

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, October 17, 2011 (County Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Ed Guerena (Chair), Jesse Arnold, David Clous, Tracy Del Rio, David Odell, James Pope, Anne Quinn, Mary Jean Sage, Susan Warren

Members Absent: Lynn Enns (excused), Jean Raymond (excused)

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

Speakers: Kathleen Karle (Health Promotion, SLO County Public Health); Linda McClure (WIC Program, SLO County Public Health)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
1. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by Chair Guerena at 6:00 p.m.	<i>Call to order</i>	<i>Chair Guerena</i>
2. Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the September 12, 2011 meeting were approved as written.	<i>Sept. 12, 2011 minutes approved</i>	<i>All</i>
3. Public Comment	<p>Ginny Monteen recognized that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but wanted to caution that it can be used by some companies to promote their products. She explained the term “pinkwashing” and warned that the largest breast cancer organization in the world, <i>Susan G. Komen for the Cure</i>, recently commissioned a perfume to sell in October in the name of breast cancer that contains chemicals that are categorized as toxic and hazardous. She suggested the commission take any small steps they can through recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for “precaution” and to encourage use of products that are less harmful. Ms. Monteen provided two handouts that included a list of “critical questions” to ask before you “buy pink.” She referred to <i>thinkbeforeyoupink.org</i> for more info.</p> <p>Jennifer Joswiak, resident of SLO County and member of the SLO Surfrider Board, was upset that there were no health advisories posted by the Environmental Health Division after an incident this past weekend when a 6,000 gallon raw sewage spill on Indio Drive in Shell Beach occurred less than ¼ mile from the surf spot where she and friends were surfing. There were no postings at the Beachcomber stairs, Silver Shoals Drive, or on the County Environmental Health website. The only advisories she saw were on KSBY and in <i>The Tribune</i> that evening after she had already been out surfing in the area of the sewage spill. Ms. Joswiak emailed County Environmental Health this morning, but has not yet received a response.</p> <p>Jennifer Blonder, resident of SLO County and Secretary for SLO Surfrider, was also upset by the lack of posting after the sewage spill. She emphasized how important it is for the public to be able to make informed decisions before going into the water. She believes that with a sewage spill of this size, persons should have been warned, if not stopped from getting in the water. She encouraged the Commission to make recommendations to the County and perhaps the City so proper signage and notification is made to persons before they go into the water.</p> <p>Commissioner Del Rio asked if KSBY or <i>The Tribune</i> indicated what the cause of the sewage leak was. Ms. Joswiak read what was reported that “.....the spill was the result of a failed bypass pipe.”</p> <p>Commissioners Warren, Del Rio and Arnold asked for more information about the on call process when a spill happens on a weekend. (Dr. Borenstein explained the reporting process and the procedure to do a media release. She will follow up with Environmental Health to get more information on the nature and details of this spill and will report on the specifics at next month’s meeting.)</p>		

4. Overview: Health Promotion Division of the Health Agency

Kathleen Karle, Division Manager for Health Promotion, provided a Power Point overview of the Health Promotion Division, talking about each program, their coalitions, objectives, staffing, & funding.

Tobacco Control Program (Tobacco Control Coalition): Ms. Karle explained the four specific objectives from their work plan: 1) establishing policies for banning smoking in multi-unit housing; 2) working with cities to adopt Tobacco Retail Licensing ordinances w/ regular compliance checks; 3) working on developing a stronger coalition; and 4) working on smoking cessation for general public as well as pregnant women & parents of children 0-5.

Obesity Prevention Program (HEAL SLO Coalition): Ms. Karle talked about current projects: 1) ReThink Your Drink; 2) Go, Slow, Whoa! (an educational snacking curriculum); 3) Policy work on a “Buy Local Policy” 4) SNAP Ed education (targeted for people who are eligible for the CalFresh Program with specific goals to develop nutrition classes and a “CX3” planning process that assesses neighborhood level nutrition indicators.)

Oral Health Program (Oral Health Coalition): This program consists of a 1.0 FTE Oral Health Program Manager who provides oral health clinical care at WIC sites, Head Start, state preschools and POEG (a program for mothers with drug & alcohol issues through Drug & Alcohol Services).

Injury Prevention Program (Injury Prevention Coalition): Ms. Karle explained that this program was funded through a grant that has since been taken away due to internal issues at the State. There is no staff devoted to this program, but a coalition was formed with reps from hospitals, highway patrol, police, fire, local non-profits. A small amount of money is received for injury prevention from tickets that are written for not wearing a seatbelt. That money (\$2500) was used to purchase 100 car seats distributed to low-income families and a recent car seat check up at Target Shopping Center.

AIDS Grant Oversight: In 2009, the State of California eliminated all General Fund support for the AIDS Program. There are two grants left that the PH Department provides oversight for, with funding going to the AIDS Support Network. The Ryan White grant (\$100,000) provides medical care & supportive services to people living with HIV and AIDS; and the HOPWA grant (\$160,000) provides housing and supportive services locally for people with AIDS. There is also a Syringe Exchange Program that operates at the Public Health Department on Wednesday evenings and once/month on Saturdays that has shown to be successful in reducing the incidence of AIDS and Hepatitis C.

