

**MINUTES**  
**COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**April 2, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Nancy Appleton  
Tina Baum  
Catherine Croghan  
Sue Dion  
Doriscile Everett-O'Neal  
Coral Garner  
Thomas Kottke  
Bruce Larson  
Barbara Lehn  
Chris Mullin  
Regina Rippel  
Jack Rossbach  
Pam Schmidt  
Esther Tatley  
Milo Thompson

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Hanna Cooper  
Alyssa Vang

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Soyini Guyton  
Sheri Smith

**STAFF PRESENT**

Donald Gault  
Richard Ragan  
Darleen Simmons

**Wakanheza Project**

Darlene Simmons and Donald Gault of the Healthy Communities Section presented and lead a discussion of the latest work of the Wakanheza Project, a made for television DVD titled Lending a Hand...The Wakanheza Project. The Wakanheza Project is a community-wide effort that provides tools and strategies to help people to effectively respond in every-day potentially violent situations and hopefully preventing them from happening in the first place by creating welcoming environments for our children, young people and families. Wakanheza is the Dakota word for child; in English its translation is Sacred Being. In Ramsey County, the power of the word Wakanheza has been combined with simple principles and practices that change the way people act toward children, young people, families and each other.

**Draft CHSAC Recommendations**

The Committee reviewed Draft #3 and provided the following suggestions for changes and revisions. Add provide more and safer walking and biking pathways throughout the city and county. Identify and promote the economic impacts of climate change and focus on preventive activities as well as preparation for the impacts. *Work to identify some measures of carbon*

*intensities to assess outcomes.* The majority of the CHSAC members asked what is carbon intensity. Jack tried to explain carbon intensities. It was suggested we add something like carbon intensity is the ratio of carbon emissions to economic activity. Carbon intensity, or "greenhouse gas intensity" is the measure of emissions used to cut greenhouse gas intensity. After the final version has been approved by consensus of the members, a cover letter will be written and the recommendations will be sent to the County Board and City Council. Staff will wait to hear what each elected body plans to do with the recommendations. If the recommendations are discussed at a meeting, several CHSAC members may want to attend to answer questions.

### **Strategic Planning**

The department has been involved in a strategic planning process to map a five-year vision for future goals and steps to achieve those goals. The new strategic plan puts emphasis on new ideas and best practices and does not necessarily reflect all the ongoing work of the department. Staff was asked to provide feedback on the draft objectives and strategies by March 14<sup>th</sup>. Staff responses are being analyzed. The strategic plan is a "living" document that will be continually reviewed and revised during the 5-year period. The CHSAC will be asked to review and approve the final plan before it is sent on to the Minnesota Department of Health.

### **Medical Reserve Corps Update**

The program was given a technical review by the Region V Coordinator in Chicago. The emphasis will continue to be on orientation of volunteers and training in the core competencies (mass dispensing, psychological first aid, incident command and personal and family preparedness). A part-time experienced contractor is conducting a survey of the 708 volunteers who have signed up to assist the department of public health in the event of a public health emergency.

### **Public Health Staff Move to Plato**

On January 15, 2008 the Board of Commissioners accepted and approved the purchase agreement with Opus Northwest for the Ramsey County Riverfront Properties (West building). On April 1, 2008, the Board by resolution 2008-125 accepted the relocation of public health employees (approximately 75) from West to Plato, along with Homeland Security and Veterans Services. The Plato Planning Group had its first meeting on April 1, 2008. Representatives from all Sections involved in the move were represented.

### **Healthy Families Move to Beam**

The office build-out is completed. Carpet will be installed on April 7 and office furniture will be installed on April 21. The move is scheduled for April 30. An ergonomist will be working with staff to determine the optimal desk height prior to the move and then further ergonomic adjustments will be made once staff is in their new workstations. There is 66 staff moving from Capitol View Center to Beam (old Maplewood Library).

### **Public Health Week Celebration**

National Public Health Week is April 6-12, 2008. The theme for this year's celebration is Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance. Two events are scheduled on April 7 and 8, 2008. On April 7 the documentary video "Too Hot Not to Handle" will be shown at the Juenemann building at 11:00 am and 12:10 pm. On Tuesday, April 8, there will be a lecture concerning Climate Change and Public Health at the Capitol View Center Auditorium at 11:30

am. The featured speakers are J. Drake Hamilton, Science Policy Director for Fresh Energy, and Rob Fulton. Refreshments will be served. All CHSAC members are invited to participate in these events. Please register ahead of time for both events. Each CHSAC member was given a carry bag made of recycled materials to use at the grocery store.

Adjourn 7:35 pm.