

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, September 13, 2010 (County Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Ed Guerena (Chair), Jesse Arnold, Lynn Enns, Gina Kirk, David Odell, James Pope, Anne Quinn, Jean Raymond, Mary Jean Sage, Susan Warren, Dawn Williams

Members Absent: None

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

Speakers: Bob Freeman (CenCal Health); Rich Little (Agriculture Department); Brenda Ouwkerk (Agriculture Department); Shannon Klisch (Beginnings of SLO County); Michael Axelrod (Project Amend); Rick M, Sharil R, Wesley D (North County Connection Volunteers)

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 Anne Quinn and James Pope.		
<b>3. Approval of Minutes</b>	Minutes of the August 9, 2010 meeting were approved as written.	<i>August minutes approved</i>	<i>Odell/ Arnold/All</i>
<b>4. Public Comment</b>	No public comment at this time.		
<b>5. CenCal Health Community Support Request</b>	<p><b>Bob Freeman, Deputy CEO, CenCal Health</b>, explained that CenCal Health administers the publicly-funded Medi-Cal health care plan serving the residents of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. They serve approximately 100,000 Medi-Cal recipients in both counties. All Medi-Cal beneficiaries are guaranteed a primary care physician and have access to a provider network that is extended throughout both counties. Mr. Freeman explained that the plan has been successfully operating, but they have had to use their reserves. One of the disputes they are having with the state is how the state is recognizing their costs. They have been able to keep the medical cost inflation for SLO County at about 3%, but the State Department of Healthcare Services (who they contract with), is only recognizing a 1% growth in cost. He explained how this 2% difference has been a significant drain on CenCal Health's reserve funds. Mr. Freeman asked the commission for a general letter of support.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Enns</b> asked if they have spoken with the County Board of Supervisors. <i>(Mr. Freeman explained that Supervisor Achadjian serves on their board and has written a letter to the State. State legislators and local physicians have all been very supportive of CenCal Health.)</i></p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren</b> asked if there has been an increase in the number of patients served by CenCal. <i>(Mr. Freeman noted there are approximately 35,000 Medi-Cal beneficiaries in SLO County, up from approximately 25,000 in 2008 when the plan started in SLO County.)</i></p> <p><b>Commissioner Arnold</b> moved that the commission write a letter of support, emphasizing the importance of CenCal Health in the community. <b>Motion seconded by Commissioner Kirk; all in favor.</b></p>	<i>Motion passed to write a letter to the State Department of Healthcare Services in support of CenCal Health</i>	
<b>6. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month</b>	<b>Shannon Klisch, Coordinator for Beginnings</b> , talked about the Beginnings collaborative (funded by United Way and First 5) and their goal to prevent alcohol and other drug exposed pregnancies. She explained that International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day is held every year throughout the United States on the 9 <sup>th</sup> day of the 9 <sup>th</sup> month		

