

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL

CITY OF AMARILLO

On the 8th day of November, 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	187	163
J. Taylor Carlisle, MD Potter County	N	83	27
Delores Thompson Potter County	Y	11	08
Judy Smith Randall County	Y	61	49
Lanita Tidmore Randall County	Y	22	21
Belinda Gonzales Taylor City of Amarillo	Y	25	18
Kevin Hawkins Vice Chair City of Amarillo	N	37	34

Administrative Officers Present:

Dr. Matt Richardson	Director, Public Health, City of Amarillo
Dr. Roger Smalligan	Health Authority, Public Health, City of Amarillo
David Chamberlain	Nutritionist III, WIC, City of Amarillo
Deree Duke	Director, Environmental Health, City of Amarillo
Shannon Barlow	Asst. Director, Animal Control, City of Amarillo

Others Present:

Rhonda Ramirez	Recording Secretary, Public Health, City of Amarillo
----------------	--

Guests Present:

Brent Lomax
Michael Urias

Item 1: Chairman Dr. Crossland opened the meeting at 7:00pm, established a quorum, and conducted the consideration of the following items in the order presented.

Item 2: Dr. Crossland-Introduction of Members and Guests. Present were Brent Lomas and Michael Urias.

Item 3: Approval of the August 2nd, 2011 minutes

Dr. Crossland made a motion to approve the August 2nd, 2011 minutes. There were no objections and the minutes were approved as written.

Item 4: Flu Season Preparation – Dr. Roger Smalligan

Dr. Smalligan reports an effort is being made to get the word out to encourage everyone to get the flu vaccine. It is indicated for everyone from 6 months up. It is the same vaccine as last year. Dr. Smalligan discussed concern of patients who received the flu vaccine and feel they still got the flu. He tells his patients they may have gotten a little antibody production and then it may have subsided a bit. He suggests to the patients that if they receive the same shot this year and the immune system is primed so that just another little touch of the vaccine will give a bigger response to the immune system then they will receive a higher level of protection. Dr. Smalligan stated they did a blast fax and some other educational outreach including being on television letting people know to be vaccinated. Dr. Smalligan shared a report from the hospitals which gives the number of people who have shown up at the ER with influenza like illnesses (ILI). Patients who show signs such as fever and cough and get tested for the flu will fall into the ILI category and are considered suspects. Dr. Smalligan states they have been tracking since October and so far each week there have been around 60 people between the two hospitals with those symptoms and consistently there have been around 5 or 6 people test positive. It started out more Influenza B. There has been no big flu hit yet but it is under close surveillance. Dr. Smalligan stressed the importance for healthcare professionals to be vaccinated. Dr. Smalligan stated an article was run a couple of weeks ago saying that the flu shot was only 50%-60% effective. He stated the article was a poor representation of what was happening in the real world and that they believe the protection is more around 70%-80%.

Item 5: Administrative Reports

Animal Control

Shannon Barlow reports 62 cases of rabies to date. She stated they hit a little surge with those cases being in Donley and Carson counties.

Ms. Barlow brought to the attention of the board that Animal Control had an Animal Welfare Advocacy Group approach them about a few changes in the department to help reduce euthanasia rates and increase the placement of animals. The things that concern Animal Control are public health concerns and cost of implementing the programs. Ms. Barlow stated they may need to come back and request support from the board depending on which direction the group decides to go and what Animal Control feels they can accomplish. A couple of things the group wants to focus on are fostering programs and the trap-neuter-release program. This is where they build and work feral cat colonies. They trap, neuter and vaccinate them once, then place them back in the colony. The management of the colony would be on the advocacy group or whatever colony manager was designated. Animal Controls concern with the feral cats is rabies and who will follow-up in three years when the rabies vaccination will be due for the feral cat. Ms. Barlow shared with the board some other health concerns which involved some other disease agents. Ms. Barlow stated again the possible need for Animal Control to come back to the board for support with Public Health Concerns and how to achieve some of the goals of the group. Ms. Barlow stated that feral cats cannot be domesticated and they are found all over Amarillo. She stated they are fairly easy to trap but the concern how they will be re-trapped when it is time to vaccinate them again. Ms. Barlow stated there is an Animal Control Board Meeting set for next Tuesday and they will address how they will achieve some of these goals.

