

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY HEALTH COMMISSION APPLICATION

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY HEALTH COMMISSION MISSION:

The mission of the San Luis Obispo County Health Commission shall be to work with, and on behalf of, the residents of the County to preserve and improve the quality of health for all people within the community.

BY-LAWS, ARTICLE III, SECTION 1 - MEMBERSHIP:

a. The voting membership of the Commission should be broadly representative of the social, economic, linguistic, handicapped, and racial populations, geographical areas within the County and be in reasonable proportion to the ethnic origin, gender and age groups in the population of San Luis Obispo County.

b. The voting membership of the Commission shall consist at all times of a majority six (6) of health care consumers who are not direct or indirect providers of health care. The remainder of the Commission voting membership, five (5), two (2) shall be indirect providers and three (3) direct providers who are representative of the health care system in San Luis Obispo County. For the purposes of this Commission, effective July 1, 2000, indirect providers are defined as those individuals who are affiliated with the health care system and who are currently providing support services. These may include, but are not limited to medical office staff, health care administrators, health insurance personnel, health education/trainers, and individuals who are members of governing boards of a health care entity. Direct providers for the purposes of this Commission are defined as those individuals who are currently providing "hands on" health care services. These may include but not limited to, physicians, nurses, lab technologists, pharmacists, dentists, physicians assistants, ophthalmologists, podiatrists, mental health therapists, and other health care service providers.

(Please print or type)

Name

SCOTT SMITH-COOKE

Address (home)

[REDACTED]

City

SAN LUIS OBISPO

Zip

93401

Address (work)

City

Zip

Phone (home)

[REDACTED]

Phone (work)

Email

[REDACTED]

Current

Past Occupation

ACCOUNTANT

Current

Past Employer

SLO COUNTY GOVT / CAL POLY

ON A SEPARATE SHEET, PLEASE INCLUDE A SHORT NARRATIVE IN RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

1. Why do you want to serve on the San Luis Obispo County Health Commission?
2. What do you envision contributing during your term on the Commission?
3. What health issues interest or concern you?
4. The expectation is that Commissioners will devote at least 10 hours per month. Will your time schedule permit this commitment?

Please attach a resume, if available. A resume will not substitute for the above-requested information.

Please attach two letters of reference attesting to your knowledge and interest in promoting health care in San Luis Obispo County.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: HEALTH COMMISSION, 2191 JOHNSON AVENUE,
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401

WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY HEALTH COMMISSION?

My personal energy during the last ten years has been to promote the preservation of my own health and to share what I learn with others about the resources within our community. I believe if people are educated about resources they can be self-empowered to be healthier individuals, and reduce some of the burden on health care providers to "rescue" community members in crisis. Also, my current volunteer efforts with HICAP (part of Agency on Aging) allow me to continually be updated on community health needs.

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION CONTRIBUTING DURING YOUR TERM ON THE COMMISSION?

Learn more about SLO County government's own role in providing health services, and collectively as a Commission communicating observations to the Board of Supervisors. Such as, does the Commission do an annual report to the Board?

Making sure there is a readily apparent mechanism for the public to communicate with the Commission.

WHAT HEALTH ISSUES INTEREST OR CONCERN YOU?

I am interesting in joining the Commission because I was very sparked by subject matters that are on the Commission's own Web Site that match my areas of interest such as:

Examine local health needs and priorities.

Address health concerns raised by the public.

Recommend ways to increase accessible, affordable and acceptable healthcare services.

Identify community goals and resources for health care planning.

Facilitate resident and provider participation in county health care decisions.

Assess health care legislation and recommend appropriate action to the Board of Supervisors.

THE EXPECTATION IS THAT COMMISSIONERS WILL DEVOTE AT LEAST 10 HOURS PER MONTH. WILL YOUR TIME SCHEDULE PERMIT THIS COMMITMENT?

Yes. My Mondays are free at this time. I do volunteer work during the day on alternating Tuesdays, and work in a paid capacity for the SLO County government on Thursday and Friday afternoons. Every two months I meet with a volunteer group on one Thursday morning.

Central Coast Commission
for
Senior Citizens

528 South Broadway
Santa Maria, CA 93454-5109
(805) 925-9554 - Telephone
(805) 925-9555 - Facsimile
e-mail - seniors@kcbc.net
Home page: www.centralcoastseniors.org

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Programs

Area Agency on Aging

Elder Abuse Prevention

Elder Care

Health Insurance
Counseling and
Advocacy Program
(HICAP)

Long Term Care
Ombudsman

Senior Connection

Senior Home Care

Area Agency on Aging
Aging



16 May 2012

Ed Guerena, Pharm.D., Chairperson
Health Commission
County of San Luis Obispo
2191 Johnson Ave.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Dear Ed,

Hi! The intent of this letter is to provide a recommendation for Scott Smith-Cooke for a position on the San Luis Obispo County Health Commission. This letter is to attest that Scott Smith-Cooke has knowledge and interest in promoting health care in San Luis Obispo County.

Mr. Smith-Cooke has been a HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program) volunteer counselor for three years. He has counseled Medicare beneficiaries, which includes persons aged 65 years and older and disabled on their rights in the Medicare program. A HICAP counselor provides information to assist a Medicare beneficiary in their decision-making or problem solving.

Additionally, counseling is completed with persons who will soon be eligible for Medicare so they understand the coverage. In addition, Scott has taken extra training to become a Long Term Care insurance counselor. In this capacity, he does not recommend specific companies, but teaches them how to select coverage appropriate to their needs. He also helps those who already have a policy who need guidance on interpreting their complex policies.

My understanding is that Scott is applying for one of the health "consumer" openings. A HICAP counselor is very much a "consumer" advocate. In addition, he has shared that his own serious health issue, and those of an immediate family member, over the last decade have forced him to be a consumer of local health care.

Scott has proven to be an effective advocate – listening to the client, researching options for problem solving, negotiating to find acceptable resolution(s) and maintaining the focus on the client.

I am pleased to provide a strong recommendation for Scott's appointment to the Health Commission to assist in your work to preserve and improve the quality of health for all people. Please let me know if any additional information is needed. Wishing you continued success in your many endeavors.

Sincerely,

Joyce Ellen Lippman
Executive Director

**Kathleen Bellefontaine/Woollett
1775 Southwood Drive
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-6031
(805) 235-5779
May 25, 2012**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting this letter of Reference on behalf of my colleague, Scott Smith-Cooke, who I believe is an excellent candidate for the Health Commission Consumer position for the San Luis Obispo County.

As a colleague, working and training together to offer HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program) services to persons with questions or problems related to Medicare and sometimes Medi-Cal Insurance, I have found Scott to be dogged in follow up for every detail that he is challenged with. I have been impressed at Scott's concern and understanding for the challenges that his clients face.

Many of our clients not only have difficulty working through the complexity of Insurance policy but are faced with serious health issues. Scott's resolve in advocating for our clients reflects his understanding of their frustrations as they try to maintain their health care access.

I think that Scott would be an outstanding and effective Health Commission Consumer member as he has already demonstrated his skills in this area through his HICAP work on behalf of our SLO County residents.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Bellefontaine, MSW
Registered HICAP Counselor
AAA Council person
SLO County Commission on Aging Chairperson