



California Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Advisory Council

Minutes of the August 9, 2011, Meeting

Members of the Council

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

Lorie Gehrke, *Vice Chair,*
SIDS Parent.

Kathleen Beichley,
Secretary, 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.*

Vacant, *SIDS Parent.*

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



- **Members Present:** Thomas G. Keens, M.D., *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.
- **Members Absent:** Lorie Gehrke, *Vice Chair*; Christina Stanley, M.D.; and Dennis Watt.
- **State and California SIDS Program:** Gwen Edelstein, RN, PNP, MPA; Carrie Florez; Cheryl McBride, RN; and Guey-Shiang Tsay, RN, MSN.
- **Guests:** Yolanda DeMello, M.S.P.M.; Angel Hopson, R.N., M.S.N., P.H.N.; Penny Stastny, R.N., P.H.N.; Nathan Salomonis, Ph.D.; and Danielle Sees, R.N., P.H.N., C.L.E.
- The meeting was held by telephone conference call. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 P.M., on August 9, 2011.
- **Introductions.**
Council members, state staff, and guests introduced themselves.

- **Doctor Arthur Lisbin, California SIDS Pioneer, Died on August 3, 2011.**

Margo Derry, long time public health nurse SIDS coordinator for Los Angeles County in the 1970s-1980s, informed me that **Doctor Arthur Lisbin** died on August 3, 2011, after a long illness. *Doctor Lisbin* was the Director of Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health in the Los Angeles County Health Department in the 1970s and early 1980s. In that role, he was a staunch supporter for improving SIDS services, education, and research in Los Angeles County, and in California as a whole. I remember him as a quiet force, who was knowledgeable, energetic, and effective at improving things in Los Angeles. He was an extremely important asset to the SIDS movement at a time when SIDS parents were still being arrested by first responders who often mistook SIDS for child abuse. We did not know about SIDS risk reduction in those days, so *Doctor Lisbin's* efforts were directed largely toward supporting SIDS families and providing public education. In those days, the California SIDS Program consisted of one nurse, so much of the work in California was done at the local county level, and *Doctor Lisbin* never shirked this responsibility. Though he retired from this position ~25-years ago, his contributions to setting the stage for improvement in SIDS services in Southern California were monumental. I hope that *Doctor Lisbin* and his important contributions are never forgotten by those of us who followed him, and who benefited so much from his vision. The Council officially acknowledged *Doctor Lisbin's* important early contributions to the California SIDS Community.

- **SIDS Parent Member of the Council.**

Maureen Chavez has been a SIDS parent representative on the *California SIDS Advisory Council* for several years. She recently submitted her resignation from the Council because of other commitments. Her resignation was accepted with regret, as she has served as an active member and participant in the California SIDS Community, as evidenced by her awarding of the *Daniel E. Boatwright Award* in 2006. A general announcement was made for interested SIDS parents to apply for her vacated position. The time when applications could be received was ~6-weeks. Three SIDS parents from Southern California, who have been very active in SIDS activities in Southern California, submitted applications.

Members of the *Council* are thrilled with the high quality of all three outstanding applicants, and we would be very happy to welcome any one of them to serve on the Council. The decision which of the applicants will be chosen is made by the Director of the California Department of Public Health, who appoints Council members by California law. The applications from all three applicants have been forwarded to the Director for a decision.

- **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 that prone

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.

sleeping rates may be starting to increase again in the U.S.³. Finally, the number of SIDS deaths in California increased in 2007 and 2008. 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*, 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 five years ago 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 California⁴.



SAC Branch has convened a policy action team to work on implementing at least one of the Safe Sleep policy recommendations identified from the earlier planning process. *Tom Keens* (California SIDS Advisory Council), and *Gwen Edelstein* (California SIDS Program) are members. The Workgroup held its most recent teleconference on July 19, 2011. *Gwen Edelstein* reported on the following:

- *Rachel Zerbo* facilitated the teleconference but was unable to be on today's Council meeting call.
- The major discussion on the teleconference dealt with the education and training of child care providers licensed by the Department of Social Services (DSS). All applicants for both a child care center and family child care home must complete an orientation as required by the Health and Safety Code, Section 1596.845. There are two parts to the orientation given by DSS; one is mandatory for all applicants interested in obtaining an application for a Child Care Center License; the other is an operations and record keeping orientation, which new Directors must attend within 90 days of hire. The current DSS orientation slide displays the nine ways to reduce the risk of SIDS and is not tailored to the non-parental provider. It needs to be updated to reflect the latest American Academy of Pediatrics safe sleep top ten messages. It was suggested that attendees receive a handout by the UCSF California Childcare Health Program *Safe Sleep Policy for Infants in Child Care* at the time of their orientation. Other education outreach suggestions include linking the *California SIDS Program* website to DSS with a special section for access by childcare providers to safe sleep/risk reduction resources and providing regular informational updates for the DSS online newsletter.

