

**County of San Luis Obispo
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, December 12, 2005 (Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Lynn Enns (Chair), Penny Chamousis, Pam Heatherington, Tom Hale, M.D., Sara Horne, James Mase, M.D., David Odell, Donald Pinkel, M.D., Susan Warren
 Members Absent: Deborah Donnelly, Jan Hicks
 Staff Present: Greg Thomas, M.D., Jean White (recorder)
 Speakers: Edie Kahn (AIDS Support Network), Carl Hansen (Food Bank Coalition), Steve Willey (Hospice of SLO County), Janet Jeffrey (Hospice Partners), Karen Stenson (Long Term Ombudsman Services), Michele Vanderlinde (Partnership for the Children), Lisa Fraser (SLOCAP)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
1. CALL TO ORDER	Meeting called to order by Chair Enns at 6:03 p.m.		
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NOVEMBER 14, 2005	<p>Commissioner Hale suggested the following changes to the minutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Page 1, #4, second to last sentence: change word “constituents” to “contaminants.” <i>(there was discussion about the use of the terms and it was noted that the term “constituents” could be used).</i> 2. Page 2, first paragraph, suggested adding the word “low” to the sentence: “arsenic is a natural occurring substance and is normally at a very consistent (low) level.” (Dr. Thomas noted that arsenic levels are consistent, but can be high or low). 3. Page 2, third paragraph: It states “Mr. Packard will follow up.” Do we know when? (Commissioner Heatherington made a note that he will follow up in approx. 2 mos.). 4. Public Comment, last line - wording not clear about thresholds for acute effects. It was clarified that Mr. Packard was saying “that the standards are set so that no more than one in one million would have an undesirable health effect.” <p>Commissioner Pinkel added additional language to his comments on Page 2 regarding his recommendation for testing Nipomo school children for evidence of arsenic poisoning. He also raised the issue about water fluoridation and its well-demonstrated benefit for dental health. An edited copy of Page 2 was handed out, with his changes highlighted in red. These will be incorporated as a part of the minutes.</p>	Minutes approved as amended.	1st – Chamousis 2nd – Horne Approved – All
3. PUBLIC COMMENT	<p>Eric Greening, Atascadero, recommended that the Commission request a copy of the Parks and Recreation element of the County General Plan document to provide input from a health point of view.</p> <p>Jesse Arnold, Cambria, read a brief letter that he submitted for the record on the subject of genetic engineering. Mr. Arnold hopes the GMO Task Force can find long-term studies that are not financed by the biotech industry on the safety of genetically engineered crops.</p> <p>Mary Miller introduced herself as the new EOC Safety Net Healthcare Advocate and Ombudsman person and informed everyone that the program is up and running.</p>	<i>Handout: Copy of his letter to the Commission</i>	

<p>4. GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM (GMO) TASK FORCE:</p> <p>NEW MEMBERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	<p>Chair Enns announced that Commissioner Pinkel, Commissioner Odell and Commissioner Hicks met to review applications for the three new positions on the GMO Task Force for a Public Health Department Representative, a Bioethicist and a Bio-Medical Researcher. Commissioner Pinkel announced the committee’s recommendations and provided background on each of the applicants:</p> <p><u>Public Health Representative:</u> Michele Shoresman (<i>Masters in Public Administration; AIDS Program Coordinator, SLO County Public Health Department</i>)</p> <p><u>Bioethicist:</u> Ralph A. Jacobson, Ph.D. (<i>Professor Emeritus, Professor of Biochemistry, Cal Poly State University</i>)</p> <p><u>Biomedical Researcher:</u> Gere diZerega, M.D. (<i>Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at USC Medical School and Director of Reproductive Biology Research Laboratory</i>)</p> <p>The committee also recommended that all members of the Task Force become voting members, including the Public Health Dept and Ag Department representatives.</p> <p><i>Commissioner Heatherington congratulated the committee for selecting the new members and rounding out the Task Force. Commissioner Enns thanked Dr. Pinkel for his help in recruiting the Biomedical Researcher. The next meeting of the GMO Task Force will be in January at the Public Health Department. The date and time will be posted on the PH Website. Commissioner Enns will notify the new members.</i></p>	<p><i>Motion was made to approve the three new members to the GMO Task Force, as recommended.</i></p>	<p>1st: Odell 2nd: Horne Approved: All</p>
<p>5. PRESENTATIONS FROM LOCAL NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS</p>	<p>Edie Kahn, Executive Director, AIDS Support Network and SLO Hep C Project. The SLO County AIDS Support Network has been in existence for 21 years serving the needs of people living with HIV disease and AIDS. Services include health counseling, housing services and education and outreach. They also house the SLO Hep C Project, providing health and benefits counseling, a food pantry program, and referrals to other agencies that can assist with housing, utilities and other services. They partner with CHC and help assist and train their staff on the unique problems of HIV and AIDS. One of the main challenges they are currently facing is educating themselves and their clients on Medi-Care Part D. Mr. Kahn thanked the community for their support as volunteers, as well as for their donations. Websites: www.asn.org or www.slohepc.org.</p> <p>Carl Hansen, Executive Director, Food Bank Coalition, noted that the Food Bank was founded in 1988 and serves 175 agencies in San Luis Obispo County. They have a new warehouse in Paso Robles and rent a facility in Oceano. There are approx. 30,000 people who benefit from the Food Bank. They supply food to agencies that then supply food to consumers and clients in SLO. Resources come from direct donations of food and money and also through the Government through FEMA. They</p>		

