DATE: May 16, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Report for the week of May 16, 2011

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This week's topics: Child Support Services continues its “Heartsaver” program, a Health Department staffer hit the books on Homeland Security to earn an advance degree and Library staff members leave the books behind for their annual Staff Day.

DCSS
In June 2005, the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) was awarded a grant through the Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital “Heartsaver” program, which provided DCSS with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

An AED is a small portable device that analyzes heart rhythms and, if necessary, can deliver a potentially lifesaving shock to a victim in cardiac arrest. AEDs are safe and simple to use and will NOT deliver a shock unless the heart rhythm is in ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia.

DCSS is obligated to have at least one person certified in the use of the AED, but is now fortunate to have eight!
Earlier this year, eight DCSS staff received free CPR and AED training by Fire Chief Jason Muscio, of the Gonzales Volunteer Fire Department. Those taking the training were Gina Storelli, Victoria Davis, Linda Nall, Albert Cavazos, Adlanta Zubiate, Joan Mills, Karen Young and Jackie Ruiz. Daniel Gutierrez, a Captain with the Gonzales Volunteer Fire Department, arranged and assisted with the training and is also CPR/AED certified.

Should the unfortunate situation arise where a co-worker or customer experiences sudden cardiac arrest, the department’s emergency response system is to first call 9-1-1, then one of the trained staff members and then retrieve the strategically located AED device.

Over 300,000 people are treated each year for out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest. Less than 8% survive and only one-third receive any form of CPR from bystanders. After approximately four minutes without blood flow, the brain will begin to die; for each minute that passes without defibrillation, the chance of survival decreases by 10%. Within eight to ten minutes death is imminent. Effective bystander CPR, provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest, can triple a victim’s chances of survival.

If you are interested in learning CPR/AED, contact the American Red Cross, Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital or your local fire department for more information.

**Health**

Karen Smith, Public Information Officer for the Health Department, was one of 29 professionals who were awarded Master’s Degrees in Security Studies March 25th at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

Karen’s thesis, “Non-pharmaceutical Interventions to Pandemic Influenza and Other Biologic Events” provides insight to the planning for pandemic influenza as well as the initial public health response to the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic.

Karen, who has a Masters in Public Administration, says the 12-week in-residence course was a natural follow up to her degree.

“It was an opportunity that I could not pass up, since all of us in government have a role in keeping the homeland safe and secure,” says Smith. “During the 18 month program it
was not difficult to remember why we were all there, since three of my classmates were from New York and were involved in the response and the aftermath of 9/11.”

County Health Officer Dr. Hugh Stallworth says Karen’s participation is already paying off.

“What Karen has brought back from the program has already helped the Department to reach new levels in planning for and responding to natural and man made public health disasters, especially in the area of risk communication,” says Stallworth. “Perhaps more importantly, the program has opened up more opportunities for collaboration with people and organizations for current and future projects that will make the citizens of Monterey County more resilient to disasters of all kinds.”

Libraries
Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL) branches were closed to the public on Thursday, May 5th for the department’s annual Staff Day. This event is a chance for staff members to come together for a day of training, team building, and awards.

With library branches spread out over 3,000+ square miles, this is often the only opportunity many have to see their coworkers and to put a face to the voice heard on the phone, or to the name seen on e-mails.

In these tough economic times, with resources tight and hiring at a virtual standstill, now more than ever, staff must provide more support to each other. To work harder and smarter, training is critical.

This year’s Staff Day was held at the Community Justice Center at the Monterey College of Law and Supervisors Jane Parker and Simon Salinas both stopped by to speak to employees. The main presenter was Suzanne Koebler of the Conflict Resolution Center of Santa Cruz County. Staff learned about the five steps involved in good conflict management: stop, listen, assert (without aggression or submission), identify interests and problem solve.

MCFL closes on the 1st Thursday of May every year for Staff Day.

#############################