

County of San Luis Obispo

HEALTH COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

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

Members Present: Lynn Enns (Chair), Penny Chamousis, Deborah Donnelly, Ed Guerena, Pam Heatherington, Jan Hicks, Sara Horne, James Mase, M.D.,
 Members Absent: David Odell, Robert Thielscher, Susan Warren,
 Staff Present: Greg Thomas M.D., Sonja Thompson (recorder)
 Speakers: Brenda Ouewekerk, Anna Elliott, RN, MS, Karen Stenson

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: August 14, 2006	Minutes were approved with the following corrections/comments: Commissioner Heatherington referred to the statement on page 5, paragraph 2; “ <i>SLO GE Free is a paid lobbying organization....</i> ” as being incorrect, minutes should be rectified. Chair Enns confirmed the minutes were correct, whether the statement is true or not, the minutes should not be changed. Commissioner Heatherington requested an opinion from County Counsel. Page 3, paragraph 5, “SLO GE free was at the table...” will be placed in quotes.	Minutes approved as amended.	Approved – All
3 PUBLIC COMMENT	Jesse Arnold, Cambria thanked Dr. Thomas for speaking in favor of labeling at the Board of Supervisors meeting and the thanked commission for submitting all three reports. However, he was disappointed when the comment period for SLO GE Free was limited to one minute. He asked to set the record straight; SLO GE Free is comprised entirely of volunteers and is not a paid lobbying organization. Karen Johnson, San Luis Obispo also thanked the commission for submitting all three reports and shares the same disappointment as Mr. Arnold; she requested a public retraction. Cal Poly confirmed today they are in fact growing round up ready corn, contrary to what Scott Steinmus stated at last meeting. Eric Greening shares the same gratitude as well as concerns raised by the previous speakers. He recommended the Health Commission review the Parks and Recreation element of the General Plan as it is nearing completion and should be going to the Board of Supervisors in late October or November.		
3. PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)	Mark Phillips, Atascadero was disappointed when his request to respond to a few incorrect comments at the last meeting was ignored. He also agrees that a public retraction regarding the incorrect comment is needed. With the documented missing information SLO GE Free provided the task force and all 3 reports taken into consideration, it is time for the Health Commission to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors asked for the wording of “GE Food Right to Know act (HR 5269).” Mr. Phillips asks the commission to issue a statement to support this bill and to consider the public health consequences of labeling. The Board asked Bob Lilley, Ag Commissioner, to look into the issue of notification. A copy of Mr. Phillip’s written public comment will be filed with the official record of this meeting.	<i>Handout: Copy of written public comment</i>	
4. SLO COUNTY AGRO TERRORISM PLANNING	Brenda Ouewekerk, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner provided a status report on Agro Terrorism Planning in San Luis Obispo County. A copy of her report is filed with the official record of this meeting. Ms. Ouewekerk is happy to report the 2005 calendar year was valued at over \$596 million dollars. Accomplishments to date include membership in various committees and working groups, and a sponsored	<i>Handouts Copy of written Agro Terrorism Planning Status Report</i>	

