

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, October 19, 2009 (Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Pam Heatherington (Chair), Jesse Arnold, Penny Chamousis, Lynn Enns, Ed Guerena, Gina Kirk, Pamela Munson, David Odell, Susan Warren, Dawn Williams
 Members Absent: Martin Craven, MD, DDS,
 Staff Present: Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director, Jean White (Recorder)
 Speakers: Beth Raub (Women’s Shelter Program of SLO); Karen Jones (Long Term Care Ombudsman Services); Julia Miller (Adult & Homeless Services SLO County), Jessica Devereaux (Linkages), Alyce Crawford (Coast Caregiver Resource Center), joyce ellen lippman (Area Agency on Aging); Marie Brinkmeyer (Senior Volunteer Services/RSVP)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
1. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by Chair Heatherington at 6:00 p.m.	<i>Call to order</i>	<i>Chair Heatherington</i>
2. Approval of Minutes	Minutes of September 14, 2009 were approved as written.	<i>September minutes approved</i>	<i>Arnold/Kirk/All</i>
3. Public Comment	Chair Heatherington read written public comment submitted from Eric Greening, who was unable to attend tonight. Mr. Greening expressed his disappointment that the Board of Supervisors has already approved a \$116,000 expenditure (from the \$700,000 SLOCEA savings) for the Atascadero capital project, allowing closure of the Paso Robles Mental Health Clinic. It was his understanding that the timeline would allow the commission to receive further information on expenditure of these funds at their October meeting. He asked that the process for the remaining \$584,000 be explained and placed on the agenda for commission action at the earliest possible date.	<i>Written public comment from Mr. Eric Greening submitted for the record.</i>	
4. Presentation: Domestic Violence Awareness Month	Beth Raub, Director, Volunteer & Outreach, Women’s Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County , announced that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and provided an overview of the Women’s Shelter Program and the services they provide to victims of intimate partner violence and their children. She defined intimate partner violence and showed a brief video of their “safe house.” She talked about their transitional units in San Luis Obispo and South County and the counseling services they offer at various locations throughout the County. A legal clinic is also available to help with restraining orders and court filings. Ms. Raub distributed a packet of information that included a copy of their brochure and a “safe place sticker.” She explained their new “safe place sticker” program, where businesses can place a sticker on their door to let victims know that it is a safe place for them to come in and use a phone confidentially to call Hotline at 2-1-1. Ms. Raub reminded everyone that medical personnel are mandated reporters of domestic violence and intimate partner violence. This month they have a display of artwork at the County Government Center “ <i>A Call for Peace in the Home.</i> ” Commissioner Arnold asked if medical personnel are mandated to report if they suspect there has been abuse, even if their patient denies any abuse. (<i>Ms. Raub explained that medical personnel are mandated to report if they strongly suspect.</i>) Commissioner Chamousis asked for more information about referral to the transitional units.	<i>Handout: Packet, including Women’s Shelter Program brochure, magnets & safe place sticker</i>	

