



# California Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Advisory Council

## Minutes of the August 18, 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*

**Kris Concepcion,** *First*  
*Responder.*

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

**James K. Ribe, M.D., J.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:

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

- **Members Present:** Thomas G. Keens, M.D., *Chair*; Lorie Gehrke, *Vice Chair*; Kitty Roche, R.N., P.H.N., B.S.N., M.S.W., *Secretary*; Kathleen Beichley; Kris Concepcion; Dawn Dailey, R.N., P.H.N., Ph.D.; 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:** None.
- **State and California SIDS Program:** Kay Evans, R.N.; Carrie Florez; Deborah L. Hunt, Ph.D.; Guey-Shiang Tsay, R.N., M.S.N.; Mari Taylan-Arcoleo, M.P.H.; and Claire Thompson.
- **Guests:** Shanna Anseth, R.N., P.H.N.; Jackie Washington-Ansley, R.N., P.H.N.; Cheryl Assante, R.N., B.S.N., P.H.N.; Claudia Benton, M.S.N., R.N.-B.C., P.H.N.; Luz Castellanos; Lucy Chaidez; Rami Chand; Karen Clemmer M.N., P.H.N.; Katherine E. Eastman, M.P.H.; Lindsay Farris; Donna Fry; Julie Espinosa

Garcia, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.; Kitty Gay, R.N., P.H.N.; Vicki Grenz; Linda J. Lopez, B.S.N., R.N., Sr.P.H.N.; Ahmed Nemy; Stephany Ponce, R.N., P.H.N.; Michelle Scott, R.N., B.S.N., P.H.N.; Danielle Sees, B.S.N., R.N., P.H.N., C.L.E.; Sue Seaters, R.N., B.S.N., P.H.N.; and Connie Vaccarezza, P.H.N.; Mai Yer Vang;; and Cindy Yang.

- The meeting was held by telephone conference call. All Council members were present. The meeting was called to order at 1:42 P.M., on August 18, 2015.

- **Introductions.**

Council members, state staff, and guests introduced themselves.

- **California SIDS Advisory Council Membership.**

- *Steve Durfor* has been an active member of the California SIDS Advisory Council as the First Responder Representative for several years. In this role, he has made important contributions to the California SIDS Community, and we are all grateful for his hard work during his time on the Council. Regrettably, on May 7, 2015, he submitted his resignation from the Council. We thank *Steve* for his service to the California SIDS community, and we wish him the very best of luck in his future endeavors.



**Steve Durfor**



**Kris Concepcion**

- In order to fill the vacancy left on the Council membership by *Steve's* resignation, the Council solicited applicants to fill this position from the California SIDS Community from May 7-June 8, 2015. Three email blasts were sent out several times to assure that anyone potentially interested in the position would be notified. Potential applicants were given an entire month to submit their applications. On application was received, and forwarded to the Director of the California Department of Public Health, who appointed him as a member of the Council.
- I am pleased to welcome *Kris Concepcion* as the new First Responder member of the California SIDS Advisory Council. *Kris* is a firefighter and Chief in Orange County. He is also a SIDS parent. *Kris* has participated on SIDS parent panels at past California SIDS Conferences and Trainings. He has expressed an interest to become more involved in the California SIDS community, and we welcome him enthusiastically to the Council.

- **State Report.**

*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.

Budget: The State budget was signed by the Governor for FY 2015-16.

The Title V allocation for SIDS program for FY 2015-2016 remains the same.

California SIDS Advisory Council: As most of you know, *Mr. Kris Concepcion* has been appointed by the Director of the California Department of Public Health to be the Fire Department representative on the California SIDS Advisory Council. We welcome him as a member of SIDS Advisory Council, and look forward to working with him



Guey-Shiang Tsay

Carrie Florez

California SIDS Program: The new SIDS Contract with California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), College of Continuing Education began on July 1, 2015. Dr. Deborah Hunt, Susan Gonzalez Kay Evans and their team attended the Southern California Regional SIDS Council meeting last week. We are excited to work with them and have had a good experience so far.

