



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, May 11, 2022 - 5:00 p.m.
5th Floor Board Room

PRESENT: Hernando Carter, MD, Kenny Murray, MD, Jeffrey Dobyms, DO, and Michele Kong, MD

ABSENT: Iris Fancher, MD and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

OTHERS

PRESENT: Mark Wilson, MD, David Hicks, DO, David Maxey, Esq., Rodney Holmes, Charlotte Walton, Jeannie Horton, Bryn Manzella, Kim Cason, Senitra Blackburn, and Terrie Hartley

Nurse-Family Partnership

Charlotte Walton, BSN, RN, Nurse Supervisor with Nurse-Family Partnership of Central Alabama provided background on the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program. Dr. David Olds developed and tested the NFP program over 40 years ago beginning in Elmira, New York, then Memphis, Tennessee, and then Denver, Colorado. The program launched in Central Alabama in October 2017 and is sponsored by JCDH and local partners. The NFP is an evidence-based community health program with 45 years of research showing significant improvements in the health and lives of first-time moms and their children affected by social and economic inequality. The NFP is a group of specially trained nurses that provide regularly scheduled home visits with first-time mothers-to-be and continuing until the child is age two. The goal of NFP is to improve pregnancy outcomes, improve child health and development, and to improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family. The NFP nurse does physical, social, environmental, home, family history, intimate partner violence, and mental health assessments while in the home. They offer guidance on pregnancy, labor and delivery, breastfeeding, safe sleep, infant bonding, infant child care, car seat safety, parenting, family planning, employment, and budgeting.

Jeannie Horton, Senior Director of Development at UAB School of Nursing, reported that NFP is working to become a self-sustaining program. They are anticipating Alabama Medicaid to begin providing reimbursements by the end of 2022. The Medicaid reimbursement rate will be a flat rate of \$7,800 per client annually which will allow the program to sustain existing nurse home visits. Ms. Horton said there is a great need for more mental health services and they would like to expand those services in the future. JCDH contributions have helped fund 6 NFP nurses.

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the April 13, 2022 meeting were approved as distributed.

April 2022 Financial Statements

Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance, reviewed the April 2022 Financial Statements which were included in the Board material. There were no questions from the Board.

Contracts

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

A new contract with Bhate Geosciences Corporation (payee) to provide a limited phase II environmental site assessment of subsurface exploration and geotechnical engineering evaluation; not to exceed \$9,940 from April 15, 2022 through March 15, 2023.

A new contract with Taylor & Miree Construction, Inc. (payee) to provide construction modification services to portions of the JCDH Annex; not to exceed \$2,329,514 from April 14, 2022 through April 14, 2023.

A new contract with Geotab USA, Inc. (payee) who will provide software and device upgrades along with maintenance to global positioning system (GPS) installed in JCDH vehicles for a cost of \$3,445 per month, \$41,340 per year; not to exceed \$43,000 per year from April 28, 2022 through April 28, 2025.

A new contract with Rivera Communications (payee) for advertising services via radio spots to promote the HIV/Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing event at Western Health Center; not to exceed \$200 from March 31, 2022 through April 14, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with Vertiv Corporation (payee) to provide professional yearly maintenance to the uninterrupted power systems (UPS) in the JCDH data center for an amount not to exceed \$6,374 from May 24, 2022 through May 24, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with The Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payor) to extend the term and for additional funding for the Alabama/North Carolina Regional STD/HIV Training Center; not to exceed \$19,064 from April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with The Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) for funding for Disease Intervention Specialists within the STD Program to conduct case investigations at a rate not to exceed \$1,500,000 from April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024.

Addressing Fentanyl Overdose Deaths and Authorizing Purchase and Distribution of Fentanyl Test Strips

Dr. Wilson noted the following resolution would allow JCDH to purchase and distribute fentanyl test strips at no cost to individuals who are at risk of experiencing a fentanyl overdose, similar to the naloxone resolution the Board authorized a few years ago. JCDH currently has grant funding that will cover the cost for the near term but there may be a need to use some General Fund money to supplement the program which goes into effect on June 1, 2022. The fentanyl test strips will be available by request on the JCDH website, along with educational material on how to use the test strips.

