

Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District
Advisory Board
May 21, 2013

The Advisory Board met on May 21, 2013 in the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Conference Center and present were the following: Robert Hawley, D.D.S.; Shane Price; Peter Norton, M.D.; James McCoy, R.Ph.; Randy Williams; James Childers; Lesli Andrews; Larry Johnson; Kay Durilla, R.N.; Nancy Jennings Charlotte Lambert; Annette Lerma; Henry Loza; Wayne Rose and Mary K. Fair, who acted as secretary. Absent were: Tom Perini; Zane Travis, M.D.; and Barry Camarillo. Visitor in attendance: Stan Smith.

Item I - Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 1:02 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 February 26, 2013 meeting minutes as written. All approved.

Item III – Review and Discussion of Current Medical Reserve Corps-Support and Medical Alert Response Team (SMART) – Charlotte Lambert had handout (copy is with original minutes) for each Board member from the National MRC website with information on SMART (Abilene MRC). Abilene received \$4,000 for this year's MRC grant which is down \$1,000 from last year. Ms. Lambert also had a Family Prep Kit for each Board member and briefly explained how to use the kit; also available from Ready.gov or Texasprepares.org; offered a copy of the "Surviving Disasters" DVD and "How to Clean a Business during a Pandemic" DVD to the Board members. The MRC application paperwork is available on abilenepublichealth.com. Our MRC has approximately 168 people currently registered and the MRC is not just for medical personnel but support personnel as well.

Item IV – Review and Discussion of Refugee Program Changes – Kay Durilla advised the Board that there will be changes in the Refugee grant effective September 2013. There will be additional health screenings required based on sex and/or age plus presumptive treatment for certain parasites based on country of origin. There are approximately 200 refugees that initially come to Abilene each year and they are provided four months financial support/funding from the International Rescue Committee but they are not required to stay in Abilene. Texas Department of State Health Services makes the policies for the refugee program and they have not had any unfunded mandates in the past. There are seven cities in Texas that receive refugees and Abilene is the smallest.

Item V – Review and Discussion of Communicable Diseases and Influenza Vaccines – Kay Durilla spoke to the Board about mosquitoes from Abilene area that tested positive for West Nile Virus but no reported people cases of WNV in Abilene area. There will be new influenza vaccines (FluMist and Injectable) available which will be Quadrivalent (2 strains of Influenza A and 2 strains of Influenza B) but will be limited supply and higher cost. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) first cases in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and so far all cases have originated from four countries in the Arabian Peninsula and no cases have been reported in the United States. MERS has had Human to Human transmission with close/prolonged exposure and death rates of 50%. There have been cases of Whooping Cough (Pertussis) in California and Denton, Texas and the increase of Pertussis cases seems to be linked back to the type of vaccine now being used. The Acellular Pertussis vaccine is safer for people but not as effective against Pertussis. 7th graders are now required to have a Pertussis booster.

Item VI - Demonstration and Discussion of Department of State Health Services Contract Management and Procurement System – Larry Johnson advised the Board that Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has now begun a web based Contract Management and Procurement System (CMPS) to improve efficiency and streamline processing of contracts. Signatures and reporting will be submitted electronically and will involve staff from the Health District, Community Services, Finance, and the City Manager.

Item VII - Adjourn – The next regularly scheduled meeting is August 20, 2013 in the Community Services Conference Room. Also, Mr. Johnson advised the Board that this will be his last Board of Health meeting as he will be retiring at the end of July. No further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:44 pm.