

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, June 14, 2010 (County Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Pam Heatherington (Chair), Jesse Arnold, Lynn Enns, Ed Guerena, David Odell, Susan Warren, Dawn Williams

Members Absent: Penny Chamousis, Gina Kirk, Martin Craven, MD, DDS

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

Speakers: Supervisor James Patterson (Presentations); Kimberly Mott (Drug & Alcohol Services)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
1. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by Chair Heatherington at 6:01 p.m.	<i>Call to order</i>	<i>Chair Heatherington</i>
2. Approval of Minutes	Minutes of May 10, 2010 approved as written.	<i>May minutes approved</i>	<i>Arnold / Odell / All</i>
3. Public Comment	No public comment.		
4. Resolution Honoring Pam Heatherington	Supervisor James Patterson , representing the Board of Supervisors, presented a resolution to Pam Heatherington recognizing and honoring her for 13 years of outstanding service to the San Luis Obispo County Health Commission, as she retires from the commission.		
5. Certificates of Appreciation	Supervisor James Patterson recognized Commissioners Martin Craven, Penny Chamousis and Pamela Munson with “Certificates of Appreciation” for their service on the commission. Commissioners were not present tonight.		
6. Drug & Alcohol Documentary Video entitled “Wasted”	<p>Kimberly Mott, Friday Night Live Program, County of San Luis Obispo Drug & Alcohol Services, introduced herself and Katlin Butler, a student from Atascadero High School, and presented a Drug & Alcohol documentary video entitled “<i>Wasted.</i>” San Luis Obispo County Friday Night Live and Friday Night Live Youth created this documentary focusing on underage drinking, with a goal to bring awareness and create venues for conversation that will lead to change. All of the youth in the video are local San Luis Obispo County youth who spoke from their own personal experiences.</p> <p><u>Commissioner Questions/Discussion:</u></p> <p>Commissioner Arnold referred to part of the video shown where students were asked why they were drinking and one reason given was because they were depressed and bored. He asked about ways to approach that. <i>(Ms. Mott explained that they have hosted town hall meetings at all of the local high schools and have engaged in conversation with school administrators, city council members, MH specialists and young people as a way to begin conversations to help find realistic, attainable solutions.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Warren asked if there were plans for presenting the video in other venues. <i>(Ms. Mott noted that in addition to presenting to school administrators, community members and students through the schools, they have been successful working with City Councils in Atascadero and Paso Robles, and are looking at some changes around policy. There is a need to raise more awareness and more work needs to be done on policies and laws to address some of the ongoing challenges.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Warren asked about (problems with) parents hosting parties and/or parties</p>		

	<p>during periods of time while parents are away for the weekend. <i>(Katlin Butler is very involved in the “Parent Committed Campaign,” a campaign designed for parents who have watched the video and signed a commitment not to provide alcohol to minors. Ms. Butler talked about the importance of conversations between parent and child to share viewpoints and set boundaries.)</i></p>		
<p>7. “Precautionary Principle”</p>	<p>Commissioner Arnold began the discussion by making a motion that the commission support the Precautionary Principle and encourage the Board of Supervisors to support the principle and to ask our legislative lobbyists to support the adoption of it. <i>Commissioner Enns seconded the motion for purpose of discussion.</i></p> <p><u>Commission Discussion:</u></p> <p>Commissioner Odell asked for definition of the “Precautionary Principle.”</p> <p>Chair Heatherington explained that the “precautionary prevention oriented approach” was one of the recommendations (beginning on page 103) in the <i>President’s Cancer Panel’s Report</i>.</p> <p>Commissioner Enns read a sentence from <i>The Wingspread Statement</i> on the Precautionary Principle: <i>“when an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or to human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.”</i></p> <p>Commissioner Enns noted that there can be a downside of adopting a “common sense” principle depending how strictly it is interpreted and asked for clarification on what was meant in the motion “by supporting” the Precautionary Principle. <i>(Commissioner Arnold noted that he intended “general support.”)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Guerena referred to public comment that was made in the past about action that had been taken by the Board of Supervisors on the Precautionary Principle in the form of a resolution and asked for more information. <i>(Commissioner Heatherington invited David Broadwater from the public to provide more information)</i></p> <p>David Broadwater explained that the Board of Supervisors signed a <i>Resolution for “Stop Cancer Where It Starts Month”</i> in October 2001 that included “WHEREAS” clauses about environmental contamination and causes of cancer. An excerpt from the resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors reads: <i>“WHEREAS, health and environmental policies, as well as industrial and other business practices, should be guided by the Precautionary Principle: when an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not established with absolute scientific certainty. In this context, the proponent of an activity or substance, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof of harmlessness.”)</i></p> <p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <p>David Broadwater urged the commission to send a recommendation to the County Board of Supervisors that the County implement the Precautionary Principle by adopting an ordinance (which has been done by other cities and counties), directing all County departments to implement the Precautionary Principle into their departments and include the Precautionary Principle in state and federal legislative strategies. He added that another primary recommendation of the President’s Cancer Panel Report calls for the involvement of local</p>		

