

Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District  
Health Advisory Board Minutes  
August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District (ATCPHD) Health Advisory Board met on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in the ATCPHD conference room.

Present were the following: Dr. Robert Hawley, DDS; Dr. Peter Norton, MD; Councilman Shane Price; County Commissioner Randy Williams; Tom Perini; Santos Navarrette; Lesli Andrews; Chris Gibson; and Chace Craig

**Item 1: Call to Order** – Dr. Hawley called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m.

**Item 2: Review and Approval of Minutes from May 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Dr. Hawley asked the board to review the minutes. Dr. Hawley asked if any members objected to minute approval; No one objected; Minutes were approved.

**Item 3.1: Health Authority Updates, Dr. Peter Norton, Medical Director/Health Authority**

- Dr. Norton spoke about starting a volunteer program at MERCY Healthcare Center. MERCY will use a website based calendar to schedule volunteer sign up opportunities through 211's website.
- Dr. Norton spoke about how Abilene/ Taylor County's lack of financial support with Indigent Care. Randy Williams stated that Taylor County does in fact budget 1.2 million dollars for Indigent Health. Dr. Norton wants to find a solution for MERCY to receive some of those indigent funds.
- Dr. Norton spoke about the need of recognizing family planning services in Abilene. The United States has a Mexico City policy that was named in the 80s that states no funding should go to any clinic that refers or does abortions. Dr. Norton believes the board should support the AISD's new Abstinence Plus Program, as well as support efforts to make family planning services readily available through phonebooks and internet searches. Dr. Norton would also like the board to support pushing for contraceptive use to decrease abortion numbers.

**Item 3.2: Staffing Changes: Introduction of New Staff, Santos Navarrette, Health Director**

- Santos introduced Barbara Jeffers, new Nursing Program Manager. Barbara came from Prescott, AR and has been with us for 2 weeks. Barbara has been a nurse for 25 years.
- Santos mentioned new Health Inspectors Tanner Bryan and Alisha Petty as well as Jordan Wilson, new Lab Tech who were not in attendance.
- Santos informed the board that Hailey Shirley was promoted to Health Administrative Specialist. Hailey explained that she deals with the daily billing of Health Department Programs.

**Item 3.3: Active Living Plan, Veronica Escalona, Health Management Coordinator**

- Veronica spoke about the Active Living Plan. This is a state funded project completed in July that is uploaded to the City's website for community view. The Active Living Plan is promoting with a digital billboard campaign using billboards on Catclaw Drive and S 14<sup>th</sup> Street. There are also printed walking trail guides available to the public that show various trails around the City that citizens could take advantage of.

**Item 3.4: ATCPHD FY 2018 Budget, Santos Navarrette, Health Director**

- Santos spoke about General Health Services being at \$1.8 million including Environmental Health, Dental, and Lab departments. Refugee requested a \$412,000 budget. TB Program budget is \$32,000, Immunizations Program is \$167,000, Preparedness program is \$120,000 Healthy Texas Woman Program is \$150,000 plus \$27,000 from the Community Block Grant. Family Planning Program is \$135,000 along with other smaller budgets anticipate a total budget of \$5.2 million.

Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District  
Health Advisory Board Minutes  
August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Item 3.5: United Way Funding Request, Cari Waller, R.N.**

- Cari spoke about requesting funds from United Way again this year for HTW Program. Cari explained that these supplemental dollars will help the 19% of Big Country women whom are below federal poverty level. MERCY uses these funds to have staff and space to meet the needs of these women. The only places who accept HTW Insurance are the two FQHC clinics and MERCY Healthcare Center. FQHC's are not able to provide services other than birth control prescriptions. Through the FQHC Clinics HTW clients are limited to 3 visits per year. This hinders some care of women who could require additional visits that would not be covered. MERCY currently serves 644 HTW Clients for this year.

**Item 3.6: Mosquito Abatement Updates, Vincent Cantu, Health Management Coordinator**

- Vincent spoke about 21 cases of Zika virus currently in Texas as well as cases of West Nile near Brown County. Locally we have increased our trapping frequencies as well as the number of mosquitos trapped. A species variation book was purchased to help better identify certain types of mosquitos. Outreach has been done in communities that have higher mosquito counts. The mosquito fish program is still in the works and could be implemented as soon as next mosquito season.

**Item 3.7: Environmental Health Updates, Terri Auger, Environmental Health Manager**

- Terri spoke about the new food code that the City adopted about a year and a half ago. Now everything that is found in a restaurant affected a score where before some things were noted but not score affecting.
- Terri spoke about Fats, Oils, and Grease City Ordinance. She also mentioned expanding Snow Cone stands time limit on having stands in a certain spot, as well as being able to use fresh fruits and cream. Mr. Williams asked how food truck operations are going. Terri mentioned we currently have 53 food trucks. Food trucks have to have permits, and go through multiple certifications.

**Item 4: Adjourn** - Dr. Hawley adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting will be November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

X Kelsey Hawley  
Signature of Board Chairperson/Date

Mazel D... (For Hailey Shirley)  
Signature of Recording Secretary/Date 12/12/17