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

- In 1998, Title 22 regulations were passed requiring education for licensed childcare providers. A total of 15 hours are mandated, of which four hours are required for CPR and four hours for first aid. The remaining 7 hours are for preventative health services (PHS), which include 30-50 topics such as immunizations, infectious diseases, child abuse, playground safety, nutrition, shaken baby syndrome, etc. SIDS and suffocation are included as topics under PHS. When the legislation was passed, a task force of agency representatives was at the table; since the Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) was charged with providing mandated first aid/CPR training, that agency also took on the responsibility for PHS education. The 7 hours of PHS training is only required once in a lifetime, so providers trained before Back to Sleep may not be aware of the current AAP risk reduction recommendations. EMSA is looking at changes to the regulations and possibly offering online courses for certification and increasing training time requirements. *Lucy Chaidez* as the EMSA representative to the safe sleep workgroup, will take the lead on issues/policies related to child care. *Nathan Salomonis* is part of this smaller workgroup along with the Northern/Southern CA DSS Child Care Advocates.
- *Steve Wirtz* is following up with the data collection component for Child Death Review Teams (CDRTs) throughout the state using the revised National Center for CDR's Case Reporting Form (v2.2S). According to CDC, CDRTs can collect detailed, complete and very timely (within 90 days of death) information on the circumstances surrounding SUIDs using the revised National Center for CDR's Case Reporting Form (v2.2S). The data will be used to improve investigations, services and prevention activities.
- *Kitty Roche* discussed the survey sent on July 12th to all SIDS Coordinators which included questions regarding safe sleep outreach potential and support needed for training/education. Responses are still coming in; feedback from local health jurisdictions will be shared after it is analyzed.
- Hospital safe sleep education and policy development is another priority for the workgroup. *Gwen* will head this smaller workgroup; *Angel Hopson* and *Penny Stastny* will be part of this group. *Angel* will invite *Dr. Robert Gilchik* to join the next call to discuss how Los Angeles County will implement a new hospital breastfeeding grant into the current Baby Friendly hospital program. It may be possible to "piggy back" the safe sleep message into their education outreach plan. The workgroup suggested that a toolkit be developed with model back to sleep policies, teaching curricula and safe messages/materials for dissemination to public health professionals providing community based outreach.
- The next meeting of the Safe Sleep Policy Workgroup will be on August 30, 2011, by telephone conference call.
- Safe Sleep Policy Workgroup meeting notes are available to those who would like additional information.

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* 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. *Angel Hopson* reported on the task force meeting on June 7, 2011.

Larry Renick, of *First 5 Los Angeles*, had good news...the \$1.5-million grant will be funded for the Task Force Infant Safe Sleep campaign. It is not yet known exactly when the funds will be available. *First 5 Los Angeles* Budget is still in a holding pattern.

Sandy Devos conducted an Infant Safe Sleep Presentation in the Community. She is still looking for volunteers from the Task Force for an Infant Safe Sleep Panel for the October, 2011, event in Carson.

Dr. Keens reported on the success of the May 24, 2011, Long Beach and Los Angeles County Infant Safe Sleep Conference. There was a lot of discussion around Bedsharing, Breastfeeding and Bedsharing, and the Los Angeles County Data from the Los Angeles Mommy and Babies (LAMB) Study. Subsequently, LAMB Project Data Book has been released publicly, and it can be found at:

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/mch/lamb/LAMBReport/FinalLAMB2007Databook_web.pdf

The LAMB data includes information on 6,246 infants born in 2007 (sampled from 151,813 births in Los Angeles County) on risk factors during pregnancy, infant sleep practices, breastfeeding, bedsharing, etc. in this cohort of healthy infants. For example, the LAMB data indicated that 79.1% of infants have “ever bedshared”. The question arose, since bedsharing is so common, should we develop information about how to make bedsharing safer. Discussion on this issue will continue.

