

DALLAS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

MINUTES  
APRIL 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Zachary Thompson. *The minutes were distributed and approved.*

**Morgan Kohut, Entomologist,** Dallas County Health and Human Services presented a summary of the 2010 Mosquito season. Morgan began by stating “that there was little West Nile activity last year.” There was only one confirmed positive mosquito sample submitted to DCHHS. The sample was received from the City of Cockrell Hill. Morgan noted that our peak for West Nile was during 2005 and 2006. The number of mosquito traps decreased to half in 2010. The mosquitoes targeted last year were the southern house; Asian tiger; yellow fever and tree hole. In 2009, DCHHS collected over 40,000 southern house mosquitoes. Dallas County has setup an online mosquito complaint form. This is an alternative to calling in a service request.

The 2010 season objectives were to increase surveillance of *Aedes triseriatus* and *Aedes albopictus* begin sending samples to DSHS for LacROSSE virus testing; and, design an online complaint form. Mr. Thompson stated we are moving forward with the same ads as last year; Fight the Bite. He also mentioned it will be on-line.

There is a new regulation called the “Texas Pollution Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit. The new regulation requires pest thresholds and surveillance, along with additional annual fees. Currently, HR 872 is trying to exempt public agencies from applying for the permit.

**Dr. Steven Harris, Medical Director/Health Authority,** Dallas County Health and Human Services gave an overview on Super Bowl XLV Public Health Planning Activities. DCHHS started planning for Super Bowl XLV in the spring of 2010. On February 06, 2011, the NFL Super Bowl XLV was held in Arlington, Texas. There was an estimated 150,000 – 200,000 people who traveled to the DFW metroplex. Most public health planning activities were conducted through internal meetings at DCHHS and through a multi-jurisdiction of Public Health Action Team (PHAT). PHAT was a group of people who were invited to attend the meetings. The group consisted of the City of Arlington, Tarrant County, Collin County, and Federal Agencies, representatives from DCHHS, the main hospitals, and DFW Airport. The meetings were held in Arlington, Texas at the COG. Mr. Thompson asked if there is anything from the PHAC that we feel they need to include in the process? Mr. Thompson also thanked Kenny Shaw, City of Dallas for hosting meetings at the City of Dallas.

The top three Super Bowl XLV objectives were to ensure 1) coordination between DCHHS Epidemiology, Communicable Disease, and Environmental Health as it related to disease outbreak investigation: 2) increase coordination and information sharing with external

partner's through participation on daily multi-agency public health related conference calls; and 3) increase early disease detection and mitigation through daily monitoring of the Real-time Outbreak Disease Surveillance Systems (RODS)

Some of DCHHS major strengths were the ability to effectively communicate with external partners to increase surveillance of hospitals admissions, infectious disease outbreaks, environmental health concerns, BioWatch surveillance; enhanced communication and situational awareness through daily internal situation reports and participation on daily multi-jurisdiction calls with public health partners; pre-event notification to infection control providers and environmental health departments across Dallas County heightened awareness for disease outbreak reporting; coordination and information-sharing with the City of Dallas EOC; Epidemiology staff monitored syndromic surveillance data on RODS and essence daily throughout the Super Bowl event.

**Cindy Mooney, Environmental Health Manager**, City of Garland presented Farmers Market Trends and Regulations. Cindy began the presentation by defining Farmers Market. A Farmers Market is a market where you have at least two or more farmers. Currently, there are no formal regulations on Farmers' Markets. There are a set of draft rules that have not been finalized. Cindy mentioned some things we see at the Farmers Market are: produce which may be whole, cut, bagged or processed; milk products, including raw forms; eggs, full food preparation of foods and cooking demonstrations.

Cindy noted there are a lot of concerns about Farmers Markets as to whether they are meeting the standards for preparation. The State of Texas has never revoked a license. There is no formal regulation for Farmers Markets.

The Department of State Health Services began meeting in June 2010 with the farmer's market workgroup. There are approximately twenty-five representative from various groups. They are developing draft rules. The proposal effective date is set for fall, 2011.

The Texas Legislative Session currently has five bills that involve Farmers Markets. House Bill 75, State Bill 237, House Bills 1139, 2084 and 3387. House Bill 3387 deals with the cooking and storage of prepared food sold at Farmers Markets. Mr. Thompson asked whether or not the bills will move to the floor. Cindy stated that the committee is still against the bill.

**Vickie Yeatts, Chairperson**, Clinical provided the committee with an update. Measles is very contagious. The City of Garland investigated a couple of cases; the results were negative. There is an upcoming conference on National Immunizations. The health department is looking for innovative ways to fund public health.

**Jim Cummings, Chairperson**, Public Health Preparedness provided the committee with an update. The Sub-committee will meet to discuss Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and Medical Reserve Corp (MRC). On Friday, April 22, 2011, we will meet to discuss re-starting the Quarterly Law Enforcement meetings. The MRC will host a Volunteer Appreciation Day on April 30, 2011. And, the first regional exercise for 2011 is Operation Bluebonnet. It is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**Bill Alsup, Chairperson**, Environmental. Currently, there are no updates.

**Jason Chessher, Chairperson**, Legislative. The city did a good job by submitting Bill 3450 – No Kill shelter. This bill makes Texas’s animal shelters treat animals humanely, respect their lives and work smartly and efficiently to find loving homes for animals.

*The meeting adjourned at 10:50 A.M.*