	<p><i>(Ms. Raub explained that they received a federal grant for the transitional units and under the grant, people can transition directly from the Safe House or from the North County Women’s Resource Center and Shelter, or can be referred from SARP (Sexual Assault Recovery & Prevention Center) or Victim Witness. Criteria are they have to be homeless because of the assault and have to be a victim of intimate partner violence, rape or stalking.)</i></p>		
<p>5. Overview: SLO County Long Term Care Facility Standardized Disaster Plans</p>	<p>Karen Jones, Executive Director, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, explained their role as advocates for people in long term care facilities. They have been working in partnership with the County Office of Emergency Services, the Public Health Department, and the long term care facilities in San Luis Obispo County, to create and distribute a standardized disaster plan for long term care facilities. This was funded by a grant through the Public Health Department from the Hospital Preparedness Grant Program. Ms. Jones provided a copy of the plan binder to each commissioner to review as she walked through each of the sections: Emergency Contacts; Pre-planning Tips and Forms; Evacuation Instructions; Sheltering-In-Place Instructions; Disaster Specific Information; Checklists; Emergency Access ID Card Templates and Instructions; and forms & list of items to keep in kits. They have trained approximately 100 people to date on these plans; with next steps to finish distributing the plan binders, perform follow-up trainings, provide assistance with developing continuity plans and holding disaster drills. This plan will increase the ability of care facility residents to do well in a disaster and to be as independent as possible. Ms. Jones reminded folks to please not visit care facilities if you have flu-like symptoms.</p> <p>Commissioner Odell noted the importance of holding disaster drills as the best training tool. Commissioner Guerena asked if pharmacies are part of the disaster planning. <i>(Ms. Jones explained that pharmacies are a part of the plan; noting the importance of people who are evacuated arriving to alternate locations with a list of their medications.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Kirk asked for characterization of facilities that the Ombudsman Program has good access to. <i>(Ms. Jones explained that they have access by regulation to skilled nursing facilities for seniors and residential care facilities for the elderly. They do not have good access to the adult residential care facilities serving folks with mental health issues or skilled nursing facilities serving the developmental disabled.)</i> Chair Heatherington asked who has jurisdiction for the others <i>(Ms. Jones explained that Tri-County Regional Center has access to quite a few of the others; but their role is slightly different.)</i></p>		
<p>6. Overview: Senior Long Term Care in San Luis Obispo County</p>	<p>Julia Miller, Program Manager, Adult & Homeless Services for the County of San Luis, shared a bit of good news in that In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) received an injunction and budget cuts are temporarily on hold. Approximately 800 of their 1700 clients were going to receive cuts to services – with approximately ½ being completely cut off from services and another ½ losing services in critical areas such as shopping, meal preparation, and personal care services. She explained that IHSS is based on Medi-Cal eligibility and how the services to be cut are based on a “functional index ranking.” People who had an average ranking of less than 2 were going to be cut off services completely. Up until last week, no exceptions were going to be made, but they did get some exceptions back. Not included in the lawsuit is the share of cost buyout – The state will no longer pay the difference between the higher Medi-Cal</p>		

share of cost and the lower IHSS share of cost, so clients will have to pay the higher Medi-Cal share of cost. Another big change is in provider enrollment. Effective November 1st, providers will have to go through a long process to get a live scan and criminal background check, which providers will have to pay for themselves. This will cause a delay in accessing providers and limit the number of providers.

Commissioner Warren asked if there was an estimate for number of people who will lose their provider on November 1st. (*Ms. Miller explained that providers who are currently providing services have until June 2010 to complete the background check process.*)

Commissioner Guereña confirmed that “provider” is the caregiver and asked what types of checks are done currently. (*Caregivers who work through the caregiver registry are required to have a reference check but not a live scan. Under the new rules, if a client has a provider they want, they will no longer have a choice if the provider does not pass the background check.*)

Commissioner Warren commented that there are a lot of people in recovery who have had past behaviors, but today are different people. With background checks going back 10 years, this will add to their difficulty in finding jobs.

Jessica Devereaux, Intake and Respite Coordinator, Linkages Care Management

Program, provided an overview of the Linkages program, that offers comprehensive care management to frail elderly adults and adults with disabilities, age 18 years and older, residing in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. The program is designed to help “fill in the gaps” by serving individuals who are not eligible for any other care management program. Through care management, they offer an in-home assessment and a care plan to address their particular needs and will refer to local service agencies and programs. Care managers monitor clients and visit each client at least every three months. They receive funding through the Area Agency on Aging, as well as federal Medi-Cal (TCM) money. They took a “major hit” with the budget cuts, with major reductions in staff, and are operating at 45-50% less than last year. The number of clients they serve had to be reduced from 107 to 64 and the waiting list is now closed to new clients. They also lost the State funding for their respite purchase of services program, but did get Federal Title III Respite funding. They will continue to serve their clients as best they can with the limited resources they have.

