**Fluoridation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

June 3, 2011

Attending Board Members:

Floyd Buras, Louisiana Medical Society

Sue Catchings, Maternal and Child Health Coalition

Pat Credeur, Louisiana Rural Water Association

Suzanne Farrar, Louisiana Dental Hygiene Association (call in)

Charles Foy, LDA Capital area component/DHH region 2 (call in)

Roger Grimball, LDA Lake southwest component/DHH region 5 (call in)

CJ Richard, LDA/DHH region 9

Richard Ballard, NODA/DHH region 1

Attending Special Guests:

Lynn Alessi, DHH- Oral Health

Karissa Page, DHH-Oral Health

Absent:

Richard Brasher, LDA central component/DHH region 6

Christopher Cosse, LDA northwest component/DHH region 7

Paige Gaudet, LDA bayou region component/DHH region 3

Henry Gremillion, LSU SOD Dean

John Little, LDA northeast component/DHH region 8

John Taylor, LDA Acadiana component/DHH region 4

1. Pat Credeur called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.
2. The meeting minutes from 3/25/2011 were approved. Sue Catchings provided the motion, seconded by Richard Ballard. All in favor.
3. Pat Credeur discussed the report written by Lynn Alessi regarding the status of CWF in LA. Pat Credeur offered to write a letter to the Governor, based on the report, asking the Governor for additional funds for CWF. It is too late now in the legislative session to file any bills. Pat Credeur explained that under Governor Foster they had asked for $250,000 a year for CWF. The discussion to ask for $1 million was had. Sue provided a motion to as the Administration for $1 million; CJ Richard seconded. All in favor. Pat Credeur will write his letter, include information about the FAB and ask for $1 million. Pat Credeur will mail the letter as well as hand deliver it to the Governor’s office. Pat Credeur suggested getting Mrs. Jindal involved with CWF. Sue Catchings offered that when the Oral Health Coalition’s policy group works on developing an Oral Health Caucus, CWF be one of the main points of discussion.
4. CJ Richard asked if replicating the CWF Medicaid cost in LA study would be worthwhile. Lynn Alessi did not think it was worth the endeavor because the research is not that old and there are countless other examples available from CDC, ADA, etc. that illustrate these findings.
5. Regarding the CWF projects
   1. Natchitoches – the Oral Health Program has received the signed contract from the mayor’s office, and has received the budget note from DHH fiscal. The contract will go up for approval some time during the week of 6/6/11. Natchitoches’s contract is for FY 12, so they won’t be receiving money for a few months yet.
   2. Walker- contract was sent back with comments. The Oral Health Program sent in the same contract as last year (which had been approved as written), with dates changed appropriately, and now the contract was returned unapproved. Walker is at risk of running out of time for this current fiscal year. The Program is trying to get carry over funds. Natchitoches will use up the FY12 funds and won’t leave any for Walker, which really should have used FY11 funds.
   3. Crowley- a citizen in Crowley filed a petition (with 15% of the registered voter’s signatures) with the mayor to opt out of fluoridation. It was further determined that because Crowley serves residents outside of the city/incorporated limits, 15% of those served by the water system would have to sign the petition, not just of the city, and the parish would have to call the election, not Crowley. The Oral Health Program discussed this with DHH Legal and further determined that Title 48 which provides existing systems with an opt out option is not in accordance with how Act 761 was written. Act 761 only provides an opt out for systems that have never fluoridated. In essence, Crowley cannot stop fluoridating.
      1. Sue Catchings asked if there is a way for Crowley to stop fluoridating without going after repealing or amending Act 761. That is the only method. Sue recommended targeting the Lafayette legislative members for being on the Caucus because the Citizens Opposing Fluoride group is based out of Lafayette.
   4. Lake Charles- the Oral Health Program received an inquiry from Lake Charles asking about how to stop CWF. Upon further investigation, Lake Charles was not considering stopping CWF, but was unaware that Title 48 existed and had been misinformed by the regional sanitation engineer. Lake Charles is not worried about
   5. It has been suggested to the Oral Health Program that instead of writing contracts for CWF, which don’t completely address the type of projects the Program is funding, a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement be written.
6. Title 48 will need to be re-promulgated for the following changes: 1) changing the recommended optimum level for LA from 0.8 ppm to 0.7 ppm which will reflect the anticipated change at the national level 2) Delete the language pertaining to the opt out
7. Karissa Page explained the purported status of the Prevention Health and Health Services Block Grant which is the sole funding source for CWF. Karissa conveyed that the rumors were that the Grant was going away. Karissa explained that the CDC was presently offering Community Transformation Grants and that DHH could only submit 1 application. Karissa explained that while the Oral Health Program has expressed interest in being included in DHH’s application, she did not know whether they would be written in.
8. Karissa Page shared with the group some model legislation that the Fluoride Action Network is providing to the “antis” relating to asking water systems to provide statements about avoiding the use of fluoridated water when making infant formula as it is a risk for fluorosis. The group further discussed a link Karissa had sent out previously about Gerber selling fluoride-free water and how the “antis” are claiming that CWF is disproportionately being forced on minority populations who can not afford to buy fluoride-free water.
9. Karissa Page updated the group on the status of the fluoride varnish bill, SCR 32. The bill passed out of committee, had 1 dissenting vote on the Senate floor (by Sen. Dan Claitor), and has since passed the House and has been delivered to the Secretary of State.
10. Karissa Page shared with the group the LA fact sheet included in the 2011 Pew Report Card. CWF is one of the benchmarks for the Pew Report Card. Presently, LA does not meet that benchmark. LA presently has a D, up from an F in 2010.
11. CJ Richard mentioned that Senator Claitor’s office had contact him about his appointment to the FAB. According to Claitor’s office, CJ Richard is up for reconfirmation.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am.