



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Tuesday, December 9, 2020 - 5:00 p.m.
Via Telephone Conference

Present on call: Yocunda Clayton, MD, Sylvie Stacy, MD, Hernando Carter, MD, Kenny Murray, MD, Susan Walley, MD, and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

Others Present

On Call: Mark Wilson, MD, David Hicks, DO, Senitra Blackburn, Kim Cason, Rodney Holmes, Bryn Manzella, David Maxey, Esq., and Denisa Pridmore

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Stacy, Chair.

Minutes from the November 10, 2020 meeting were approved as distributed.

October 2020 Financial Statements

Dr. Stacy noted that the October 2020 Financial Statements were included in the Board package. Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance, answered questions from the Board.

Contracts

On the motion of Dr. Walley, and seconded by Commissioner Stephens, the following contracts were approved:

A new bid contract with Marathon Electrical Contractors, LLC (payee) for installation of integrated paging system at Guy M. Tate building per RFP #21-10-01; not to exceed \$88,513 from November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021.

An amendment to a contract with New Solutions Group, Inc. (payee) for relocation of Storm Water Management shed located at the JCDH Annex. Amendment is to extend term date; not to exceed \$3,450 from May 26, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

A new contract with New Solutions Group, Inc. (payee) for installation of light poles and light fixtures in JCDH Annex parking lot for Pediatric COVID-19 test site; not to exceed \$2,600 from October 29, 2020 through November 29, 2020.

An amendment to a contract with New Solutions Group, Inc. (payee) to add four additional lights in the JCDH Annex parking lot for Pediatric COVID-19 test site; not to exceed \$5,700 from October 29, 2020 through November 29, 2020.

An amendment to a contract with iOn Integrated Solutions, LLC (dba 1 Point USA) (payee) to provide security system installation and network infrastructure installation. Amendment is to change term dates; not to exceed \$231,430.37 from November 1, 2020 through February 20, 2021.

A new contract with Spec 9 Contract Flooring Group, LLC (payee) to provide flooring replacement services in Dental Health Clinic at Guy M. Tate building; not to exceed \$29,500 from October 23, 2020 through April 23, 2021.

A new bid contract with Terminix International Company Limited Partnership d/b/a Terminix Commercial (payee) to provide pest control services for all JCDH facilities per bid #21-10-02 at a rate of \$2,400 per year; not to exceed \$7,200 from November 9, 2020 through November 8, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with Nearen Construction Company, LLC (payee) to renovate the Guy M. Tate building lobby and Management Information Systems (MIS) areas. Change order to include agreed upon adjustments attributable to executed Construction Change Directives by \$12,411.01. Total renovation cost of \$1,616,477.49; not to exceed \$1,681,900 from September 17, 2019 through October 27, 2020.

Dr. Walley inquired about the amendment exceeding the bid amount. Mr. Holmes and David Maxey, Esq., legal counsel for JCDH, answered her questions and assured her that JCDH is in compliance with the Alabama bid law.

A new contract with Summit Media Management, Inc. (payee) to provide advertising service for JCDH flu and COVID-19, live stream on internet and commercials; not to exceed \$7,500 from October 31, 2020 through November 30, 2020.

A new contract with Town Square Media Tuscaloosa, LLC (payee) to provide advertising service for JCDH flu and COVID-19, live stream on internet and commercials; not to exceed \$10,000 from October 31, 2020 through November 30, 2020.

Renewal of a contract with The Children's Hospital of Alabama (payee) to provide on-call services for JCDH clients to be handled by professional Registered Nurses at a rate of \$16 per call, approximately 4,000 calls annually, and calls related to morning appointments paid at reduced rate of \$4 per call; not to exceed \$64,000 from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

An amendment to a contract with Ellkay, LLC (payee) for electronic medical record (EMR) legacy data conversion, quality measures import and archive annual license fees (in conjunction with athenahealth EMR). Amendment is to change term dates; not to exceed \$56,800 for year one and \$16,480 annually thereafter from October 2, 2018 through October 31, 2021.

Renewal of a contract with The University of Florida Board of Trustees (payee) to provide specialized laboratory services to JCDH patients who participate in the Tuberculosis Program at a rate of \$80 per test for single drug, single draw concentration and \$70 per test for single drug, multiple draw concentrations from November 4, 2020 through November 4, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health-Center for Emergency Preparedness (payor) for a grant to support the Jefferson County Healthcare Coalition and other health care entities to prepare and respond to COVID-19; not to exceed \$50,000 from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health-Center for Emergency Preparedness (payor) to provide grant funds for JCDH Cities Readiness Initiative grant activities at the local level; not to exceed \$86,000 from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

An amendment to a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health-Center for Emergency Preparedness (payor) to provide grant funds for JCDH Cities Readiness Initiative grant activities at the local level. The terms of this grant were extended; not to exceed \$87,062 from April 15, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

A new contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) to scale up HIV Prevention in the Sexual Health Clinic in offering pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP), strengthening clinic and laboratory capacity for recommended follow-up visit and optimizing linkage to retention in and re-engagement with HIV medical care; not to exceed \$393,831 from August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021.

