

California Public Health/Prevention Physician Leadership Forum
7th Conference Call Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2014, 8:15-9:45 am PDT
Minutes

Call in: (712) 432-1212

Access Code: 457-029-043#

“Handouts”: were posted on meeting “wall” for this meeting at www.freeconferencecall.com/wall/457029043 .

1. Attendance:

Mark Horton took a roll call by institution.

INSTITUTION/ORG	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME
CALIF. ACADEMY OF PREVENTIVE MED:	Hattis	Ronald
	Horton	Mark
	Lyman	Donald
STATE GOVERNMENT:	Lianov	Liana
HEALTH OFFICERS ASSOC. OF CALIF.	DeBurgh	Kat
OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS OF CA	Wagner	Alesia
SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE (N to S):	Touro	Rehfield
	Rehfield	Patricia
	West	Catherine
Western University	Mackintosh	Susan
	Othman	Maryann
UC Riverside	Nduati	Michael
USC	Samet	Jonathan
UC Irvine	Baker	Dean
UC San Diego	Waalén	Jill

2. Minutes of April 7, 2015 Meeting:

The minutes had been sent in advance to everyone mentioned as having spoken. Only one correction in name spelling was received back.

Action: Minutes were approved with one name correction.

3. Continued Discussion, CMA Resolution 111-14 on Loss of State Funding for HIV and Other Public Health Programs

Action: This was deferred in the absence of Gil Chavez.

4. Continued Discussion, CMA Resolution 101-13 on Support for Local Public Health:

- a. Progress report on whether state positions shared with counties would require legislative action:

Don Lyman said that such positions are not in the budget approved by the Legislature, but rather are listed in personnel administration records for the Department of Public Health. Mark Horton added that temporary positions can be used for flexibility. The impression is that legislation is not needed, but that the obstacle is identifying funding from both the states and the counties, both of which have experienced severe cutbacks in recent years.

Action: Closed; reopen if opportunity for implementation.

- b. Progress report on methods for “gap analysis” of core public health functions in local jurisdictions:

Kat DeBurgh has conducted three recent informal conference calls on this subject, with a fourth scheduled for 6/24/15 (tomorrow). The issue is how to assess gaps/weaknesses in core public health capabilities resulting from budget cuts. Past analyses have involved surveys, some expensive and thorough, others simple.

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has done extensive periodic surveys of local jurisdictions, and Mark Horton recommended that their methodology be reviewed.

Mark also asked whether information submitted in applications for local health department accreditation would be useful. Kat offered to check which counties had applied.

Cathy West reaffirmed that medical students are always looking for projects, and could become involved in an assessment project.

Action: Report back for information on any decisions of “gap analysis” calls. Action would be carried out by health officers.

- c. Links between medical schools and public health departments:

Pat Rehfield noted that the clinics of Touro University and Solano County Public Health have been merged. She would like software to be developed to facilitate referral of patients to social services and community health assessments; this is not even available within the public health system. Mark Horton noted that 211 calling systems are a resource for listing community resources.

5. Election of Chair for this Forum:

As discussed at previous meetings and mentioned in the announcement for today's meeting, today is the day for electing a Chair for this Forum, in accordance with recently approved Bylaws. The Chair will in turn appoint a Vice-Chair and a Secretary-Treasurer.

Action:

- a) A motion made by Ron Hattis, to make the term of office for this election one year, or until the second Forum meeting of 2016, was approved without objection.
- b) A motion by Ron Hattis, seconded by Jill Waalen, to elect Mark Horton as Chair, was approved unanimously. There were no other nominations.
- c) Mark Horton then appointed Ron Hattis as Secretary-Treasurer, for the same term of office.
- d) Volunteers were requested by Mark for Vice-Chair, but no appointment was made at this time.

6. Plans for California Medical Association (CMA) Council on Science and Public Health:

Don Lyman reported that CMA is consolidating committees into a smaller number of councils, each of which will function year-round and include the roles of the temporary reference committees that are currently set up each year to review resolutions. The current Council on Scientific and Clinical Affairs will be replaced by a Council on Science and Public Health, which will also take on the duties of the reference committee on the same topic, and of the technical committee on cannabis currently headed by Don. CAPM has asked that three qualified public health/prevention physicians be appointed to this new council (the letter requesting this was a reference for this meeting). The deadline for applications was yesterday. The council will take effect 10/26/15.

Don also mentioned that the report from the cannabis committee, recommending rescheduling of marijuana from Schedule I, is being discussed in Washington, DC and might be a "game changer."

Alesia Wagner noted that OPSC is not similarly slimming down at this time. Public health is covered by their education committee.

