

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, August 9, 2010 (County Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Ed Guerena (Chair), Jesse Arnold, Lynn Enns, Gina Kirk, David Odell, Jean Raymond, Mary Jean Sage, Susan Warren

Members Absent: Dawn Williams

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

Speakers: Patty Diefenderfer (CHC Homeless Health Program); Reginald Holmes, LPT (Behavioral Health Outreach & Engagement), Pearl Munak (Transitional Food & Shelter); Drew Washer, LCSW (French Hospital Medical Center), Patricia Gomez (Homeless Services Oversight Council)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order by Chair Guerena at 6:00 p.m.	<i>Call to order</i>	<i>Chair Guerena</i>
<b>2. Introduction of New Commissioners</b>	Chair Guerena introduced and welcomed new commissioners Jean Raymond & Mary Jean Sage.		
<b>3. Approval of Minutes</b>	Minutes of the June 14, 2010 and July 12, 2010 meetings were approved with a spelling correction made to Mr. Kincaid's last name in the June minutes.	<i>June/July minutes approved</i>	<i>Enns/Odell /All</i>
<b>4. Public Comment</b>	No public comment.		
<b>5. Homeless Health Outreach Programs &amp; Services</b>	<p><b>Patty Diefenderfer, Special Populations Health Services Manager, Community Health Centers of the Central Coast (CHC)</b>, oversees the special population programs at CHC, including their Healthcare for the Homeless Program. Ms. Diefenderfer talked about the many issues that come with homelessness and explained their program goal to help patients move toward a life of greater health and personal ability and stability. CHC provides medical services at the Prado Day Center 3 days per week and behavioral health &amp; case management services at their Grover Beach office, where they are staffed with a licensed clinical social worker and a psychiatrist. They see an average of 60 patients per week, many with chronic illnesses. Ms. Diefenderfer explained that there are a myriad of things that need to be looked at and addressed and referred to the 10-year strategic plan that is working toward that.</p> <p><b>Reginald Holmes, Licensed Psychiatric Technician with SLO County Mental Health</b>, noted that he has been with County Mental Health for 11 years and in his current job since the latter part of last year. Prior to working in the field, he had no idea of the magnitude of the problems &amp; issues that come with homelessness. He explained that part of his job is to triage and help get individuals to the services they need, with much of his time spent at the Prado Day Center. If a patient has a psychiatric diagnosis, he will work to try to get them involved in the Mental Health Intake Department, which is the beginning of getting them into services. <i>(Commissioner Warren asked Mr. Holmes about percentage of homeless population he believes receive services. Although many are receiving services, Mr. Holmes believes a larger number are not for various reasons; some being leery of a system that comes with conditions.)</i></p> <p><b>Pearl Munak, Director, Transitional Food &amp; Shelter, Inc.</b>, explained that Transitional Food &amp; Shelter provides temporary emergency shelter for homeless people who are medically fragile. If an individual is too sick, injured or disabled to be in a shelter overnight and out all day long,</p>		

they will take them in upon referral from a hospital or another agency and place them in one of their studio apartments (or a motel room, if one of their apartments is not available). A person can stay until they either get well, or if seriously ill, until they get housed. Transitional Food & Shelter's only expense is rent. They rent nine apartments in different areas of the county. They do not have any paid staff or an office.

*(Commissioner Enns asked about funding sources and if their program provides meals. Ms. Munak explained that their funding comes from grants, donations and fundraising projects. She noted that it has become more difficult this year with the scarcity of grants. They do not provide meals, but there is a separate meal program available. They do put some initial food into the apartments and can help individuals get food stamps. Chair Guerena asked for contact info. Persons wishing to donate or contact their organization should call 238-7056.)*

**Drew Washer, LCSW, Medical Social Worker**, has been with French Hospital Medical Center for over 20 years, and talked about the difficulties that come when a homeless person has a serious illness. Mr. Washer explained his role in helping these individuals get ID, Medi-Cal, and temporary housing, so they can be discharged from the hospital with a safe discharge plan. Mr. Washer depends on many of the services provided by the agencies represented here tonight to get these patients to a next level of care after they are discharged. Often times there is not a case manager to help fill the gap and services have to "pieced" together to get these patients food, to doctor appointments, to outpatient chemotherapy, or home health care. It is very difficult for a homeless individual to deal with a chronic health condition.

