

# Public Health Commission's YEAR END REPORT 2006

## **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 quarterly beginning in January on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> District Representative	Jean Poulos, Chairperson
2 <sup>nd</sup> District Representative	Vera Sarkissian
3 <sup>rd</sup> District Representative	Matt Farrell
4 <sup>th</sup> District Representative	Vacant
5 <sup>th</sup> District Representative	Bernie Goldner

## **BOARD STAFF**

Leslie GoodFriend, MPH  
Senior Health Services Manager

Denise Parodi  
Administrative Aide

## **ATTENDANCE**

Please see attached roster

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## January - December 2006

During the year 2006 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 2006:

- 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 2006. 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. Public Health fit-tested 363 HSA employees with N95 respirators.

The Commission continued to discuss the nursing shortages at local hospitals. There was concern expressed about the nursing shortage and the problems of emergency room crowding. Celia Barry, Sr. Health Services Manager continued keep the Committee updated and provided copies of the hospital restricted status charts on a regular basis.

The Commission took on a leadership role with the newly created GE Subcommittee. Matt Farrell was elected Assistant Chairperson to the subcommittee. The Commission continued to hear back regularly on the progress of the subcommittee. In May, the Committee reviewed the GE report that went to the Board of Supervisors on June 6, 2006. AS a result of this subcommittee's work, Santa Cruz County now has precautionary moratorium on GE crops that went into effect on August 31, 2006.

The Commission received comprehensive reports at regular intervals about the State budget problems in 2006. The County's budget for 2006/07 was presented to the Commission.

The Commission also heard a report on the Health Services Agency's clinics. Homeless Persons Health Project's satellite clinic continues to operate 4 half days per week. In October the Committee visited the Homeless Person Health Project. Renee Robison met with Committee members to give an overview of this program as well as giving a tour of the facilities.

HSA Wellness Program continued throughout 2006. The Program consists of Buddies on Break, Yoga and nutrition and cooking classes.

# Goals and Objectives

## January - December 2006

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. Continue to monitor the Nursing shortage.

Many of the goals and objectives are expected to continue into the year 2007. The Commission will examine goals and objectives in 2007 and modify as approved.

# ATTENDANCE RECORD- 2006

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

P- present

A- absent