



SAINT PAUL – RAMSEY COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE SAINT PAUL CITY COUNCIL AND THE RAMSEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

555 Cedar Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2260  
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**MINUTES**  
**COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**March 7, 2012**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bob Tracy, Chairman  
Kathryn Campion  
Julie Gagne  
Thomas Kottke  
David Muhovich  
Colleen Quesnell  
Regina Rippel  
Sylvia Robinson  
Carmen Robles  
Jack Roszbach  
Karla Sand  
Kerri Sawyer  
Jill Stewart  
Mayblia Yangsao

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Maridee Bain  
Liz McLoone Dybvig  
Nancy Shier  
Esther Tatley

**STAFF PRESENT**

Chris Burns  
Robert Einweck  
Rina McManus  
Richard Ragan

**Orientation to CHS**

Rina McManus, Director of Public Health, provided an orientation to Community Health Services in Minnesota for the new members of the CHS committee. She talked about the history of Minnesota's public health system. She went into detail regarding the six essential activities of public health: the local public health infrastructure (e-health information exchange); promoting healthy communities and healthy behaviors (SHIP, tobacco, prenatal, etc.); preventing and managing infectious disease; protecting and promoting environmental health; responding to disasters; and ensuring the quality and availability of health services system (safety net – assure access). Another orientation session will be conducted when the remaining vacant committee positions are filled.

**Chairman's Report**

Bob Tracy, CHSAC Chairperson, began the regular meeting by having each of the new members introduce themselves. He then encouraged members to introduce themselves and make announcements that pertain to the work of the committee at designated times during the meeting. Dorii Gbolo has resigned from the committee. Members mentioned how much they appreciated her participation over the past several

years. There are now five vacancies on the committee (2 Mayoral and 3 County Board appointments). Dick will send out the committee appointment process announcement so that members can help recruit new members. Bob discussed a proposal to organize the meetings he will be facilitating. First, the CHSAC needs to be a meeting where staff can get advice. He is looking for more discussion and less presentation. Second, members need to have a personal plan to report back to their communities including the elected officials they represent about the work of the CHSAC. Jack asked for periodic updates on the work of the State CHS Committee. Karla mentioned that she met with her city's mayor about some food and nutrition issues.

The next meeting of the CHSAC will be held on April 4, 2012, from 5:00-6:30 PM. The meeting will be a discussion about some work of SHIP. Representatives from the Ramsey County Healthy Meals Coalition will be visiting the committee to discuss their baseline report dated November 2011. CHSAC members are encouraged to study the report prior to the meeting. Copies of the report were distributed to each member.

### **Director's Report**

Rina McManus provided the committee members with a one page summary of the SHIP program. The page can be used as SHIP talking points to explain SHIP and what it is about. The department is looking at prevention activities and health improvement in the community. Rina referred to the report from the Ramsey County Healthy Meals Coalition. The Coalition was established under the SHIP program through the Health Department. There are more than 1 million free meals served every year in Ramsey County by many different organizations. The Coalition is working to create healthy menus. April 2-6, 2012, is National Public Health Week. The department will celebrate for the entire month of April. There will be promotional activities and the committee members will be invited to participate. In regard to public health emergency preparedness, Rina wants to help the community know what we are doing. She asked, "How do we let people know we are getting ready – without prompting fear"? She recently participated in a forum on emergency preparedness. There was a lot of discussion about terrorism issues. There was a CDC representative at the forum and discussions about H1N1, the messaging and risk communication. The department is preparing for big emergencies as well as small ones. There was much discussion about communication to the community, defining the community and determining what is culturally appropriate when it came to communications.

Kerri Sawyer is working on the National Children's Study and invited CHSAC members to a lecture on May 16, 2012, regarding health insurance for children. Dick will send out an invitation and more information soon.

### **Emergency Preparedness – Postal Project – Robert Einweck**

Robert Einweck is the Manager for Public Health Preparedness for the Department. He previously worked for MDH. He is considered a leader when it comes to public health emergency preparedness. Chris Burns is the Public Information Officer for Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health. Prior to Ramsey County, he worked with the Twin Cities Red Cross. His skills are extraordinary.

Robert gave an overview of key components of PH emergency response in Ramsey County. The metro area will be testing the Postal Plan in May. The Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) is a federally funded program designed to enhance public health preparedness in the nation's largest cities, including the Twin Cities. Through CRI, both the Minnesota Department of Health and Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health have developed plans to respond to a large-scale bioterrorist event by dispensing antibiotics to all Ramsey County residents.

Although there is currently no imminent threat of an anthrax attack, preparedness for an effective response to an anthrax release has been the objective of public health preparedness activities. The objective is to get everyone who's been exposed to anthrax on preventive antibiotic medications within 48 hours. Home delivery of antibiotics by postal workers – known as the Postal Plan – is a strategy to quickly provide an initial course of antibiotics to exposed residents while the health department (including Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers) sets up mass dispensing sites. The Twin Cities is the first metro area in the country to plan and exercise the delivery of antibiotics by postal workers. Postal workers that have volunteered to participate in the delivery plan already have antibiotics pre-placed in their home for themselves and their families. Law enforcement officers will accompany the postal workers on their delivery routes. The Postal Plan would be conducted in ZIP codes starting with 551 or 554 which includes Minneapolis and Saint Paul as well as suburban Ramsey County. The federal government has directed that the Postal Plan be exercised on May 5 and 6, 2012. The exercise will be conducted jointly by the U.S. Postal Service, the Minnesota Department of Health, local law enforcement and public health. Empty pill bottles will be delivered to 43,000 residents in selected ZIP codes. Some of the objectives of the exercise include: conduct an effective messaging campaign, demonstrate the ability to alert and activate personnel and equipment, assess the ability to receive, distribute and dispense medications, and test the ability to maintain command and control, including communications, during the exercise.

### **Meeting Wrap Up**

Bob summarized the meeting's key points. As occurred this evening, committee members will be asked at future meetings to talk about what's going on. He asked if staff should send an events e-newsletter to the advisory committee members? Bob encouraged members to be aware of public health and emergency preparedness news going on in the state, Saint Paul, Ramsey County, and within your specific community.

Dr. Kottke reported on a new project of Health Partners called Yum Power, where people are encouraged to eat fruits and veggies. The program will be advertised across the state.

Jack Rossbach just returned from three weeks in Laos where he lectured about unexploded ordinances/bombs/cluster munitions.

**Adjourn** at 7:00 PM