

Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District
Health Advisory Board Minutes
May 17th, 2016

The Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District (ATCPHD) Health Advisory Board met on May 17th, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the ATCPHD conference room. Present were the following members: Dr. Robert Hawley, DDS; Dr. Peter Norton, MD; Shane Price; Randy Williams; Santos Navarrette; Lesli Andrews; and Chace Craig.

Item I – Call to Order – Dr. Hawley called the meeting to order at 12:58 p.m.

Item II – Review and Approval of Minutes from February 16th Meeting

Dr. Hawley asked the board to review the minutes. Dr. Hawley made a motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Price approved, Dr. Hawley seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Dr. Hawley made a motion to remove Item VII from the agenda, Randy Williams seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Item III – Zika Virus: News and Update- Wayne Rose, Epidemiologist

The ATCPHD will develop an informational brochure on the Zika virus that will be given to local providers, veterinary clinics, and other entities. Currently, the United States has 472 confirmed cases of Zika. Texas has 33 confirmed cases, 1 being sexually transmitted disease (STD) related. One major concern is that of babies being born to those affected, who may have birth defects relating to the Zika virus. We recommend getting rid of standing water, using mosquito dunks, and insect repellent over clothing. We are putting kits together that will be available to the public, and at no cost. Zika is most detrimental to pregnant women whom could transmit the virus to their unborn infant. The virus can be transmitted from the mother to their unborn child. Pregnant woman should avoid traveling to places with known Zika activity, use insect repellent, and condoms during sexual activity; the virus can be transmitted through sexual contact. Preliminary funding has just begun for the Zika Virus; \$1.2 million will be distributed among DSHS regional offices throughout the state of Texas. Mr. Williams asked, if a pregnant woman contracts Zika will this always cause birth defects in her unborn fetus? Dr. Peter Norton answered, it is dependent upon the mother's immune system and her ability to ward off the virus. Mr. Price pointed out that the city cannot legally spray due to EPA limits at the time of day that Zika carrying mosquitoes are active. Dr. Hawley mentioned that Zika has been around since the 1940s, and asked if we had a way to test blood/urine for Zika here in Abilene. The Health District does not currently have that testing ability.

Item IV – Transition from the Expanded Primary Health Care (EPHC) Program to the Healthy Texas Women's (HTW) Program, Santos Navarrette, Assistant Health Administrator

Mr. Navarrette announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) have combined EPHC with the Texas Women Health Program (TWHP) forming the Healthy Texas Women (HTW) program. The HTW eligibility requirements include the following: women between the ages of 15-44; at or below 200% of the federal poverty level; uninsured; and a U.S. citizen or legal immigrant. Women below the age of 18 must have parental consent prior to receiving HTW services. The ATCPHD will provide the nurse practitioner, clinical coordinator, and licensed vocational nurse to manage the HTW services at the MERCY Health Care Center. The HTW program will cost approximately \$264,000, and will be partially funded through Fee for Service (FFS) reimbursement from the Texas Medicaid Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) at \$140,000. A request for \$124,000 has been included within the ATCPHD's FY2017 proposed budget. The HTW program will be briefed by Mrs. Andrews to City Leadership in the upcoming weeks. ATCPHD will also be requesting HHSC family planning funds, which will assist with funding at the MERCY Center. The Family Planning program will be 50% FFS, and 50% categorical funding. The Family Planning program eligibility requirements include the following: men and women; ages 15-64; at or below 250% of the federal poverty level; uninsured; and a Texas resident. Women below 18 years of age must have parental consent before receiving services. These programs will enable the ATCPHD to address reproductive health issues for woman in the community. Mr. Williams asked, what government organizations would receive funding, further inquiring if the contracts were only available to local entities or statewide. Mr. Navarrette answered, the funding would be for local use.

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Dr. Norton stated that the HTW program would not pay for pap smears, which are needed for all women. Mr. Price asked, what programmatic changes will occur with the HTW program and the impact it would have on our caseload. Mr. Navarrette answered, we would be able to see surrounding counties, as well as Taylor County clients. We will not be able to treat COPD, thyroid conditions, or other diagnosis outside of diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol. Mrs. Durilla, Nursing Program Manager, stated that there are two local clinics that provide services to patients with primary healthcare issues, the Abilene Community Health Center and Merkel Community Health Center.

Item V – Community Resilience through Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Vincent Cantu, Health Planning Coordinator

Mr. Cantu spoke about Community Resilience. He participates in a VOAD meeting on the first Tuesday of every even numbered month. He stated that they are running exercises, and partnering with NACCHO and DSHS in preparation for health related disasters. Mr. Price asked, are these in person exercises or on paper? Mr. Cantu answered, we have completed both paper and tabletop exercises, in addition to collaborating with Dyess Air Force Base and the Abilene Airport.

Item VI – Appointment of Infection Control Officer and Alternate, Lesli Andrews, Director of Community Services

Mrs. Andrews stated that Dr. Norton is appointed as the Infection Control Officer for our area, and that Tony Ruiz, Physician Assistant, is his alternate. This appointment will go before City Council for approval. Mrs. Andrews stated that Dr. Norton will be our "go-to" person if there were to be an infectious outbreak.

Item VII – Update on Health Administrator Position, Lesli Andrews, Director of Community Services

Item was removed at the beginning of the meeting.

Item VIII – Adjourn - Dr. Hawley adjourned the meeting at 1:34 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting will be August 16, 2016.

x Robert M. Hawley 05/17
Signature of Board Chairperson/Date

H. Roberts
Signature of Recording Secretary/Date