

Public Health Commission's YEAR END REPORT 2007

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 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 2007

1 st District Representative	Jean Poulos, Chairperson
2 nd District Representative	Vera Sarkissian
3 rd District Representative	Vacant (Matt Farrell resigned 4/26/07)
4 th District Representative	Vacant
5 th District Representative	Bernie Goldner

BOARD STAFF

Leslie GoodFriend, MPH
Senior Health Services Manager

Dena Loijos, MPH
Sr. Health Educator

Denise Parodi
Administrative Aide

ATTENDANCE

Please see attached roster

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

January - December 2007

During the year 2007 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.
- Light Brown Apple Moth
- Control of communicable diseases, including West Nile Virus and Avian Flu
- Local hospital emergency room usage and nursing shortages
- State and County Budget problems

In the year 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.

In July, the Commission met with Ann Pomper, Hospice Caring Center director along with a few members of the Hospice staff. The group was given a brief overview of the services provided for end of life care as well as taking a tour of their new facility in Scotts Valley.

The Commission received reports about the local efforts to prepare for public health emergencies as a regular agenda item throughout 2007. Presentations were 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. The Emergency Preparedness department of Public Health coordinated a free flu vaccine clinic in November 2007. The goal was to provide services for those who may not have any access to medical care. Approximately 1100 people were vaccinated.

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 received comprehensive reports at regular intervals about the State budget problems in 2007.

HSA Wellness Program continued throughout 2007. Along with regular yoga classes provided for the employees the program consists of Buddies on Break, nutrition and cooking classes.

Goals and Objectives January - December 2007

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 2008. The Commission will examine goals and objectives in 2008 and modify as approved.

ATTENDANCE RECORD- 2007

	Jean Poulos	Bernie Goldner	Vacant	Matt Farrell (Resigned 4/26/07)	Vera Sarkissian
January	P	A		P	A
February					
March					
April	P	P		P	P
May					
June					
July	P	P		Vacant	P
August					
September					
October				Vacant	
November	P	P		P	P
December					

P- present
A- absent