



California Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Advisory Council

Members of the Council

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

Lorie Gehrke, *Vice Chair,*
SIDS Parent.

Kathleen Beichley,
Secretary, SIDS Parent

Maureen Chavez, *SIDS*
Parent

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

Steven Durfor, *Police/Fire*
Department.

Kathleen Roche, R.N.,
P.H.N., B.S.N., M.S.W.,
Public Health Nurse.

Christina Stanley, M.D.,
Medical Examiner.

Dennis H. Watt, *Coroner.*

Karen Jackson, P.H.N.,
President, Southern Calif.
Regional SIDS Council.

Aline Armstrong, P.H.N.,
President, Northern Calif.
Regional SIDS Council.

Council Chairperson:

Thomas G. Keens, M.D.
Division of Pediatric
Pulmonology
Childrens 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
tkeens@gmail.com

Advisory to the



Minutes of the January 25, 2011, Meeting



- **Members Present:** Thomas G. Keens, M.D., *Chair*; Lorie Gehrke, *Vice Chair*; Kathleen Beichley, *Secretary*; Aline Armstrong, P.H.N.; Dawn Dailey, RN, PHN, PhD; Steven Durfor; Karen Jackson, P.H.N.; Kitty Roche, RN, PHN, BSN, MSW; Christina Stanley, M.D.; and Dennis Watt.
- **Members Absent:** Maureen Chavez.
- **State and California SIDS Program:** Gwen Edelstein, RN, PNP, MPA; Carrie Florez; Cheryl McBride, RN; and Guey-Shiang Tsay, RN, MSN.
- **Guests:** Megali Leialoha; Danielle Sees; Penny Stastny; Darci Torres; Steve Wirtz, PhD; and Rachel Zerbo, MPH.
- The meeting was held by telephone conference call. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 P.M., on January 25, 2011.
- **Introductions.**
Council members, state staff, and guests introduced themselves. New Regional SIDS Council Representatives are: Aline Armstrong, PHN, and Karen Jackson, PHN.

- **SIDS Risk Reduction Education.**

Recent research shows that very few primary care physicians are providing SIDS risk reduction counseling to new mothers¹. These findings paralleled those of *Penny Stastny's* research exploring practices in newborn nurseries². Further, there is preliminary evidence prone sleeping rates may be starting to increase again in the U.S.³. Finally, the number of SIDS deaths in California increased in 2006 and 2007. Are these increases related to decreased attention to educating the public about SIDS risk reduction recommendations? The *Council* is committed to continuing SIDS Risk Reduction education.

California Child Injury Prevention Program: Safe Infant Sleep.

Steve Wirtz and *Rachel Zerbo*⁴, Safe and Active Communities (SAC) Branch of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), are involved with trying to prevent intentional and unintentional injury to children. They received a CDC grant to address three key areas of childhood injury; one of which is Infant Unsafe Sleeping conditions. Their focus is on policy implementation to decrease infant unsafe sleep in California. *Steve Wirtz* and *Rachel Zerbo* updated the *California SIDS Advisory Council* on their project.

1. California Child Injury Prevention Policy Plan (*Rachel Zerbo*):

Rachel Zerbo reported SAC Branch will be convening a policy action team to work on implementing at least one of the Safe Sleep policy recommendations identified from the earlier planning process. She hopes to continue the current collaborative process with the California SIDS Program and the California SIDS Advisory Council. She requested a volunteer from the SIDS Program and/or Advisory Council to serve as a co-chair of the policy action team. The action team will have its first teleconference in mid-February. Contact: Rachel.Zerbo@cdph.ca.gov. *Tom Keens* asked what kinds of programs they expected would be implemented. *Rachel* stressed the policy focus of the action team, and she reminded the group that both legislative and institutional policy change initiatives are included in the policy plan.

2. Kids Plates Grant Program (*Steve Wirtz*):

Steve reported SAC Branch was very pleased that several safe sleep related proposals were received. The goal was to fund only comprehensive programs (e.g., not just crib give aways) from either the private and public sectors. Final selection and contracts are still in process. *Tom Keens* asked whether the Council could get information on the selected programs *Steve* expects to be able to announce the names of any selected safe sleep proposals by next Council meeting.

