

County of San Luis Obispo
HEALTH COMMISSION
 Minutes of Meeting
 Monday, March 14, 2005 (SLO City/County Library)

Members Present: Deborah O'Brien (Chair), Penny Chamousis, Lynn Enns, Pam Heatherington, Sara Horne, David Odell, Donald Pinkel, M.D., Susan Warren, Richard Wood, M.D.
 Members Absent: Tom Hale, M.D., Jan Hicks
 Staff Present: Jess Montoya, Greg Thomas, M.D., Jean White (recorder)
 Speakers: Suzanne Heitzman (DSS), Tom Beem (MH Homeless Services, Jodie Smith (EOC Homeless Services), Alice Bodlak (CHC Healthcare for Homeless), Alan Iftiniuk (French Hospital Medical Center)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
1. CALL TO ORDER	Meeting called to order by Chair O'Brien at 6:04 p.m.		
2. INTRODUCTIONS	Dr. Thomas introduced and welcomed Jess Montoya, the new Health Agency Director.		
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	<p>Minutes of February 14, 2005 were approved with comment. Commissioner Pinkel corrected the written public comment that was submitted to say that he is in favor of GE crops with regulation.</p> <p>The commission approved input on the new format of the minutes. The format was changed to be consistent with other boards throughout the Agency and to highlight only most salient facts. Audio and videotapes of the meeting are available for detail. It was recommended that audiotapes of the Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol Advisory Committees also be available.</p>		
4. PUBLIC COMMENT	Eric Greening recommended that the Health Commission study the issue of agricultural buffers and the amount of protection they provide.		
5. HOMELESS SERVICES / PROGRAMS	<p>Suzanne Heitzman, Department of Social Services, gave an update on her role as Homeless Services Coordinator. The County has enforced the code for the DuVaul Ranch with a deadline of March 31, 2005. Agencies involved have formed a task force to assist with alternatives, with the first meeting scheduled for March 16th. The Homeless Services Coordinating Council will be holding a community meeting on April 13th at the SLO City/County Library Community Room, where local agencies will distribute information on their homeless services.</p> <p>Commissioner comments and questions followed: Father's Joe Villages in San Diego was referred to as having a good comprehensive program. Suzanne Heitzman</p>		

answered questions about general relief assistance, Cal Works, and transitional housing. The task force will be coming together to identify and address some of the gaps in the services provided to the homeless.

Tom Beem, Mental Health Homeless Services, talked about the State AB 2034 program and how, through that program, they started their homeless outreach program, a collaborative program between Mental Health and Transitions Mental Health Association designed for the severely mentally ill in the County. The program offers very broad-based services (including medical, drug & alcohol therapy, job counseling, and legal services) to 80 clients. The homeless population has increased over the years, with numbers hard to determine, but fluctuating between 200 to 3,000.

Jodie Smith, Program Manager, EOC, gave a brief overview of the services that EOC provides: Prado Day Care (offering day services with lunch provided by People’s Kitchen), an emergency 48 bed night shelter (with an overflow operated through the churches), a partnership with the El Camino Homeless Organization in Atascadero where they operate a 32 bed shelter, and a case management program that housed 298 persons last year. They are waiting to hear on a grant application for a shelter in the North County.

Alice Bodlak, RN, CHC’s Healthcare for the Homeless talked about the homeless services they provide through their mobile van and their clinics. The mobile van goes out one day per week to the Prado Day Center and the shelter and provides outreach and urgent care to the homeless. There is one RN on the van, who triages patients and makes referrals to their CHC clinics for primary care. Their Paso Robles clinic recently closed, but all of their clinics will see homeless individuals.

Commissioner questions and comments followed. Monetary donations to the homeless population should be made directly to organizations, rather than to homeless individuals directly. Needs for homeless populations are: more funding for services, affordable housing, discharge planning from hospitals.

Public Comment:

Eric Greening asked about services for children of the mentally ill, and about persons who become homeless for economic reasons vs. persons who became homeless due to mental or physical illness.