Dr. Carol Berkowitz presented on the Baltimore Hospital Medical Center and how Patient Safety impacted their accreditation by the Joint Commission. Infant Safe Sleep education is a patient safety issue and not population prevention. Addressing it like ventilator acquired pneumonia/infections, the hospital would evaluate the # of patient education, modeling and signed contracts by parents with newborns to place babies on the backs for sleep and to provide safe sleep environments with the number of reported sudden unexplained deaths of infants born in their hospital. This is replication of a successful model (Portrait of promise) they used to reduce the rates of shaken baby syndrome in their hospital. *Dr. Berkowitz* will provide us with a copy of the Parental contract at next meeting.

Discussion was held about the California AB757 Hospital Law, Governor's Resolution, and a hospital letter developed by San Diego. Copies of all three of these were sent in an e-mail to all Task Force Members by *Dr. Keens* on June 6, 2011. The Task Force may consider recognizing hospitals with the lowest number of deaths, and have them compete with each other. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Two new members joined the Task Force at the June 7, 2011, meeting: *Tracey Webb*, L.A. City Senior Trial Deputy of the Cyber Crime & Child Abuse Prevention Division; and *Frank Pratt*,

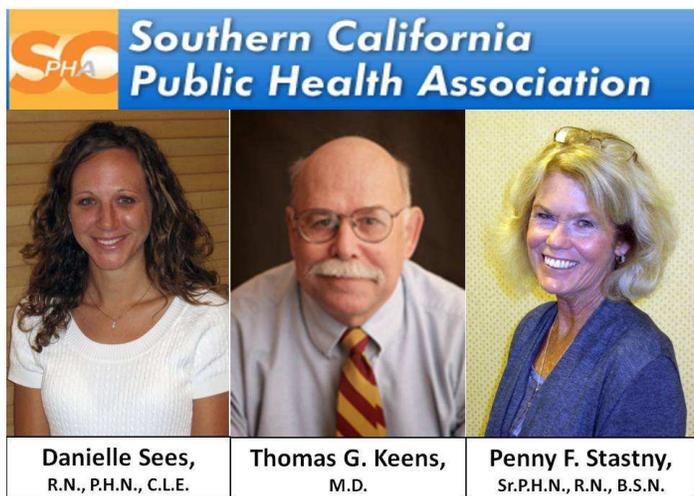


MD, Los Angeles County Fire Department Medical Director. Both brought considerable energy, as well as access to needed resources and personnel to launch Safe Sleep Public Service Announcements, to help move the project forward.

Discussion around developing public service announcements: *Denise Bertone*, Los Angeles Office of Coroner, has access to celebrities. Deanne asked *Angel Hopson* to get some members from Infant Grief Group to participate in the PSA's. *Dr. Franklin Pratt*, Medical Director of the Fire Department, stated he had a conversation with *Dr. Fielding* recently about Infant deaths and unsafe sleep practices, and he is willing to offer whatever is needed: Fire Officers, space for filming, an actual 911 response video, etc. However, he needs film-maker expertise. *Dr. Ramos* provided a contact from USC Film School.

Southern California Public Health Association Conference on “Safe Sleep for Infants”.

On May 24, 2011, the Southern California Public Health Association (SCPHA), Nursing Section hosted a forum entitled, “Safe Sleep for Infants: New Data on Bedsharing and Increased Infant Deaths.” The forum was a collaboration of SCPHA, Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Orange County Guild for Infant Survival, and Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. Speakers for the forum were *Doctor Thomas Keens*, Chair of California SIDS



Advisory Council, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California; *Danielle Sees*, RN, PHN, CLE, SIDS Coordinator, Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services; and *Penny Stastny*, Sr. PHN, RN, BSN, Retired SIDS coordinator, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and Orange County Health Care Agency. The presentation focused on four key areas: current Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) research, reducing the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID), bedsharing and the risk of SUID, and the importance of accurate infant safe sleep education by health care professionals. The event was well attended by 115 persons comprised of Public Health Nurses, Hospital Nurses, and Social Workers.

- **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.

SIDS Summit for Coroners and Medical Examiners.

