



Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health

*Marina McManus, Director*

**Community Health Services Advisory Committee**

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**Community Health Services Advisory Committee  
Summary Meeting Minutes  
December 4, 2013**

Members Present – Bob Tracy – Chair, Kathy Campion, Thomas Kottke, Madonna McDermott, Liz Mcloone Dybvig, Eugene Nichols, Regina Rippel, Sylvia Robinson, Jack Rossbach, Karla Sand, Nancy Shier, Jill Stewart

Guest and staff – Commissioner Janice Rettman, Rina McManus and Richard Ragan

**Weclome – Bob Tracy**

Bob asked for nominations for vice-chairperson. A year lead-time (or more) is good to prepare to become chairperson. Please send nominations to Richard Ragan.

Bob asked people to reflect on their snowy trip to the meeting. It was very cold, icy and snowy. Since the committee only meets once a month, staff didn't want to cancel the meeting and re-scheduling is too difficult. Bob welcomed new members since the last meeting – Der Moua, Rose Brown and Madonna McDermott.

**Discussion of Community Health Improvement Planning (CHIP) and Action Teams - Bob Tracy**

Action Teams will form and meet for the next 5 years. Questions yet to be answered include: To whom will the teams report? Will action team leaders report to the CHSAC on a periodic basis? What planning will guide this work?

Bob asked the committee members to share reactions they had to the CHIP planning.

Sylvia thought it was interesting that participants had a very broad definition of health and used social setting to define health.

Bob was interested in discussing poverty and how increasing income could possibly improve health. Jack was disappointed that there was nothing about environmental health and that global warming is not part of the document.

Gene was glad to see that disparities were discussed. He was impressed with how quickly the work progressed.

Karla felt that each person had their own expertise and it was difficult get people to engage in a discussion other than they own interests.

Regina said she likes simple and for her the process was too cumbersome. Many issues were discussed but for her, poverty is the most important problem to be solved.

Tom thought the work was good but in this political climate it will be difficult to get anything accomplished. He is glad the vision statement is explicitly welcoming to everyone.

Kathy wants to see businesses partner with the public sector to accomplish some of the goals.

Jill was amazed that the issues all seemed intertwined to a certain extent.

Bob reminded the committee members that CHIP is for the community and that we need the entire community to come together to achieve the goals. There needs to be strategic partnerships formed.

### **Planning for Future Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) Team meetings – Bob Tracy**

Rina mention that Bikes for Everyone has about 300 bikes to donate this year (177 in 2012) and each bike includes a helmet and lock. This is a project with the St. Paul Housing Authority. The company 2 Men and a Truck donated their time and muscle to haul bikes.

There was an overwhelming yes to the question posed by Bob – did you feel it was an effective use of your time to combine the CHSAC and the SHIP Leadership Team responsibilities?

Additional positive comments included:

Jack said it was good to hear from systems folks and contractors.

Bob shared the information re SHIP with other groups with which he comes in contact.

Tom and Kathy discussed how to use the economic competition between health plans to further improve public health in Ramsey County

### **Introduction of Health Department's Strategic Planning Process – Rina McManus**

Rina presented information on Strategic Planning. Chip is an external planning process whereas strategic planning is internal to the Department. It's how we will conduct our business. We bring information together to answer the question: What is our capacity? What system changes do we propose? What policy changes are needed? Is the County Board moving in a certain direction that we need to identify and facilitate? How is the role of public health evolving in Ramsey County, Minnesota and the nation?

For the first time, staff is conducting face-to-face interviews with Department Directors to find out what their impression of the public health department are and how they can work with us.

There was a survey sent to staff.

There will be a survey sent to CHSAC members regarding big picture ideas using your roles as a resident, community member and business person.

Rina has a concern that the Department of Public Health remain flexible in order to be able to respond appropriately to public health issues in the community.

There is a functioning Health Equity committee within the Department that is considering what we do and how we do it in all areas of our work. They will develop a plan within a plan to address issues of racism and also plan training for the staff throughout the entire department.

The strategic planning process will involve data collection December thru February and a draft of the plan ready in March/April. There will probably be a couple of meeting to review the plan, give feedback for revisions and then to endorse and recommend to the County Board. Rina will present the plan in stages for consideration.

Bob is pleased to hear about the role that the CHSAC will be asked to play as advisors in another planning process.

### **Completing the CHSAC Survey – Bob and Kathy**

All CHSAC members present were give a survey regarding committee work and a self-stamped envelope to return to Richard Ragan. Members who were not able to attend will be sent a survey.

### **Recognition of CHSAC members – Commissioner Janice Rettman**

Jack Rossbach;

We want to honor him for serving on the CHSAC for more than 10 years.

During his professional career Jack worked as an Industrial Hygiene Engineer. Among his areas of expertise is the prevention and control of mold growth in homes in northern climates.

Jack has always been an active participant on the committee and provided the environmental health perspective. Jack would often speak up in opposition to prevailing ideas or decision(s).... just so the discussion could be extended so that all sides of the issue would be considered. He spoke about being at the site of the fallen towers soon after 9/11 and warned of the health issues that would result from the toxic airborne contaminants. He constructed formulas regarding climate change and includes them in many public health discussions. Jack spoke compassionately about people's addiction to tobacco when the committee was discussing additional regulation. We are fortunate that Jack has requested to continue his participation on the SHIP Leadership Team. Thank you Jack, for your service to Ramsey County

Bob Tracy;

We want to honor Bob for his participation on the committee and his leadership as chair during the last year.

Bob joined the Committee in 2009. His active participation resulted in his election as Chair.

Bob is a public affairs consultant who works with government and nonprofit agencies to create changes that improve the lives of the people and communities they serve. Bob helps groups change public policy, community attitudes or policies and develop plans to improve their services.

His career has overlapped with his volunteer work on the CHSAC as Chairperson.

Bob has helped guide the committee through additional work added to the Committee's responsibilities.

Under Bob's leadership, the CHSAC members have been quite involved as the Statewide Health Improvement Program Leadership Team and in the Community Health Improvement Planning process.

Bob will continue as a member of the CHSAC and the SHIP Leadership Team.

Thank you Bob, for your service to Ramsey County.

#### **Chairperson Report – Bob**

Bob will continue as a committee member and serve the committee as past chair when called upon.

#### **New Chairperson's Report – Kathy**

Kathy welcomed the challenge to chair the committee and asked for each members help to continue the excellent work the committee has been doing. She guaranteed that her style would be different from Bob's and invited all members to contribute to the committee's continued success.

#### **Adjourn 7:30**