

**County of San Luis Obispo  
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, November 14, 2005 (Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Lynn Enns (Chair), Deborah Donnelly, Pam Heatherington, Jan Hicks, Tom Hale, M.D., Sara Horne, James Mase, M.D., Donald Pinkel, M.D., Susan Warren  
 Members Absent: Penny Chamousis, David Odell  
 Staff Present: Greg Thomas, M.D., Jean White (recorder)  
 Speakers: Curt Batson (Environmental Health), Jeff Densmoore (DHS), Harvey Packard (RWQCB), Larry Bacus (CHC)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
<b>1. CALL TO ORDER</b>	Meeting called to order by Chair Enns at 6:05 p.m.		
<b>2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OCTOBER 17, 2005</b>	Commissioner Donnelly corrected the wording on her commissioner update to read “she will present a report at the next meeting.” Minutes approved with correction.		1 <sup>st</sup> – Hale 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Heatherington Approved – All
<b>3. PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	<b>Eric Greening</b> asked that the minutes from Health Commission meetings be posted at the new County Government Center and on the Public Health website - 72 hours in advance of the meetings.		
<b>4. WATER QUALITY REGULATION IN SLO COUNTY</b>	<p><b>Curt Batson, Director, Environmental Health</b>, spoke about water quality regulation responsibility in the County. Environmental Health (EH), Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) are responsible for the majority of the regulation of water quality in the County. DHS and EH regulate the drinking water. DHS regulates water systems that have 200 connections or more and EH regulates water systems that have 199 connections or less. The RWQCB regulates all of the ground water in the State of California. EH regulates about 149 water systems in SLO County. Mr. Batson explained primary and secondary drinking water standards and gave examples of inorganic and volatile organic chemicals. When water systems don’t meet standards, water can be blended with a water source that has a higher level of constituents and then the blended water is tested to determine maximum contaminant levels.</p> <p><b>Jeff Densmore, Department of Health Services</b>, gave a Power Point presentation overview of the California Department of Health Services (DHS) – Drinking Water Program. EPA has delegated primacy to enforce the Safe Drinking Water Act to DHS. Mr. Densmore spoke about legal requirements, water quality monitoring requirements, bacteriological quality sampling, inorganic and organic chemical monitoring, primary standards (nitrate and nitrite), secondary standards (chemicals and constituents that affect the consumer acceptability of the water). Mr. Densmore answered questions/concerns about blending, noting that blending is an acceptable treatment process, and a recommended mechanism for treatment. It does not add to the</p>	<p><i>Handout: Copy of Power Point Presentation</i></p>	

	<p>health concern of the water. Mr. Densmore explained the basis of how health standards are set (persons drinking two liters of water per day for 70 years). He also answered a question from Commissioner Pinkel about arsenic (particularly with regard to the recent problem with arsenic in a well serving a school in Nipomo). Arsenic is a natural occurring substance and is normally at a very consistent level. They have been doing quarterly monitoring of the well and are uncertain what happened to cause the spike. They have stopped using the well in Nipomo. New maximum standards for arsenic levels (from 50 micrograms per liter to 10 micrograms per liter) go into effect 1/23/06.</p> <p><b>Harvey Packard, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)</b>, spoke about their responsibility for regulating the water quality before it gets into water systems. The mission of the State Regional Board is to protect and enhance the quality of California's water. Some of the responsibilities of the RWQCB include follow up on sewage spills, issuing permits to power plants (the Federal Clean Water Act defines heat as a pollutant, so they regulate Diablo Canyon Power Plant and Duke/Morro Bay), ground water cleanups, follow-up on hazardous materials in the environment, regulation of pollutant / industrial waste discharges, issuing construction sanitation permits, and agricultural regulation (a new program).</p> <p>Commissioner Horne asked about contamination in the Dunes from gasoline and oil. Mr. Packard is not familiar with any data showing a pollutant problem from that. Commissioner Heatherington asked if data was available from the new agricultural testing that is being done. Mr. Packard will follow up. Commissioner Heatherington also asked about well capping reports. Mr. Batson explained that capping is generally a short-term solution, it is preferred that a well be destroyed if it is not being used. Records from testing of wells are kept for 10 years.</p> <p>Commissioner Hale asked about the consumer complaint process with regard to tap water. In the Tri-Counties, persons can call (805) 566-1326. DHS will contact the water supplier.</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment:</u></b>  <b>Eric Greening</b> asked about thresholds that are set (calculation of acceptable risk) for blending to an acceptable level. He also asked where the contents of septic tanks (from Los Osos) will be taken. Mr. Batson noted that there is no place within the County limit that accepts septic from a septic system, and this could be a significant issue. Mr. Packard answered that there are different thresholds for chronic and acute effects. Threshold for acute effects is one in a million.</p>		
<p><b>5. COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS (CHC) ANNUAL REPORT</b></p>	<p><b>Larry Bacus, Contract Manager, CHC</b>, gave a Power Point Presentation on CHC's First Annual Report. He provided background information on the CHC / County contract. He talked about the goals of the partnership. CHC has met performance</p>	<p><i>Handout: Copy of Power Point Presentation</i></p>	

