

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, December 8, 2008 (Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Lynn Enns (Chair), Pam Heatherington (Vice-Chair), Jesse Arnold, Martin Craven, DDS, MD, Ed Guerena, Pamela Munson, David Odell, Susan Warren, Dawn Williams

Members Absent: Penny Chamousis (excused), Robert Thielscher (excused)

Staff Present: Penny Borenstein, MD, Health Officer, Jean White (Recorder)

Speakers: Greg Fitzgerald (VisionWorks Associates); Rick Cohen (Big Brothers Big Sisters); Barry Vanderkelen (SLO County Community Foundation); Rick London (United Way of SLO County); Maria Fabula (Non Profit Support Center)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order by Chair Enns at 6:00 p.m.	<i>Call to order</i>	<i>Chair Enns</i>
<b>2. Approval of Minutes</b>	Minutes of November 17, 2008 were approved as written.	<i>November minutes approved</i>	<i>Heatherington/Guerena/All</i>
<b>3. Public Comment</b>	<p><b>Stephen Hansen, M.D.</b>, referred to the minutes from last month's Health Commission meeting and the public comment that was made regarding Coccidioidomycosis (Cocci) in North County. Dr. Hansen wanted the commission to be aware of information that is available on the County website that includes a report and recommendations for workers who are involved in projects that disrupt endemically affected soil w/cocci. Dr. Hansen believes the commission should have more of an educational / advocacy focus to ensure workers in the North County take proper precautions when soil is disrupted. He talked about research by the CDC for development of a cocci vaccine, and noted that funding for this has diminished over the past 8 years. He suggested the commission write a letter asking for reinstatement of that research program. Dr. Hansen also referred to the smoke free campuses at our local hospitals and suggested that all County campuses adopt that same approach and become smoke free. He asked for the commission's support by advocating for smoke free campuses, particularly the Sheriff's Department, one of the few Sheriff's facilities in California that still allows smoking on their campus.</p> <p><i>Commissioner Heatherington responded to Dr. Hansen's comment by providing a brief overview of some of the educational efforts that have been made by the Health Commission with regard to Cocci. The Health Commission was responsible for ensuring that information from the last outbreak was made available and included on the County website. They also ensured educational information was forwarded to all County and City Planning Departments. Dr. Hansen asked that the commission work with private contractors as well.</i></p> <p><b>Michael Axelrod, Executive Director, Project Amend</b>, announced that the application process for Project Amend has been expedited and they expect to open the residential treatment and social model detox center within the next few weeks. He expressed a thank you to those who helped expedite the process. Commissioner Warren thanked him for his perseverance and asked if the residential treatment and detox was for both men and women. Mr. Axelrod clarified that it is for adult men, 18 years and over.</p>		

#### 4. Non Profit Overview

**Susan Warren** introduced the topic and speakers.

**Greg Fitzgerald, VisionWorks Association**, provided a Power Point overview and talked about the importance of the nonprofit sector. He defined the three sectors: the private sector, the public sector, and the social economy (the nonprofit sector) and explained that nonprofit in this Country is a tax status and not a business plan. He provided some history on nonprofits, how and why they evolved and the Supreme Court ruling in 1818 that helped settle the argument of whether the government should control nonprofits. Since that time, many laws have been passed and all nonprofits that are based in California have to apply to the Secretary of State and abide by the regulations of the State of California. Mr. Fitzgerald talked about nonprofit organizations' role in areas such as the arts, the environment, human services, advocacy for the disadvantaged, education, and international humanitarian assistance. He noted that nonprofits are growing faster than business or government, and are now 10% of U.S. employment. Over 300 billion dollars was contributed to charitable causes in the US in 2007. Across the US, there are one and a half million nonprofit organizations. California is home to 10% of all US nonprofits, with revenue of \$118 billion, assets of \$195 billion, and nearly 1 million employees.

*Commissioner Arnold asked for more information on the Supreme Court Ruling in 1818. Mr. Fitzgerald explained how the Court basically decided under the first amendment, but there wasn't a final decision. This was the beginning of the nonprofit system we have now – that all nonprofits must have an unpaid community board of directors and that in exchange for a tax benefit, there is someone safeguarding the public interest.*

**Rich Cohen, Big Brothers Big Sisters San Luis Obispo County**, talked about the importance of building and maintaining an effective non-profit Board of Directors and the role of board members in the community. He emphasized the importance of nonprofits having sound business practices and having a board of directors who are able to bring influence and financial resources to the table. San Luis Obispo County is home to over 1,000 non-profits. Approximately 75% of funding of nonprofits comes from individuals, through the collective work of a financially-committed board of directors. Mr. Cohen talked about ways to build a board and recruit board members, through referrals by board members, agency's donor base, volunteer base, and contacting new businesses and emerging business leaders, noting that a healthy board is well-diversed and ready to attract supporters. One thing he talked about that makes a big difference is "cause" and articulating that cause. He noted the importance of board interaction and conducting business with everyone on the same page, without any self serving interests getting in the way of progress. Board members should be an integral component to planning, and able to look beyond the horizon.

