County of San Luis Obispo
HEALTH COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, April 10, 2006 (Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Lynn Enns (Chair), Jan Hicks, Penny Chamousis, Deborah Donnelly, Tom Hale, M.D., Sara Horne, David Odell, James Mase, M.D., Donald Pinkel, M.D., Pam Heatherington Members Absent: Susan Warren
Staff Present: Greg Thomas, M.D. Health Officer, Sonja Thompson (recorder)
Speakers: Mike Piepenberg - San Luis Obispo County Veterans Services Office, Linda Hogoboom - Lucia Mar School District Nurse, Dayna Ravalin - Registered Dietician

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
1. CALL TO ORDER	Meeting called to order by Chair Enns at 6:03 p.m.		
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 13, 2006	Minutes were approved with the following corrections: 1. Public Comment, change "Mark Zelina" to "Mike Zelina". 2. Page 2, fifth paragraph, Public Comment, add the word "handling" to the sentence: "environmental specialists trained in hazardous material (**handling**) that would respond…..." 3. Page 3, first paragraph change "strategies outlined for Federal and State Plans, supplies for vaccine clinics…" to: "…strategies outlined for Federal and State Plans. Supplies for vaccine clinics……" 4. Commissioner Heatherington pointed out the March Ombudsman Child Contact Report Form, - Resolved Issues in July and August seem to have incomplete sentences and should be addressed to Mary Miller. It was recommended to number the pages.	Minutes approved as amended.	Approved by all
3. PUBLIC COMMENT	**Mark Phillips, Atascadero,** continued his public comment from last month and read "Part II of the Arpad Pusztai Story." Part I talked about Dr. Pusztai's termination from Rowett Research Institute after a 35-year career, for making cautionary statements about the GE industry. Part II introduced some of the techniques used by the Rowett Institute to discredit Dr. Pusztai and his research, such as not having a nutritionist on the panel that weighed the merits of Pusztai's nutritional study nor allowing Dr. Pusztai to speak. The Royal Society used a similar tactic when they employed 6 scientists, none of them nutritional experts, to review Dr. Pusztai's research. They also provided incomplete information to the reviewers. The Lancet described the Royal Society report to be, "… a gesture of breathtaking impertinence." Mr. Phillips believes such tactics as these are common. **Eric Greening, Atascadero** presented a form created by the Surfrider Foundation used to track information and investigate symptoms developed after body contact with the ocean. The County would benefit from this initiative and should work with the Health Commission in developing policies. More information regarding the form can be obtained at the Surfrider Foundation at slbsurfrider@gmail.com.	*Handout: Copy of public comment* *Handout: Surfrider Foundation Ocean Illness Form*	

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4. HEALTH CARE – Tri-Care and Veterans Administration	**Mike Piepenberg, County Veteran's Services Officer** provided an overview of health care services available for veterans in San Luis Obispo County through Veterans Administration (VA) and Tricare. VA is the largest healthcare provider in America and offers a comprehensive benefits package for veterans and their families; Tricare is worldwide offering benefits to active duty and retired service members and their families. Recent legislative changes have dramatically enhanced veterans' health care benefits as well as access to those benefits. There are currently 25,000 veterans residing in San Luis Obispo County. Mr. Piepenberg briefly discussed eligibility, enrollment and co-payments. *Commissioner comments and concerns discussed included problems with local access to Tricare services, outreach activities, mental health services, difficulty with enrollment and obtaining an identification card. Mr. Piepenberg talked about the application process and the shortage of Tricare providers in North County. Anyone experiencing problems should be referred to the Veteran's Office at 781-5766 or at www.slocounty.ca.gov/veteran.*	*Handout:* *Packet that included "VA Health Care Overview," Tricare Management Fact Sheet – Tricare Eligibility," Tricare for Life and Medicare, an d Tricare – The Basics."*	
5. PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK – April 3-9 "Designing Healthy Communities and Raising Healthy Kids"	**Linda Hogoboom, Lucia Mar Unified School District (LMUSD) Nurse** provided answers to the community education committee's questions regarding physical education and nutrition. The wellness committee is developing comprehensive approaches in dealing with "at-risk" or "overweight" children. Ms. Hogoboom is pleased with the enthusiastic team that consists of teachers, nurses, physicians, and parents. Schools follow the "Physical Education Model Contents Standards for California Public Schools" for K through 12. Senate Bill 965 enactment allows for fruit based and electrolyte replacement drinks be available instead of sodas. Students participate in the California Fitness Test in grades 5, 7 and 9 that determines Body Mass Index. *Commissioner Discussion:* *Commissioner Heatherington asked if there are edible gardens; not at this time. Other comments included concerns with nutritional values of breakfast foods served in the elementary schools. Ms. Hogoboom is more familiar with the lunch program and stated the District continues to be creative as possible in meeting federal guidelines.* **Dayna Ravalin, Public Health Department Registered Dietician** provided an update to her report last September on the Maternal Child Health five-year strategic plan targeting children ages 3 to 5 with weight issues. She gave a brief PowerPoint presentation outlining the results of the survey done at various low-income preschools. The study confirmed higher percents of at-risk and overweight children in South County (40.2%). Committee plans to meet soon and will discuss the issues in South County and increase pre-school programs. Ms. Ravalin is accumulating survey data involving food practices and activity in the home and preschools. *Commission requested an update when the survey results are available.*	*Handout:* *Answers to Questions from Health Commission, Physical Education Model Content Standards for California Public Schools, SB 12 Fact Sheet, SB 95 Fact Sheet* *Handout: Copy of PowerPoint Presentation*	

