

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, October 18, 2010 (County Board of Supervisors Chambers)

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

Members Absent: Gina Kirk (excused)

Staff Present: Penny Borenstein, MD, Health Officer, Jean White

Speakers: Chief Tim Olivas (Morro Bay Police Dept.); Diana McPartlan (DA's Victim Witness Center); Belinda Benassi (DSS); Sarah Oh (SLO Women's Shelter Program); Angela Viles (DA's Victim Witness Center)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order by Chair Guerena at 6:00 p.m. Chair Guerena took a moment to remember the four community members who lost their lives this past weekend while flying on a medical mission in Baja California.	<i>Call to order</i>	<i>Chair Guerena</i>
<b>2. Approval of Minutes</b>	Minutes of the September 13, 2010 meeting were approved as written.	<i>September minutes approved</i>	<i>Arnold/Warren /All</i>
<b>3. Public Comment</b>	<b>Linda Anne, Atascadero</b> , referred to her letter and handouts regarding an <i>“Urgent Matter Affecting Public Health: Smart Meters.”</i> She noted that PG&E has been installing Smart Meters at “breakneck pace,” even though many people are uninformed about the potential health risks related to Smart Meters. She talked about the huge pulses of RF and MW radiation that are emitted every few seconds; levels higher than those already reported to cause health risk. There are moratoriums in San Francisco, Marin and Santa Cruz Counties, as well as a number of California cities. Watsonville and Fairfax have adopted emergency ordinances banning Smart Meters for one year; and San Anselmo and Novato are drafting similar ordinances. She believes these devices need to be investigated before allowing PG&E to deploy technology proven to be of questionable safety and asked the commission to review this.	<u>Handouts:</u> <i>Letter from Ms. Anne</i> <i>Briefing letter from Sage Associates</i> <i>City of Watsonville interim ordinance</i> <i>A Physician Petition: The Freiburger Appeal</i> <i>Letter from Ms. Beety</i> <i>Appendix 1: Biological effects of Microwaves below US regulatory limit</i>	
<b>4. Operation Medicine Cabinet Program</b>	<b>Chief Tim Olivas, Morro Bay Police Department</b> , provided background on how <i>“Operation Medicine Cabinet”</i> came about in San Luis Obispo County in response to a growing demand for a safe, convenient way to dispose of household medications. He talked about the collaborative effort between the local police and sheriff departments and the SLO County Integrated Waste Management Authority to install drop-boxes at each local Police Department and three Sheriff Patrol Stations. Residents now have a safe place to bring all types of unwanted household medications, including prescription and over-the-counter drugs for free disposal.  <b>Chair Guerena</b> asked how they were getting the word out. <i>(Chief Olivas (&amp; others) have been speaking through boards and commissions. Pamphlets have been made available at all of the stations and the majority of police departments have added the pamphlet to their website as a printable pdf file.)</i> <b>Commissioner Pope</b> asked how medications should be packaged for disposal. <i>(Medications should be kept in their original containers with all personal information, including name, address and phone number removed or scratched out.)</i> <b>Commissioner Arnold</b> asked where the medications are taken to be incinerated. <i>(There are two plants in</i>	<u>Handout:</u> <i>Operation Medicine Cabinet pamphlet</i>	

