

Maternal Child Adolescent Health Advisory Board Minutes

March 6, 2024

Members	
Present	Absent
Erin Reed	Dr. Milana PeBenito**
Catherine Barrisford	Alexandra Rios**
Dr. Jeff Miller	Dr. Elizabeth Vermilyea*
Dr. Michael Perry	Allison Murphy
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), Ariel Thomas-Urlik, Program Planning and Evaluation Analyst (Zoom) Laura Turner Senior Public Health Nurse/MCAH Coordinator.

Guests Tooka Zokaie, CDA, Marjorie Stocks, UCSF, Dr. Howard Pollick, UCSF, Cynthia Yamasaki, CDPH, Dr. Susan Fisher-Owens, UCSF, Max Perrey, Aliados.

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

Presentation Tooka Zokaie Senior Health Policy Analyst from the California Dental Association gave the membership a presentation on the benefits of the fluoridation of water, from the experts' perspective stating that community water fluoridation is one of the 10 greatest public health achievements of the 20th century according to the American Dental Association (ADA), The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and The Center for Disease Control (CDC). She went on to cover the reasons some people have hesitancy or doubt relating to trusting fluoride in their water, and this included various sources spreading misinformation like social media misrepresenting the data. She stressed the importance of utilizing reputable sources like the National Toxicology Program (NTP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which concluded that .7 mg/L is safe for consumption.

The next topic was the benefits of fluoridated water. The 25% reduction in cavities for children which also decreases missed days in school. These benefits help low-income families the most. Dr. Kathy Reynolds pointed out that those with children who have special health care needs suffer the most, these families are often on Medi-Cal, which means they have to wait longer to be seen by a dentist, they have to travel farther to be seen, often to UCSF, they must be anaesthetized, may even need to be hospitalized.

If a family was able to prevent these issues, and to save these costs in advance, this would be a huge advantage for them, every dollar spent in prevention would be saving a hundred. Questions asked from members were about other how countries deal with fluoride. Answers given were that Europe is approximately 73% fluoridated whereas California is 58%, although some members said Europe also has universal healthcare, so this is not as relevant.

Next members discussed the plan going forward and Brittany Lobo recommended lobbying the Board of Supervisors to direct the Department of Health Services to build a coalition to do a cost benefit analysis of water fluoridation. She also showed the group the previous work done on this matter from 2013 which is still on the web.

State Legislation No report.

Correspondence Kathy Reynolds' application was received, and her appointment request was submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

Staff Report Brittany Lobo reported that our new public health vending machines will be deployed in April and will be branded as "Health to Go" stocked with free health and wellness supplies such as Narcan, fentanyl test strips, socks, menstrual products, condoms, pregnancy tests, hygiene kits, dental health kits, and gun locks.

Announcements Dr. Renee Alger notified the members that she has accepted a position at the Mendocino Department of Public Health as Deputy Director and will therefore resign as chair of this board.

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			
2025 Meeting Dates			
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			