



# California Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Advisory Council

## Minutes of the April 28, 2015, Meeting via Telephone Conference Call

### Members of the Council

**Thomas G. Keens, M.D.,**  
*Chair, Physician member.*

**Lorie Gehrke,** *Vice Chair,*  
*SIDS Parent.*

**Kitty Roche, R.N., P.H.N.,**  
**B.S.N., M.S.W.** *Secretary,*  
*Public Health Nurse*

**Kathleen Beichley,** *SIDS*  
*Parent*

**Dawn Dailey, R.N., P.H.N.,**  
**Ph.D.,** *Public Health*  
*Nurse.*

**Steven Durfor,** *Police/Fire*  
*First Responder.*

**James K. Ribe, M.D.,**  
*Medical Examiner.*

**Rachel Strickland,** *SIDS*  
*Parent.*

**Dennis H. Watt,** *Coroner.*

**Penny F. Stastny, R.N.,**  
**B.S.N., P.H.N.,**  
*President, Southern Calif.*  
*Regional SIDS Council.*

**Susana Flores, P.H.N.,**  
*President, Northern Calif.*  
*Regional SIDS Council.*

### Council Chairperson:

Thomas G. Keens, M.D.  
Division of Pediatric  
Pulmonology  
Children's Hospital Los  
Angeles  
4650 Sunset Boulevard,  
Box #83  
Los Angeles, California  
90027-6062  
Phone: 323/361-2101  
FAX: 323/361-1355  
E-mails:

[tkeens@chla.usc.edu](mailto:tkeens@chla.usc.edu)  
[tkeens@gmail.com](mailto:tkeens@gmail.com)



**Members of the California SIDS Advisory Council.  
October 16, 2014.**

- **Members Present:** Thomas G. Keens, M.D., *Chair*; Lorie Gehrke, *Vice Chair*; Michelle Herrera as an alternate for Kitty Roche, R.N., P.H.N., B.S.N., M.S.W., *Secretary*; Kathleen Beichley; Dawn Dailey, RN, PHN, PhD; Cynthia Brayboy as an alternate for Steve Durfor; Susana Flores, P.H.N.; James K. Ribe, M.D., J.D.; Rachel Strickland; Penny F. Stastny, R.N., B.S.N., P.H.N.; and Dennis H. Watt.
- **Members Absent:** Steve Durfor; and Kitty Roche, *Secretary*.
- **State and California SIDS Program:** Addie Aguirre; Laurel Cima-Coates; Carrie Florez; Bobbie Rose, R.N., P.H.N.; Guey-Shiang Tsay, R.N., M.S.N.; and Mimi Wolff, M.S.W.
- **Guests:** Shanna Anseth, R.N., P.H.N.; Luz Aboleda-Babcock, P.H.N.; Claudia Benton, M.S.N., R.N.-B.C., P.H.N.; Cynthia A. Brayboy, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.; Robin Bunch, R.N., P.H.N.; Lucy Chaidez; Karen Clemmer M.N., P.H.N.; Donna Fry; Kitty Gay,

R.N., P.H.N.; Michelle Herrera; Linda J. Lopez, B.S.N., R.N., Sr.P.H.N.; Roxanne I Smiley, R.N.; Robert Torres; and Laurel Waters, M.D., F.C.A.P., F.A.S.C.P.

- **Alternate Council Members:** In accordance with the Standing Rules of the California SIDS Advisory Council:
  - *Michelle Herrera* was designated as an alternate for *Kitty Roche*, Secretary, who could not attend today's meeting.
  - *Cynthia Brayboy* was designated as an alternate for *Steve Durfor*, who could not attend today's meeting.
- The meeting was held by telephone conference call. A quorum of greater than 2/3 of Council members was present. The meeting was called to order at 1:33 P.M., on April 28, 2015.

- **Introductions.**

Council members, state staff, and guests introduced themselves.

- **State Report.**

*Addie Aguirre, Laurel Cima-Coates, Guey-Shiang Tsay, and Carrie Florez* presented a report of the California SIDS activities of the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Division of the California Department of Public Health.

CDPH Personnel Updates: *Karen Smith, M.D., M.P.H.*, assumed her position as the Director of the California Department of Public Health and State Public Health Officer starting March 23, 2015.

Thanks to SIDS Contractor staff, Council, SIDS parents, key speakers, SIDS Coordinators and staff of Fresno County and City of Long Beach for their efforts working together to provide the successful Northern and Southern CA SIDS training for Public Health Professionals and Emergency Personnel.

SIDS Contract update: New SIDS Contract has been submitted to the Department's Contract Management Unit. It is anticipated Contract will be in place July 1, 2015.

MCAH will work with UCSF SIDS Contractor staff for a smooth transition and will pass all information to new SIDS Contractor. During this transition period, MCAH will ensure the services to LHJs and SIDS community continue.

Once the new SIDS Contractor is in place, they will work closely with the *Southern California Regional SIDS Council* in planning for the 2015 Annual SIDS Conference.

