

2018 Annual Report of the Gillespie County Health Board

I. INTRODUCTION

The Gillespie County Public Health Division Cooperative Agreement provides for the creation of an Advisory Public Health Board, known as the Gillespie County Public Health Board, which shall recommend to the operating members (City of Fredericksburg and County of Gillespie) both substantive and procedural rules necessary and appropriate to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Gillespie County, Texas.

The *Gillespie County Health Board* respectfully submits this report for its 2018 activities, findings, and recommendations.

Members of the Health Board:

Brett Beyer – **Chairman**
Brenda Matysiak – **Vice Chairman**
Amy Montgomery - **Secretary**
Cynthia England
Ruthann Hoover
David Kemp
Jesse Barter
Jodi Johnson
John Dubea

Ex-Officio Members:

Kelli Olfers
Norma Cardona Price
Brenda Hulteen
Tenia Houck

Note: Department of State Health Services has an office in Kerrville that serves both Kerr and Gillespie counties. Tenia Houck, Norma Cardona Price and Brenda Hulteen are the contacts for that office and they serve on several community organizations such as the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

II. SANITARIAN'S REPORT

The Gillespie County Health Division (GCHD) is staffed with a Registered Sanitarian who serves as the Director and an additional Registered Sanitarian with her Masters, who is the department's Food Safety Inspector. The GCHD strives to ensure residents receive the maximum protection in food sanitation and environmental health. The duties of this department include, but are not limited to: retail and institutional food inspections,

environmental health inspections on daycares, public schools, foster homes and swimming pool inspections. Additionally, our office handles day to day calls, reports, accounting, plan reviews and environmental complaints and investigations.

The following new retail establishments received permits and opened or changed ownership in 2018: Mi Plaza, Gillespie County Historical Society, Altdorf Biergarten, Wine Country Inn, Vintners Hideaway, The Lodge Above Town Creek, Texas Heritage Vineyard, David's Old Fashioned Pit BBQ, Engel Orchard, Longhorn Cellars, Sweetbriar Rose, Primat Catering, Tres Molinos, Ab Astris Winery, Comfort Inn & Suites, Emma + Ollie, Cicada Cellars, The Sweet Lily, Bingham Family Vineyards, La Posada, Altstadt, Tubby's Ice House, Luckenbach on Main, Fredericksburg Honey Company, Sozial Haus, Perspective Cellars, Natural Grocers, Cross Mountain Vineyards, Main Street Taquitos, Fredericksburg Juice Bar, Andreucci Wine Room and The Wine Garage. **(32 Total)**

As of December 31, 2018, 457 retail food inspections had been performed in 2018. This number does not include courtesy inspections, i.e. inspection approvals upon opening, during construction or follow up visits. There were 33 mobile permits issued this year as opposed to 27 the previous year.

With it being mandatory for all food and beverage employees to be certified food handlers, training for food handlers continues on a monthly basis. The Agri-Life Extension office has held 3 food manager certification classes this year. Additionally, many food service workers obtain their certifications online.

There were 338 temporary health permits issued this year as opposed to 325 permits issued last year. There were 255 retail health permits which was an increase of 4 %. The following is a list of some of the functions with temporary health permits inspected in Gillespie County:

- Fredericksburg Trade Days
- Texas VW Classic
- Stonewall Peach Jamboree
- Lavender Festival
- Peddler Show
- Gillespie County Fair
- Fredericksburg Farmers Market
- Lutheran Fall Festival
- Mesquite Art Festival
- Gillespie County Horse Races
- Crawfish Festival
- Lonestar Street Rod
- Oktoberfest
- Food & Wine Fest
- Fredericksburg Vintage Car Swap
- Food Truck & Wine Festival
- Hill Country Fall Classic
- Best Fest
- The Victory Cup / Hot Air Balloon Festival

The office of Sanitarian inspected 1 foster home during 2018 and 9 daycare centers. Fredericksburg ISD, Harper ISD, & Doss Consolidated have been inspected for health and safety.

The Director of GCHD participates on several boards that meet on a regular basis.

- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Needs Council Interagency Meeting
- Create Healthy Community Council

III. REPORTABLE CONDITIONS

Texas Department of State Health Services Region 8 Reportables 2018

Statewide reporting database has been experiencing technical issues and this information is unavailable at this time. This information will be updated when the data is available.

Note: DSHS staff officing in Kerrville does cover Gillespie county. Some of the services include but are not limited to some immunizations and STD screenings, health talks and education on a variety of different topics, child safety seat inspections/education, and participation with emergency planning.

IV. CHILD / ADOLESCENT BULLYING

Bullying has become a hot topic in the U.S. and research shows that about 25% of kids in the U.S. experience bullying while even more are impacted by cyber-bullying. Young people who are bullied, and also those who bully, are at risk for a wide range of health and safety hazards. Bullying can lead to unhealthy behaviors such as smoking, abusing alcohol and/or drugs, missing school, self-injuries and even suicide. In 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Department of Education released the first federal uniform definition of bullying for research and surveillance.¹ The core elements of the definition include: unwanted aggressive behavior; observed or perceived power imbalance; and repetition of behaviors or high likelihood of repetition.

