

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, June 9, 2008 (Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Jan Hicks (Vice-Chair), Penny Chamousis, Deborah Donnelly, Ed Guerena, Pam Heatherington, Sara Horne, James Mase, M.D., David Odell, Susan Warren

Members Absent: Lynn Enns, Chair (excused), Robert Thielscher (excused)

Staff Present: Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director; Craig McMillan, M.D., Health Officer

Speakers: Courtney Howard (County Public Works Department); Larry Bacus (Community Health Centers)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
1. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Hicks at 6:04 p.m. Chair Enns was absent tonight.	<i>Call to order</i>	<i>Vice-Chair Hicks</i>
2. Approval of Minutes	Minutes of May 12, 2008 were approved as written.	<i>Minutes approved</i>	<i>Horne/Heatherington</i>
3. Recognition of Retiring Commissioners	Vice-Chair Hicks recognized and thanked commissioners who will be leaving at the end of their term on July 1, 2008.		
4. Public Comment	No public comment.		
5. Regulations & Sources of Potable Water Supply / Water Purveyors in the County & County Public Works' Role in Water Resources Management	<p>Courtney Howard, P.E., Water Resources Engineer, SLO County Public Works Department, provided a Power Point presentation overview of the regulations and sources of potable water supply for SLO County and talked about the operation and treatment mechanisms used by the different water purveyors in the County. She noted that potable water supply and discharge to our waterways is heavily regulated and guided by the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act and overseen by the California Department of Public Health, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the State Water Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. In SLO County, there are several sources of supply: reservoirs, groundwater, State water, desalination plants and recycled water systems. She talked about the quality and susceptibilities of each. The main source of water in SLO County is groundwater, but there are several impacted basins that can be susceptible to multi-year droughts. Ms. Howard showed a map of the local supply source conditions, and a map showing all of the water purveyor systems in San Luis Obispo County.</p> <p>Ms. Howard talked about Public Works role in water resources management. Public Works has several small wastewater systems that they operate and maintain, including Lopez Water Treatment Plant, the Water Treatment Plant in Cayucos, and some small systems in Santa Margarita/Shandon. Once the Nacimiento project is implemented, they will be operating that system as well. They have their own water quality lab used for monitoring reservoir quality as well as the systems. Ms. Howard is most involved on the Planning side, where they are working on updating the Master Water Plan in cooperation with water agencies throughout the County. They are also working with the Water Resources Advisory Committee on the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. They have a data collection network, where they collect rainfall information, and a flood control component, which is helpful in developing the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.</p>		

Commissioner Questions/Comments:

Commissioner Horne asked about the percentages of agricultural water used vs. water used by people and if there is an agreement for usage during a drought. (*Paso groundwater basin is approx. 60% agriculture and 40% urban. The General Plan includes an agricultural element where drought issues could be addressed*)

Commissioner Guerena asked about the groundwater decline in Paso/Creston and the possibility of putting State water into the ground in that area. (*Ms. Howard answered that ground water has been the only source of supply for all users in that area and has been impacted by land use and growth It is possible to percolate water into the groundwater basin to offset the level of decline and she explained that banking is also an option.*)

Commissioner Guerena asked if there are any desalination plants in the County. (*Ms. Howard believes Morro Bay has a desalination plant.*)

Commissioner Guerena asked who monitors the waste discharge and cleanup of waste. (*Regional Water Quality Control Board.*)

Commissioner Guerena asked about ways to get pharmaceuticals out of the systems. (*California EPA is the lead agency on that research.*)

Commissioner Guerena asked if the maps Ms. Howard presented are available online. (*maps are available at www.slocountywater.org.*)

Commissioner Guerena asked if they look at pan evaporation and if they have seen a decline. (*That data has been collected, but it hasn't been analyzed.*)

Commissioner Chamousis asked if Public Works is in charge of overseeing the small community water districts. (*Public Works works in cooperation with them to manage basins where there is overlapping jurisdiction and multiple users across the basin.*)

Commissioner Chamousis asked how restrictions will be applied during the drought period. (*Individual water purveyors will be responsible for implementing conservation measures for their systems, monitored by the State Department of Health Services.*)