*Addie Aguirre*, Acting Chief, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division, gave a brief update on the new contractor for the *California SIDS Program*:

- MCAH had previously explained the transition from the current SIDS Contract to a new SIDS Contract (please refer to an email sent to the Council in February, 2015, and the recent



**Guey-Shiang Tsay**

**Carrie Florez**

Northern/Southern CA Regional SIDS Council meetings). A copy of the February 18, 2015, email to the California SIDS Community is appended to the end of these Minutes. MCAH is not able to share with Council the details of the new Contract before the new Contract is official; "Intent to Award" was made to California State University, Sacramento, College of Continuing Education (Sacramento State). MCAH anticipates the new Contractor to begin July 1, 2015 subject to the appropriation of funds in the State Budget Act upon and an executed contract.

- MCAH is responsible for overseeing the SIDS Contract which includes the completion of the SIDS Scope of Work. It is not the role of the Council to review the Scope of Work for the new SIDS Contract. The role of the Council is to advise MCAH on public health matters related to SIDS. MCAH appreciated the participation of the Council and the SIDS community.
- Once the new Contract is in place, there will be an opportunity for the Council to meet and communicate with the new Contractor. We do not anticipate any problems with the transition of work activities including the 2015 conference planning. MCAH is requesting for future Northern, Southern and state SIDS Advisory Council meetings, the agenda not include an item related to updates on the new California SIDS Program Contract.
- MCAH acknowledged Council's concerns and will continue to be transparent by meeting the contract requirement during the contract transition. MCAH did discuss this issue with lead advisory staff, Northern/Southern CA Regional SIDS Councils and also directly with UCSF SIDS Contractor.



A SIDS parent inquired about the State Contract process. MCAH explained that the SIDS Contract was through an inter-agency agreement process, not using the Request for Proposal (RFP) or Request for Application (RFA) process. If needed, MCAH will seek input from the stakeholders.

**California SIDS Data:** *Carrie Florez* reported that 2013 SUID data (unknown/undetermined, SIDS, accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed) is still being developed. Linkages with presumed SIDS cases to birth/death data are underway. This will provide data to local health jurisdictions on a number of things including families of infants who may not have received any grief support services from local health jurisdiction. She did bring up a problem, which is that Coroners and Medical Examiners have not been submitting SIDS autopsy and death scene investigation protocols. In 2014, the state received a death scene investigation for approximately 8% of presumed SIDS deaths, and less than half of the deaths the state received an autopsy protocol. This compromises the ability to analyze California data. *Doctor Ribe* said he thought *Carrie's* project of broadening her statistical study to include all the other forms of SIDS-like deaths was very useful and a good idea.

Reporting/Documenting Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Cases ~ Documentation required by both the Coroner's office and local public health department for all presumed SIDS cases continues. Effective June 1, 2015, *Coroner Notification Card*, *Public Health Services Reports*, and other reporting documents need to be sent to CDPH/MCAH at:

Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division  
 Attn: SIDS Program  
 California Department of Public Health  
 PO Box 997420, MS 8300  
 Sacramento, CA 95899-7420

As to the apparent non-reporting of death scene protocols to the state in regard to deaths whose cause is diagnosed as something other than “SIDS,” *Doctor Ribe* said that the legislative mandate in Government Code Sec. 27491.41 et seq. needs to be broadened to mandate reporting in all cases of sudden death of infants regardless of specific cause or wording. *Tom Keens* suggested that the legislative route may be difficult, and that the legislature is not likely to pass legislation costing money in the current environment. In response, *Doctor Ribe* argued that it may be very feasible, because for the first time in many decades, the governor’s office and both houses of the state legislature are controlled by the same political party with veto-proof majorities.

- **California SIDS Program.**

*Bobbie Rose, R.N., P.H.N.,* Nurse Educator; and *Mimi Wolff, M.S.W.,* Project Manager; reported on activities of the California SIDS Program as follows:

***Presumed SIDS Deaths***

- There have been 40 new presumed SIDS deaths reported to the CA SIDS Program from January 1, 2015 – March 31, 2015.
- The CA SIDS Program received 31 CNCs and 24 PHSR forms for 2015 cases this quarter.
- The CA SIDS Program is still receiving CNCs and PHSR forms for 2014.
- Beginning June 1, 2015 CNCs and PHSR forms are to be sent to the State MCAH, Carrie Florez.



**Abbey Alkon, Bobbie Rose and Mimi Wolff**

***New SIDS Coordinators***

- Kelley Barragan in Santa Barbara County, Noelle Mohoroski in Yuba County, and Linda Lopez in Orange County were welcomed as newly appointed SIDS Coordinators.
- The updated 2014 Handbook for SIDS Professionals was mailed, upon request, to one SIDS Coordinator in Modoc. The Handbook has been posted to the CA SIDS Program website.

***2015 Annual SIDS Conference***

- Planning for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual SIDS Conference in Los Angeles- It will be held at the California Endowment in Los Angeles and the contract needs to be revised with the new contractor information. A save-the-date announcement was sent out this quarter in the

March issue of the electronic newsletter. A request to post the save-the-date announcement to the home page of the website has been submitted to CDPH-MCAH.

***2015 Northern CA SIDS Training for Emergency Personnel and Public Health Professionals***  
Fresno on March 11, 2015: Thanks to Erica Alexander, SIDS Coordinator!