	<p>recognizing the importance of abstaining from alcohol during pregnancy. Ms. Klisch provided information on events that were held to bring awareness: 2600 flags were placed on the SLO Courthouse lawn; each flag representing a baby born in this county who was exposed to alcohol prenatally. Also, Dr. Kathryn Page, a psychologist specializing in educational and child care approaches for substance exposed children, conducted 6 workshops to help raise awareness and provide guidance to health professionals and parents on how to identify FASD. Ms. Klisch emphasized their message of: “Don’t drink during pregnancy.” More info is available at <a href="http://beginningsofslo.org">beginningsofslo.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Williams</b> attended 3 of the workshops and was very impressed with Dr. Page and the materials that were handed out; one in particular provided “a great visual” of FASD that she offered to share with commissioners.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren</b> attended a number of the workshops and asked about the possibility of inviting Dr. Page back for additional workshops for teachers. She also asked about the possibility of expanding the flag display to Cal Poly or other locations. <i>(Ms. Klisch noted that one of the workshops presented was for educators. They also have many resources available on their website for educators who work with children with FASD. Cal Poly is not in session on 9/9, but hopefully in the future, they’ll be able to expand the flags to other places.)</i></p>		
<p><b>7. Update: Light Brown Apple Moth Infestation in SLO County</b></p>	<p><b>Rich Little, Deputy Agriculture Commissioner, County of San Luis Obispo</b>, referred to the update he provided to the commission last fall on the Light Brown Apple Moth eradication project in Los Osos. As of this date, they haven’t had any problems, issues, complaints or health issues of any kind related to the “twist tie” eradication project, but he reported that they have not yet been able to eradicate the moth in Los Osos. The project will probably continue into next year.</p>		
<p><b>8. Beekeeping in Unincorporated Areas of the County: Summary of Current Ordinance</b></p>	<p><b>Brenda Ouwerkerk, Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, County of San Luis Obispo</b>, provided a summary of the current ordinance on beekeeping in unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County and talked about the recent requests to change the ordinance that would allow beehives in small backyard residential settings. The current ordinance requirement of a 200 foot set-back from public roads excludes most backyard beekeepers from legally keeping bees because hives placed on smaller parcels cannot meet this set-back requirement. Ms. Ouwerkerk presented a Power Point overview that included a map of a residential area showing what 200 feet looks like and what it would mean to reduce the requirement to 25 feet. She also explained that the Right to Farm Ordinance was never intended to be applied to a residentially zoned area in the county. The Agriculture Department does not support pursuing the request for changes to the current County ordinance.</p> <p><b>Rich Little, Deputy Agriculture Commissioner, County of San Luis Obispo</b>, talked about the complaints that the Agriculture Department has recently received regarding bees hives located in close proximity to residential buildings or residential areas. Since January 2010, they have received 21 complaints. Mr. Little displayed a graph showing the increased cost of the apiary program in dealing with these complaints. He summarized the requested changes to the County Bee Ordinance. Ms. Ouwerkerk and Mr. Little reiterated that they are not opposed to bees or beekeeping and spoke of the value of bees, but believe that introducing more bees into urbanized areas is not in the best interest of the neighbors. Ms. Ouwerkerk distributed copies of</p>		

