

The Advisory Board met on May 18, 2010 in the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Conference Center and present were the following: Robert Hawley, D.D.S.; Andrew Urban, R.Ph.; Randy Williams; Shane Price; Peter Norton, M.D.; Tom Perini; Maureen Trotter, M.D.; Zane Travis, M.D.; Larry Johnson; Barry Camarillo; Tony Neitzler; Kay Durilla, R.N.; Nancy Jennings; Charlotte Lambert; Annette Lerma; Henry Loza; Lisa McCarty; Wayne Rose; and Mary K. Fair, who acted as secretary. Absent were: Mike Hall and Ruth Ramirez.

Item I Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm by Dr. Hawley.

Item II Introduction of New Board Member – Dr. Hawley introduced and welcomes Dr. Maureen Trotter to the Board.

Item III Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Urban and seconded by Mr. Price to approve the February 16, 2010 meeting minutes as written. All approved.

Item IV Review and Discussion of H1N1 Flu Vaccination Program – Larry Johnson, Charlotte Lambert and Dr. Travis. Dr. Travis recommends that everyone get a H1N1 vaccination as there have been cases of H1N1 influenza in the Abilene area. H1N1 vaccine will be included in next year's influenza vaccination so it will not be necessary for two separate shots. One possible reason for the low number of H1N1 cases locally has been that the vectors (youth) received the H1N1 vaccination. Ms. Lambert had two handouts for the Board members and copies are with the original minutes. The first handout is a graph showing 18,000 planned H1N1 doses, 11,685 doses given and 4,304 expired doses that have been discarded. The second handout was a packet of the press releases dated October 7, 2009 to January 26, 2010 from the Health District regarding the H1N1 vaccine and vaccination clinics. The Health District held two large mass vaccinations clinics for the public as well as vaccinations clinics for the Merkel Independent School District, Hardin Simmons University and McMurry University. In addition there were 15 on-site vaccination clinics for special populations; group homes, retirement communities and nursing homes. There have been no adverse reactions from the H1N1 vaccine reported in the area. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) sent the initial shipments of H1N1 vaccine to private providers for their patients use and later began sending the bulk of the H1N1 vaccine to public health locations. DSHS has plans to hold meetings throughout the State with private and public providers for lessons learned through the H1N1 outbreak and vaccination clinics.

Item V Review and Discussion of Diabetes Grant Opportunity – Larry Johnson. The Health District was contacted by the Texas Association of Local Health Officials (TALHO) to see if the Health District would be interested in participating along with two other local health departments in a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) grant for Type II diabetes and disparities in treatment for vulnerable populations. TALHO has contacted Amarillo, Lufkin and Abilene as they all have local health departments and do not have State or Federal programs in their counties. This CDC grant will be for 5 years and will include a needs assessment and prioritizing and identifying interventions. At the current time it is not known who will receive the grant as the grant application process has not been completed.

Item VI Review and Discussion of the Heart and Stroke Healthy City Recognition Program – Larry Johnson, Henry Loza and Kay Durilla. Mr. Johnson provided a handout of the indicators for the Heart and Stroke Healthy City Recognition Program for each Board member and a copy is with the original minutes. The Health District has a DSHS grant to administer this program with help from community members. Henry Loza and Kay Durilla, Health District staff members, held an organizational meeting in April forming a local work group. Invitations were sent to local representatives of the American Heart Association, United Way, American Red Cross, MetroCare, Abilene Fire Department, Abilene Independent School District, local universities and colleges, and local hospitals to name a few. The attendees were asked to review the Heart and Stroke Healthy indicators and identify what is available within their agency/company to promote cardiovascular and stroke health. Also the workgroup is charged with identifying gaps in educating the public on heart and stroke health and help develop a plan to close the gap. The next work group meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2010. The implementation plan is due to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) by August 31, 2010. Every two years cities are scored based on the indicators and four years ago Abilene received an Honorable Mention but two years ago Abilene did not receive any recognition. Dr. Norton advised the Board that students in Abilene schools are not required to take a health education class. During discussion it was suggested that AISD and other local school districts be invited to be on the Board of Health. Mr. Johnson advised the Board members that the makeup of the Board of Health is an agreement between the City and the County and currently only one member can be a lay person; also, since this was not on the agenda this will have to be a topic for a future Board meeting.

Item VII Review and Discussion of United States Postal Service Biohazard Detection System Exercise – Larry Johnson and Wayne Rose. The City of Abilene along with the Post Office will participate in an exercise on May 26th to test the biohazard alert system in the mail sorting facility. Participants from the Health District will include public health preparedness, nursing, information technology and administration. The Fire Department will have personnel to handle decontamination of postal workers and the Police Department will help with security. CityLink will also participate with providing a bus for transportation of Post Office workers to a safe location. The Health District staff will hand out paperwork and “medicine” to the Post Office employees as part of the exercise. The Post Office will collect samples from the detection sensor and transport to a lab in Fort Worth for confirmation of what set off the alarm.

Item VIII Review and Discussion of 2010 National Office of Refugee Resettlement Consultation Meeting – Kay Durilla. Two Health Department staff will be going to Washington DC in June for a Refugee Resettlement Conference. Workers and refugees are to speak at this conference. The conference will help staff learn about refugees; what causes problems for them; what the Health District can do to improve the refugee’s situation and acclimation to the United States. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) refugee program encouraged Health District staff to attend the conference and provided additional funding for the trip. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is a national program across the United States resettling refugees from different countries to different areas in the US. There have been approximately 700 to 800 refugees resettled in Abilene since 2004 with approximately 500 refugees still living in the area. The majority of refugees were originally from Africa, Iraq, Nepal and Cuba.

Item IX Review and Discussion of Vaccine Choice Procedures from Texas Department of State Health Services – Kay Durilla. The Texas Legislature has made changes in the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program which will allow providers a choice of brand and type of vaccines they receive from DSHS. Only certain vaccines are available through a CDC contract and the vaccines are provided free to VFC providers. Part of the process requires an on-line survey identifying storage space and refrigeration space to hold the vaccine and supply items and also what clients the providers serve. Locally the Health District is responsible to coordinate with private providers as these changes will be effective September 1, 2010. Health District staff will be attending a meeting and training in Austin next week to become prepared to train and assist the local VFC providers. The VFC program is meant for clients on Medicaid or who are uninsured/underinsured. Mr. Johnson provided this information to Board Members so they would be aware of this change.

Item X Review and Discussion of Stimulus Funding for Adult Dental Services – Larry Johnson. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) received additional money through the City to provide a variety of services. The Health District felt that the additional funds could be used for adult dental services. The Health District has a contract with the Medical Care Mission Clinic to provide adult dental care for limited services, mainly extraction and pain relief but the number of available appointments are limited. Due to the fact that the stimulus funding required reporting by the hour not by the service the decision was made to use the Health District’s in-house children’s dentist for these additional adult dental services. The adult appointments are scheduled on one day which allows the services to be calculated at a per hour rate. The adult services are limited to pain relief and extractions, not extensive dental work. The total amount allocated is \$34,000 over a maximum of three years but the money will most likely be spent before the end of the three years.

Item VII Adjourn – The next regularly scheduled meeting is August 17, 2010. No further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 pm.