- 164 Registered: 159 Attended
- 16 Emergency Personnel for the morning, including coroners, police, detectives, fire fighters, forensic pathologist.
- 143 Public Health Professionals and Others, including, SIDS Coordinators, PHNs, Doctors, Resident doctors, Licensing personnel, Child Care Personnel, Hospital nurses and staff, social workers.
- Evaluations: 14 from Emergency Personnel and 99 from PHPs and others.

***2015 Southern CA SIDS Training for Emergency Personnel and Public Health Professionals***  
Long Beach on April 15 at the Long Beach Public Library, 101 Pacific Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90822. Thanks to Pam Shaw, Danielle Sees and Cynthia Brayboy!

- 162 Registered: 137 Attended
- 15 Emergency Personnel
- 122 others
- Evaluations: 14 from Emergency Personnel and 99 from Public Health Professionals/others.

**Website**

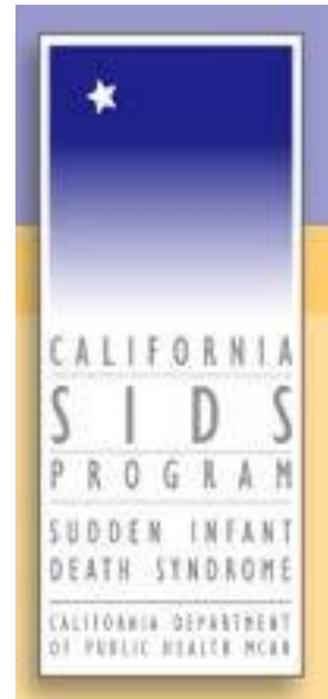
- Website updates are submitted to MCAH from the California SIDS Program on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- The SIDS Advisory Council Minutes from the January 13, 2015 meeting have been posted.
- The SIDS Coordinator list on the California SIDS Program website is updated monthly.

***Quarterly SIDS Newsletter***

- The Quarterly SIDS Newsletter was sent out on March 7, 2015.
- The Quarterly SIDS Newsletter is sent to the SIDS Advisory and Regional Councils, MCAH Directors, SIDS Coordinators, Community Members and stakeholders. The Newsletter includes announcements, important dates, resource updates, new research, legislative watch and ideas for outreach.
- The final Quarterly SIDS Newsletter by the current CA SIDS Program will be sent in early June, 2015.

It's been a pleasure to work with the California SIDS community, and we thank you all for your support. This is our last State SIDS Advisory meeting representing the CA SIDS Program.

*Penny Stastny and Doctor Ribe* thanked *Abbey Alkon, Bobbie Rose, and Mimi Wolff* for their excellent work. The entire Council and Guests joined in showing our appreciation for the work of the current contractors over the past 1½-years.



- **Public Health Nurse Issues.**

The main public health nurse issue is that in many counties, only infants who die with a diagnosis of “SIDS” are being referred by Coroners/Medical Examiners to public health nursing for home visits to provide grief counseling and education. Infants with diagnoses of SUID, SUDI, Undetermined, etc., are not always being referred. The current law requires that infants who are presumed to have died from SIDS must be referred to public health. However, some counties do not make these referrals if the diagnosis is not SIDS.

There was general agreement that public health nursing should receive referrals from the Coroners on all of these babies. It would be preferable to err on the side of referring too many babies and letting the public health nurses decide if the referral was appropriate for a home visit. *Dawn Dailey* was concerned that this could result in increased numbers of families for whom home visits were required, and about the importance of insuring that public health nurse resources can meet the need. There is a need to take into account variances among each local health jurisdiction when considering public health nursing services as resources, Capacity and structures may differ. She suggested that Maternal Child Adolescent Health Directors and Public Health Nursing Directors should be included when discussing and addressing the importance of supporting the SIDS state infrastructure related to PHN services. Most people participating in the meeting did not think that this would increase the number of home visits enough to stress existing public health nurse resources.

As above, many Coroners and Medical Examiners are not sending completed autopsy and death scene investigation protocols to the state. Does this mean they are not following these protocols? *Dennis Watt* believed that whether or not a Coroner’s office is following the mandate is independent of referring infants with all diagnoses to the public health nurses. On December 17, 2012, the California Department of Public Health sent an official letter to all coroners, medical examiners, county health departments, maternal child and adolescent health sections, and public health nursing to refer all babies dying suddenly with diagnoses of SIDS, SUID, SUDI, and undetermined to public health nursing for grief counseling and SIDS/SUID education (letter appended to these minutes). In view of the apparent problem with referrals being made from Coroners to public health nursing, the *California SIDS Advisory Council* believes that it is time to send this or a similar letter out again.

- **First Responder/Coroner Investigator Issues.**

- Referral of SIDS, SUID, SUDI, and Undetermined families to Public Health.**

A major issue was Coroners referring all infants who are appropriate for MCAH and public health nursing for grief counseling and education, including SIDS, SUID, SUDI, Undetermined, etc. diagnoses.

It appears that many Coroners/Medical Examiners are not completing death scene investigation and autopsy protocols if a diagnosis other than “SIDS” is used. The California State Coroners’ Association obtained a legal opinion that the mandate to complete the protocols for presumed SIDS still obligate coroners to do so, even though they are now unfunded by the State. Apparently, the State does not believe that the mandates can be enforced without funding. Therefore, it appears that new legislation will be required to have coroners complete these

protocols. The new legislation will need to specifically state that other diagnoses, such as SUID, SUDI, Undetermined, etc. should be included.

