

Public Health Commission's YEAR END REPORT 2001

ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Public Health Commission advises the Board of Supervisors on preventive health programs and other responsibilities of the HSA relating to public health and clinical services. The Commission is also charged to educate the public about health issues and to advocate for the health needs of the public.

MEETING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS

The Public Health Commission meets monthly on the 4th Thursday of the month from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Meetings take place at the 1060 Emeline Avenue Building Complex. The Commission usually adjourns in November or December and at least one month during the summer.

BOARD STRUCTURE FOR 2000

1 st District Representative	Jean Poulos, Chairperson
2 nd District Representative	Vacant
3 rd District Representative	Matt Farrell
4 th District Representative	Maureen Malone
5 th District Representative	Bernie Goldner

BOARD STAFF

Betsy McCarty, RN, MS
Chief of Public Health, Health Services Agency

Administrative Aide Argelia Soria

ATTENDANCE

Please see attached roster

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

January - December 2001

During the year 2001 the County Public Health Commission members continued to work on a number of important public health concerns. This was done, despite a persistent vacancy on the Commission and the difficulty in maintaining a quorum in the earlier part of the year. The Commission welcomed new member Matt Farrell from the 3rd district in March of 2001. The Commission focused on the following areas of concern:

- Smoking and Health
- Sewage Spills
- Hepatitis C
- Influenza Pandemic Planning
- County preparedness for bioterrorism

At the request of the HSA Administrator, the Commission reviewed material featured in the County's teen website ([ask Rubberman.com](http://ask.Rubberman.com)). The Commission made some recommendations and gave their strong support for the accurate, straight forward content of the information.

In 2000 the Commissioners were asked by a member of the local Hazardous Materials Advisory Board to monitor the occurrence and response to local sewage spills. The Commission agreed to undertake this task and has a report of sewage spills as a regular agenda item. The commission continues to receive briefings and information about this matter by representatives of the County Environmental Health Unit.

In 2001 the Commission received information about problems associated with individual septic systems, particularly in the San Lorenzo Valley.

The Commission continues to receive regular updates about local preparations for a worldwide influenza outbreak. They followed the influenza vaccine shortage in the fall of 2000 and supported the County's plan for distribution of the vaccine to the groups at greatest risk, before others with less risk factors.

The Commission has followed the national response to the threat of anthrax and received briefings about the local state of preparedness. Updates on bioterrorism will be a regular agenda item for the Commission in 2002

The Commission continued to follow progress in the public health response to the Hepatitis C epidemic. They supported the County-funded program for Hepatitis C screening and education provided at the two Drop-In-Centers in Santa Cruz and in Watsonville by the local needle exchange program. The Commission visited both centers in 2001 and heard presentations by the staff about the services provided.

The Commission supported a State law passed three years ago requiring the State Department of Health Services to develop health and safety regulations for body art establishments (tattoo parlors, body piercing, etc.) In 2001, the Commission wrote our local legislators and the State Health Department expressing concern that to date no regulations had been issued and the State law not

enforced. The Commission was pleased to learn that such regulations were finally released in late 2001. They agreed to write the State Department urging a prompt scheduling for hearing of these regulations and prompt enforcement when passed.

The Commission heard a report about the impacts of a proposed repeal of the local utility tax. The Commission is concerned about the adverse impact on public health and has plans to learn more about this matter in January 2002.

The Commission worked with the Health Services Agency to have information about their Commission on the agency's website in early 2002.

The Commission has heard presentations about a number of public health prevention and education programs including bicycle and car seat safety, HIV education and prevention, and the health status of residents in the Pajaro Valley. Additional presentations are scheduled for 2002.

The Commission continues to add a strong voice in support of community water fluoridation. The members re-affirmed the earlier Commission position statement in support of water fluoridation and strongly supported the effort by the city of Watsonville to move forward with their water fluoridation plans.

Goals and Objectives

January - December 2001

1. Monitor health care delivery issues in Santa Cruz County including managed care, hospital services, and emergency services.
 - a. Onsite visits as appropriate
2. Continue to monitor and respond to a variety of Public Health issues such as Maternal, Child Adolescent Health (MCAH), Environmental Health (air and water quality issues, sewage spills and restaurant issues), HIV, tobacco education, public health prevention programs, and planning for public health emergencies.
3. Continue to monitor and support anti-tobacco efforts, including enforcement of existing laws and ordinances.
4. Continue to respond to the Board of Supervisors request and emerging issues.

Many of the goals and objectives will continue into the year 2002-03. The Commission will examine goals and objectives early in 2002 and modify as approved.

ATTENDANCE RECORD- 2001

	Jean Poulos	Bernie Goldner	Barry Schneider	Matt Farrell	Maureen Malone
January	p	A	p		
February	p	P	p		
March	p	P	a	a	
April	p	P	a	p	
May	p	P	a	p	
June	p	P	p	p	
July		Meeting	Cancelled		
August	p	P	Barry replaced by Maureen Malone	a	p
September		Meeting	Cancelled		
October	p	P		p	a
November		Meeting	Cancelled		
December	P	P		P	a

p- present
a- absent