



California Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Advisory Council

January 14, 2009

Members of the Council

Thomas G. Keens, M.D.,
Chair. Undesignated.

Lorie Gehrke, *Vice Chair.*
SIDS Parent.

Dawn Dailey, RN, PHN, MS,
Secretary. Public Health Nurse.

Kathleen Beichley, *SIDS Parent*

Steven Durfor, *Police/Fire Department.*

Christina Stanley, M.D.,
Medical Examiner.

Dennis H. Watt, *Coroner.*

Vacant, *Physician.*

Vacant, *SIDS Parent.*

Rachel Strickland,
President, Southern Calif. Regional SIDS Council.

Lorraine Lee, P.H.N.,
President, Northern Calif. Regional SIDS Council.

Council Chairperson:

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Advisory to the



Jack Sweeny
Supervisor, District III
EL DORADO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, California 95667

RE: **KATHLEEN BEICHLEY.**
Letter of Commendation for Community Service.

Dear Mr. Sweeny,

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I inform you about your County Architect, *Kathleen Beichley*, who has performed outstanding, dedicated, and vitally important community service.

Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) is the most common cause of death in infants between the ages of 1-month and 1-year, yet its cause remains unknown. One out of every 2,000 babies who are born in California will die from SIDS before their first birthday. The surviving family members of a baby who dies from SIDS are no less the victims of this unexplained tragedy. If they do not receive appropriate information and support in a timely fashion, they may suffer unnecessarily, perpetuating the extent of this tragedy. Further, we now know that certain infant sleep practices will reduce the risk of dying from SIDS, yet this information is not widely known.

Much remains to be done to improve services to SIDS families, improve public education about SIDS, and promote SIDS research in our community. In order to move this forward, the California Department of Public Health has established the *California SIDS Advisory Council* to advise the State on how to remedy these deficiencies. The *Council* is comprised of public spirited volunteers with an interest and expertise in SIDS who serve without compensation. Yet, this *Council* has implemented important legislation, education, research, and direct service to SIDS families which have been crucially important toward resolving the problems with SIDS services, education, and research in California.


California SIDS Advisory Council.
Kathleen Beichley.

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Kathleen Beichley has been an active, dedicated, and enthusiastic member of the *California SIDS Advisory Council* since 1998. As a SIDS parent, she is the Council's window on the needs of SIDS parents in California. She has performed dedicated service above and beyond the call of duty, and her activities have been of vital importance to the work of the *Council*. She has not received reimbursement for this service. However, as Chair of the *California SIDS Advisory Council*, I am pleased to inform you how valuable the service of *Kathleen Beichley* has been to all Californians touched by SIDS. I hope you will take note of these accomplishments, and recognize her appropriately. You are fortunate to have such a generous and dedicated individual in your County, and I am pleased and proud that *Kathleen Beichley* has volunteered her services to the *California SIDS Advisory Council*.

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Keens, M.D.

Chair, California Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Advisory Council
Professor of Pediatrics, Physiology and Biophysics
Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California

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