A new contract with Health HIV (payor) to increase hepatitis C testing, diagnosis, and linkage to care in high-risk population; not to exceed \$2,000 from January 14, 2020 through December 29, 2020.

Appointment of 2021 Rabies Officer

On the motion of Dr. Walley, and seconded by Dr. Murray, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, Thomas P. Dawkins, D.V.M. has confirmed that he is desirous of being appointed the Rabies Officer for Jefferson County for the year 2021 as evidenced by his letter dated November 16, 2020.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Thomas P. Dawkins, D.V.M. be appointed as the Rabies Officer for Jefferson County for the year 2021.

Authorizing Purchase of and Distribution of Antiviral Medicine for Treatment of Influenza during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Stacy stated that the following resolution was developed in response to a conversation at last month's Board meeting. This resolution would allow the purchase and distribution of antiviral medicines to treat influenza during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the goal of potentially decreasing hospitalizations. The resolution allows for final decisions regarding whether to move forward with providing antiviral medicine to be made at a later date during the pandemic. The Board discussed the resolution. Dr. Stacy expressed concerns with this being outside the scope of JCDH and stated that efforts would more appropriately be focused on encouraging both COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations as well as primary behavioral measures for prevention. Dr. Wilson noted the vaccinations are JCDH's priority. Dr. Wilson stated that preliminary plans may allow

JCDH test sites offering both influenza and COVID-19 testing to administer antiviral medications to uninsured Jefferson County patients who test positive for influenza and meet certain criteria.

On the motion of Dr. Walley, and seconded by Dr. Clayton, the following resolution was approved by all Board members with the exception of Dr. Stacy:

WHEREAS, SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses are co-circulating in Jefferson County;

WHEREAS, the signs and symptoms of influenza overlap with those of mild COVID-19 (1);

WHEREAS, coinfection with influenza A or B viruses and SARS-CoV-2 has been described in case reports and case series (2-7);

WHEREAS, the State Board of Health desires to effectively perform treatment of COVID-19 and related illnesses as part of its public health mandate in response to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Jefferson County hospitals are experiencing strain from high numbers of COVID-19 admissions, including critical care beds, and the addition of influenza-related hospitalizations would add to that strain, which in turn threatens hospitals' capacity to care for patients generally;

WHEREAS, there is some evidence that early treatment of influenza A or B in certain high risk patients may reduce the likelihood of their being hospitalized or may reduce the duration of hospitalization (8).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board of Health declares that there is a public health need to provide antiviral medicine for treatment of influenza in people at increased risk of hospitalization during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Department of Health, under the direction of the Health Officer, may elect to provide antiviral medicines for the outpatient treatment of influenza to individuals free of charge, if indicated by the hospital bed capacity and the level of influenza activity in the County, and other considerations. If the Department chooses to provide such antiviral medicines free of charge, the Department shall first develop criteria, including clinical criteria, to determine who is eligible to receive it.

References:

1. Influenza and COVID-19. COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines. National Institutes of Health. Available at: <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/special-populations/influenza/>.
2. Kondo Y, Miyazaki S, Yamashita R, et al. Coinfection with SARS-CoV-2 and influenza A virus. BMJ Case Reports CP 2020;13:e236812. Available at: <https://casereports.bmj.com/content/13/7/e236812>.

3. Konala VM, Adapa S, Naramala S, et al. A Case Series of Patients Coinfected With Influenza and COVID-19. *Journal of Investigative Medicine High Impact Case Reports*. January 2020. Available at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2324709620934674>.
4. Huang BR, Lin YL, Wan CK, et al. Co-infection of influenza B virus and SARS-CoV-2: A case report from Taiwan. *J Microbiol Immunol Infect*. 2020; Published online ahead of print. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32646801>.
5. Yue H, Zhang M, Xing L, et al. The epidemiology and clinical characteristics of co-infection of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses in patients during COVID-19 outbreak. *J Med Virol*. 2020; Published online ahead of print. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32530499>.
6. Cuadrado-Payan E, Montagud-Marrahi E, Torres-Elorza M, et al. SARS-CoV-2 and influenza virus co-infection. *Lancet*. 2020. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32423586>.
7. Wu X, Cai Y, Huang X, et al. Co-infection with SARS-CoV-2 and influenza A virus in patient with pneumonia, China. *Emerg Infect Dis*. 2020;26(6):1324-1326. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32160148>.
8. Kaiser L, Wat C, Mills T, et al. Impact of oseltamivir treatment on influenza-related lower respiratory tract complications and hospitalizations. *Arch Intern Med* 2003; 163:1667. Available at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12885681>.

