

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

HEALTH COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, April 10, 2017 (County Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Mary Jean Sage (Chair), Jinah Byram, Kris Kington-Barker, Robert Campbell, Claire Grantham, Jean Raymond, Tamar Sekayan, Scott Smith-Cooke, Susan Warren, Candace Winstead

Members Absent: David Clous

Staff Present: Dr. Christy Mulkerin, Jean White

Speakers: Tobacco Control Program: Jenelle Merzon, Grace Calhoun

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
1. Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Sage.	Call to Order	Chair Sage
2. Introduction of New Commissioner	Chair Sage welcomed and introduced new commissioner, Jinah Byram.		
3. Approval of Minutes	Minutes of March 13, 2017 were approved as drafted.	March 13, 2017 minutes approved	All
4. Public Comment	Chair Sage opened the floor to public comment with no response.		
5. Presentation: Tobacco Control Program Update	<p>Commissioner Grantham introduced the program and the speakers. Jenelle Merzon, Health Educator, and Grace Calhoun, Intern, from the Tobacco Control Program, presented a Power Point overview on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Devices (ENDDs). ENDDs include e-cigarettes, hookah pens, e-cigars, vape pens, e-pipes, & e-hookahs. Ms. Calhoun described the anatomy of ENDDs, and talked about the harmful effects and health risks from ENDDs aerosol. Scientists are still working to fully understand the health effects of ENDDs when they are heated into an aerosol. ENDDs are the most commonly used tobacco product among youth and e-cigarette use is rising as advertising grows. Manufacturers are likening their products to candy to target youths. Ms. Merzon presented statistics in SLO County vs state on percentage of teens who have ever smoked e-cigarettes (SLO 31.9% / CA 7.9%) and percentage of stores that sell e-cigarettes (SLO 88.9% / CA 62.3%). The Tobacco Control Program is working on their goal to reduce the demand of nicotine & tobacco through education and health promotion and to incorporate ENDDs into current tobacco laws. Currently the City of SLO, Paso Robles, & Grover Beach have included ENDDs into their tobacco laws. They continue working toward greater enforcement of tobacco control laws. They are taking a stance along with CDC to not endorse e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation method and recognize the need to curb social norms and not make e-cigarettes socially acceptable.</p> <p>Chair Sage asked about limiting the number of licenses to stores that are allowed to sell ENDDs. <i>(Ms. Merzon explained that there are varying degrees of how they can control and limit the number of stores that sell by incorporating e-cigarettes into city smoking/tobacco definitions.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Sekayan asked about tobacco prevention programs they offer to youth. <i>(Ms. Merzon advised they do outreach at the local middle schools, held a Kick Butts week-long event in March, and attend fairs. The majority of their focus is on the middle school age group.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Grantham asked about legal age to buy e-cigarettes. <i>(Ms. Merzon advised that in June</i></p>	A copy of the ENDDs Power Point presentation is filed with the official record of the meeting.	