3. National Public Health Week, April 4-10, 2011 – Topic: Injury Prevention (*Steve Wirtz*):

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- 1 Eron, N.B., K.M. Dygert, C. Squillace, N.J. Webster, A. Andiranos, E.G. Crockett, and L. Consenstein. The physician's role in reducing SIDS. *Health Promotion Practice*, online first, published July 20, 2009.
 - 2 Stastny, P.F., T.Y. Ichinose, S.D. Thayer, R.J. Olson, and T.G. Keens. Infant sleep positioning by nursery staff and mothers in newborn hospital nurseries. *Nursing Research*, 53: 122-129, 2004.
 - 3 Colson, E.R., D. Rybin, L.A. Smith, T. Colton, G. Lister, and M.J. Corwin. Trends and factors associated with infant sleeping position: The National Infant Sleep Position Study 1993-2007. *Arch. Pediatr. Adolesc. Med.*, 163: 1222-1228, 2009.
 - 4 Contact information: *Steve Wirtz* Email: steve.wirtz@cdph.ca.gov
Rachel Zerbo E-mail: Rachel.Zerbo@cdph.ca.gov

<http://www.nphw.org/nphw11/default.htm> (Safety is NO Accident: Live Injury Free)

Steve reported SAC Branch is hoping to take a lead role within CDPH for this year's California Public Health Week activities because the national topic is injury prevention. The week is divided into 5 topics – one of which is "At Home". We would like to solicit your involvement to promote safe sleep practices and environments under this "At Home" banner. We are still in the planning stage, so we are asking the SIDS Council for ideas on what existing messages, activities and materials we might be able to link/highlight during this week. Contact: Steve.Wirtz@cdph.ca.gov

Gwen Edelstein noted that a Northern California SIDS Training will occur on April 7, 2011, in San Jose. *Steve Wirtz* suggested that SAC Branch put this information on their media link. *Gwen Edelstein* will get the information for the Northern California SIDS Training to Steve for linking to the SAC website. The training is for emergency personnel/public health professionals; attendance will be limited to space available. CA SIDS Program displays resources at these trainings which include local, state and national SIDS risk reduction/safe sleep materials. *Karen Jackson* shared that Orange County has posted events and information at their Civic Center. *Danielle Sees* reported that the City of Long Beach holds a week-long celebration..

Los Angeles County Infant Safe Sleep Campaign.

Los Angeles County Supervisor *Ridley Scott Thomas* became aware of infants dying in unsafe sleeping environments. He initiated the *Los Angeles County Infant Safe Sleep Task Force* at a meeting on June 14, 2010. There is a great deal of motivation to proceed with an aggressive infant safe sleep education campaign in Los Angeles County. *First Five of California* was awarded a \$1.5-million grant to work with the Task Force on safe infant sleep. Basically, three sub-committee chairs shared with *First 5* what the sub-committees have accomplished. *First Five* is very interested in *Angel Hopson's* sub-committees work on existing education materials and the videos shown at the last meeting. A summary update with links to the videos is being prepared.

The Task Force discussed messaging, target audiences, focus groups, marketing contractors, etc. All agreed that they should schedule another meeting to make sure we had more of the larger group at the table for this discussion. *Deanne Tilton* asked that members send any ideas about work to her via email. The next meeting of the Task Force will be on February 1, 2011.

- **Disparities in the Accuracy and Consistency of SIDS, Undetermined, or SUID Diagnoses.**

A longstanding problem in California is a disparity in the consistency of the diagnosis of infants who die suddenly and unexpectedly without an obvious cause. In some jurisdictions, such infants may have a cause of death signed out as "SIDS", in some "Undetermined", in still others "Sudden Unexplained Infant Death", etc. The problem is that infants presenting in the same way with the same findings will have a different diagnosis as cause of death, depending in which county the death occurred. This makes no sense medically or scientifically. This is a complex problem, which has eluded the *Council* for many years. Yet, this must be addressed in a systematic manner. The *Council* has committed itself to make this issue a priority.