**Barry Vanderkelen, Executive Director, SLO County Community Foundation** provided a Power Point overview and talked about revenue and sources of revenue for nonprofits in San Luis Obispo County. He also talked briefly about the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation. He explained that in the nonprofit section of the tax code, there are

28-29 different types of nonprofit organizations and that it is the 501(c)3 that allows donors to receive a tax benefit for giving money. There are approx. 1100 501(c)3 organizations in San Luis Obispo County, with 47% of those having revenues less than \$25,000. Total revenue for SLO nonprofits is \$402 million (taken off annual filing Form 990), with 5% from corporations, 12% from foundations, 88% from individuals. Special events don't raise a significant amount of money, but raise profile. Nonprofit activity generated \$12 million in tax revenue for state and local coffers in 2005. Mr. Vanderkelen talked about the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation, founded in May 1998, as a public trust to assist donors in building an enduring source of charitable funds to meet the changing needs and interests of the community. The foundation makes grants to local nonprofits and works with individuals to donate funds strategically. At the end of 2007, the foundation had assets of \$28.5 million, and made grants of over 12 million dollars. In 2007, they made 367 grants, totaling 2.6 million dollars.

*Commissioner Warren asked if Form 990 was available to people wanting to know more about a nonprofit. Mr. Vanderkelen explained that Form 990 is public record. He also referred to Guidestar's website at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org), as a good place to obtain information on nonprofits, with various levels of access available for a fee.*

**Rick London, United Way of SLO County** provided a Power Point overview and talked about shifting strategies for nonprofit success. He talked about the Nonprofit Collaboration Summit that United Way and the Community Foundation sponsored in September 2008, and explained that with the State legislature's task of closing a 28 billion dollar gap through June 2010, they are facing significant challenges and it is clear that an important strategy for survival is to develop priorities and adapt to the shift in resources to foster transformative collaborations. He talked about the need to filter in to the causes of problems and come up with sustainable and preventable change. This year, United Way issued a 10-year challenge to America that by 2018, we, as a nation, can cut by half the number of young people who drop out of high school and the number of lower-income families that lack financial stability, and increase by a third the number of youths and adults that are healthy and avoid risky behaviors. He explained that "what get measured, gets done," and presented a slide showing "indicators at-a-glance" on education, income and health. He talked about our community as a system and presented a slide showing the inter-connectedness and inter-dependence of healthy communities. United Way is trying to get the message out "How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."... *Anne Frank*.

*Commissioner Odell asked if the establishment of the Community Foundation in 1998 had any (positive or negative) effect on United Way. Mr. London explained how they work collaboratively and even though they may receive some of the funding that United Way would have received, he explained how the Community Foundation is a safety for the nonprofits, putting money aware for the future.*

*Commissioner Craven asked for amount of United Way's administrative overhead. (Mr. London answered that their overhead is 20%)*

*Commissioner Warren referred to recent article in The Tribune about the Community Foundation and United Way and was enlightened that Mr. London referred to United Way as kind of a "checkbook" and the Community Foundation as the safety for the nonprofits.*

*Commissioner Munson asked about programs funded for the senior community. (Mr. London stated that most of their senior programs are on a grant basis, noting that they provided funding to EOC for the Senior Peer Screening Program.)*

**Maria Fabula, Non Profit Support Center** provided a Power Point overview that began with a snapshot view of the County nonprofit organizations and then talked about the Nonprofit Support Center's programs and services. She explained that SLO County is home to approximately 1,925 nonprofit organization (all inclusive, not only the 501(c)3's). Overall, they generate \$441 million dollars in annual revenue. The majority are small and generate under 100K/year. The Cities of Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo have the largest number of nonprofits. Santa Barbara and Monterey Counties have very large nonprofit sectors that each bring in over a billion dollars annually. The new reality is that economic challenges will bring the need for more efficiency in nonprofits. The Nonprofit Support Center provides leadership, consulting and training to help nonprofits do their good work better. The Nonprofit Support Center has expanded into Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo and offers training programs (that includes partnering with Cal Poly to offer a Development Officer Certificate Program and a Volunteer Management Certificate Program), peer networking roundtables (for executive directors & volunteer managers), consulting services (that includes strategic planning), and a new Resource Center in SLO, open Tuesday & Thursday, 9-5. Their programs focus on four core areas: board effectiveness, fund development, leadership & planning. She talked about the importance of nonprofit organizations diversifying the types of funds that come into their organization, and not being dependent on one type of grant.