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	Commissioner comments and discussion followed. Obesity is not a medical term used with children. Children from birth to age 20 are considered "at-risk," or "overweight" based on their Body Mass Index; 86% is considered to be at-risk; 95% and above is overweight. Commissioner Heatherington suggested surveying the safety of children and the ability to play outside based on the where they live. Commissioner Hicks talked about the Child Health and Disability Prevention program and referrals for overweight children. In fiscal year2005/2006, the program received 86 referrals and followed-up on 10%. Community Health Clinics provide follow-up care for the remaining 90%. Dr. Thomas announced that $2,000 of the $18,000 grant application submitted through Gold Coast Collaborative and SLO Community Foundation was awarded that will be used to staff and support the Obesity Task Force. The Commission offered a letter of support. **Kelly Downs, Head Physical Education Teacher, Atascadero Junior School** was not able to attend this meeting. **Public Comment:** **Eric Greening** appreciated the information, talked about local organic growers, reducing the use of pesticides increasing the organic market, and agreed that follow-up is needed in South County.		
6. GRAND JURY REPORT – Pesticide Use at the Agricultural/Urban Interface	Dr. Thomas referred to the final report of the Grand Jury's investigations into pesticides on agricultural lands. The recommendation to Finding #6 is that the Task Force on Health and Pesticide Use meet annually for the purpose of review and recommendation. Dr. Thomas opened for discussion. *Commissioner Discussion:* *The pesticide task force is comprised of various representatives from the agricultural community and was not consulted prior to this finding. There are concerns with the commitment to meet every year and the commission agreed that by meeting every three years, a more complete report would be available. Dr. Thomas agrees to meet once per year for a superficial report and a more in-depth report in three years.* **Public Comment**: **Eric Greening,** concerned with agricultural emphasis of pesticide exposure; recommended exploring other sources.	*Handout: Grand Jury Report*	
7. PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT	Dr. Thomas referred to his written report. A copy of the report is filed with the official record of this meeting. ▪ Jess Montoya resigned his position as Health Agency Director. The previous recruitment list is still open and the position was offered to the 2nd candidate. Jeff Hamm tentatively accepted; recommendation will go to the Board of Supervisors	*Handouts:* *Copy of Director's Report*	

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	for approval April 25th. ▪ The Board of Supervisors reviewed the proposed implementation plan for the Syringe Exchange Program; Public Health, Drug and Alcohol and Law Enforcement representative will meet for further refinement. The Commission offered a letter of support. ▪ The Public Health Department is working with the Medical Society on the Pandemic Influenza Summit planned for mid June.		
8. HEALTH COMMISSION UPDATES	**Enns**: The GMO Task Force committee will be meeting April 17 to finalize the report to be presented to the Commission in May. Donnelly: No Report. Hale: No Report. Horne: No Report. Hicks: No Report. Chamousis: Attend the Adult Services Policy Council meeting. May is elder abuse prevention month. An Elder Abuse Seminar will be May 5th at the Culinary Arts Institute in Paso Robles. Mase: No Report Pinkel: Reminded the commission of their decision to send letters to the Board of Supervisors and Water Districts on water fluoridation; Commissioner Enns and Pinkel will draft letters.		
9. COMMITTEE REPORTS	**Legislation**: Commissioner Chamousis referred to the list of pending legislation and pointed out that AB840 should be replaced with SB840. She requested Dr. Thomas to comment on the commission recommendations. Legislative Committee will draft letters of support.		
	• **AB104** requires a substance abuse treatment trust fund be appropriated to divert abusers from incarceration into community-based programs. Dr. Thomas did not have any comments; Commission recommends support.	Vote: (8 yes, 0 no)	Commission will send letter of support.
	• **AB126** restores original Beilensen law regarding the closing of county health facilities. Commission recommends supporting bill.	Vote: (8 yes, 0 no)	Commission will send letter of support.
	• **AB162** establishes a State Department of Public Health controlled by the Governor. Dr. Thomas strongly recommends support; Commission agrees.	Vote: (8 yes, 0 no)	Commission will send letter of support.

