

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, April 13, 2015 (County Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Lynn Enns (Chair), Corliss Campbell, Robert Campbell, David Clous, Claire Grantham, Kris Kington-Barker, James Pope, Jean Raymond, Mary Jean Sage, Scott Smith-Cooke, Susan Warren  
 Members Absent: None  
 Staff Present: Penny Borenstein, Jean White  
 Speakers: Laurel Weir (Homeless Services Coordinator), Jerry Rioux (SLO County Housing Trust Fund), Kevin Mikelonis (Transitional Food & Shelter), Heinz Huebner (Hope’s Village of SLO), Anne Wyatt (Home Share)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order by Chair Enns at 6:00 pm.	<i>Call to Order</i>	<i>Chair Enns</i>
<b>2. Approval of Minutes</b>	The March 9, 2015 minutes were approved as drafted.	<i>March 2015 minutes approved.</i>	<i>All</i>
<b>3. Public Comment</b>	Chair Enns opened the floor to public comment with no response.		
<b>4. Presentations:</b>	<p><b>Commissioner Warren</b> introduced the program and the speakers:  <u><b>50 Now Homeless Program</b></u>  <b>Laurel Weir, Homeless Services Coordinator for the County of SLO &amp; staff to the Homeless Services Oversight Council</b> (advisory board to the BOS), talked about the 50 Now Homeless Program, a program launched by the County last year to serve highly vulnerable chronically homeless persons. She defined “chronic homelessness” as a person with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. The 2013 point in time count found that there are 571 chronically homeless people in SLO County on a single night. The Homeless Services Oversight Council worked with the Housing Authority of SLO on a concept for a “housing first” program. “Housing first” is housing in which people do not have to be free of addictions or housing ready in order to get housing; but rather housing is part of the treatment, which has been shown to improve outcomes. Transitional Mental Health Association began operating the program in Oct 2015. Three hundred chronically homeless persons were surveyed and the top 50 most vulnerable were identified to become part of the program. To date, 26 of these most vulnerable have been housed. Next month, they will be refreshing the list of the most vulnerable and are looking for volunteers to help with surveying. Volunteers should have experience working with folks who are homeless or who have a mental illness. For more information about volunteering, go to SLOhomeless.org.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Clous</b> asked if there were chronically homeless persons who were not interested in permanent housing. (Ms. Weir explained that there are some people who do not want to go into a shelter, but most are very happy to be housed.)</p> <p><u><b>Veterans Homeless Program</b></u>  <b>Laura Weir, Homeless Services Coordinator for the County of SLO, presented for Robert Ellis, SSVF/CAPSLO, who was unable to attend tonight.</b> Ms. Weir reported that the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo (CAPSLO) and the Five Cities Homeless Coalition, in partnership with the</p>		

Good Samaritan Shelter, received funding for two veteran programs: Rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention. Grant money received is special funding through what is called a “surge program,” where they identified communities with very high percentages of unsheltered homeless veterans. Approximately 88% of the veterans in SLO County are unsheltered. Rapid re-housing provides unsheltered homeless veterans with a security deposit & short term housing to help them stabilize. Over a period of several months, subsidies decrease until the veteran pays 100% of housing cost. The program includes case management and supportive services. They are working with the VA to try to find housing, which is one of the biggest challenges. SLO County has one of the lowest vacancy rates in the country. There will be a landlord outreach event on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Veteran’s Hall from 4-6PM for any landlords who might be interested in participating in the program. The goal is to help people succeed in housing. One of the grants funded a position at the America’s Job Center specifically for veteran employment.

**Complexities of Low Income Housing in SLO County**

**Jerry Rioux, Director of the SLO County Housing Trust Fund**, explained that the SLO County Housing Trust Fund is a non-profit corporation created in 2003 to increase the supply of affordable housing in SLO County. He talked about the complexities of low income housing in SLO County: lack of affordable housing, low rental vacancy rate, high cost of affordable housing due to limited land, zoning issues, local regulations, and lack of infrastructure (adequate water & sewer, overloaded streets and highways, limited police & fire protection). Over 2,000 people sleep on the streets in SLO County every night and 90% of our homeless are unsheltered. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest rate in the country. Mr. Rioux explained that building affordable housing typically takes at least five different sources of funding and each additional source complicates the project. Habitat Paso Robles was a great project that took 3 years to get approval in Paso Robles, but it cost over \$70,000 in impact fees and currently is for sale because it doesn’t work financially. Two successful projects are Atascadero Senior with 19 units for seniors & disabled, and Hidden Creek in Paso Robles. Another project, South Street SLO, broke ground last month and will provide 43 units of affordable housing. It is very difficult and expensive to build affordable housing.

