

Yolo County MCAH Advisory Board

September 18, 2024

Minutes

SUZANNE EIDSON-TON, CHAIR

YOLO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

GONZALES BUILDING
25 N. COTTONWOOD STREET
WOODLAND, CA 95695

The Yolo County MCAH Advisory Board met on the 18th Day of September 2024 at the Gonzales Building at 25 N. Cottonwood Street, Woodland, CA at 8:30 a.m.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Copeland, Category E; Ahna Suleiman, Category B; Melina Ortigas, Category D Katherine Eastham, MD, Category B; Samantha Sime, Category E Suzanne Eidson-Ton, MD, Category B

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Gaby Perez, HHS; Shelby McGriff-Borden, HHS; Katya Lopez, HHS; Laura Munoz, HHS; Monique Preciado, 211; David Moreno, Yolo BOS Dist. 3; Lauren Ayres, Weston A. Price Foundation; Melinda Aiello, Yolo County DA’s Office

8:30 A.M. CALL TO ORDER

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – *Ahna Suleiman, Voting Member*
The September 18, 2024, MCAH Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m., at which time around the table introductions occurred and quorum was met.
2. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – *Suzanne Eidson-Ton, Chair*
Motion: Linda Copeland **Second:** Melina Ortigas **Discussion:** None **Vote:** Unanimous
3. **APPROVE THE MAY 15, 2024, MINUTES** – *Suzanne Eidson-Ton, Chair*
Motion: Ahna Suleiman **Second:** Linda Copeland **Discussion:** None **Vote:** Unanimous
4. **PUBLIC HEALTH BRANCH REPORT-** *Shelby McGriff, MCAH Director*
 - **Shelby McGriff:**
 - **Vaccines:** COVID and flu vaccines are available at local pharmacies and some local providers.
 - **Avian Flu:** There have been cases in CA in dairy cows. There are no major concerns if you are eating processed dairy.
 - **WIC 50th Anniversary:** WIC’s 50th Anniversary was in August as well as breastfeeding awareness month. WIC is getting their own space in the building.

DISCUSSION

5. **F.O.C.U.S (FOCUS ON CHILDREN UNDER STRESS)** – *Melinda Aiello, Chief Deputy District Attorney*
 - **Origins of Focus:**
 - The program was started in Stanislaus County and modeled after Handle with Care from W.V.
 - This is a program between first responders and school districts.
 - **Program Philosophy:**
 - The goal is for children to succeed to their best of their ability, regardless of the environment they live in.
 - Adult problems seem to infiltrate the childhood experience for many children and can have many consequences on their development and educations.
 - **System Created:**
 - A system was designed to protect the educational structure of the child in the case of a traumatic experience that may interrupt his/her learning.
 - In order to educate students academically we need to meet their social and emotional needs first.
 - **What is Focus:**
 - If a first responder encounters a child that may have been exposed to a traumatic event, a FOCUS notification is created.

