

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
August 21st, 2018 1:02 pm

Members Present:

Dr. Robert Hawley, DDS
Mr. Jack Rentz, City Councilman
Mr. James McCoy
Mr. Randy Williams, Commissioner
Dr. Lynn Robinson
Mr. Tom Perini

Staff Present:

Ms. Veronica Escalona
Ms. Barby Jeffers
Ms. Hailey Shirley
Ms. Terri Auger
Ms. Annette Lerma
Ms. Cari Waller
Mr. Chace Craig
Ms. Mindy Patterson
Dr. Peter Norton, MD

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Hawley called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and Ms. Howard recorded the minutes. A quorum of members was present, and the meeting proceeded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Hawley asked the board to review the minutes from the last meeting on May 15th, 2018. Dr. Hawley asked if any members objected to minute approval; No objections. Minutes approved.

The Board approved the minutes.

AGENDA ITEMS & PUBLIC HEARINGS

3.1 Introduction of Interim Health Services Director (Mindy Patterson, Deputy City Manager)

- Ms. Patterson discussed the promotion of Annette Lerma to Interim Health Services Director. Ms. Lerma has been with Abilene Taylor-County Public Health District for 17 years in various departments. There being no further discussion and no vote needed.

3.2 Introduction of newest Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Advisory Board member, City Councilman, Jack Rentz (Annette Lerma, Interim Health Services Director)

- Ms. Lerma welcomed the new board member Mr. Jack Rentz. There being no further discussion and no vote needed.

3.3 Laboratory organizational structure and changes in services provided (Annette Lerma, Interim Health Services Director)

- Ms. Lerma informed the board about the current lab status. The Health Department ran a cost benefit analysis and came to the conclusion that it is cost effective to outsource rather than run tests in house. The lab is sending some tests to CPL to be performed. Ms. Lerma is looking to fill one (1) lab position, level one (1) entry.

3.4 Quarter 2 services provided summary for WIC, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Vital Statistics, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Immunizations, Tuberculosis, Refugee, Breast and Cervical Cancer Services, STD, Family Planning, Healthy Texas Women, Primary Health Care, and Texas Health Steps (Dr. Peter Norton, Medical Health Authority)

- Dr. Norton informed the board about the services offered at Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District. WIC saw 3,500 clients in 3 months and provided over 10,000 services. Environmental Health did 630 inspections for Abilene. Emergency Preparedness completed 18 events for the City of Abilene. Epidemiology investigated 653 diseases or outbreaks. Vital Statistics completed 653 new birth certificates and 408 new death certificates. Immunizations Clinic provided over 1,000 vaccines to the community. Tuberculosis has seen 95 clients and there are only 2 active cases. Pharmacy has given out 638 prescriptions. STD has 5 Syphilis patients, 12 Gonorrhea, and 32 Chlamydia. Family Planning and Healthy Texas Women are Medicaid programs that we've offered to over 100 women.

3.5 Recommendations for the following City of Abilene full-time positions: two (2) Community Health Workers, one (1) Registered Nurse, and one Health Educator for the Community and Clinical Health Bridge Project and Physical Activity and Nutrition grant (Annette Lerma, Interim Health Services Director)

- Ms. Lerma discussed two (2) new grants from the Department of State Health Services, which will fund the additional staff members she plans to request. Each grant is offering up to 125,000 per year and this will cover two (2) Community Health Workers, an RN, and one (1) Health Educator. All positions will be requested as permanent full time staff instead of contractual. A motion to support the request was made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Dr. Robinson. All voted in favor and board support for the request for four (4) new employees was approved and motion carried.

3.6 Prenatal services provided at M.E.R.C.Y. Health Care Center (Cari Waller, RN, M.E.R.C.Y. Clinical Coordinator)

- Ms. Waller informed the board that there are not a lot of places that offer prenatal care for those without insurance. M.E.R.C.Y. Health Care Center has seen 36 unduplicated pregnant clients as part of this initiative. They provide the women with vitamins, ultrasounds, sonograms, and inform the mother on what to expect. Statistics show there have been 399,000 live births, which 298,000 were unplanned in Texas alone. 42.6 % of those clients are on a Medicaid program, however,

doctors' offices will not accept them until they are approved for single women's Medicaid.

3.7 Upcoming Board of Health meeting dates

- Ms. Lerma asked if there were any concerns with the upcoming meeting dates and times listed on the agenda. No board member expressed any known conflicts. Meeting dates and times listed will stand. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Hawley adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting will be November 20th at 1:00 PM


Signature of Board Chairperson/Date