WIC Program: Ms. Karle presented an organization chart of the WIC Program. She introduced Linda McClure, who was on the agenda tonight to talk about the WIC Program.

Commissioner Odell asked for definition of “buy local.” (*Ms. Karle explained that they are still working on defining “local.” Many policies say “buy local if you can.”*)

Commissioner Del Rio asked if there were restrictions on types of foods that can be purchased with the CalFresh card and if the card can be used at farmer’s markets. (*Ms. Karle explained that the program is administered through the Department of Social Services. She explained that there are no restrictions on types of food, except no alcohol or cigarettes. She explained how education is the best way to encourage people to buy healthy foods. Currently, the cards cannot be used at the local farmer’s markets, due to administrative processes & costs.*)

Commissioner Arnold referred to the CX3 planning process and asked what happens when they survey a neighborhood and find only fast food restaurants in a neighborhood. (*Ms. Karle explained the goal of neighborhood surveys is to make realistic recommendations and work creatively to try to make it work.*)

Commissioner Quinn praised the Health Promotion programs, but is concerned that too many smoking

	<p>bans have been implemented in parks, restaurants, beaches, bars, and especially in affordable housing situations, rather than using a more positive educational campaign as with obesity. <i>(Ms. Karle explained that tobacco is the number one killer in our society, emphasizing that if someone is smoking next to you, it will impact your health. This is a concern by public health professionals.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Clous asked if Public Health has authority to ban smoking in multi-unit housing. <i>(Ms. Karle answered that only a jurisdiction has the ability to enact an ordinance. They work with “soft policies,” not laws, that the department owner or manager can enact.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Clous asked about authorities for tobacco retail licensing and compliance checks. <i>(Ms. Karle explained that nothing can be done without an ordinance. The City of San Luis Obispo has an ordinance, where procedure is the City’s Attorney will notify a retail owner of a suspension of license when not in compliance, which can be appealed in court. To date, nobody’s license has been suspended and retailers have gotten much better through compliance checks.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Warren suggested more landlords might be willing to take “Section 8” if the parties agreed to be non-smoking in the home. <i>(Ms. Karle advised that Carol Hatley, Executive Director, Housing Authority of SLO, would have more information on this.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Warren applauded the Tobacco Control Program for adding more cessation classes. She also asked why referrals from physicians into smoking cessation classes were low (with the exception of CHC who has high number of referrals). <i>(Ms. Karle talked about the outreach and materials they provide to physician’s offices; and offered a possible reason why referrals may be lower is because many physicians are trying to help their patients themselves.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Warren asked about their work with the Farm Bureau. <i>(Ms. Karle talked about a new coalition in SLO County called the “Food Systems Coalition,” noting that the Farm Bureau is a major player. She also noted that she and Ed Guereña are on the “Buy Local Committee,” that includes well-rounded representation from health and agriculture.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Arnold asked if the Injury Prevention Program Coalition has done any work on poison prevention. <i>(Ms. Karle explained that their plan was focused on bicycles and cars. Bicycles are on hold until they find out if they have any funding to move forward.)</i></p>		
<p>5. Overview: Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program</p>	<p>Linda McClure, Program Manager for the WIC Program, provided an overview of the WIC Program, talking about services they provide and local program demographic data. She explained that the WIC Program is a supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants and Children and serves pregnant women, breastfeeding women up to one year after they deliver their babies, non-breastfeeding women up to six months after they delivery their babies, and infant children from birth to age 5. To be eligible for the WIC Program, a family needs to be at 185% of the federal poverty level or less and in one of the categories that they serve.</p> <p>Some of the services WIC provides include: customized nutrition, health and parenting education; extensive breastfeeding education and support; and food vouchers that can be used to buy very specific foods at the local grocery stores. SLO County issues \$298,000 of food vouchers monthly, equating to 3.56 million dollars into the local economy annually. Ms. McClure also talked about some special programs in the WIC Program – Baby Behavior Education Campaign, Oral Health Education to WIC families, and WIC dental days, with oral screenings, fluoride varnish and referrals to dental home.</p> <p>Ms. McClure advised that on October 6, 2011, the Governor signed SB 502 which will require</p>		