*Commissioner Craven asked how they are funded. Ms. Fabula answered that funding comes through grants, individual givings, and revenue from their programs.*

*Commissioner Odell asked about ratio of nonprofits compared to population. Mr. Vanderkelen referred to a report in 2003 that ranked San Luis Obispo number 15 for the number of 501(c)3 nonprofits per resident. Santa Barbara and Marin were #1 for most nonprofits per person.*

*Commissioner Warren asked for more information on membership to the Nonprofit Support Center. Ms. Fabula explained that they are a membership organization, which helps to offset some of the costs for their programs. Membership allows access to a different level of resources and is based on a sliding fee scale. She emphasized that the Resource Center also offers a lot of free resources.*

<p><b>5. Health Agency Report</b></p>	<p><b>Penny Borenstein, M.D., County Health Officer/Public Health Administrator</b> reported briefly on the Health Agency budget and the approx. 3 to 3 ½ million dollar reduction they will have to make in their budget going into next year. They have kept a number of vacancies open and are looking closely at priorities and efficiencies. She described a bit of the pain coming down from the state level that is affecting not only the County Health Agency’s budget, but recipients of services. One program that may be affected is the Healthy Families Program, the State Child Health Insurance Program that has been in place for approximately 10 years. The board that oversees the Healthy Families Program is looking at the probability of putting an enrollment cap on that program, which for San Luis Obispo would mean the total enrollment of 5100 would have to be decreased (through attrition) by 900 and maintained for the balance of the fiscal year. This leaves a significant number of children without health insurance.</p> <p>Dr. Borenstein also reported that the Environmental Health Division attended their last of seven City Council meetings that included discussion and vote on approval for a Vector Control Benefit District. All 7 municipalities have agreed to “sign on” to the ballot initiative/assessment vote.</p>		
<p><b>6. Health Commissioner Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Chair Enns</b> asked for any updates from commissioners:</p> <p><b>Commissioner Heatherington:</b> Domestic Violence Task Force met on November 19<sup>th</sup>, where there was an update on all of the educational outreach that was done this month as part of the program to prevent dating violence (including a new billboard and outreach at Farmer’s Market.) Information was also provided on prevention groups for batterers and the new courthouse in Paso Robles. First responders and police departments are currently going through trainings to learn more about what to look for and reporting mechanisms in domestic violence cases.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Arnold:</b> Referred to an article in The Tribune on 11/26 about US cancer rates being on the decline. The article provided some statistics on different cancers and noted that some experts argue that the decrease is primarily the result of a drop in lung cancer, due to the decline in smoking.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Munson:</b> Attended the Adult Services Policy Council meeting last week. The group consists of nonprofits, for profits, and other agencies that provide services to the community. With all of the budget cuts, they are very focused on finding ways to work together more collaboratively in the use and sharing of resources, in order to continue to provide services at the same level as in the past.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Craven:</b> Attended the first meeting of the Oral Health Coalition last Tuesday. There were 26 people in attendance. It was a brainstorming session, focusing on children’s oral health, and looking at services that are available. They will be meeting again the first part of February.</p>		
<p><b>7. Committee Reports</b></p>	<p>No committee reports.</p>		
<p><b>8. Prospective Future Items</b></p>	<p><b><u>January 2009:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-1-1 Update / Hotline</li> <li>• Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Smokefree Ordinance – Dr. Craven referred to Dr. Hansen’s public comment and suggested the Health Commission may want to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending banning the use of tobacco products at the Sheriff’s facility. Commissioner Heatherington asked why the Health Campus isn’t smokefree. Dr. Borenstein explained that they have been looking at this and information received from County Counsel indicates this would require a local ordinance. They are in the process of collecting all information before they move forward, taking into consideration the sites outside of the City and the inpatient Mental Health Unit. Commissioner Odell suggested the commission receive more information prior to taking action.</i></li> <li>• <i>Valley Fever Vaccine – Commissioner Arnold suggested adding this to the agenda in response to Dr. Hansen’s request for a letter in favor of development of the Valley Fever vaccine. Chair Enns suggested collecting more info on the vaccine research &amp; development.</i></li> </ul>		
<b>9. Adjournment</b>	Motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.	Meeting adjourned	