

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL

CITY OF AMARILLO

On the 26th day of June 2025, 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	Y	232	206
Kevin Hawkins, Vice Chair City of Amarillo	Y	81	76
Delores Thompson Potter County	N	56	37
Hector Mendoza Randall County	Y	1	1
Marjorie Schroeder Randall County	Y	7	6
Jennifer Potter City of Amarillo	N	7	3
Rebecca Scott, MD Potter County	Y	24	21
Amber Bell Tanglewood	N	7	2

Administrative Officers Present:

Victoria Medley Director, Animal Management & Welfare, City of Amarillo
Anthony Spanel Director, Environmental Health, City of Amarillo
Casie Stoughton Director, Public Health, City of Amarillo
Larry Rodriguez Clinic Manager, WIC, City of Amarillo
Jason Riddlespurger Managing Director of Community Development, City of Amarillo
Joe Mike Briseno Recording Secretary, Public Health, City of Amarillo

Guests Present

Daniel Wall Student

Item 1: Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Dr. Crossland opened the meeting at 7:00pm, 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 November 14, 2024. Dr. Crossland entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meetings. All in favor.

Item 4: Discussion Topical Updates from Health Authority

Casie Stoughton will include these updates in the Public Health Administrative Report.

Item 5: Administrative Reports

5.A Animal Management and Welfare

Victoria Medley, Director of Animal Management and Welfare, presented the AM&W report.

- **Free Vaccine Clinics**
 - AM&W continues to host free vaccine clinics, serving over 700 animals per event.
 - These clinics are showing measurable benefits, including improved animal health and reduced disease transmission.
- **Partnership with Texas Tech Vet School**
 - AM&W has a strong partnership with the Texas Tech Veterinary School.
 - The first graduating class included students who began their clinical rotations with AM&W.
 - Students participate in 30-day clinical rotations focused on shelter medicine, benefiting small rural communities.
 - Each rotation includes 3–4 students who perform spay and neuter procedures.
 - AM&W provides animals for training, and in return, animals come back with detailed medical histories they wouldn't receive otherwise.
 - This collaboration saves the city approximately \$100,000 annually.
 - Vet students are also the primary source of volunteers at vaccine clinics.
- **Shelter Support**
 - Vet students are present at the shelter three times a week, contributing to animal care and medical support.
 - Protocols developed in coordination with Texas Tech are being implemented and refined.

- **Stray Animal Overpopulation & Voucher Program**
 - With support from city council funding, AM&W has launched a voucher program for spay and neuter services in low-income areas.
 - The pilot program is underway in partnership with the San Jacinto Neighborhood Association.
 - Eligible residents can bring their pets to receive vouchers for sterilization procedures.
 - Services are provided by four participating local veterinarians.
 - Vouchers are linked to the animal's microchip to streamline invoicing and tracking.
 - Expansion into other empowerment zones will depend on the pilot program's success.
- **Increase in Cruelty Cases**
 - AM&W is working closely with Amarillo Police Department to investigate and address rising animal cruelty incidents.
- **Increase in Animal Bites**
 - Reports of bites from both stray and owned pets are on the rise, prompting increased monitoring and response.
- **Dead Box Concerns**
 - The animal depository (Dead Box) has become problematic:
 - Animals are being left unbagged, and in some cases, live animals have been found inside.
 - AM&W staff are forced to handle and clean improperly discarded remains.
 - The issue was presented to the advisory board, which has approved and recommended closing the depository.

5.B Environmental Health

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

- **Passing of Bills**
 - Losing around 121 permits in the jurisdiction and it constitutes about three hundred thousand dollars.
- **Legislative Update: House Bill 2844**
 - Effective July 2026, this bill will standardize food truck permitting across Texas and remove local authority over mobile food vendors.
 - Local Environmental Health departments will no longer license mobile units, including food trucks, pushcarts, and similar vendors.
 - Licensing and inspections will be handled by the State of Texas, which may face staffing limitations affecting inspection frequency.
- **Mosquito Surveillance & Control**
 - Over 1,000 service requests have been submitted through our online mosquito reporting tool.
 - A significant hatch of adult mosquitoes has occurred in the area.

- Mosquitoes are testing positive for West Nile virus, and cases may begin to surface in July and August.
- Residents are encouraged to take proactive steps to protect themselves and reduce mosquito exposure.
- Environment Health is collaborating with Texas Fish and Wildlife Services to breed and release Fathead minnows, which help control mosquito larvae in local water sources.

5.C Public Health

Casie Stoughton, Director of Public Health, presented the Public Health report.

- **Grant Funding Challenges**
 - Federal-level communication and funding updates have been significantly delayed.
 - The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has experienced disruptions in receiving grant notices and awards.
 - The Refugee Health Program has been discontinued at the federal level.
 - Limited funding remains available to support vaccinations for refugees undergoing the green card process.
 - Public Health staff have been reassigned to various programs to maintain operational capacity, though staffing remains a challenge.
 - The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) underwent major changes at the federal level.
 - The committee met yesterday, and we are closely monitoring their decisions with concern due to potential policy shifts.
- **Measles Cases**
 - Four cases have been reported in Potter and Randall Counties.
 - Cases in the South Plains region are slowing but still present.
 - Additional cases are expected in the fall as schools reopen.
- **Increase in Pertussis Cases**
 - Cases are on the rise and being actively tracked.
- **Community Mental Health Grant/LOSS Team:**
 - Received increase in funding.
 - Since 2020 the program has served 604 lost survivors.
 - With the new grant, services now include:
 - Scene restoration
 - Individual counseling
 - Monthly grief support groups held at the Southwest Library
 - Contracts are in place to ensure these services are consistently available to families in need.

- **Women's Health Clinic**
 - The clinic is now open and serving the community.
 - Informational flyers have been distributed to raise awareness and encourage visits.
- **Public Health Murals**
 - New murals have been completed inside the building.
 - Artwork was created by Blank Spaces, adding vibrancy and community spirit to the space.
- **Upcoming Grants (Fall)**
 - Two anticipated grants:
 - Family Planning
 - Phase Two of the Vibrant Mom's Project in partnership with Texas Tech
- **Safekids Program**
 - Program distributions to date:
 - 1,206 car seats
 - 452 cribs
 - 939 gun locks
 - 635 vitamin kits

5.D WIC

Larry Rodriguez, Clinic Manager of WIC, presented the WIC report.

- **WIC Participation Caseload Growth:**
 - **March:** 6,250 participants
 - **April:** 6,212 participants
 - **May:** 6,307 participants
- **Quarterly Average (March – May 2025):** 6,256 participants
- **Upcoming Zoom Classes:**
 - Breastfeeding
 - Gardening

Item 6: Discuss Items for Future Agendas

Members requested reports and new updates from all departments. Dr. Crossland set the next meeting for September 18, 2025, at 7:00PM. The location will be held at the Public Health Department, located at 850 Martin Road.

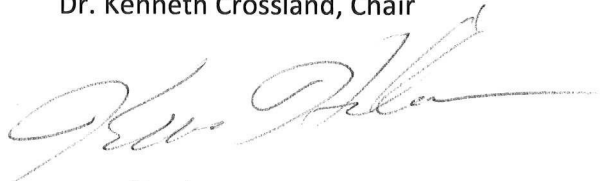
Item 7: Adjournment

With there being no further business to come before the board, Dr. Crossland adjourned the meeting at 7:54pm.

Dr. Kenneth Crossland, Chair



Joe Mike Briseno, Recording Secretary



Kevin Hawkins, Vice Chair