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STATUS UPDATE	<p>Homeland Security grant funded workshop “Understanding the Dangers of Agro Terrorism,” with over 60 first responders participating. The first meeting was held of the newly created working group with 15 members in attendance. The meeting set the stage for continued dialog, created new contacts, and developed a forum to provide linkages for information exchange. Future Plans included a follow-up workshop “Principles of Preparedness for Agro Terrorism and Food Systems’ Disasters” to be held September 14th in the Ag Auditorium, and to inventory, evaluate and revise emergency response plans.</p> <p><i>Commissioner Comments/Question</i> <i>What are signs of an of agro terrorism attempt, how would we know? (The food supply could be tampered through various avenues, anywhere from the field to the grocery store. The Ag Department will be the clearinghouse for information for the local industry). What are the vulnerable points and are lists available. (Vulnerable points include water systems, crops in the field, transportation, and shipping points. A list is available). Have there been any historical episodes that could be used to pattern a response. (There was the salad bar sabotage incident that resulted in a risk to food supply, but no historical episodes of agro terrorism). How are first responders being informed of upcoming workshops and is attendance required or voluntary? (The Ag Department is working with an extensive network of agricultural organizations and the local Office of Emergency Services. Attendance is voluntary and credits are available for Law Enforcement.).</i></p>		
5. SLO COUNTY PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PLANNING STATUS UPDATE	<p>Anna Elliott, R.N., M.S., SLO County Pandemic Flu Coordinator, provided a Power Point status report on Pandemic Influenza Planning and Preparedness in SLO County. Countries of most concern are Indonesia with a 76% mortality rate (63 cases, 48 deaths) and Vietnam, with a 45% mortality rate (93 cases/42 death). The overall avian flu mortality rate throughout the world is 58%. In May 2006, 7 of 8 cases in a family cluster in Indonesia proved to be fatal with probable human-to-human transmission. No highly pathogenic H5N1 is currently in the United States. Recent confirmation of low pathogenic in two Michigan mute swans occurring commonly in birds, rarely fatal in birds, and is not a concern for human health. World Health Organization’s pandemic flu alert remains at a stage 3. The presentation was concluded with an update of the current plans, and the assignments of the various committees. A copy of the Power Point is filed with the official record of this meeting.</p> <p><i>Commissioner Guerena asked if a survey on respirator inventory has been done. (Survey concluded that there is a statewide problem with lack of ventilators; a supply of over 100 will be available for short time single use). Commissioner Heatherington asked how the information is getting out to the public and if there were any funds available for printing more of the pocket guides. (Community forums, mass media, pandemic pocket guides, website, and Public Health information hotline are all resources for disseminating information to the public. Funding for pandemic flu preparedness is impending, however conditions are unclear. Ordering more of the elaborate pocket guides would depend on future funding; a less expensive approach may be taken, such as a tri-fold pamphlet). Commissioner Mase asked how the current case fatality rate of 58% compares to previous pandemics. (The 1918 pandemic case fatality was 2%, a normal influenza year is about .01 to .02%).</i></p>	<i>Handout: PowerPoint Presentation</i>	

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<p>6. VULNERABLE POPULATION – “HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN EMERGENCY/EVACUATION”</p>	<p>Karen Stenson, Director, Long Term Care Ombudsman Services focused her presentation on vulnerable adults in long term care facilities. With the collaboration of the Public Health Department, various other departments, Office of Emergency Services, and non-profit organizations a “Disaster Preparedness in Long Term Care Facilities” workshop was held June 30th. The purpose of the workshop was to review current plans in the local facilities and provide information that would help bring them up to compliance. The Public Health Department, through a grant, provided satellite phones at nursing facilities to be used if no other type of communication was available. Satellite phones are available in hospitals and most of the small residential facilities as well. Nursing homes are aware of the satellite phones and they should go to the local fire department for emergency assistance. Family members should provide their loved ones with a “shelter in place kit” containing extra food, water, clothing, and a flashlight that would be stored under the resident’s bed or closet. Backpacks (with name and date of birth) for medications and medical information are recommended for residents to have in the event of an emergency evacuation.</p> <p>Another workshop will be scheduled in June 2007 for anyone interested in long term care facilities. Some of the problems that still need to be addressed are transportation and making sure facilities have 2 to 3 identified evacuation locations and to work out internally how we can avoid duplicating services. A representative from the Ombudsman program will be available at the Office of Emergency Services during a disaster.</p> <p><i>Chair Enns asked if there are lists available of residential care facilities. (OES is circulating a request for information card to be used to establish lists of these facilities. Unfortunately, the card must be renewed yearly).</i></p> <p>Public Comment Eric Greening expressed his appreciation for this discussion, as he has been requesting this for some. He agreed that in-home facilities, those not in congregate care, should be taken into consideration as well as the homeless. He requested further presentations on this issue.</p> <p>Dr. Thomas talked about the Information Referral Process Program, known as “211” that is supposed to be adopted statewide January 1, 2007 or 6 to 12 months thereafter. The expectation is \$150,000 at startup and \$500,00 support per year. Counties will work cooperatively with other disaster centers. Dr. Thomas recommended scheduling a presentation in the next few months on steps being taking to create this program.</p>	<p><i>Handouts: Office of Inspector General - Nursing Home Emergency Preparedness and Response During Recent Hurricanes</i></p> <p><i>State Regulations for Nursing Facilities</i></p> <p><i>State Regulations for Residential Facilities</i></p>	
<p>7. OMBUDSMAN UPDATE</p>	<p>Mary Miller, Ombudsman had a family emergency and was not able to attend this meeting. Commissioners requested this item be placed on the October agenda and quarterly thereafter, beginning in January 2007.</p>		
<p>8. PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT</p>	<p>Dr. Thomas referred to his written report; a copy is filed with the official record of this meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FLU Vaccine / Flu Season –100,000,000 doses of flu vaccine are available this year and scheduled to be on time. Those who are high risk, over 60, have chronic heart or lung conditions or immunosuppressive conditions, are pregnant, infants 6-59 months, and health care workers should receive the vaccine. Flu mist (live vaccine) may actually provide protection against other strains of influenza; individuals between the age of 5 and 49 are eligible for flu mist. Those who are between 50 and 59 years of age should consider waiting until the high-risk have been vaccinated. Those over 60 should also get a pneumonia shot. • The Public Health Department Annual Senior Flu Clinic will be Friday, November 3rd at various locations 	<p><i>Handouts: Copy of Director’s Report</i></p>	