government, health and environmental advocates and the public. The Precautionary Principle places the burden of proof on the entity proposing a particular activity or introducing a chemical to verify the safety of that activity or chemical, switching the burden of proof away from the exposed. *(Commissioner Arnold asked for specific examples of how the City and County of San Francisco adopted and used the Precautionary Principle. Mr. Broadwater provided an example of San Francisco banning arsenic treated wood because of levels of arsenic that were reaching into the ground. Chair Heatherington noted that she has a copy of the white paper that resulted in the adoption of this in the City and County of San Francisco.)*

Jonathan K urged the commission to adopt the Precautionary Principle by taking a local approach. He noted that people have known that environmental toxins and contaminants cause cancer, but now that the President’s Cancer Panel Report admits this, this can lead to better regulatory enforcement and greater awareness in local ways. This can also come as an indicator of the need for more resources and focus on environmental pollution and preventative care.

Commissioner Discussion (Cont’d):

Commissioner Williams believes the commission could move forward with their support of the Precautionary Principle without dictated how it should be enforced.

Commissioner Arnold believes, as a consumer representative, that he would do best representing the public by supporting and adopting the Precautionary Principle.

Commissioner Guerena talked about the importance of educating the public on this subject and suggested that if the commission moves forward with a vote to ask the Board of Supervisors to adopt the Principle that the commission continue to educate the public, perhaps by devoting an entire meeting to discuss this topic.

Commissioner Enns expressed her support of the concept of the Precautionary Principle, but objects to supporting an ordinance. She supports Commissioner Guerena’s suggestion of including this on a future agenda and having a program built around it. She suggested simplifying the wording in the motion to “support the concept of the Precautionary Principle.”

Commissioner Odell suggested removing the part of the motion asking the legislative lobbyists to support adoption of the Precautionary Principle.

Dr. Borenstein is unclear on whether the Precautionary Principle is at the level of new products coming out on the market or if it also applies to existing products in local jurisdictions. She is not certain it would be clear enough to the Board of Supervisors as to what is being asked in reiterating their adoption of the Precautionary Principle through a past resolution or what it would mean to the Board of Supervisors to take action as an ordinance or to compel their lobbyists to bring it forward.

David Broadwater explained that the Precautionary Principle applies to both new products and ones already on the market. The Precautionary Principle would allow local governments and other agencies to intervene and/or in some cases, even ban or control the use of a substance due to the evidence of potential harm from products that are already on the market.

Chair Heatherington believes this should begin at the local level by looking at practices used on a daily basis within the County (example given: do we use Clorox or do we use vinegar?)

Commissioner Guerena would like to do more research on what can be done at a local level.