This year the Gillespie County Health Board committed to studying the strengths and needs of our community on this important topic. The first step was to develop a common understanding of the problem and to see how school districts handle this issue. The board reached out to Fredericksburg ISD and Harper ISD. Both districts submitted their policy on bullying and both referenced David's Law.

David's Law amends the Education Code provisions regarding bullying to better define and encompass cyberbullying. It encourages school districts to establish a district-wide policy related to bullying prevention and mediation. It provides for anonymous reporting for students,

includes cyberbullying off campus and after school hours, and modifies the parental/guardian notification procedure. It provides flexibility in the disciplinary placement or the expulsion of students engaged in certain types of very serious bullying. It authorizes school principals to report certain incidents of bullying to local law enforcement, and provides protection from liability for doing so. It expands the scope of instruction that can satisfy continuing education requirements for classroom teachers and principals to include instruction related to grief-informed and trauma-informed strategies. It requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to maintain a website with resources related to student mental health needs.

The next step the board took was inviting Fisd School Resource Officer Chris Ayala. Chris noted several points about David's Law that is quite helpful. He explained that once a district is aware of a bullying incident, the district has 3 business days to notify a parent. He explained that encourages the school to take the lead in an investigation and if further help is needed, then law enforcement can assist. Chris indicated that group chat sites are quite prevalent for cyberbullying but did say that the district has seen a drop off since David's Law was enacted in September 2017.

The board then invited several faith based youth leaders from the community to participate in a round table discussion on bullying in the community. The following participated in this group discussion:

Joel Griffin - Fredericksburg United Methodist Church
Royal Henk - St. Mary's Catholic Church
Clint Pluenneke - Holy Ghost Lutheran Church
Catherine Zenner - First Baptist Church

This discussion proved to be successful in getting feedback from these individuals who interact with our youth. Some of the noted comments are listed below:

- Need parent involvement.
- All discussed that they have open discussion on the "Golden Rule" - treat others as you would like to be treated.
- All that were present did say that they don't have a specific bullying "policy" in place but don't tolerate misconduct either.
- St. Mary's Teen Life does have a specific lesson plan on bullying that is discussed.
- Need for adults to take time to listen to kids.
- Need to stress the importance of making kids feel that they have value and also making kids be accountable for their actions.
- Importance of recognizing diversity and embracing diversity.

Concluded discussion by saying there is not an easy answer. Trying to fill the gaps where children get lost is hard but the discussion needs to take place and be recognized.

Local private schools were contacted on this subject matter and most have similar policies such as an "open door policy" and "treat others as you would want to be treated".

V. FIRST AID TRAINING FOR RURAL BUSINESSES

According to the American College of Emergency Physicians, the average interval between a call to 911 and arrival on the scene of emergency medical services (EMS) is 7 minutes in the United States, but patients in rural areas wait as long as 30 minutes for help to arrive. This topic was presented by one of our board members that manages a business located 10 miles outside of Fredericksburg on Hwy 290 East. He shared several experiences in which customers visiting his business had experienced an emergency event that required Emergency Medical Services. Some of these events were more severe than others, and he explained many times the end result of the condition of the patient was directly related as to whether someone with first aid experience was involved. Local response times along the 290 corridor range from 11 ½ minutes to 14 ½ minutes depending on where the call originated.

The Gillespie County Health Board noted that a public education on first aid would be helpful in our community as it should directly improve the outcomes of patients who fall ill to some sort of medical emergency. Bystander intervention, especially bystanders trained in first aid and/or CPR, are needed in our rural parts of the county to help address medical emergencies. The board invited Fredericksburg EMS Manager, David Jung and Harper EMS Manager Catherine Kuhlman to educate the board on local response times and possible training classes and opportunities available in the community.

It was explained that the city has had an aggressive AED (Automated External Defibrillator) program and most city buildings and vehicles are equipped with AED's. All city employees undergo training for CPR and first aid. In addition, the city has an on-line listing of AED's located in the community for businesses or organizations who have registered their AED's to the site.

VI. CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

The Texas Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) is a multidisciplinary, multi-agency group that reviews all child deaths regardless of the cause. The purpose of the CFRT Program is to improve the response to child fatalities, provide accurate information on how and why Texas children are dying, and reduce the number of preventable child deaths by taking data into prevention practice. By reviewing circumstances surrounding child deaths, teams identify prevention strategies that will decrease the incidence of preventable child deaths by:

- Providing assistance, direction, and coordination to investigations of child deaths;
- Promoting cooperation, communication, and coordination among agencies involved in responding to child fatalities;
- Developing an understanding of the causes and incidence of child deaths in the county or counties in which the team is located;
- Recommending changes to agencies, through the agency's representative member, that will reduce the number of preventable child deaths; and
- Advising the State Committee on changes to law, policy, or practice that will assist the team and the agencies represented on the team in fulfilling their duties.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Support resolution recognizing David's Law by both city and county.
- B. Update on-line map of all AED's in the county so dispatch might have an additional tool to help in an emergency response.
- C. Recommend having visible signage where AED's are located in a building.
- D. Appoint appropriate personnel to local Child Fatality Review Team.
- E. Ensure that all county employees attend training in first aid and/or CPR.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

This report is respectively submitted to the City of Fredericksburg City Council and to the Gillespie County Commissioners Court. Please let us know if additional information is desired or if you would wish this report to be given orally at the Council Meeting or Commissioner's Court.