

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL

CITY OF AMARILLO

On the 2nd day of August, 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	186	162
J. Taylor Carlisle, MD Potter County	N	82	27
Delores Thompson Potter County	Y	10	07
Judy Smith Randall County	Y	60	48
Lanita Tidmore Randall County	Y	21	20
Belinda Gonzales Taylor City of Amarillo	Y	26	17
Kevin Hawkins Vice Chair City of Amarillo	Y	36	34

Administrative Officers Present:

Dr. Matt Richardson	Director, Public Health, City of Amarillo
Hector Mendoza	Assistant 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
----------------	------------------------------------------------------

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

Item 3: Approval of the April 5, 2011 minutes

Dr. Crossland presented the April 5th, 2011 minutes. Dr. Crossland asked if Mr. Finegold had made contact with Dr. Matt Richardson regarding his concern for Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease. Dr. Richardson stated that Mr. Finegold did not. However, he did have some information for the board regarding the illness in his report. No

further action was requested of the board. Motion was made to approve the April 5, 2011 minutes. Motion was seconded. April 5, 2011 minutes were approved as written.

Item 4: Approval of February 23, 2011 Minutes

Amarillo Hospital District & Board of Health

Motion was made to approve the February 23, 2011 minutes. Motion was seconded. The February 23, 2011 minutes were approved as written.

Item 5: Report on Rabies in Potter/Randall Counties

Dr. Smalligan reported that the Public Health Department has been very busy on the medical side attending to people who have been bitten by cats, dogs and a number of interesting situations where people have done things which are not too wise regarding animals acting in an unusual manner. Dr. Smalligan said he did a segment on Channel 10 giving information to the public regarding what to do if an animal is acting strange. He hopes that word will spread and people will become more aware. He also stated there may be an article in the news paper also giving awareness to the public.

Report on Latent TB Infection and Active TB Infection

Dr. Smalligan reported that there is still some confusion when it comes to Tuberculosis (TB), Active Tuberculosis, and Latent Tuberculosis. There are situations when a person will get a TB skin test for school or employment which will show a positive result. More than likely that person has been exposed to TB and the bacteria has entered their body however, most healthy people's bodies fight the bacteria and they do not become ill. The next step would be to take a chest x-ray of that person. If the x-ray looks perfect and there is a negative symptom screen, then by definition that is called Latent TB, meaning it is sleeping or dormant. That person does however, have a small risk of TB reactivating later in life when defenses could be lower. The Health Department offers free evaluation and treatment for Latent TB patients. The medicine used to treat Latent TB is Isoniazid (INH). The patient takes one pill a day for 9 months. Patients are told that the 10% risk of TB reactivating decreases to 1% after 9 months of treatment. Latent TB patients are not infectious or putting the public at risk and they are not required to take medication. Once they have finished treatment the Health Department will issue the patient a letter stating they were evaluated, a chest x-ray was taken, and they received preventative therapy and would not be required to take another TB skin test. Dr. Smalligan then opened the floor to questions regarding Active or Latent TB.

Dr. Crossland asked Dr. Smalligan his opinion regarding BCG. (BCG is an immunization that protects against Tuberculosis) Dr. Smalligan told the board that other countries administer the vaccine, however the United States does not. Once a person has the vaccine they will always test positive to a TB skin test. Dr. Smalligan also said that CDC guidelines suggests to disregard any BCG history and that if a person tests positive, to treat them as a positive.

Item 6: Administrative Reports

Animal Control

Shannon Barlow reported that rabies cases are very high. To date, Animal Control reports 48 cases. This time last year they were at 18. The last year they had numbers this high was in 2005. Most cases have been in Potter/Randall counties. Ms. Barlow also announced the Humane Society's Rabies Drive is coming up in a week or two. They will be promoting vaccination as well as the Globe News is going to run an article. She also reported we have a variety of wildlife coming into the area, foxes being one of them. Animal Control hopes to spread awareness to the public about safety and what to do should they come in contact with a wild animal or an animal acting in a strange manner.

Environmental Health

Deree Duke reported Environmental Health has been relatively quiet.

Health Authority

Dr. Smalligan deferred to Dr. Matt Richardson.

Public Health

Administration:

Dr. Matt Richardson reported he has received the summary report for the Public Health grants. He noted that administration was notified that the Public Health block grant funding was officially cut by approximately 19%. That is in direct result to some of the discussion at the national level. The block grant funds pay for some of the Public Health's STD services. Administration is working hard to move monies around through other grants to cover the reduction in funds.

Refugee Services:

Dr. Matt Richardson reports they continue to have lots of refugees. Increasing TB work load for the refugee population. He reports the Burmese and Somali populations seem to have a higher rate of latent TB. He states it does not mean there is an outbreak of TB. The Health Department is doing a thorough job of investigating so that we can stay on top of the disease.

Immunizations:

Dr. Richardson announced tomorrow is school registration. Many students will find out they are needing immunizations and the Health Department is expecting and ready for them. Immunizations will be very busy for the next month. Kids Fest is this weekend and we expect to give many shots.

HIV/STD:

Dr. Richardson reports STD/HIV has seemed to remain level. We have not seen the increase as we have in the past years.

Communicable Diseases:

Dr. Richardson announced that the cluster of E Coli cases that were reported at the last board meeting were not linked to a common food source. There were no other cases reported. Dr. Richardson also stated that they tracked back to four common risk factors. The health department couldn't identify past those risk factors which are very common, such as recreational water, international travel, use and exposure to a symptomatic patient, or close proximity.

TB:

Dr. Richardson stated they are still pursuing additional dollars. He will be in Austin next week and will keep trying.

Public Health Preparedness:

Dr. Richardson stated the BT grant was also cut by 19%.

Dr. Richardson also hit on a few points of the Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease. What he found out was that Potter County has an increased rate of smoking and asthma when compared to Randall County and Texas. Those two conditions are included in what is called Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (CLRD) which is similar to COPD. Epidemiologically it does appear an increase in CLRD could be attributed to asthma and smoking rates in Potter County.

WIC

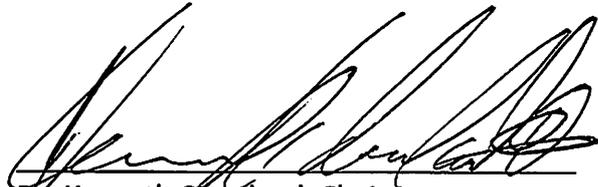
David Chamberlain reported WIC is climbing back up on their participation numbers. April numbers were 8122, May 8208, June 8356, and July 8233. They also started issuing their farmers market voucher benefits in June which are separate \$10 vouchers. The vouchers are now only issued to children. In June they issued 1508 to children and in July they issued 1316 to children. They do not know the redemption rates as of yet.

Item 7: Public Comments

Dr. Crossland opened the floor for public comments. There were no public comments

Item 8: Adjournment

Dr. Crossland set the next meeting for November 8, 2011, 7p.m. at the Public Health Department Conference Room. Dr. Crossland adjourned the meeting.



Dr. Kenneth Crossland, Chair



Rhonda Ramirez, Recording Secretary