	<p>their staff report and portions of the ordinance where changes have been requested.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Odell</b> asked if the bee population has continued to decline. (Mr. Little explained that there is no way to tell exactly what the bee population is; but the bee population has declined as a whole.)</p> <p><b>Commissioner Kirk</b> asked about the possibility of a “use permit” for beekeeping that would allow the Agriculture Department to control poorly managed or unmaintained bee stations. She noted that the 200 foot setback may be excessive in an agricultural area. (Ms. Ouwerkerk explained that the 200 foot setback is more easily met in rural areas; she is not certain that a permit would solve the problem.)</p> <p><b>Chair Guereña</b> asked about data on the # of bee stings in the County. (Ms. Ouwerkerk referred to page 3 of the staff report with information on # of visits to the ERs for bee stings.)</p> <p><b>Commissioner Arnold</b> referred to Appendix A of the staff report and asked for clarification on the requirements for beekeeping in Atascadero. Ms. Ouwerkerk explained that the information provided was taken from their ordinance, and although there is some prohibition in areas of Atascadero, she is not certain of the exact zoning requirements.)</p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren</b> asked if the complaints received were new complaints or from the same person(s). (Mr. Little explained that they had 5 major complaints in Los Osos this past year; 4 of those were repeats from last year. He explained that if one person complains, it is considered a private complaint between the person and beekeeper. When 3 individuals sign a complaint, it is considered a public nuisance. The nuisance factor is separate from the ordinance.)</p> <p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <p><b>Patrick McGibney</b>, hobbyist beekeeper, distributed a copy of his written response to the County Agricultural Department’s report. He noted that there were inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the report and referred to the number of bee stings reported, stating that this number is misleading, because it not only includes honey bees, but also includes wasps, yellow jackets and hornets. He is asking for a 25 foot set back. He asked that the commission hold off on any decision until they receive all of the facts.</p> <p><b>David Maislen, David’s Blue Ribbon Honey</b>, noted that he has 20 beehives that are legal. He believes that a 25 foot set back is a little too close, but that 200 feet is excessive. He believes some of the misinformation about bees and Africanized bees and how aggressive bees can be is detrimental to hobbyist beekeepers. He talked about the importance of bees and encouraging hobbyists. He sees no reason that a ¼ to ½ acre residential plot cannot have a peaceful beehive in the backyard. Mr. Maislen also talked about Nosema disease and how it affects bees.</p> <p><i>(Commissioner Quinn asked Mr. Maislen his thoughts on a fee being charged to cover the cost of expanding the program to residential areas. Mr. Maislen explained that beekeeping is a lot of work for very little reward and money. Commissioner Warren asked how common Nosema disease is and how it is treated. Mr. Maislen explained this is a relatively new spore disease that can be treated with a powder that is added to sugar water and fed to bees.)</i></p> <p><b>Kevin Aims</b>, hobbyist beekeeper, explained that it is very difficult to make “a living” raising bees. He explained how hobbyists contribute to the bee population in the county and how vital beekeeping is to the agricultural industry and people in general. He noted that there are not enough commercial beekeepers available to sustain the bee population. Mr. Aims highly supports an ordinance that would allow compromise for the hobbyists to practice their love of beekeeping that will also contribute to an increased bee population in the county.</p> <p><b>Richard Browcald</b> noted that the City of Morro Bay does not have an ordinance on beekeeping and that there have been no complaints regarding bees/beekeeping. He commented on the overreaction there has been and noted that there are no ordinances in New York City, San Francisco, Monterey or Santa Maria. He supports backyard beekeeping, and defined it as a tailored way in dealing with bees.</p>		
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	<p><b>Steven Aims</b>, resident of Los Osos grew up in the beekeeping business and has caught hundreds and hundreds of swarms and worked with Africanized bees. He explained how bees learn to adopt – he has nurtured bees that have had no treatments or chemicals, and the collapse rate has dropped below 90%. He works without gloves and a veil and talked about the passion of beekeeping. He noted that beekeeping has been done for a long time and is difficult to regulate and questions how much regulation is a good use of public funds. He offered to answers questions from his perspective of growing up in this field. <i>(Commissioner Williams noted that the request does not ask commercial beekeepers to give up bees, but is about expanding bees into backyards – the right to keep bees without any recourse about the opinions or concerns of the neighbor. Commissioner Kirk asked for information on “registering bees.” Mr. Aims explained that the State requires a person to register an apiary.)</i></p> <p><b>Tim Rockney</b>, resident of Los Osos, spoke as a property owner in support of staff’s recommendation against making any changes to the current ordinance. He spoke as a former beekeeper, but believes there is a place and a time for everything and that residential neighborhoods are not the place for backyard beekeeping. He talked about the safety hazards and the problems he has had with bees in his neighborhood. He encouraged the commission to support the findings of staff.</p> <p><b>Molly</b>, resident of Los Osos, expressed her concern about backyard beekeeping, particularly with a young child playing in the yard. She talked about the nuisances, inconveniences, and public safety issues. She agrees with the current ordinance and supports staff’s recommendation to keep it in place.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Guereña</b> noted that this is not an action item and that the commission will discuss during “future prospective items” whether or not to continue discussion at a future date</p>		
<p><b>9. “Recovery Happens” Month</b></p>	<p><b>Michael Axelrod</b> spoke on the subject of recovery and mentioned his work as a counselor, instructor and the Executive Director of Project Amend. He spoke about his view on recovery and the spiritual component of recovery, including principles, honesty, courage &amp; faith, and the other the day-to-day activities that help keep one’s character defects small enough to experience the benefits of recovery. He explained how this is a day to day process.</p> <p><b>Rick, North County Connection</b>, noted that since July, SLO County has seen 37 deaths from the effects of drug &amp; alcohol. He explained that the disease of addiction is treatable, but support and counseling need to be ongoing. Recovery is not only about “staying clean,” but is about being an active and productive member of society. Recovery Happens Month is a recognition that recovery does happen through programs and facilities that change and save people’s lives.</p> <p><b>Sharil, North County Connection</b> told her story about how her life spiraled out of control, and what led her to recovery. She talked about the importance of keeping the doors open to facilities that have the resources and information for people to go; places where people aren’t afraid to go and can find answers and solutions to questions from others in recovery. She spoke of “giving, nurturing and encouraging” as important components to recovery.</p> <p><b>Wes, North County Connection</b> has been in recovery for over 11 years. He told his story of getting involved in drugs that took over his life. Today, he can set an example for others. He noted that alcoholism and drugs affect almost 99% of families and how it hurts the people closest to you, whether it being from not knowing how to help or from the heartache of having to disassociate from them. He knows today that drugs and alcohol don’t work; and how important it is to have meeting facilities where people can go and speak with others in recovery. He commented on how happy he is to have a life back and asked the commission to support</p>		

