

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, May 9, 2016 (County Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Lynn Enns (Chair), Kris Kington-Barker, Robert Campbell, David Clous, Claire Grantham, Mary Jean Sage, Susan Warren, Candace Winstead

Members Absent: Jean Raymond, Scott Smith-Cooke

Staff Present: Dr. Penny Borenstein, Jean White

Speakers: Michael Young (SLO Vet Center); Gil Igleheart (Paws for a Cause); Bob Ellis (Supportive Services for Veterans Families)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
1. Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Enns.	<i>Call to Order</i>	<i>Chair Enns</i>
2. Approval of Minutes	Minutes of April 11, 2016 were approved as drafted.	<i>April 11, 2016 minutes approved.</i>	<i>All</i>
3. Public Comment	<p>Chair Enns opened the floor to public comment.</p> <p>Rachelle Toti, Nipomo Mesa resident and co-founder of the Concerned Citizens for Clean Air, referred to the letter she submitted to the Commission recommending action be taken to address the particulate matter pollution problem on the Nipomo Mesa to protect the public’s health. She distributed a copy of SLO County APCD’s “<i>Your Guide to South County Air Quality</i>” and graphs of control site monitors, CDF, Mesa 2. In 2010, the Health Commission appealed to the Board of Supervisors to take immediate action to reduce the particulate matter air pollution affecting residents of Oceano and the Nipomo Mesa. They are hoping the Health Commission will get involved again as the air quality has not improved in the past six years. She asked that the Health Commission take steps to add a sense of urgency to this problem and place an agenda item on next month’s meeting to discuss progress and solutions. <i>A copy of Ms. Toti’s letter is included with the official record of this meeting.</i></p> <p>Rosemary Nelson, Nipomo Mesa resident, submitted and read her letter expressing her concerns about the high level of air pollution on the Nipomo Mesa. She asked that the Commission not ignore this serious health problem. <i>A copy of Ms. Nelson’s letter is included with the official record of this meeting.</i></p> <p>Michael Young, Nipomo Mesa resident, submitted and read his letter making five points regarding the dangerous silica dust emanating from the Oceano Dunes. He emphasized that the County has failed to preserve, protect and secure land and biological resources that it owns and as such harms the health, safety, and welfare of the people on the Nipomo Mesa and all who visit. <i>A copy of Mr. Young’s letter is included with the official record of this meeting.</i></p> <p>Chair Enns advised that the Commission will consider this topic as a future agenda item.</p>	<i>A copy of written public comment received will be included with the official record of this meeting.</i>	
4. Presentation: Overview of Veterans Services in SLO County:	<p>Commissioner Grantham introduced tonight’s program and speaker.</p> <p>Michael Young, LCSW, Vet Center Director, San Luis Obispo Vet Center, presented a Power Point overview of the SLO Vet Center. SLO Vet Center has been in operation since 2010, when 28 new Veteran Centers were authorized by Congress and Secretary of Veteran Affairs. The Vet Center program has been around since 1979 and was a result of Vietnam veterans who weren’t being adequately served. Currently there are 300 Vet Centers nationwide. Vet Centers became the first Veterans Affairs Program to systemically treat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in returning war veterans. The goal of the Vet Center is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach and referral services. There is no means test to receive services and there is never a charge for services. Vet Centers focus on individual as well as group</p>		

