

**County of San Luis Obispo
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, June 13, 2005 (Arroyo Grande City Council Chambers)

Members Present: Deborah O'Brien (Chair), Jan Hicks, Sara Horne, Richard Wood, M.D., David Odell, Tom Hale, M.D., Susan Warren

Members Absent: Lynn Enns, Pam Heatherington, Donald Pinkel, M.D., Penny Chamousis

Staff Present: Jess Montoya, Jean White (recorder)

Speakers: Betsy Umhofer, Mary Parker, Ph.D, Dean of School of Nursing Cuesta College, Sheri Stoddard, June Stanley, Janice Calleri, Donna Silva, Irene Vega

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
1. CALL TO ORDER	Meeting called to order by Chair O'Brien at 6:00 p.m.		
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Minutes of May 9, 2005 approved as written.		1 st - Wood 2 nd – Horne Approved - All
3. PUBLIC COMMENT	Biz Steinburg, Chief Executive Officer, Economic Opportunity Commission, spoke about the continued recruitment to replace Kathleen Aragon, who retired and is now greatly missed. The EOC continues to make presentations and referrals throughout the County. She was also happy to report that the eligibility issues with Clinica de Tolosa have been worked out.		
4. ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) AGE RESTRICTION PROPOSAL	Dr. Larry Foreman, local emergency room physician at AG and French Hospitals, spoke about his proposal to prohibit any person under the age of 14 to operate an ATV on California Public Land and would require person's 14-17 to pass an ATV safety certificate program. Dr. Foreman has spoken with the Governor's office, Assemblyman Blakeslee, the Medical Society, orthopedic specialists, and rangers, all of whom have supported the proposal. The only opposition he received was after he went on a local radio show, where 9-10 people called in against the age restriction. Dr. Foreman asked for the Health Commission's support. Commissioner questions followed on helmets, current ATV Safety certificate programs, who has supported the proposal, and when it could be carried / introduced into the legislature.	<i>Motion to support Dr. Foreman's ATV Age Restriction proposal.</i>	1 st – Odell 2 nd – Horne Approved - All
5. SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY NURSING – PANEL DISCUSSION	Chair O'Brien read an article from the Center for the Health Professionals regarding the number of nurses needed for a growing population in California. Betsy Umhofer, Congresswoman Lois Capps' Office, gave a brief overview Congresswoman Capps' background as a nurse. She read a letter from Lois Capps regarding the nursing shortage. She asked the Health Commission to write a letter to the Congresswoman expressing the conclusions of tonight's panel discussion.	Handout: ▪ <i>Copy of letter from Lois Capps</i>	

Dr. Mary Parker, Cuesta College Nursing Program, spoke about the programs offered at Cuesta. They currently have a program that encourages high school students to learn about and pursue careers in healthcare. The nursing program currently has it's largest freshman class of 57 and a waitlist of 118.

Commissioner questions followed about the waitlist, the possibility of an LVN program, a Cal Poly program, other healthcare programs offered at Cuesta, and the potential of expanding the RN program.

Chair O'Brien introduced the members of the panel.

Sheri Stoddard, Labor and Delivery Nurse at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center, enjoys making a difference in someone's hospital stay. She loves her job and her patients, but sometimes finds it difficult to provide the needed level of care due to hospital politics or lack of beds and staff. She believes that more needs to be done to retain nurses, especially since the current nurse population is aging, with an average age of 47.

June Stanley, Advanced Practice Nurse at Cal Poly Health Clinic, spoke of the joys of developing a trusting relationship with a patient. She enjoys speaking at high schools about the career opportunities in healthcare. She believes reimbursement is far too low in this county and makes it difficult to recruit and retain nurse practitioners and physicians. She asked the Health Commission to support legislation regarding higher reimbursement in the County.

Janice Calleri, Home Care Nurse with Marion Home Care, spoke about the joy of having the knowledge and ability to promote a healthy lifestyle. She is also frustrated with the low reimbursement in this county. She asks that the Health Commission continue to work on problems of reimbursement as well as encourage more development of Board and Care Centers. She also asked the Health Commission to continue to support In Home Support Programs.

Donna Silva, Coordinator of Pediatrics, Hospice Partners of the Central Coast, has been a hospice nurse for five years and finds her job extremely gratifying. She believes the challenges facing nurses in this area are competitive wages and affordable housing. She stated that recruitment is a huge problem because highly qualified individuals can be hard to find. She would really like to see an inpatient hospice in this community.

	<p>Irene Vega, Supervising Public Health Nurse, is a very enthusiastic advocate of nursing. She stated that one of her challenges was budget constraints that reduce the number of Public Health Nurses that can be employed. She believes that the nursing shortage needs to be acknowledged and there needs to be more encouragement to get young people into nursing programs.</p> <p>Chair O'Brien stated that she would write a letter to Congresswoman Capps to encourage her to get the rural designation of San Luis Obispo County changed.</p>		
<p>6. PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT</p>	<p>Jess Montoya presented the Public Health Department report. Dr. Thomas and Jess Montoya will be alternating attendance at the Health Commission meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget hearings will begin on Monday, June 20, 2005. The Health Agency had minimal cuts. • BH Administrator is still in process of recruitment. Will have a further update at the next meeting. • MHSA Forums are being held to ask for community input on how the Prop 63 money should be spent. Surveys are also being conducted. Revenue is not expected until April 2006. • SMART Growth – Walkable neighborhoods and towns promote a healthier community. Board is starting to look at how development effects health related issues. This community does a good job, but there are still some opportunities for growth in this area. 	<p>Handouts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Smart Growth Board Letter</i> 	
<p>7. HEALTH COMMISSION UPDATES</p>	<p>CHAIR UPDATE: Chair O'Brien reported that there were no updates from the HIV Consortium. She also announced her resignation. Tonight will be her last meeting. She thanked everyone for their commitment.</p> <p>COMMISSIONER UPDATES: Commissioner Wood: No report. Commissioner Horne: No report. Commissioner Hicks: Attended the SART Advisory meeting. They are planning to move into the ER area of the General Hospital building, but space issues are still being discussed. Commissioner Hale: Met with CHC physicians and nurse practitioners to promote a better relationship and interactions between their staff and ER staff. Commissioner Odell: The Mental Health Board continues to work with staff on Prop 63. Commissioner Warren: Attended the Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board where they discussed advertising issues at the Mid State Fair. Also, there will be a platform discussion regarding binge drinking in San Luis Obispo County on July 14th.</p>		

<p>8. COMMITTEE REPORTS</p>	<p>Nominating: New slate of officers was recommended: Lynn Enns, Chair; Jan Hicks, Vice Chair; Penny Chamousis, Secretary. In addition, five alternate applications have been received and interviews will commence shortly.</p> <p>Community Education: Met and discussed methods to bring more people to Health Commission meetings including other public forums and enlisting the help of physicians. Would also like to try to promote Dr. Chasnoff's perinatal screening programs.</p> <p>Budget: Did not meet.</p> <p>Legislative: Did not meet.</p>	<p><i>Motion to approve recommended slate of officers.</i></p>	<p>1st – Odell 2nd – Horne Approved – All</p>
<p>9. PROSPECTIVE FUTURE ITEMS</p>	<p>Topics for July: Tobacco cessation (Dr. Hanson); Rick Castro, CEO, AG Hospital; Childhood Obesity (possible action); Managed Care (possible action); West Nile Virus; Children's Services Network</p>		
<p>10. ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.</p>		<p>1st – Wood 2nd - Hicks Approved - All</p>