The California State Coroners' Association (CSCA) will sponsor a *SIDS Summit* at the West Coast Forensic Science Seminar, to be held in Studio City on October 19, 2011. The West Coast Forensic Science Seminar is a 3-day Seminar held annually by the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner. The *SIDS Summit* will be an 8-hour course for forensic pathologists and coroner investigators in California to address the disparity in the diagnosis of the cause of death in infants following a sudden and unexpected death. The site will be the Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn in Studio City. The problem to be addressed is the inconsistency in how infants are diagnosed. We hope to make a scientific appeal that there should be consistency in the way similar infants are diagnosed. This conference will present background information on SIDS and the diagnosis of the cause of death in infants dying suddenly and unexpectedly. However, we anticipate that the most important part of the Seminar will be a general discussion of a series of hypothetical cases, which will be designed to bring out the issues of difference. It is hoped that this will open up discussion. The conference is not open to the public in hopes that Coroners and Pathologists from California who are participating will feel free to air their honest opinions. It is unlikely that any consensus on how these infants should be diagnosed will emerge from a one-day conference. However, if a general willingness to recognize that there is a problem, and some enthusiasm to attempt to find a solution, the conference would be considered an overwhelming success.



Coroners' Curriculum Development Committee
California State Coroners' Association



The reasons for the disparity in diagnoses appear to be several and complex. It is clear that pathologists and coroners are doing the best job they can to determine the cause of death in these infants. However, the less classical nature of SIDS (due to Back to Sleep) and the availability of more information (due to the uniform autopsy and death scene investigation protocol) have resulted in a disparity in the way diagnoses are made.

Goals of the SIDS Summit: We hope to gather coroners and pathologists from around California to address the diagnosis of infants who die suddenly and unexpectedly. The goals of the seminar are:

- To provide background to the problem of inconsistent diagnoses in California of infants dying suddenly and unexpectedly.
- To permit coroners and pathologists to discuss their varying views on this topic.
- To create an awareness among California coroners and pathologists that infants are inconsistently diagnosed in California, even when death scene, autopsy, and clinical history findings are identical.
- To move toward achieving a consensus on how these babies should be diagnosed.

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

There is difficulty providing support for SIDS families who do not live near an active SIDS Parent Support organization. Therefore, discussion arose about providing such support on line. *Yolanda DeMello* holds monthly online meetings on Facebook with other SIDS parents. She has reached out and received responses not only from SIDS parents in her immediate area, but from parents worldwide. She has accommodated the time change for online chat with international parents by reaching out at all hours of the day and night. *Yolanda* indicated that this approach is working well. It is cost effective, and it allows people to communicate in the privacy of their homes. *Yolanda* believes that this allows a first step, and when the SIDS parent(s) are ready to face people, they can then more comfortably attend group support meetings.

Yolanda DeMello would like to expand the online support with speakers such as *Dr. Keens* periodically. *Dr. Keens* indicated that he would be happy to participate in any way he could help, but noted that he felt that these websites are the parents' place for grieving and sharing, and he does not want to interfere with that goal. However, he has spoken to SIDS Parent Support groups in the past ~once per year, but this was advertized as an educational meeting, and not a traditional parent support meeting. He gave one such presentation on July 16, 2011, for the Los Angeles Infant Grief Support group. This question and answer session was recorded, and *Angel Hopson* will make a DVD of the meeting available to people who wish to use it. This DVD may be put on the *California SIDS Program* website via a link for ease of access for all.

A web based support group hosted by *Colleen Ma*, SIDS parent from Orange County, uses a platform called *MyFamily.com* and allows for on-line discussion, chats, photos, blogs, etc. She established the site for the California SIDS Community. It is called the *California SIDS Parent Support Group*, and is now linked to the *California SIDS Program* website, allowing more parents and others to reach out and communicate.

- **Public Health Nurse Issues.**

SIDS Coordinators in California generally agree that an annual meeting for support and education would be helpful. *Gwen Edelstein* and *Kitty Roche* developed and disseminated a survey to all California SIDS Coordinators requesting information on the current status of their county's available services for SIDS families and Risk Reduction practices. We also inquired as to their inclination and availability for increased Coordinator conferences. As of August 9,

2011, 52 of the 61 local health jurisdictions had responded; *Kitty* and *Gwen* will meet on August 11, 2011, to review and analyze the results.

Gwen reported that the 2011 SIDS Conference on October 28th, there will be an afternoon workshop presented by *Susan Moore* for PHNs/social workers providing direct SIDS/SUID bereavement services. It will be an intensive, interactive session with role playing of case scenarios so that professionals will gain a better understanding of how to effectively counsel and support newly bereaved families. This is in response to PHNs who have indicated they need more training in this area.

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

The California State Coroners' Association is planning a "SIDS Summit" to discuss the diagnosis of SIDS and infants dying suddenly and unexpectedly (see above).

