



Community Health Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR

October 30, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Community Health Commission
Submitted by: Pamela Speich, Chairperson, Community Health Commission
Subject: Community Health Commission Accomplishments and Membership

INTRODUCTION

At its September 13, 2012 meeting, the Community Health Commission (CHC) passed a motion (M/S/C (*Williams/Stein*)) “to authorize the submission of a resolution to inform Council of CHC progress with the service directory and communicate need for increased membership on the commission, and authorize CHC Chair to work with staff to make minor edits and formatting, to deliver to Council before the next CHC meeting.” The CHC Chair, in consultation with HH&CS staff, determined that an information item to Council was appropriate, and that no resolution was required.

Ayes: Commissioners Fang, Franklin, Lam, Rosales, Speich, and Stein

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent from vote: Commissioners Lee, Lewis-Hatheway, Tempelis, and Tran

Excused: Commissioners Webster and Williams

The next two years are going to change health care as we know it in Berkeley. The Affordable Health Care Act has begun to bring major changes to health services and has increased the insured population. The CHC wants to have a full complement of commissioners to work on this transition.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In order to serve as advisors to the City Council, the CHC’s functions and duties include reviewing health proposals submitted by public and private agencies for funding, coordinating agencies and health services available to Berkeley residents in order to minimize duplication, and providing educational information service to the community about problems and proposals relating to health resources in Berkeley. (See Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) Section 3.76.040.)

The CHC in the past year has accomplished:

1. The preparation of a Directory of Medical Service Providers in Berkeley that is posted on the City’s website and awaits publication;
2. The execution of special programs for the public on:

- a. Food sources for low income families in Berkeley
- b. Healthy homes safe from molds, pests, etc.
- c. Smoke Free Multi-unit Housing
- d. Cell phone safety
- e. Toxic Spill Clean-up
- f. Understanding health info online. Now a BCTV presentation.

BACKGROUND

The City Council is directed to select eighteen members to serve on the CHC in accordance with the Berkeley Municipal Code (see BMC Section 3.76.010).

Appointments to the commission shall attempt to reflect:

- Two members who are parents, one with a special needs child
- One physician whose major interest is child and adolescent health services
- One representative of an agency responsible for planning health services for children and adolescents
- The remaining shall be Berkeley residents interested in the health of women, children, and adolescents

Currently the CHC has ten members. One half of the members are students who have vacation and exam schedules that preclude consistent meeting attendance.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Amongst the wide resource of potential commissioners in Berkeley, the CHC would be strengthened by the participation of a physician, a budget specialist, a public policy person familiar with legislative documents, a health service representative, and a parent with a special needs child.

We urge the Council to fill the current vacancies by December 31, 2012.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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