Election of 2021 Officers

Dr. Carter was elected as Chair of the Board. Dr. Murray was named to serve on the General Liability Claims & Investment Committee. The new Board of Health member elected by the Jefferson County Medical Society, Dr. Iris D. Fancher, will serve as Secretary.

The Board unanimously approved the election of the officers for 2021.

Board of Health Self-Evaluation

Bryn Manzella, MPH, Quality Improvement Officer, asked the Board members to complete the Self-Evaluation forms included in their packages. The survey may be emailed to Ms. Manzella and the name of the Board member providing the comments will remain confidential.

Report of the Health Officer

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Wilson reported that Jefferson County COVID-19 cases remain high with an average of over 500 new cases per day and the percentage positivity rate is well over 10 percent. Local hospitals are strained with 482 COVID-19 cases hospitalized in Jefferson County this morning and steadily rising. Hospital leaders reported that beds and staff are being re-allocated continuously to create more capacity.

JCDH's Communications Division is doing a major media campaign using Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds. Messages for "This Holiday Season, Let's Spread Joy Not COVID-19," will encourage the public to continue with COVID-19 precautions until a vaccine is widely available.

Governor's Safer at Home Order

Dr. Wilson stated that Governor Kay Ivey has extended the Safer at Home Order that includes the statewide mask ordinance until January 22, 2021.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Dr. Wilson reported that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is set to review COVID-19 vaccination data from the pharmaceutical company Pfizer this week. After approval, a small supply of the vaccine is expected to be in Alabama to be given to frontline healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities. Wide scale distribution to the general public will likely take several months. Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine is scheduled for review next week by the FDA. JCDH is working on a messaging strategy for the vaccine.

Dr. Wilson announced that on December 10, 2020 at 1:00 pm, Dr. Hicks, Dr. Wesley Willeford, Medical Director of Disease Control, and Dr. David Kimberlin, UAB Pediatric Infectious Diseases, will be providing a COVID-19 Vaccination Special Program on Fox 6 that will include taking questions from the community.

Follow-Up to Racism as a Public Health Issue

Dr. Wilson reported that he met with Dr. Walley, Dr. Clayton, Walter Jackson, Deputy County Manager, and two representatives from the Birmingham Business Alliance (BBA) to discuss the draft Racism as a Public Health Issue resolution. The meeting was very insightful to the business communities' perspective on the proposed resolution. Dr. Wilson was invited to speak with additional BBA members and subsequent conversations have occurred. An Alabama Power Public Relations employee was asked to assist with messaging of the resolution and a recommendation was made for an op-ed on this topic.

Chris Osborne, JCDH Public Relations Manager, suggested waiting until February, which is Black History Month, for a potential resolution or op-ed. JCDH's current volume of communication for COVID-19 and vaccinations could weaken JCDH's message on Racism as a Public Health Issue at this time. Dr. Wilson will proceed with a draft resolution and op-ed and will obtain input from the Board prior to the February Board meeting.

JCDH's Response to Surge in Drug Overdoses

Dr. Wilson stated that Dr. Darlene Traffanstedt, Medical Director of Population Health & Family Planning, has performed a great deal of work with JCDH's opioid response and naloxone distribution. Dr. Traffanstedt and her team recently submitted a grant proposal to the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) to support additional addiction and overdose response activities. JCDH received a preliminary announcement of a grant award of \$500,000 from NACCHO, pending additional documentation needed from JCDH and a signed agreement.

COVID-19 Vaccination Communication

Dr. Hicks discussed the communication strategy for the JCDH COVID-19 Vaccination Plan that is informed by public health literature and psychological science. A team, that includes Dr. Wilson, Dr. Wesley Willeford, Bryn Manzella, Chris Osborne, and Dr. Hicks, has been looking at why some people may or may not want to take a vaccine based on literature. The evidence-based approaches will inform the general public about the COVID-19 vaccines.

Focus groups have been discussed in order to understand people's perceptions. Ms. Manzella noted that JCDH needs to understand what the community needs and wants to know about the COVID-19 vaccine in order to make an informed decision. The focus groups will be concentrating on marginalized communities.

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) Update

Dr. Walley reported that she had contacted Dr. Karen Landers at ADPH regarding the issues Children's Hospital is experiencing with reporting MIS-C associated with COVID-19 to the ADPH dashboard. The issues have been addressed.

Recognition of Yocunda Clayton, MD

Dr. Stacy and Dr. Wilson acknowledged their gratitude to Dr. Clayton for serving on the Board of Health. A plaque was delivered to Dr. Clayton today.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room A/B or via telephone conference (announcement will be made prior to the meeting date.) There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Susan Walley, MD, Secretary

Approved:

Sylvie Stacy, MD, Chair