

**DALLAS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

JANUARY 19, 2017

*The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Director Zachary Thompson. The minutes were distributed. Upon Commissioner Price' arrival a motion to approve the minutes was moved by Tammara Scroggins and second by Luay Rahil.*

**Zachary Thompson, Director** mentioned that Dallas County Health and Human Services received an Congratulatory letter from Dr. Frieden, CDC Director for receiving accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board. Mr. Thompson commended Tammara Scroggins and the staff on a job well-done.

Additionally, Mr. Thompson mentioned that the DCHHS 2017 Zika Virus webinar was a great presentation! He went on to thank everyone that participated. **Jim Cummings** thought the webinar was good; we need to revisit. **Bill Alsup** indicated that the webinar was a lot of information crammed into one hour. **Mr. Thompson** mentioned that Dallas County will reach out again to the public health division in Miami and we will conduct a follow-up webinar. "We thought the webinar would bring together more people at one time," said Mr. Thompson. There were more than one hundred participants.

**Dr. Perkins, Medical Director and Health Authority** constantly analyzed the Zika situation; it's a dynamic process. Ultimately our goal is to protect pregnant women.

**Mr. Thompson** mentioned that Dallas County is preparing for aerial spraying, being able to have the approval, if we need to aerial spray. We will be bringing that before Commissioners' Court. Additionally, we will do a work group on the day-to-day operations.

**Sonya Hughes** provided an *Epidemiology update on West Nile and Zika Virus*. West Nile Fever symptoms consist of fever, headache, myalgia, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea and/or rash. The West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease (WNND) symptoms consist of fever, headache, stiff neck, altered mental status, seizures and/or paralysis.

Sonya mentioned Zika was first discovered in the Zika forest of Uganda in 1947. It is a single strand RNA (Ribonucleic Acid) virus. It is closely related to Dengue, West Nile and Japanese Encephalitis virus. Zika is spread mostly by the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito.

Zika can be passed from pregnant women to the fetus, which can cause severe birth defects. Sonya mentioned that diagnosing Zika is important because of the impact it has on pregnant women and their developing fetus. The complications of Zika suggest a link between infected pregnant women and adverse pregnancy outcomes such as microcephaly. There is also evidence of an association between Zika virus infection and Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a rare neurological problem that can occur after an infection.

There are challenges identifying individuals with Zika infections. Nearly 80% of persons with Zika do not show any symptoms or have mild clinical illness that does not require medical care. Signs and symptoms of the virus includes: rash, fever joint pain and red eyes. The incubation period is not known, but likely between two to fourteen days.

Currently, there is no vaccine or treatment for Zika. And, it's important for appropriate health action to reduce transmission and to prevent local transmission.

Public health current recommendations are men with Zika virus should wait at least six months before attempting conception. Men with risk factors for Zika virus disease and a pregnant partner should either abstain from sex or use condoms for the duration of the pregnancy.

At the public health level, we are continuing Zika surveillance and education. DCHHS Laboratory is conducting PCR and serology testing. In addition, commercial Zika testing is now available and recommended by DCHHS. Dallas County continues to keep the public informed of their risk. Please feel free to reach out to us. **Commissioner Price** was concerned about the blood supply testing results. **Mrs. Hughes** mentioned that all blood is screened for Zika, and the results are sent to each donor as with other communicable diseases such as HIV.

**Mrs. Hughes** also mentioned there are no local transmissions in Dallas. However, there was local transmission in Cameron County (Brownsville). As of today, we've had 54 travel associated Zika cases.

In the event of local transmissions, DCHHS would canvas the area where the case was identified. The CDC recommends a one mile area for outreach around locally acquired Zika cases. And, depending on the area and housing density in the one mile diameter it could be up to 1,000 households. Dallas County's goal is to reach 1,000 households within three days. Epidemiologists will continue to contact Environmental Health staff and your municipality if there are any suspected cases. Dallas County appreciated your involvement. This is a coordinated effort. Thank you!

**Commissioner Price** commended DCHHS for being the 5<sup>th</sup> in the State to receive their accreditation. He thanked Mr. Thompson and his staff.

**Committee Reports**

Clinical. **No report**

*Jim Cummings*, Public Health. **No Report.**

*Bill Alsup*, Environmental. **No report.**

*Jason Chessler*, Legislative. **Absent.**

**Tracy Casto** mentioned (vaccine legislative) that parents have the right to know the school vaccines. She also mentioned that John Carlo, MD, is being installed as the President of the Dallas County Medical Society, and we're very excited!

*The meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.*