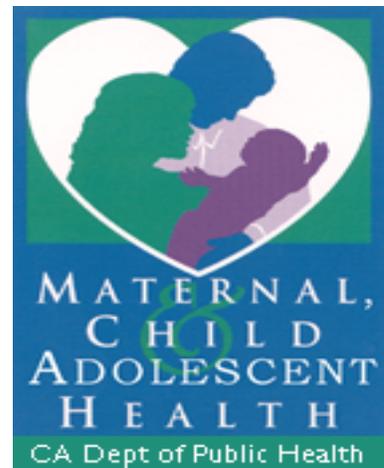
California SIDS Program Website: MCAH staff, Juliet Crites, will be continuing to work with CSUS SIDS Contractor to update the current California SIDS Program website with assistance from ITSD staff. It was brought to our attention that portfolios used by PHN/SIDS Coordinators were no longer on the website. We are working on rebuilding the portfolio information and will post on the website.

Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs): As part of the 2015-16 Title V priority to reduce infant mortality, All 61 LHJs are required to address infant safe sleep activities in their community. The State MCAH required that all LHJs to submit final Scopes of Work, Budgets, and Annual Funding Agreements by last Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Infant Mortality Collaborative Improvement and Innovative Network (CoIIN) Update: MCAH is currently underway conducting the Infant Mortality CoIIN Safe Sleep BIH Intervention Trainings in Alameda and Sacramento County. The first training is Tuesday, August 18 in Alameda and August 20, 2015 in Sacramento.



MCAH recently updated the letter of “Expansion of Referrals to include any Sudden, Unexpected Infant Death for Grief Support Services/New Coroner Notification Cards”. This letter along with new coroner notification cards has been sent to Coroners/Sheriff Coroners/Medical Examiners’ offices. This letter was also distributed to local MCAH Directors/SIDS Coordinators/Councils. We have received feedback from some PHNs/SIDS Coordinators of their local coroner office not receive the package. We have called every Coroner/Medical Examiner’s office and now have the correct address and confirmed they received the new notification cards.



Reporting/Documenting Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Cases ~ Documentation by both the Coroner’s office and local public

health department for all sudden, unexpected infant deaths continues. 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 8304  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7420

The 2013 sudden, unexpected infant death log, after merging with the 2013 death file, contains 304 records. The merging of the two datasets provides the diagnostic cause of death code and allows us to identify infants we were not notified of via a coroner notification card or a public health services report.

Our preliminary analysis shows that of these 304 records – 1 infant was not found in the death file, another infant had a residence of Colorado (wouldn't be in California death file), 10 infants who resided in California died outside of the state, and 43 infants were diagnosed with a diagnostic code other than SIDS, Unknown/Undetermined, or Accidental Suffocation and Strangulation in Bed (ASSB) (n = 249).

For the infants we did not receive a coroner notification card or public health services report for, 23% of infants with a diagnostic code of SIDS; 68% of infants with a diagnostic code of Unknown/Undetermined; and 47% of infants with a diagnostic code of ASSB were not reported to the state. Looking at these three diagnostic codes of death together, which comprise sudden, unexplained infant deaths, 39% of infants who died suddenly and unexpectedly were not reported to the state and likely did not receive public health support.

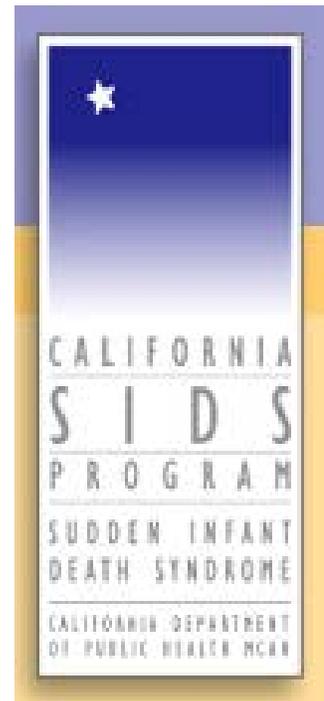
- **California SIDS Program.**

The *California SIDS Advisory Council* welcomed the new *California SIDS Program* contractors to the California SIDS community. The new contractor is *California State University at Sacramento*, and the personnel are: *Doctor Deborah Hunt, Susan Gonzalez, Kay Evans, and Claire Thompson*. I have had a long telephone conversation with the new contractors, and I am impressed that they are knowledgeable, dedicated, and committed to providing the high level of service that has made the California SIDS Program ranked as one of the best in the nation. We welcome them to our meeting today, and we look forward to a collaborative relationship with them to solve the problems with SIDS in California.

