

**County of San Luis Obispo  
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, December 11, 2006 (Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Lynn Enns (Chair), Penny Chamousis, Deborah Donnelly, Ed Guereña, Pam Heatherington, Jan Hicks, James Mase, M.D., David Odell, Robert Thielscher  
 Members Absent: Sara Horne (excused), Susan Warren (excused)  
 Staff Present: Greg Thomas, M.D., Jean White (recorder)  
 Speakers: Edie Kahn (AIDS Support Network), Carl Hansen (Food Bank Coalition), Donna Kean (Hospice of SLO County), Janet Jeffery/Tina McEvoy (Hospice Partners), Karen Stenson (Long Term Care Ombudsman Services), Michele Vanderlinde, PhD (La Clinica de Tolosa), Lisa Fraser (SLOCAP), Gillian Cutshaw (SARP Center), Lindsey Dunn (Women’s Shelter), Kathleen Richen (United Way)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
<b>1. CALL TO ORDER</b>	Meeting called to order by Chair Enns at 6:03 p.m.		
<b>2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	Minutes of November 13, 2006 approved as written.	Minutes approved	All
<b>3. PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	<p><b>Jesse Arnold, Cambria</b>, spoke on the topic of genetic engineering and the need for a precautionary moratorium on genetic engineering. He also spoke more specifically about two Brown Act violations that he believes were made by the Health Commission: (1) that the selection of members for the GMO Task Force was done secretly and (2) that public comment was limited to 1 minute during discussion of the three GMO reports that were brought forward. He believes this violated the “spirit” of the Brown Act, with the tenor being that the commission did not want to hear opposing viewpoints. He commented that the commission voted to accept all three reports, which means they were all worthy of being looked at. He also noted that the GMO Task Force Report admitted that federal regulators do not look at raw data and results from experiments that are performed by genetic engineering companies. Responsible citizens should not be expected to take this data on faith.</p> <p><b>Elizabeth Johnson</b> referred to last month’s meeting where Chairperson Enns stated that any person who believes there was a violation of the Brown Act should be specific about the violation and may want to contact County Counsel. Ms. Johnson noted that County Counsel does not talk to or advise citizens. Ms. Johnson submitted a list of 16 violations of the Brown Act that she believes were made. Ms. Johnson referred to the August 8, 2005 Health Commission Retreat, where Deputy County Counsel Warren Jensen spoke on the Brown Act and Conflict of Interest Laws. Mr. Jensen stated that “beyond doubt, the Health Commission is required to comply with the Brown Act.” Ms. Johnson stated that “some task force members received money from industries who stood to benefit from a pro-GMO position, but no members made these disclosures until they were pressured to do so.” She closed by stating that members of the Health Commission are public officials and accountable to the public to behave at the minimum standards of ethical behavior. Members that don’t want the ethics that come with being a public official should vacate their seat.</p>	<p><i>Handout: Copy of public comment, including list of Brown Act violations</i></p>	

