



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

WALTER J. SYMONS
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 2/23/99

February 8, 1999

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is the Annual Report of the Public Health Commission for calendar year 1998. I recommend that the Board accept and file this report and direct the Chairperson to thank the members of the Commission for their efforts on the County's behalf.

Sincerely,

JEFF ALMQUIST, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

JA:ted

cc: Public Health Commission

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PUBLIC HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

226

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

P.O. BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061
(408) 454-4088 FAX: (408) 454-4488
TDD: (408) 454-4123

February 2, 1999

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Board Members,

Attached is the annual report from the County's Public Health Commission. The Health Services Agency appreciates the hard work of the Commission and thanks each member individually for their service in behalf of Public Health.

Please contact our department if you have any questions or comments about the annual report.

Sincerely,

Betsy McCarty, RN, MS
Chief of Public Health
Staff to the Public Health Commission

BM:ls

cc: Charles Moody
George Wolfe



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE
 SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962
 (408) 454-4000 FAX: (408) 454-4488
 TDD: (408) 454-4123

YEAR END REPORT 1998

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

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 with education of 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 monthly on the 4th Thursday of the month from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Meetings take place at the 1080 Emeline Avenue Health Services Agency. The Commission usually adjourns in November or December and at least one month during the Summer.

Board Structure for 1998:

Chairperson, Jean Poulos - Consumer Representative, 4th District
 Eleanor Littman - Consumer Representative, 1st District
 Vacant - Consumer Representative, 2nd District
 Sharon Green, Consumer Representative, 3rd District
 Bernie Goldner - Consumer Representative, 5th District

Board Structure for 1999:

Chairperson, Jean Poulos - Consumer Representative, 4th District
 Eleanor Littman - Consumer Representative, 1st District
 Vacant - Consumer Representative, 2nd District
 Sharon Green, Consumer Representative, 3rd District
 Bernie Goldner - Consumer Representative, 5th District

Board Staff:

Betsy McCarty, RN, MS
 Chief of Public Health/Director of Nursing, Health Services Agency

Leslie Scanagatta
 Typist Clerk III – Supervisor, Health Services Agency

Attendance: (See attached roster)



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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JANUARY - DECEMBER 1998

During the past year, the County Public Health Commission has been concerned with a variety of issues that affect the health of the public. The Commission continued to speak out in support of prenatal care for all residents of California. Letters were written to the State Health Department in opposition to their regulations that would have stopped Medi-Cal reimbursement for prenatal care for undocumented women. The Commission pointed out the shortsightedness of this policy from a fiscal, as well as a health perspective. Members of the Commission talked to local decision-makers as well, to keep them aware of this problem and its possible impact locally, as challenges to the State regulations were mounted in the California courts.

The Commission devoted considerable time to concerns about smoking and health. They supported the County's joining other localities in the State in a lawsuit against the tobacco companies to recover some of the medical care costs of tobacco use. The Commission heard regular reports of the progress of this litigation and advised the County staff on matters that they felt were important to consider as it progressed. The Commission also continued its support of the litigation against the use of the "Joe Camel" character and were pleased when this matter concluded with a settlement for the County. The Department asked the Commission to develop and implement a process to determine how the \$100,000 award would be spent.

The Commission developed a comprehensive review process and invited appropriate County organizations to submit proposals for use of the funds. The Commission based their process on the premise that these funds should be used for programs that benefit children. After thorough review of a number of proposals to

use the award funds, the Commission determined that a Youth Art Project for elementary students was the most favorable proposal. A smaller amount of funds were recommended for curriculum materials for middle school health education classes and a project to determine some of the local health costs of smoking. These recommendations were submitted to the Department and ultimately to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

The Commission continued to speak out in favor of the California law that banned smoking in bars, taverns and gaming clubs. The Commission supported efforts to enforce the law and hosted meetings between representatives of law enforcement and the District Attorney's Office to coordinate enforcement activity. The Commission opposed legislative efforts to change the law and wrote letters to the local media in support of the goal of the law to protect workers, wherever their work-site.

The Commission continued to speak out on the dangers of alcohol to children and joined others in the community who opposed the excessive marketing of alcohol to young people through campaigns such as Hands off Halloween and alcohol free Cinco de Mayo celebrations.

The Commission continued to follow the changing status of Watsonville Community Hospital and spoke out for maintaining the public service commitment that had been a legacy of the hospital under its long non-profit history.

The Commission developed a position statement in strong support of water fluoridation and members attended and spoke at public meetings in the city of Santa Cruz when this issue was debated. The Commission's Position Statement has been praised as a powerful statement about the public health benefits of Water Fluoridation, and the importance of instituting public policy to benefit those who are the most vulnerable in our community.

The Commission is concerned that a vacancy in the second district has persisted for over a year, since the resignation of the last Commissioner to hold that seat. One of their primary goals is to fill that vacancy in 1999.

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to advise the County and looks forward to continued service in the goal of improving the health of the community.

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

1998

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL.	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Sharon Green	P	P	A	P	P	P	N	P	A	A	N	P
Jean Poulos	P	P	P	P	P	P	O	P	P	P	O	P
Eleanor Littman	P	A	P	P	P	P	M	P	A	P	M	P
Bernie Goldner	P	P	A	P	P	P	E	P	A	P	E	P
Vacant							I				I	
							N				N	
							G				G	

P = Present

A = Absent

R = Resigned