

# Deer Park Community Advisory Council

[www.deerparkcac.org](http://www.deerparkcac.org)

## Meeting Notes Monday, February 25, 2019

The 273<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, February 25, 2019 at the Republic Grill. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The January 2019 meeting notes were approved without changes. Food will now be ready starting at 5:30 so that we can get everyone through the line and start the meeting at 6:00 p.m. as intended.

### ATTENDANCE

DPCAC Community Members		DPCAC Plant Members		Guests/Resources	
x	Ruth Boyd		Clean Harbors, Bruce Riffel	x	Dolce Becerra, Valvoline
	Tim Culp		Delta Companies Group, Frank Ingrassia	x	John Carnley
x	Ken Donnell	x	Dow Chemical Deer Park, Jeff Garry	x	John Collins
	Bobby Garcia		Dow Chemical, Whitney Bolger	x	Chloe Colvin, DPHS Student
	John Garrett	x	Evonik Oil Additives, Jim Bentinck-Smith	x	Butch Cressman
	Sherry Garrison		GEO Specialty Chemicals, Chris Miller	x	Tribly Cressman, Evonik
	Tommy Ginn	x	Hexion, Marlene Mercado	x	Amy Dinn
	Stephen Harrell	x	Intercontinental Terminals, David Wascome, rep by John Ferguson	x	Marissa Ferguson, UHCL Student
	Robert Hemminger		Lubrizol, Sarah Arroyo	x	Brittany Frances, Kelsey Seybold
x	Cara Herbeck	x	Lubrizol, Tanya Travis Rep by Doug Moore	x	Kathleen Garland, UHCL
x	Steven Horton	x	Oxy Vinyls VCM, Claudia O'Rourke	x	Ashley Geistman, UHCL Student
	Norma Hysler	x	Oxy Vinyls PVC/KOH, Craig Horak	x	Matt Karr, Shell
	Bill Irwin	x	Shell Deer Park, Amanda Accardo	x	Karen Lewis-Holmes, TCEO
	Katherine Mitchum	x	Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site, Thor Nygaard	x	Meghan Walker Miller, UHCL Student
	Mike Mitchum		Texas Molecular, Frank Marine	x	Pete Miller
	Jeffrey Parks	x	Valvoline, Robert Shelton	x	Cory O'Brien, UHCL Student
	Ariel Pena	x	Vopak Terminal Deer Park, --- rep by Anna Piper	x	Dr. Victor Simms, Kelsey Seybold-Speaker
x	Vickey Roberts			x	Stephany Toussant, UHCL Student
	Robert Segelquist			x	Lois Trottier, UHCL Student
	Andy Smith		Support Staff	x	Wallace Ward
	Charles Thomas	x	Diane Sheridan, Facilitator		
x	David Wade	x	Anja Borski (Tiffany Miller as Sub)		
x	Ernest Weedon				

## Health Impacts of Living in Industrialized Areas like Deer Park

Slides posted on [www.deerparkcac.org](http://www.deerparkcac.org)

Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) heard about the stresses on health that may occur in a town with chemical plants and refineries. Kelsey-Seybold's Dr. Victor Simms said that exposure to pollutants in the environment may impact health. Though air quality has improved over the last 10 years, pollutants like ozone and particulate matter are still of concern. Both may exacerbate asthma. By decreasing lung function, particulate matter may also affect the heart. Efforts to reduce both pollutants continue.

While environmental exposures like these may impact health, they are not the only factors of interest in industrialized areas. Simms said shift work is necessary in industrial facilities but make it difficult to achieve quality sleep. Members were surprised to hear that mixing day and night shifts over time is less of a challenge to good sleep than working straight nights. Simms said obesity, poor diet, smoking, accidents, and physical inactivity also contribute to health problems.

In response to DPCAC's request to learn how the chronic conditions in this area compare to those in non-industrial areas, Simms shared information from 4 Kelsey-Seybold Clinics: two where plant employees are more likely to live, and two on the other side of Houston.

In Pasadena and Katy, the most common chronic condition that brought patients to the clinic was asthma. In Clear Lake, it was hypertension, and in the Willowbrook area (The Vintage Clinic) it was cancer. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) was the second most common chronic condition at the clinics in Pasadena and Clear Lake. Cancer was second in Katy and cholesterol in the Willowbrook area (The Vintage Clinic). Heart disease, the most common cause of death in Texas and in Harris County, was the 6<sup>th</sup> most common reason people with a chronic condition visited all four clinics. Cancer was the 7<sup>th</sup> most common reason in Pasadena and Clear Lake. Simms emphasized that the data are interesting and generate discussion, but there is no information on the causes of the differences between one clinic and the others.

- *How do respiratory illnesses relate to high levels of allergens, pollen, etc.?* They play a major role. All of these items effect air quality.
- *Do you have historical data on air quality versus health improvement?* There is not enough registry data for this comparison. They implemented a new electronic health system in 2007. Simms did note that they noticed high rates of bladder cancers in Pasadena and found a common theme of benzene exposure. They do not have a data tracking system at this time.
- *Which type of shift work is better- rotating shifts or a set night shift?* Rotating shifts allow for the circadian rhythm to reset itself. Working straight nights, the circadian rhythm never adjusts.
- *What is the time period covered for the data presented?* We pulled a 1-year data run for the four sites we compared. The Pasadena clinic sees approximately one-third more patients than Clear Lake or Willowbrook (The Vintage Clinic).

Facilitator Diane Sheridan shared some preliminary research on the leading causes of death in Texas and in Harris Count. She will review the information in more detail once the Deer Park data from the Texas Department of State Health Resources is obtained.

## Updates

**Question of the Month:** Doug Moore from Lubrizol presented: What does “Organic” mean for our industries vs. others?” See [www.deerparkcac.org](http://www.deerparkcac.org) for the answer and for questions from past meetings.

