



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
May 7, 2014**

Members Present

Maridee Bain (County At-Large)
Kathy Campion (County At-Large)
Mee Chang (Mayor)
Tom Kottke (Mayor)
Dave Muhovich (Mayor)
Gene Nichols (County District 4)
Regina Rippel (Mayor)
Sylvia Robinson (County At-Large)
Karla Sand (County District 7)
Kerri-Elizabeth Sawyer (Mayor)
Nancy Shier (County (District 6)
Jill Stewart (County At-Large)
Esther Tatley (County District 1)
Bob Tracy (Mayor)
Mary Yackley (Mayor)

Guests Present:

Joua Yang

Staff Present:

Zack Hansen
Rina McManus
Richard Ragan

1. Welcome – The Meeting was called to Order at 5:30 PM by Chairperson Kathy Campion. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Rina McManus recommended corrections to the April 2, 2014 summary meeting minutes. There was a motion to approve the CHIP plan by Dr. Tom Kottke as amended and seconded by Maridee Bain and Gene Nichols added to the meeting minutes.

MOTION by Sylvia Robinson to approve the meeting minutes, as amended. MOTION SECONDED by Regina Rippel. MOTION PASSED.

Rina stated that the Department will be providing presentations on public health programs so that the committee members have an understanding of the programs and how they intersect with community partners also doing public health. She asked that the information provided be taken back to the community and the workplace of the CHSAC members.

2. Presentation – Solid and Hazardous Waste Management in Ramsey County

Zack Hansen, Environmental Health Director, presented Beyond the Garbage Can – Solid and Hazardous Waste Management in Ramsey County.

Solid waste management has been a program of public health in Ramsey County since the 1970s. In other counties, solid waste management is sometimes coordinated in public works or an environmental department.

There were 5 key points to the presentation.

#1 Waste management is very complex and how it is handled has both environmental and public health consequences

#2 A key element of waste management is to reduce the risk (of adverse consequences) to health and the environment

#3 Creating waste is inefficient. Reducing waste produced and/or recovering the resources from waste can help Ramsey County be more competitive and resilient

#4 Ramsey County has an effective and integrated system of waste management

#5 Waste Management is conducted by both the private and public sectors

Waste management planning is conducted by state, regional and local (county) governments and cities as well. They all set a coordinated course for waste management in Ramsey County. Take the example of recycling which began in the 1980s at a drop-off site, progressed to curbside recycling in the 1990s and will soon include organic waste recycling.

One of waste management's goals is to reduce risk to public health and environmental impairment, to create a sustainable program to reduce economic risk, to reduce occupational risks to solid waste workers with programs such as sharps containment, to reduce the market risk by assuring a supply and demand for recycled resources and reduction of technology risk by best practices.

Zack explained all the different types of waste that are produced (i.e. solid waste, hazardous waste, commercial/industrial waste, banned waste, construction/demolition waste) and how waste is managed has both environmental and public health consequences. Hazardous waste is managed from "cradle to grave". There are approximately 1,800 businesses in Ramsey County generating hazardous waste. Construction waste that has historically been landfilled is now recycled. In pre-demo inspection programs asbestos is removed. There are approximately 150 buildings on the TCAPP site that need to be removed and recycled.

In the 1990s, prior to 2001, citizens were consumptive generating more and more waste. Post recession there has been less waste generated on a per capita basis.

There are currently new programs being implemented to remove organic food waste from the waste stream. A system is in place to reduce, reuse and recycling waste so that a smaller amount goes to the resource recovery facility and the landfills. Making less waste from less packaging, avoiding disposables, purchase of durable items, garage sales and Goodwill donations. Recycling occurs at home, non-residential/commercial and public sites. Recyclables can sometimes become value added resources. A new focus in solid waste planning involves organic waste including food waste and non-recyclable paper. The Ramsey-Washington Resource Recovery Facility processes about 39% of the Ramsey County waste. Another 10% of waste goes to landfills.