also receive food through surplus organizations such as “Ag Against Hunger.” Both monetary and food donations are needed. For every dollar that is given, 15 lbs. of food can be made available.

Telephone number: 238-4664 Website: www.slofoodbank.org

Steve Willey, Volunteer Coordinator, Hospice of San Luis Obispo County, stated that they are a volunteer sustained agency that has been in the community since 1977. They consider themselves a safety net for people who are experiencing the pain of grief and loss. The bulk of their programs include counseling and emotional services. Their in-home volunteer services for people with terminal or life threatening illnesses includes rides to doctor appointments, emotional support, and caregiver respite. *Commissioner Enns asked about services for persons that have lost someone and are unable to travel out of the home. They have very specific training for volunteers who go into homes and work with clients that cannot get out of the home. They are almost entirely supported by community monetary donations.*

Telephone number: 544-2266 Website: www.hospiceslo.org

Janet Jeffrey, M.S., R.N., Administrator, Hospice Partners of the Central Coast, stated that they are a non-profit, state licensed Medicare and Medi-Cal certified hospice agency. They serve all of San Luis Obispo County and Northern Santa Barbara County. They are an affiliate of the Wilshire Foundation, which is a non-profit healthcare corporation. They are not part of Hospice of San Luis Obispo County or CHW Marion’s Hospice. They have staff of 85 and 100+ volunteers. They provide physician care, as well as emotional, spiritual and grief counseling, and practical support for their patients and caregivers and bereavement care to family members for at least 13 months following the death of a patient. Their nurses and counselors are available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. They serve an average of 158 patients each month. They rely on contributions from the community.

Telephone: 782-8606 Website: www.hospicepartners.org

Karen Stenson, Executive Director, Long Term Care Ombudsman Services of SLO County. They provide facility monitoring visits to long-term residents in nursing homes and residential facilities. Their job is to make sure residents have “a voice.” They investigate complaints, including elder abuse, safety issues, and financial abuse. In California, an unfunded state mandate is that they witness people in nursing homes signing “Advance Healthcare Directives.” Currently, they are working with the County Public Health Department and the Office of Emergency Services to review disaster planning for facilities. They are also very concerned about Medicare Part D and making sure that their clients don’t miss out on medications. Their needs are monetary donations and volunteers. They currently have 2 staff and 17 volunteers.

Telephone: 785-0132

*Handout:
Long Term Care
Ombudsman Brochure
and Information Sheet*

Michele Vanderlinde, CEO, Partnership for the Children gave a Power Point presentation overview of Clinica de Tolosa. The Partnership for the Children Foundation of SLO County founded La Clinica de Tolosa, a not-for-profit children's dental clinic, which has increased access to dental care for underserved infants, children and adolescents in SLO County. 100% more children have been seen since the opening of the clinic in July 2003. Tolosa Dental Clinic is open 6 days per week with multiple dentists providing dental treatment, including oral health education and screenings provided to Head Start participants. They actively seek grants and community support for the clinic's sustainability. *Commissioner Pinkel asked if they see a big difference in children from cities with fluoride in the water than those without. Dr. Vanderlinde answered that they clearly see the difference and it would be great to have fluoride added to the water.*

Lisa Fraser, Executive Director, SLO Child Abuse Prevention (SLOCAP), stated that SLOCAP was established in 1987 by a group of local physicians, law enforcement officers, social workers and community members who were concerned about children who were not getting the services they needed after some child abuse that occurred in the 70's. SLOCAP was convened so these issues could be addressed. Since then, they have developed many prevention and education programs, including "Talking about Touching" project, a curriculum used in public schools, "Baby Think it Over Project," "Postpartum Depression Support Line" and mandated reporter training. They are also working with Jan Campbell, MCH Director, on system of care for children who are prenatally exposed to alcohol, drugs and tobacco. *Commissioner Warren noted that Dr. Chasnoff's presentation was being shown on Charter and that AGP Video provides copies of their tapes to the public library. Ms. Fraser also has a copy that she can make available. Dr. Pinkel referred to troubling stories that he has heard about young children being abused or neglected and not brought to the attention of authorities because the children were home schooled. Ms. Fraser agreed this is a concern that should be looked at further, because home schooling is increasing and this is an unknown area. She will bring it to the attention of the Board of Directors.*
Website: www.slocap.org