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	<p>throughout the county.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mass immunization drill, which is part of pandemic flu and BT preparedness, will occur October 31st for County employees. Anticipation is to vaccinate 1,000 county employees in a 2 to 3 hour period. • Managers and fiscal staff are preparing documentation for fee adjustments that will go to the Board of Supervisors. Fee adjustments will be effective in July 2007. • The end of year “4th Quarter” reports has been submitted. The Health Agency experienced a very difficult year 2005-06. • Medi-Cal Managed Care discussions continue with Santa Barbara Regional Health Authority on the proposed expansion. The Board of Supervisors is expected to discuss this item on September 26th. • The emergency landing site at French re-opened last week, Twin Cities Hospital’s helipad is open. • Tobacco Retail License is on the September 19th Board of Supervisors agenda. • Currently working on fees and fee ordinance for the Medical Marijuana ID card. • Partnership for Prescription Assistance will sponsor “Climb Aboard” event September 12th at Arroyo Grande Hospital in the morning, French Hospital in the afternoon and at Marion Medical Center on Wednesday. The bus will be equipped to quickly and conveniently be able to determine if you qualify for help getting medicines prescribed by doctors. More information is available at www.parx.org. <p><i>Commissioner Heatherington is surprised the implementation of the Medi-Cal Managed Care program will be in one year and questioned why this has not been brought before the commission before now. Dr. Thomas pointed out that a presentation by Jess Montoya was provided within the last 12 months and action was taken in favor of the program. Chair Enns suggested commissioners attend the Board of Supervisors meeting September 26th if they would like to comment on this issue individually. Dr. Thomas will provide commissioners with more information on this issue.</i></p> <p><i>Chair Enns requested a presentation on the Epidemiology Report that was included in their packet.</i></p>		
<p>9. HEALTH COMMISSION UPDATES</p>	<p>CHAIR UPDATE: Chair Enns – announced that all 3 GMO reports were submitted to the Board of Supervisors August 22nd, attended the SART advisory board meeting and is planning to attend the first Obesity Task Force meeting. A point of interest with SART is the need for translation services during exams and they are currently looking for volunteers. Chair Enns agreed to replace Sara Horne as the Liaison for the Tobacco Coalition.</p> <p>COMMISSIONER UPDATES: Commissioner Chamousis: no report Commissioner Donnelly: Attended the Bio Terrorism Advisory meeting, but most of the information is confidential. She asked if the posters distributed at the meeting on reportable disease, signs and symptoms of biological and chemical agents are available to regular primary care physicians and urgent care centers. Commissioner Guarena: no report Commission Heatherington: no report Commissioner Hicks: no report Commissioner Horne: no report Commissioner Mase: no report Commissioner Odell: absent Commissioner Thielscher: absent Commissioner Warren: absent</p>		

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
10. COMMITTEE REPORTS	<p><u>Legislative:</u> No report <u>Nominating:</u> No report <u>Budget:</u> No report <u>Community Education:</u> Commissioner Donnelly submitted her comments on the brochure. Other commissioners should review and give their comments to Commissioner Heatherington. <u>By-Laws:</u> Chair Enns recommended scheduling a meeting in the near future.</p>		
11. PROSPECTIVE FUTURE ITEMS	<p>Next meeting will be on October 16, 2006 (October 9th is a County Holiday).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLO County Parks & Recreation Element to the General Plan. (Plan is available online; a link will be sent to commissioners) • Senate Bill 840-Health Care Coverage • Prop 86 –Tax on Cigarettes • APCD Health Issues for Citizens in Morro Bay - Morro Bay Power Plant • Ombudsman Report 		