*Tom Keens* had previously communicated with a legislative contact who believes that it is unlikely that legislation involving any kind of funding increase will be passed by the legislature, and he was advised to pursue changes in policy and procedures. Perhaps educating Coroners and Medical Examiners about the issues will increase adherence. However, most participants in the meeting believed that legislation is the way to do this. There was a long discussion about how this might happen, and current pending child care legislation on safe sleep was discussed as an example. This involved developing a white paper outlining the issues, and then finding a legislator who willing to sponsor the bill. Aside from the child care legislation, no one participating in the meeting seemed to have the expertise or connections to do this, though many thought that this would be “easy”.

*Doctor Laurel Waters* supports trying to communicate with the ME's, coroners and pathologists about notifying Public Health so support and education can occur with the parents of all sudden death in infancy, regardless of whether it is diagnosed as "SIDS" or any other diagnosis. They should be given the information that in 2014, of the presumed SIDS cases the state received, approximately 8% of death scene investigation protocols, and less than half of autopsy protocols, were submitted to the state. In the Forensic Pathology community there is a strong feeling against using the term "SIDS".

Consensus of those participating in the meeting is that Coroners/Medical Examiners should complete the death scene investigation and autopsy protocols. Families of infants who died from presumed SIDS, and who died with diagnoses of SUID, SUDI, Undetermined, etc., should be referred to public health nursing so they can provide grief support and SIDS/SUID education. It may be prudent to investigate changing the law to facilitate this, though no one was specifically assigned to do this.

### **Status of POST Training for First Responders.**

One of the original Boatwright bills legislated and funded at least 4-hours of “SIDS Training “ for first responders in their academies (Police, Fire, Paramedics) and also required ongoing “SIDS Training”. These funds were given directly to Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), and not to the California Department of Public Health. Nevertheless, when these training were developed, many members of the California SIDS Community provided advice, input, and content. The Council has not heard that current status of this training in several years. *Doctor Keens* asked if anyone knew the current status. *Dennis Watt* said that the academy trainings were still occurring, at least for paramedics. *Doctor Keens* asked State staff to investigate this and report back at the next Council meeting.

### **Data Analysis from Death Scene Investigation and Autopsy Protocols.**

Coroners and medical examiners complete the mandated autopsy and death scene investigation protocols, and send this information to the State. They understand that they are doing this so the data can be used to plan public health interventions and for research. However, they have not seen these data being analyzed or released to the public. *Carrie Florez* indicated that in 2014, of the presumed SIDS cases the state received, approximately 8% of death scene investigation protocols and less than half of autopsy protocols were submitted to the state. The information is stored at the state, but

there are not enough protocols submitted to analyze the data. Because the numbers are so small, the data are not useful for analysis. Discussion about increasing Coroner/Medical Examiner completion and submission of autopsy and death scene investigation protocols occurred above.

### **SIDS Summit 2.**

The *California State Coroners' Association* is in the process of planning the *SIDS Summit 2* conference. This will be an expansion of *SIDS Summit 1*, but will be interdisciplinary in order to fully explore the issues of diagnosis of infants dying suddenly and unexpectedly. This was discussed at a meeting of the *Coroners Curriculum Development Committee* in Orange County on February 18, 2015. Present plans are for this to be a 1½-day independent conference, probably in Marin County, and probably in the Spring of 2016. There is an upcoming meeting of the CCDC on June 25, 2015.

### **California State Coroners Association Meeting.**

*Dennis Watt* has put an hour on the agenda of the next meeting of the *California State Coroners' Association* to discuss SIDS. The meeting will be held in Lake Tahoe, September 20-15, 2015. The session on SIDS will probably be Wednesday morning, September 23, 2015. This will be an opportunity for the SIDS community to emphasize the importance of completing protocols, the impact of diagnoses, and the importance of referring all SIDS, SUID, SUDI, and undetermined families to county public health nurses for grief support and SIDS education.

- **Council's Role in SIDS Parent Support.**

*Lorie Gehrke* asked a question surrounding grief support for a recent SIDS mom whose son died of SIDS on his first day of daycare after being placed on his tummy to sleep. Her son was nearly 4-months old. The mother is looking for data/information on daycare regulations and training, and data on babies dying in daycare. *Carrie Florez* responded that information on how long a child has been in daycare is not included in the current Death Scene Investigation protocol. Therefore, we can not obtain this information from the State SUID/SIDS database. *Lucy Chaidez* mentioned that the data might be available in Department of Social Services records on Child Care, but it would be difficult to obtain. No further action was advised.

*Rachel Strickland* commented that, as a SIDS parent, it was very difficult to have differing diagnoses, such as SIDS, SUID, SUDI, undetermined, and asphyxia, especially if they all mean the same thing. *Doctor Ribe* responded that forensic pathologists and coroners nationwide have over the last twenty years been moving away from use of the term "SIDS" as a cause of death. The basic reason is that these certifiers have become uncomfortable with the tradition that "SIDS" is considered to be associated with a "natural" manner of death. The "safe sleep" research of recent decades has shown that many of the deaths are associated with unsafe sleep factors which arguably constitute environmental causes of death. If so, these cannot be certified as "natural" deaths. Since certifiers assume that SIDS is a natural death, they won't use "SIDS" in cases where environmental factors are thought to be involved or causative. If not able to use "SIDS," these certifiers have had to come up with other terminologies -- hence "SUID," "SUDI," undetermined, etc., which lend themselves to other manners of death such as "accidental" or "undetermined."