- **Southern California Regional SIDS Council.**

Karen Jackson, P.H.N., President of the Southern California Regional SIDS Council, 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.

Karen Jackson has been working on many new SIDS Risk Reduction projects with *Doctor David Nunez*, the new Orange County Medical Director. She also has projects lined up with *Doctor Helene Calvet*, who moved from Long Beach to Orange County. Orange County had four very difficult SIDS cases in a four-week span. *Karen* will be meeting with *Mary Davis*, the Orange County Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Division Manager on August 16, 2011, to re-do the Scope of Work for the SIDS office.

- **Northern California Regional SIDS Council.**

Aline Armstrong, P.H.N., President of the Northern California Regional SIDS Council, reported on the activities of the Northern California Regional SIDS Council. The main activity is planning the 31st Annual California SIDS Conference: *Pathways To Understanding*, hosted by the Northern California Regional SIDS Council, which 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. The featured speaker will be renowned SIDS researcher, *Doctor Rachel Moon*, Professor of Pediatrics, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Her research has focused on improving safe infant sleep and SIDS Risk Reduction education to the public. She has highlighted areas of priority, where more work is needed, and the results of successful educational campaigns.

On Thursday, October 27, 2011, 1:00-4:00 P.M., the *California SIDS Advisory Council* meeting will be held at this location as well. By law, meetings of legislated



Rachel Moon, M.D.

advisory councils to state agencies are open to the public. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

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. *Doctor Rachel Moon* will be at the reception for an informal meet and greet opportunity and to sign her new book, *14 Ways To Protect Your Baby from SIDS*. The *California SIDS Program* has secured a room block at the Hyatt Hotel Sacramento located at 1209 L. Street, Sacramento at the State rate of \$84 single/double occupancy.

The *California SIDS Program* puts on this conference each year, and further details about the conference can be found on their website: <http://www.californiasids.com>. The deadline for registering for the conference is October 14, 2011.

• **State Report.**

- *Ron Chapman, M.D.*, has been serving as the Director of the California Department of Public Health since June, 2011.

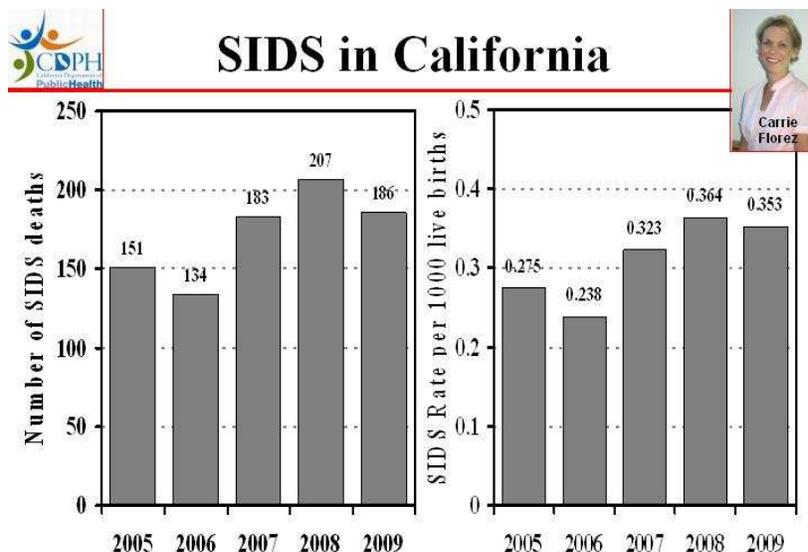
- The State budget was signed by the Governor. However, Title V funding cuts to the MCAH have resulted in reduced funding to several MCAH programs. The allocation for SIDS program for FY 2011-2012 remains the same.



- *Maureen Chavez* resigned from the Council position as a SIDS parent group representative. We thank *Maureen* for her contributions to the California SIDS Program. We have received three applicants, and will submit a recommendation to the Director of the California Department of Public Health to fill the vacant position of the SIDS parent group representative.

- The next California SIDS Advisory Council face-to-face meeting will be held on October 27, 2011 in Sacramento from 1:00-4:00 P.M. The meeting is going to start at 1:00 PM, so that the Council members from Southern California will have enough time to travel in order to attend the meeting.