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	• **AB576** allows patients' physicians, local and state health departments to maintain access to immunization records when a patient refuses to share information. Committee's recommendation is not to support this bill. Voting yes indicates agreement with the Committee's position to not support the bill.	Vote: 5 yes (Donnelly, Hicks, Chamousis, Mase, Heatherington) 2 no (Hale, Pinkel 1 abstain (Horne)	Commission will send letter of opposition.
	• **AB586** allows the health officer and local EMS agency administrator to jointly appoint a medical/health operational area coordinator to coordinate a disaster system. Committee's recommendation is no; Dr. Thomas yes. Decision will be put on hold.		
	• **AB699** requires a determination of amounts of flu vaccine availability, location of distribution. Dr. Thomas recommends support; Commission agreed.	Vote: (8 yes, 0 no)	Commission will send letter of support.
	• **SB120** requires POTW (Water Treatment Plant) to submit a certification to the regional board on sewage sludge being transferred for disposal or further processing. Commission recommended support.	Vote: (8 yes, 0 no)	Commission will send letter of support.
	• **SB730** prohibits any aquaculture, fish, or seafood product from being labeled or represented at "organic" until form organic certification standards have been developed and implemented. Commission recommended support.	Vote: (8 yes, 0 no)	Commission will send letter of support.
	• **SB840** relating to health care coverage raised concerns. The existing law does not provide a system of universal health care coverage in California and does provide for the creation of various programs to provide health care services to persons who have limited incomes and meet various eligibility requirements. Commissioners agreed to invite a representative from Senator Keul's office as well as antagonists and protagonists to a future meeting.	Vote: (8 yes, 0 no)	Commission will send letter of support.
	• **SB1056** states that existing provisions of law relating to nursery stock and seed are of statewide concern regarding registration, labeling, sale, storage, transportation, distribution, and notification of use, and the use of nursery stock and seeds to the exclusion of local regulations. Commission agreed not to support.	Vote: (8 yes, 0 no)	Commission will send letter of opposition.

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	Nominating Committee: Commissioner Hicks provided an update on recruiting for new and alternate Health Commissioners. The application deadline is April 14. Currently there are two consumer, two indirect provider, and three direct provider candidates interested, however no applications have been returned. Nominating committee will reconvene after application closing date. Commissioner Hicks spoke live on KVEC radio about the recruiting efforts that resulted in several interested calls. **Community Education**: Commissioner Heatherington thanked the committee for questions that were addressed tonight. The Committee will focus on concerns with the media not informing the public of the Health Commission issues and topics. **Budget Committee**: Did not meet this month.		
10. PROSPECTIVE FUTURE ITEMS	*Next meeting will be May 8, 2006.* **May 8, 2006:** Regional Water Quality Control Board – Follow-up on Ag Water Testing - Harvey Packard, GMO Task Force Report, **June 8, 2006:** Ira J. Chasnoff, M.D., President of the Children's Research Triangle, Update on the Children's Assessment Center, **July 10, 2006:** Pandemic Influenza Business Continuity (Possible Action), Senate Bill 840 Discussion, Pat Harris-Lakin, Local Coordinator, At Risk/Overweight Children Survey Results, Dayna Ravalin, Public Health Department Registered Dietician, **August 14, 2006:** **September 11, 2006:** Agroterrorism Planning Update (Brenda Ouwerkerk) Pandemic Flu Response Plan Update (Ann McDowell) **October 9, 2006** **November 13, 2006:** **December 11, 2006:** Pandemic Flu Response Plan Update (Ann McDowell) **Pending:** General Plan with Parks and Recreation with regards to physical activity.		
11. ADJOURNMENT	Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.		Approved – All