

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL

CITY OF AMARILLO

On the 22nd day of October, 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 Chair, City of Canyon	Y	193	169
J. Taylor Carlisle, MD Potter County	N	89	28
Delores Thompson Potter County	N	18	11
Judy Smith Randall County	Y	67	53
Lanita Tidmore Randall County	Y	28	27
Belinda Gonzales Taylor City of Amarillo	Y	31	22
Kevin Hawkins, Vice Chair City of Amarillo	Y	43	40

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
Lisa Lee	Recording Secretary, Public Health, City of Amarillo

Guests Present:

Mrs. Janet Crossland

Item 1:

Call to Order and Welcome

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:

Introduction of Guests/New Members

Dr. Crossland - Introduction of Members and Guests. Janet Crossland was in attendance for the meeting.

Item 3:

Approval of the July 13, 2013 minutes

Dr. Crossland made a motion to approve the July 13, 2013 minutes. There were no objections and the minutes were approved as written.

Item 4:

Discussion of Medicaid Transformation Projects

Matt Richardson presented the update the Medicaid Transformation Projects. We have been awarded the projects. One was for the Adult Immunization Program and one was for a Substance Abuse seed Grant for Amarillo Recovery from Alcohol and Drugs (ARAD). We anticipate getting some of those dollars in early January. We were awarded the first years monies in September.

One of the first things we are going to do with the money is buy a mobile clinic. This mobile unit will allow for the outreach Adult safety net Immunizations. We are very excited about the Substance Abuse services. This will allow for a 30 day outpatient program. This will be the Health Department using Amarillo Hospital District funds. We are the pass through agency for them. The United Way is also funding this program. They have a grant in to the Amarillo Area Foundation. If everything goes as planned, they will take our money, use it as seed money and possibly build an In-patient facility.

Dr. Roger Smalligan was unable to attend and his report was in regard to smoking cessation. Dr. Smalligan has a really innovative project that was funded through Texas Tech. We will table his discussion until next meeting.

Item 5:

Administrative Reports given by Department

Animal Control

Shannon Barlow stated that there are no great stories to report. They have had five (5) rabies cases to report. Four (4) were Bat related cases and one was a Skunk.

There have been three (3) new Field Officers added to their staff. Deree Duke stated that this was due to very innovative planning and budgeting that allowed the new staff to be hired.

Deree states that this was remarkable. Dr. Crossland thanked Shannon Barlow. Ms. Barlow was grateful for this consideration for the Department.

There has been a new kennel/confinement area built at the end of the compound so potential Adoptees can have privacy while "trying out" a new pet.

Environmental Health

Deree Duke reported that there was nothing remarkable to report. There have been three (3) unusual things happen. One was an accident involving grapes and Nacho cheese. Second, is

there have been legitimate complaints from citizens that see things on social media regarding things like a vendor who makes tamales in her house. The third thing is the food cottage law that was introduced in the last Legislative session and it took effect September 1. It has been modified and it is incredible now. You can operate a business out of your home selling baked food and then turn around and sell it at a farmer's market, a temporary event, or out of your home. It must be labeled that it is not inspected. A few items included are: jams, jellies, breads, fried pies, vinegars, mustards. This is one of the most political pieces of Legislation passed in a very long time.

Public Health

Matt Richardson reminds the Board Members of Hector Mendoza's departure from the Health Department. Casie Stoughton has been promoted from Immunization Program Manager to Assistant Director. The Board extends a warm welcome to Mrs. Stoughton.

Matt states we are hoping to roll out within the next month, the Community Health Assessment. Our Community Health Improvement Plan Consultant will delivery that to me next week. We will be working with the Hospital Directors on this and invite the Board to participate. There will be a community event to talk about the findings and there will be a press release. We will be contacting you to find out your interest and your involvement. We are still pursuing accreditation.

Refugees have been in the press recently. The Federal Furlough actually sent everyone at the Department of State, who worked with Refugees, home for a little while, so they couldn't process new ones. We met with the Mayor, State Representative Thornberry and a Deputy Director from the Department of State over the Office of Refugee resettlement. This meeting took place at Representative Thornberry's office. Those in attendance included, APD, Catholic Charities and Refugee Services of Texas. The discussion was in reference to the rate of resettlement in Amarillo and how high they are. Per capita we have five (5) times what Austin and Houston have and two (2) times that of Abilene, and four (4) times that of El Paso and Tarrant County. This burdens the system.

Matt reminded the Board about DSRIP and Immunizations. The Obamacare, ACA Affordable Care Act There is still some discussion about We provide that about insurance status we provide the vaccines to uninsured and under insured children based on how that works. We have a new Immunization's Nurse, named Austin Preston We promoted an Immunizations Nurse Jana Sanders to our Immunizations Coordinator.

The Medicaid Project is going to provide us with a Mobile Testing Unit. During the day it will be an Immunizations Unit. In the evening, it will be an HIV Rapid Testing Mobile Testing Unit. We will be able to provide Rapid HIV tests across town. We will have a dual purpose unit. Communicable Disease/Epidemiology : We have begun flu tracking If you haven't already had your flu shot you need to get one. West Nile Virus cases are lower than last year in Texas. The state changed their case definition and it made it a lot harder to be a confirmed case. We

continue to screen and treat TB patients for Potter/Randall Counties and the City of Amarillo. We have two new TB grants and in one of the grants we are getting more money. There a great deal of changes regarding HIPAA with the ACA. This will change some privacy notifications so we spearheading a HIPAA discussion for the city. There are new restrictions with the ACA on the use of protected health information. There are penalties and fines enforced by the inspector general of the Health and Human services. There is a duty to report and if you witnessed a violation, you can be held in violation individually. There is an expansion of EMR with Electronic lab reporting. There is a consideration of consolidation of hospital preparedness activities with local public health activities.

There were no questions.

WIC

David Chamberlain presented the WIC report. He stated that there were no significant changes over the past three (3) months. He reports receiving numerous requests from clients who are desperate to get in because of SNAP benefits being drastically reduced. Based on these calls, he expects his numbers to increase.

The system he runs, specifically the software, was from 1995. Their system has been changed. They are using the EBT system where a card is issued. He has been notified that they are going to receive new computers and a software upgrade.

There were no questions.

Item 6:

Public Forum

There was one comment from Mrs. Crossland regarding the number of Refugees on the report. Matt Richardson explained the number was for a year. Kevin Hawkins recognized Matt Richardson and Vicki Covey for their participation in his 101 class.

Item 7:

Discuss Items for Future Agendas

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

Item 8:

Adjournment

Dr. Crossland set the next meeting for January 14, 2014, at 7:00 PM. The location will be at the Public Health Department, located at 1000 Martin Road. With there being no further business to come before the board, Dr. Crossland adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.



Dr. Kenneth Crossland, Chair



Lisa Lee, Recording Secretary