	<p>recovery facilities.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren</b> provided handouts and talked about “Recovery Happens Month,” with a goal to bring attention to addiction in a way that is more helpful to the community. She talked about the research that has been done on addiction and how treatment is not a one time thing, but takes time and it takes recovery. People have to participate in their recovery in order to live their lives and give back. She announced that North County Connection will be holding their annual open house on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> to celebrate recovery.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Enns</b> thanked Commissioner Warren for bringing this subject forward and for all the work she does.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Sage</b> asked how North County Connection receives financial support. (Commissioner Warren noted that funding has declined over the past 2 years through the Preventive Health Grant. They always appreciate donations.)</p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren</b> thanked the members who spoke and shared their stories and told them how much it means to help educate the community and reduce the stigma that is still out there.</p> <p><b>Dr. Borenstein</b> thanked the speakers for telling their stories.</p>		
<p><b>10. Health Agency / Public Health Report</b></p>	<p>Dr. Borenstein provided an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Obesity Summit is scheduled for October 22, 2010. There are still some open spots.</li> <li>▪ Public Health will be conducting a flu vaccination clinic on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1-4pm (as part of a mass vaccination drill) in Atascadero and Pismo Beach. Free flu shots will be given to community members ages 6 months and older.</li> <li>▪ There have been some moves taking place throughout the Public Health Department: Children’s Medical Services has moved into the Annex behind the Health Campus; EMSA has moved into the PH building at Sierra Way &amp; Bishop and is almost fully staffed- they are now County employees. The Immunization Program will be moving from Paso Robles into the Annex, which will allow for expansion of the Tolosa Dental clinic into the North County campus. The WIC Clinic will also be moving from Johnson Avenue to the Annex facility.</li> <li>▪ Public Health is in the final stages of hiring an Oral Health Coordinator.</li> <li>▪ Public Health has successfully applied for two grants: Title 10 grant will provide some additional money to support reproductive health services at the Paso Robles Clinic; and Blue Shield of California Foundation grant is funding initiatives to plan for participation in an expanded health coverage initiative under the State’s Medi-Cal waiver.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>11. Health Commissioner Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Chair Guerena:</b> No report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Kirk:</b> No report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Raymond:</b> Attended the Adult Services Policy Council where Bob Freeman from CenCal Health presented. There was also a report from CHC, showing how CHC and CenCal Health interface and the importance to think a little differently about how they can work together with the new federal money.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Odell:</b> No report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Sage:</b> No report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren:</b> Reported that the Drug &amp; Alcohol Advisory Board is still working on a proclamation statement around the “marijuana issue.”</p> <p><b>Commissioner Enns:</b> No report.</p>		

	<p><b>Commissioner Williams:</b> No report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Arnold:</b> Reported that the AIDS Support Network is doing free and confidential AIDS testing, funded by United Way. He also announced two upcoming fundraisers: Paula Poundstone Comedy Show, a benefit for SLO Hepatitis C on October 7<sup>th</sup> and the AIDS Walk to support the AIDS Support Network on November 6<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Pope:</b> No report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Quinn:</b> No report.</p>		
<b>12. Committee Reports</b>	<p><b>Commissioner Enns</b> reported that the Budget and Legislative Committees will be meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>. New commissioners who might have an interest were encouraged to attend. Nominating and Community Education committees did not meet.</p>		
<b>13. Prospective Future Items</b>	<p><u>October 2011:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Domestic Violence Awareness Month</li> <li>▪ Chair Guereña reminded everyone that next month's meeting will be on October 18th (third Monday) due to a County holiday.</li> </ul> <p><u>Suggested future topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commissioner Odell referred to the ad hoc committee that was formed to assess the cutbacks to CHC and to look at any redundancies in services throughout the clinic system. It was suggested and agreed that the ad hoc committee combine efforts with the advisory committee that is being formed as part of the recent Blue Shield California Foundation grant received (who will be analyzing that type of data) to examine opportunities for developing a health care coverage initiative in our county.</li> <li>▪ No action to be taken regarding the beekeeping ordinance that was brought forward tonight; educational only.</li> <li>▪ Vaccinations (in general) – still some interest in inviting physician(s) to speak.</li> <li>▪ Commissioner Arnold suggested inviting a physician to talk about the dangers of radiation in the medical field (referencing this from the President's Cancer Report)</li> <li>▪ Commissioners Arnold, Kirk, and Pope will be reviewing Pesticide-related complaint logs and will provide a brief update after their review.</li> <li>▪ Commissioner Arnold referred to the President' Cancer Panel Report that talks about the danger of use of radiation for diagnostics in the medical field – he suggested inviting a physician to provide educational information.</li> </ul>		
<b>14. Adjournment</b>	<p>Motion to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.</p>	<i>Meeting adjourned</i>	