Alyce Crawford, Family Consultant, Coast Caregiver Resource Center, talked about their program and the services they offer to caregivers who are caring for a family member at home with a neurological condition. The Coast Caregivers Resource Center (CCRC) serves the region of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and is a member of a statewide resource network with 11 regions in California. They provide support to caregivers through family consultation and care planning, support groups, respite care, short-term counseling, legal & financial consultation and trainings. The budget cuts were devastating to their program, with a 72% budget cut. The 3-county region has lost half of their staff and they no longer receive state funding for respite care. Ms. Crawford still continues to facilitate support groups. Right now, in order to continue to address the needs of their clients they have obtained

Federal Title III Respite funding. The focus of the CCRC prior to the cuts was primarily persons above Medi-Cal level of income, but with the Title III funding, financial criteria is lower income. Ms. Crawford handed out flyers to forward to folks who may qualify for the Federal Title III funding.

Commissioner Chamousis asked how persons should contact them. *(Ms. Crawford noted that although their brochures were printed prior to the budget cuts, the toll-free number listed is still accurate. Their main office in Santa Barbara is still in the same building.)*

joyce ellen lippman, Area Agency on Aging and Marie Brinkmeyer, Executive Director, Senior Volunteer Services/RSVP talked a bit about the programs they are involved with and provided an overview of a new volunteer program they are actively pursuing called the “Good Neighbor Program.” joyce ellen lippman works at the Area Agency on Aging, also known as the Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens, a non-profit organization responsible for allocating federal and state dollars to local agencies to ensure that supportive, nutrition and health promotion services to older adults in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties are available. Ms. Brinkmeyer is the Director of Senior Volunteer Services, a non-profit community services organization with a goal of matching seniors with volunteer opportunities throughout the community and also allowing seniors to maintain their independence as long as possible. Senior Volunteer Services administers several programs, including RSVP and Project Lifesaver. When Ms. lippman and Ms. Brinkmeyer initially began hearing about all the cuts to services and that nearly 800 people would be losing some or all of their services, they began researching ways that could help mitigate some of the potential consequences and looked at model programs in other counties. They invited a representative from a program in Santa Barbara called “Community Partners in Caring,” an organization that started 12 years ago and through a volunteer pool provides transportation, grocery shopping, errands, light home repair and yard work to IHSS clients and those who are not IHSS eligible but cannot afford to purchase any of these services in the private market. Ms. lippman and Ms. Brinkmeyer have submitted a proposal to the executive director of Community Partners in Caring to see if they are interested in expanding their program to San Luis Obispo County. They asked for the Commission’s endorsement of the project.

Commissioner Enns commented that this is a wonderful project, and that in order for the commission to officially endorse the program, it will have to be placed on next month’s agenda as an action item.

Commissioner Kirk asked about private home care agencies and how people can evaluate and compare some of the differences. *(joyce ellen lippman referred to their Sr. Resource Directory and a one page handout called “High Rating Home Health.” Currently they have 25 agencies on this list. She also suggested visiting the facility and asking lots of questions.)*

Commissioner Warren suggested outreach to Kiwanis and other service clubs for volunteers for the program. *(Ms. Brinkmeyer noted they are working with those organizations as well as the Retired Active Men (RAMs). Commissioner Warren suggested maybe recruiting younger people to help with heavy lifting projects (Cal Poly is very supportive).*

This item will be carried over to next month for action.