Environmental Health staff work closely with the 16 cities within Ramsey County to help facilitate recycling. Kathy Campion asked if mandatory recycling would increase rates. The problem is enforcement takes away from other activities. Regina asked if the landfill operators are upset about not receiving more of the waste stream. The answer was yes, years ago, now they benefit from recycling. Solid waste haulers collect taxes to pay for the different solid waste management programs. The St. Paul Hotel saved \$25,000 in 2013 due to its recycling program. Ramsey County has a pharmaceutical collection program operated jointly with the Sheriff's Department. Every collected is destroyed. The yard waste program is very successful with over 400,000 visits/year to the sites. Recently added was

brush disposable and biowaste creation for the District Energy Center. Source separated organics will be collected at six yard waste sites in compostable bags. Sanimax will operate an anaerobic digester to make compressed gas to fuel its fleet. More and more households use the household hazardous waste collection sites. Latex paint makes up the largest portion of the HHHW collected at 45%. The HHHW collected is recycled, incinerated and fuel blended for disposal.

3. Review and approve Department's Strategic Plan Document – Rina

At the April 2, 2014 meeting of CHSAC members received the draft document – Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health Strategic Plan 2014-2018. Several members responded with questions and/or suggestions for revisions to the document. Rina shared all of the suggestions for revision with the Department's Leadership Team (DLT). Rina discussed comments made by CHSAC members and the response of the DLT.

There was a lengthy discussion about adding the word "safety" to the Mission Statement and/or goal #2. It would read health and safety. visions.

MOTION by Bob Tracy to add the word safety to Goal #2. MOTION SECONDED by Regina and David. MOTION PASSED.

Gene was concerned about the Statement 4 under Goal 2 - Identify and implement at least one department-wide strategy to address one targeted health issue of concern by December 31, 2016. Rina pointed out what was manageable and achievable. The strategy is to identify a concentrated focus. The Department will create a list of health equity issues, prioritize them and bring the list back to CHSAC for discussion.

A suggestion was made to remove Objective #5 from Goal #2 and put it under Goal # 1 as a new item 5.

Rina said that she will come back with more detail about the strategies because they will now go into program and individual work plans.

Bob Tracy said that he values health equity and that increasing knowledge by only 10% was not enough for him. He feels that until attitudes in the department change, nothing will change. He suggested not going for minimum change. He wants to see increasing knowledge.

Rina shared that there is a plan for training every staff member in structural racism and health equity. Sessions have begun with department managers and supervisors.

MOTION by Tom Kottke to recommend approval of the Strategic Plan (with discussed changes) to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. MOTION SECONDED by Gene Nichols. MOTION PASSED.

Rina invited members of the CHSAC to the County Board meeting on Tuesday, May 13th at 9:00 AM for the Policy Discussion of the Community Health Improvement and Strategic plans.

4. Overview of Public Health Accreditation and Quality Improvement Plan Process – Rina

Rina reminded members of the CHSAC why there is such a big "push" to get the CHIP and Strategic plans to and through the County Board. The Department will be making application for accreditation on May 27 and both documents (approved) are required for accreditation. Expect to begin Goal #2 Nutrition

Action Team in June. Rina shared the 2013-14 work timeline on national accreditation and the 12 domains. The Department hopes to receive notice of national accreditation by June 2015. The Department is now working on the Quality Improvement Plan. All three documents are due to the Minnesota Department of Health by February 2015.

Bob Tracy asked, again, why the Department is going for national accreditation. David said, based on his experience with Nursing School Accreditation, there are many intangibles. Rina sees the following benefits from national accreditation: public health accreditation means that people across the country can expect the same quality of public health programs and services no matter where they live; the accreditation process provides valuable feedback to health departments about their strengths and areas for improvement, laying the foundation for improved protection, promotion and preservation of their community's health; accreditation is a way for health departments to show how effectively they are allocating resources; achieving accreditation demonstrates accountability to elected officials and communities, resulting in increased credibility for public health departments; and the recognition of excellence that comes with meeting accreditation standards positively impacts staff morale and enhances the visibility of the health departments in their communities, enabling them to compete successfully for additional resources.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. MOTION PASSED.