	<p><b>Mark Phillips, Atascadero</b>, referred to the May 6, 2005 Health Commission meeting where Dr. Steinmaus summarized his objections of the research of Dr. Arpad Pusztai. Mr. Phillips quoted text from the GMO Task Force Report, where Dr. Steinmaus references his personal communication with Dr. Pusztai. Mr. Phillips noted that the problem with Dr. Steinmaus' reference to his contact with Dr. Pusztai is that he nor anyone else from the GMO Task Force ever contacted Dr. Pusztai, yet tried to make everyone believe that he did. Mr. Phillips is the only person who ever contacted Dr. Pusztai and forwarded his (very forthcoming) responses onto Dr. Steinmaus and the GMO Task Force. The Task Force did not want to listen to anything he had to say. Mr. Phillips states that this is the type of environment he had to deal with to try to get information to the GMO Task Force. The GMO Task Force Report does not include any of the information he presented to the Task Force that shows the support and recognition of the value of Dr. Pusztai's research.</p>		
<p><b>4. PRESENTATIONS FROM NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS</b></p>	<p><b>Lisa Fraser, Executive Director, San Luis Obispo Child Abuse Prevention (SLO-CAP)</b>, presented a Power Point overview of SLO-CAP's projects and programs. SLO-CAP is a private, non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to prevent child abuse and neglect through education, training and public awareness. Approximately 1200 children in San Luis Obispo suffer from abuse and neglect. SLO-CAP's programs include their Baby Think It Over Program (targeted for middle and high school students), Mandated Reporter Training, Pregnancy and Postpartum Depression Task Force and Support Line, Public Awareness Campaign, Public Forums and their Talking About Touching Program (a personal safety program, reaching approximately 1800 kindergarten children every year). They are also a primary partner in bringing Martha's Place Children's Assessment Center to San Luis Obispo in January 2007.</p> <p><b>Edie Kahn, Executive Director, SLO County AIDS Support Network and SLO Hep C Project</b>, presented a Power Point overview of their programs. The AIDS Support Network (ASN) focuses on serving the needs of clients who are living with HIV disease and AIDS. They serve approximately 145 clients. Local and federal grants help to fund their services. ASN provides a team case management approach, including health counselor, benefits counselor, and housing services coordinator. ASN also maintains a large pool of volunteers. Since 2000, ASN has provided services for people living with Hep C through their SLO Help C Project. They have seen over 500 clients in the last 5 years. This project is sparsely funded, but still offers health and benefits counseling, volunteer services and community education. Their food pantry is their most utilized service. They partner with the Food Bank Coalition and have provided over 33,000 meals this year for their clients. One of the biggest challenges is the rise in the number of people who are using methamphetamines. Without an in-house detox in SLO County, it is very difficult to find long-term solutions. ASN's needs are donations and volunteers. Websites: <a href="http://www.asn.org">www.asn.org</a> and <a href="http://www.slohepc.org">www.slohepc.org</a>.  <i>Commissioner Donnelly asked about their collaborations with the Food Bank and others. The Food Bank Coalition is their main supplier of food. They also do a lot of volunteer food drives and have received some grants that are specific to food items.</i>  <i>Commissioner Chamousis asked about case management of clients. They see some clients</i></p>	<p><i>Handout: SLO-CAP brochure</i></p>	

*once, but many of their clients require more comprehensive services – health care counseling, benefits counseling, and making sure they are stable in their household.*

**Carl Hansen, Executive Director, Food Bank Coalition**, focused on their priorities and major accomplishments over the past year. One of their primary focuses has been to increase the nutritional value and accessibility of nutritional food to the 130 agencies that they serve. They have also initiated a “backpack” program, in partnership with the public schools, which provides 4 nutritional meals and snacks to low-income children over the weekend (children are identified by the school administration and meals are packed into a backpack). They have also recently incorporated the operation of Harvest Bag into the Food Bank Coalition. Harvest Bag now operates out of their warehouse in Oceano.

*Dr. Thomas acknowledged Mr. Hansen’s participation on the Obesity Prevention Task Force and noted that there is good evidence that those that are hungry often look to the least expensive carbohydrates to fill up and therefore obesity and imperfect nutrition is a result. Mr. Hansen looks forward to continued participation with the Task Force to further address the nutritional needs, especially in young people.*

**Donna Kean, Director, Hospice of San Luis Obispo County** stated that they are the County’s only volunteer hospice. They have been in the community for 29 years and provide non-medical, emotional, social and spiritual support to children and adults who are grieving or living with a life-threatening illness. They do not charge for any of their client services and many services are now being provided in Spanish as well as English. Their primary programs consist of in-home respite care and a comprehensive bereavement counseling program. Other projects include California Men’s Colony Hospice volunteer program (where they train inmates to help each other through the dying process), their annual suicide prevention forum, and other community education projects. They are 100% supported by the community through donations, annual fundraisers, grants and United Way. They could not operate without their volunteers and the financial support from the community.