	<p>2016, CA changed law to put e-cigarettes in same category as tobacco products, and changed the age to 21 to legally buy tobacco products. Unfortunately, the way the law reads, a minor can still legally smoke cigarettes or e-cigarettes. They are currently taking steps to create a new law to make it illegal for anyone under age 21 to buy or smoke.)</p> <p>Commissioner Grantham asked about tax on e-cigarettes. (Ms. Merzon explained that e-cigarettes are in a different category than tobacco. There are comparable taxes for e-cigarettes, but it is unknown how much e-juice is in an e-cigarette. FDA is working on putting regulations in place.)</p> <p>Commissioner Byram commented that many of her patients use e-cigarettes as a way to stop smoking. She asked about availability of brochures/posters with key points on e-cigarette prevention. (Ms. Merzon noted they have ample material for different age groups on e-cigarettes and she will make those available to Commissioner Byram.)</p> <p>Commissioner Campbell asked about regulations on quantities and substances that are put into e-cigarette devices. (Ms. Merzon advised that the FDA recently put in some regulation, but it is very loose and they still have a lot of ground to cover.)</p> <p>Commissioner Winstead asked about advertising and false claims being made. (Ms. Merzon advised that ads are not allowed on TV, but online you can find anything. The majority of advertising is in retail, particularly gas stations. Healthy Stores/Healthy Communities survey is tracking this data.)</p> <p>Commissioner Winstead asked about studies on secondhand risks from e-cigarettes. (Ms. Calhoun mentioned a study conducted where rats were exposed to varying levels of e-cigarettes, but because this is so new, there haven't been any studies published answering this question.)</p> <p>Commissioner Smith-Cooke asked about definition of secondhand smoke. (Ms. Merzon defined secondhand smoke for cigarettes where you can smell the smoke. She also defined third hand smoke, where it gets into clothes, sofas, car seats. E-cigarettes have a different combination of chemicals and you can't necessarily smell the smoke; there are still a lot of unknowns.)</p> <p>Commissioner Warren commented on the number of vape shops near a middle school in Atascadero and the need to address proximity of stores to schools through local ordinances. (Ms. Merzon advised that part of their new 3 year plan is to incorporate zone density which would specifically address proximity of stores that sell vape or cigarettes.)</p> <p>Commissioner Warren asked if they work with Drug & Alcohol Services Friday Night Live (FNL) to provide outreach in schools. (Ms. Merzon explained that due to tight regulations, they are not allowed to go into schools by themselves. They work with FNL to give them the information and pass it on to the students.)</p> <p>Commissioner Warren commented on the alarming rates in our county and suggested in-service presentations to teachers and health clinic professionals. She also suggested outreach to PTA organizations. Commissioner Warren commented that she has found an effective way to reach junior high students is by bringing in examples to show them how they are being "duped" by advertisers.</p> <p>Commissioner Warren asked about cessation classes. (Ms. Merzon advised that they hold weekly cessations classes in SLO on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays. They also have classes in Atascadero, Paso Robles, Grover Beach and at Transitions Mental Health Association.)</p> <p>Commissioner Warren commented that she works at North County Connection and has found having smoking cessation flyers with the phone number tabs very effective and suggested they send those</p>		
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	<p>out to health clinics and other providers.</p> <p>Chair Sage suggested they might look into providing outreach to youth groups at faith based organizations. <i>(Ms. Merzon thought a great idea and is open to referrals to youth groups.)</i></p> <p>Commissioner Byram noted that many of her patients buy e-cigarettes online and asked about ways to reach students via Facebook or school websites. <i>(Ms. Merzon advised that they use social media, but not everyone follows them on Facebook or Instagram. She liked the idea of school websites.)</i></p> <p>Ms. Merzon advised that Prop 56 will allow for expansion of the Tobacco Control Program, increasing the number of FTEs from 1.0 to 4.0 health education specialists, which will allow them to get a better grasp on e-cigarettes.</p>		
<p>6. Health Agency/Public Health Report</p>	<p>Dr. Christy Mulkerin, Deputy Health Officer, reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal Flu: Flu cases have been declining, but still seeing cases of flu. It is not too late to get a flu shot. • Pertussis (Whooping Cough): There has been a slight increase in number of Pertussis cases. The biggest at-risk population is infants under 6 weeks of age who are too young to be vaccinated. It is important for pregnant women and their families to be immunized. • Cocci (Valley Fever): They have seen an increase in number of Cocci cases, which is historically seen with increased rain. The spores that have been dormant grow with increased rain; and as the soil dries out those spores go into the air. • County/Public Health Website: An update to the County website is coming soon, with a launch date of July 1, 2017. • Public Health Communications Coordinator, Tara Kennon, new Communications Coordinator, began today. She joins the Policy, Evaluation & Planning Unit of the Public Health Department. • Electronic Health Records (EHR): The Public Health Department continues with EHR rollout. EHR implementation for Jail Medical Clinic and California Children’s Services will begin in June. <p>Commissioner Smith-Cooke asked how people can best protect themselves from Cocci spores. <i>(Dr. Mulkerin explained that Cocci is in the air and fluctuates with the climate. Rates are lower during dry seasons. People should use caution when conducting activities associated with dust and airborne dust. Cocci may not produce any symptoms at all or flu-like symptoms may occur.)</i></p>		
<p>7. Health Commissioner Updates</p>	<p>Commissioner Warren: Reported she will be attending the HSOC Committee meeting next week. Also, there will be a Homeless Services Continuum of Care meeting on April 25th, 9AM, to discuss sober living environments and what can be done to increase the number of beds in our county.</p> <p>Commissioner Smith-Cooke: Reported that the federal government is proposing a 90% reduction in funds to HICAP. HICAP is a statewide organization providing free unbiased local Medicare plan counseling. Mr. Smith-Cooke is a local HICAP counselor and advised that adults age 65 years are mandated to enroll in Medicare. Failure to enroll accrues significant financial penalties that can continue for the remainder of their lives. Now that social security full retirement benefits are no longer available at age 65, but staggered out to age 66 and beyond, it is causing many people to miss the mandatory age 65 Medicare enrollment. The California Department of Aging is working very hard to make the federal government aware of the importance of the HICAP program in providing guidance on Medicare initial enrollments and assistance with Part D drug plan, and to revisit their proposal to</p>		

