

Precautionary Principle Meeting
June 16, 2008
Public Health Room 355

Present: Linda Helland, Phyllis Webb, Britt Bailey, Stacey Cryer

Report on PP to the BOS

Linda presented the work she had done on a draft report to the BOS on the "Precautionary Principle Accomplishments at Public Health". Discussion followed.

- Linda pointed out that the 4 programs she reviewed that had used PP-type activities did not involve much public participation.
- Stacey mentioned using requests from public interest about MRSA as an example. Also, could any of MCPHAB issues/actions be an example, i.e. Tobacco Ordinance and Needle Exchange.
- Stacey noted that many people might develop a public concern about an issue and voice this to different people of different programs or departments. How could all those concerns be pooled so that a level of public interest be noticed that could possibly activate the PP?
- It was suggested that Linda add a paragraph about how process could be improved in some of these programs by raising the awareness level of PP, especially among PH staff.
- The following is an outline suggested for this final report to the BOS:
 - Summary of PP in Mendocino
 - Intentions and Accomplishments
 - PP in action in Public Health programs and how they might be improved using the PP
 - Guidelines developed by this project
 - Changes in County that have affected PP (turnover in staff, budget decreases)
 - Summary of the EH Pilot and why it was valuable
 - Future use of PP with focus on
 - Institutionalizing PP across County Departments
 - Using PP uniformly across the HHSA
- Linda and Phyllis will continue to work on this report which should go to the BOs sometime between 9/08 and 11/08.

Edits to the PP Guidelines

- Britt went over the changes she made to the PP Guidelines. The group pointed out all the places where "hearing" was used and should be replaced with "workshop". She will make these corrections.
- This form will be made interactive on the Environmental Commons website so that someone could fill it out there. (**Question: How will this work and what's the point**)

Posting of the PP Informaiton

- As this was Britt's last meeting since she goes off to law school in Hawaii in July, a discussion was had over where the PP should be posted on the internet. The Environmental Commons website will be maintained by Dave Jordan in Gualala while Britt is in law school. Linda will look into putting it on the Public Health website with a link to Environmental Commons.

Next meeting Thursday, July 17, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm. We will continue the discussion of the final report to the BOS.