



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 - 5:00 p.m.

5th Floor Board Room

PRESENT: Hernando Carter, MD, Kenny Murray, MD, Jeffrey Dobyns, DO, and Iris Fancher, MD

ABSENT: Michelle Kong, MD and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

OTHERS

PRESENT: Mark Wilson, MD, David Maxey, Esq., Courtney Baker, Jason Harpe, Loretta Hicks, Sha Miles, Karlisa Harris, Rodney Holmes, Jannese Covington, Kim Cason, Bryn Manzella, Erica Perkins, Melissa Lockhart, Jonathan Stanton, Mary Claire Kelly, and Terrie Hartley

The World Games 2022

Jonathan Stanton, PE, Director, Environmental Health, provided an overview of The World Games (TWG) which will be held in Birmingham July 7–17. TWG is an eleven-day global multi-sport event held every four years. There are 17 athletic venues throughout Jefferson and Shelby Counties that will host 223 sporting events. JCDH is playing a very active role in preparation for TWG, especially in the area of food safety and food defense, and has activated an internal incident command prior to the event. Environmental Health staff will be working 24-hour shifts beginning June 28 through July 17. Mr. Stanton noted the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has given TWG a Level 1 Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) which is given to significant events with national and/or international importance that require extensive federal interagency support. Special credentialing will be required for each food inspector to enter event venues.

Jannese Covington, MPH, Program Supervisor, Food and Lodging Protection Division, shared a graph showing the required man hours for event operations. In addition to venues with food service there will also be athletes' meals, private events and parties, and opening and closing ceremonies that will require inspections. JCDH requested assistance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which has years of experience with large scale special events. The FDA has provided food defense training for JCDH staff and food operators. Ms. Covington said there will be an estimated 60 caterers and restaurants, 85 temporary food permits, concession kitchens and athletes' meals that will require inspection. Shelby County Health Department and the FDA will provide some assistance to JCDH.

Kim Cason, BSN, RN, Health Services Manager, Clinical Services Division, stated JCDH will run a command center out of JCDH Department Operations Center that will help with staff scheduling, and dedicated phone lines will be installed for field personnel use. One person from the Jefferson

County Healthcare Coalition will have a seat at the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) along with one more JCDH staff member. Ms. Cason shared details on emergency preparedness preparation and noted Disease Control staff have been preparing in case of a notifiable disease outbreak.

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the May 11, 2022 meeting were approved as distributed.

2021 Audit Report

Jason Harpe, CPA, Partner with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC, presented the Department's Fiscal Year 2021 Audit Report and answered questions from the Board. Mr. Harpe said the auditors are issuing an unmodified opinion, which is the highest opinion they can issue for financial statements. The net pension liability for JCDH is \$60.1 million for its unfunded pension obligation with the Retirement Systems of Alabama as of September 30, 2021. He commended JCDH for its contributions to the trust for post-employment benefits. Mr. Harpe reviewed the required communication to the Board that is located at the end of the 2021 Audit Report. He stated this year he had an exit conference with Dr. Murray and will plan next year to have an entrance conference with all Board members.

The Board unanimously accepted the Fiscal Year 2021 Audit Report.

Internal Controls for Identifying and Mitigating Fraud Risks

Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director, Finance and Administration, noted in October 2021 Carr, Riggs & Ingram sent out a Fraud Risk Questionnaire to Board members and JCDH supervisors as part of routine audit procedures. He said JCDH has a Code of Professional Conduct policy which states employees are expected to report illegal or unethical behavior to a manager/supervisor, Human Resources or Risk Management. The policy also lists a toll-free hot line telephone number for anonymous complaints. David Maxey, Esq., legal counsel for JCDH, is in-house full-time which is another means of reporting.

Mr. Holmes stated all employees are required to complete Corporate and HIPAA Compliance training once a year. At the suggestion of Mr. Maxey, JCDH is in the process of setting up a compliance program that will put all compliance policies together into one document to ensure all programs are doing what they are designed to do. This will be another way to help prevent or detect any potential fraud.

May 2022 Financial Statements

Mr. Holmes reviewed the May 2022 Financial Statements. There were no questions from the Board.

