

The Advisory Board met on February 21, 2012 in the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Conference Center and present were the following: Robert Hawley, D.D.S.; Randy Williams; Shane Price; Peter Norton, M.D.; Zane Travis, M.D.; Larry Johnson; Barry Camarillo; Kay Durilla, R.N.; Nancy Jennings; Charlotte Lambert; Annette Lerma; Henry Loza; Wayne Rose; Katie Byerly and Mary K. Fair, who acted as secretary. Visitors in attendance: Kelley Messer. Absent were: Maureen Trotter, M.D. and Tom Perini.

Item I - Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by Dr. Hawley.

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

Item III - Review and Discussion of Vaccine for Children Program – Kay Durilla. On January 1, 2012 the Texas Vaccine for Children (TVFC) program redefined “underinsured” and made “fully, privately insured children” ineligible for TVFC vaccine. The client is required to complete and sign the Patient Eligibility Screening Record form (a copy is with the original minutes) and the provider must keep the form on file. These changes will impact the number of children who will be eligible to receive the free TVFC vaccines. If the client has insurance we recommend they return to their medical home for shots or they will have to pay for our private vaccine stock. The Health District is working on informing the public the need to verify what their insurance will cover for vaccinations. We are asking the clients come in and complete the eligibility forms, be screened for what shots are needed and advised what the costs will be instead of giving a quote over the phone. Our nursing staff is busy with clients during clinic hours and not available to answer phone calls plus the public usually does not know what shots are needed which could result in incorrect information. Low income families could be insured but might not be able to afford the vaccine cost so the Health District is checking into the possibility of filing insurance claims for the immunizations. School age children must be current on shots in order to attend school. The immunization clinic sees 30 to 60 clients per day including TB skin tests, adults, overseas/travel and children. The Adult Safety Net program vaccines changed to only include Tetanus/Diphtheria; Tetanus/Depthria/Pertussis; Measles, Mumps, Rubella; and Hepatitis B and now Zostavax (Shingles); Hepatitis A and HIB are only available as private pay vaccinations. A suggestion was made to post the following information and direct the public to the city’s website: TVFC Patient Eligibility Screening Record form; Price List; Disclaimer stating this is for basic information only and prices are subject to change; Vaccine is limited to stock on hand; Advise clients to contact their insurance company to see what (if any) vaccines are covered; Encourage clients to use their medical home/primary care provider.

Item IV - Review and Discussion of “Disaster Preparedness: How Texans Prepare” Video Series – Larry Johnson. In the summer of 2011 the State of Texas produced videos about disasters and public preparedness. Mr. Johnson showed the video “How Texas Prepares: Preparing for the Next Flood” to the Board members. This video was about the August 1998 flood when Del Rio had 15 inches of rain in 12 hours. The video talked about having a plan in the event of a disaster; what to put in your Grab-n-Go Kit (physicians contact information, prescriptions, medications, etc) also include food, water and clothes to last a few days. The website is www.texasprepares.org and covers different disasters such as wildfires, hurricanes, and tornadoes.

Item V – Review and Discussion of the Texas Department of State Health Services Public Health Funding and Policy Committee – Larry Johnson. Senate Bill 969 formed a committee and the Health Commissioner, Dr. David Lakey, appointed nine members. A handout was provided to each Board member and a copy is with the original minutes. The handout includes information on the general duties of the committee; membership roster; minutes and meeting agendas. The committee membership is two Regional Medical Directors; two local health authorities; two public health school’s representatives; and three local health department (LHD) directors. There are not any members from Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Austin Central Office staff. The members will have staggered terms and meetings are scheduled at least quarterly. The goal is to have a transition plan by June 30, 2012 to move from contractual to cooperative agreements with LHDs. This would allow LHDs some flexibility in their budgets. The committee will be surveying LHDs for definition of what services a LHD should have (Essential Public Health Services). Meetings are scheduled to be held across the state, not just in Austin and will be open meetings that the public can attend. There are specific time tables for the committee; set priorities for LHDs; make annual recommendations to Dr. Lakey and Dr. Lakey will report to the Governor the status of recommendations from the committee. Mr. Johnson also provided an article “The Price of Health – Keeping Texas Healthy is Costly” handout for the Board members and a copy is with the original minutes.

Item V - Adjourn – The next regularly scheduled meeting is May 15, 2012. No further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:02 pm.