**Commissioner Robert Campbell** commented on the statistic that the majority of homeless persons in SLO County are not coming from other places, but are from SLO County. *(Mr. Rioux explained that there are more than 2 times as many homeless people as there are vacant rental units.)*

**Commissioner Warren** asked about in-lieu funds and how these funds contribute toward affordable housing. *(Mr. Rioux explained that most jurisdictions have an “inclusionary housing requirement” where housing & commercial developments are sometimes required to produce a certain number of affordable housing units. Most of these jurisdictions allow in lieu fees, where developers can pay in exchange for not building the affordable units. The in-lieu fees are used to help subsidize affordable housing. The City of San Luis Obispo generated approximately \$200 in subsidies for the South Street Project.)*

**Commissioner Corliss Campbell** asked for clarification on the number of homeless individuals. *(Mr. Rioux explained that there are over 2,300 homeless persons on any given night, There are 571 chronically homeless (who meet the definition of chronic homelessness).)*

**Commissioner Raymond** asked how a person living out of a car or recreational vehicle is classified. *(Mr. Rioux explained that they would be classified as homeless).*

**Housing Program for Medically Fragile Homeless**

**Kevin Mikelonis, Transitional Food and Shelter**, explained that they are a volunteer-based non-profit

organization, with an annual budget of \$100,000. All volunteers are active board members and involved in fundraising & managing the organization that provides a safety net, by coordinating housing for medically fragile homeless. Their clients are defined as long-term, mid-term and short-term. Last year, they provided 5,965 shelter nights to 97 different individuals, 26 of which were children. They place their clients in a motel for 7 days in order to evaluate if they will be able to help them, using local motels in the area who work with their program. The food component of their name consists because of People's Kitchen, who works under their 501C umbrella, but Transitional Food & Shelter does not provide food to the people they house. He talked about a program that was developed called "recuperative coaching" that helps people who are discharged from the hospital from re-entering. The way the program works is they have contracted with a person from North County Connection for 20-30 hours per month to visit and provide oversight to their long term clients who are housed in 6 apartments they lease in Atascadero. This person checks people in and out, cleans the apartments, and provides oversight. Mr. Mikelonis provided an overview of two of their client profiles.

**Hope's Village of SLO Tiny Homes Movement**

**Heinz Huebner, Member of the Board of Directors, Hopes Village of SLO**, was standing in for Becky Jorgeson tonight. Their goal is to find affordable housing for homeless persons in SLO County. Hope's Village is seeking funding and land, at least ten acres, preferably on a site near a public transit stop, to provide low cost, small, one room individual cabins in a campground setting. The cabins would be without utilities except for solar power and there would be a main facility with a common area, office, showers, kitchen, etc. Each person living in the village would be assigned to a campsite and be required to put in at least two hours of work daily. Hope's Village is working with the County & City, but the search for property has been a problem. They had some property in Atascadero that was offered but it was 3 miles off of the highway and not near any public transportation.

Mr. Huebner talked about another program they have been working on called "RVs for Veterans," where to date, 40 RV's have been donated to veterans. Persons interested in donating an RV for the program should contact Becky Jorgeson at Hope's Village of SLO. For more information, go to [hopesvillageofslo.com](http://hopesvillageofslo.com).

**Home Share Concept a Win/Win Opportunity**

**Anne Wyatt, Housing Policy Planner**, provided a Power Point overview and talked about a "home share concept" that would help provide more options for housing. She noted some of the challenges in housing: not enough money, not enough supply of affordable houses & lack of skills to stay in a house. Traditional solutions would be increases in pay, building more subsidized houses and teaching housing skills. But, she emphasized that it is important to find more efficient uses of existing resources. She explained that when you look at shelter as a basic need (shelter, security, communication hub, safe power, sanitation and hygiene) there are more options. She is proposing a couple of unconventional alternatives to existing resources: a home share program (Transitions has taken a residential hotel and turned it into housing), and a vacant unit capture (there are approximately 1800 vacant units in the County that are categorized as "vacant others," these are empty units that could be "captured." They are currently working on collecting a list of these units and will be contacting the property owners to see if they can help them to overcome any obstacles that are keeping these properties off the market. *(A copy of Ms. Wyatt's Power Point presentation is filed with the official record of this meeting.)*

