STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL

CITY OF AMARILLO

On the 5th day of April, 2011 the Amarillo Bi-City-County Public Health district Board met for a quarterly board meeting in the city of Amarillo, Department of Public Health conference room located at 1000 Martin Rd., Amarillo, Texas, with the following members present:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Kenneth Crossland, DDS Chair, City of Canyon	Y	185	161
J. Taylor Carlisle, MD Potter County	N	81	27
Delores Thompson Potter County	Y	09	06
Judy Smith Randall County	Y	59	47
Lanita Tidmore Randall County	N	22	19
Belinda Gonzales Taylor City of Amarillo	Y	25	16
Kevin Hawkins Vice Chair City of Amarillo	Y	37	33

Administrative Officers Present:

Matt Richardson	Director, Public Health, City of Amarillo
David Chamberlain	Nutritionist III, WIC, City of Amarillo
David Moody	Registered Sanitarian, Environmental Health, City of Amarillo
Shannon Barlow	Asst. Director, Animal Control, City of Amarillo

Others Present:

Allen Finegold	Guest
Janet Plaster	Guest
Rhonda Ramirez	Recording Secretary, Public Health, City of Amarillo

Item 1: Chairman Dr. Crossland opened the meeting at 7:05pm, established a quorum, and conducted the consideration of the following items in the order presented.

Item 2: Dr. Crossland-Introduction of Members and Guests

Item 3: Approval of the November 9, 2010 minutes

Dr. Crossland presented the November 9, 2010 minutes. Being no additions or corrections the minutes were approved as written.

Item 4: 2011 County Health Rankings

Matt Richardson presented a written summary of the 2011 County Health Rankings assessment performed by the University of Wisconsin with funding by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The health assessment is conducted in each state and then compared by counties. Mr. Richardson stated the University of Wisconsin compiled a host of information using different assessments such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) which is a national telephone survey as well as EPA reports, state reports on birth rates and Local Health Department (LHD) reports on sexually transmitted diseases (STD). Mr. Richardson also stated that all information collected is public data and that 233 counties in Texas were assessed. Mr. Richardson continued with the summary by comparing Potter and Randall County's 2010 and 2011 morbidity and mortality rates (Morbidity meaning sickness and Mortality meaning death). He stated Potter dropped in the rankings from 203 in 2010 to 206 in 2011 and Randall County dropped from 20 in 2010 to 28 in 2011 both of which are not improvements but are not considered dramatic falls. Mr. Richardson explained that the ranking was based on four domains of health factors: Health Behaviors, Clinical Care, Social and Economic Factors and Physical Environment.

Questions from the Board:

Belinda Taylor asked if the crime rate was included in the Social and Economic section of the assessment. Mr. Richardson answered yes.

Dr. Crossland asked if the assessment was based on residence of each county. Mr. Richardson answered yes. The data is always pulled from the county of residence, not the county of service.

Item 3: Administrative Reports

Animal Control

Shannon Barlow reported rabies is on the forefront of Animal Control. Ms. Barlow stated there have been several cases of rabies which is an indicator of what type of season they are going to have as far as rabies exposure. She said there have been no reports of exposure in Randall county as of yet. She said there have been 16 reported cases with 3 of those in Potter County. All but one of the cases have been skunks, the other was in a cow. Animal Control is encouraging people to vaccinate all their animals including livestock and show animals. Ms. Barlow compared the low cost of a rabies vaccine at $10 to the high cost of post-exposure vaccine which is estimated at $1500-$1800. Ms. Barlow also reported that Animal Control is fighting many dog attacks.

Questions from the Board:

The Judi Smith asked if all animals from the Willow Creek Kennel have been accounted for after the fire. Ms. Barlow stated that all animals believed to have survived have been accounted for.

Environmental Health

David Moody reported the Environmental Health inspection numbers are steady with a slight drop in December due to Christmas vacations. There was another drop in February inspections due to the snow storms. He also stated they are still short in personnel in their department.

Health Authority

Dr. Smalligan was unable to attend this meeting. His presentation on radiation will be postponed until the next Board of Health Meeting.

Public Health

Matt Richardson stated that there is a national effort for accreditation for local health departments (LHD) and . Texas is on the forefront of that effort. Our LHD has invited to comment on standards for accreditation and the measures that would be used on a voluntary basis and we have participated.

