

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

MINUTES

APRIL 18, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by chairman, Commissioner John Wiley Price. The minutes were distributed and a motion to approve the minutes was moved by Karin Pettis and second by Doris Bass.

Dr. Wendy Chung, MD, Chief Epidemiologist provided an overview of Epidemiology of TB Outbreak in Homeless in Dallas: Past, Present and Progress. Dr. Chung began by saying Dallas County has seen a decline of TB cases due to the hard work of the TB staff. From 2002 to 2010 over 70 % of domestic TB outbreaks investigated by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) involved homelessness. The majority of population that is vulnerable to TB was the HIV infected substance users, mental illness patients, and other medical comorbidities.

During the past few months, Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) worked closely with the CDC to address TB in the homeless population. The objective was to 1) describe epidemiology of TB outbreak and chains of transmission; 2) determine and prioritize potential transmission sites; 3) identify and prioritize contact for evaluation and treatment; and 4) provide recommendations for TB control and prevention.

Dallas County completed over 8,600 contacts with 95% needing additional evaluation due to either having untreated Latent TB Infection (LTBI) or had never been evaluated. Dr. Chung mentioned with LTBI it can be years before you have active TB disease. Initially, cases were prioritized according to high risk medical conditions and recent exposure with a cross-match list of contacts with the HIV registry. Dallas County quickly identified the problem and abstracted the high priority contact to complete evaluations. Other Health Care Providers were notified of the TB outbreak among the homeless. During this time, DCHHS also offered HIV testing as part of the contact evaluations.

Dallas County worked closely with the Shelters to monitor and help eliminate TB. Dallas County quickly discovered patients did not return to have their Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) read. The Shelters lack infection control measures. As a result, Dallas County provided education to staff at the Shelter to avoid stigmatization of patients and contacts. Shelters were also advised to implement administrative controls: TB and Homelessness Task Force led by the Health Department. Local shelters were encouraged to make TB screening mandatory as a condition of their stay.

Dr. Garry Woo, MD, Tuberculosis Medical Director discussed G10508. Dr. Woo reported an increase in tuberculosis among the homeless in Dallas County. Since September 2009, fifty-three (53) Tuberculosis cases belonging to one genotype cluster (G10508) have been

linked. The other cluster (G10509) has 33 TB cases occurring since June 2009. DCHHS and Department of State Health Services (DSHS) along with local shelters are working together to evaluate individuals exposed to TB. Dr. Snyder mentioned that 8,000 people were exposed to TB. Dr. Woo stated that 1,000 patients have been screened. However, as part of an ongoing screening, we look to find the other 6,000-7,000 more people. They may have spent one night with a person exposed to TB which is not very significant; CDC went back over 4 years. Dr. Snyder mentioned that many of the TB patients are high risk for HIV due to the drug being offered to treat TB. Dr. Woo indicated that the patients are screened, and we need to discuss other medical concerns. Currently, there are two drugs, and many patients are diligent about taking their medications. However, there are other regimens that they're offered.

Dr. Christopher Perkins, *Medical Director/Health Authority*, provided an update on West Nile Season 2013. In 2012, Dallas County had 270 positive mosquito traps, 398 human cases and 19 deaths. Dr. Perkins reported currently there are no West Nile cases in Dallas County. **Bill Alsup** mentioned the City of Richardson announced Dallas County's first positive West Nile virus (WNV) mosquito samples of 2013. The City of Richardson began ground spraying in three affected neighborhoods. **Judge Jenkins** asked Bill "where did he submit the samples"? **Bill Alsup** said four (4) samples were submitted to DCHHS Lab for testing and a private lab. **Jim Cummings** mentioned they are submitting between 25 and 30 samples per week to our Lab.

Dr. Perkins stressed the importance of personal protection to reduce WNV cases. This includes wearing an EPA approved insect repellent, like DEET; drain standing water; dress in loose fitting and light colored clothing, and staying indoors from dusk to dawn. **Jason Chessler** mentioned their City has put together a five minute informational video for third and fourth graders on protecting themselves from mosquitoes. Jason is willing to share this video with other cities that are interested in the video.

Dr. Snyder mentioned that Non-Dallas County methodology is being used; county/city can test those in different locations. **Judge Jenkins** stated that the group needs to be informed. **Commissioner Price** mentioned that they're making decisions in their city. Apparently, Dr. Perkins has concerns. Whatever samples are being sent to Dallas County will reflect on Dallas County's information. Other counties have been meeting regarding West Nile virus.

Vickie Yeatts, *Clinical*. She informed the Committee of a National shortage of Purified-Protein Derivative (PPD).

Jim Cummings, *Public Health Preparedness*. Dallas County is currently in the process of developing plans for open POD sites. One of the first requirements is to make sure first responders are taken care of.

Bill Alsup, *Environmental*. Spoke on behalf of the Cities acknowledging Mr. Thompson and Commissioner John Wiley Price for the outstanding work they are doing.

Jason Chessler, *Legislative*. There's thousands of Bills in Session. **Senate Bill 186** relates to the abatement of mosquitoes in stagnant water located on certain uninhabited

residential property. **Senate Bill 832** is a companion Bill. **House Bill 1393** Texas Laws & Regulations for selling food products from home. In Texas, making goodies in your home kitchen and selling them out of your home is not allowed. **House Bill 970** will allow individuals participating in Food Cottage Operations to sell products to consumers at farmers' markets, farm stands, municipal, and county.

Mike Fagza, President of Metro Dallas Home Alliance mentioned that \$15,000,000 is received annually from HUD for the Homeless population. Mr. Fagza addressed the Committee and commended DCHHS for their outstanding level of collaboration with the Homeless Shelters. Mr. Fagza also mentioned Metro Dallas Metro stands ready to help over the next 2 ½ years.

Mr. Franklin – Data Management Systems with the Homeless; does tracking and collecting data, and assists with communication when time permits.

Ted Missleback from Houston, Texas was present. He mentioned that DCHHS has a great team! He indicated how impressed he is with what DCHHS is doing. DCHHS is doing equally or more than some of the cities that he has visited. A good infrastructure to meet the need, and that's what we have here," said Ted Missleback. **Commissioner Price** thanked Mr. Missleback.

A motion was moved to adjourn. The motion was approved by Tony Jenkins and second by Jim Cummings. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.