Commissioner Chamousis asked about regulation of individual well owners and operators. (*The Public Health Department issues well permits to individuals, but regulations of the individual pumpers do not fall under County jurisdiction.*)

Commissioner Heatherington asked about the impact of the governor's mandate regarding the drought. (*The Governor has declared a drought, but hasn't declared an emergency, where there would be mandatory implementation of certain things. At this point, it is more an awareness of impending impacts of the drought. Individual jurisdictions are looking at implementing requirements for usage on the water supplies.*)

Commissioner Heatherington asked about removal of pesticides and fertilizers from water drawn from Lopez Lake. (*Ms. Howard would have to defer to their water quality lab who does the water sanitation surveying around the lake.*)

Commissioner Heatherington asked for more information on their data collection and if it could be used to slow down development in a water shortage area. (*Data is used to analyze supply. It is up to the BOS to decide the need for an Environmental Impact Report.*)

Commissioner Heatherington asked about measuring stream flows in areas that are going to be potentially developed. (*Placement of stream leaches on coastal creeks has been more*

	<p><i>for environmental reasons than developmental reasons).</i></p> <p>Public Comment: Jesse Arnold, Cambria, asked for explanation of “pan evaporation.” (<i>Commissioner Guerena explained how a “pan” is used in the reservoirs to estimate the loss of water from evaporation.</i>) Mr. Arnold asked who determines and regulates fluoridation of water. (<i>Ms. Howard answered that the Department of Health Services oversees and monitors fluoridation, but she does not have information about the requirements for fluoridation.</i>) Mr. Arnold asked about the pros and cons of disinfecting water with chloramine. (<i>Ms. Howard explained that there has been some concern about the interaction between chlorine and byproducts creating trihalomethanes, contaminants linked in some studies to increased risk of certain cancers, and thus generating the switch from chlorine to chloramine.</i>)</p>		
<p>6. Community Health Centers of the Central Coast (CHC) – Proposed Reduction to Contract Amount</p>	<p>Jeff Hamm reported that budget hearings will begin on Monday, June 16th. He explained that the recommended budget included a 1 million dollar increase in General Fund support to the Health Agency. This was 1.5 million dollars less than needed to maintain a status quo budget. Therefore, 18 service level reductions were recommended, two of which the Health Commission took action on last month (ombudsperson program and grant amount to CHC). Jeff explained why his recommendation to the Board would be not to restore funding to those two programs. The \$50,000 contract that the County originally had with EOC for the Ombudsperson Program was intended to fund a half time position. CenCal contributed financially to EOC to help fund a full time position. The CenCal Health component of funding is being discontinued, with Medi-Cal beneficiaries now able to go directly to CenCal Health Member Services Department. This is almost 2/3 of the total volume of individuals that the ombudsperson helped in the last year. For CMSP and unsponsored individuals, inquiries will be responded to directly at the staff level.</p> <p>Regarding the CHC grant amount: Jeff explained the difference between an absolute cut and a reduction in the rate of growth. This is what renders the reduction in the grant amount to CHC different from any of the other service level reductions on the list. He explained how even with a \$500,000 reduction in County grant funds, CHC will continue to grow. Jeff referred to a letter sent out recently by CHC addressed to their patients suggesting CHC will have to close the clinic in Cambria, close a clinic in Morro Bay and discontinue transportation services to San Luis Obispo County. Jeff expressed his disappointment with the content of the letter, emphasizing that if the Board adopts the budget, there will be a process requiring the County and CHC to come to agreement on any terms in the contract.</p> <p>Larry Bacus, Contract Manager, Community Health Centers of the Central Coast, expressed his appreciation to the Health Commission for their endorsement. He explained that CHC is mandated to see all patients. When CHC partnered with the County, the contract basically said that they need to grow. He explained that ½ million dollars is a lot of money to their organization and that CHC has financial challenges as well. He explained that CHC was asked what they would do if there were a \$500,000 reduction in the grant amount and</p>		

they said they would close Cambria and Morro Bay and this was what was included in the letter sent to patients. Dr. Bacus stated that CHC will continue to provide primary healthcare to the most vulnerable in the community, but the reduction will hurt.

