

Public Health Commission's YEAR END REPORT 2005

ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Public Health Commission advises the Board of Supervisors on preventive health programs and other responsibilities of the HSA relating to public health and clinical services. The Commission is also charged to educate the public about health issues and to advocate for the health needs of the public.

MEETING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS

The Public Health Commission meets every other month on the 4th Thursday of the month from 12:15 -1:45 p.m. Meetings take place at the 1080 Emeline Avenue Building Complex.

BOARD STRUCTURE FOR 2005

1 st District Representative	Jean Poulos, Chairperson
2 nd District Representative	Vera Sarkissian
3 rd District Representative	Matt Farrell
4 th District Representative	Kaylor Shemberger
5 th District Representative	Bernie Goldner

BOARD STAFF

Leslie GoodFriend, MPH
Health Services Manager

Denise Duarte
Administrative Aide

ATTENDANCE

Please see attached roster

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

January - December 2005

During the year 2005 the County Public Health Commission members continued to focus on important public health concerns. The Commission had good attendance for most of the year. The Commission addressed the following areas of concern in 2005:

- County preparedness for bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.
- Genetically Modified Organism
- Control of communicable diseases, including West Nile Virus and Avian Flu
- State and County Budget problems

In 2000, the Commissioners were asked by a member of the local Hazardous Materials Advisory Board to monitor the occurrence and response to local sewage spills. The Commission agreed to undertake this task and continues to review reports of sewage spills as a regular agenda item. The Commission continues to receive briefings and information about this matter by representatives of the County Environmental Health Unit.

The Commission received reports about the local efforts to prepare for public health emergencies as a regular agenda item throughout 2005. Presentation was made to the Commission regularly concerning the Agency's plan to prepare for and respond to biological, chemical and radiological hazards. The Commission strongly supported the local planning efforts, particularly in the area of emergency infections. In 2005 the Commission heard a comprehensive presentation on Avian Flu Virus by the County's Health Services Manager, Marcy Abrams. She outlined the planning process and explained that a working group is convening to review the existing plan.

The Commission discussed the nursing shortages at local hospitals. There was concern expressed about the nursing shortage and the problems of emergency room crowding. Celia Barry, Health Services Manager passed out copies of the Governor's CA Nursing Education. The Commission reviewed the hospital restricted status chart.

The Commission took on a leadership role with the newly created GE Subcommittee. Matt Farrell was elected Assistant Chairperson to the subcommittee. The Commission heard back on the progress of the subcommittee.

The Commission received comprehensive reports at regular intervals about the State budget problems in 2005. They expressed concern for the budget reductions required by the State's fiscal crisis and supported adequate funding for basic public health. The County's budget for 2005/06 was presented to the Commission. They were concerned about the loss of public health positions, but supported the intent to keep core services intact.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

January - December 2005

The Commission heard a report on SB1159, the Syringe Purchase Law. Leslie Goodfriend from the HIV Prevention Program presented information on this new program. It has not been implemented yet in Santa Cruz County.

The Commission also heard a report on the Health Services Agency's clinics. Homeless Persons Health Project's satellite clinic opened and the new computer system EPIC was implemented during June.

The Commission heard a report on the HSA Wellness Program. The Program consists of Buddies on Break, Yoga and nutrition and cooking classes.

Goals and Objectives

January - December 2005

1. Support local efforts to respond to control and prevent communicable disease, particularly emerging infections.
2. Monitor the County's All-Hazards Planning and Response efforts.
3. Continue to respond to the Board of Supervisors requests and emerging issues.
4. Continue to monitor and respond to a variety of Public Health issues such as Maternal, Child Adolescent Health (MCAH), Environmental Health (air and water quality issues, sewage spills and restaurant issues), HIV, tobacco education, and public health prevention programs.
5. Monitor health care access delivery issues in Santa Cruz County.
6. Monitor overuse of Emergency Room.
7. Monitor GE Subcommittee progress

Many of the goals and objectives are expected to continue into the year 2006. The Commission will examine goals and objectives in 2006 and modify as approved.

ATTENDANCE RECORD- 2005

	Jean Poulos	Bernie Goldner	Kaylor Shemberger	Matt Farrell	Vera Sarkissian (Appointed 4/1/05)
January	P	P	A	A	
February					
March					
April	P	P	A	A	
May					
June					
July	P	P	A	P	P
August					
September					
October	P	P	A	P	A
November					
December					

P- present
A- absent