

Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District  
Advisory Board  
May 17, 2011

The Advisory Board met on May 17, 2011 in the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Conference Center and present were the following: Robert Hawley, D.D.S.; Randy Williams; Tom Perini; Peter Norton, M.D.; Shane Price; Larry Johnson; Tony Neitzler; Kay Durilla, R.N.; Charlotte Lambert; Annette Lerma; Lisa McCarty; Ruth Ramirez Wayne Rose; and Mary K. Fair, who acted as secretary. Absent were: Maureen Trotter, M.D.; Zane Travis, M.D.; Barry Camarillo; Mike Hall; Nancy Jennings and Henry Loza.

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

**Item II - Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting** – A motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Mr. Williams to approve the February 15, 2011 meeting minutes as written. All approved.

**Item III - Review and Discussion of Changes to Texas Health Steps Program** – Kay Durilla. Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has adopted changes in Medicaid screening forms for Texas Health Steps providers effective September 1, 2011. The options are Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) or Parent's Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS) and DSHS does not provide training or money for this mandated change. In reviewing the choices the Health District will be using PEDS. The new screening and scoring forms cannot be duplicated and must be purchased from a single source for a total estimated annual cost of \$396. This amount is based upon the average number of THS exams that have been done in the past. All THS providers must begin using the new forms and the client cannot be charged for this additional cost. THS exams are done at various ages for children and include a physical examination and evaluation, immunizations as needed, lab tests and a tool has been added for autism screenings. If there are any findings or problems the patient is referred to an appropriate provider.

**Item IV - Review and Discussion of Medicaid Identification and Eligibility Forms** – Larry Johnson. Texas Medicaid is in the process of transitioning from a monthly eligibility paper form to an electronic card. The paper forms were printed and mailed out monthly to the client and the new electronic card will be a "permanent" card for the client. The provider will have to check eligibility at each visit by swiping the card, calling a toll free number or using a website. The Health District provides immunizations, Texas Health Steps, family planning, children's dental and lab services for Medicaid clients. The WIC program uses Medicaid for income eligibility. The electronic Medicaid card will have the client name, identification number, eligible services, and prescription coverage. Future plans include e-prescribing for prescriptions, medical history and prescription history.

**Item V – Review and Discussion of Potential State Legislation of Interest to Public Health** – Larry Johnson. Mr. Johnson checked on the status of some bills that are of interest to public health. SB969 How funds are spent for local health departments: create standing committee; define public health core functions, evaluate; recommend policy priorities with DSHS; designate how money should be allocated between state and locals. This bill has already passed in the Senate and is up for a hearing in the House. The recommendation is a nine member committee made up of five local health departments representing small, medium and large cities; two DSHS representatives and two Schools of Public Health representatives. HB574 Change ImmTrac, statewide immunization registry, from Opt-In to Opt-Out. Still in the House, might not make it before the end of the session. HB670 Non-Smoking Ordinance Statewide. On second reading, still has to go to the Senate. SB1107 Requiring Meningitis vaccinations for all college students. Has been sent to the Governor for signature. HB3336 Pertussis education for new moms and provide Tdap vaccine for new moms. Passed House, passed Senate committee. Representative Susan King has authored a bill to allow health care providers to opt out of sending personal patient data to the Texas Health Care Information Council and to inform patients if data is sent in to THCIC. Passed House hasn't been sent to Senate. The House version for family planning services budget is reduced but the Senate version is for level funding. The Federal Women's Health Program waiver is set to expire December 2011 and the State of Texas has to request the waiver be renewed effective January 2012 or there will not be Federal money for the Women's Health Program services. The final Texas budget is unknown as there are two different versions and neither one has been passed and signed by the Governor. The current legislative session is over at the end of May and Governor Perry will probably call a special session to complete all the outstanding business and budgets.

**Item V - Adjourn** – The next regularly scheduled meeting is August 16, 2011. No further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.