

Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District
Advisory Board
November 17, 2009

The Advisory Board met on November 17, 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; Randy Williams; Shane Price; Zane Travis, M.D.; Larry Johnson; Tony Neitzler; Kay Durilla, R.N.; Nancy Jennings; Charlotte Lambert; Henry Loza; Lisa McCarty; Wayne Rose; and Dianne Boysen, who acted as secretary. Absent were: Andrew Urban, R.Ph.; Sandip Mathur, M.D.; Mike Hall; Barry Camarillo; Annette Lerma; Mary K. Fair and Ruth Ramirez. Also present were Terry Truong, D.D.S and Lois Woods.

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

Item II Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Perini to approve the August 18, 2009 meeting minutes as written. All approved.

Item III Review and Discussion of Seasonal Flu and H1N1 Flu Vaccinations – Larry Johnson and Dr. Travis updated the Board on the flu vaccinations for this year. The Health District ordered 4,000 doses of the seasonal flu plus the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) provided seasonal flu vaccine for children and all but 200 children doses have been administered. There is less seasonal flu vaccine available this year due to manufacturers making H1N1 vaccine and we are not able to order additional seasonal flu vaccine. Manufacturers switched production from seasonal flu to H1N1 flu vaccine earlier this year. There have been problems with the distribution of the H1N1 flu vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) determines weekly how much H1N1 flu vaccine each state will receive and each state decides how it will be distributed. To date Texas has been allocated 3.5 million doses and the Health District is slated to receive an additional 1,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine. The priority groups are pregnant women and children. H1N1 mass vaccination clinics are being set up at the old Winn-Dixie store and temporary staff has been hired to help with organizing and managing these clinics. All funding for the H1N1 flu vaccination clinic supplies and staff is from federal grants. H1N1 vaccine will most likely be needed every year not once in a lifetime.

Item IV – Discussion WIC Food Package Changes – Lois Woods provided a handout for the Board members and a copy is with the original minutes. The WIC Program has not had any major food packages changes for 34 years but as of October 1, 2009 there are new food packages. The new food packages are more in line with American Dietary Guidelines and also promote long term breastfeeding. Fresh fruits and vegetables have been added as well as whole grains, oatmeal, brown rice, corn and whole wheat tortillas plus reduced amount of eggs, whole milk and cheese. For infants whole foods are not introduced until 6 months of age. Fruit juice has been eliminated and the amount of formula for infants 6 to 12 months has been reduced due to the addition of solid foods in the infants' diet. WIC is a successful federal program which provides good nutrition, good service and support for their clients.

Item V – Review and Discussion of Dental Services – Larry Johnson introduced the new children's dentist; Dr. Terry Truong. Dr. Truong sees Medicaid and CHIP clients five days a week and has seen almost 500 patients since August. Mr. Johnson appreciates Dr. Truong working full time in the dental clinic and filling a need in the community. Dr. Hawley advised the Board that the local Dental Society is participating in the free Give Kids A Smile Program on February 19, 2010.

Item VI – Discussion of Medical Reserve Corps Media Campaign – Larry Johnson mentioned at the August Board meeting that the Health District was in the process of forming a local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and this has now been developed. Mr. Johnson introduced Charlotte Lambert who is the local contact. There are Public Service Announcements (PSA) that were developed using local talent and they will be on TV, radio, billboards and in the newspaper. SMART is the name for our local MRC. Previously we had Protect Texas that was our volunteer group but the MRC has on-line training and is aligned with public health core. Training provided, partner with other area MRC's. Charlotte gave out award to Dr. Travis for "starring" in the PSA. Surgeon General approves the MRC. Nolan County has a MRC and we have been working with them. PSA mentions Nolan County and requirement of grant is to partner with other area partners. Need large group for large emergency situations. Try to build large enough group to have help when needed. The MRC is to augment Health Department staff. The MRC needs to be large enough to be able to assist in an emergency. Not just for medical positions but for others, such as clerical positions, greeters. On-line training but will have meetings. Looking at using students at Holland Medical Magnet School.

Item VII – Adjourn – Dr. Hawley thanked Shane Price for joining the Board as the City Council representative replacing Stormy Higgins. No further business meeting adjourned.