	<p>He suggested inviting speakers who can provide specific examples of where the Precautionary Principle would help in decreasing toxins in our environment. He supports the Precautionary Principle, but feels more information is needed to decide what can be done about it.</p> <p>Commissioner Warren asked that this be tabled to a future meeting for a presentation, as she does not feel there is enough information for the commission (and the public who the commission represents) to take action. She supports this generally, but would like more information on what all of the consequences and ramifications might be.</p> <p>Chair Heatherington commented that she is not certain who would give a presentation on the Precautionary Principle at a local level, as a lot of the information brought forward came from the President’s Cancer Panel. She suggested someone might contact San Francisco City or County to find out who they used as experts as a first step.</p> <p>Chair Heatherington asked if Commissioner Arnold would consider revising his motion.</p> <p><i>Commissioner Arnold revised his motion: That the commission forward a letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending that they support the findings of the Report of the President’s Cancer Panel and work with the Health Commission to educate the public on the Precautionary Principle’s ability to protect the health of the people and the environment. Seconded by Commissioner Heatherington Roll call vote: Arnold (yes), Heatherington (yes), Odell (yes), Guerena (yes), Williams (yes); Enns (no); Warren (abstention).</i></p> <p>Commissioner Odell suggested the commission may want to establish a task force to research this further.</p>	<p><i>Motion passed supporting the findings of the Report of the President’s Cancer Panel</i></p>	
<p>8. Health Agency / Public Health Report</p>	<p>Penny Borenstein, MD, Health Officer provided an update on the following:</p> <p>Budget: The Health Agency’s budget was adopted today. This is the third year in a row that the Health Agency has sustained reductions (10%); with an adopted budget at 2.2 million dollars. State cuts are still unknown, but will likely affect the Health Agency and Public Health. Federal healthcare reform will provide some help by stopping decreases in eligibility for MediCal & Healthy Families and will provide some money to states to support evidence based home visiting programs.</p> <p>Oral Health Program Manager: Position was approved and Public Health will begin recruitment. This position will help to develop and implement a strategic plan that will include education, primary prevention services, access to dental care and ongoing Countywide coordination. Revenue for this position is grant based.</p> <p>Title 10 Funding: Public Health recently submitted a Title 10 funding request. Title 10 is the federal social security block grant for family planning services. Family planning services have been cut back, but are still being provided at the Paso Robles clinic.</p> <p>Air Pollution Control District’s South County Particulate Matter Report: A committee has come together as directed by the APCD board to work on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the APCD, the Board of Supervisors and State Parks Off Road Vehicle</p>		

	<p>Division. The MOA may be prepared prior to the next APCD meeting.</p> <p>Commissioner Arnold referred to a column by Nicholas Kristof, noting that 41% of Americans come down with cancer and asked Dr. Borenstein if she had heard that number. <i>(Dr. Borenstein has seen rates quoted in other scientific publications with 1 in 3 risk of lifetime cancer diagnosis (33%). These numbers may include some types of benign cancers.)</i></p>		
9. Health Commissioner Updates	<p>Chair Heatherington: No report.</p> <p>Commissioner Warren: Attended the Drug & Alcohol Advisory Committee meeting, where there was a report from Michael Axelrod, <i>Project Amend</i> (the only licensed residential treatment program in SLO County), on sober living environment and residential treatment issues. <i>Project Amend</i> has had to create a 30 day program (instead of 90 days), due to the economy and costs.</p> <p>Commissioner Odell: No report.</p> <p>Commissioner Guereña: No report.</p> <p>Commissioner Enns: No report.</p> <p>Commissioner Arnold: No report.</p> <p>Commissioner Williams: Reported on the “Postpartum Depression Roundtable” she attended on June 4th at the Marriott Courtyard. Postpartum depression can affect the safety of children and can be treated. San Luis Obispo ALPHA, Inc., as well as other agencies in the County, provide support and referrals for postpartum depression</p>		
10. Committee Reports	<p><u>Nominating Committee:</u></p> <p>Commissioner Odell presented the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for new officers for FY 2010-11: <i>Chair-Ed Guereña; Vice-Chair-Susan Warren; Secretary-Lynn Enns</i> and made motion to accept. Motion seconded by Chair Heatherington. All in favor.</p> <p>Commissioner Odell presented the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for two new commissioners: <i>Jean Raymond-Direct Provider; Mary Jean Sage-Indirect Provider</i> and made motion to accept. Motion seconded by Commissioner Arnold. All in favor. Nominations for new commissioners will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, July 13 for final approval. Mary Jean Sage and Jean Raymond were present at tonight’s meeting and introduced themselves.</p> <p>Commissioner Odell announced that there are still two vacancies on the Health Commission in the Consumer category and encouraged members of the public to apply.</p> <p>No reports from Budget, Legislative or Community Education committees.</p>	<p><i>Motion passed accepting new slate of officers for FY 2010-11.</i></p> <p><i>Motion passed accepting the recommendation for two new commissioners.</i></p>	
11. Prospective Future Items	<p><u>July 12, 2010:</u> Health Commission Retreat & Planning Meeting</p>		
12. Adjournment	Motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.	<i>Meeting adjourned</i>	