<p>Veterans Families</p>	<p>counseling in PTSD, alcohol and drug assessment, and suicide prevention referrals. War veterans also receive help with VA benefits assistance, employment counseling, information on community resources and educational opportunities. Family members of war veterans are eligible for specific services regarding military-related issues. Veterans can walk in without an appointment and extended hours are available. The Vet Center also has a mobile Vet Center equipped to support outreach counseling services to veterans in urban or rural environments. Outreach coordinators are an active part of mobile Vet Center events. They do about 200 outreach events per year. The Vet Center has a 24/7 hotline at 877.war.vets.</p> <p>Commissioner Clous asked approximately how many veterans they provide services to. <i>(Mr. Young answered that at any given time there are about 200 active veterans, ages 25-95. This number has increased over the years, with approx.1500 veterans having gone through their program.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Kington-Barker asked about integration with other non-profits and organizations. <i>(Mr. Young explained that this week they will be attending the suicide prevention committee. They do outreach through committee meetings, community meetings and open houses. They are open to suggestions for other venues to help reach those they are missing.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Kington-Barker asked if organizations providing services or admitting patients will ask if the person is a veteran. <i>(Mr. Young noted that some places will ask, but often times that identification process is missed.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Kington-Barker asked how many dependents receive services. <i>(Mr. Young explained that a veteran would have to be receiving services in order for a dependent to receive services and that the services for dependents have to be related to the veteran’s war zone experience. They do not track dependents because the veteran is the identified client.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Warren asked if they provide educational training on Veterans & PTSD to providers. <i>(Mr. Young answered that they receive requests for training and have done guest lectures at Cal Poly, Hancock College and some health care organizations, but not as many as they’d like.)</i></p> <p>Gil Igleheart, Paws for a Cause, provided background on <i>Paws for a Cause</i>, a 100% volunteer, 501(c)3 non-profit organization, working in conjunction with Rotary, Woods Humane Society and New Life K9s, to supply service and companion dogs to Central Coast veterans at no cost. New Life K9s provides expert training for dogs to turn them into service dogs for veterans with PTSD. Woods Humane Society’s trainers and staff help identify potential service dogs from their shelter. Statistics show that more than 22 veterans commit suicide every day; 1 in 3 combat veterans are diagnosed with PSD; and 1/3 of the nation’s homeless population are veterans. Providing service dogs to veterans helps reduce suicides, homelessness and decreases needs for medication. It takes 6 months to train a dog and the cost per graduated dog is \$15,000. All the money they raise is through fundraisers and goes to the K9s for the dogs and training. They have enlisted the aid of inmates at CMC to help with training – 15 prisoners are training 8 dogs 24 hours per day, 5 days per week. The other two days the dogs go home with a guard or staff member to socialize with the general public. The impact of this program has been significant.</p> <p>Commissioner Kington-Barker asked how they integrate with the Vet Center. <i>(Mr. Igleheart explained that this is the first time he has been introduced to Mike Young and hopes to develop a working relationship with their center. They are growing at a rapid rate and now have four prisons that want to work with them.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Warren asked if any dogs are trained to help with special medical needs. <i>(Mr. Igleheart explained that some dogs are more service oriented than others, some veterans only need a companion</i></p>		
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	<p><i>dog, and some don't work out for veterans, but all dogs are placed some place in the community and are very well trained.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Warren expressed her frustration about rules against having dogs in rental units. <i>(Mr. Igleheart agreed, noting how well trained these dogs are.)</i></p> <p>Bob Ellis, Program Manager, CAPSLO's Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVS), presented a Power Point overview of the SSVS Program, in existence since 2012. In 2014 they received a grant to address the un-housed veteran population in SLO County. They are working in collaboration with community partners to provide a range of supportive services to address barriers to stable housing for veterans with low income and at risk of becoming homeless; and to assist veterans who are homeless make a successful transition to permanent housing. Supportive services are available to eligible veterans and other members of the household based on an assessment of their needs and individualized housing stability plan. The SSVP Program is funded by the US Department of Veteran Affairs. In 2010, the White House and VA issued a plan to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. They are still working on getting there, but the initiative has been successful with the number of veterans who are homeless down by 33 percent since 2010. To receive supportive services under this program you must be a veteran or a member of family which the head of household or the spouse of the head of household is a veteran, meeting eligibility requirements; your annual income cannot exceed 50% of SLO County area median income (\$26,750 for one person), and you must be homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Since they received the grant in October 2014, they have engaged 240 veterans; of that 149 were determined eligible for services; 65 veteran households have been placed into housing, 47 veteran households have been prevented from losing their home. They have three locations: Los Osos, Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo (located in the Veterans Services Office.)</p> <p>Commissioner Kington-Barker asked how a person should access services. <i>(They can call the office or walk in. Dependents can be the first point of contact.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Kington-Barker asked about in-kind donations. <i>(Mr. Ellis advised persons should call their office or Mr. Ellis directly.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Kington-Barker asked about incentives/tax write-offs for property owners who provide services to veterans. <i>(Mr. Ellis advised there is no tax write-off, but there is a team w/case managers supervising the veteran.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Campbell asked during what period of time they saw a 30% decrease in the number of homeless veterans and what the decline is attributed to. <i>(Mr. Ellis explained that there has been a significant reduction - the last count was in 2015 and 130 veterans were counted. In 2010, there were approximately 350. But, he emphasized this is only a snapshot. When they first started counted, there was concern about the way the questions were being asked – some veterans answered “no” when asked if they were a veteran. Overtime, the numbers have increased for those saying “yes.”)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Warren commented on the County-wide problem of housing veterans and the importance of business & community to come together to find solutions. <i>(Mr. Ellis announced that on May 31, HASLO is having a “wall raising” for approximately 20 housing units for homeless veterans (860 Humbert Avenue in San Luis Obispo).</i></p>		
<p>5. Health Agency / Public Health Report</p>	<p>Dr. Penny Borenstein, Health Officer, reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Nurses Week is May 6-12, 2016. Dr. Borenstein thanked all the nurses. • National EMS Week is May 15-24, 2016 and the Public Health Department will be doing a 		