Mr. Richardson announced that he has proposed a new position of a Health Planner and Community Health Program Manager for the Public Health Department. The position would cover some of the things which have been discussed in the County Health Rankings and work with the community on solutions for some of the health indicators that we see. The position has been approved in the budget however the job description and hiring are still in the works.

Mr. Richardson also announced that he testified to the senate on a bill to create an oversight committee for the State Health Department to assure that federal funds are being spent in local communities. (Senate Bill 969) Mr. Richardson stated he has been added as a steering committee member for the Texas Disaster Medical System, a committee convened by the governor. He is the steering committee member who represents the LHD.

Refugee Services/TB: Mr. Richardson announced they have hired a full-time nurse for the increasing TB work load which comes from refugees. The refugee program is seeing a lot of latent TB, not current infections, but those who have been exposed to TB. The medical management of those cases requires a great deal of time.

Immunizations: The immunization program continues to see more and more kids and it is anticipated the LHD will have a record number of kids this summer in preparation for school. It seems the state typically adds one or more booster requirements every year so we will continue to see large amounts of school kids needing vaccinations.

HIV/STD: STD continues to have a busy clinic. We have a new "extradited partner therapy" we have integrated where the Texas Medical Board allows a physician to give medicine to the patient and in turn the patient can give the medicine to their partner without the doctor having to see the partner.

Communicable Diseases: The flu season seemed to hit early this year, hitting hard during the second week of February and also early in January. It has seemed to taper off now.

Public Health Preparedness: The Public Health Department has implemented an electronic medical record (EMR) system and now wireless network capability. The EMR system includes wireless computer tablets which can be taken into the exam rooms which allow us to collate lab results and x-rays. Public Health preparedness is working to increase our medical reserve core volunteers, so there is a big push and a project for that. We are also going to participate in a state wide syndromic surveillance system. That is where symptom data is collected from hospitals instead of waiting for a nurse or doctor to give a diagnosis, which will enable us to be on the cutting edge of an outbreak of a GI or respiratory disease.

WIC: David Chamberlain stated participation has been dropping from 8229 in December to 8174 in January. February was the lowest month at 7984. This is a nationwide trend and there is no obvious reason for the decline. March did increase to 8015.

Item 6: Public Comments

Dr. Crossland opened the floor for public comments. Allen Finegold, guest, asked the board if it had ever discussed with the Amarillo Hospital District (AHD), funding a general mortality study to determine which parts of the city have the highest rates of mortality. Dr. Crossland responded no. Mr. Finegold stated he had asked the AHD to conduct this study about six years ago. Mr. Finegold discussed mortality rates within different cities and counties. Mr. Finegold stated that statistics show many reasons for death and emphasized one in particular in Potter and Randall counties, Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease. Dr. Crossland asked Mr. Finegold to define Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease. Mr. Finegold expressed he is not a medical expert but it has to do with the lower part of the lungs. Mr. Finegold read the Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease death rates for 2008. The rate in Texas as a state was 45.8, Potter County was 100.2, and Randall County was 73.9. Mr. Fine gold believes this disease needs to be

studied systematically and asks that the BOH pushes on the issue. Dr. Crossland explained that the board cannot discuss the issues unless it is announced on the agenda 72 hours prior to an open meeting. Mr. Finegold asked the board to consider asking for funding for a study on this matter. He offered to leave some information with Matt Richardson regarding the disease. Dr. Crossland asked the board if they would be interested in having the information passed on to them, the board had no opposition. Dr. Crossland asked Mr. Finegold to state again what he is asking of the board should it consider to put this item on the next agenda. Mr. Finegold asks the board to make a recommendation to the City Commission and Amarillo Hospital District to fund a study on the mortality rates for Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease throughout the city of Amarillo, but specifically in Potter County's low income areas. Belinda Taylor asked Mr. Finegold if the information indicates that incidence of the disease is higher among the lower income. Mr. Finegold responded no, however he explains from his own experience in industrial environments that some of the deaths could be related to such. Dr. Crossland asked the board if they wish to place the item on the agenda for the next meeting. There were no objections. Matt Richardson will work with Mr. Finegold regarding information needed and placing it on the next agenda.

Item 7: Dr. Crossland asked the board if there were any other items for the next agenda. There were none.

Dr. Crossland scheduled the next meeting for July 12, 2011 at 7:0 p.m. at the Public Health Department, 1000 Martin Road. Being no further business to come before the board, Dr. Crossland adjourned the meeting 8:03 p.m.

Dr. Kenneth Crossland, Chair

Rhonda Ramirez, Recording Secretary