

The Advisory Board met on May 19, 2009 in the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Conference Center and present were the following: Robert Hawley, D.D.S.; Stormy Higgins; Tom Perini; Sandip Mathur, M.D.; Andrew Urban, R.Ph.; Randy Williams; Zane Travis, M.D.; Larry Johnson; 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: Peter Norton, M.D.; Mike Hall and Barry Camarillo. Also present was Carl Kieke, Abilene Reporter News.

Item I - Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Dr. Hawley at 1:00 pm.

Item II – Introduction of New Board Member – Mr. Hawley introduced Randy Williams, County Commissioner, who is replacing Jack Turner on the Board of Health.

Item III - 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 November 18, 2008 meeting as written. All approved.

Item IV - Presentation of 2008 5-Star Vital Statistics Award – Larry Johnson introduced Jo Roberts, Local Registrar, to the Board. Mr. Johnson and Dr. Hawley presented Ms. Roberts with the State of Texas “5 Star Vital Registration Exemplary 2008 Award” plaque of which there were only 16 Exemplary Awards given to local registrar offices in 2008. Dr. Hawley congratulated Ms. Roberts on receiving this award.

Item V - Review and Discussion of Fetal/Infant/Child Death Review Teams – Larry Johnson provided each Board Member handouts (a copy of each item is with the original minutes) consisting of a printout from the Health and Safety Code Chapter 674 “Fetal and Infant Mortality Review”; “Child Fatality Review Teams”; and “The Texas Child Fatality Review Team Post” quarterly newsletter Spring 2009. A Child Fatality Review Team can be formed locally and core members are police, sheriff, justice of the peace, public health official, child protective services, pediatrician, etc with additional members as needed. Texas Department of State Health Services has approached Taylor County about starting a team locally and initially DSHS Regional Office staff will coordinate the team. The team will review deaths of children; meetings will be confidential and can not be used in courts of law. The second type of team is the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team which was enacted by the 2007 legislature. This team can only be formed by the local health authority, local health official or by DSHS. Suggested members are pediatricians, obstetricians, nurses, county attorney, local hospital representative, midwife, etc and other community representatives as needed. The Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team will collect information, analyze causes of death and recommend measures to decrease these deaths. There is the same confidentiality as with the Child Fatality Review Team and the members can not be held liable for any information disclosed in a review team meeting.

Item VI - Review and Discussion of Local Prenatal Care Services – Dr. Travis reported to the Board on this matter. After checking with local physicians Dr. Travis is only aware of two OB/GYN physicians in Abilene that accept CHIP referrals for prenatal care. There might be a gap in prenatal care for lower income individuals that are above Medicaid income guidelines who do not have insurance but there are prenatal resources in Abilene. Dr. Travis suggestion is to wait and see what Congress and the new Federal Administration will do.

Item VII – Review and Discussion of Novel H1N1 Swine Flu Virus Outbreak – Dr. Travis spoke to the Board Members about our local experience with the H1N1 Swine Flu cases. Our local involvement began in late April and to date a total of 37 specimens from Taylor County have been submitted for confirmation testing. A positive Influenza A rapid test should have an additional nasal swab specimen sent to the Tarrant County Lab for H1N1 confirmation testing. TamiFlu, an antiviral, is being prescribed for affected patients and their immediate family members. Merkel has had some school age children that have been confirmed as H1N1 but there have not been any positive cases in Abilene. There continues to be additional cases in the United States and the World. At the present time the number of specimens submitted for Taylor County has been decreasing. Larry Johnson prepared a handout for the Board members and a copy is with the original minutes. This handout outlines the Health District’s response in a timeline format. On April 29th and April 30th samples were sent to Tarrant County Lab and Mr. Johnson and Dr. Travis spoke to City management and County officials. On April 30th a news conference was held to provide facts about H1N1, ways to prevent the spread of the virus and the Health District’s recommendation on schools closing. May 1st “probable” H1N1 results were received and a meeting was held with Taylor County school superintendents, Dyess Air Force Base representative and City and County representatives to discuss school closing recommendations. A press conference was held to provide additional information to the public and announce staff would be available Friday evening and all day Saturday and Sunday to take calls from the public. Additional TamiFlu was ordered through the State as well as viral transport media for physician offices.

Item VIII – Adjourn - The next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2009 Meeting adjourned at 1:44 pm.