**Tina McEvoy, Hospice Partners of the Central Coast**, stated that Hospice Partners is a non-profit, state licensed Medicare and Medi-Cal certified hospice agency, serving all of San Luis Obispo County and part of Santa Barbara County. Activities of Hospice Partners are aimed at improving the existence and experience of individuals facing the end of their life. Their staff includes nurses, physicians, social workers, bereavement counselors, therapists, home health aides, spiritual counselors, volunteers and dieticians. They provide quality end of life care to approximately 120 patients on any single day. In addition, they partner with many schools in the area as a training ground for nurses, home health aides, dieticians, and spiritual counselors. **Janet Jeffery, M.S., R.N., Administrator, Hospice Partners of the Central Coast**, added that most of their patients are enrolled in some type of insurance program with 87% Medicare, 3.5% Medi-Cal, 8% private insurance and 1.5% no insurance. General operating expenses that are deemed reimbursable by federal government are covered by these insurances. They keep their general operating expenses at or below the Medicare reimbursement level. They do not

	<p>use contributions or grant money for those expenses. Programs that are not reimbursed by the government, or that are inadequately reimbursed, include volunteer department services, bereavement services, medication, supplies, equipment, and treatment for pain. She thanked the residents of San Luis Obispo County for their support.</p> <p><i>Commissioner Chamousis asked about the difference between the two hospices. Hospice of San Luis Obispo County is an all volunteer organization. They are not licensed or certified and do not do any medical, hands-on patient care. They are 100% funded by grants and contributions. Hospice Partners of the Central Coast is a Medi-Cal, Medicare licensed certified agency, and they bill for services. Most of their clients have insurance, although insurance doesn't cover all services. The organizations work collaboratively, with some of their volunteers working with both programs.</i></p> <p><b>Karen Stenson, Executive Director, Long Term Care Ombudsman Services of SLO County</b> talked about the services they provide. They provide facility monitoring visits to long-term residents in nursing homes and residential facilities. Last year they did 1041 facility monitoring visits and investigated 338 complaints. Federal law requires that they go into each building once per year, but they don't believe that is enough. Their program can really use volunteers. They are down to 15 volunteers right now and really need 25-30 volunteers to do a good job. The other thing they need is publicity. It is difficult for people to remember their exact name and find them in the phone book. They will assist in pre and post placement and try to match people up with appropriate facilities. Other needs are more staff in facilities, and more medical and dental services for their residents.</p> <p><i>Commissioner Donnelly asked about patient referrals to long term care facilities. Ms. Stenson answered that they would like to be able to talk with everyone who is entering a facility, but that's not possible. They have started to do "new resident packets." They would also like to have better relationships with primary care physicians. It is "old thinking" that persons have to divorce to go into a nursing home to protect their spouse from "financial ruin." Dr. Thomas acknowledged Karen Stenson and Long Term Care Ombudsman Services for their participation in the vulnerable populations seminar in June.</i></p> <p><i>Commissioner Odell asked about funding. Ms. Stenson answered that they are an Area on Aging funded group and receive federal and state dollars for the majority of their budget. They also have a County grant which makes up about 20% of their budget. 10-20% of their money comes from donations. They had a significant donation last year and are thinking about an endowment.</i></p> <p><i>Commissioner Enns asked about training for their volunteers. Their training consists of 30 hours of classroom training and another 15-20 hours in facilities with other staff, ombudsman, and volunteers for hands-on training. Once certified, they ask for two hours per week.</i></p> <p><b>Michele Vanderlinde, Ph.D., Partnership for the Children/La Clinica de Tolosa</b>, presented a Power Point overview of their non-profit Children's Dental Clinic. Dental decay is one of the most common chronic, infectious diseases among U.S. children. It is preventable, but by</p>	<p><i>Handout: Long Term Care Ombudsman brochure</i></p> <p><i>Handout: La Clinica de Tolosa brochure</i></p>	
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	<p><i>SLO County. Their prevention campaign slogan is “Beat the Punch.” This campaign is designed to provide information, education, and alternative actions to help prevent domestic violence in the community. They are working on a coaster campaign by distributing coasters in local bars. They were just re-funded and will receive new funds in January. They have a confidential website at <a href="http://www.violencefreecommunity.com">www.violencefreecommunity.com</a>.</i></p> <p><b>Kathleen Richen, Campaign Coordinator, United Way of San Luis Obispo County.</b>  United Way has worked with local agencies, businesses, government, and individuals on five key areas: meeting life’s basic needs, promoting healthy lives, investing in children and youth, supporting work and self-sufficiency, and strengthening the community network. In 2005/06, UW volunteers directed more than \$100,000 in Community Impact Fund grant awards to 29 local programs. Other programs they provide are information and referral, nonprofit management advice and consultation, in-kind donation collection and distribution, “You Can Help” monthly e-newsletter, volunteer matching, Federal Emergency Food &amp; Shelter Program administration, fiscal agent services for local non-profit agencies and community projects, and emergency grants to agencies in need. Ms Richen also talked about the Economic Impact Study of Nonprofit Corporations in SLO County and their upcoming collaboration forum, focusing on leveraging local information and resources, scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. She mentioned their “Above and Beyond Project,” where an anonymous donor put up \$50,000 in matching funds, so monies received between now and December 31<sup>st</sup> will be matched up to \$50,000. They have partnered with Target, Charter Communications, and Toys for Tots on their “Share a Tree Program,” providing fully decorated Christmas trees to families that would otherwise not have one. To make a donation, contact UW at 541-1234. Ms. Richen also mentioned that anyone who would like to volunteer in San Luis Obispo can access information at <a href="http://www.volunteerslo.org">www.volunteerslo.org</a>.</p> <p><i>Dr. Thomas mentioned how easy it is for an employee to do an automatic deduction from their paycheck to support community needs. He noted that recently, United Way was able to come up with a \$25,000 grant to make 2-1-1 a reality. He also noted that he is on the Board of United Way. Commissioner Enns asked how an employer can become involved. United Way can arrange an electronic funds transfer, or an employee can call directly to have a deduction taken from their checking account.</i></p>	<p><i>Handout:  UW Community Impact Report 2006</i></p> <p><i>Economic Impact of Nonprofit Corporations</i></p>	
<p><b>5. PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT</b></p>	<p><b>Greg Thomas, M.D., Health Officer,</b> announced that Dr. Richard Jackson, State Health Officer, will be in San Luis Obispo on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to talk about the nexus between community planning and the prevention of health issues, particularly the ability of Smart Growth principles used in planning to reduce obesity and other social illnesses. He invited Health Commissioners to attend. He will bring information forward next month on the exact time and location.</p>		
<p><b>6. HEALTH COMMISSION PDATES</b></p>	<p><b>Chair Update:</b> Chair Enns reported that she attended the Tobacco Control Coalition where they have been reviewing the California Department of Health Tobacco Control Section requirements for 2007. The group has been meeting and “brainstorming” on ways to include more community members in the planning process and to come up with potential areas of interest for their next work plan. In January, all of the data and comments will be collated to</p>		

