

The Advisory Board met on August 18, 2009 in the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Conference Center and present were the following: Robert Hawley, D.D.S.; Peter Norton, M.D.; Tom Perini; Andrew Urban, R.Ph.; Randy Williams; Zane Travis, M.D.; Larry Johnson; Barry Camarillo; Kay Durilla, R.N.; Nancy Jennings; Charlotte Lambert; Annette Lerma; Lisa McCarty; Wayne Rose; and Dianne Boysen, who acted as secretary. Absent were: Stormy Higgins; Sandip Mathur, M.D.; Mike Hall; Tony Neitzler; Mary K. Fair; Henry Loza and Ruth Ramirez.

Item I Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 1:09 pm by Dr. Hawley.

Item II Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting – A motion made by Mr. Urban and seconded by Dr. Norton to approve the May 19, 2009 meeting minutes as written. All approved.

Item III Review and Discussion of Seasonal Flu and H1N1 Flu Planning – Larry Johnson. Once the seasonal flu vaccine is received the Health District will schedule clinics at the Health District facility on a daily basis instead of holding one large clinic at the Civic Center. The price for seasonal flu vaccine will be \$15.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children and Medicare will be accepted. The public will have to be reminded that the seasonal flu vaccine is different than the H1N1 vaccine and will require different shots. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is in the process of conducting clinical trials for the H1N1 vaccine and has not made a final determination if adults will need one or two doses of H1N1 vaccine. The H1N1 vaccine will be provided free of charge to both private and public providers. DSHS has on-line registration for providers to register their interest in receiving H1N1 vaccine. The provider must estimate the number of doses needed; what population they serve and if they have adequate storage for the vaccines and supplies. Mr. Johnson estimates that 260,000 doses will be needed if everyone in Taylor County receives two H1N1 shots. The priority groups for the initial doses of the H1N1 vaccinations are pregnant women, health care workers, emergency response providers, care givers for infants under 6 months of age and children. There will be additional State and Federal funding available to local health departments for planning, public education and mass dispensing site preparation. The CDC will also provide the supplies necessary to administer H1N1 vaccinations; syringes, sharps containers, alcohol, gloves etc. DSHS has a plan to provide Texas Stockpile anti-viral medications through private providers to the uninsured and underinsured. The Health District has been approved for a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) group for Taylor County and an advertising recruitment campaign will begin in the fall. The MRC is not just for medical volunteers as clerical and other workers are also needed.

Item IV – Discussion of Family Planning and STD Clinic Changes – Larry Johnson. Effective September 1, 2009 all Family Planning services and Sexually Transmitted Diseases services will be provided at the main Health District building as the Sears Park Clinic will be closed on August 31, 2009 as part of the City's budgeting process. The existing staff will be moved to the main Health facility. The closing of the Sears Park Clinic will result in approximately \$125,000 in savings and the General Health budget will be approximately \$250,000 less for the next fiscal year. The Health District is in the process of notifying family planning patients of this change.

Item V – Review and Discussion of Refugee Program Changes – Dr. Travis. The Health District has received 200 refugee clients this year through the International Rescue Committee (IRC). Currently there are seven cities in Texas that receive refugees and Abilene is the smallest city. The refugees are allowed to move from Abilene but most are staying here in Abilene. The local IRC office helps with housing, basic furniture and social services case management. The refugees qualify for Medicaid for the first six months. The Health District does an initial physical examination; provides immunizations; health screenings; laboratory testing and special needs referrals. DSHS has been willing to give the Health District additional funds for refugee medical services due to the increase of refugees settled in Abilene.

Item VI – Review and Discussion of Immunization Requirement Changes – Kay Durilla. Ms. Durilla advised the Board that the Texas Legislature has new immunization requirements for school age children this fall. Seventh graders are now required to have Tdap booster (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis), Meningococcal, and a second Varicella. Kindergarteners are required to have Hepatitis A, second Varicella and second MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella). The immunization clinic has been very busy the past couple of weeks and will continue to be busy until after school starts. The school nurses require that the children's immunizations be current before admitting them to school. Gardasil is not a required immunization but refugees are required to have Gardasil as per the grant. Health Department staff advise parents that Gardasil is available through the Vaccine for Children program at a reduced fee but it is not a required immunization.

Item VII – Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.