	<p>cut funding. Loss of funding for many states will mean elimination of the program in its entirety. HICAP contact information is 805-928-5663.</p> <p>Commissioner Smith-Cooke: Reported that he attended the Oral Health Coalition where they discussed the Dental Initiative Grant. SLO County is one of the few counties that succeeded in getting this grant. This grant has not fully materialized yet, as each recipient must now show how they are going to perform. This grant will help with funding to address some of the access to care issues for low-income individuals.</p> <p>Commissioner Winstead: Reported that the Opioid Safety Coalition received the CDPH grant that the Health Commission wrote a letter of support for. Funding will allow them to continue the program.</p> <p>Commissioner Campbell: Reported that he is the liaison to the County First 5 Commission. First 5 is funded by the 50 cent per pack tobacco tax initiated by Prop 10 in 1998 and focuses on the first five years of life - healthy development, early learning, strong families. He distributed a copy of their most recent Strategic Plan, highlighting some of the stats, and encouraging all to read through the plan. First 5 disburses about two million dollars per year, with a fair amount matched by State First 5.</p> <p>Commissioner Kington-Barker: Reported that the 2016 report from the Action For Healthy Communities (Action SLO) has come out. This is an excellent source of data open to the public that gives a snapshot of what some of the health concerns are in the community. The report is available at ActionSLO.org and can be downloaded in a pdf.</p> <p>Commissioner Grantham: Reported that she attended PHEPAC last week where Dr. Beebe reported on a new piece of laboratory equipment they will be purchasing funded by a Homeland Security grant. There were also reports on two outbreaks: meningitis and norovirus. It was also reported: 1) PHEP has received their 17-18 grant guidance and in order to qualify for the Hospital Preparedness Program grant, counties must have at least 2 acute care hospital, so fortunately SLO County will not be impacted. 2) Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) orientation will take place on April 19th. You do not have to be a medical person to volunteer as part of the Medical Corp. 3) Upcoming drills: The County will be participating in a statewide drill in November with all of the hospitals.</p> <p>Chair Sage: Reported that the SLO County Food Coalition will be meeting on April 18th where they will be talking about farm to school and local food sourcing in public schools. She also reported that at the last Healthy Communities Workgroup meeting, Gina Herbst from Environmental Health (EH) advised of a new app from EH, called eatsafeslo.org, that has results from restaurant inspections.</p> <p>Chair Sage: Reported that the Community Based Organization/Preventive Health Grant Committee has completed their process and made their recommendations for funding that will go before the Board of Supervisors at the budget hearings in June.</p>		
8. Committee Reports	Commissioner Grantham reported that the Nominating Committee is accepting recommendations from commissioners for slate of officers for FY 2017-18. Recommendations should be forwarded to Commissioner Grantham. The Nominating Committee will meet in early May and bring forward their recommendation for slate of officers at the June 12 th meeting.		
9. Prospective Future Items	May 8, 2017: Cannabis Update: Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director		
10. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM	<i>Adjournment</i>	<i>All</i>