Kathryn Martin, Ph.D., M.P.H., Tommi Gaines, Dr.P.H., and Laura Wiggs, M.P.H., at the Southern California Injury Prevention Research Center at UCLA, conducted a study on how Coroners and Medical Examiners in California determine the cause and manner of death in infants who die suddenly and unexpectedly. Some of the findings are currently being prepared for publication. When pathologists were presented a hypothetical scenario of a “pristine SIDS baby”, nearly all diagnosed the baby as dying from SIDS with a natural manner of death. As the scenario became more complicated, fewer pathologists used the SIDS diagnosis, and more used “undetermined” or even “explained” causes of death. These results are very exciting. They suggest that the reason for the disparity in diagnoses is the uncertain nature of the circumstances of death. The indication is that Pathologists have not changed as much as scene investigations have changed and more present more complicated circumstances in the deaths of infants. In addition, Investigators are more knowledgeable and proficient and we now we have more questions because we are asking them. This manuscript has been submitted to a peer reviewed journal for publication.

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

Lorie Gehrke reports few phone contacts currently.

Parent Group support meetings have continued in Sacramento monthly with *Laurie Mamola* and are well attended. *Angel Hopson* in Los Angeles County conducted a well attended meeting in January, including a parent who had just moved into the State. *Penny Stastny* reported that the Guild for Infant Survival, Orange County, still meets the 1st Monday of each month, with 14 in attendance in January, 2011.

Karen Jackson requested that names of Spanish speaking SIDS peer support parents, as she is looking for Spanish Speaking resources. *Liz Ramirez* is one of the contacts.

Angel Hopson in Los Angeles County, and Orange County have several parents requesting peer contact training in the Los Angeles area. The California SIDS Program plans to schedule a training in that area in the future.

- **Public Health Nurse Issues.**

Discussion led by *Dawn Dailey* and *Kitty Roche*. *Dawn Dailey, Kitty Roche* and eight other SIDS Coordinators are serving as Peer Mentors to new SIDS Coordinators. *Kitty* and *Dawn* contact new Coordinators giving them information as well as getting feedback about what level of work they are involved in and the many roles they play which impact their ability to comprehensively address their duties as Coordinators.

Kitty Roche indicated that the Chief of Staff of Child Fatality Group wanted to get an updated list of SIDS peer contact names. *Kitty Roche* reported one hospital that received a letter from the Child Fatality Review Team concerning an infant death in an unsafe sleeping environment responded and was not interested in education but only wanted to obtain the name of the infant.

Kitty Roche shared that San Diego County has revised the Santa Clara County Public Health Department letter which was sent to pediatricians, obstetricians, hospital newborn nursery directors, CHDP providers, and midwives in that county emphasizing the importance of educating parents of newborn infants about safe infant sleep environments. There are many potential recipients of the letter and discussion is underway in San Diego as where to send the

first batch of letters. Comprehensive Perinatal Services Providers (CPSP) may be targeted. *Kitty Roche* indicated that Prenatal Providers will get the letter first.

SIDS Coordinators in California generally agree that an annual meeting for support and education would be helpful. *Gwen Edelstein* and *Kitty Roche* are developing a quick survey for SIDS Coordinators to determine how to best meet their needs especially since many have been newly appointed to their position. Possibilities include: adding a special session on to the SIDS Conference, or doing a Web Cast. Alternate options must stay within State guidelines.

Gwen Edelstein extended appreciation to *Kitty Roche* for facilitating the workshop for professionals at the SIDS Conference. She has put the information on the California SIDS Program website for access to others.

Karen Jackson indicated that a letter will be going out to Orange County MCH coordinators, reviewing Back to Sleep recommendations.

Gwen Edelstein informed the Council that *Halo Innovations, Inc* has developed a hospital education program, *A Safer Way to Sleep*, which they are promoting. Halo Sleeping Sacks would be sent free of charge (except for shipping costs) for those hospitals completing their risk reduction training. Educational materials are supplied, which provide SIDS Risk Reduction messages. They advertise for the Halo Sleep Sack. Although the educational information in the materials is reasonably good, the CDPH MCAH Division and California SIDS Program shall not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes. The CDPH MCAH Division and California SIDS Program do not endorse, recommend or favor any products.

