

**HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 21, 2019 1:00 pm**

**Members Present:**

Dr. Robert Hawley, DDS  
Mr. James McCoy  
Mr. Randy Williams, Commissioner  
Dr. Lynn Robinson, MD  
Mr. Tom Perini  
Dr. Hector Garcia, MD

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Veronica Escalona  
Mr. Nate Lester  
Ms. Hailey Shirley  
Ms. Cari Waller  
Ms. Annette Lerma  
Ms. Christine Lucio  
Mr. Stanley Smith, City Attorney  
Mr. Trent Dietz, Assistant City Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Hawley called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and Ms. Shirley 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 February 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 Update:** Introduction of new Health Advisory Board member Dr. Hector Garcia (Dr. Robert Hawley, Board Chair)

- Dr. Hawley introduced Dr. Hector Garcia. Dr. Garcia came to Abilene in 2014 from New Mexico. He's originally from Puerto Rico and was a pediatrician in the military. Dr. Garcia stated he was happy to be a part of the Health Advisory Board.

**3.2 Update:** Introduction of the new Public Health Emergency Coordinator, Nate Lester (Christine Lucio, Assistant Health Services Director)

- Ms. Lucio introduced Nate Lester. Mr. Lester comes from the Red Cross and is prior military. He spoke about his experience with first responder work and about helping out last Saturday when Abilene experienced an EF2 tornado within city limits. Nate stated that his main mission at the Health Department is to address, plan and operate in a way that sustains the community in reference to health emergency preparedness.

**3.3 Update and Possible Discussion:** Legislative updates on bills SB 21 relating to the legal age to purchase tobacco to 21 and SB 2021 relating to establishing health departments as a provider type and compels Medicaid Managed Care Organizations to contract with them and to seek reimbursements for services they currently provide (Annette Lerma, Health Services Director)

- Ms. Lerma provided follow-up on SB 21 and SB 2021. Ms. Lerma mentioned that state legislatures have brought SB 21 to the state level and that it is going forward to the House for a vote. Ms. Lerma noted that SB 2021 specifically asks for Health Departments to be recognized as a provider type in order to qualify for Medicaid reimbursement.

**3.4 Update:** FY19 & FY20 Health Services budget overview (Annette Lerma, Health Services Director)

- Ms. Lerma touched on budgets, specifically \$150,000 to do a Texas Physical Activity and Nutrition Program to reduce the impact of obesity. The program will allow child development centers to have specific training for staff to increase activity and improve nutrition. Ms. Lerma stated the health department hopes to hire one additional staff member to oversee this program. Ms. Lerma stated that the Health Department is also looking to contract with Dr. Cathy Phillips who ran Hendrick Prenatal Clinic as the new Refugee PA. She mentioned that Dr. Phillips may also begin shadowing Dr. Norton.

**3.5 Update and Possible Discussion:** Dental program updates on staffing, United Way funding, and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application (Annette Lerma, Health Services Director)

- Ms. Lerma touched on our dental program currently being on hold due to not having a Dental Assistant. Dental staff are in the process of interviewing and have offered the job to 3 different candidates but none have worked out. CDBG grant money is spent for dental, but United Way offered \$11,000 to help fill the gap in funding. The dental clinic will use this to complete dentures on patients that were told they needed them. Next fiscal year's CDBG grant application was turned in yesterday in hopes to obtain additional funding next year.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Hawley adjourned the meeting at 1:29 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting will be August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 1:00 PM

  
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Signature of Board Chairperson/Date