	<p><i>California. One of the two plants in Long Beach is at no cost.)</i></p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren</b> asked how medication is transported. <i>(Medication becomes the responsibility of property evidence technicians as a “non evidence item.” It is brought into the facility, weighed and processed through a chain of custody until destroyed at a facility.)</i></p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren</b> asked if this program is similar to Santa Barbara County’s program. <i>(Yes, Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department was contacted and the program is modeled after their program.)</i></p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren</b> asked if any data was being collected on # of drug overdoses before and after implementation of this program. <i>(Nobody has been tasked with collecting data; Chief Olivas noted they are averaging 10-15 lbs of medication collected per week.)</i></p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren</b> asked if persons could drop off medications at any of the locations. <i>(Yes, drop boxes are spread out throughout the county; people are encouraged to use whatever facility is closest to them.)</i></p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren</b> asked if physician offices, hospice and other community partners have been notified. <i>(Chief Olivas noted that the Integrated Waste Management Authority has taken the lead and is involved in getting education out to partners.)</i></p> <p><b>Commissioner Quinn</b> asked about disposal of the prescription bottles. <i>(Chief Olivas explained that the medication is not removed from the bottle; the medication and bottle are both incinerated.)</i></p> <p><b>Commissioner Sage</b> asked about plans for a “kick off” day. <i>(Chief Olivas talked about the first annual take back day and noted that federally they are looking at having a one day take-back program every 6 months.)</i></p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren</b> will email Chief Olivas information on a national upcoming event called Operation Medicine Chest on November 13<sup>th</sup>. <b>Chair Guereña</b> thanked Chief Olivas.</p>		
<p><b>5. Domestic Violence Awareness Month Panel / Services in SLO County</b></p>	<p><b>Diana McPartlan, District Attorney Victim Witness Center – Victim Witness Services</b> introduced the topic and the speakers.</p> <p><b>Belinda Benassi, Child Welfare Services Program Manager, Department of Social Services</b>, talked about their collaboration with local community partners and the State on child abuse prevention efforts and the co-occurrence of domestic violence &amp; child abuse. She explained the three primary categories of children’s exposure to domestic violence (hearing/seeing the events, physical injury, and aftermath) and the referral, screening and evaluation process that is used for allegations of neglect, physical abuse or emotional abuse. Ms. Benassi provided a handout with data on # of child abuse and neglect referrals received and contributing factors. She talked about their goal to protect the children and help the abused parent protect themselves and described some of the most common community resources and services needed by those experiencing domestic violence. Child Welfare Services meets quarterly for inter-agency meetings and is collaborating with community partners to host a “Poverty Opportunity” conference in February 2011. Child Welfare Services will also be hosting community forums in Feb/Mar 2011 to receive input from the community on their system improvement plan and collaborating with their partners on the Domestic Violence Task Force to host a domestic violence awareness conference.</p> <p><b>Sarah Oh, San Luis Obispo Women’s Shelter Program</b> talked about her work on “primary prevention” at the Cal Poly campus. She works out of Cal Poly with women’s programs on how to cultivate atmospheres and environments of healthy relationships to prevent violence from happening within dating relationships. She defined domestic violence as “intimate partner violence,” a pattern of coercive behavior used to control partners by the threat or the use of physical assault and provided examples of physical violence, verbal abuse, emotional abuse,</p>	<p><u>Handout:</u> Child Abuse and Neglect Referral Statistics</p> <p><u>Handout:</u> Women’s Shelter Program brochure</p>	

	<p>psychological abuse, economic abuse, sexual abuse, and spiritual abuse. She provided a handout that listed all of the services provided through the Women’s Shelter Program, noting that they recently lost their legal grant; and now refer those services to a family law facilitator at the court, a paralegal in Los Osos and the North County Women’s Shelter. She talked about their counseling services, safety planning, children’s services, 24 hour crisis line (781-6400), Safe House, transitional housing (6 units in San Luis Obispo and 4 units in Grover Beach), and case management services.</p> <p><b>Diane McPartlan, District Attorney’s Victim Witness Center</b>, talked about her work in the District Attorney’s Office to help reduce the trauma, frustration, and inconvenience to victims, witnesses and family members affected by crime by walking them through the criminal justice process. She referred to their pamphlet on “The Victim’s Bill of Rights Act of 2008,” explaining that in November 2008, Proposition 9 was approved amending the California Constitution to provide additional rights to victims. This pamphlet is given to all victims and explains their rights. Ms. McPartlan also referred to the blue victim witness assistance card that is given to victims of domestic violence by police officers when they go out on a call, listing the services that Victim/Witness can assist with, including case information, court assistance and escort, referral to community services, emergency fund assistance, witness notification, temporary restraining orders and criminal protective orders. Ms. McPartlan referred to the Domestic Violence pamphlet that lists resources for getting help. Ms. McPartlan is the Juvenile Crime Advocate in their office and works closely with truancy officers, school administrators and probation. Their office has 3 Cal Poly interns who handle all of the property crime. Their office coordinates with many different agencies including the Sexual Assault Recovery &amp; Prevention (SARP) Center, Department of Social Services, Children Welfare Services, &amp; the Women’s Shelter Programs.</p> <p><b>Angela Viles, District Attorney’s Victim Witness Center</b>, talked about her work as a Victim Witness Advocate for elders and dependent adults. She defined elder and dependent adult and talked about “family violence” as it affects her clients. She works on a daily basis with clients who are in an intimate relationship with a family member who is abusing them. She talked about some of the services they provide to their clients, including home visits, transportation to the courthouse, court escort, court orientation, criminal protective orders, help with restitution, and crime prevention education, and explained how difficult this can be for an elder who may have dementia or memory issues. They work closely with Adult Protective Services, Long Term Care Ombudsman and local law enforcement. They conduct ongoing trainings and programs with first responders and community partners. She talked about the form SOC 341, a referral to the Adult Protective Services Program, which she can fill out for persons who are concerned that someone is being abused. She also explained their Victims of Crime Program, a state run program, for victims of crime and their families that can help with mental health counseling, dental/medical benefits, relocation, residential security, lost wage assistance, support for eligible family members, funeral and burial expenses and job retraining (used cautiously). She explained that the state cannot provide property loss through this program. In order to be eligible for the program, you must be a resident of California, or the incident had to</p>	<p><i>Handout: The Victim’s Bill of Right’s Act of 2008 pamphlet</i></p> <p><i>Domestic Violence pamphlet</i></p> <p><i>Victim/Witness Assistance Program pamphlet</i></p> <p><i>Victim Witness Assistance referral card</i></p>	
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have occurred in California. No tax dollars are used; this is all offender based restitution fines and orders, with matching federal victim of crime funds.

