



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 - 5:00 p.m.

5th Floor Board Room

Present: Sylvie Stacy, MD, Hernando Carter, MD, Kenny Murray, MD, Iris Fancher, MD, and Jeffrey Dobyns, DO

Absent: Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

Others Present: Mark Wilson, MD, Rodney Holmes, David Hicks, DO, David Maxey, Esq., Wade Merritt, Esq., Kim Cason, Bryn Manzella, Edward Khan, MD, Rachael Hobgood, and Terrie Hartley

Tuberculosis in the Era of COVID-19

Edward Khan, M.D., Disease Control Tuberculosis (TB) Division, gave an overview on Tuberculosis in the Era of COVID. TB is a chronic infection of the lungs that can last weeks, months and in some cases years. Dr. Khan shared the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention TB Cases and Incidence Rate in the United States from 1993-2020. There has been a downward trend in the number of TB cases due to the standard of public health interventions, which include identifying cases, getting patients on treatment, and contact tracing. TB requires at least six months of treatment. If treatment is incomplete, patients may not be cured and drug resistance may develop. Directly observed therapy (DOT) is a key element of TB case management. DOT entails a trained observer to watch the patient swallow anti-TB medications. During the COVID pandemic JCDH TB Clinic continued their same standard of care through socially distanced DOT and monthly nursing assessments via telephone.

In the year 2019 and 2020 the number of TB cases as well as the TB case rate made a precipitous drop (19.4%) because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Reasons for the large drop in cases were reduced travel to the United States from high burden countries, lockdowns, social distancing, business closures, and mask mandates. Some of the decline in the number of cases detected was probably an artifact of people being afraid to go to the hospital/medical clinics out of fear of getting COVID, and provider misdiagnosis. In 2020 Jefferson County showed a 33% decrease in TB cases, and 2021 year-to-date shows a move toward “normalcy” with a 66.7% increase in TB cases. This is not a spike in the number of cases but a restoration to levels we had seen pre-COVID. There has been a much higher percentage of substance abuse patients getting TB this year which may be reflective of the increase in substance abuse that was seen during COVID. Dr. Khan answered questions from the Board.

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the October 13, 2021 meeting were approved as distributed.

September 2021 Financial Statements

Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance, reviewed the September 2021 financial statements. There were no questions from the Board.

Contracts

On the motion of Dr. Fancher, and seconded by Dr. Dobyms, the following contracts were approved:

A new contract with 1 Point USA (A Division of Integrated Solutions, LLC) (payee) to provide replacement of encoder cameras with 5 mega pixel internet protocol cameras at the Guy Tate Building, Annex and Eastern Health Center for a rate of \$120 per hour for electronic security services, estimated fee amount of \$7,000 per quarter; not to exceed \$30,000 from August 1, 2021 through August 1, 2022.

A new bid contract with Duncan & Thompson Construction Services, LLC (payee) to replace two existing emergency generators with a new single generator for Eastern Health Center. Contractor will also furnish and install a new uninterruptible power supply for a rate not to exceed \$460,000 from August 25, 2021 until completion.

A new contract with ADCO Companies, LTD (payee) to provide and install replacement boiler tubes at the Guy Tate building; not to exceed \$29,000 from October 14, 2021 through October 14, 2022.

A new contract with Access Information Management of Georgia, LLC (payee) to convert old paper tuberculosis charts to a digital, electronic version and will provide the collection, transportation and destruction of the records; not to exceed \$20,000 from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with the Board of Trustees for The University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) to establish an agreement with the Division of Infectious Disease at UAB for staff and associates to provide clinical support to JCDH; not to exceed \$62,000 from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

A new bid contract with Fourth-Gen Management Group, LLC dba Imperial Vending (payor) to provide vending machine products at each JCDH facility as well as pay electricity cost for vending machines at a cost not to exceed \$5,800; vendor agrees to pay 10% commission of the monthly net sales from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Center for Emergency Preparedness (payor) for ADPH to provide grant funds for JCDH Cities Readiness Initiative activities at the local level; not to exceed \$86,312 from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Report of the Health Officer

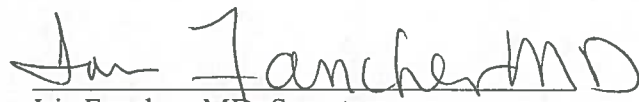
COVID-19 Update

Dr. Wilson reported that Jefferson County is averaging approximately fifty new COVID-19 cases a day. The numbers seem to have plateaued, although there was a slight increase in the number of cases last week. Jefferson County's percent positivity rate is 3.3%. The vaccination rate has slowed down with the majority of vaccinations being booster shots. Some pharmacies and a few pediatric practices have received the pediatric COVID vaccine. JCDH has received a pediatric supply and will begin advertising vaccinations next week.

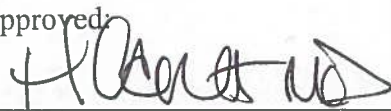
Executive Session

David Maxey, Esquire, reviewed with the Board of Health reasons that warrant going into executive session. A motion was made by Dr. Fancher, and seconded by Dr. Murray, that the Board go into special session for the agency's attorneys to discuss pending litigation, and to not reconvene the regular Board meeting. Voting "yes" individually: Dr. Fancher, Dr. Murray, Dr. Stacy, Dr. Dobyms, and Dr. Carter.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m. followed by the Executive Board Meeting. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Board Room or via Zoom (announcement will be made prior to the meeting date).


Iris Fancher, MD, Secretary

Approved:


Hernando Carter, MD, Chair