

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

MINUTES

JANUARY 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Chairman, Commissioner John Wiley Price. The minutes were distributed. A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Karen Pettis and second by Tracy Castro.

Zachary Thompson, DCHHS, Director did not have any updates. However, he did mention that the County is preparing for the Legislative session. "We are very excited, there are a number of Bills that the County is looking at" said, Mr. Thompson. He also mentioned that Erikka has updated the website on CHIKV.

Perri Kittles mentioned that the cities needed information on chemicals being sprayed. **Tracy Casto** wanted to know what if everyone doesn't agree to spraying. **Tony Jenkins** responded by saying, we've looked at that possibility. **Tracy** asked, "Can we go on someone's property?" Mr. Thompson said, our staff will not, but other persons can go onto the properties.

Dr. Julie Martellini, Epidemiology Program Planner provided a summary of Chikungunya Virus: An Epidemiology Update. Chikungunya is also known as CHIKV. CHIKV is a mosquito borne viral disease. As of 2013, we received the first local transmission in America. Since 2014, we are getting cases in Central, South and North America. CHIKV has a very low mortality rate. Symptoms normally include fever and severe joint pain. These symptoms can last for a very long time. Some symptoms last for several months, but can last for years. The symptoms are not severe and normally are not life threatening.

There are (2) two modes of transmission: imported and local. The difference between the two modes are imported cases means someone went on vacation in the American Tropics, they were bitten by an infected mosquito and brought the cases back to the United States. What we are worried about is local transmission. Within the first week of experiencing symptoms, people have the virus in their blood. This means that if they are bitten by a mosquito during this time, that mosquito can infect someone else by biting them and moving on to local transmission.

What the CDC is advising to travelers to the Tropics is to protect themselves from mosquitos. Unfortunately, there is no vaccine as of yet. Once, a traveler returns they should be watched to see if they show symptoms of fever and joint pain for the first two weeks.

Tracy Casto asked about the low mortality rate. Have there been any mortalities. **Dr. Christopher Perkins** responded by saying, there has been approximately 800 thousand cases across the Western hemisphere. Additionally, 70% percent of people bitten will become systematic, but most people will overcome it. **Dr. Martellini** said that it's less than one in one thousand. **Dr. Perkins** mentioned that he was more concern about West Nile.

Spencer Lockwood, Microbiologist, provided more information on Chikungunya. CHIKV can be translated as "that which bends." Before 1999, CHIKV was isolated to Africa. In 2004, CHIKV spread to India. Outbreaks have also occurred in Italy and France.

Since, October, 2013 the virus has spread to America with over one million cases occurring within the United States, including Florida. The disease cycle of CHIKV spreads from mosquito to person. Compared to West Nile Virus, the birds are the source of the disease; whereas humans are the source of CHIKV. The two main vectors of the disease are yellow fever and Asian tiger mosquitos. They are very aggressive daytime biters. They prefer to bite people. Both of these species are wide spread throughout Dallas County.

CHIKV should be reported to doctors as soon as possible. People who are infected should stay in doors to protect against further bites. They should wear repellent; humans are the source of CHIKV. **Perri** asked if you can get CHIKV both ways; if you are in another country, mosquito bites you, transmit the disease to you then you come here, mosquito bites you, mosquito gets infected, then bites another person and transmit the disease to them. **Spencer** confirmed. **Tracy** mentioned it takes approximately one to two weeks.

Spencer mentioned that both vectors are wide spread in Dallas County; we have seen them, they are only active April through November. Dallas County uses BG sentinel traps for mosquitos carrying CHIKV, when you add CO₂ you can trap hundreds of mosquitos. The trap determines vector distributions and population density. HHS will do limited RT-PCR testing to establish procedures to make sure we can complete testing. We do not plan, nor does CDC recommend testing mosquitoes for CHIKV as an early detection method.

If we do have a reported human case, we plan to trap within 1500 feet of the case. The reason the focus area is so small is because these mosquitos don't fly very far. Their range is 200 meters. If we find mosquitos that are carrying CHIKV, we will increase surveillance in a larger area. **Tracy Casto** asked Spencer if CDC recommended Dallas County tracking and testing method. **Spencer** stated that CDC does not recommend early detection, but, once there is CHIKV in the area, CDC does recommend testing. **Cindy Corley** asked "How many traps does Dallas County have?" **Spencer**, replied, 30.

Perri asked, what is our goal? How are we treating this? West Nile virus can kill you, but CHIKV will only make you sick. We will have to notify citizens in the area, it will alarm people. Are we trying to prevent it from becoming an epidemic in the United States? **Spencer** stated if there are cases here, we would like to eliminate them. **Lourdes Spinola** wants to know the life span of CHIKV. "They can live for multiple weeks or months, it varies," said **Spencer**. **Perri** asked if Dallas County will provide services to all cities or only to the cities that contracts with Dallas County? Does the non-contracting city have to do it themselves? Will the County provide traps to non-contracting cities and let them do their own trapping? **Mr. Thompson** mentioned that Scott and Spencer will have a follow up meeting with the cities to lay out the expectations.

Committee Reports:

Clinical No report.

Public Health - Jim Cummings, Chairperson

Last week, Emily Gore and other Dallas County staff setup a POD in Grand Prairie, take advantage of the opportunity, contact Emily.

Environmental No report.

Legislative No report.

Mr. Thompson mentioned there are a number of Bills that have already been filed that Dallas County is looking at. One of the things that he's bringing forward under the conceal handgun licensed to carry law, holders can come into our immunization clinics; the clinics should be exempt. Mr. Thompson has already discussed this topic with our State Local Health Directors throughout Texas about his concern.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 A.M.