They reported on activities of the *California SIDS Program* as follows:

Contract Update:

- SIDS Program email has now been transferred to the new contractors, effective August 10, 2015. The new email address is [CASIDSProgram@cce.csus.edu](mailto:CASIDSProgram@cce.csus.edu).



- The CA SIDS toll-free telephone line is still active and will remain the same (1-800-369-SIDS). It is currently being answered by CDPH. It is currently in the process of being rerouted to CSUS.
- Contra Costa Crisis Center has agreed to continue the standing MOU that has been in place. They will continue to support the SIDS toll-free line after hours, weekends and holidays when CSUS is closed.
- CSUS is reviewing resource materials that were provided by the State and researching the availability of current resource material.



**Claire Susan Kay Deborah  
Thompson Gonzalez Evans Hunt**

2015 Conference

- California SIDS Advisory Council Meeting will take place the day before the conference (11/18/15) at the Embassy Suites Glendale.
  - Memorial/Reception (11/18/15) will take place at the Embassy Suites Glendale
  - 2015 SIDS Conference (11/19/15) will take place at the California Endowment Center (1000 N Alameda Street, Los Angeles)
  - The conference registration fees will stay the same as last year’s. One family member - \$25.00, two family members - \$40.00 and professionals/paraprofessionals - \$50.00.
  - BRN’s will be offered 6.5 CEUs if they attend all day, at a cost of \$40.00 in addition to the registration cost.
  - Sacramento State shared the draft conference website.
  - The Council recommended several changes, ranging from additions to the drop-down menu for “professional affiliation” to adding the California State Advisory Council meeting date/time.
  - The “register now” button will be housed on the CDPH SIDS Program website for consistent advertising purposes. The “register now” button will hotlink to the conference registration site, which will be housed by Sacramento State.
  - The website will be finalized early next week for electronic distribution to targeted mailing lists.
  - CSUS will discuss with the State, the concerns raised regarding the potential perception of the keychain implying a religious connotation.
- **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 presumptive diagnosis is not SIDS.

Penny stated that this problem has priority for SIDS Coordinators in all LHJs. It was agreed that the new coroner notification cards and letters should eventually lead to an improvement in these referrals and that the future SIDS Summit II should as well, but that more immediate measures should be taken; this includes working at the local LHJs between the SIDS Coordinators and the Coroner’s offices in order to give specific information on how to make referrals. One of the SIDS Coordinators has quarterly meetings with the Coroner Liaison and the SIDS PHNs to specifically discuss SIDS cases.

- **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.

- On July 31, 2015, *Addie Aguirre*, Acting Division Chief for the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Branch of the California Department of Public Health, sent a letter to all California Coroners, Sheriff-Coroners, and Medical Examiners, which outlines the importance of providing education and grief support to all families of babies dying suddenly and unexpectedly, regardless of the exact diagnosis. A copy of the letter is appended to the end of these Minutes. She urged Coroners, Sheriff-Coroners, and Medical Examiners to voluntarily refer all such families to their respective public health nurses, so these visits can be made, and education and support given. The new Coroner notification card also expands the diagnoses that should be reported to the State SIDS Program. This is a major step forward, and the *California SIDS Advisory Council* thanks *Addie Aguirre* for taking this action.

- Status of POST Training for First Responders.**

- Guey-Shiang Tsay* contacted POST and obtained the following information about SIDS Training by POST to law enforcement. POST does have a video-based SIDS training program. This program, “SIDS: Response to Infant Death” (Program ID #208) was released in June, 2009, by POST to our 650+ member law enforcement agencies throughout California. This program is still available on DVD format to our agencies, free of charge, upon request via the POST Video Catalog at:

- <https://post.ca.gov/post-training-videos.aspx>.