Contracts

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

A new contract with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC (payee) who will provide medical billing consulting services to JCDH for a rate not to exceed \$35,000 from May 31, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

A new contract with KDVB Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Benton Nissan of Hoover (payee) for the sale of three 2019 Nissan Leaf vehicles to JCDH for a rate not to exceed \$42,500 from May 31, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with Health Screening Services, LLC d/b/a Health Screening Solutions (payee) to provide COVID-19 testing services as mutually agreed upon during COVID-19 pandemic for an amount of \$950 per day plus \$125 for PCR testing and \$100 per rapid POC testing; not to exceed \$7,600,000 from May 16, 2022 through November 30, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with Alabama Institute of Deaf and Blind (payee) who will provide sign language interpreting services as needed to JCDH clients and patients at the rate of \$55 per hour; not to exceed \$7,500 from April 4, 2022 through April 4, 2023.

A new contract with Central Alabama Pride, Inc. (payee) to provide event participation and advertising services to JCDH for an amount not to exceed \$5,000 from May 9, 2022 through June 12, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with Triage Logic Management and Consulting, LLC (payee) for software solution to assist nurses with telephone triage activities; not to exceed \$13,000 from May 31, 2022 through May 31, 2024.

A new contract with SHI International Corporation (payee) to provide services that will enable JCDH to extend our infrastructure into the Azure cloud; not to exceed \$10,000 monthly from April 2022 through April 2025.

Renewal of a contract with Pluralsight, LLC (payee) to provide online technical skills training for Information Technology staff up to fifteen seats for one year; not to exceed \$10,516.50 from June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023.

A new contract with Smartsheet, Inc. (payee) for an annual purchase of a new work collaboration software; not to exceed \$1,643.40 from April 22, 2022 through April 21, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with Phreesia, Inc. (payee) to amend the agreement to add a change order to include a self-scheduling feature; not to exceed an additional \$510 per month from May 1, 2022 through ongoing.

An amendment to a bid contract with MXI Environmental Services, LLC (payee) to provide comprehensive household hazardous waste (HHW) collection processing, transportation and management of recycling and disposal of HHW materials. Amendment is to extend term of agreement; not to exceed bid award from June 1, 2020 through May 30, 2022.

An amendment to a contract with Recovery Organization of Support Specialists, LLC (payee) to provide on-call Peer Support Specialist services to support the JCDH Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level project and will provide on-call peers per a mutually agreeable schedule; not to exceed \$110,350 from August 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) (payor) to provide additional funding to Overdose to Action for year 3 funds to support prevention activities; not to exceed \$58,000 from February 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022.

Report of the Health Officer

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Wilson reported we are currently seeing a surge in COVID-19 cases. According to ADPH Jefferson County's average is at 200 cases per day and rising, with a 15.2% positivity rate compared to 15.8% statewide. As of Monday Jefferson County had 60 residents hospitalized with COVID-19, with 7 of those being pediatric patients. Out of the 53 adults hospitalized, 6 were on ventilators. Dr. Wilson said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) releases COVID-19 community level reports every Thursday and Jefferson County is still listed in the "low" category as of last week. Much of this is based on the low number of hospitalizations, but he expects the category to change with the next update. He stated JCDH follows CDC guidelines for masking, which could possibly have an effect on TWG masking recommendations.

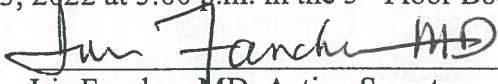
Clinical Recruiting and Staffing

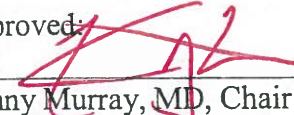
Dr. Wilson noted JCDH is facing some staffing and recruiting challenges in the areas of Pediatrics, Family Planning and Dental. JCDH Human Resources is working to come up with ways to recruit new candidates, but because we are under the Merit System of the Jefferson County Personnel Board we are limited on what we can offer in terms of salaries and are unable to compete with the private sector. Dr. Murray suggested some unmatched medical residency candidates may be interested in working as medical assistants for a year, which could be an option in helping with the medical assistant staffing shortage.

Tree Canopy in Urban Areas

Dr. Wilson reminded the Board he consulted with a sustainability expert from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) about a sustainability plan for JCDH which resulted in a conversation about tree canopies in urban areas. A UAB research study and studies by experts have shown an increase in tree canopy has the potential to reduce nighttime temperatures, decrease adverse health effects related to heat, improve air quality, and help to slow down storm water runoff. Tree canopies also make communities more livable. Dr. Wilson has reached out to several organizations and experts about starting a new program or organization in Jefferson County whose sole mission would be to protect and increase the tree canopy in and around the Birmingham area. JCDH may have the opportunity to help develop a program through funding from the Jefferson County Public Health Advised Fund. Board members expressed an interest in hearing a presentation from the scientists and experts involved in the UAB research study.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Board Room.


Iris Fancher, MD, Acting Secretary

Approved: 
Kenny Murray, MD, Chair