Commissioner Questions/Discussion:

**Commissioner Odell** asked about the number of persons served at the Women’s Shelter. *(Ms. Oh explained that there are 6 rooms in the shelter and that their agency serves about 600 people per year through phone calls, referrals. The number of persons served in the Safe House is confidential. There is one shelter home in San Luis Obispo and two in North County. There are also 10 transitional housing units (6 in SLO; 4 in GB).*

**Commissioner Williams** asked Ms. Viles if they see incidence of financial abuse by non family caretakers. *(Ms. Viles answered that the number is high; she emphasized the importance of having a trusted person go over the banking statements on a monthly basis.)*

**Commissioner Arnold** referred to a film shown previously shown to the Health Commission on health effects related to income inequality and asked what societal changes could help prevent this. *(Ms. McPartlan would like to see more collaboration between their office and the health industry; with more educational opportunities for medical offices on recognizing the signs of domestic violence.)*

**Commissioner Odell** asked about the mandated reporting process. *(Ms. Benassi explained that for child abuse, physicians complete a suspected child abuse referral form and submit it to the local Child Welfare Services Office. Ms. Viles explained that emergency rooms report to law enforcement, Adult Protective Services or Child Welfare Services and the Victim Witness Office receives a copy of the report if there is a finding. Ms. Oh added that many times victims do not want to report or want their doctors to know, so they will lie about the incident or cancel regular doctor’s appointments.)*

**Commissioner Arnold** asked for clarification on the “other drug” category for child abuse and neglect referrals received. *(Ms. Benassi noted that this category provides an option if something doesn’t fall into the other categories.)* **Commissioner Arnold** asked for more information on types of cases for “juvenile offenders.” *(Ms. McPartlan explained that she has several cases where a juvenile has assaulted a parent but also has juvenile boyfriend/girlfriend cases as well as juvenile sexual assault cases.)* **Commissioner Arnold** asked Ms. Viles about the confidential reporting to Adult Protective Services. *(Ms. Viles explained that persons can contact her to report abuse and, if they do not want to go on record, she will use her contact information. Ms. Benassi noted that Child Welfare Services prefers that mandated reporters who have witnessed or suspected the abuse report to them.)*

**Commissioner Warren** asked for clarification on “contributing factors” and how they determine how a person is categorized for drug of choice. *(Ms. Benassi explained there are special project codes entered by emergency responder social workers that are based on what they witnessed or self disclosure.)*

**Commissioner Warren** asked if they were looking into including “bullying prevention” in some of the educational programs they are doing in the schools. *(Ms. Oh talked about the push nationwide for anti-bullying programs. Ms. McPartlan noted that Atascadero school has a bullying policy that was adopted last year and other schools are looking into bullying policies, as well as policies on electronic crimes. She noted that bullying is considered terrorist threat and depending upon the type of threat, is a crime.)*

**Commissioner Williams** noted that Cuesta College has a program called “Kinship and Foster Parenting” and that they did one class on “bullying” for caregivers and have another planned for this Friday.

**Chair Guerenra** asked about continuing education trainings for mandated reporters. *(Ms. McPartlan advised that they are putting together a symposium for February 2011, with a focus on educating the medical field. Ms. Benassi noted that Lisa Fraser from the Child Abuse Prevention Council has an excellent presentation on mandated reporting requirements. Ms. Viles added that they have a training for first responders for incidence involving elders and dependent adults. She offered to bring the 17 minute*

