



**County of Santa Cruz**  
**Public Health Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**4/24/08**

**Motions passed**  
**Action Item**

---

**Commissioners Present:** Jean Poulos (Chair First District), Vera Sarkissian (Second District), and Dr. Patrick Meehan (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Bernie Goldner (Fifth District)

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Bob Kennedy, (Chief of Public Health), Leslie Goodfriend (Health Education), Celia Barry (EMS) and Denise Parodi (Public Health Admin)

1. **Call to Order-** The meeting was called to order at 12:20
2. **Announcements-**
  - Introductions were made and welcome to new Commissioner for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Dr. Patrick Meehan Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Women's Health Center.
  - A new Commission on the Environment has been formed consisting of 2 appointments from each supervisory district. This commission will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month in the Board of Supervisors Chambers from 5:00 to 6:30 pm
  - Bob Kennedy gave a brief review of the Emergency Management Council Coordinating Committee its purpose and current projects. Staff will send the Commission the most recent meeting summary.
3. **Approval of 11/8/07 Minutes-**
  - Bernie Goldner made the motion to approve the minutes for 11/8/07. The motion was seconded by Vera Sarkissian and approved unanimously.
4. **The following communications were reviewed by the Committee:**
  - Commission on Disabilities Agendas: 1/10/08, 3/13/08, 4/10/08
  - Women's Commission Agenda 11/8/07, 4/10/08
  - Human Services Commission Agenda 11/28/07, 3/19/08, Minutes 9/19/07. 1/16/08
  - 2008-09 State Budget Letter-Supervisor Pirie
5. **Addition or Deletions to agenda-**
  - None
  - Celia Barry from EMS asked that her item be moved to item 6.

*County of Santa Cruz  
Public Health Commission Meeting Minutes  
4/24/08*

**Motions passed**  
**Action Item**

---

**6. Emergency Room/Nursing Shortage-**

- Celia Barry EMS Manager gave an update on the current status of hospital emergency room diversions, along with providing a chart with current statistics. Hospitals seem to be stressed much more than last year. This is an issue of concern for community clinics as well. A 24/7 nurse as a triage at the 911 Center may be a possibility at some point in the future. Working on easing the burdens of the hospitals is a priority.

**7. Presentation on Hemochromatosis-**

- Mardi Brick from Ironic Family (a support group for people with Hemochromatosis - iron overload) gave a presentation on the disease. There is not much information available and she would like to be able inform the general public in case there are symptoms that are unrecognized. Hemochromatosis is a defective gene and is often misdiagnosed. The untreated disease can be fatal. Information on related organizations as well as pamphlets on the disease and its symptoms was handed out. Mardi is available to participate in health fairs to help with educating our community about this disease.

**8. Budget Update-**

- Bob Kennedy, the Chief of Public Health talked about the current County budget scenario. Projections are being made for the next 2-3 years. This is a difficult year due to the increase in salaries, equity increases and projected revenues have gone down. Bob gave the group a brief explanation of the budget process itself. There was some discussion on the State and Federal programs and grants that may be available.

**9. Sewer report-**

- The Commission reviewed the current sewer report. Bob stated that someone is Environmental Health is available for response at all times. He also informed the members that the restaurant inspection program has been a great success.

**10. Next Meeting –July 24, 2008 at Dominican Hospital**