

**STATE OF TEXAS**

**COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL**

**CITY OF AMARILLO**

On the 9th day of April, 2013 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<br>Chair, City of Canyon | Y       | 192               | 168                   |
| J. Taylor Carlisle, MD<br>Potter County         | N       | 88                | 28                    |
| Delores Thompson<br>Potter County               | Y       | 16                | 12                    |
| Judy Smith<br>Randall County                    | Y       | 66                | 52                    |
| Lanita Tidmore<br>Randall County                | Y       | 27                | 26                    |
| Belinda Gonzales Taylor<br>City of Amarillo     | Y       | 30                | 21                    |
| Kevin Hawkins, Vice Chair<br>City of Amarillo   | Y       | 42                | 39                    |

**Administrative Officers Present:**

Dr. Matt Richardson                      Director, 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:**

Hector Mendoza                          Asst. Director, Public Health, City of Amarillo

**Guests Present:**

No were guests present at this meeting.

**Item 1: Call to Order and Welcome**

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

**Item 2: Introduction of Guest/New Members**

No guests present at this meeting and no new members.

**Item 3: Minutes**

Dr. Crossland asked for any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes as mailed. Hearing no requests for corrections or additions the meeting minutes from January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 were approved as written.

**Item 4: Election of Officers**

Dr. Crossland presented to the board the elections of the chair and vice-chair. Ms. Lanita Tidmore made a motion for both the chair and the vice-chair to remain as Dr. Kenneth Crossland, Chair and Mr. Kevin Hawkins, Vice-chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Judy Smith. Motion was carried by 6-0 vote.

**Item 5: Administrative Reports given by Department**

**Animal Control**

Ms. Shannon Barlow reported that the Animal Control Department recently experienced some media exposure about a month ago. The department was accused of treating an animal inhumanely. The story described the department as removing the head of a dog from its body; however, this was a false statement and the department has been exonerated from any wrongdoing. Ms. Barlow explained that the owner allowed the dog to get out of the yard and as a result the animal received some injuries. By the time Animal Control officers responded to the scene the dogs condition had deteriorated. After reviewing the injuries of the dog it was decided that the injuries were so extensive that Animal Control officers could not have caused such injuries. Furthermore, the dog did not have any of the injuries that were being reported. Due a poorly built fence the dog was able to excavate itself from the yard but sustained mortal wounds during the process. Ms. Barlow stated the purpose of reporting in this incidence was only to advise the board due to the media exposure.

Ms. Belinda Taylor asked if there was any time for the department to meet with the media and educate them on routine business practices and policies. Ms. Barlow stated that due to high turn-over among news staff, it is difficult to keep all staff properly educated.

Ms. Barlow reported that adoptions are up and euthanasia is down. Also, the department is very pleased with the Amarillo Humane Society and their fostering work.

Ms. Barlow mentioned an alert about Hantavirus. A fatal case of Hantavirus was reported in Hooker, Oklahoma. If any of the board members want more information they could feel free to contact Ms. Barlow.

**Environmental Health**

Ms. Deree Duke stated that there was nothing remarkable to report for this quarter. Complaints are way down and the septic installers are very busy. The department has worked two truck wrecks. One truck was

carrying lettuce and the other truck was carrying frozen boxed chicken. Products from each wreck were destroyed.

### **Public Health**

Dr. Richardson included the boards and commissions questionnaire for the board to review. Two questions one election of officers and term lengths. Term lengths are not set by law but by cooperative agreement. The terms are for three years. The elected officers are voted on annually.

Dr. Richardson reminded the board that we are still in the middle of the 1115 Medicaid Waiver. This is the Medicaid transformation we have been talking about where we are on tap for a five year period to get about 10.2 million. We are hoping to get our first disbursement in May. The first year will be \$442,000.00. The next year will be about 2 million. Each year after that will be about 2 million, with the last year ending up being about 2.3 million. Dr. Richardson stated that he had presented two projects. The first project was to reestablish the Adult Immunizations. The second project was support for outpatient substance abuse programming, Amarillo Recovery from Alcohol and Drugs (ARAD). The reason for ARAD proposal was, one of the focuses for Medicaid transformation was substance abuse.

The community health assessment was completed last week and they are constructing our report of the community health survey and we will be presenting that mid May.

There has been quite a bit of discussion with AISD, the Mayor and some of the Refugee resettlement agencies. Per capita we have more refugees per capita in Amarillo than any place in the state of Texas. We have been educating some of our elected officials on that concentration. AISD is starting to struggle with test scores. Amarillo does a fantastic job on resettling the refugees. We are asking for more funding due to the increase in refugees and the increase in translation services and the new TB test. This is a vaccine called BCG. It is a vaccine we do not use in the United States. It is a TB vaccine and if you receive this vaccine you will always have a positive TB skin test. This causes our department to have to do a T-spot test on every refugee.

We were 9 of 10 Health Departments in Texas that were denied funding based on a 90% failure rate. We brought this up to the State and they changed their mind and funded us at about 98% of where we were. There was a slight reduction.

There is a new influenza, H7N9. There is a concern and the reason is that it is in four different provinces in China. Within the last two weeks there have been 21 cases and 6 deaths. The mortality rate is very high. There are 21 cases of a novel virus. It has never been detected in humans.

We have an exercise coming up. We are working to expand our EMR so we can do electronic lab reports.

### **WIC**

David Chamberlain stated there was not much to report. Their numbers were fluctuating some, but in a normal range. This is due to Spring break.

### **Item 5: Public Forum**

Comments from interested citizens on matters directly pertaining to policies, programs or services of the Amarillo Bi-City-County Health District. This is a format that the City Secretary asked that we include in that verbiage. Dr. Crossland clarified about how the board would handle if someone wanted to complain

about an issue with the board. Dr. Richardson cautioned that the board under the open meetings act, can't act on anything brought forward in public forum because it wasn't posted 72 hours prior. Dr. Crossland asked about the five minute rule. It is agreed that the board will determine the length of time a person can speak as long as each side has equal time to present. Dr. Richardson states that if a topic is going to be presented, it must be listed on the agenda and posted so that both sides can present. Dr. Crossland, Chairman, will meet with the staff to determine if a subject needs to be listed on the Agenda.

Dr. Crossland asked if there were any new items that needed to be listed on the next agenda.

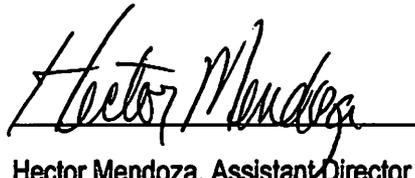
**Item 6: Adjourment**

Dr. Crossland set the next meeting for July 9, 2013 at 7p.m. at the Public Health Department Conference Room.

Dr. Crossland adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.



Dr. Kenneth Crossland, Chair



Hector Mendoza, Assistant Director  
Acting as Recording Secretary