

The Advisory Board met on May 20, 2008 in the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Conference Center and present were the following: Robert Hawley, D.D.S.; Jack Turner; Peter Norton, M.D.; Stormy Higgins; Sandip Mathur, M.D.; Andrew Urban, R.Ph.; Zane Travis, M.D.; Tony Neitzler; Larry Johnson; Barry Camarillo; Nancy Jennings; Annette Lerma; Wayne Rose; Charlotte Lambert and Mary K. Fair, who acted as secretary. Absent were: Mike Hall; Kay Durilla, R.N.; Patrick Lollis; and Ruth Ramirez.

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

Item II – Introduction of New Board Member – Tom Perini of Perini's Restaurant in Buffalo Gap, representing the food industry, is the new Health Advisory Board member. Dr. Hawley welcomed Mr. Perini to the Advisory Board and Mr. Perini expressed that he is delighted to serve on the Health Advisory Board.

Item III – Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting – Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve the February 20, 2008 minutes as written and Mr. Urban seconded the motion. All approved.

Item IV – Review and Discussion of Five Star Award – by Larry Johnson. The Health District's Vital Statistics office was a recipient of the State of Texas Bureau of Vital Statistics Five Star Award for 2007. The Health District has received this award every year since it's inception in 1998. The criteria for qualification is based on five factors: **Timeliness**, average no more than 18 days from date of event to filing in the state office for death records; **Improvement**, use Texas Electronic Registrar (TER) for birth and death registration; **Training**, attend the Annual Vital Statistics Conference or one of the Regional Vital Statistics Conferences; **Timely Electronic Death Registration**, register 98% fully electronic death records filed locally within one business day of receipt; and **Managing Paper Death Registration**, Using TER-Death enter Social Security verifications on all paper death records prior to filing with the State. Mr. Johnson introduced the Health District staff who work in the Vital Statistics office - Jo Roberts, Registrar; Dianne Boysen, Deputy Registrar; Sandra Mata and Crissie Jennings, support staff. Veronica Castro, Deputy Registrar and Patrick Lollis, Health Management Coordinator were not able to be present. Dr. Hawley presented the Five Star Award to Ms. Roberts.

Item V – Review and Discussion of Refugee Health Program – Dr. Travis provided a handout of Refugee Statistics for Abilene-Taylor County for the Board members and a copy is with the original minutes. The handout showed country of origin, transit countries, numbers resettled via the International Rescue Committee (IRC), numbers migrated in and migrated out. There have been 537 refugees resettled by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) with 9 migrating in and 163 migrated out. The State Department determines where the refugees are sent to live and Abilene is one of seven cities in Texas that receives IRC refugees. The refugees are relocated through the United Nations and the State Department and undergo background checks. The refugees receive Medicaid for six months but are required to be self supporting and pay their own way. The Health District staff who work with the Refugee Program are Christi Torres, RN; Janet Falade, LVN; and Aloys Nzeyimana, translator. The local IRC offices provides social services support and the Health District provides initial medical evaluations, immunizations, lab work, TB screening, and screenings for diseases and parasites. Most of the refugees are cooperative and appreciative but language is a problem. Dr. Travis spoke with Police Chief Martin and the refugees have not involved in crimes in Abilene. The Health District has been providing refugee services for four years. Initially the program started with 100 refugees per year and this year is on track for 200 to arrive in Abilene.

Item VI – Tour and Discussion of Emergency Trailers - by Larry Johnson. After 9-11 local health departments received money for preparedness planning and the Health District requested a trailer to transport equipment and supplies out to the field for situations/exercises, to use for communications and a mobile office, etc. A few months ago the Health District acquired a solar power generator trailer. This trailer can use a gas generator or solar power or the power grid to charge its batteries. This trailer can be used inside a building to power equipment. is there is no noise to transfer power from generator trailer to power emergency trailer. Can be used inside. Quiet. Went outside to view trailers. – Network set up, wireless Internet, mast raised, carry medical supplies in tool boxes, color coded by triage, canopy on side with air conditioner and heater on roof. Load supplies and move to Civic Center for our Flu Clinics. Participated at Post Office exercises out at mail sorting center. Barry drove to California to pick up solar generator trailer. Used at Civic Center for school registration for Birth Certificate verifications online. Airport Exercise with police and fire. Post Office dispense meds to postal employees. Regional exercise at Taylor County Expo Center, triage plus Internet (wireless) for other entities at site. We have printers in trailer. Can carry applets in trailer. Gas powered generator but limited by noise, fuel and can't be used inside building. Gas generator approx 10 hours, solar approximately 3 days. Solar generator trailer has

batteries that are charged. Interoperable radios with police, fire on new city system and old radios system that out lying emergency ambulances uses. Viewed in trailers. POD systems roll in trailer to do mass dispensing for medication etc. Cart with printer, supplies, laptop for initial setup.

Item VII- Review and Discussion of Health Administrator's Quarterly Report – by Larry Johnson – Introduced Annette Lerma, the new WIC Director. Ms. Lerma is not new to WIC as she has been a nutritionist with the Abilene-Taylor County WIC Program. The Health District's Lab personnel were selected for the City of Abilene "Spotlight on Excellence" award for going above and beyond. Nancy Jennings, Lab Manager; Tommy Langham; Maureen Einspanier; and Alicia Heinze work in the lab and were selected as a result of their tireless dedication. During the City of Abilene Employee Health Fair in January various blood tests were offered and due to the response the Lab staff stayed to complete the tests. In fact, Ms. Jennings and Mr. Langham ended up staying all night to get the results out. The Lab staff was recognized in March.

Item VIII -- Adjourn