- Alert’s the school that the child may have been exposed to a traumatic incident (i.e., DV, child abuse, death in the family, witness to crime, loss of home due to fire) and may exhibit or develop academic/behavioral problems.
- **Provide Resources:**
 - If you don’t know of a traumatic incident, then available resources cannot be used.
 - This system provides timely info and allows you to keep an eye out on a student in crisis.
 - As impacts might not be immediately known.
- **First Responders Protocol:**
 - 1 – Determine whether children are present at scene
 - 2 – If so, document name, age/DOB, school
 - 3 – A process will be established at each agency to ensure FOCUS notification is promptly submitted to the school.
- **LEA’s Using Web Based Form:**
 - Each agency is given a login.
 - A shortcut can be created on their phone.
 - The form is completed at time of contact.
- **Educational Protocol:**
 - School districts create an email designated to receive focus notifications.
 - Accessible by specific staff (Superintendent, Principal, or counselor), ideally one main person and two additional backup staff.
 - School designee will ensure FOCUS notification is provided to the appropriate teacher(s) and/or counselor. .
- **FAQs:**
 - No cost associated with participating.
 - No confidential information will be released.
 - Preschool through 12th grade kids.
 - Provided during the summer.
 - First responders and any Mandated Reporter may submit a referral.
 - No parental consent needed.
 - Any situation where a child may have been exposed to a stressful event is criteria for notice.
- **Participating Agency:**
 - All Yolo County LEAs
 - Probation
 - Woodland Fire Department
 - West Sacramento Fire Department
- **Barriers:**
 - Education/role models
 - Trust with law enforcement
 - Language
 - Socioeconomic status
- **Multi-Cultural Community Council (MCCC) Youth Leadership Academy:**
 - Presented by the Yolo District Attorney’s Multi-Cultural Community Council.
 - Providing insight, education, and role models for our “at promise” youth.
 - This year’s academy will be November 8-10, 2024.
- **Day One of Academy:**
 - Review ground rules.
 - Ice breakers
 - Equality circle
 - Speakers
- **Day Two of Academy:**
 - Motivational speakers
 - Presentation from local law enforcement agencies

- Victim panel
- **Day Three of Academy:**
 - Mock trial
 - Community service panel
 - Community engagement discussion
 - Staff meeting
 - Raffle/certificates
- **Shop with a Cop-Building Trust:**
 - Each child receives \$200 Walmart Giftcard.
 - Children are hand selected by WSPD, WUSD, and YCDA these are children who need connection and cheer.
 - Advocates identify children traumatized by crime and the following processes in search of justice.
 - Children who have witnessed domestic violence.
 - Children who are victims of sexual assault.
 - We can never undue the darkness they felt but we can provide them with some sunshine. We do not just stand behind them in court, we stand behind them in the opportunity to be children.
 - On this day there is no crime, nothing lurking in the dark. On this day they can be children.
- **EAOP DA for a Day:**
 - This is a two-day program.
 - Participants are sworn in.
 - There are presentations.
 - Lunch with DDAS.
 - Hands on exercises from CSI investigators
 - Courtroom visit
 - Students are from underrepresented communities and slated to be first in their family to see higher education.
- **WSPD Youth Leadership Academy:**
 - Weeklong academy sponsored by WSPD.
 - Included in the academy is a visit to the DA’s office and courthouse.
 - Youth are high school students from West Sacramento.
 - They are provided with the opportunity to learn about the roles in the Criminal Justice System.
 - They have the opportunity to speak to a DDA, a judge, a bailiff and learn about various career opportunities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

6. MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/SHARING

- **Shelby McGriff:**
 - The MCAH Advisory Board presentation to the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22. This will not get pushed back or rescheduled.
 - The Syphilis task force has asked if we would like to send a member from MCAH AB to attend their meetings as a delegate for us.
 - Gaby sent out a link for voting members to discuss the advisory board and our bylaws. These are individual interviews with Jeannie Benoist. The email will come from Gaby with a link to sign up for the interview.
- **Linda Copeland:**
 - The League of Women Voters are supporting prop 35. This will be a tax that later gets reimbursed on managed care plans to draw in more federal funding to be able to raise the Medi-cal rates to the Medi-care rates.
- **Lauren Ayres:**
 - There are 2 aphorisms that describe how we humans deal with the problems we face in life. Right hand Ignorance is bliss. Left hand Knowledge is power. When it comes to public health, we assume that doctors are idealists who want to prevent and cure disease. Therefore, we trust the CDC and the FDA, we trust the county health dept, and we trust our own doctors. But, alas, the rose-colored glasses are knocked off by reality. If I say the word “opioids,” everyone here knows that hundreds of thousands of people were led into addiction by profiteering pharmaceutical companies. Eventually, after the high opioid addiction and death rate was noticed, many states took those corporations to court and were awarded millions in compensation to deal with the high social cost of opioids. The Journal of the AMA says: “The burden was particularly high among adults aged 24 to