Commissioner Questions/Comments:

Commissioner Chamousis asked Mr. Hamm if there will still be tracking of the ombudsperson responsibility that will be taken over by staff. *(Yes, a report can be produced and shared with the commission.)*

Commissioner Heatherington asked how they will get word out to people about who they should contact with health care service concerns. *(The point of contact will primarily be the CHC clinics – a draft flyer is being reviewed to be distributed to patients.)*

Commissioner Heatherington asked if the \$500,000 reduction to the contract amount is negotiable. *(Mr. Hamm explained that this is a CAO recommended funding level and all of the CAO's recommended funding levels are subject to public debate, scrutiny, and questions. The BOS will take public input and weigh the advantages and disadvantages.)*

Commissioner Heatherington asked Dr. Bacus if he agreed with Mr. Hamm that closing Cambria wasn't an option according to the contract. *(Dr. Bacus answered that they listen to the County and will work with the County on the terms of the agreement.)*

Commissioner Warren asked what kind of additional services patients would see if there wasn't a reduction to the grant amount to CHC. *(Dr. Bacus talked about their five year plan and explained that the plan included augmenting pediatric dental and specialty care.)*

Commissioner Warren asked about the relationship between CHC and CenCal. *(Dr. Bacus explained that CHC is seeing more Medi-Cal patients and that it is very helpful having the CenCal panels of specialty care.)*

Commissioner Warren asked if CHC has looked at expanding outpatient substance abuse services. *(CHC has met with Dr. Graber and Biz Steinberg, but this will require more training and education.)*

Commissioner Warren asked about incentives/education for their physicians. *(Dr. Bacus explained that CHC has incentive plans and meets monthly with all their physicians. He noted the importance of retaining physicians in order for patients to keep a medical home.)*

Commissioner Donnelly explained that when she made the decision to support restoring the \$500,000 to CHC, she was under the impression that if the grant amount was reduced, there would be 9,000 fewer patient encounters than last year. But, it was made clear to her tonight that it would actually be 9,000 fewer patient encounters than what was projected. She asked why CHC would have to close a site if they will still be able to grow and why patients were sent a letter. *(Mr. Bacus explained that they have looked overall at how to be more efficient. Cambria was a site that was added per the contract, but the numbers aren't there. The patients from that site would be seen at their other sites.)*

Commissioner Odell asked if CHC has a patient grievance system in place at their clinics. *(Dr. Bacus answered that CHC has a system in place with an anonymous hotline and Patient Rights Sliding Fee Grievance procedures.)*

	<p>Public Comment: Dawn Williams reported that she has heard from several people that there are physicians in the community who are no longer taking Medi-Cal patients and asked if this will increase the call on the CHC clinics. Mr. Hamm hasn't received any data that indicates any of the non-CHC physicians who take Medi-Cal patients are no longer. This would be a question for CenCal Health management, as they know who has signed up to be providers under the Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan.</p> <p>Jesse Arnold asked where the millions of dollars that were saved by closing General Hospital and the Family Care Clinics were directed. Mr. Hamm explained that the Grand Jury estimated the savings was about 3 million dollars. The Board of Supervisors has an interest in maintaining service levels across the board and there is a lot of demand. The Health Agency's General Fund contribution over the last seven years has gone from 2 ½ million to 19 million.</p>		
<p>7. Continuing Discussion of Coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever)</p>	<p>Commissioner Heatherington referred to the Valley Fever outbreak in North County and is concerned about residents and workers not being notified of the exact location of the "spike." Dr. McMillan could not give out the specific location, but emphasized that there are cases of Valley Fever throughout the County because it is endemic. Dr. McMillan referred to a Power Point presentation he received from the Kern County Interim Health officer, with recommendations for people working in construction fields. He explained why Valley Fever cases increase after a period of higher rainfall. He has done some outreach to County Planning, primarily about dust control using water and respiratory protection.</p> <p>Commissioner Warren suggested the possibility of Public Health sponsoring a "Valley Fever Symposium" and inviting the Kern County Interim Health Officer to speak.</p> <p>Commissioner Guereña asked if the outbreak involved agricultural workers. <i>Dr. McMillan answered that it involved strictly construction workers.</i></p> <p>Commissioner Heatherington noted the reason for carrying this item forward from last month was for possible action encouraging County Planning to follow the recommended guidelines from the California Department of Public Health that were issued to limit exposure to Valley Fever. She would like to also encourage City Planning Departments. <i>(Recommendations are available at http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/AssetFactory.aspx?did=16200)</i></p> <p><i>Commissioner Heatherington made a motion directing that Public Health notify the City Planning Departments of the State recommendations, encouraging them to take the recommendations into consideration when reviewing planning projects that involve earth moving or similar construction activities. Motion seconded by Commissioner Odell. No further discussion. No public comment. All in favor.</i></p>	<p><i>Motion passed to notify City Planning Depts. of State recommendations for construction workers.</i></p>	<p><i>Heatherington/Odell All in favor.</i></p>
<p>8. Health Agency Director Report</p>	<p>Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director reported briefly on the State budget. The State budget shortfall is "astronomical" and requires "out of the box" thinking on how to redirect existing financial resources. Big issues are Correctional and Educational funding. Legislature rejected part of the Governor's proposal to reduce funding to various health care programs. It will be an unsettled period of time until the State budget is adopted.</p>		

