

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL

CITY OF AMARILLO

On the 14th day of November 2024, the Amarillo Area Public Health Board met for a quarterly board meeting at the City of Amarillo, Department of Public Health conference room located at 850 Martin Rd., Amarillo, Texas, with the following members present:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Kenneth Crossland, DDS Chair, City of Canyon	N	231	205
Kevin Hawkins, Vice Chair City of Amarillo	Y	80	75
Delores Thompson Potter County	Y	55	37
Judi Smith Randall County	N	103	81
Marjorie Schroeder Randall County	Y	6	5
Jennifer Potter City of Amarillo	N	6	3
Rebecca Scott, MD Potter County	Y	23	20
Amber Bell Tanglewood	N	6	2

Administrative Officers Present:

Ty Vernon Assistant Director, Animal Management & Welfare, City of Amarillo
Anthony Spanel Director, Environmental Health, City of Amarillo
Casie Stoughton Director, Public Health, City of Amarillo
Carol Hill Assistant Director, Public Health, City of Amarillo
Shantel Elser Assistant Director, WIC, City of Amarillo
Joe Mike Briseno Recording Secretary, Public Health, City of Amarillo

Guests Present

Joseph Sykes Citizen
Charlotte Wills Student
Maddison Watts Student

Item 1: Call to Order and Welcome

Vice Chairman Kevin Hawkins opened the meeting at 7:01pm, established a quorum, and conducted the consideration of the following items in the order presented.

Item 2: Public Comment

There were no comments from interested citizens on matters directly pertaining to policies, programs, or services of the Amarillo Area Public Health District.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the Public Health Board meetings held on July 18, 2024. Kevin Hawkins entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meetings. All in favor.

Item 4: Regular Meeting Items

None

Item 5: Administrative Reports

5.A Animal Management and Welfare

Ty Vernon, Assistant Director of Animal Management and Welfare, presented the AM&W report.

- **Field Services (June – September 2024):**
 - Responded to 7,600 service calls
 - **Bite-related cases:**
 - Identified 11 positive rabies cases within the district, including 5 in Randall County
 - Released Rabies Awareness Flyers to the media to educate citizens on handling encounters with wild animals
 - Conducted rabies lectures in Canyon, providing future veterinarians with information on reporting requirements and potential exposures related to animal bites
 - **Stray Animal Intake:**
 - Took in approximately 1,400 stray animals
 - Foxes in the area.
 - **Shelter Services:**
 - 793 animals cared for in September
- **Texas Tech Vet School Clinical Rotations:**
 - Performed 251 surgeries in October

5.B Environmental Health

Anthony Spanel, Director of Environmental Health, presented the Environmental Health report.

- **Cacique Foods – Chemical Mixture Incident:**

- August: Two Level 2 Hazmat incidents:
 - 12 people transported to the hospital
 - 5 people transported to the hospital
- August: OSHA Incident – 1 individual lost consciousness
- September: Food distribution issue

FDA Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards:

- The department is working toward full compliance with all 9 standards
- Currently meets 4 of the 9 standards
- Plans to achieve full compliance by end of 2027
- Sr. Environmental Health Specialist Kaycee Sebastiani
 - Speaker at NEHA, presenting on FDA Standards Work

Projects & Initiatives:

- OSSF Mapping Project: Managing 27,000 records
- Mosquito Control Expansion Program:
 - Utilizing fish in vector sheds, breeding fathead minnows
 - Strategically releasing fish to consume mosquito larvae
 - Expanding trapping & surveillance efforts:
 - Currently 9 traps are deployed in Amarillo
 - Goal: 20 traps for enhanced monitoring
 - Samples sent to the state indicated 6% positive for West Nile virus from 3,000 samples
 - Molecular equipment now allows local testing for West Nile
- Fly Control: Spraying conducted to mitigate fly populations

5.C Public Health

Casie Stoughton, Director of Public Health, and Carol Hill, Assistant Director of Public Health, presented the Public Health report.

New Programs

Community Mental Health Grant:

- **Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS Team):**
 - Works alongside first responders at active suicide scenes.
 - Provides emotional support and resources to grieving families.
 - Offers counseling, monthly support groups for survivors, and scene restoration services.

Women’s Health Clinic:

- Funded by the City Council with \$1.4 million to support clinic operations.
- Services include PAP screenings, mammogram referrals, and contraception through a Pre pre-prenatal care program.
- Two Medicaid navigators assist patients with pregnancy Medicaid
- A social worker helps connect patients with relevant community resources

Safe Kids Program:

- Installed 800 car seats

- Provided 400 cribs
- Distributed 400 gun locks

Community-Wide Pertussis Outbreak:

- Approximately 14 reported cases, with numbers changing daily
- Press release issued on November 14, 2024 to inform the public
- Flyers to be distributed to area schools for awareness and prevention

5.D WIC

Shantel Elser, Assistant Director of WIC, presented the WIC report.

WIC Participation Report

Caseload Growth:

- **August:** 6,461 participants
- **September:** 6,555 participants
- **October:** 6,636 participants
- **Quarterly Average (August – October 2024):** 6,551 participants

Program Enhancements:

- Permanent increase in benefits for fruits and vegetables.
- Zoom gardening and cooking classes are available to participants.

Website & Online Applications:

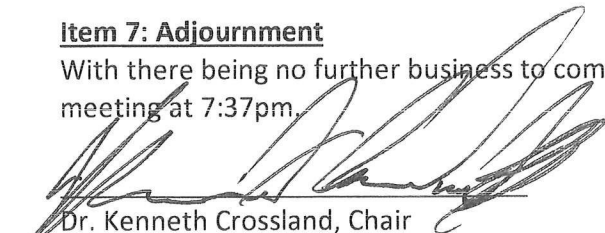
- **"Apply Now"** feature added to the WIC website.
- Online participation is increasing, reflecting growing engagement.

Item 6: Discuss Items for Future Agendas

Members requested reports and new updates from all departments. Kevin Hawkins set the next meeting for February 20, 2025, at 7:00PM. The location will be held at the Public Health Department, located at 850 Martin Road.

Item 7: Adjournment

With there being no further business to come before the board, Kevin Hawkins adjourned the meeting at 7:37pm.



Dr. Kenneth Crossland, Chair

Kevin Hawkins, Vice Chair



Joe Mike Briseno, Recording Secretary