35 years; in 2016, 20% of deaths in this age group involved opioids.” While most public health professionals would agree that Pharma was responsible for massive fraud in the opioid crisis, these same experts didn’t apply the lessons learned to the Covid-19 pandemic. In retrospect, public health professionals were too trusting, we can even say gullible, when Pharma assured us about the safety of their products. The old saying is: Pride goes before a fall. Another word for pride is arrogance. One way to detect arrogance and pride in public figures is by noticing if they are open-minded or closed minded to new ideas. I am here today to call out the Yolo County public health department for negligence and arrogance. The clue was the righteous indignation expressed about “antivaxxers.” Department staff and the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Advisory Committee members and chair accepted edicts from the CDC without any investigation of their accuracy, and dismissed anyone who asked the vital questions. People should never have been forced by any employer in the county to get an mRNA shot. I experienced this first hand when I couldn’t continue to supplement my pension by being a substitute teacher during the pandemic because I wouldn’t get the shots. Other people lost far more: small businesses were forced to close while Walmart stayed open, children lost momentum in their education due to “remote learning.” A friend of mine believes her husband died because of his Covid shot. Another county resident’s wife is slowly recovering from Guillain-Barre syndrome after 2 years in bed, but they lost the retail store that her husband couldn’t manage alone. Meanwhile, the vaccine manufacturers made billions. There’s a reason that prehistoric people – both hunter-gatherers and herders – were so healthy. Anthropologists report that their skulls were thicker and their teeth had few or no cavities. Their skeletons typically showed no evidence of diseases like TB or arthritis. Sure, the agrarian revolution led to the invention of writing and mathematics, but those “advanced” agrarian cultures were sicker. The difference was what they ate. Why are today’s children headed for a shorter lifespan than we adults? What’s in the breakfasts and lunches that our school kids are fed that makes them among the sickest children of any developed nation? A friend of mine likes to quote his North Carolina granny, a fundamentalist Christian. She would say, “You either see the light or you feel the heat.” Seeing the light is obviously more comfortable than feeling the heat. Seeing the light is basically planning ahead. In public health we call it “prevention.” And if someone hasn’t prevented disease by following the principles of nutrition and by avoiding toxins, then they will feel the heat of disease. Once the mistakes are evident, what keeps an organization from correcting course? A barrier to reform is the resistance we all have to admitting our mistakes. There’s an interesting theory to explain this human trait. After all, most harm is not caused by evil villains. Sure, a dictator or tyrant can wreck a country – but only with the complicity of the populace. So why is inequity and suffering so widespread? It’s because most people (except for the 3-5% of us who are sociopaths) are fundamentally good. We mean well. We want to help others. But if I harm another, even if accidentally, there’s the psychological imperative of internal consistency: I must keep on harming that person in order to justify the first time. It’s self-replicating harm. The escape hatch from harming others is difficult because it requires admitting our unkind actions to the person or people we have harmed. The 12-Step programs are based on admitting wrongful behavior to another, which is the precursor to (1) cease such actions and to (2) make whatever amends are possible. In other words, the public health department probably can’t reform unless it examines the past, recognizes its mistakes, and then admits them, no matter how well-intentioned they were at the time. Seeing and admitting a mistake requires an open mind. For the taxpayers in this room, such an admission would be the start of repairing the damage our public health department has caused by promoting and enforcing the misguided vaccination mandates. During the recent pandemic, Americans chose, or were forced to align with, Ignorance Is Bliss instead of Knowledge Is Power. My prescription, as a taxpayer, is that the county’s public health department should create a Mistakes Were Made Committee to dig into this problem. Once mistakes are acknowledged that releases the department from continuing to make those mistakes. It would be a fresh start towards better health county wide.

10: 00 A.M. ADJOURNMENT

7. Next Meeting: November 20, 2024

10:00 A.M. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted by:



Yolo County MCAH Advisory Board

Gaby Perez, Secretary
Yolo County MCAH Advisory Board

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