	<p>presentation at the Board of Supervisors to update them on the EMS system as well as recognizing some of the EMS heroes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County recommended budget is due out shortly for FY 2016-17 and will go to the Board of Supervisors for the budget hearings in June. • As of May 1, 2016, all children regardless of immigration status can enroll in full scope Medi-Cal. The bad news is they are not sure if there will be enough access for the demand. They continue to work with the Oral Health Coalition and stakeholders on how to expand access to oral health care. There may be an opportunity for our County to be funded from a state grant for expansion of oral health efforts. Stay tuned. 		
6. Health Commissioner Updates	<p>Commissioner Sage reported that HEAL SLO will be meeting this week. They are planning a 10-year anniversary celebration for Friday, October 7, 2016.</p> <p>Commissioner Clous reported that the Tobacco Control Program and the Sheriff's Department recently conducted stings in the unincorporated areas in North County. Out of 51 stores, 4 stores sold to minors and 2 stores were not licensed to sell. Since this program began in 2014, the percentage of stores selling to minors has decreased from 26% to 8%.</p> <p>Dr. Borenstein reported that four bills were signed by the governor this week: one is to make e-cigarettes fall under the same regulatory guidelines in California as other tobacco products; second is to raise the age of sales to age 21; third is to close some loopholes in licensing & sales; and fourth is to make all school properties tobacco free. (<i>Commissioner Warren asked if this includes all colleges – Dr. Borenstein doesn't believe so.</i>)</p> <p>Commissioner Warren reported that the Homeless Services Oversight Council is working on numerous projects and collaborations to find extra housing. Another piece they are working on is getting an early start in training volunteers for their Point In Time Count and Survey of Homeless Persons. They will be streamlining the questions this year. Laura Weir at Department of Social Services is the contact for the Point in Time Survey. Commissioner Warren will have more information after their next meeting.</p>		
7. Committee Report	<p>Community Education: Jean White reported that the committee met and discussed ways to improve public awareness of the Health Commission. Ideas discussed included making improvements to the Health Commission webpage, putting Health Commission meeting notices in County e-newsletter, Public Health Bulletin and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Ideas for further consideration were submittal of an annual report to the Board of Supervisors, presenting recommendations during public comment at the Board of Supervisors meetings, and forming task force/work groups to dive deeper into some issues.</p> <p>Nominating: Commissioner Sage reported that the committee will bring forward their recommendation for slate of officers for FY 2016-17 at the June meeting. Commissioners should forward their recommendations for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary to Jean White. The committee will also bring forward a recommendation to fill the current Consumer vacancy.</p>		
8. Prospective Future Items	<p>Chair Enns advised that the Commission will be having a planning meeting in July to discuss educational programs for the year. The Commission will consider Air Quality as an agenda topic for August.</p> <p>June 2016: Cancer Resource Centers</p>		
9. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 7:50.	<i>Adjournment</i>	<i>All</i>