



**Williamson County and Cities Health District
Special Called Board of Health Meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2017 6:30p.m.
Round Rock Public Health Center
Wellness Center, Building A
211 Commerce Blvd., Round Rock, TX 78664**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Board of Health Chair Ehab Kawar

1) Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance and Roll call was taken

Present: Chair Ehab Kawar, Mary Faith Sterk, Selicia Sanchez-Adame, Pamela Sanford, Joanne Land, Marlene McMichael, Ed Strout, Dr. Luis Egelsee, Selicia Sanchez-Adame, John H. Teel

Absent: none

2) Acknowledge staff and visitors; hear any comments.

Staff members present included Virginia Headley, Richard Hamala, Deb Strahler, Michelle Broddrick, Albert Chiuminetta, Margaret Richardson, Ryan Moeller, Deborah Marlow, Victoria Lippman, Tina Horkey, Ivah Sorber, Lisa Cornelius, Karina Martinez

Public present: Commissioner Terry Cook

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda includes items considered to be routine that the Board of Health may act on with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Board director in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the regular agenda. (Items 4-5)

4) Approval of minutes, Regular Meeting, January 5, 2017

5) Approval of current investment reports

Motion to approve consent agenda:

Moved: Mary Faith Sterk

Seconded: Selicia Sanchez-Adame

Vote: Approved unanimously

REGULAR AGENDA

6) Health District Update by Executive Director Mr. John Teel

No Action - request by John Teel to table the update until the March 2, 2017 Regular Meeting

7) Discussion and possible action on acceptance of Zika Grant Funding from DSHS

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has completed its analysis of risk for Texas counties with respect to the probability of local transmission of Zika Virus. Williamson County has been deemed to have a reasonable risk of local transmission for 2017. DSHS is recommending that WCCHD accept federal funds in the amount of \$255,000 to be spent between March 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. In order to accept this grant, Administration would need an affirmative vote of the Board of Health to revise the adopted FY 2017 line item revenue and expense budgets by approximately \$21,250 per month times 10 months in 2017. The budget revision would equal \$21,250 per month of additional funds. These funds will allow rapid preparedness efforts for a local transmission of Zika Virus.

Marlene McMichael asked about the disbursement of remaining funds among other counties. John Teel stated that the amounts are different and based on population. Ed Strout asked if there are matching dollars required. Mr. Teel indicated that matching funds are not required. Deborah Marlow, Environmental Health Services Director, reported that funds will be used for surveillance, education, equipment for trapping and control on properties. None of the funds can be used for the West Nile testing program, FTEs or vehicles. Mr. Teel explained that routine testing of trapped mosquitoes is not the method for identifying Zika – the disease first appears in humans. Multiple human cases could be a trigger to start an investigation.

Motion to accept grant funding:

Moved: Ed Strout

Seconded: Mary Faith Sterk

Vote: Approved unanimously

8) Discussion and possible action on approval of Draft 2017-2019 Strategic Plan – (taken out of order after Item 10)

The Board requested additional time to study the draft Strategic Plan at its January 5, 2017 meeting. Mr. Teel reported statistics on the rates of uninsured residents in Williamson County, despite the relative wealth of the county, and stated that by reaching the proposed goals identified in the Strat Plan WCCHD would be keeping up with the rapid growth in the county.

Marlene McMichael stated she found the white paper and “grading of divisions” helpful. She asked for clarification on the topic of insurance credentialing and whether WCCHD accepts insurance now. Mr. Teel stated that he would like the two providers to be credentialed so WCCHD can recoup some funds for services we are already providing such as adult vaccinations, STI and TB services, and women’s services. WCCHD has begun tracking of people who get turned away for services because their insurance cannot be accepted. Dr. Egelsee stated that some low-cost insurance plans are accepted by primary care doctors – perhaps WCCHD could target certain health plans to get credentialed on. Dr. Cornelius added that WCCHD provides services that many doctors do not routinely provide such as TB and STI. Ms. McMichael questioned the prospect of opening a school-based clinic in Georgetown, Pam Sanford commented that she sees more of a need in the smaller eastern Williamson County cities such as Thrall or Bartlett. The Board agreed that the City of Taylor area has a need and were in support of focusing attention in that area. Ms. McMichael stated that board members need to be able to speak freely to the Executive Director and to one another about WCCHD topics, and that they need to be able to have a dialogue and respectfully disagree on topics. She noted a statement in the white paper seemed that it should have been discussed in person and not have been put into writing before it was verified.

Chair Kavar called for a recess at 8:08
The meeting reconvened at 8:18

The Board members had other questions and comments such as that they supported focused epidemiology on suicide and behavior health topics, but felt that there are systems currently in place for prevention and referral, and asked for clarification on the term “All Hazards” and supported the hiring of a grant specialist.

Mr. Teel added that action plans would be developed after the Plan was approved.

Motion to approve 2017-2019 Strategic Plan as presented and to develop action plans

Moved: Marlene McMichael

Seconded: Pam Sanford

Vote: Approved unanimously

9) Discussion and possible action on communications with Board of Health Directors – (taken out of order – after Item 7)

Chair Kavar asked that the WCCHD Executive Director send electronic communications to the Board Chair and Vice-chair to review before sending to County Commissioners and member cities. Richard Hamala reminded the Board that no discussion may occur via email. Mr. Teel asked for clarification that the Board wishes to receive additional weekly update emails and monthly division service reports. The Board agreed that they would like to receive the correspondence and will notify Mr. Teel if they wish to receive less.

No action taken

10) Discussion and possible action on authorizing the Chairman and Executive Director to meet with Mayors of member cities

At the January 5, 2017 regular meeting of the Board of Health, the Board voted to allow Chairman Kavar and Mr. Teel to meet with County Judge Dan Gattis. The purpose of the meeting was to seek Judge Gattis’ approval for Judge Gattis to accompany Mr. Kavar and Mr. Teel to individual meetings with the Mayors of all seven member cities. The purpose of these meetings is to ascertain whether any member city or Mayor desired to withdraw from the Health District Cooperative Agreement. Chairman Kavar and Mr. Teel would like to attend future meetings with Judge Gattis and Mayors of member cities. A meeting with the City of Hutto is planned for Feb. 27, and Round Rock in March. Ms. Sterk requested that she be included in the Georgetown meeting. Mr. Kavar stated he believes the Judge would like to complete the meetings as soon as possible to clarify the member cities’ position on whether they wish to remain a member of the Health District.

Motion to approve Mr. Teel and Chair Kavar to accompany County Judge Gattis on Cooperative Agreement meetings.

Moved: Marlene McMichael


Seconded: Joanne Land


Vote: Approved unanimously

11) New business

18) Set next meeting date, place, agenda, next regular meeting set for Thursday, March 2, 2017 (6:30 p.m. at the Round Rock Wellness Center)

19) Chair Kavar adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm

Recorded by: 
Deb Strahler

Reviewed by: 
Pamela Sanford