<p>6. FRENCH HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER</p>	<p>Alan Iftiniuk, President, French Hospital Medical Center gave a Power Point Presentation about the Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) network and talked about why they came to San Luis Obispo. CHW has a significant payment assistance program that provides discounted care to individuals and families that qualify up to 500% of the Federal poverty level. The Bylaws have been approved for their Foundation, with 12 initial board members identified and approved by the community board.</p> <p>Commissioners asked questions about French Hospital’s plans for a detox program, a cancer care center, and an inpatient psychiatric unit. This is all part of discussion and part of the strategic planning mix.</p> <p>Public Comment Eric Greening asked what resources they have for radiological injury treatment. French Hospital and Sierra Vista are the designated facilities in the County in case of disaster and go through specific drills to practice response.</p> <p>Kathleen Aragon, EOC, Promotores de Salud, asked about bilingual coverage. They have 24 hr bilingual coverage, but coverage is spotty. Individuals must speak the language and understand medical terminology.</p>	<p>Handout: <i>FHMC Payment and Eligibility Assistance Program brochure (in English and Spanish)</i></p>	
<p>7. PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT</p>	<p>Dr. Thomas gave an overview of his written report. Additional item – Tri-Counties Gold Coast Cooperative Obesity Prevention Summit will be held on June 17th in Ventura, California.</p> <p>Eric Greening asked about the drifting of dust from plowing as it relates to Valley Fever Spores and what distance is safe for residents.</p>	<p>Handout: <i>Written report</i></p>	
<p>8. HEALTH COMMISSION UPDATES</p>	<p>CHAIR UPDATE: Chair Deborah O’Brien thanked Commissioner Hicks for chairing the second half of the March meeting and thanked the Templeton Community Services District for allowing the Commission to use their facility for the meeting. She read the letter of support that was sent to Susan Hughes, Tobacco Control. Commission O’Brien also gave an update on the number of applications received for membership on the GMO Task Force. Commissioners Odell, Hicks and O’Brien will meet prior to the April meeting to review applications.</p> <p>COMMISSIONER UPDATES: Commissioner Odell: No report. Commissioner Wood: No report. Commissioner Horne: Attended CSN on 2/24, main topic was strategic planning. Dr. Chasnoff will be here 3/25 for Earth Start Month. Commissioner Enns: Attended Bioterrorism Advisory Committee on 3/4, main topic</p>		

	<p>was use of grant money to update and improve equipment and systems in the County.</p> <p>Commissioner Warren: Report from Drug & Alcohol Board that Dr. Chasnoff will be speaking on the impact of perinatal substance abuse at the First Five meeting on 3/23 at the City/County Library Community Room.</p> <p>Commissioner Pinkel: No report.</p> <p>Commissioner Heatherington: Attended SLO CAP – they are looking for space for the SLO Child Abuse Prevention Council. She handed out information on two upcoming conferences. She noted that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and that Public Health Week is also in April.</p> <p>Commissioner Chamousis: Will be attending the <i>Abuse Across the Lifespan</i> conference in lieu of the quarterly domestic violence task force meeting.</p>	<p>Handouts: Conference Brochures: <i>Abuse Across the Lifespan</i> – 4/20/05 <i>Living and Working with Neglected, Maltreated and Traumatized Children</i> – 4/27/05</p>	
9. COMMITTEE REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominating: Commissioner Hicks sent information regarding commissioner terms to committee members and will be contacting members to set up a meeting. • Community Education: Commissioner Hale is absent tonight. • Budget: No report. • Legislative: Committee met last week and will meet again on April 4th. Commissioners should forward any legislation of interest to committee for review. 		
10. PROSPECTIVE FUTURE ITEMS	<p>April: Update on Prado Road, Child abuse Prevention Month, Mental Health Services Act.</p> <p>May: Buffer Zones, Particulate Matter. Meeting location: Arroyo Grande.</p> <p>June: Childhood Obesity (following summit)</p>		
11. ADJOURNMENT	Motion to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.		<p>1st – Odell 2nd – Wood Approved - All</p>