

The Board of Health met on May 19, 2015 at 1:00PM, in the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Conference Room and present were the following: Robert Hawley, D.D.S.; Peter Norton, M.D.; Shane Price; Tom Perini; Leslie Andrews; Derrick Neal; Santos Navarrette.

Item I. – Call to Order – Dr. Hawley called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

SAFE Kids Program Update – Santos Navarrette briefed the SAFE Kids program to Board of Health. The Sealants Available for Every (SAFE) kids program is designed to educate elementary school children at three identified schools on the importance of oral health. SAFE Kids has partnered with Abilene Independent School District (AISD) to promote oral health prevention at Long, Martinez, and Ortiz Elementary Schools. Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District (ATCPHD) received a \$30,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Abilene (CFA) to conduct the SAFE Kids program. The dental assistant will coordinate efforts to engage parents, administrators and children alike to adopt-standardized practicing on caring for their teeth inclusive of sealants/ancillary care. The aim of the program is to increase awareness surrounding oral health and associated related health outcomes from a preventive standpoint. The two deliverables from SAFE Kids will be to treat 180 kids with annual dental checkup and apply dental sealants to those who need it as well as provide oral health education to 1,800 kids at the three schools identified through AISD.

Item II.

AmeriCorps Program

AmeriCorps Vistas Program Overview – Santos Navarrette briefed the VISTA program at public health. The Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District (ATCPHD) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the West Central Texas Council of Government (WCTCOG) with regards to the VISTA Healthy Futures Project. Two students both recent college graduates will be joining the ATCPHD as a Community Health Worker (CHW) for the Expanded Primary Health Care Center and as Health Educator in the preparedness section for a period of one year. The ATCPHD is contributing a \$6000 to share the cost amount over the term of the agreement in order to secure the two identified VISTAS. The funding for this partnership between public health and the council of government was achieved through a grant for highly acute infectious program at Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

Item III.

Refugee Program

Refugee Programming Update – Santos Navarrette provided an update of funding for the Refugee program. The DSHS has notified the ATCPHD that an increase in the refugee numbers will impact the Abilene and Midland areas with a 200% increase in the number of refugees being assigned by Office of Refugee Settlement (ORS). A new policy established by the ORS requires by a medical doctor (MD), nurse practitioner (NP), or physician assistant (PA) or perform all initial physicals. The old policy allowed a registered nurse (RN) to perform the physical of children ages from 15 years and below. This new policy will increase the work for

the providers. ATCPHD has requested \$632,000 from DSHS to provide medical services to the refugees arriving in our communities. Currently, we are monitoring three active cases of TB in our community and are being given direct observed therapy by staff on a daily basis.

Item IV.

Texas Tech University

Dr. Julie St. John Ph.D. Of Texas Tech University School of Public Health Collaborative Establishment discussed the partnership with the ATCPHD specifically discussing Community Health Assessments which are a prerequisite for applying for Public Health Department Accreditation efforts. Dr. St. John also discussed specifics in the areas of data collection and analysis, establishing a community health report for Big Country Residents, Ascertaining the strengths and weakness in the Big County that contribute to health. Dr. St. John also discussed the newly formed school of public health which will begin its first Masters of Public Health (MPH) Class in August of 2015. Dr. St. John is currently researching ancillary funding streams to determine if resources are available to support ATCPHD employees seeking to enroll in the MPH program.

Item V.

Primary Health Care Grant (PHC)

Primary Health Care (PHC) Grant Application Update – Santos Navarrette briefed this issue. The primary health care grant (PHC) has requested increased additional funding to hire a Nurse Practitioner (NP) to provide direct services to clients. The proposed additional funding would also provide prescription assistance to clients. The current funding level doesn't provide adequate holistic services to clients. The amount requested from Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) was \$324,000 which does include a NP but also a licensed vocational nurse (LVN) and customer service representative to conduct the eligibility of clients.

Item VI.

WIC Program Funding Update

Annette Lerma WIC Director communicated to the board that The WIC Program has experienced a reduction in funding as a result of reduced client numbers and associated formulary that is rooted in participation levels which ultimately dictates funding levels. This follows a national trend data on WIC participation.

Several factors potentially contributing to the WIC participation decline:

1. Declining birth rate
2. Oil boom
3. Program declining in popularity with younger generation because of longer wait times and antiquated system and paperwork

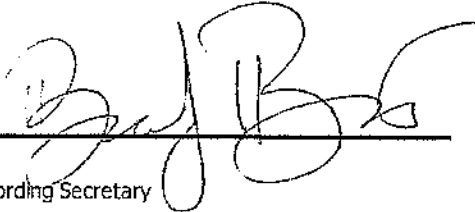
Steps taken to offset deficit in funding:

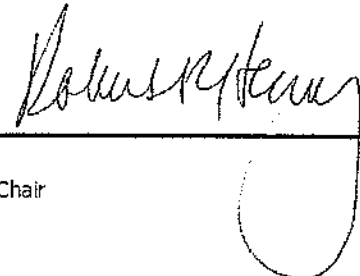
1. Cut all discretionary spending

2. Reduce personnel – moved to another area within the Health Dept.
3. Writing proposal to the State WIC Agency to request increase in funding

What Board members can do as our advocates:

1. Promote WIC within your circle of influence.
2. Be familiar with the successes of WIC and the return on investment
3. Promote WIC as preventative health care.

X 
Recording Secretary

X 
Board Chair