<p><b>5. Health Agency / Public Health Report</b></p>	<p><b>Penny Borenstein, MD, Health Officer</b>, reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative Lois Capps visited the Public Health (PH) Department last week in support of PH’s efforts on climate change and “OutsideIn SLO,” the public awareness campaign that Public Health has been engaged in for the past year, focusing on what you can do for climate change that will also benefit your health.</li> <li>• The Fiscal Year 2015/16 recommended budget includes local funding and some Medi-Cal reimbursements that will support the PH Department in moving toward electronic health records.</li> <li>• As of May 1, 2015, the County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) will be included in the County Smoke-Free Ordinance and will be 100% smoke-free.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>6. Health Commissioner Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Chair Enns</b> reported that she and several other commissioners attended the Human Trafficking workshop. <b>Commissioner Smith-Cooke</b> apologized for being a bit late due to street closure on Johnson Avenue. <b>Corliss Campbell</b> attended the Human Trafficking workshop and reported that the focus was on creating awareness around the issue of labor trafficking. There were presentations by legal entities, court systems, DA’s Office, state &amp; federal representatives, Homeland Security, and the FBI, and it was quite eye-opening as they brought awareness to types of things people should be looking for. They requested participants help by reporting situations that may be human trafficking, which are often well-hidden. <b>Claire Grantham</b> also attended the Human Trafficking workshop, and explained this was not about sexual trafficking, but about labor trafficking. It was very enlightening and a great workshop. She also attended the PH Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (PHEPAC) quarterly meeting last week, where there was an update on the crisis response team, OES talked about Cambria being a fire hazard, and Dr. Beebe from the PH Laboratory provided an update on Ebola &amp; measles testing.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Clous</b> advised of a 90 minute documentary titled “<i>The Hunting Ground</i>” that will be playing at the Palm Theatre on April 20, 7:00 PM. This is an expo on the rape crimes on US campuses and the social toll on victims &amp; their families. Admission is free.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Raymond</b> attended the Adult Services Policy Council (ASPC) meeting last week and they are looking at needs assessment in SLO County. She asked Dr. Borenstein if Public Health is doing a needs assessment as part of the ACA. <i>(Dr. Borenstein explained that one provision of the ACA is that the not-for profit hospitals do a community health needs assessment every 3 years, and they will be working with Public Health this year. Additionally, one of the components of PH Accreditation involves having a county-wide health needs assessment. Commissioner Kington Barker advised that the SLO Community Foundation does a community-wide needs assessment survey that involves all levels of health.)</i></p> <p><b>Commissioner Sage</b> reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SLO Child Abuse Prevention (SLOCAP) is now known as Center for Child Strengthening. They will be holding their annual child abuse prevention academy at Cuesta College on Friday April 24, 2015, with Dr. Abdul Cader as guest speaker. Registration is available on line; small fee; CEU’s available.</li> <li>• Domestic Violence Task Force put together the training on labor trafficking to educate everyone in the community on what to look for and to have more eyes looking out for this. The committee is also working on other aspects of human trafficking. She suggested this as a future agenda topic.</li> <li>• Cal Poly is offering a new program to their students, called “Art &amp; Healing series,” that will begin April 17 through June 5 for students who have experienced gender violence.</li> <li>• OutsideIn SLO and Cal Poly are sponsoring a Resilient Food Systems Conference on Fri., May 8 and Sat., May 9, 2015 at Cal Poly. No cost; fee for lunch. Event website is <a href="http://cfs.calpoly.edu/conferences">cfs.calpoly.edu/conferences</a>.</li> </ul>		

	<p><b>Commissioner Pope:</b> No report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren:</b> Thanked all of the speakers tonight for their report from the Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC).</p> <p><b>Commissioner Robert Campbell</b> also attended the human trafficking training. He read of a list of indicators that was distributed at the training: <i>workers housed together with no key to the residence, restriction of movement, signs of physical abuse, indicators of dependency or care, onerous working hours and conditions, monitored communication, confiscation of identification, immigration or travel document.</i> The presenters' goal was to bring awareness to community members, asking for help in identifying cases.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Robert Campbell</b> also attended his first meeting as liaison to the First 5 Commission. This was an organizational meeting with the new executive director, Wendy Wendt. There is a general concern about the need and the greater unmet need for early childhood services in north county. The remainder of the meeting included a presentation on brain development in early childhood.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Kington-Barker:</b> No report.</p>		
<b>7. Committee Reports</b>	No committee reports.		
<b>8. Prospective Future Items</b>	<p><u>May 11, 2015</u> Addressing sexual assault on college campuses – Commissioner Clous</p> <p><u>June 8, 2015</u> Children w/special needs / facilities: Tri Counties Regional Center – overview Central Coast Autism Spectrum Center Jack's Helping Hands</p>		
<b>9. Adjournment</b>	Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.	<i>Adjournment</i>	<i>All</i>