

The Advisory Board met on November 20, 2012 in the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Conference Center and present were the following: Robert Hawley, D.D.S.; Shane Price; Randy Williams; Peter Norton, M.D.; Tom Perini; James McCoy, R.Ph.; Zane Travis, M.D.; James Childers; Leslie Andrews; Larry Johnson; Barry Camarillo; Kay Durilla, R.N.; Nancy Jennings; Annette Lerma; Henry Loza; Wayne Rose; and Mary K. Fair, who acted as secretary. Absent was: Charlotte Lambert. Visitor in attendance: Stan Smith.

Item I - Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm by Dr. Hawley.

Item II – Introduction of New Community Services Department Director – Larry Johnson – Mr. Johnson introduced James Childers, who is the new Director of Community Services as of October 22, 2012. A copy of the City’s news release introducing Mr. Childers was given to each Board member and a copy is with the original minutes. Mr. Childers introduced Lesli Andrews, the new Assistant Director of Community Services.

Item III – Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Mr. Perini to approve the August 21, 2012 meeting minutes with the correction of the meeting location to read the “City of Abilene Community Services Conference Room, 633 Walnut”. All approved.

Item IV – Review and Discussion of Family Planning Program Changes – Larry Johnson – The Board Members were provided copies of news articles; KTXS.com and Abilene Reporter News online; concerning the closing of the local Planned Parenthood Center (PPC) and copies are with the original minutes. The Abilene PPC closed on November 9, 2012 and their clients will have to find other sources for family planning services; PPC in San Angelo, the Health District (reduced cost family planning services), Abilene Diagnostic Clinic Southside new family planning clinic, Pregnancy Resources of Abilene (pregnancy and STD testing only), and the Alliance for Women and Children (assistance with mammograms and pelvic exams). The last Texas Legislature did not fund family planning services at Planned Parenthood clinics; which now there is a pending court case between PPC and Texas scheduled for trial in December. The Federal government has notified Texas that Women’s Health Program funding will be discontinued on December 31st and Texas is planning on funding their own family planning program. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) sent an announcement concerning the Texas Women’s Health Program changes and a copy is with the original minutes.

Item V – Review and Discussion of 2013 Budget – Larry Johnson – Mr. Johnson provided each Board Member a summary page of the Health Districts 2012-2013 Budget and a copy is with the original minutes. Most of the grants’ funding is the same as previous years except the Medical Reserve Support Grant (MRC) is pending as the money has not been received; the Refugee grant was increased to cover the cost of purchasing vaccines due to changes in eligibility for free immunizations; Public Health Preparedness had a decrease but received additional money through a Discretionary Grant to replace aging computer and network equipment. The Maternal & Child Health (Family Planning) did not receive money this year but some clients will receive services through Medicaid. The General Fund Contribution increased to support services that lost funding i.e. family planning services.

Item VI – Review and Discussion of Communicable Diseases and Influenza Activities – Dr. Travis – There have been 68 cases of Shigellosis since August 2012 in Abilene; most cases were children 5 and under but the oldest person is in their 60’s. The previous Shigellosis outbreak in Abilene was June of 2002. The common symptoms are diarrhea and fever and proper hand washing hygiene is important to prevent the spread of Shigellosis. Abilene has not had many cases of flu, only 4 cases of Influenza Type A reported. The recent West Nile Virus outbreak in Texas looks to be contained; to date Taylor County has only had three cases while statewide there have been 1,739 cases of WNV in 129 counties with 79 fatalities. The recent Fungal Meningitis outbreak had two cases in the Dallas area and all the suspected medications have been recalled. Mr. Johnson advised the Board that Wayne Rose, the Health District’s Epidemiologist, is conducting an investigation of the Shigellosis outbreak and when he identifies a specific source (such as a specific day care center) he sends them information on what steps to take to stop the spread of Shigellosis. Also, Mr. Rose has prepared an article for the media about ways families and day cares can help prevent the spread of Shigellosis.

Item VII - Adjourn – The next regularly scheduled meeting is February 19, 2013. No further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:42 pm.