- For California SIDS Advisory Council members to attend the Council meeting and Annual SIDS Conference: A travel expense claim form, the instructions for completing the travel expense claim form and travel manual for non-state employees have been e-mailed to Council Members today. During



California Birth & 2003 Death Statistical Master Files & SUID Database. California Department of Public Health, MCAH/OFP.



this budget crisis, it is appreciated if you would please keep your costs to a minimum. Please contact *Michele Naves* if you need assistance for travel arrangements.

- Since 2006, the number of SIDS deaths and the SIDS rate in California have been increasing through 2008. Fortunately, in 2009, the number of SIDS deaths and the SIDS rate fell compared to 2008,, but it is still higher than in 2006. The reasons for the apparent increase in SIDS in 2006-2008 are not known. *Carrie Florez* at the California Department of Public Health continues to investigate this issue. Infant deaths due to accidental suffocation and “undetermined” have also increased in California during the past several years. *Carrie Florez* hopes to have the 2009 California SIDS data finalized in time for the October, 2011, California SIDS Conference.

- **California SIDS Program Report.**

Gwen Edelstein submitted a detailed written report of California SIDS Program activities for April 1–June 30, 2011, that was distributed to all Council members.

Gwen reported on the 2011 Annual California SIDS Conference on October 28th, in Sacramento, and on the pre-conference events on October 27th. Accolades were given to the Northern California Regional SIDS Council members for their support in planning this year’s events. Details for the conference are now posted on the *California SIDS Program* website, along with the agenda, registration form/fees, and travel information. Council members were reminded to submit their registration form/fees; the Program will provide receipts of payment for reimbursement by CDPH MCAH. With generous funding from several SIDS parent support groups, including SIDS Alliance of Northern California, Guilds for Infant Survival Orange County and San Diego, and the Josephine DeMello SIDS Foundation, there are monies to help bereaved families needing financial assistance for conference expenses. Please refer interested families to the Program.

Gwen acknowledged *Dawn* and *Kitty* for their support in welcoming newly appointed SIDS Coordinators from Yuba, Merced and El Dorado counties.

To promote SIDS risk reduction/safe sleep education at the local level, the *California SIDS Program* recently distributed two bilingual DVDs, *Safe Sleep Saves Lives* and *Safe Sleep for Babies* to all SIDS Coordinators and DSS Community Care Licensing Regional Offices in California.

Cheryl McBride stated there were 215 presumptive SIDS cases reported to the *California SIDS Program* for 2010, and 87 presumptive SIDS cases reported for 2011 through July 14, 2011. Compliance for 2011 for submission of Coroner Notification Cards is 90%, and 79% for Public Health Services Reports forms. A total of 35 quarterly compliance letters were mailed June 30, 2011, to all counties delinquent with submission of the State Coroner Notification Cards and Public Health Services Report forms for 2010 and 2011. A complete report of Compliance Monitoring for this report period is posted on the Program’s website in the State SIDS Advisory Council section.



- **New Business.**

The 2012 International Conference on Stillbirth, SIDS, and Infant Survival, sponsored by First Candle and the International Society for the Study and Prevention of Infant Deaths, will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, on October 5-7, 2012. The site of the conference will be the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel. More information will be forthcoming. For those who have never attended an international SIDS research conference, they present a rare opportunity to network with SIDS parents, program professionals, and researchers from around the world who are dedicated to improving SIDS support, education, and research. If it is at all possible for you to attend this event, you will be educated and inspired, and you will never forget the experience.



- **Last Council Meeting in 2011.**

The remaining meeting of the *California SIDS Advisory Council* for calendar year 2011 will be the 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.

- **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 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



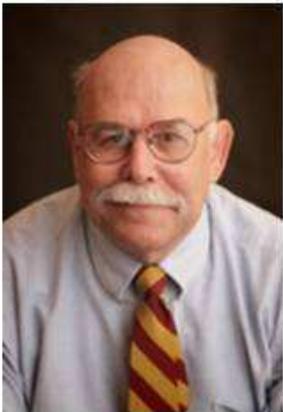
Dawn Dailey



Steve Durfor



Lorie Gehrke



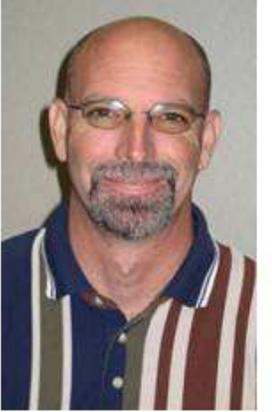
Tom Keens



Kitty Roche



Christina Stanley



Dennis Watt



Karen Jackson



Aline Armstrong