*(Commissioner Warren asked about detox services for these patients after they are discharged. Mr. Washer emphasized the medical complexities in treating these patients and noted that the cost of sober living houses is beyond the reach for these types of patients. He spoke about the interest of hospitals in partnering with sober living houses, Transitional Food & Shelter services, County services, providing scholarships, and all working together to support and build on services. They all have regular meetings; but there are a number of other issues in working with these clients; one being they can be hard to find, as they don't have an address.)*

*(Commissioner Enns asked about the number of medically homeless and fragile needing services. Mr. Washer estimated that they see approximately one patient per week who is medically homeless and fragile, who has a definite need for coordination with outpatient services. He explained that the ER departments "have another layer of the story and can be inundated" with patients).*

*(Commissioner Arnold asked if Mr. Washer had data on the number of people who have become homeless due to health problems. Mr. Washer did not have numbers, but has seen an increase in the numbers; due to many different scenarios.)*

**Patricia Gomez, Executive Director Designate of the Homeless Services Oversight Council**, was in the audience and was asked to speak about the Homeless Services Council. Ms. Gomez explained that the Homeless Services Council is a community board that was formed to address and implement the County's 10 year plan to end homelessness. The 10-year plan is a strategic

	<p>business plan on how to move from managing homelessness to ending homelessness, and is a guideline on how to invest funds in homeless services strategically in the future. There have been good conversations between many people, including those who spoke tonight, and they are now getting started on implementing the plan.</p> <p><u>Public Comment:</u>  <b>Sandra Pendell, Adult Services Programs, Department of Social Services</b>, talked about the great work of the council and how they are looking at ways to help advocate for people who are eligible for social security benefits, but because of their homelessness and health issues, have not been successful in negotiating the system to get those benefits. As a benefit of SSI, they could also get housing and Medi-Cal. She talked about a program in Santa Cruz County that has been in place for 11 years and how successful it has been in advocating for people who are eligible for SSI. A group of people will be going to Santa Cruz County in September to meet with their counterparts and look at whether they could bring this program to our County.</p> <p><b>Amy Gilman, District Five Legislative Assistant, Board of Supervisors</b>, wanted the commission to be aware of two mandates through the Federal Housing &amp; Urban Development Department: One, requires an enumeration of every homeless person in the County every two years -- the last enumeration was done in 2009, with another due in 2011, and showed that there are approximately 3,429 homeless persons in the County. This is an invaluable source of information for all the program providers in the community. Two, implementation of HMIS (Health Management Information System) -- All providers will be enrolled in the system and it will keep track of the # of clients and monitor the services being accessed. All of the funding for homeless programs will be tied to this. This will help to avoid duplication of services and ensure people are getting the appropriate services. Ms. Gilman suggested these are two issues that could be monitored by the Health Commission and the public.</p>		
<p><b>6. Health Agency / Public Health Report</b></p>	<p><b>Penny Borenstein, MD, Health Officer</b>, provided a brief update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Nipomo Mesa/Particulate Matter</u>: The County Board of Supervisors, Air Pollution Control District and State Parks have all signed off on a Memorandum of Agreement, and are working on development of a mitigation plan.</li> <li>▪ <u>Pertussis/Whooping Cough</u>: As of today, there are 280 cases of pertussis in the County; compared to 2 cases last year. San Luis Obispo County is the highest jurisdiction in the State of California in terms of case rate of pertussis. It is unknown why San Luis Obispo County is experiencing this out of proportion to other counties. Public Health has been working closely with providers and holding public vaccination clinics to control this outbreak. Public Health will be offering vaccines at all of the “back to school” registration days for middle school students. Dr. Borenstein explained why the focus is on middle school students and that California is one of only 11 states in the country that does not have a requirement for a booster dose of vaccine for middle school students. There is a bill currently in the state legislature that is looking to change that. Dr. Borenstein explained that children between the age of 6 months through second grade tend to be well protected (from vaccinations given during infancy and a booster dose at kindergarten). As you move up into the older grades, immunity wears off, unless you get the newly licensed (5 years ago) Tdap</li> </ul>		