<p>7. Health Agency / Public Health Report</p>	<p>Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director, reported that Dr. Borenstein and Public Health staff have been extremely busy with H1N1 response and planning efforts. Mr. Hamm further reported on a presentation made last week by the County Administrator to the County Board of Supervisors on the County’s financial situation and the forecast into the upcoming fiscal year. This upcoming year will be the 3rd year of reductions. The presentation can be viewed on the County website. The Health Agency has already begun to gather information for their 2010-11 budget submittal, which will be due to the Administrative Office in February. Mr. Hamm reported that they continue to work closely with CHC and CenCal Health representatives on the implications of the reductions that were made necessary this year, specifically detailing the consequences of reductions in specialty care that were associated with those cuts.</p> <p>Commissioner Heatherington asked that the commission be included when working on the list of proposed reductions for the upcoming fiscal year.</p> <p>Commissioner Guerena asked about the County’s plan for getting the H1N1 vaccine out to the community. <i>(Mr. Hamm explained they are initially working with Pediatricians, OB providers, and other practitioners to target the youngest children, and are working extensively with the school districts to do school located vaccination clinics.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Warren referred to Mr. Greening’s earlier written comment regarding combining the two north county clinics into one site in Atascadero and asked what is being done to address the issue of transportation for those clients affected. She asked for more information on the cost savings of combining the clinics. <i>(Mr. Hamm explained that the proposal for consolidation of the two North County clinics went before the Mental Health Board and that a detailed proposal was submitted to the Board of Supervisors characterizing the impact. It was predicted that approximately 100 clients would be unable to access services due to transportation. There will be a savings of approximately \$400,000 in general fund support. The Board approved the project using \$116,000 of the savings from the deferral of COLAs in the Health Agency’s budget and \$50,000 that the County had appropriated into the capital project budget for the Atascadero facility remodel. They are currently gathering more info for the Regional Transportation Planning folk to see if a loop could be added to the Atascadero site.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Chamousis asked when H1N1 vaccine would be available. <i>(Mr. Hamm explained that the vaccine has been ordered and they are waiting receipt. They were expecting to get a certain percentage of their order by the latter part of October, but have been told that there will be a slight reduction in the volume of the first shipments.)</i></p>		
<p>8. Health Commissioner Updates</p>	<p>Chair Heatherington: No report.</p> <p>Commissioner Guerena: No report.</p> <p>Commissioner Warren: Attended the Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board meeting where there was a presentation from Cal Poly about the rules they have on campus that apply to students living in the dorms. The Cal Poly police now work in partnership with the SLO PD to patrol the campus and a one block region around the campus. There was also a report at the meeting from an ER physician about alcohol-related visits to the ERs. Commissioner Warren suggested this as an agenda item for the November meeting.</p> <p>Commissioner Enns: Attended the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory</p>		

	<p>Committee meeting (PHEPAC) where there was an update on the First Responder Point of Distribution (FRPOD) mass vaccination drill that was held to vaccinate first responders, County employees and senior citizens for seasonal flu. She also noted that the County has a great deal of H1N1 information on their website, including an electronic version of a new brochure “Your Guide to Preparing for Pandemic Flu.”</p> <p>Commissioner Enns also attended the SART Advisory Board meeting last week where information was provided on a fundraiser that the Sexual Assault Recovery & Prevention Center of SLO County is having on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at the Edna Valley Vineyard. For tickets, call 545-888 or www.sarpcenter.org.</p> <p>Commissioner Munson: No report.</p> <p>Commissioner Odell: No report.</p> <p>Commissioner Chamousis: Attended the Domestic Violence Task Force meeting last month where it was reported that a new website www.sloparents.org has been developed with resources & information for parents throughout SLO County who want to enhance their parenting skills, sponsored by the Family Resource Center.</p> <p>Commissioner Williams: Noted that the Tobacco Control Coalition will be having a meeting tomorrow, 10/20, at 12:15 in the building behind the Health Campus.</p> <p>Commissioner Arnold: Referred to the article on the front page of the October 12th Tribune regarding the budget cuts to the AIDS Program. The AIDS Support Network will be holding their walkathon fundraiser on Saturday, November 7th at 10:00 at Santa Rosa Park. For more details call the Aids Support Network at 781-3660.</p> <p>Commissioner Kirk: No report.</p>		
<p>9. Committee Reports</p>	<p>Legislative Committee: Commissioner Chamousis reminded commissioners that the “<i>CHEAC Hot Sheets</i>” will now be emailed to all commissioners for review. Commissioners should forward any requests for more information on specific pending legislative to her, for further review by the legislative committee.</p> <p>Commissioner Odell noted the importance of including a statement on what the subject is for all action items on the agenda, including committee reports.</p>		
<p>10. Prospective Future Items</p>	<p>November 2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Good Neighbor Sr. Volunteer Program” (carried over for action) ○ Light Brown Apply Moth in Los Osos – update from SLO County Dept of Agriculture ○ Alcohol Related Visits to ERs – Commissioner Warren will provide info on speakers 		
<p>11. Adjournment</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm.</p>	<p><i>Meeting adjourned</i></p>	