	<p>come up with the objectives that will be included in the “<i>Communities of Excellence Program – Tobacco Prevention.</i>”</p> <p>Chair Enns also reported that she attended the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, to make a statement in favor of the Board adopting the Parks and Recreation Element as it was presented to them by Mr. Jenny.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Chamousis:</b> No report.  <b>Commissioner Thielscher:</b> No report.  <b>Commissioner Heatherington:</b> Attended her first Domestic Violence Task Force meeting. Lindsey Dunn gave a good overview of their Delta Program (tonight). They are also working to further educate sheriff/police officers to become more familiar with domestic violence.  <b>Commissioner Mase:</b> No report.  <b>Commissioner Odell:</b> Thanked Chair Enns for her outstanding presentation to the Board in support of the Parks and Recreation element. He also recognized Karen Baylor, Behavioral Health Administrator, for the positive steps she has taken in bringing Mental Health and Drug &amp; Alcohol together to address funding issues and coordination of services. A big problem has been with co-existing diagnosis and the funding being bounced back and forth over the years between Mental Health and Drug &amp; Alcohol.  <b>Commissioner Hicks:</b> No report.  <b>Commissioner Guerena:</b> No report.  <b>Commissioner Donnelly:</b> No report.</p>		
<b>7. COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>	<p><b>Legislative:</b> No report.  <b>Nominating:</b> No report.  <b>Community Education:</b> Commissioner Heatherington apologized for not notifying the Chair that this month’s meeting was cancelled. The Community Education Committee is working on ways to find money to cover printing costs for their “No Drugs Down the Drain” campaign. Dr. Thomas confirmed that the committee can go after grant money, but it must be directed to the Public Health Department.  <b>Budget:</b> No report.</p>		
<b>8. PROSPECTIVE FUTURE ITEMS</b>	<p>Next meeting – January 8, 2007 – Board of Supervisors Chambers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nursing/physician shortages and challenges</li> <li>• Purple Band Program</li> </ul>		
<b>9. ADJOURNMENT</b>	Motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.		Approved - All