On the motion of Dr. Dobyms, and seconded by Dr. Carter, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2014 the Board of Health passed a resolution encouraging a variety of community efforts to combat heroin and prescription opioid addiction and overdoses;

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2016 the Board of Health authorized the Jefferson County Department of Health to purchase the opioid antagonist naloxone for distribution in Jefferson County at no cost to individuals at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose or to individuals in a position to assist others experiencing an opioid-related overdose;

WHEREAS, the number of overdose deaths from illicitly produced fentanyl has been increasing in Jefferson County over the past several years;

WHEREAS, out of the 401 total overdose deaths recorded in Jefferson County in 2021, 316 involved fentanyl (1);

WHEREAS, fentanyl is increasingly present in other drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine, and counterfeit prescription pills, often without the knowledge of the drug user;

WHEREAS, commercially available brands of fentanyl test strips, originally designed to test urine, have been shown to detect the presence of fentanyl in small amounts of other illicit drugs dissolved in water (2) (3);

WHEREAS, studies have shown that a majority of drug users provided with fentanyl test strips utilized them to test their drugs before use; of those who detected the presence of fentanyl, a majority reported not using the drug at all, using less of the drug, using the drug more slowly, and/or using the drug with someone else present (2) (4) (5);

WHEREAS, in March 2022 Alabama's drug paraphernalia law (Section 13A-12-260 of the Code of Alabama of 1975) was amended to exempt (legalize) the distribution or possession of certain items used to test for the presence of fentanyl or any synthetic controlled substance fentanyl analogue;

BE IT RESOLVED that deaths from fentanyl overdose is a major public health problem in Jefferson County, and

BE IT RESOLVED that Jefferson County Department of Health is authorized to purchase fentanyl test strips for distribution at no cost to individuals in Jefferson County who are at risk of experiencing a fentanyl overdose.

Report of the Health Officer

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Wilson reported the 7-day average of new COVID-19 cases has increased over the past several weeks to 50 cases per day, up from a nadir of around 12 or 13 per day. The numbers do not include home tests and could be higher. The 7-day percent positivity rate for Jefferson County increased to 4.6%, and 6.1% for Alabama. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) we are still considered in the "green" category which is low. As of May 10, there were 10 patients hospitalized with COVID. Fifty-three percent of Jefferson County residents have

completed the primary vaccine series with 65% having received at least one dose. JCDH continues to provide COVID vaccines at the Guy Tate building every Tuesday and Friday.

JCDH Sustainability Plan

Dr. Wilson reported he and some JCDH staff met with Julie Price, PhD, MS, Assistant Professor at UAB School of Public Health, Environmental Health Sciences. Dr. Price facilitated UAB's sustainability strategic plan and was able to provide advice and recommend other leads to help with the JCDH sustainability planning process.

Office of Health Equity

Dr. Wilson stated JCDH is still in the process of creating a Health Equity Officer position. The process is taking longer than anticipated because a new job class will be created within the Jefferson County Personnel Board system. JCDH has been consulting with other health departments around the country that have an office of health equity.

Dr. Wilson noted that JCDH employees are currently participating in mandatory training on diversity, cultural awareness and unconscious bias.

The 2022 World Games

Dr. Wilson reminded the Board The World Games are July 7 - 17. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration was on-site at JCDH today to train and collaborate with Environmental Health Specialists and on food safety for the games. All private and public food vendors will have to be permitted and follow elaborate chain-of-custody procedures. The food inspectors will be on call 7 days a week and will have to be credentialed to enter any venue. The Board expressed an interest in hearing a more detailed report at the June Board meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Board Room.

Michele Kong, MD

Michele Kong, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Kenny Murray, MD, Chair