

The Advisory Board met on February 20, 2007 in the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Conference Center and present were the following: Robert R. Hawley, D.D.S.; Stormy Higgins; Peter Norton, M.D.; Andrew Urban, R.Ph.; Zane Travis, M.D.; Tony Neitzler; Larry Johnson; Barry Camarillo; Nancy Jennings; Patrick Lollis; Wayne Rose; Kay Durilla, R.N.; Ruth Ramirez; and Mary K. Fair, who acted as secretary. Also present were Charlotte Lambert. Absent were: Jack Turner; Darrell Flippo; and Mike Hall.

Item I – Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Dr. Hawley.

Item II – Introduction of New Board Members – Dr. Hawley introduced Dr. Peter Norton a new Board member.

Item III – Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings - May 17, 2005 meeting minutes – Mr. Urban made a motion to approve as written and seconded by Mr. Higgins. All approved. February 21, 2006 meeting minutes – Mr. Urban made a motion to approve as written and seconded by Mr. Higgins. All approved. August 15, 2006 meeting minutes – correction to minutes – Mr. Higgins was present at the meeting; original copy will be corrected. Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve the minutes with the above correction and seconded by Mr. Urban. All approved.

Item IV – Review of Legislation before the 80th Texas Legislature – Mr. Johnson updated the Board Members on pending legislation as of February 19, 2007 that relates to public health. There are over 1600 House Bills and over 600 Senate Bills pending in the current Legislature. SB110 and HB215 would require mandatory HPV vaccinations, SB438 and HB1098 would prohibit mandatory HPV vaccinations; and HB1379 would create an education program for HPV vaccinations (Susan King co-authored this bill). SB164 would require distributors and manufactures of flu vaccine to give priority to public health providers over retail providers. SB368 would establish a smoking ban in all public places and places of employment. HB272 would require counties to spend 6% or more of their county general revenues on indigent health care. HB480 would establish income eligibility limits for the county indigent health care programs at 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) instead of 21% of the FPL. SB239 would make it an offense for individuals to interfere with public health workers, environmental health workers, and public health preparedness first responders during the performance of their job duties (similar to ones currently in place for police and fire). HB1585 would allow an administrative penalty by a public health district on retail food services for violations of Chapter 437 of the Health and Safety Codes (introduced by Susan King). If the HPV vaccination is made mandatory by the State the Health Department will not be responsible for the full cost of the vaccine, as it would be available through the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program at no charge to public health providers and VFC providers

Item IV – Discussion of Presentation by Mr. Mark Fussell, Texas Senior Management Official from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Larry Johnson introduced Mark Fussell to the Board. Mr. Fussell is a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Senior Management Official (SMO) assigned to Texas. Mr. Fussell stated to the Board Members that Abilene has a very nice health facility, staff and administration; as he toured the Health facility and meet with the employees in the morning. The CDC is a federal disease control agency and is part of the Health and Human Services Department with approximately 9,000 employees and 5,000 contract employees with an annual budget of 6 to 8 billion dollars. The Director of the CDC started the Senior Management Official program about two years ago, with a number of states involved in this program; Washington, California, Colorado, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, New York, and Washington D.C.. Mr. Fussell has his office in Austin at the DSHS building, but he is not an employee of DSHS. The SMO is a voice back to the CDC; a contact between Federal, State and Local levels. As part of his job functions, Mr. Fussell attends the Texas Association of Local Health Officials (TALHO) meetings and is a standing agenda item. SMO's establish a leadership model; align goals and resources; and work to improve CDC business practices. There is a need to improve mutual understanding of state and local health departments, improve communication issues between the CDC, the states, and the locals. During Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Mr. Fussell learned first hand about public health preparedness and emergency responders; as the CDC sent 120 staff into Texas to work with the State Health Commissioner and local health officials.

Item V – Review of Health Administrator's Quarterly Report – Larry Johnson introduced Ivy McCullough, the new WIC director. Ms. McCullough has a Nutrition degree and is a Registered Dietitian working with high risk clients. Barry Camarillo showed a video "Cough in Your Sleeve" that is one of the non-pharmaceutical preventions that would be used in the event of a Pan Flu epidemic.

Next meeting is May 15, 2007.

Item VI -- Adjourn