- The direct link to the program listing in the catalog is at:

- <http://post.outpostnetworks.com/postcatalog/catalogue/c6/p261>,

- and the printed Program Guide is here:

[https://post.ca.gov/Data/Sites/1/post\\_docs/telecourseprogramguides/SIDS\\_Law%20Enforcement%20Response%20to.pdf](https://post.ca.gov/Data/Sites/1/post_docs/telecourseprogramguides/SIDS_Law%20Enforcement%20Response%20to.pdf)

The program is distributed to California POST law enforcement agencies only, for training of peace officers (it is not available to the general public, as is the case with all POST law enforcement training programs). If you have any further questions, contact me directly. I hope this information is helpful,

Ronald Crook  
Director, Television Communications Center  
POST Training Video Program  
Learning Technology Resources Bureau  
California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)  
860 Stillwater Road - Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95605  
916.227.3913 Office  
916.214.8375 Mobile/Text  
916.227.4011 Fax

### **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.

### **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 June 25, 2015. Present plans are for this to be a 1½-day independent conference, probably in Marin County, and probably in the Spring of 2017. Plans include an in depth review of a baby who died suddenly and unexpectedly, with all persons involved in the case presenting their role. The second day will focus on all attendees struggling with the diagnosis and manner of death for a number of cases.

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

*Dennis Watt* has put a 30-minute talk 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 20-25, 2015. The session on SIDS will be on 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. *Doctor Thomas Keens* will give the presentation.

- **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 August 13, 2015, at the offices of the *Guild for Infant Survival, Orange County* in Santa Ana.

*Penny Stastny* welcomed the California State University at Sacramento contractors for the *California SIDS Program*. They have been working diligently to make the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual California SIDS Conference a success.

The Southern California Regional SIDS Council is responsible for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual California SIDS Conference, which will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2105, at the California Endowment Center in Los Angeles. The California SIDS Advisory Council will meet on Wednesday, November 18, 2105, at 1:00-4:00 p.m., at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Glendale. The theme of 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 (Embassy Suites Hotel, 800 North Central Avenue, Glendale, California):

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

5:30-8:00 p.m. Welcome Reception, planned by SIDS parent groups in Southern California. We will serve simple finger foods, sweet and savory, iced tea and coffee and tea, per hotel minimum food purchase rules. There will also be a no host bar. It is our hope that this would be a peaceful evening for parents, a time to connect and not feel alone. We will provide name tags and simple decorations in blue and pink for the tables.

6:00 p.m. Memorial Service, planned by SIDS parent groups in Southern California. Parents will be invited to share a special memory or poem about their child. This information has been communicated with the new contractor so it can be part of the registration form. A slide show will immediately follow. We want the evening to be natural and free flowing.



**Southern California Regional SIDS Council.  
August 13, 2015, Meeting**

Those on the planning committee will wear different color name tags, so new parents will know who they can talk to if they need some support. We have use of the room until 8:30 p.m..

Thursday, November, 19, 2015. 34<sup>th</sup> Annual California SIDS Conference (California Endowment Center, 1000 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California).

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; and *Danielle Sees, B.S.N., R.N., P.H.N., C.L.E.*, Co-chair of the Conference.

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.: "Safe Infant Sleep and SIDS Risk Reduction". *Thomas G. Keens*, Professor of Pediatrics, Physiology and Biophysics, Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California; and Chair of the California SIDS Advisory Council.

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: Ask the Experts Panel. Moderated by Danielle Sees, B.S.N., R.N., P.H.N., C.L.E. Panel includes: Doctors Henry F. Krous, Thomas G. Keens, and James K. Ribe; Kitty Roche, and Dennis Watt.

12:15-12:30 p.m.: The presentation of the 2015 Daniel E. Boatwright Award by Tom Keens

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.: Lunch provided at the California Endowment Center.

1:30-2:45 p.m.: SIDS Parents Tell All. What do they need? How to say it. What to do and what not to do, etc. A panel of SIDS parents will make this presentation. The panel will consist of: *Alicia Bratcher, Rachel Strickland, Kris Concepcion, Maureen Rubalcaba, and Christina Thiele*. Each will initially speak for 5-minutes. The panel will be facilitated by *Danielle Sees*, and the following questions will be discussed: (1) What words /actions helped you? (2) What would be helpful for PHNs/SWs to say or do? (3) What words or actions hindered or hurt you? (4) If you could pick one thing that helped you what would it be? A subcommittee will be convened to develop a plan for this panel

2:45-3:15 p.m.: Break. Intentionally 30-minutes for networking.

3:15-4:15 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions:

Public Health Nurse: Tips on SIDS Home Visits by and for Public Health Nurses. The panel will be facilitated by *Kitty Roche*, and it will consist of *Deja Castro, Danielle Sees, Penny Stastny, and Cynthia Uribe*. The panel will explore ways the PHNs can address the SIDS/SUID parent needs as described in the above panel. Panel members will meet in August to develop a plan for this panel.