	<p>training DVD to a future commission meeting.) <b>Chair Guereña</b> referred to a past presentation on financial abuse of elders, where probationers who were caregivers for the elderly, were involved. (<i>Mr. Viles explained that this is still an issue and they continue to work on a process for better background checks. Currently, probationers cannot work as caregivers if the original crime occurred as a result of abuse of an elder or dependent adult.</i>) <b>Commissioner Raymond</b> added that banks are mandated reporters as well for financial abuse.</p>		
<p><b>6. Health Agency / Public Health Report</b></p>	<p>Dr. Borenstein provided an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Budget:</b> State budget has passed and they are currently sorting through what it means for the Health Agency. One reduction in the area of immunization programs will affect Public Health’s ability to maintain their immunization registry involvement. The federal expiration of the enhanced federal match for Medi-Cal will affect the Health Agency. The Health Agency is also seeing an increase in the numbers of people seeking medical care through CMSP. This has become a difficult budgeting balancing act that may require additional reductions in the current fiscal year. The CAO recently presented a budget picture for FY 2011-12 to the Board of Supervisors and the Health Agency will be expected to come up with additional reductions this year.</li> <li>• <b>Trauma Center:</b> A Request for Applications has been sent out to the two San Luis Obispo hospitals, with a November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for those hospitals to respond with a letter of intent &amp; check as to whether they plan to submit an application for becoming a trauma center.</li> <li>• <b>Flu Vaccination Clinics:</b> Public Health will be holding two large scale flu vaccination clinics on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1-4pm, in Pismo Beach and Atascadero, as part of an emergency preparedness exercise. Anyone over the age of 6 months is eligible to attend for a free vaccination.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>7. Health Commissioner Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Chair Guereña</b> reported that the Obesity Summit is scheduled for this Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Embassy Suites Hotel. He also reported on a recent meeting he attended “Mad as Hell Doctors,” where information was presented on what is going on with insurance and health care reform. This group supports single payer and is concerned that there will be more people “falling out of the system” as the rules change.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Williams</b> also attended the “Mad As Hell Doctors” meeting and noted that single payer (SB810) is not dead, but simply on the back burner. Commissioner Williams clarified that single payer is not socialized medicine; the state is simply the fiduciary agent.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Raymond</b> attended the Adult Services Policy Council where a presentation was given by Joyce Ellen Lippman on Medicare Part D and how it has changed with health care reform. She emphasized the importance of checking your policy every year, as insurance companies can change the rules.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Sage</b> reported that the Domestic Violence Task Force is beginning work on a countywide forum with an emphasis on recognizing the signs of domestic violence for mandated reporters. Law enforcement is also working on a training program for law enforcement departments, as domestic violence is one of the most deadly situations that law enforcement officers can step into.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren</b> reported that the Drug &amp; Alcohol Advisory Board met this month for their strategic planning. They will meet again this Thursday to review goals and objectives for</p>		

	<p>the coming year. Commissioner Warren reported that there are currently vacancies on the Drug &amp; Alcohol Board and this would be a good meeting to attend for anyone interested in serving.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Enns</b> – no report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Odell</b> – no report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Arnold</b> reported that he had sign-up forms available for anyone who would like to participate in the AIDS Support Network’s Walk For Life on Saturday, 11/6. He attended part of the HIV Care Consortium meeting earlier this evening where it was reported they did 4 HIV tests in the first week of their new program. He will report further next month.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Quinn</b> suggested the commission review Smart Meters as a prospective future item. She questioned if there was an “opt out” option for people who feel these devices pose a health risk. (<i>Commissioner Enns noted that PG&amp;E has a list of frequently asked questions and other information on their website. Dr. Borenstein will ask the Environmental Health Director and Epidemiologist to do some information gathering.</i>)</p> <p><b>Commissioner Pope</b> reported that he also attended the “Mad as Hell Doctors” meeting, where concerns were expressed about a shortage of primary care physicians. There are concerns that new graduates will not be coming in to fill the primary care shortage. (<i>Commissioner Sage noted that there are some upcoming reform options/incentives for primary care physicians.</i>)</p>		
<b>8. Committee Reports</b>	<p><b>Commissioner Enns</b> reported that the combined Budget and Legislative committee met on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The budget committee will meet in late January to review the Health Agency budget and reduction list. The Legislative Committee will continue to review legislative “hot sheets” and will meet in November to review the County’s legislative platform (which will probably go forward to the Board of Supervisors for adoption in February.)</p> <p>No additional committee reports.</p>		
<b>9. Prospective Future Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Smart meters – will do more information gathering.</li> <li>▪ Commissioner Arnold referred to article in the Tribune about radiation &amp; new legislation tightening diagnostics of CT scans and suggested as a future topic. There was discussion about who would speak – radiologist? or other physician to speak on protocol for treatment and the need to review the legislation.</li> <li>▪ Commissioner Arnold reported that he and Commissioners Kirk &amp; Pope have reviewed the Pesticide Complaint logs and recommended inviting Janice Campbell from the Ag Commissioner’s Office and a representative from the Water Quality Control Board to provide an update on activities since their last report in 2008.</li> </ul>		
<b>10. Adjournment</b>	Motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.	<i>Meeting adjourned</i>	