*Robert Torres*, SIDS parent, shared his concerns about the ever changing acronyms being used by coroners to avoid using SIDS as an identifier for infants who have died. He also shared that, as a SIDS parent, this is frustrating not knowing what the true number of SIDS deaths are in our state or nationally if we don't have any uniformity or protocols to follow county by county or state by state. He said that, in his opinion, the numbers are all over the place without a standard protocol in place, and yet we are claiming some sort of victory while ignoring that we don't have a handle on correctly identifying infants who had died in the last five decades, since we keep changing or adding to the SIDS name every decade that comes along.

California has both a standardized autopsy protocol and a standardized death scene investigation protocol. Both documents were developed by members of the California SUIDS Advisory Council in collaboration with other experts many years ago and have been updated when needed. The tools are there for uniformity, the problem lies in getting those in the field to use the standardized protocols.

- **Southern California Regional SIDS Council.**

*Penny F. Stastny, R.N., B.S.N., P.H.N.*, President of the Southern California SIDS Council, reported on the activities of the Southern California Regional SIDS Council.

The last meeting of the Southern California Regional SIDS Council was on April 23, 2015, at the offices of the *Guild for Infant Survival, Orange County* in Santa Ana.

The Southern Council continued discussion of the 34<sup>th</sup> *Annual California SIDS Conference*, which will be at the California Endowment Center in Los Angeles on Thursday, November 19, 2105. The conference will focus on SIDS research in the morning, and SIDS parents training public health nurses in the afternoon. The Council has tentatively planned the following:

Wednesday, November 18, 2015:

12:30-1:00 p.m.: Tom's Traditional Taquito Walk: 2-block walk to Cielito Lindo, in Olvera Street, arguably the world's best taquitos. Bring back your taquito lunch to eat during the California SIDS Council meeting. Walk begins at the California Endowment Center promptly at 12:30 p.m.

1:00-4:00 p.m.: California SIDS Advisory Council meeting. California Endowment Center, Los Angeles. This is our one in-person meeting of the California SIDS Advisory Council.



**Southern California Regional SIDS Council.  
April 23, 2015, Meeting**

5:00-5:30 p.m.: (time is approximate, to be determined): Memorial Service, planned by SIDS parent groups in Southern California.

5:30-7:30 p.m.: (time is approximate, to be determined); Welcome Reception, planned by SIDS parent groups in Southern California.

Thursday, November 19, 2015: 34<sup>th</sup> Annual California SIDS Conference:

7:30-8:30 a.m.: Registration and continental breakfast.

8:30-8:45 a.m.: Introduction and Welcome to the Conference. Penny F. Stastny, R.N., B.S.N., P.H.N., President of the Southern California Regional SIDS Council.

8:45-9:45 a.m.: SIDS Research Update and How the Diagnosis of SIDS is Made. Henry F. Krous, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics and Pathology Emeritus, University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine; 1999 Daniel E. Boatwright Awardee; 2012 Lifetime SIDS Achievement Awardee (California SIDS Advisory Council). He is confirmed for this talk.

9:45-10:15 a.m.: Break. Intentionally 30-minutes for networking.

10:15-11:15 a.m.: SIDS Risk Reduction. Thomas G. Keens, M.D, Professor of Pediatrics, Physiology and Biophysics, Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California; Chair, California SIDS Advisory Council.

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: Ask the Experts Panel, including: Doctors Krous, Keens, and Ribe, and Dennis Watt.

12:15-1:30 p.m.: Lunch. In the past, this has been part of the conference. The presentation of the 2015 Daniel E. Boatwright Award will occur toward the end of lunch.

1:30-3:00 p.m.: SIDS Parents Tell Us what they need, How to say it, What to do and What not to do, etc. A panel of SIDS parents will make this presentation. This panel will likely include Rachel Strickland, Maura Rubalcaba, Colleen Ma, Michelle Herrera, and others. Details being worked out.

3:00-3:30 p.m.: Break. Intentionally 30-minutes for networking.

3:30-4:00 p.m.: Public Health Nurses provide tips on SIDS Home Visits. Speakers to be decided.

4:00-4:30 p.m.: Closing, to be determined.

Additional decisions about the conference were made:

- Breaks should last 30-minutes (one in the morning and one in the afternoon), to permit time for networking and visiting the exhibits from SIDS parent support groups and other agencies.
- The Council decided not to try to come up with a title for the conference. The Conference will simply be called the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual California SIDS Conference.
- Emphasized that the afternoon would be devoted to a large panel of SIDS parents sharing their experiences and thoughts about what helped and what didn't help with their PHN follow up and other experiences with the first responders. A panel of SIDS Coordinators would also discuss their experiences and successes with newly bereaved SIDS parents.