SIDS Parents Support Group to be facilitated by *Maureen Rubalcaba and Rachel Strickland*. *Rachel Strickland and Maureen Rubalcaba* will facilitate. *Rachel Strickland* may lead grandparent group (breakout room not needed) if grandparents attend.

4:15-4:30 p.m.: Closing Slide Show of SIDS Babies, and Closing Comments. Slide show will be shown and *Strickland* and *Michelle Herrera* will invite parents to come up and say babies name and dates, and receive the angel key chain. Key chains for moms, dads and grandparents will be available for those in attendance. Angel craft -- *Rachel Strickland* has a friend who is willing to make each SIDS parent a lovely memento of the conference. These will be presented at the end of the conference.



In addition to the conference, *Penny Stastny* submitted a peer-reviewed manuscript to *Public Health Nursing* on how to make a SIDS home visit for public health nurses. The manuscript is currently under review. The reference is: Stastny, P.F., T.G. Keens, and A. Alkon. Supporting SIDS Families: The Public Health Nurse SIDS Home Visit. *Public Health Nursing*, (submitted).

The date for the remaining Southern California Regional SIDS Council meeting in 2015 is Thursday, November 12, 2015.

- **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, May 15, 2015, at the Contra Costa Crisis Center in Walnut Creek.

The meeting was attended by: Susana Flores, San Mateo County SIDS Coordinator, Guey-Shiang Tsay/ CDPH-MCAH, Carrie Florez/CDPH-MCAH, Bobbie Rose/CA SIDS Program Staff, Abbey Alkon/



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

CA SIDS Program Staff, Lorie Gehrke/SIDS Parent, SIDS Alliance of Northern California, Aline Armstrong/San Francisco, Mariejoy Supapo/Solano County, Natalie Berbick Contra Costa, Susan Moore, UCSF California SIDS Program; and via Conference Call: Brook Biechman/Shasta County; K. Seabrook /Sacramento County Child Abuse Prevention Council.

After we received the State Report: by Guey-Shiang Tsay and Carrie Florez, we spent time thanking and saying good bye to the UCSF California SIDS Contractors, since this was their last meeting with us.

Susan Moore, Contra Costa Grief Counselor, also announced that this was her last meeting. She thanked everyone and said her goodbyes to everyone present.

The next meeting of the Northern California Regional SIDS Council will be: September 18, 2015; 9:30 AM-12:30 PM in Walnut Creek.

### **County Reports.**

**Michelle Scott, San Joaquin County:** MCAH continues to provide SIDS/safe sleep presentations in the community and for child care providers.

**Alameda County:** Outreach was provided to 70+ MPCA home visiting staff, and Alameda County Child Death Review staff in sharing of the Journal of Pediatrics article "*Hazards Associated with Sitting and Carrying Devices for Children Two Years and Younger*" with information highlighted by Dr. Keens. AC Coroner staff was provided with various materials requested in Spanish and English.

**San Mateo County:** We continue to provide periodic Risk Reduction in-services at county employee new parent's classes. We also provide in services to 4C's child care providers and Head Start child care providers. We are working on updating the parent packages. We were just waiting for the new contact information from our new contractors.

**Solano County:** This past Wednesday they provided Safe Sleep training to a group of child care providers in the community. It was a great training to reinforce the importance of the AAP recommendations on safe sleep. They will be assisting a health educator Susan Whalen provide a *Safe Sleep train the trainer* course in Vallejo with the African American population as the target audience. Solano County is working on improving education in this risk group by partnering with the community organizations.

**Contra Costa County:** Outreach was conducted with the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center on 4/15/15 with the Labor and Delivery Unit nurses by SIDS Coordinator, Natalie Berbick, and Dr. Jim Carpenter who oversees the Child Death Review Team. This unit discharges 200-300 mothers per month. Also, a protocol used by Children's Hospital Oakland was shared with the nurses to consider instituting and teaching safe sleep protocols to consider in this birthing hospital. Contra Costa County has initiated the process of capturing accurate fetal & infant death information (including SIDS information) through the Epi Info system. The Contra Costa SIDS program has identified the *Art of Active Learning* conference as an opportunity to provide a SIDS/Safe Sleep workshop for consumers & childcare providers. This is an annual event and is sponsored by the Contra Costa Child Care Council (4Cs).