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

Discussion led by *Dennis Watt*. The California State Coroners' Association is planning a "SIDS Summit" to discuss the diagnosis of SIDS and infants dying suddenly and unexpectedly. This conference will likely be held in October, 2011. The location and exact time are not set. There will be a planning meeting for this on March 9, 2011, in either Monterey or Orange County. *Tom Keens* was invited to participate in this. In addition, he has been invited to attend a portion of the meeting of the Executive Board of the California State Coroners' Association on March 10, 2011, to discuss issues related to diagnosis. A goal is to attempt to achieve uniformity in the diagnosis of infants with similar death scene, autopsy, and clinical histories.

- **Southern California Regional SIDS Council.**

The newly elected President of the Southern California Regional SIDS Council is *Karen Jackson, P.H.N.*, public health nurse SIDS Coordinator for the Orange County Health Care Agency. The Vice President is *Angel Hopson, P.H.N.*, public health nurse SIDS Coordinator for Los Angeles County. The Secretary is *Kitty Roche, P.H.N.*, SIDS Coordinator for San Diego County.

Karen Jackson reported on the activities of the Southern California Regional SIDS Council. The Council is preliminarily beginning to think about the 2012 California SIDS Conference. SIDS trainings are also being planned.

- **Northern California Regional SIDS Council.**

The newly elected President of the Northern California Regional SIDS Council is *Aline Armstrong, P.H.N.*, public health nurse SIDS Coordinator for San Francisco County. The Vice President is *Lorie Gehrke*, a SIDS parent. The Secretary is *Susan Moore*, a grief educator for the Contra Costa Crisis Center.

Aline Armstrong reported on the activities of the Northern California Regional SIDS Council. The main activity is planning the 31st Annual California SIDS Conference, hosted by the Northern California Regional SIDS Council. The 31st Annual California SIDS Conference will be held on Friday, October 28, 2011, at the California Department of Health Services East End Complex, located at 1500 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, California. On Thursday, October 27, 2011, the State SIDS Advisory Council meeting will be held at this location as well.

Lorie Gehrke, President of the SIDS Alliance of Northern California, will host a Welcome Reception on Thursday, October 27, 2011, at the Hyatt Hotel in Sacramento following the Council meeting. More details will be forthcoming at a later date. The California SIDS Program is working with the Hyatt Hotel Sacramento located at 1209 L. Street to obtain a block of rooms at the State rate of \$84 single/double occupancy.

The California SIDS Program will conduct a SIDS Training for Public Health Nurses and Emergency Responders on April 7, 2011, at the Santa Clara Government Center in San Jose.

- **State Report.**

Carrie Florez previously reported that in 2007 and 2008, there appeared to be a sizeable increase in number and rates of SIDS deaths. After analyzing the 2007 and 2008 Death Files, the data showed a California SIDS rate of 36.4 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2008, 32.3 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2007, compared to 23.8 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2006. There were 134 SIDS deaths in 2006 compared to 183 SIDS deaths in 2007, and 201 SIDS deaths in 2008. Over last decade, when SIDS deaths have increased, infants diagnosed as Undetermined have declined. These data require further thought and analysis. Was this simply a classification issue? Were there any systems changes in 2007 and 2008 that may account for the change? The large increases were primarily seen in the larger jurisdictions (Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Diego). In 2008, the SIDS rate among African Americans was four times the White and Hispanic SIDS rates. The African American SIDS rate has significantly increased since 2006. CF is currently waiting for copies of the 2007 and 2008 death certificates and is creating a database using the same process that was used for the 2006 data. Analyses will be done for 2006-2008 to possibly find a pattern and reason for the increases in 2007 and 2008.

Carrie Florez announced that *Ana Figueroa* has retired, fortunately leaving her data up to date. No replacement will occur due to State hiring freeze.

Carrie Florez plans to get a letter out to Counties to request protocol/scene investigation information.

The new death file for 2009 is to be completed in a month for comparison of number of undetermined vs. SIDS diagnosis. *Steve Wirtz* sent additional information to *Carrie Florez* to incorporate into 2006 data presented last week. *Carrie Florez* is working on getting PDF of Protocols on their website via CMU software that can be downloaded from coroners. *Tom Keens* thanked *Carrie Florez* for her thorough detailed efforts and work over the years.