<p>9. Health Commissioner Updates</p>	<p>Chair Enns: Absent – no report. Vice-Chair Hicks: No report. Commissioner Warren: Reported on the Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board where a presentation was given by the County Office of Education on the success of their pilot program for a sober classroom. 12 students participated and they hope to expand it. Commissioner Donnelly: No report. Commissioner Guerena: No report. Commissioner Odell: No report. Commissioner Horne: No report. Commissioner Chamousis: Reported on the Adult Services Policy Council meeting where there was an overview on how Medi-Cal works, its basic operations, and the criteria for determining Medi-Cal benefits. She reported it was interesting and “utterly mind boggling.” Commissioner Heatherington: Reported on the May 21st Domestic Violence Task Force meeting: 1) they have a new family law facilitator (Alicia Wright); 2)Dr. Amir resigned as Medical Society liaison; and 3) They will be adding a Domestic Violence Death Review Process Team in addition to the Child Death Review Team already in place. Commissioner Mase: No report. Commissioner Thielscher: Absent – no report.</p>		
<p>10. Committee Reports</p>	<p>Legislative Committee: The committee will reconvene in the Fall. Community Education: Commissioner Heatherington reported that they have been moving forward on updating the Health Commission webpage. Budget: No report. Nominating Committee: Commissioner Hicks brought forward recommendations from the Nominating Committee for new membership and FY 08-09 new officers: Officers: Commissioner Enns (Chair), Commissioner Heatherington (Vice-Chair), Commissioner Chamousis (Secretary) Membership: Reappointments of Commissioner Chamousis and Commissioner Enns (moving Commissioner Chamousis to Commissioner Hicks vacating Indirect Provider position); and new appointments of Jesse Arnold and Dawn Williams (replacing Commissioner Donnelly and Horne’s vacating Consumer positions). These appointments are subject to the Board of Supervisor’s review and approval. <i>Commissioner Warren made motion to accept the slate as officers as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Horne. No further discussion. All in favor.</i> <i>Commissioner Heatherington made motion to approve the appointments of Jesse Arnold and Dawn Williams, the reappointments of Commissioner Chamousis and Commissioner Enns; and the change in category to Indirect Provider for Commissioner Chamousis. These recommendations will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for final approval. Motion seconded by Commissioner Horne. No further discussion. All in favor.</i></p>	<p><i>Motion passed to approve FY 08-09 new officers.</i> <i>Motion passed recommending reappointments and new members to the commission.</i></p>	<p><i>Warren/Horne All in favor</i> <i>Heatherington/Horne All in favor</i></p>

	It was also announced that Commissioner Mase will be resigning. Further action will be required by the commission prior to filling Commissioner Mase's vacated "Direct Provider" position and Commissioner Chamousis' vacated "Consumer" position.		
11. Prospective Future Items	<u>July 2008:</u> Health Commission Annual Retreat – Location TBD.		
12. Adjournment	Motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.	Meeting adjourned	Chamousis/Odell/All