**Shasta County:** First 5 Shasta will be providing the "Sleep Baby Safe and Snug" board books with their book giveaways to parents and organizations. SIDS Risk Reduction training: Head Start Home Visitors May 2015, will be using Sonoma County Form on Motivational Interviewing. Shasta will be having SIDS Grand Rounds September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 with Tom Keens. SIDS Coordinator met with First 5 Shasta to do provider site visits. Discussion included "Kit for New Parents", pregnancy and parenting books and information, including Safe Sleep and SIDS risk reduction information. Visited 7 sites including 2 Indian Health Centers, 2 private practice CPSP offices, 1 private Family Medicine practice, and 2 FQHCs (1 of which is CPSP).

- **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 meeting in 2015, is as follows:

- 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 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 800 North Central Avenue, Glendale, 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,

Kitty Roche, R.N., P.H.N., B.S.N., M.S.W.  
Secretary, California SIDS Advisory Council

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



**California SIDS Advisory Council**



**Kathleen  
Beichley**



**Kris  
Concepcion**



**Dawn  
Dailey**



**Lorie  
Gehrke**



**Tom  
Keens**



**James  
Ribe**



**Kitty  
Roche**



**Rachel  
Strickland**



**Dennis  
Watt**



**Penny  
Stastny**



**Susana  
Flores**



KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH  
Director and State Health Officer

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

DATE: JULY 31, 2015

TO: COUNTY CORONERS, SHERIFF CORONERS AND MEDICAL EXAMINERS

SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF REFERRALS TO INCLUDE ANY SUDDEN, UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH FOR GRIEF SUPPORT SERVICES/NEW CORONER NOTIFICATION CARDS

When an infant dies suddenly and unexpectedly, the need for the family to receive grief support is crucial. Currently, California Health and Safety Code §123740 requires local health jurisdictions (LHJ) contact persons having custody and control of the infant who experienced a presumed Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) death and provide grief support services. LHJs rely on referral of any sudden, unexpected infant death from their local coroner or medical examiner's office to be able to contact families and provide support services.

The intent of this letter is to ask coroners and medical examiners to voluntarily refer to their LHJ the death of any infant who dies suddenly and unexpectedly, regardless of the sleep environment at the time of death. This would include voluntary referral of deaths that may receive an 'unknown' or 'undetermined' diagnosis, as well as, deaths where risk factors in the sleep environment may lead to a diagnosis of 'asphyxia', 'positional or mechanical asphyxia', or 'probable overlay'. The California SIDS Advisory Council recommends any person interacting with families who may receive one of these diagnoses be provided the same grief support as a family who receives a SIDS diagnosis.

Collaboration between the coroner or medical examiner office and their LHJ 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 grief is critical and beneficial. We thank you for your continued referrals of sudden, unexpected infant deaths, even with the continued suspension of the state mandates due to state budget constraints.

Enclosed are new, blue, Coroner Notification Cards (CNC) for you to use. Please do not use the yellow CNCs as the account set up to receive those cards has closed. We

COUNTY CORONERS, SHERIFF CORONERS AND MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
July 31, 2015  
Page 2

appreciate your continued support sending completed CNCs, which now will be sent to the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division at the California Department of Public Health.

We look forward to continuing to work with you. 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). For questions specific to the CNC, please contact Carrie Florez, Research Scientist, at [Carrie.Florez@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Carrie.Florez@cdph.ca.gov) or (916) 650-0323.

Sincerely,



Addie Aguirre  
Acting Division Chief

Enclosures

cc: MCAH Directors, SIDS Coordinators

**CALIFORNIA SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS) PROGRAM  
CORONER'S NOTIFICATION CARD**

The California SIDS Program appreciates your efforts to help us track sudden, unexpected infant deaths in California through the Coroner's Notification Card. This reporting system permits the indexing of all cases in which the provisional cause of death is *SIDS, sudden death in infancy, sudden unexplained death, sudden unexplained infant death, sudden infant death, unknown/undetermined, asphyxia, positional/mechanical asphyxia, or probable overlay.*

The California SIDS Program, along with the State SIDS Advisory Council, recommends families who receive any of the above diagnoses are provided the same grief support services.

