

Fluoridation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

August 16, 2013 - Room 372

Attending Board Members:

Pat Credeur, Louisiana Rural Water Association -Board Chairman

Dr. Richard Ballard, Region I-By Phone

Dr. C.J. Richard Region 11

Dr. John Taylor, Region IV-By Phone

Dr. Charles Foy, Region IX

Sue Catchings, Maternal and Child Health Association

Dr. Floyd Burras-LA State Medical Society-By Phone

Guests:

Brain Baker -OHP Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (DWRLF)

Susan Jeansonne-Oral Health Program

Rishu Garg-Oral Health Program

Anita Bryne-SSA Consultants

Elizabeth-Pew Centers on the States-by Phone

1. Pat Credeur called the meeting to order at 10:05 Am, Friday, August 16, 2013
2. The meeting minutes from 11/16/2012 were approved. Charles Foy provided the motion, seconded by C.J. Richards.

Information and Discussion-:

- Pat Credeur reported that despite problems with the LRWA/DHH contract for SFY 2013, , the LRWA has continued to support fluoridation efforts. The circuit ride staff has made approximately 400 site visits to water systems promoting and educating on the benefits of fluoridation. He stated that while the majority of the water operators are open to fluoridation, many are opposed. Susan Jeansonne reported that the Oral Health Program has conducted presentations on fluoridation at three Very Small Water System trainings, the LRWA Annual Conference and at an LRWA circuit rider staff meeting.
- Elizabeth Barajas-Roman with Pew reported that Pew is interested in helping Louisiana increase the percentage of the population with fluoridated through finding a source for funding such as a self-replenishing fund. Pew has conducted several conference calls with Susan, Jenny Wilson (DHH Revolving Loan Fund) and with the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in an effort to gauge the climate for future fluoridation efforts. Pat commented that one way Pew could help would be to conduct training sessions for his staff and other promoters, possibly a train the trainer session.

Susan reported that according to her conversations with Jenny Wilson, the new DWRLF application intended use plan will have points for the imitation of fluoridation.

- In response to a question on the revised fluoridation level for drinking water, Elizabeth reported that the CDC extended the comment period and which has pushed back the release of the new guidelines until the first of the year. Susan Jeansonne stated that when the guidelines were released, the Oral Health Program will be responsible for contracting the water systems and for developing talking points to explain the change. In Louisiana the change would be from 0.8 ppm to 0.7 ppm.
- Brian Baker with the DWRLF reported that the program loan funds to public/private profit and non-profit entities to upgrade water systems. Currently the fund has \$230 million in grants funds and \$114 million in loans. The loan has a “principal forgiveness” feature whereby as much as 30% of the loan up to 1.2 million can be forgiven. The principal forgiveness feature is a selling point for the community to include borrowing funds to initiate fluoridation. Susan Jeansonne commented that as we move forward the we will need to include promoting not only to mayors and city councils but also to engineers involved in the decision making process,
- Regarding promotion, Susan Jeansonne reported that she had received and was updating Dr. Taylor’s PowerPoint presentations and would distribute to all Board members shortly. Sue Catchings asked that the OHP develop common talking points for all promotion and education. Dr. Taylor commented that he used the American Dental Association (ADA) PowerPoint and talking points for his presentation. The OHP will enlist the help of Pew to develop a simple outline and talking points to include details and selling points for utilization of the DWRLF to initiate fluoridation. Pat Credeur listed the LRWA Annual Conference, the Police Jury Association conference, the Louisiana Municipal Association conference and the LA Conference on Water as additional opportunities to promote fluoridation. He offered the assistance of the LRWA to get on the agenda. Sue Catchings suggested that we find opportunities to publicly recognize water systems and operators for certain milestones such as training. Susan Jeansonne reported that systems that maintain the optimal level of fluoridation for 12 months annually receive the CDC Quality Award; the OHP usually presents these awards at the LRWA annual conference. Dr. Richard suggested that everyone should read the book [The Fluoride Wars: How a Modest Public Health Measure Became America's Longest Running Political Melodrama](#) by R. Allan Freeze and Jay H. Lehr.
- The Board discussed the issue of water operator training for fluoridated systems. It was the general consensus of the Board that water operators should be required to attend an annual training on the safe operation of a fluoridating system. Susan Jeansonne reported that the OHP was working on this but had made no progress on adding fluoridation training as a required training, but will continue the discussion with Safe Drinking Water.
- Susan Jeansonne reported that she would be contacting the Mayor of Zachary to discuss initiating fluoridation and asked Dr. Richard the Region II member and Sue Catchings to help with the introductions.

Board Actions: No Board Actions

Announcements and Comments:

- Susan Jeansonne and Rishu Garg with the Oral Health Program asked the Board for volunteers to serve as screeners in the upcoming Elderly Basic Screening Survey. The survey will be conducted at 65 nursing homes and 20 congregate meal sites throughout Louisiana. Screeners will need to attend a training session. This will be the first elderly survey to determine the oral status of Louisiana's elderly population.
- Pat Credeur thanked all for attending and complemented the Board on the work accomplished at the meeting.
The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.