- *Penny Stastny* will orchestrate additional meetings with SIDS parents to carefully prepare the afternoon session. The first of these meetings will be held May 18<sup>th</sup> at the GISOC office from 12:00 to 2:00pm.
- Further discussion occurred about reserving hotel close to the conference for accommodations as well as a place for the memorial service and reception. *Colleen Ma* has provisionally checked into the hotel used for the 2012 SIDS Conference. This seems to be the best local option. However, the State will have to proceed with negotiations at this point in time.

The Southern California Regional SIDS Council will continue to plan and fine tune the Conference agenda in its 2015 meetings. However, the Council does expect that the new California SIDS Program contractor will pick up responsibilities, such as determination and payment for the hotel, arranging registration, setting fees and collecting them, etc.

The dates for the remaining Southern California Regional SIDS Council meetings in 2015 are: Thursday, June 11, 2015; Thursday, August 13, 2015; and Thursday, November 12, 2015.

*Penny Stastny* expressed the appreciation and gratitude of the Southern California Regional SIDS Council for the work of the UCSF contractors for the California SIDS Program the past 1½-years. They have truly been helpful, supportive, and brought new energy and achievements to the program.

- **Northern California Regional SIDS Council.**

*Susana Flores, P.H.N.*, President of the Northern California Regional SIDS Council, reported on activities of the *Northern California Regional SIDS Council*.

- The last Northern California Regional SIDS Council Meeting took place on *Friday, March 20, 2015 at the Contra Costa Crisis Center in Walnut Creek.*

- The meeting was attended by SIDS coordinators from Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, San Francisco, Shasta, and San Mateo Counties as well as SIDS parent *Lorie Gehrke*. *Bobbie Rose* and *Mimi Wolff*, members of the California SIDS program were present as always. *Laurel Cima Coates* and *Addie Aguirre* from the state attended via teleconference.



**Northern California Regional SIDS Council,  
November 15, 2013.**

- We heard the MCAH state report from *Laurel* with updates that have been already presented here

today as well as updates from the California SIDS program. We are not clear whether the new contractors (Sacramento State) will be sending representatives to the Northern Regional SIDS Council meetings.

- I reported to the group on the California SIDS Advisory Council meeting from Jan 13, 2015.
- The group reviewed a draft of the *Guidelines for Community Reports* for the Northern California Regional SIDS Council meetings. The request came about because some of the new SIDS coordinators needed a clear form to use to complete their community reports to the group and had questions around what is pertinent to share and what is not. A new draft will be revised accordingly and distributed at the next meeting on May 15, 2015.

### **Community Reports**

- Aline Armstrong SIDS Coordinator from SF County and myself shared at this meeting that we had been invited to do a presentation by the SF Breastfeeding Coalition at the conference titled *Healthy Families Creating Healthy Communities: Breastfeeding in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* on April 2. We consulted with the group on obtaining feedback and suggestions regarding addressing the issue of Bed Sharing. The organizers of the conference asked that we cover this topic in the afternoon workshop and they titled it for us. The title of the workshop was: *Bed Sharing is it safe or dangerous?* We felt a little uneasy about this title at first. We tried to change it but we were not able to make any changes b/c it was too late when we made the request. We received a numerous amount of excellent suggestions by the group in regards to talking about SIDS/SUID, explaining the risk factors and allowing the audience coming up with their own answer to the title.
- Aline and I presented on April 2. It went well overall but the attendance was very low. At our workshop we only had about 10 people show up.
- We presented a power point that we both worked on together. (We can share if you would like to see it) We included some of the slides from Dr. Keens presentations (definition of SIDS) as well as Bobby's presentation from last year's conference (*alternatives to bed sharing like baby boxes and bassinets that are right next to the parent's bed for families in dire circumstances*) We received some comments resisting the information that we were sharing. We used San Diego Co.'s video on "We are a walking nightmare" and then a 20 min. video created for first responders that show the chaotic scene of parents discovering their baby unresponsive and what happens next.
- Aline and I felt that overall the message was clear even though not all of the attendants in the audience were in agreement with what we were saying around co-sleeping. We didn't answer the question directly of the title but we feel strongly that our entire presentation answered the question for them with our clear and consistent message of what a safe sleep environment is and why it is important to follow the AAP Recommendations.
- We are waiting to hear back on the evaluations from the conference organizer.

### **Natalie Berbick, Contra Costa County:**

- The Contra Costa SIDS program has completed the SOW requirements for Safe Sleep presentations, but will continue to provide them to the community as requested. Recently, CC PHD was contacted by a local vocational nursing program to provide the most current information about SIDS to their students. In the last quarter, they have also provided presentations to the Contra Costa Childcare Council, and day care providers in our county.

- The SIDS Coordinator has continued active participation in the Childhood Injury Prevention Network of the Bay Area. Currently, they are exploring standardizing Safe Sleep training modules and training for nursing staff at local hospitals. The policy developed by the group will be reviewed for dissemination and consideration at birthing hospitals and NICUs in Contra Costa County.
- The SIDS Coordinator has continued to be an active participant in the Child Death Review Team in Contra Costa County and is currently supporting the development of the annual report including information on SIDS and sleep related deaths and recommendations to reduce the risk.