### **Level 3 (Warning) or Level 2 (Watch) Incidents**

Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site: Level 2 Watch on February 6 due to use of small flare. The flare is short in height, so when it is in use, it appeared like the plant was on fire. (Flames and smoke)

### **Written Facility Updates:**

- **Clean Harbors** No lost time accidents since August 2018. The site received its TPDES permit renewal in September 2018.
- **Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site:** Thor Nygaard and Amanda Accardo shared that the site revised its community complaint process in response to advice gained from a Social Performance Review in September, with a goal of bringing real-time community feedback into operations and improving the speed of response. To log a complaint or provide feedback to the site, call 713-246-7301. The site had one recordable injury, thus far in 2019, when a contractor stepped on a nail.

### **Ozone Exceedance Days**

TCEQ’s Karen Lewis-Holmes reported that there were no ozone exceedances since the last meeting.

### **Other Updates:**

#### **EHCMA DPCAC Finances**

By unanimous consent, DPCAC members voted in favor of appointing Bobby Garcia to another three-year term on the Treasury Committee. Garcia will serve until February 2022.

There was a 100% vote of the attending members in favor of approving the proposed EHCMA DPCAC 2019 Budget that Steve Horton presented at the 2/25/19 DPCAC meeting. The proposed EHCMA DPCAC 2019 Budget presented at the meeting is now the approved EHCMA DPCAC 2019 Budget.

#### **Joint CAC Meeting October 2019**

Diane Sheridan shared with the group that the third joint CAC meeting will be hosted by the Baytown CAP in October. The topic will be *Global Economy and Its Connections to Our Region*.

- Challenges and potential disruptions for petrochemical industry in a global market
  - Circular economy
  - Emerging markets in developing countries
  - Political uncertainties
- How the world economy interacts with, or will impact, the greater Houston region’s economy
- Panel of plant managers to share their thoughts, shaped by their experiences abroad

## Plans for Future Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held at the Republic Grill. Food service begins at 5:30 and business at 6:00. We adjourn no later than 8:30.

### **Tuesday, March 5 – Joint Meeting of CACs/CIP, CAPs – Consequences of Regulatory Changes on the Economy and the Environment.**

- Elections, such as those in 2016 and 2018, often bring changes to environmental regulation and the economy. Speakers will provide government, environmental/public interest, and industry perspectives on recent and expected impacts, both positive and negative.
- Panel of speakers from Austin:
  - Michael Honeycutt, Ph.D., Chief of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Toxicology Division and Chair of US Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board
  - Elena Craft, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Environmental Defense Fund, Austin
  - Craig Beskid, Executive Director, East Harris County Manufacturers Association

### **Monday, March 25– Houston Area Safety Council Tour – meet at HASC**

- Box lunches ready at 5:30. Meeting starts at 6:00p. Adjourns no later than 8:30p
- A representative from the Houston Area Safety Council (HASC) will provide an overview of the Houston Area Safety Council facility, purpose and reach.
- Attendees will then tour HASC training, testing, and medical facilities, and view craft training demonstrations such as virtual reality welding and rigging.

### **TUESDAY, April 30– Port of Houston Tour –**

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## **Dates for 2019 – all Mondays**

Jan. 28

Feb. 25

Mar. 25

Apr. TBD

June 3 (delayed due to Memorial Day)

No end of June meeting

No July meeting

Aug. 26

Sept. 23

Oct. 28

December 2 (delayed due to Thanksgiving Week)

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## Deer Park Community Advisory Council

### Input on Health Topic

February 25, 2019

Anything you were glad to hear?

- There does not appear to be a higher rate of \_\_\_ in Deer Park versus other areas.
- Data analysis compared to other locations
- Percentage of Diagnosis
- Great information!
- Interesting to learn what ailments are prevalent in the community.
- Glad to see that there is monitoring.
- Comparison chart for the four Houston area clinics
- Smoking on increase in 2019
- Other factors such as humidity and mold
- Cancers higher in the Willowbrook area
- Top 6 diseases- cancer actually lowest in area
- Allergies versus pollution
- Sleep disorder (rotating shifts)
- Shift related sleep disorder-surprising to learn that rotating is better
- Shift work sleep disorder details and sunlight impact on circadian rhythm.
- Shift work/sleep disorders (mentioned twice)

Anything that concerns you?

- High rates of Asthma and COPD
- Ozone issues
- Chemicals
- What's happening up in Willowbrook area?
- Cancers higher in the Willowbrook area
- Do we see an uptick of patients when there is a plant event?

Any questions that still need to be answered?

- How do these numbers compare to other cities without the same industry?
- How many ways can the data be broken down? Demographics, genetic predisposition, occupation, etc.
- Have we studied the difference between working 12-hour shift 4 am to 4 pm versus 6 am to 6 pm?
- What about people working 24-hour shifts?
- Chemicals-their specific health impacts for this area.
- How can you tell between industrial and environmental factors?
- Data percentage on patients-types of jobs (industry, school, business, etc.)
- Socio-economics trends for smokers, etc.
- Sleep data for shift workers

Anything related to tonight's topic that would make a good meeting topic later on?

- Further study into the historical rates of cancer and other disorders.
- Ozone (Air Quality)
- Importance of Sleep
- Would love to see this data annually or every other year.
- Air quality presentation
- Track the Kelsey-Seybold data over time for several years to see trends (now that they have the data management system)
- Studies with New Jersey or other high industrial areas compared to ours with allergies versus pollutants.
- Texas Parks and Wildlife: effects on animals and plants of Benzene, etc.

Anything about anything else?

- Does Kelsey-Seybold offer Occupational Health services to the plants?
- Food was excellent!
- Food was good