye

Stephanie Montez-Aye

Dr. Jeff Miller-Aye

Catherine Barrisford-Aye

Dr. Elizabeth Vermilyea-Aye

Dr. Renée Alger-Aye

And the minutes were approved.

Presentation Shauna Hamilton and Wendy Worms from SCOE gave the members an overview of School Wellness Centers, how they are set up and how they operate. Together they explained that using data received from California Department of Education in 2023 and Youth Truth surveys in 2024 they found that 1 in 4 students reported that they would not know what to do if they felt sad, stressed, lonely or depressed, and 70% of students would appreciate help if offered. With this in mind, they created a space on campus designed for and with students. They are able to access supports like education, intervention, prevention, and crisis assistance. While not every student needs therapy everyone needs support. Staff triages each student's specific need. They have created a four-tiered system of support; mental health, physical health, sexual health, and substance misuse. Currently there are seven high schools in Sonoma County who have Wellness Centers. They would like to expand to middle schools and elementary schools and are working on creating the sustainable funding to make that happen. The main issue being staffing.

Update on Dental Health Dr. Perry brought up the potential of advising the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the Sonoma County Department of Health Services (DHS) to consider fluoridating the water as it is the cheapest public health investment you can make for the people especially those who are underprivileged. Gina Cuclis reminded the membership of the battle about a decade ago this advisory board went through with the previous DHS leadership and (BOS) over this same topic. Dr. Miller added that the CAO is new, and DHS and BOS membership has changed since that time and perhaps opinions have changed as well. Dr. Vermilyea suggested repetitive advocacy could make a difference.

Dr. Perry offered to invite his contacts from the California Dental Association to attend an upcoming meeting who have more experience assisting in getting action like this. We will add this to our next agenda.

State Legislation Melissa Apuya reported that legislation is now 4-5 weeks into session. The governor presented his proposal 5 days into the fire in LA. Asm. Connolly sits on the budget committee and Melissa says please let her know if there is anything at the local level that you think will affect your work so he can check on it. There are two new members Chris Rogers from Santa Rosa and Christopher Calbaldon replacing Bill Dodd, if you are interested in having either of them attend an upcoming meeting, please let Melissa know and she can invite them. The running constant theme is to protect undocumented students from ICE. Asm. Connolly introduced a bill to protect California homeowners' insurance, and the insurance commissioner supports this, but this was started before the LA fires.

Correspondence None received.

Staff Report Brittany Lobo reports that she will begin adding State MCAH Action Meeting information to the staff report to keep the membership informed of what happens there.

Announcements Dr. Renee Alger notified the members that she has accepted a position at the Mendocino Department of Public Health as Deputy Director.

Public Comment Kathy Reynolds shared with the group that her home burned down when her son was very young, and this experience impacted their family, his schooling, and his health. She appreciates the work these members do to assist school age children who are dealing with stress.

Meeting Adjourned The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Passed Motions			
Handouts			
Action Items			
Minutes from December were approved			
2025 Meeting Dates			
March 6	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
April 3	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
May 1	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
June 5	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
August 7	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
September 4	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
October 2	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
November 6	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
December 4	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
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			