

Pima County Board of Health
Budget Advisory Committee
Minutes
January 26, 2011
Room 1106, Abrams Building
3950 S. Country Club Road
Tucson, Arizona 85714

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Brumm called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Mr. Schlueter called the roll as follows:

Ms. Allen
Dr. Brumm
Ms. Gonzales
Ms. Trowbridge - absent

A quorum was established.

Dr. Horwitz, Board of Health President, was also present and participated in the discussion.

2. MEETING WITH HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR SHERRY DANIELS
REGARDING DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Ms. Daniels began by responding to a request for a general overview of the budget. The Department has been asked to draw from its Health Fund balance for two fiscal years to help offset the General Fund subsidy. The last budget included a cut of approximately one million dollars from the General Fund subsidy and the fiscal year 2011/12 budget is being reduced further by 1.5 percent, which is \$123,415. Budget tightening has been accomplished through cutting non grant travel; cutting subscriptions and membership dues; leaving vacant positions unfilled a little longer; and through consolidation of services across program lines to maximize employee utilization.

Ms. Daniels said all critical programs continue to function and reviewed some areas that the Committee had questions about. The tuberculosis (TB) program has experienced some decrease in funding. Currently there are about 19 active cases of TB and the department is able to keep up with TB screenings. Screenings are down about five percent, which is consistent with the general service demand being down across Department programs. The HIV/STD program has lost some funding, but community HIV/STD partners have increased services. Syphilis cases have decreased from 230 in 2007 to 150 in 2010. Congenital syphilis has gone from four cases in 2007, to a peak of 11 in 2008 and has decreased steadily since then. Use of Department immunization services is also down. However, for children presenting at Department clinics, the completion rate for all recommended immunizations at 24 months has climbed from 40 percent just a couple of years ago and to currently just over 70 percent. The Consumer Health and Food Safety inspection rate has climbed from .91 annual inspections per food establishment in 2008 to 1.48 in 2010, even though the number of establishments rose from 4,261 to 4,519 in that time frame. Establishments serving more vulnerable populations are a higher priority for these inspections, and Ms. Daniels pointed out that most Pima County food borne illness cannot be traced to restaurants.

In response to a question about funding for a disease outbreak, Ms. Daniels said that the Department deals with the issue first and then looks for funding, which is often available for larger outbreaks. However, smaller outbreaks are handled by the Department budget. She gave examples of the 2009 H1N1 effort which was completely covered by a grant and the 2008 Measles effort that cost over \$800,000, of which only a small portion was covered by the State.

Dr. Brumm expressed concern that the per capita General Fund subsidy is waning, especially when adjusted for inflation, and asked about gauging to know when the lean Department becomes inadequate. Ms. Daniels responded that as long as the service demand can still be met through more effective employee utilization and service delivery consolidation and services beyond only those mandated are provided, the Department does not fall below the categorization of lean. Other topics touched on included that service demand is down state wide and that most communicable disease outbreaks are caused by un-immunized individuals.

3. FISCAL YEAR 2011/12 BUDGET DISCUSSION

There was no discussion on this item.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.