

The Advisory Board met on November 18, 2008 in the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Conference Center and present were the following: Robert Hawley, D.D.S.; Andrew Urban, R.Ph.; Stormy Higgins; Peter Norton, M.D.; Jack Turner; Zane Travis, M.D.; Larry Johnson; Barry Camarillo; Tony Neitzler; Kay Durilla, R.N.; Annette Lerma; Henry Loza; Ruth Ramirez; Wayne Rose; Charlotte Lambert and Mary K. Fair, who acted as secretary. Absent were: Tom Perini; Sandip Mathur, M.D.; Mike Hall; and Nancy Jennings;. Also present were Lisa McCarty and Lois Woods.

**Item I - Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by Dr. Hawley at 1:01 pm.

**Item II - Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting** - A motion was made by Mr. Urban and seconded by Mr. Higgins to accept the minutes of the August 19, 2008 meeting as written. All approved.

**Item III - Presentation of Spotlight on Excellence! Award** – Larry Johnson introduced Lois Woods, WIC Nutritionist, who recently received the City of Abilene’s “Spotlight on Excellence! Award” for going above and beyond in her job with the WIC Program. Mr. Hawley expressed the Board’s congratulations to Ms. Woods.

**Item IV - Review and Discussion of Influenza Vaccination Program** – Dr. Travis stated that the number of influenza cases has been below average this year. There have been low numbers of Influenza A and Influenza B cases in Taylor County. Dr. Travis wanted to remind everyone, both adults and children, to get an influenza vaccination. There have been 240 doses of State supplied Vaccine For Children (VFC) Flumist given; 700 VFC Fluzone shots plus 2,400 adult Fluzone shots given to date. In addition, 240 doses of Pneumovax have been given. The pneumonia vaccination may help with severe influenza and possibly help with avian flu symptoms. Influenza shots are available to the public during the regular immunization clinics; Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

**Item V - Review and Discussion of Zostavax Vaccine Availability Problems** – Dr. Travis advised the Board that Zostavax is in short supply due to one of the manufacturers suspending production. Zostavax is for shingles and is given to individuals over 60 years of age. The Health District is currently out of Zostavax vaccine but can substitute two doses of Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine for people who are deemed medically necessary. The Zostavax cost is \$160 per shot for people with insurance or \$15 per shot under the Adult Safety Net program if financially qualified.

**Item VI - Discussion and Approval to Support Formation of an Infant Mortality Improvement Committee** – Dr. Peter Norton spoke to the Board about The National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Committee which is a collaboration between the American College of Ob/GYN and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCH) of the Health and Human Services Administration (HHSA). The purpose is to encourage the development of a fetal and infant mortality review program of miscarriages and fetal deaths at the local level. Dr. Norton is asking the Health Department to review the available free software. Texas received an “F” on the “Prevention of Prematurity” study that was recently done. Mr. Johnson said the Health District will review the software and report back to the Board on the capabilities and feasibilities for the Health District to participate in the data collection.

**Item VII - Review and Discussion of Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program Changes** – Dr. Norton stated he is not just addressing teen pregnancy but also reproductive health and women’s health. There is a gap of medical care for pregnant women if they are uninsured and do not qualify for Medicaid. Also the State started the Women’s Health Program (WHP) which only pays for contraceptive services for women but not follow-up care for abnormal pap smears or other female issues. In the 1990’s Hendrick Medical Center (HMC) began seeing all prenatal patients through the Hendrick Family Health Clinic (HFHC) but changed to screen for Medicaid eligibility and refer to local doctors for their prenatal care. Abilene has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in Texas. In 2003 Federal Legislation was changed for Title V funding which added the stipulation that teens can not get contraception services without parental consent. Therefore the majority of teens will not come in for birth control services because they are no longer confidential. These matters are beyond the scope of the Board of Health but Mr. Johnson stated the Health District will check with HMC about prenatal care and report back to the Board of Health.

**Item VIII – Adjourn** - The BOH meetings scheduled for 2009 are February 17, May 19, August 18 and November 17. Meeting adjourned at 1:47 pm.