Guey-Shiang Tsay thanked *Rachel Strickland*, and the Southern California Regional SIDS Council, *Gwen Edelstein*, and *Cheryl McBride* for planning and hosting a most successful 2010 Annual California SIDS Program Conference.

Governor Jerry Brown proposed a State Budget plan on January 10, 2011, to close the state budget shortfall; no budget change for MCAH this fiscal year.

- **California SIDS Program Report.**

Gwen Edelstein submitted a detailed written report of California SIDS Program activities for October 1 to December 31, 2010 that was distributed to all Council members.

The California SIDS Program will hold a SIDS Training for Public Health Nurses and Emergency Responders in Ventura on January 27, 2011. Registrants include Chaplains (who have enrolled for the first time), sheriff/coroners, fire fighters, EMT's, and 84 public health professionals, with seven counties represented in enrollment. An April 7, 2011, training is scheduled for San Jose.

SIDS Handbook for Public Health Professionals continues to be distributed to newly appointed SIDS Coordinators.

The newly released Consumer Product Safety Commission Safe Sleep Campaign video, "*Safe Sleep for Babies*" is posted on the Program's website; it will be available in Spanish. Public domain allows distribution to all when available which could be an option as teaching tool to hospitals.

Cheryl McBride stated that 210 presumed SIDS cases were reported for calendar year 2010 with 83% compliance for submission of Public Health Services Report Forms and 94% compliance for Coroner Notification Cards.

- **Council Meetings for 2011.**

The remaining meetings of the *California SIDS Advisory Council* for calendar year 2011 are:

- Telephone Conference Call: Tuesday, May 10, 2011, 2010, 1:30-3:30 P.M.
- Telephone Conference Call: Tuesday, August 9, 2011, 2010, 1:30-3:30 P.M.
- In-person Meeting: the day before the 31st Annual California SIDS Conference in Northern California: October 27, 2011, 1:00-4:00 P.M., at the California Department of Health Services East End Complex, located at 1500 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, California.

- **New Business.**

Penny Stastny announced that the Nursing Section of the Southern California Public Health Association will be holding a half day conference on May 24, 2011, at the Miller Children's Hospital at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center in Long Beach, on "Safe Sleep for Infants: New Data on Bedsharing and Increased Infant Deaths." *Doctor Thomas Keens*, *Penny Stastny*, and *Danielle Sees* will be speakers. The flyer is appended to these Minutes.

- **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Beichley
Secretary, California SIDS Advisory Council

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



California SIDS Advisory Council



Kathleen Beichley



Maureen Chavez



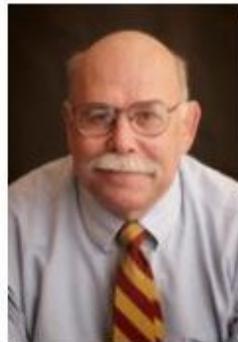
Dawn Dailey



Steve Durfor



Lorie Gehrke



Tom Keens



Kitty Roche



Christina Stanley



Dennis Watt



Karen Jackson



Aline Armstrong

Save The Date

May 24, 2011

9 am—12 noon

Safe Sleep for Infants: New Data on Bedsharing and Increased Infant Deaths



Long Beach Memorial Medical Center
2801 Atlantic Ave.

Long Beach, CA 90806

Conference Presented by:

Southern California Public Health Association:
Nursing Section

Orange County Guild for Infant Survival
Long Beach Department of Health & Human Services
and

Long Beach Memorial Medical Center

Who is this conference for?

Hospital Nurses

Public Health Nurses

Pediatricians

Lactation Consultants

Obstetricians

Social Workers

Speakers

- **Thomas G. Keens, MD**, Professor of Pediatrics, Physiology and Biophysics, Keck School of Medicine USC, Division of Pediatric Pulmonology Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- **Penny Stastny, RN, PHN**, Retired SIDS Coordinator Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Orange County Health Care Agency

3 Continuing Education units available for RN's