

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes—September 8, 2010

Members / Alternates Present: Beth Berlin, Dan Cottrell, Mark Loeffelbein, John Garberson, Jan Hoem, Patricia Hogan, Bert Chesin, Sue Spanke, Katie Lane

Members Absent: William Flanery, George Hart, Tova Sardot

Staff Present: Beth Lakin

Public in Attendance: Caity Michels

1. John Garberson called the meeting to order.

2. Excused Absences Recognized. George Hart and Tova Sardot absent.

3. Agenda Approved.

4. Minutes. August minutes approved with revision of two typos.

5. No public comment on non-agenda items

6. Article Presentation. Katie Lane presented a selection from a Rand Health technical report entitled “The Impact of Air Quality on Hospital Spending.” This report quantifies the amount of money spent on emergency room visits and hospitalizations in California in 2005-2007 attributable to failing to meet federal air quality standards. The study found that failing to meet federal clean air standards lead to \$193,100,184 in spending for hospital care.

The group was generally impressed with the cost-benefit analysis. It was remarked that many studies focus exclusively on health benefits while this study’s inclusion of the financial tradeoffs. The group was also interested in the sponsoring foundation: The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and other studies or types of research it might finance.

“The Impact of Air Quality on Hospital Spending” is available at www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2010/RAND_TR777.pdf.

Beth Berlin will give next month’s article presentation.

7. Letter to the Air Pollution Control Board. Sue Spanke pointed out that the letter does not include the potential for predictive alerts as an option for improving air quality. She also suggested that the final paragraph be stronger. These comments were well received by the council and incorporated into the letter. The group also brought forth several small changes.

Beth Lakin read the letter as amended. Patricia Hogan moved to adopt the letter as amended. The motion was seconded and passed. John Garberson will present the letter to the Board at their meeting on September 16.

8. Staff report. Staff reported that the department has submitted comments on the EPA's Policy Assessment for the Review of the Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The comments expressed support for the proposed PM_{2.5} standards and concerns with the science being cited to support lowering the PM₁₀ standard. Burning is also opening in the county again tomorrow, September 8.

9. Public comment. There was no additional public comment.

10. Announcements, other business.

11. Meeting was adjourned: Next meeting is October 5, 2010.