Action: Report back for information when council finalized.

7. Brief Progress Reports from Schools of Medicine: These include methods of teaching medical students about epidemiology, biostatistics, Preventive and Occupational Medicine, and public health.

- a. Review and corrections of latest spreadsheet (posted on meeting "wall"), summarizing information submitted by schools on offerings in Preventive and Occupational Medicine

Ron Hattis encouraged review of this spreadsheet and submission of updates on a continuing basis.

- b. University of Southern California (USC) School of Medicine (see spreadsheet)

Jon Samet briefly discussed first and third year teaching. In the first year, there are three modules: quantitative methods, epidemiology, and biostatistics; evidence-based medicine; and translational research methods. In subsequent years, aspects of prevention and public health are embedded into various blocks, such as organ systems in third year. Unfortunately, there is no exposure to Occupational Medicine. He mentioned that he has been teaching for 40 years, and “the battle continues” to incorporate prevention and public health concepts in the curriculum. Mark Horton asked about online courses, and whether the students have enough time to participate. Jon replied that every hour is counted, including the use of online resources for translational research.

- c. Loma Linda University (LLU) Schools of Medicine and Public Health (see spreadsheet information added by Ariane Marie-Mitchell, who is not present today)

Ron Hattis provided the update in the absence of official designees today. Noteworthy is an annual half day devoted to the teaching of smoking cessation, at the very beginning of the third year before any patient contact. This is due to the achievement of a single faculty member, Dr. Linda Ferry. It could become a model for other schools.

With respect to the School of Public Health, the new Dean, Helen Hopp Marshak, is interested in discussing joint degree programs, not only for Loma Linda medical students, but also including the possibility that LLU could provide MPH degrees for students at nearby Western University and UC Riverside. Dr. Nduati replied that UCR is most interested currently in joint MD-Master of Public Policy and MD-MBA programs, however it has also discussed but not concluded an agreement with Claremont Graduate School for an MD-MPH dual degree, and would be willing to consider other options including LLU.

- d. University of California, San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine (see spreadsheet information updated by Margaret Ryan, who could not be present today)

The department that includes both Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine has recently been renamed Family Medicine and Public Health. This is related to new upcoming offerings of public health-related degrees, which will begin with a Master of Science in Public Health, oriented toward basic sciences including toxicology, rather than an MPH. A Bachelor of Science in Public Health is already offered.

There is a new Preventive and Internal Medicine joint residency program, which will start with 1-2 residents per year.

- e. University of California, Riverside (UCR) School of Medicine

Under the old 2-year Biomedical Sciences medical school program, there were traditional courses in epidemiology and biostatistics. As the school expanded to a four-year format, these were incorporated into “Doctoring,” with added lectures covering a core curriculum in Public Health. However, a reversion to the prior system during the first 2 years is being considered.

Ron Hattis asked how the “Doctoring” and “Core Public Health” curriculum was reflected in epidemiology and biostatistics scores in USMLE Part I. Dr. Nduati said that the first cohort of students who took that curriculum version are just taking tests now, and their scores will be taken into account.

f. University of California, Irvine (UCI)

Dean Baker reported that UCI has a School of Public Health in its longterm plans, but that the accreditation requirements of the Council for Education in Public Health (CEPH) are quite rigid. As a result, some existing Schools of Public Health are threatening to disband and have their host universities simply offer public health degrees.

g. University of California, Davis (UCD)

Mark Horton has talked with Ken Kizer about plans for a School of Population and Global Health. Dr. Kizer said he could report on progress in about 6-8 weeks. Mark will try to get him on the agenda by 2 meetings from now.

8. Status on Current Legislation:

Of the bills presented at the last meeting, there have been some significant developments in a few.

- a. AB 266 (Bonta, medical cannabis): The three bills on medical cannabis have been merged into this one.
- b. SB 203 (Monning, warning label on sugar-sweetened beverages): This bill died, at least for 2015.
- c. SB 277 (Pan, eliminating immunization exemptions for beliefs): This bill is progressing toward passage, despite large numbers of opponents showing up to testify.

9. Next Meeting:

Some designated representatives usually cannot participate on Tuesday mornings. Topics suggested for the next meeting including correction of an inconsistency found in the Bylaws, and a return to the issue of including epidemiology and prevention when teaching about diseases in medical schools. Some members would like another poll, such as taken last year, on the best time of the week for these conference calls.

Action: The next meeting will be in September. Prior to that, a survey will be taken again on preferred meeting time.

The meeting ended at 9:45 a.m.

Submitted by Ronald P. Hattis, MD
Secretary-Treasurer

These minutes were approved 9/24/15.