

Quality of Life Council Committee

Meeting Record

(DRAFT)

Meeting Date: 9-29-2009

Convened: 12:01 p.m.

Adjourned: 1:58 p.m.

Pauline Medrano, Chair
Sheffie Kadane
Steve Salazar
Carolyn R. Davis
David Neumann

Briefing Presenters:

-Zachary Thompson, M.A. Director & Dr. John Carlo, M.D., M.S.E. Medical Director of the Dallas County Department of Health & Human Services
-Suzanne Kubelka, Director of Health Services for DISD
-Brett Wilkinson & Yasmin Barnes Tolliver of Intergovernmental Services
-Christie Hernandez, 2010 Census Liaison

Absent:

Angela Hunt - absent
Vonciel Jones Hill – absent on official city business

Special Guests:

DCHHS Staff, Katherine Krause with Meals on Wheels, & Donna Coggeshall with NCTCOG

Staff Present:

Forest Turner, Dr. Pepe, Dr. Fowler, Rosa Gallegos, Kenny Shaw, Kathleen Cervenka,

AGENDA:

1. **Approval of August 25, 2009 minutes**

Presenter(s):

Information Only: _____

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Motion to approve the August 25, 2009 minutes.

Motion made by: Sheffie Kadane
Item passed unanimously: __X__
Item failed unanimously: _____

Motion seconded by: Steve Salazar
Item passed on a divided vote: _____
Item failed on a divided vote: _____

2. **DCHHS Update on the H1N1 Pandemic**

Presenter(s): Zachary Thompson, Dr. John Carlo, & Suzanne Kubelka

Information Only: __X__

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

The primary focus of the Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is preparing and responding to an Influenza Pandemic. The major objectives are to educate key stakeholders as to the risk, and be a resource for community partners who are creating their own pandemic response plans. DCHHS has been actively working with school, healthcare, government, and business leaders to stress key elements such as: ensuring that individuals who are sick with symptoms of influenza stay at home and away from others, promoting effective hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette, keeping surfaces clean, encouraging and seeking medical attention if symptoms are severe, and receiving influenza vaccines when available.

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Priority for the 2009/2010 school year is for schools to remain open while operating as safely as possible. All public schools are reporting daily absentee numbers to DCHHS by utilizing a web-based reporting system. Aggressive radio, internet, newspaper and television media campaigns have stressed the importance of individual protection and precautionary measures. The DCHHS H1N1 website is being continuously updated and remains as a valuable information source for a wide variety of audiences. Leaders of faith-based organizations, businesses and governments have received letters urging them to ready their communities/businesses against influenza.

In addition to school-based reporting, DCHHS partners with over 20 Dallas area hospitals, urgent care centers and private providers to act as sentinel sites for influenza reporting. These sites provide DCHHS epidemiologists with information on numbers of positive influenza tests at their facilities while also allowing the epidemiologists to establish trends in influenza activity.

Priority persons who should receive the H1N1 vaccination are: pregnant women, household contacts of children under 6 months of age, children and young adults ages 6 months through 24 years, healthcare workers and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers, adults aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza. It is estimated that initial supplies of the H1N1 vaccine will be available by mid-October. All H1N1 vaccines and supplies are to be paid for by the Federal Government.

DCHHS has numerous public health clinics and immunization locations. These locations will be utilized with potentially extended hours and days to accommodate additional persons requesting the H1N1 vaccine. DCHHS will also potentially utilize former City of Dallas Immunization Clinic sites for the H1N1 vaccine distribution. The North Texas area has the largest number of providers in the State who have registered at this time to be considered for H1N1 vaccine delivery.

Motion made by:

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion seconded by:

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

3. 2010 Census Status Update

Presenter(s): Brett Wilkinson, Yasmin Barnes Tolliver & Christie Hernandez

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

The Census is a count of everyone living in the United States; it is mandated by the U.S. Constitution and is held every 10 years, since 1790. The first Census in Texas was held in 1850. Census data is used for legislative purposes. City municipalities use Census totals to redraw council districts, States use Census totals to redraw legislative districts, and the population totals from the Census determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives. As a result of the 2000 Census, Texas gained 2 congressional seats.

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Census data determines annual federal funding allocations to states and cities. Federal dollars received as a result of Census enumeration help fund: emergency food and shelter, community development, public transportation, road rehabilitation & construction, programs for elderly, Head Start programs, and Title 1 grants to educational agencies. Several of the City of Dallas departments utilize the Census data as well.

2010 Census challenges include: confidentiality concerns, perception of time commitment, mail response rate, Hard to Count (HTC) Census Tracts and language barriers. Measures have been taken to address these challenges.

The City of Dallas created a Complete Count Committee (CCC) that meets every second Thursday of each month. The CCC was established by Mayor Tom Leppert to increase motivation and awareness. Dedicated personnel such as volunteers from faith-based, community, non and for profit organizations, education and business communities, chambers of commerce and major corporations established a working relationship with the local Census Bureau, developed and fostered partnerships in and around Dallas and created a Dallas 2010 Census Webpage.

Goals of the CCC are to increase response rates, secure a commitment of partnerships to promote the 2010 Census, secure donations, establish and maintain a presence in every district, and work closely with the COD 2010 Census staff and Census Bureau. Council members can assist by encouraging residents to complete the questionnaire, support activities, provide information in newsletters, e-mail blasts, and community mailings, encourage presentations at community meetings, provide census web-links and host at least one Census event in the district.

Motion made by:

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion seconded by:

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

Pauline Medrano
Chair