**Michelle Scott, San Joaquin County**

- Shared about the Breastfeeding Consortium Lactation Program that was going to be held on April 14, 2015 on “Lactation after Loss”.
- Tammy Evens has been appointed as the new SJC Public Health Services Director.
- MCAH continues to provide SIDS/safe sleep presentations in the community and for child care providers.

**Julie Garcia, Alameda County:**

- Attends the Monthly Child Death Review Team meetings.
- She is updating the SIDS parent packet and the child care provider packet; the materials from the state are old and outdated.
- She is also working with the Lost Foundation, tips on what to say and what not to say to someone who is grieving.
- She works with the Alameda County Social Services Child Abuse Prevention Unit Safe Sleep Campaign. A Questionnaire for home visitors is being developed to assist with the campaign.
- Child care provider expresses interest in getting involved in SIDS education and support after they had some SIDS deaths at their child care centers.

**San Mateo County**

- I shared that San Mateo continues to provide periodic Risk Reduction in-services at parenting classes and reach out to 4C's and Head Start. Laura Garcia, SIDS PHN, works with me on SIDS outreach. San Mateo has a new family health services director effective 4/1/15. Srija Srinivasan. She also oversees the Health Coverage Unit of San Mateo County. The outgoing director Brayana Zamora retired in late March after 27 years of service to San Mateo County.

**Brooke, Shasta County**

- Shasta County has received a grant from the CJ Foundation to provide grand rounds medical education. Dr. Keens will provide the grand rounds and Penny Stastny has agreed to provide education for nurses. She has scheduled Head Start training for May 15.

**Lorie Gehrke, SIDS Parent and Northern California SIDS Alliance**

- Lorie told the council about changes in her professional life. She is interested in knowing more about serotonin since she thinks it related to health issues in her family and her baby's death. She is getting involved in Social Media about her interest in new wellness issues. ‘SIDS Loop’ continues to provide SIDS support on Facebook. Lorie is looking to get more involved in training and workshops. She provided Peer support to a family in Santa Cruz

since the last meeting. She has a new phone number for Peer contact Lusanne in Monterey. Staff will update the roster accordingly.

- We want to also thank Abbey Alkon, Bobbie Rose and Mimi Wolff for the extraordinary work they have done and continue to do for the California SIDS Program. Their support was enormous for everyone who came asking for their assistance in guidance around providing SIDS trainings in their communities. Their work around setting up the annual SIDS trainings and annual conference was exceptional. They responded always very promptly to SIDS coordinators and parents that needed additional support and guidance. They will be truly missed.

The next Northern California Regional SIDS Council meeting will be: May 15, 2015; 9:30 AM-12:30 PM in Walnut Creek.

- **Future California SIDS Advisory Council Meetings.**

The *California SIDS Advisory Council* holds four meetings per year. Three are by telephone conference call, and the fourth is in-person the day prior to the California SIDS Conference. The remaining Council meetings in 2015, are as follows:

- Meeting by telephone conference call, Tuesday, August 18, 2015, 1:30-3:30 P.M.
- In-person Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 1:00-4:00 p.m., the day before the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual California SIDS Conference in California, California Endowment Center, Los Angeles, California.

By law, meetings of legislatively mandated advisory councils are open to the public. Therefore, anyone interested in participating in *California SIDS Advisory Council* meetings is welcome and encouraged to attend.

- **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas G. Keens, M.D.  
Chair, California SIDS Advisory Council



## **E-MAIL TO CALIFORNIA SIDS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCING A CHANGE IN THE CONTRACTOR FOR THE CALIFORNIA SIDS PROGRAM**

Date: Wed, Feb 18, 2015

Subject: CHANGE OF CONTRACTOR FOR SUDDEN INFANT DEATH  
SYNDROME (SIDS) PROGRAM

Dear SIDS Council Members:

The purpose of this email is to inform you of a change in our SIDS Contractor. The current SIDS Contract with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) will end on June 30, 2015.

The California Department of Public Health, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (CDPH/MCAH) Division would like to thank the UCSF SIDS Contract staff for their services. We are working with UCSF SIDS contractor staff to ensure that Northern/Southern California SIDS trainings and required responsibilities are completed. We are also developing a smooth transition plan.

The CDPH/MCAH is working to establish a SIDS interagency agreement. We anticipate the new SIDS Contractor will begin on July, 1 2015.

Additionally, the CDPH/MCAH would like to take this opportunity to provide you with important information to assist in the coming fiscal year 2015-16:

**California SIDS Program Website** ~ The SIDS Program website is currently maintained as a CDPH website and it will continue to be updated and available to provide useful resources to the SIDS Community:

<http://californiasids.cdph.ca.gov/Universal/HomePage.html?p=10>.

**California SIDS Program Email** ~ Until the transition is completed, please send any SIDS related emails to your County's CDPH/MCAH Program Consultant or to Guey-Shiang Tsay, RN, MSN, SIDS Program Nurse Consultant, at [Guey-Shiang.Tsay@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Guey-Shiang.Tsay@cdph.ca.gov). If you seek further information, the general inquiry email address for CDPH/MCAH is [mchinet@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:mchinet@cdph.ca.gov).