Beth Raub, Women's Shelter Program of SLO County, stated that they serve victims of domestic violence and their children. She showed a video made for them by Jeff Lewis, showing survivors of domestic violence from San Luis Obispo County who went through their program. The video also showed pictures of their Safe house and gave an overview of what they do and who they serve. They could not do what they do without their volunteers and all of the donations from San Luis Obispo community. *Commissioner Warren asked about methamphetamine use with regard to domestic violence. National studies have found that about 65% of domestic violence have no drugs or alcohol involved. Alcohol and drugs are a lubricant, and even if the person sobers up, it doesn't cure the situation to remove it. There has been an alarming rise*

*Handout:
Clinica de Tolosa Fact
Sheet*

	<p><i>in methamphetamine and how it escalates the situation of domestic violence. They are looking at it and partner with Drug and Alcohol Services. Commissioner Enns asked about their primary sources of funding. They receive funding from the State and Federal government (Homeland Security), numerous grants, and about 50% of their funds come from SLO County through fundraisers and private donors.</i></p> <p>Telephone: 781-6401</p>		
<p>6. PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT</p>	<p>Dr. Thomas referred to his written report. A copy of the report is filed with the official record of this meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHC report was presented to the Board of Supervisors on 12/5. • Medi-Cal Managed Care report will be presented to the Board on 12/13. • Influenza updates are available from the Public Health Information Line (PHIL) at 788-2093. • Public Health is continuing work on Pandemic Flu preparation. • There is currently a hiring freeze in the Health Agency; freeze exemption requests are available. • Perinatal Substance Abuse Leadership Team met to further develop plans and discuss budget for a Children’s Center. • Budgets are due on February 10th. Budgets are being put in the matrixes of the new EFS (Enterprise Financial System). <p><u>Additional items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed a copy of the October 2005 Paso Robles Smile Survey, an oral health assessment of kindergarten and third grade children in Paso Robles, California • Commissioner Horne asked about Avian flu and County preparedness. Dr. Thomas gave a “short” dissertation, explaining what the Avian flu is, who it affects, and what is being done to prepare for it. The effects of not being prepared are astronomical, but the probability of human-to-human transmission, although unknown, is probably low. 	<p>Handouts: <i>Copy of Director’s Report</i></p>	
<p>7. HEALTH COMMISSION UPDATES</p>	<p>Chair Enns: No report</p> <p>Commissioner Chamousis: Attended Nov/Dec Adult Policy Council meetings. November focused on disaster training and development of mutual support networks. December focused on MediCal Managed Care, with a presentation from Mr. Montoya.</p> <p>Commissioner Hale: No report</p> <p>Commissioner Heatherington: Distributed a flyer announcing a public forum on 1/12/06 called “Second Step: A Violence Prevention Curriculum” and also distributed a copy of the 2006 SLOCAP membership form.</p> <p>Commissioner Horne: Attended CSN last week where Dr. Chasnoff gave a presentation showing statistics on persons who used drug and alcohol during their pregnancy and talked about the biological and environmental impacts on these children. She also distributed copies of “Know Your County,” a guide to SLO County Government.</p> <p>Commissioner Mase: No report</p>		

	<p>Commissioner Odell: The MHSa plan is scheduled to go to the Board on 12/20/05 and is due to the State by 12/31. Funding could begin in April 2006, but must be used for new programs and cannot supplant other funds. Results of the programs will be monitored by the State.</p> <p>Commissioner Pinkel: No report</p> <p>Commissioner Warren: Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board reviewed the 05/06 budget and how the department spent Federal and State \$\$s on treatment in preparation for the upcoming budget process.</p>		
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS	<p>Legislative: Did not meet this month. Next meeting scheduled for January 4th.</p> <p>Nominating: Did not meet this month.</p> <p>Budget: Committee will be meeting toward the end of January.</p> <p>Community Education: Committee will meet in January to discuss ideas for Public Health Week.</p>		
9. PROSPECTIVE FUTURE ITEMS	<p>January 2006: Veterans Hospital Care/ Tri-Care; Treated Sewage Sludge/Biosolids</p> <p>February 2006: Follow-up on Agricultural Water Testing; BT Overview/Preparedness</p> <p>Future: Water fluoridation (request by Commissioner Pinkel)</p>		
10. ADJOURNMENT	Motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.		Approved – All