	<p>California hospitals to have Step 1 of the 10 steps of becoming a “baby friendly” hospital in place by January 2014. CHW is currently in the process of being accredited as a “baby friendly” hospital, which requires they have all 10 steps in place. All of the hospitals in SLO County offer prenatal breastfeeding classes and have international board certified lactation consultants on staff. In May, lactation consultants from 3 hospitals in SLO re-formed the SLO County Breastfeeding Coalition.</p> <p>Ms. McClure distributed a handout “<i>California WIC Program at a Glance</i>” and offered to take questions.</p> <p>Commissioner Odell asked more about the funding for the WIC Program. <i>(Ms. McClure explained that WIC is 100% federally funded. The Public Health budget includes the administrative costs and costs of basic business; 3.56 million is handled at the state level, e.g. reimbursements to grocery stores.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Del Rio asked what the “10 steps” were for a hospital to become a “baby friendly hospital.” <i>(Ms. McClure read the 10 steps from the CDC.)</i></p>		
<p>6. Health Agency Report</p>	<p>Dr. Penny Borenstein, Health Officer, provided a brief report on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federal budget: Some areas that have been “sacred” for quite a number of years are now seeing funding decreases and/or threats of decreases in the next federal cycle. These areas include WIC, Maternal & Child Health block grant, and Family Planning block grant. Also, Public Health Emergency Preparedness has sustained a 15% decrease, with more slated to come in the next federal fiscal cycle. ▪ Health Promotion Division: Dr. Borenstein talked about the synergies between the Health Promotion Division programs and commended staff, the Board of Supervisors, County Administration, as well as the many other partners, who leveraged resources and worked in partnership through difficult times to sustain some very important public health programs in the Health Promotion Division. ▪ CHC: Dr. Borenstein reported that the CHC/County contract will be brought before the Board of Supervisors tomorrow. The proposal is for a 2 year period, with the first year at 2.54 million and the second year at 2.5 million. This funding will support primary, ancillary and pharmacy services for CMSP patients only. <p>Commissioner Questions/Comments:</p> <p>Commissioner Arnold referred to an article in the paper “<i>Drug Deaths Now Outnumber Traffic Fatalities,</i>” and explained that this article referred to the use of prescription drugs. He recently received a breakdown of data on number of “Accidental Deaths” in SLO County from the County epidemiologist, noting #1 is motor vehicle accidents, #2 accidental poisoning, & #3 accidental poisoning by drugs, but was informed that “type of drug” is not consistently reported on death certificates. He suggested trying to get more accurate numbers from the coroner’s office on type of drug causing overdoses.</p> <p>Commissioner Warren would also like to know if alcohol overdose is included in drug overdose #'s.</p> <p>Commissioner Quinn asked what the CHC budget had been previously. <i>(Dr. Borenstein explained that for FY 2010-11, it was 3 million dollars and included specialty care.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Quinn asked how specialty services will be provided by the County. <i>(Dr. Borenstein explained that the County reimburses most of the specialists who see CMSP patients. They are estimating an additional \$100,000 cost for the County to provide the 3 specialties that were part of the</i></p>		

	<p><i>County's initial agreement with CHC.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Quinn asked about the accusations that were made “that the County wasn’t keeping the promises they made after they closed general hospital.” <i>(Dr. Borenstein explained some of the different perspectives about “promises made.” She also commented on the fact that more people have gotten care through CHC than ever did through the County clinics; and that even with fewer healthcare dollars, patient encounters and # of patients has continued to grow in CHC clinics. She cannot point to any direct consequences to access to healthcare by virtue of the County budget.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Odell commented that he was on the committee for the original County/CHC contract and that the bottom line is that “more people are getting care than ever before.” He believes the contract is now at a level that is appropriate.</p>		
7. Health Commissioner Updates	<p>Chair Guerena: Advised that the Governor signed AB 183, banning the purchase of alcohol via self check-out aisles. He also advised that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission recently reported they want to change laws to keep at least 60 years worth of spent-fuel here locally. Chair Guerena recommended keeping a close watch on this and any potential health impacts associated.</p> <p>Commissioner Pope: No report.</p> <p>Commissioner Quinn: Will not be able to attend the October 26 First 5 meeting.</p> <p>Commissioner Arnold: Reported that the AIDS Support Network <i>Walk for Life</i> fundraiser will take place on Sat., Nov. 5th at Santa Rosa Park, SLO (registration 9:00; walk begins at 10:00).</p> <p>Commissioner Clous: No report.</p> <p>Commissioner Del Rio: Attended the “Ask, Listen & Act” Domestic Violence forum on Oct. 15. She commented on what a fabulous job they did, with excellent attendance and a unique panel interview. Commissioner Del Rio also attended the Oral Health Coalition on Oct. 4 and was very impressed with the work the group is doing. She looks forward to continued participation.</p> <p>Commissioner Odell: No report.</p> <p>Commissioner Warren: Reported that she and Frank Warren of Drug & Alcohol Services attended the 9/13 Board of Supervisors meeting to receive a proclamation for “National Recovery Month Happens.” She will be presenting a copy of the proclamation to the Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board this Thursday.</p> <p>Commissioner Sage: Commented on the success of the Domestic Violence forum last Saturday. Commissioner Sage will also be attending the “Beginnings of San Luis Obispo” meeting on Oct. 26 and will report further next month.</p>		
8. Committee Reports	No reports.		
9. Prospective Future Items	<p><u>November 2011:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invite representative from Environmental Health Division to provide more specifics on the recent 6,000 gallon sewage spill in Shell Beach and talk about the notification process & procedures that are in place for these types of spills. ▪ Update from the SLO 2025 Senior Symposium <p><u>Future Agenda Items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accidental deaths / drug overdose – Invite epidemiologist and representative from coroner’s office and emergency room departments to present data and talk about what they are seeing. 		
10. Adjournment	Motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm	<i>Meeting adjourned.</i>	