**Reporting/Documenting Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Cases**  
~ Documentation required by both the Coroner's office and local public health department for all suspected SIDS cases continues. Effective June 1, 2015, *Coroner Notification Card*, *Public Health Services Reports*, and other reporting documents need to be sent to CDPH/MCAH at:

Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division  
Attn: SIDS Program  
California Department of Public Health  
PO Box 997420, MS 8300  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7420

Carrie Florez, the CDPH/MCAH Research Scientist in the Epidemiology, Assessment and Program Development Branch, will be reviewing and processing the reports submitted by coroners and local health jurisdictions. If you have any questions or need information about a presumed SIDS death or a compliance monitoring letter you received, please contact Carrie at [916-650-0323](tel:916-650-0323) or email her at [Carrie.Florez@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Carrie.Florez@cdph.ca.gov).

***Annual 2015 California SIDS Program Fall Conference and SIDS Training for Emergency Personnel and Public Health Professionals*** ~ The new SIDS Contractor will send information about the 2015 SIDS Conference upon completion of transition. They will also be scheduling SIDS training for Emergency Personnel and Public Health Professionals for Fiscal Year 2015-16.

We look forward to continuing to work with all of you. Thank you very much for your continued support and dedicated efforts for the SIDS Program.

Best,

Laurel A Cima Coates, MPA, Chief  
Prevention, Policy and Program Standards Branch  
Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Division  
California Department of Public Health  
1615 Capitol Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916 650-0314  
[laurel.cima@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:laurel.cima@cdph.ca.gov)

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RON CHAPMAN, MD, MPH  
Director & State Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2012

TO: COUNTY CORONERS, SHERIFF CORONERS AND MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS) COORDINATORS  
MATERNAL, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH (MCAH) DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: SUDDEN, UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH TIMELY REFERRALS AND PROVIDING  
GRIEF/BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE TO PARENTS/CAREGIVERS WHO  
EXPERIENCE A SUDDEN, UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH

This letter is in reference to the current MCAH Scope of Work (SOW). Within the SOW, each Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ) MCAH program is required to contact all parents/caregivers who experience a presumed SIDS death to provide grief and bereavement support services. California HSC §123740, requires local health officers to contact persons having custody and control of the infant to provide information and support services. It is very critical that the LHJ receives the timely referral from the coroner/medical examiner's office in order for SIDS Coordinators/Public Health Professionals to provide grief/bereavement support services to all parents/caregivers who experience a presumed SIDS death.

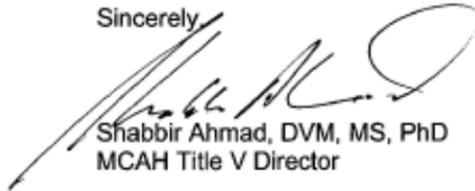
With the introduction of the International Classifications of Disease, 10<sup>th</sup> Revision (ICD-10) in 1999, causes of death listed on the death certificate that will be classified to SIDS (R95) in California include Crib Death, SDII (sudden death in infancy), SIDS, SUD (sudden unexplained death), SUID (sudden unexplained infant death), SUDI (sudden unexplained death, infant) and SID (sudden infant death). It is very important for the coroner/medical examiner's office to voluntarily refer all sudden and unexpected infant deaths to the local MCAH program, including deaths with an "undetermined" diagnosis. The California SIDS Advisory Council recommends that any person interacting with families who may receive one of these diagnoses be provided the same grief/bereavement support and SIDS education as a family who receives a SIDS diagnosis.

We are very grateful for the continued support of coroners/medical examiners referrals of sudden, unexpected infant deaths even with the continued suspension of the state mandates due to state budget constraints. We also appreciate local MCAH SIDS Coordinators/Public Health Professionals for providing grief/bereavement support services to all parents/caregivers who experience a presumed SIDS death that are referred to their offices. The collaboration between the coroner/medical examiner office and local MCAH Program is essential when an infant dies suddenly and unexpectedly. It is difficult for the parents of the infant to deal with such a tragic loss and the availability of support services to help them work through their loss could be critical and beneficial.

CORONERS-AND MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
SIDS COORDINATORS  
MCAH DIRECTORS  
Page 2  
December 17, 2012

We look forward to continuing to work with all of you together. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Guey-Shiang Tsay, Nurse Consultant for the SIDS Program, at [Guey-Shiang.Tsay@CDPH.ca.gov](mailto:Guey-Shiang.Tsay@CDPH.ca.gov), or Carrie Florez, Research Scientist for Epidemiology Evaluation and Data Operations, at [Carrie.Florez@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Carrie.Florez@cdph.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Shabbir Ahmad, DVM, MS, PhD  
MCAH Title V Director

# California SIDS Advisory Council



Kathleen Beichley



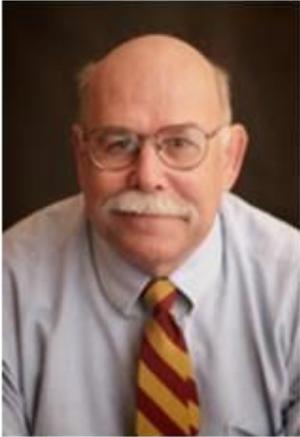
Dawn Dailey



Steve Durfor



Lorie Gehrke



Tom Keens



James Ribe



Kitty Roche



Rachel Strickland



Dennis Watt



Penny Stastny



Susana Flores

