

DALLAS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

MINUTES  
OCTOBER 20, 2011

*The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by co-chairman, Zachary Thompson. The minutes were distributed and approved.*

**Dr. Jennifer Jones, Performance Improvement Manager** presented the National Public Health Improvement Initiative for Dallas County. The major goal of the performance improvement is to optimize DCHHS' public health impact through continuous quality improvement. Dallas County Health and Human Services has a group of leaders that meets monthly to discuss performance improvement and to assist in the accreditation preparation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funded the program.

Dr. Jones mentioned that over the past year, Dallas County has accomplished the following: 1) established performance management process 2) developed requirements for community health assessment 3) designed a balanced scorecard and 4) created an indicator database. Listed below are some of the statewide partners for the Program: Texas Department of State Health Services, Houston Health and Human Services and San Antonio Metropolitan Health Districts.

Dr. Jones mentioned that DCHHS' focus is on evaluation which allows us to concentrate on the public's interest. Documentation is important for record purposes; internal communication keeps everyone informed by partnering and collaborating with other entities for resources; allowing flexibility. **Jim Stephens** asked, if this is an internal of DCHHS? Dr. Jones stated that our goal is to establish a baseline within the Department. **Zachary Thompson** noted that while we are embarking upon this program, the County and City challenge will be the funding source from the State. Receiving accreditation allows us access to other grant opportunity which in turn will be a great source for the public and private citizens.

**Dr. Gary Woo, Director of Tuberculosis** provided an update on Tuberculosis, 2010. Dallas County Health and Human Services assisted the State with providing testing for Ennis Independent School District, when it was determined that a positive TB case was confirmed.

In 2010, Dallas ranked number two in the top ten jurisdictions in Texas for tuberculosis cases. There were approximately 1,300 TB cases in 2010. Since, then the numbers of TB cases have decreased in the United States. Florida, California and Texas are among the states with the highest number of TB cases. The border has had a huge number of TB cases which accounts for an overall twenty-four percent. Dr. Woo mentioned that the outbreak that occurred in Ennis County is a normal day-to-day operation at the Border.

Dr. Woo stated in 2010, most TB cases were most common in Hispanics. Those in the working group between the ages of twenty-five to forty-four years old were mainly affected by this disease. The TB cases were mostly seen in the male species. Some of the higher TB case risk factors were in the unemployed, foreign born, alcohol abuse, HIV and homeless. Dallas County has assigned a special group to address the high number of TB cases. Dr. Woo acknowledged there are four drugs that are being prescribed for newly diagnosed cases that are awaiting culture and susceptibility results.

Dallas County Health and Human Services TB program make frequent visits to shelters to look for active cases. Dallas County currently has an exclusive Nurse and Outreach worker designated to assist in this area. "There is a lack of information on TB," said Dr. Woo. To better educate the public, Dallas County has compiled a list of questions and answers that are posted on our web-site. **Perri Kittles** asked if living in close quarters could increase the spread of TB among individuals. Dr. Woo stated, yes that living in close quarters is a factor in spreading TB. **Dr. Gordon Green** questioned Dr. Woo about Ennis ISD. Was this something that could have been foreseen? Dr. Woo responded that he did not have all of the particulars, but there was a teacher who was coughing for nearly three months. The teacher should have been seen by a physician.

**Jimmy Stephens** questioned the difference in testing positive and having the actual TB disease. Dr. Woo responded, TB is an airborne disease and there are no symptoms. He also referred Mr. Stephens to Dallas County's web-site. Perri Kittles asked how long does the organism live in the air before it takes to someone. Dr. Woo stated, it usually take hours. **Zachary Thompson** stated that we are not accepting any other reductions when it comes to TB funding. It's just unacceptable to reduce funding in TB, said Mr. Thompson.

**Vikki Yeatts, Chairperson Clinical was absent.** Richard Briley mentioned Senate Bill (SB) 969 regarding public health funding. Vikki is a part of the committee for this Senate Bill.

**Jim Cummings, Chairperson Public Health Preparedness was absent.** Cindy Mendez mentioned that public health preparedness committee is meeting next week at DCHHS in Room 520. The committee will be discussing public health preparedness as it relates to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Bill Alsup, Chairperson, Environmental.** Bill mentioned that we are approaching the end of the West Nile season; this has been a pretty mild season.

**Jason Chessher, Chairperson, Legislative.** Jason will meet with public health round table on tomorrow.

*The meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.*