

The Advisory Board met on August 19, 2008 in the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Conference Center and present were the following: Robert Hawley, D.D.S.; Tom Perini; Andrew Urban, R.Ph.; Stormy Higgins; Zane Travis, M.D.; Larry Johnson; Barry Camarillo; Tony Neitzler; Kay Durilla, R.N.; Nancy Jennings; Annette Lerma; Henry Loza; Ruth Ramirez; Wayne Rose; and Mary K. Fair, who acted as secretary. Absent were: Jack Turner; Sandip Mathur, M.D.; Peter Norton, M.D.; Mike Hall; and Charlotte Lambert. Also present was Lisa McCarty.

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

Item II – Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Higgins and seconded by Mr. Perini to accept the minutes as written. All approved.

Item III — Presentation of Spotlight on Excellence! Award – by Larry Johnson. Kay Durilla, Nursing Programs Manager, received a City of Abilene “Spotlight on Excellence! Award” recently as a result of her quick action performing CPR on an individual who had suffered a heart attack in the parking lot of an Abilene restaurant. Ms. Durilla continued CPR until the Fire EMT’s and Metro Ambulance EMS arrived on scene. Dr. Hawley expressed the Board’s appreciation to Ms. Durilla.

Item IV – Review and Discussion of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Apprenticeship Program – by Larry Johnson. The CDC previously had a Public Health Apprenticeship Program that was discontinued during the 1990’s and was started back up a couple of years ago with a pilot program in Florida. Recently the Health District received a CDC apprentice; Lisa McCarty from Lufkin Texas. Ms. McCarty previously worked in public health in Lufkin and has a Bachelors Degree in Community Health from Stephan F. Austin University. The CDC apprenticeship program is designed to bring individuals into the public health field and requires a Bachelors degree plus an interest in public health. The CDC interviewed 60 plus applicants for the eight apprentice positions in Texas. The apprenticeship program is for three years with the CDC providing salaries and benefits while the local public health departments train the apprentices in various health programs. The first year Ms. McCarty will be trained in clinical programs; the second year of training will be with public health preparedness and epidemiology; and the third year will be in administration (grants, contracts and management). Currently there are six states participating in the CDC apprenticeship program. Dr. Hawley welcomed Ms. McCarty to the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District.

Item V – Review and Discussion of Childhood and Adult Immunization Changes – by Dr. Travis. The current recommendation is for children 6 months to 18 years of age receive an influenza vaccination. In addition, Vaccine for Children (VFC) FluMist, a nasal spray, is available for children 2 years through 18 years with exceptions; asthma, immune-suppressed, etc. Pneumococcal vaccine is also recommended this year. Kay Durilla, Nursing Programs Manager, provided a handout for the Board Members and a copy is with the original minutes. Ms. Durilla stated that due to a shortage of the HIB vaccine (Haemophilus Influenzae Type B) the 4th dose is being deferred at the present time. New combination vaccines are available which reduce the number of individual shots that children have to receive. *Pentacel* from Sanofi Pasteur contains 5 vaccines; Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, and HIB. *Kinrix* from GlaxoSmithKline contains 4 vaccines; Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, and Polio. *Rotarix* from GlaxoSmithKline is for Rotavirus. August is National Immunization Awareness Month as immunizations are critical to protect individuals and the community from vaccine preventable diseases. The Adult Safety Net Vaccine Program provides special pricing of \$15 for HPV, Zostavax (shingles) as well as other immunizations for qualified adults. Due to the nationwide shortage of rabies vaccine pre-exposure rabies shots are not being administered; but post-exposure rabies vaccine is available. Public awareness of what steps to take with an exposure to a potentially rabid animal is important as well as people vaccinating their pets. The Health District averages one person a month receiving post-exposure rabies shots.

Item VI – Review and Discussion of Health Administrator’s Quarterly Report – by Larry Johnson. The Health District is hosting a Regional Conference with the Texas Public Health Association on September 18th and 19th. Mr. Johnson provided each Board Member a tentative program and registration form and copies are with the original minutes. On Friday, September 19th, there will be a panel discussion on Public Health Accreditation and the Board Members are welcome to attend. Barry Camarillo, Health Programs Manager, attended a Certified Public Manager Course through Texas Tech for the past two years. Mr. Camarillo wrote a paper on the website he developed for the Health District – www.abilenepublichealth.com

Item VIII -- Adjourn