Dr. Crossland asked what risk do feral cats impose to humans. Ms. Barlow answered that they really don't know because they have not dealt with this particular type of animal environment but feels that the risks are fairly high. Dr. Matt Richardson stated a reminder that rabies is effectively 100% fatal and is a disease in which Public Health takes great precaution. He states there is a very heavy response by Public Health staff when report of a person being bitten by a wild animal in an unprovoked fashion is made. Animal Control takes the report and searches for the animal. If they are unable to find the animal then the report is given to the Health Department. If it follows a standard protocol then we communicate to Dr. Smalligan. If it does not fall within a certain protocol and does not need treatment then Dr. Smalligan is not notified. Dr. Richardson states he can already see complications with the trap-neuter-release idea for Animal Control. He states it would be difficult for them to determine between one of the colonized animals and a non-colonized animal and also the burden of the vaccine being a series of 5 shots and

running at a cost of about \$2500.00. He feels the financial and treatment toll of an increase of these animals bites will have to be examined. Dr. Smalligan stated a concern for people whose immune system is compromised. He also stated a concern regarding cat feces which can be stepped in and not realized and get spread around and can promote disease being spread fecal-oral route. Ms. Barlow also mentioned that the colonies would have community feeding and watering stations which could be open grounds for disease being spread as well as it could boost the rodent population. Ms. Barlow asks the board to educate themselves on the neuter-trap-release program.

Environmental Health

Deree Duke stated that the economy may be having an effect on businesses because they are taking shortcuts and make equipment last a little longer and Environmental Health is coming in when they are breaking down and as a result they are maintaining a steady closure rate. She also states that in 25 years they did not receive one mosquito complaint. Ms. Duke also stated that Environmental Health is working on a new general permit that was passed by a federal court ruling under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Pesticides have always been regulated under many other federal and state laws, so now they will be doing more documentation and fill out the general permit.

Health Authority

Dr. Smalligan had no further business to discuss.

Public Health

Administration:

Dr. Matt Richardson touched on the subject of Accreditation of Local Health Departments. He stated that the work that would have to be put into that effort is extensive. He, along with some of his staff, went to the Accreditation Conference in Austin. The Accreditation effort is being discussed as voluntary right now. There is a five year plan to make it a requirement. He believes he will have to increase staff to meet the demands of the accreditation.

Refugee Services:

Dr. Richardson is anticipating a decrease in TB. Catholic Family Service is going to place fewer refugees. He believes Public Health will have fewer refugees but with more complicated cases. Burma has the more complicated cases.

Immunizations:

Dr. Richardson mentions some staff turnover in this area. Nurses are leaving for higher pay.

HIV/STD:

Dr. Richardson mentioned staff turnover in this area. Nurses are leaving for higher pay.

Communicable Diseases:

Dr. Richardson talked again about the Syndromic Surveillance. Public Health now has a system up and running where we are getting daily data from the emergency departments of both hospitals. They are providing what is called syndrome counts, which are chief complaints.

TB:

Dr. Richardson anticipates a decrease in TB.

Public Health Preparedness:

Dr. Richardson mentions Public Health has been fortunate enough to receive bioterrorism monies. And we anticipate continuing to do that, but it will be done so by risk based funding.

WIC

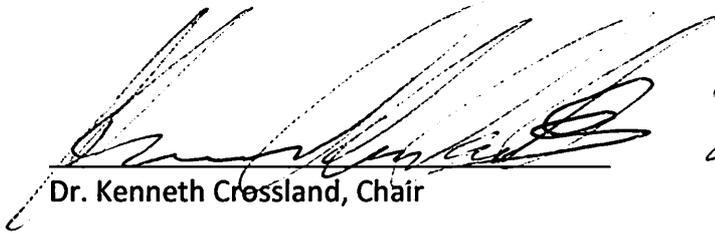
David Chamberlain shared with the board that their phone lines were down for about 3 days due to construction. Participation in August, 2011 was 8326. In September it dropped slightly to 8256 and in October it was at 8142. He also stated that food costs may affect peanut butter and whole grains.

Item 7: Public Comments

None

Item 8: Adjournment

Dr. Crossland set the next meeting for January 10th, 2011 at 7p.m. at the Public Health Department Conference Room. Dr. Crossland adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.



Dr. Kenneth Crossland, Chair



Rhonda Ramirez, Recording Secretary