	<p>criteria, has marked decrease in patient complaints, and has expanded access to care and services. The primary goals of the contract between CHC and the County have been met. The “safety net” is much stronger for primary care now than it was fifteen months ago.</p> <p>Public Health will be sending out a survey this month to CMSP recipients who received services at CHC during 2005, with questions about access to care, quality of care, and pharmacy services. Commissioner Warren commented on the progress and great work of CHC. Many people are glad to have a medical home. Commissioner Horne asked about the “Patient Satisfaction Quality Assurance” performance criteria with regard to credentialing requirement met 95% of the time. 50% of physicians providing primary care obtain NCQA Diabetes Physician Recognition Certificate. Mr. Bacus explained that CHC has another 12 months to meet the requirement.</p>		
<p><b>6. PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Thomas</b> referred to his written report. A copy is filed with the official record of this meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influenza: Public Health Department flu clinics were held on October 28<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• NOVEX Disaster drill was held on November 9, 2005. County EOC, County Health Department, field response teams and all four hospitals participated.</li> <li>• Pandemic Flu: Federal HHS plan is available. Public Health plan is being updated.</li> <li>• Pertussis: There have been 94 cases reported; reports appear to be diminishing.</li> <li>• Medi-Cal Managed Care: A report will be presented to the Board on 12/13/05 regarding SLO County merging with one of the existing County Organized Health Systems (Santa Barbara Health Initiative or Monterey/Santa Cruz).</li> <li>• Mental Health Services Act (MHSA): The draft Community Services and Support Plan has been prepared and is available at <a href="http://www.opinionstudies.com/MHSA.html">www.opinionstudies.com/MHSA.html</a>.</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Thomas followed up regarding E.coli experiments at schools. He was informed that the strain being used does not pose risk, but believes it would be appropriate for students that are uncomfortable with the experiment, to advise the school.</li> <li>• There was a meeting with the CEOs of the hospitals regarding the recent problem of access to surgical dental services, working toward resolution.</li> </ul>	<p>Handouts: <i>Copy of Director's Report</i></p>	
<p><b>7. HEALTH COMMISSION UPDATES</b></p>	<p><b>CHAIR UPDATE:</b> <b>Chair Enns:</b> Attended the BT Preparedness Advisory Committee. Topics included: NOVEX drill, pandemic flu preparedness, and updates on BT and HRSA grants. The current focus is plans, procedures, trainings, and exercises.</p> <p><b>Chair Enns</b> announced that the deadline for submitting applications for membership on the GMO Task Force is November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Commissioners Pinkel, Odell, and Hicks will meet to review applications. A question was asked about what capacity the Public Health representative would be serving. It was clarified that Public Health rep must</p>		

	<p>submit an application and will serve as a liaison to the Public Health Department. This position was originally filled by Tom Maier, Ph.D., who recently retired from the Public Health Department.</p> <p><b>COMMISSIONER UPDATES:</b>  <b>Commissioner Heatherington:</b> Unable to attend SLOCAP meetings. She asked if any of the commissioners would be interested in attending these meetings in her place. SLOCAP meets the second Monday of the month at 8:30 a.m.  <b>Commissioner Mase:</b> No report.  <b>Commissioner Horne:</b> Attended CSN. The Community Counseling Center, a United Way organization, is now providing services in Spanish.  <b>Commissioner Hicks:</b> Will be attending the SART meeting on 11/18.  <b>Commissioner Hale:</b> Preventative Health Grant process is gearing up.. the first meeting focused on revising the RFP form. Dr. Hale participated in the NOVEX drill and has also been involved in physician recruitment activities, as well as helicopter landing pad issues.  <b>Commissioner Donnelly:</b> No report.  <b>Commissioner Warren:</b> Attended Drug &amp; Alcohol Advisory Board meeting. It was well attended. Jan Campbell gave a presentation and showed a video on Dr. Chasnoff's studies. Dr. Chasnoff will be in San Luis Obispo in December.  <b>Commissioner Pinkel:</b> No report.</p>		
<b>8. COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>	<p><b>Legislative:</b> Did not meet this month.  <b>Nominating:</b> Did not meet this month.  <b>Budget:</b> Did not meet this month.  <b>Community Education:</b> Commissioner Heatherington announced that April is Public Health month. She asked the commission to think about what activities they would like to participate in.</p>		
<b>9. PROSPECTIVE FUTURE ITEMS</b>	<p><b>December:</b> Invite non-profits organizations to speak about their needs.</p>		
<b>10. ADJOURNMENT</b>	<p>Motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.</p>		<p>1<sup>st</sup> – Heatherington  2<sup>nd</sup> – Horne  Approved – All</p>