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code, Section 462, families who receive a SIDS diagnosis are to receive grief support services from their local public health department. Please consider voluntarily referring any sudden, unexpected infant death to the local public health department in the infant's county of residence within 24 hours, or as soon as possible after the gross autopsy.

**Thank you for your cooperation in completing this card. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call (916) 650-0323.**

INFANT'S LAST NAME	FIRST	M. INITIAL	SEX
STREET ADDRESS			DATE OF BIRTH
CITY	STATE	ZIP	BORN IN CALIFORNIA? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
COUNTY OF RESIDENCE			DATE OF DEATH
MOTHER'S LAST NAME	FIRST	M. INITIAL	COUNTY OF OCCURRENCE OF DEATH
FATHER'S LAST NAME	FIRST	M. INITIAL	DATE REPORTED TO HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN COUNTY OF RESIDENCE
			CORONER'S CASE NUMBER

**(DO NOT STAPLE)  
 PLEASE FOLD, TAPE TO SEAL,  
 AND MAIL TO  
 ADDRESS ON BACK.**

 <p>★ CALIFORNIA SIDS PROGRAM SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NCAH</p>	<p><b>Thursday, November 19, 2015</b> <b>8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.</b> <b>California Endowment Center</b> <b>1000 North Alameda Street</b> <b>Los Angeles, California</b></p>	 <p>★ CALIFORNIA SIDS PROGRAM SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NCAH</p>
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# **34<sup>th</sup> Annual California Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Conference**



Featuring

**Professor Henry F. Krous**

Professor of Pathology Emeritus, UCSD  
Rady Children's Hospital of San Diego

**“Sudden Infant Death Syndrome  
Research”**

## **Program Description**

This Program is designed to give Public Health Nurses, SIDS families, and others, an understanding of SIDS, latest research into causes, ways to reduce the risk, how PHNs provide education and grief counseling to SIDS families, and hear the personal story of SIDS parents.



**For more information, contact:**

**California SIDS Program, California State University at Sacramento,  
3000 State University Drive, Sacramento, California 95819-6103**

phone 916/278-4801 [www.cce.csus.edu](http://www.cce.csus.edu)

**34<sup>th</sup> Annual California SIDS Conference**  
*California Endowment Center*  
*1000 N Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA*  
*Yosemite Room*

**Agenda**

*November 19, 2015*

*7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

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|----------------------------|--|
| <i>7:30 am - 8:30 am</i>   | <i>Registration and Continental Breakfast</i>  |
| <i>8:30 am - 8:45 am</i>   | <i>Welcome Remarks</i><br>Danielle Sees<br>Penny F. Stastny  |
| <i>8:45 am - 9:45 am</i>   | <i>Keynote: SIDS Research Update and How the Diagnosis of SIDS is Made</i><br>Henry F. Krous, MD   |
| <i>9:45 am - 10:15 am</i>  | <i>Networking Break</i>  |
| <i>10:15 am - 11:15 am</i> | <i>Safe Infant Sleep and SIDS Risk Reduction</i><br>Thomas G. Keens, MD  |
| <i>11:15 am - 12:15 pm</i> | <i>Panel Presentation: Ask the Experts</i><br>Moderator: Danielle Sees<br>Panel: Thomas G. Keens, MD; Henry F. Krous, MD; James Ribe, MD; Kitty Roche; and Dennis Watt   |
| <i>12:15 pm - 12:30 pm</i> | <i>2015 Daniel E. Boatwright Award</i><br>Presented By: Thomas G. Keens, MD  |
| <i>12:30 pm - 1:30 pm</i>  | <i>Lunch at the California Endowment Center</i>  |
| <i>1:30 pm - 2:45 pm</i>   | <i>Plenary Session: SIDS Parents Tell All</i><br>Moderator: Danielle Sees<br>Panel: Alicia Bratcher, Kris Concepcion, Maureen Rubalcaba, Rachel Strickland, Christina Thiele   |
| <i>2:45 pm - 3:15 pm</i>   | <i>Networking Break</i>  |
| <i>3:15 pm - 4:15 pm</i>   | <i>Breakout Sessions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Parent Session: SIDS Parents Support Group</i></li><li>• <i>Public Health Nurse: Tips on SIDS Home Visits by and for Public Health Nurses</i></li></ul> |
| <i>4:15 pm - 4:30 pm</i>   | <i>Closing Ceremony</i><br>Danielle Sees<br>Penny Stastny  |