

# Maternal Child Adolescent Health Advisory Board Minutes

December 5, 2024

Members	
Present	Absent
Dr. Renée Alger	Gina Cuclis*
Dr. Elizabeth Vermilyea	Melissa Apuya
Annie Nicol	
Erin Reed	
Allison Murphy	
Catherine Barrisford	
Dr. Jeff Miller	
Dr. Michael Perry	
Flora Henningsen	
Dr. Milana PeBenito**	
Stephanie Montez	
Alexandra Rios**	

\*Excused absence

\*\*Pending Approval by Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

**Staff Present** Brittany Lobo, MCAH Director, Janette Allee, Administrative Aide, Lucy Tyrala, Perinatal Services Coordinator, Nicole Bonkrude, Health Information Specialist II, Emily Gonzalez-Demont, Ariel Thomas-Urlik, Program Planning and Evaluation Analyst.

**Guest** Katherine Beltran, Child Parent Institute

**Call to Order** Dr. Renée Alger called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m. and introductions were made.

## Meeting Minutes

### August

Annie Nicol-Aye  
Stephanie Montez-Aye  
Dr. Jeff Miller-Aye  
Catherine Barrisford-Abstain  
Dr. Michael Perry-Aye  
Dr. Renee Alger-Aye  
Dr. Elizabeth Vermilyea-Abstain  
Allison Murphy-Aye

### September

Annie Nicol-Aye  
Stephanie Montez-Aye  
Dr. Jeff Miller-Aye  
Catherine Barrisford-Aye  
Dr. Michael Perry-Aye  
Dr. Renee Alger-Abstain  
Dr. Elizabeth Vermilyea-Abstain  
Allison Murphy-Aye

### October

Annie Nicol-Aye  
Stephanie Montez-Aye  
Dr. Jeff Miller-Abstain  
Catherine Barrisford-Aye  
Dr. Michael Perry-Aye  
Dr. Renee Alger-Aye  
Dr. Elizabeth Vermilyea-Aye  
Allison Murphy-Aye

### November

Annie Nicol-Aye  
Stephanie Montez-Aye  
Dr. Jeff Miller-Aye  
Catherine Barrisford-Aye  
Dr. Michael Perry-Aye  
Dr. Renee Alger-Aye  
Dr. Elizabeth Vermilyea-Aye  
Allison Murphy-Aye

And the minutes were approved.

**Presentation** Dr. Michael Perry provided the members with an overview of the public dental programs we have here in Sonoma County. He reported that he has served in private practice for forty years and in searching for what was available for the public especially those who are underserved he found that this was more complicated than he imagined. He went on to discuss government programs like Medi-Cal, and Denti-Cal in California. Those who qualify for this program experience difficulty getting access to services due to lack of providers and facilities. Another program in California is Cal-Aim which supplements Denti-Cal, giving Access to Infants and Mothers, another is WIC, however the funding for this program is problematic making some program implementation not possible. In Sonoma County we also have Community Action Partnership of Sonoma (CAPS)/Community Action Network (CAN), this is a non-profit

which implements many great programs like Head Start. They also oversee a program called Give Kids a Smile in collaboration with the Redwood Empire Dental Society. These are the places who are able to take those who qualify for Denti-Cal however they limit the number of patients they will take in a period of time. The reimbursement providers receive for Medi-Cal reimbursement is about one third of what a dentist would be paid in private practice. Which is below the cost of service. With the change of administration in Washington DC, everyone's radar is up. There are six public health dental clinics in Sonoma County, the largest being on Dutton, then the Alexander Valley facility, which is in Cloverdale, the Healdsburg, Windsor facility, the West County facility, which is for Guerneville and Sebastopol, and the Petaluma Health Center for Petaluma and Rohnert Park, and Sonoma Valley. These six facilities are significantly understaffed. Three of the six facilities do not have enough dentists. This is a major issue.

Next Dr. Perry brought up fluoridation of water. This topic has been considered as a political issue for 70 years in the United States. The American Medical Association, The California Dental Association, Sonoma County Board of Health, all strongly recommend public fluoridation of water. It is such an inexpensive way to reduce tooth decay mainly with underserved children. Taking in that systemic fluoride when their teeth are developing strengthens the teeth. There is only one city on Sonoma County that has fluoridation in the water and that is Healdsburg. This had to go through a ballot measure. Santa Rosa's City Council stated that they cannot afford to fluoridate the water. There is a California law that mandates that if there are 10,000 hookups you must fluoridate the water, unless the city is unable to afford it. Another option is to find out how to support the six public health dental clinics, where there is a definite staffing issue. Dr. Perry will send out the data on the programs that exist in Sonoma County, the number of children that have been treated, this has been broken down by ethnicity, literature on fluoride from the California Dental Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and includes a link to CAPS/CAN.

**State Legislation** No report.

**Correspondence** None received.

**Staff Report**

**Announcements** None

**Public Comment** None.

**Meeting Adjourned** The meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

Passed Motions			
Handouts			
Action Items			
Minutes for August, September, October, and November were approved			
2025 Meeting Dates			
February 6	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
March 6	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
April 3	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
May 1	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
June 5	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
August 7	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
September 4	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
October 2	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
November 6	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
December 4	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Live Oak Room
MCAH AB Website			
<a href="https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/public-health/maternal-child-and-adolescent-health/maternal-child-and-adolescent-health-advisory-board">https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/public-health/maternal-child-and-adolescent-health/maternal-child-and-adolescent-health-advisory-board</a>			