

HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 24, 2020 1:00 pm

Members Present:

Dr. Robert Hawley, DDS
Mr. Travis Craver
Mr. James McCoy
Commissioner Randy Williams

Staff Present:

Ms. Veronica Escalona
Ms. Annette Lerma
Ms. Christine Lucio
Ms. Julia Agawu
Ms. Hailey Shirley
Dr. Annie Drachenberg
Dr. Edward Rosenquist
Mr. Stanley Smith, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Hawley called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and Ms. Veronica 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 August 20, 2019. Dr. Hawley asked if any members objected to minute approval; No objections. Minutes approved.

The Board approved the minutes.

AGENDA ITEMS & PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. Update: Introduction of new Health Authority/Medical Director (Dr. Robert Hawley, Board Chair)

- Dr. Hawley introduced Health Authority/Medical Director Dr. Annie Drachenberg. Dr. Drachenberg gave her educational background Abilene Christian University (ACU) for her undergraduate degree, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston for Doctor of Medicine, and post-doctoral training with Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program in Sugar Land, Tx; returned to Abilene when her husband accepted a Professor of Physics position with ACU. She's worked in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Valparaiso, Indiana and later at Christus Physician Group in Lumberton, Tx as the Medical Director prior to moving to Abilene. Currently has a private practice located in the Abilene Family Practice building

3. Update: Introduction of new dentist, Dr. Edward Arthur "Art" Rosenquist (Dr. Robert Hawley, Board Chair)

- Dr. Hawley introduced new dentist, Dr. Edward Arthur "Art" Rosenquist Graduated from Baylor University in 1985, served 2 years in the Air Force in Wichita Falls, and has been in private practice prior. Has been in Abilene for 5 ½ years and looks forward to serving the people of Abilene. Ms. Lerma stated that he took the time to mentor the previous dentist as their time overlapped.

4. Update and Possible Action: New Community & clinical Health Bridge Project state grant description and additional staff proposal (Christine Lucio, Assistant Health Services Director)

- Ms. Lucio presented the Clinical and Community Health Bridge Project a 3 year grant with \$125,000/year with potential for a 4th year. The goal of the program is to reduce the impact of obesity related chronic diseases by focusing on improving clinical & community systems. Strategy one will be to develop a referral system including non-traditional referrals such as referring patients to a gym, the farmers' market , a yoga class, or to mental health. Strategy two is implementing evidence-based education and training for providers, patients, and the community to fill in the gap. Strategy three is to coordinate data collection, analysis, and management to evaluate activities and determine impact on health outcomes at the population level. The health department has already purchased a data collection software program called MySidewalk . There is no match required on the grant. The program funding comes from the Centers for Disease Control at the federal level and comes down to the state level. The state identified key areas that need to be addressed such as high obesity and chronic disease rates. Taylor County was identified as one of the communities with this need. The funding will be used to hire a data analyst. Ms. Lerma requested the board's support for the new position when we take this new position request for City Council approval. Board members recommends to approve the of hiring of the data analyst.

5. Update, Discussion & Possible Action: Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District response and community readiness on Corona Virus Disease 2019 or COVID-19(Annette Lerma, Health Services Director and COVID-19 Team)

- Ms. Lerma stated that staff providing non-essential services to retrain, regroup, and educate ourselves to work on COVID-19. Dental services have been paused and only patients that are in pain will be seen. Routine immunizations have been paused and used the nurses to answer the significant amount of phone calls we receive daily. Calls are coming in from private citizens, organizations, and businesses. We are using CDC resources that are specific to each sector of the community to convey the same message. The state advised they were not giving out COVID-19 testing numbers because they fluctuate so much and at the same time trying to get a system in place to track information that will be used to report. The health department did not have systems and structures in place to pass on that information in the beginning. We are working on getting information out on social media and website with the help of Ms. Lucio and Ms. Shirley to post daily. This includes Frequently Asked Questions. The next phase will be epidemiological surveillance and social tracing once a positive case is identified. Two epidemiologist are on staff to handle this phase along with a local physician with epidemiology training. Ms. Agawu spoke about testing and testing capacity. There are 129 persons under investigation or PUIs reported to us, 44 have been negative, and 85 pending results. Commercial lab testing by providers using their own clinical judgement to order the test. Only five test kits per commercial providers. No approval from public health is required. Public health (health department) is required to be notified if there is a positive test but not required to report the number of tests. Public health testing has strict criteria on who should be tested such as fever or symptoms and who has had contact with a confirmed case; fever or symptoms of a lower respiratory illness and either have risk factors for poor health outcomes or have traveled to a high risk area or they have a lower respiratory illness that has required hospitalization with no know etiology. Turnaround time is one to two days for public health. Public health is doing less than ten tests at the moment a change from one or two a day at the beginning that had a limit of twenty that was spread out through fifteen counties in that region. Now it is up to 40 tests overall for the region at Tarrant County lab (Regional lab). Public health has between 25-30 test kits on hand with a shelf life of six months to a year. Influenza Like Illness or ILI testing kits have been repurposed for COVID-19 testing. Presumptive positives from a commercial lab are required to be sent to a state lab for confirmation but public health acts on the presumptive positives like it's a positive. Public health relies on the state or regional lab confirmation without CDC testing to confirm. Total time to get a result is three to four days up to a week from the specimen collection. Ms. Lerma is not aware of who is conducting the testing for private labs. Positive cases are immediately reported to public health by Tarrant County lab. Influenza is not a reportable condition but Texas does have an opt in flu surveillance sentinel program. Providers must opt in, it's not required. Discussion was opened up. Dr. Hawley spoke about the dental community's mandate to see patients who are in pain or have had trauma to the mouth.

Screening is being done to dental patients with questions concerning their travel. Dr. Hawley's personal protective equipment and glove inventory is low. Mr. McCoy asked about requests concerning calls about hydroxychloroquine, chloroquine, and azithromycin. No calls concerning these medications have been received. Commissioner Williams said county offices are closed to public but services are being conducted via phone or with an appointment. Public health doors will remain open to the public for limited services. The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is providing services as "drive-thru" having clients remain in their vehicles. Dr. Hawley question the liability of his dental staff if they became ill or had to close his office. His insurance doesn't have a provision of closure of business due to a virus. Mr. McCoy is compounding hand sanitizers. He asked if any public health calls spill over to 2-1-1. Public health is funneling some questions to them. 2-1-1 can answer a lot of more calls concerning local resources and are using CDC guidelines.

6. Consideration & Possible Action: 2020 Health Advisory Board meeting dates and times May 19, 2020, August 18, 2020, and November 17, 2020. All meetings are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. (Annette Lerma, Health Services Director)

- Ms. Lerma provided the scheduled meeting dates. Members agreed to scheduled dates.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Hawley adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting will be May 19th, 2020 at 1:00 PM


Signature of Board Chairperson/Date