

HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 16, 2021 1:00 pm

Members Present:

Mr. James McCoy
Mr. Jaime Correa
Mr. Randy Williams
Dr. Robert Hawley

Staff Present:

Ms. Annette Lerma
Ms. Hailey Shirley
Dr. Gary Goodnight
Mr. Stanley Smith, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. James McCoy called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and Ms. Hailey Shirley recorded the minutes. A quorum of members was present, and the meeting proceeded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McCoy asked the board to review the minutes from the last meeting on August 18, 2020. Mr. McCoy asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dr. Hawley made the motion and Mr. Williams seconded. Motion passed unanimously and minutes were approved.

The Board approved the minutes.

AGENDA ITEMS & PUBLIC HEARINGS

1.1 Introduction of new Health Authority, Dr. Gary Goodnight. - Annette Lerma

- Ms. Lerma introduced Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District's new Health Authority, Dr. Gary Goodnight. Dr. Goodnight stated that he is very excited about accepting the position and contributing to the community. He has been in practice for 26 years in Abilene and is honored to serve.

1.2 COVID-19 update, local and state data trends in cases, and vaccine administration. - Annette Lerma

- Ms. Lerma gave a powerpoint presentation regarding Covid data. She explained the deaths by race, zip code, and age group. The overall total percentage of death cases is 2.29%. There were 204 deaths in 2020 and 328 in 2021 in Taylor County. Ms. Lerma stated there are fewer cases but more deaths in 2021. Comparing peaks in 2020 vs. 2021 shows the highest was in July. Most age groups went down but there was an increase in the 0-19 age group. Ms. Lerma stated that this is due to kiddos being in school which drove the transmission of Covid for that age group. Taylor County as a whole has vaccinated more than 143 thousand individuals. Ms. Lerma stated some of these individuals live in other counties. Currently, 58.2 percent of the population in Texas has been vaccinated.

1.3 Vaccine safety and efficacy for children. - Dr. Gary Goodnight

- Dr. Goodnight spoke on some of the side effects he has seen in children that contract COVID. One side effect Dr. Goodnight mentioned is Multiple Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS). MIS can affect the organs, brain, heart, and cause headaches. Dr. Goodnight recommended multiple reading sources to the board that he found educational in regards to the pandemic as well as the vaccines. The recommended books included Apollos Arrow by Nicholos Christakus, and Priminition by Michael Lewis.

1.4 Health Equity Grant Workplan. - Christine Lucio

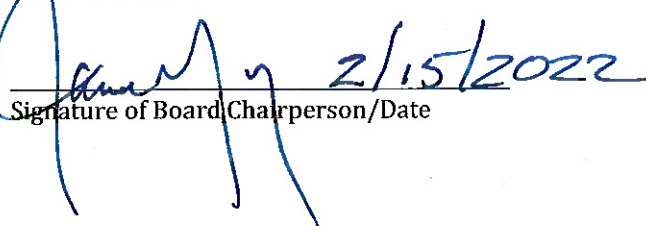
- Ms. Lucio presented a presentation on the Health Disparities Grant Funding the Health Department received. This grant gives the Health Department access to perform higher levels of outreach within communities with greater health disparities. The Health Department chose to target both people of color, as well as those within the LGBTQA+ communities. Ms. Lucio stated these communities have less access to healthcare and other resources. The LGBTQ also endures more job loss, social isolation, and mental health issues. The Health Department is hiring community health workers who will help with preparedness, communication, and overall connection efforts for these populations.
- Mr. McCoy stated that he is disheartened when looking at Abilene's high percentages of things like teen pregnancy and obesity, as well as the lack of individuals vaccinated against COVID. Ms. Lerma agreed and stated that it has to be a community effort of education and prevention. Mr. Williams asked for comparisons of statistics from surrounding counties to be looked into.

1.5 Health Building Update. - Annette Lerma

- Ms. Lerma provided a current update on the progress of the Health Department renovations. Renovations are almost complete. Ms. Lerma stated Health Department staff are working on ordering furniture in preparation for moving back into the building. The current projected dates for being relocated back into the Health building are November 22nd or December 3rd.
- Ms. Lerma also took this time to mention that the Health District is partnering with TTHSC to do a Community Health Assessment. Ms. Lerma stated that the goal is to improve the health of our community and find out where the gaps are. The Health District is hoping to attain about 2000 participants.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCoy adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting will be February 15, 2022, at 1:00 PM


Signature of Board Chairperson/Date