	<p>vaccine. A single lifetime dose of Tdap is recommended for all adolescents and adults and is especially important for household members and close contacts of infants. There have been 7 infant deaths from this disease in the state this year. Vaccination is also recommended for pregnant women. More information is available on the Public Health website at <a href="http://slopublichealth.org/pertussis">slopublichealth.org/pertussis</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>STEMI (ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction):</b> Dr. Borenstein described this severe type of heart attack and explained that effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, all pre-hospital providers, ambulances and other hospitals will funnel all STEMI patients (which have to be diagnosed on an ECG) directly to French Hospital, the STEMI receiving center. Transporting ambulances all have the equipment to do an ECG and to receive a readout of the result. <i>Commissioner Odell reminded everyone to call 9-1-1 and not drive yourself to the hospital, in order to get the right diagnosis and to the right place as soon as possible.</i></li> </ul>		
<p><b>7. Health Commissioner Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Chair Guerena</b> reported that he attended last month’s HEAL SLO meeting, where information was provided on the upcoming HEAL SLO Summit in October. The flyer has been emailed to commissioners; more information forthcoming.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Kirk</b> – no report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Arnold</b> attended the HIV Care consortium meeting where it was reported that since January, the AIDS Support Network has had 11 new clients; 6 who were diagnosed and moved here from outside of the County and 5 newly diagnosed cases in our County. Three of these people were below the age of 25. Commissioner Arnold also noted that a program run through the AIDS Support Network, Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS, is a federal program, where fortunately, funding has not been cut.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Enns</b> -- no report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren</b> attended the Drug &amp; Alcohol Services Advisory board meeting where community members spoke about how difficult it is for people in recovery to get jobs due to an increase in employment background checks. Persons who have had a previous arrest are often screened out of job opportunities. This makes it very difficult for persons who have turned their lives around to stay on the road to recovery.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Sage</b> attended her first Domestic Violence Task Force meeting, where they are trying to assure that all County resources are working together in a cohesive manner to deliver services to people in need. It was also reported that many people do not know how to recognize the signs of domestic violence. A future goal is to provide more education on how to recognize the signs of domestic violence and appropriate reporting procedures through public forums and trainings with law enforcement. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Odell</b> – no report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Raymond</b> attended the Adult Services Policy Council (ASPC) meeting, where there was an overview of the organizational charts for all of the different agencies that provide services in the County. This showed a picture of the many services that are being provided and how they work together. With limited state funding, ASPC is trying to find best ways to be of benefit to the agencies that attend the meeting.</p>		
<p><b>8. Committee Reports</b></p>	<p><b><u>Nominating Committee:</u></b>  <b>Commissioner Arnold</b> presented the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for two</p>	<p><i>Motion passed</i></p>	

	<p>new commissioners: James Pope (Consumer) and Anne Quinn (Consumer). Commissioner Odell made motion to accept; seconded by Commissioner Kirk. All in favor. This recommendation will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for final approval at their August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.</p> <p>Budget, Legislative and Community Education committees have not met.</p>	<i>accepting the recommendation for two new commissioners.</i>	
<b>9. Prospective Future Items</b>	<p><b><u>September 2010:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commissioner Arnold referred to the 2005-2006 Grand Jury Report “<i>Pesticide Use at the Agricultural/Urban Interface</i>” and the recommendation made in the report that the pesticide complaint logs at the Agricultural Department be reviewed every three years. Commissioner Arnold asked for authorization from the commission for a review of the logs.</li> <li>▪ Commissioner Warren will invite Lisa Fraser from SLO CAP to speak about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness.</li> <li>▪ Commissioner Warren suggested inviting speakers to talk about some of the recovery resources in the community.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>October 2010:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commissioner Enns noted that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and suggested having a program centered around this in October.</li> </ul>		
<b>10. Adjournment</b>	Motion to adjourn at 7:15 p.m.	<i>Meeting adjourned</i>	