



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, October 12, 2022 - 5:00 p.m.
5th Floor Board Room

PRESENT: Hernando Carter, MD, Kenny Murray, MD, Iris Fancher, MD, and Michele Kong, MD

ABSENT: Jeffrey Dobyns, DO and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

OTHERS

PRESENT: David Maxey, Esq., Rodney Holmes, Mark Wilson, MD, Senitra Blackburn, Rusha Smith, Carolyn Buck, Jeanne Jackson, Clair Speegle, David Hicks, DO, Jonathan Stanton, Bryn Manzella, Anushree Gade, and Terrie Hartley

Red Rock Trail System Master Plan

Jeanne Jackson, Vice Chair of the Board for the Freshwater Land Trust, thanked the Board of Health and JCDH for their continued support and commitment to Freshwater Land Trust (FLT) projects over the years.

Rusha Smith, Executive Director, provided some background on FLT and said they are headed into their twenty-seventh year. She said FLT was founded as part of the Jefferson County sewer litigation agreement and was organized as a land trust as part of that settlement with the initial purpose to conserve land on the Cahaba and Black Warrior watershed. Freshwater Land Trust owns and actively manages over 8,000 acres of land, making them one of the largest owners of private nature preserves in Alabama. Along with many partners, they have helped protect more than 11,000 acres throughout Central Alabama, including the 1,108-acre Red Mountain Park and the 700-acre Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. She stated the purpose of the FLT is to conserve, connect and care for land and waters, and create green space for future generations.

Carolyn Buck, Director of the Red Rock Trail System with Freshwater Land Trust, presented a revised Red Rock Trail System Action Plan to the Board. Ms. Buck shared the goals and vision of the Action Plan, which is to establish a strategic plan for building a connected trail loop around the Greater Birmingham Metro Area in a feasible and equitable manner. There are several types of trails available: greenways, bike lanes, natural trails, complete streets (streets designed for all users), and sharrows (lanes for both bikes and cars). Use of sharrows is kept to a minimum in the plan. Ms. Buck noted there are seven priority corridors which will make up a thirty-six-mile Red Rock Trail System Loop. The seven corridors are:

- Corridor A – Smithfield to Downtown
- Corridor B – 20th Street

- Corridor C – Red Mountain Park to University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)
- Corridor D – High Ore Line to Jones Valley Greenway
- Corridor E – Ruffner Mountain Rail Trail
- Corridor F – Irondale
- Corridor G – Red Mountain to Shades Creek

She also shared the transportation, health and economic benefits of the Trail System. Ms. Buck answered questions from the Board.

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the September 14, 2022 meeting were approved as distributed.

Contracts

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

Renewal of a contract with The Bloom Group, Inc. (payee) who will provide consulting and government relations services to JCDH at a rate of \$36,000 plus \$5,000 for expenses; not to exceed \$41,000 from December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2023.

A new contract with SmoothRock Café, LLC (payee) to provide venue and food for all day management training in October 2022; not to exceed \$4,400 from October 1, 2022 through December 1, 2022.

An amendment to a contract with Phreesia, Inc. (payee) for automated intake platform designed to improve efficiency of the medical record and clinical areas. Change order to include adding two additional providers and removal of two Phreesia pads; not to exceed an additional \$510 per month from October 1, 2022 through ongoing.

Renewal of a contract with Midmark Corporation (payee) to provide software subscription, maintenance and support for IQvitals equipment; not to exceed \$600 from October 21, 2022 through October 21, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with The Cross Cultural Health Care Program (payee) who will provide training, certification and license agreement for Adriana Valenzuela to host equity and inclusion trainings; not to exceed \$1,500 from October 5, 2022 through October 5, 2024.

A new contract with Townsquare Media, LLC (payee) to provide advertising and promotional services using various digital formats to inform and educate the residents of Jefferson County on the monkeypox virus; not to exceed \$14,990 from September 6, 2022 through November 6, 2022.

A new contract with Victor Langford d/b/a The Force Law Enforcement and Security Company (payee) who will provide, manage and coordinate all contracted sworn “Law Enforcement Alabama Peace Officer Standards and Training Officer Certified” officers for JCDH at a rate of \$40 per hour; not to exceed \$400,000 from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

A new contract with Victor Langford d/b/a The Force Law Enforcement and Security Company (payee) to provide, manage, schedule and coordinate unarmed security guards to work weekends and fill-in shifts as needed for JCDH at a rate of \$18 per hour; not to exceed \$50,000 from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) to provide a foundation of monetary and technical support for sub-recipient to build programs, support systems and implement activities to address drug overdose. Amendment is to increase funding and extend grant period; not to exceed \$787,282 from September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with the National Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (payor) to extend the National Association of County and City Health Officials Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level activities; not to exceed \$422,028 from November 25, 2020 through December 31, 2022.

A new contract with WellCare Health Plans, Inc. (payor) who will remit payment for medical services provided by JCDH for an amount to be determined by the patient services provided from January 1, 2023 through January 1, 2025.

Jefferson County Public Health Fund

Dr. Wilson reminded the Board the Public Health Advised Fund (PHAF) was established in 2005 as a means to support public health projects in Jefferson County. He noted JCDH was under budget by approximately seven million dollars (\$7,000,000.00) in fiscal year 2022 and pending the Board's approval, four million dollars (\$4,000,000.00), which was already added to the fiscal year 2023 budget, would be transferred into the Public Health Advised Fund to use for more community public health grants. He said the JCDH Strategic Plan and/or the Community Health Improvement Plan will guide how these funds are used to ensure structure and accountability.

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

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health (JCBH), on August 10, 2005, at a regularly called meeting, approved a Resolution to establish the Public Health Community Projects Fund (PHCP Fund) and provide that earnings from the PHCP Fund be transferred to the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham (CFGB) to manage and administer grants under CFGB Fund Policies; and,

WHEREAS, JCBH, on September 14, 2005, at a regularly called meeting approved the Resolution to amend its 2005 Budget by Five Million Dollars as the portion of unrestricted General Fund net assets designated as the PHCP Fund from which earnings would generate to transfer to CFGB; and,

WHEREAS, CFGB and JCBH entered an Advised Fund Agreement dated August 14, 2006, that established the terms that CFGB will manage the Jefferson County Public Health Fund of The Community Foundation (Advised Fund) and administer grants from the Advised Fund to preserve, protect and enhance the general health and environment in Jefferson County, Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of the State of Alabama, Honorable Troy King, on February 13, 2007 issued an Attorney General Opinion 2007-047, concluding:

“The Jefferson County Board of Health may enter an agreement with the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham under which, and subject to the required annual budget review and approval process, the Board will provide funds to the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham for use in public health work projects in Jefferson County if the Board determines that the agreement will further the Board's purposes.”

WHEREAS, JCBH is under agreement with CFGB to manage and administer the Advised Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the JCBH desires to increase the funds provided to CFGB above the earnings from the PHCP Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the Health Officer has recommended a one-time transfer to CFGB in the sum of Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) for use under the terms of the Advised Fund to further the public health work in Jefferson County, Alabama; so,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jefferson County Board of Health approves amending the Fiscal Year 2023 budget to include an appropriate item setting aside Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) of Health Department funds, above the earnings from the PHCP Fund, for the Public Health Advised Fund, and authorizes and requests the Health Officer, Mark E. Wilson, M.D., to take necessary action to transfer to the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham the sum of Four Million Dollars for the Jefferson County Public Health Fund of The Community Foundation during the 2023 Fiscal Year.

Freshwater Land Trust Fund

Dr. Wilson said in 2019 JCDH obtained an advisory opinion from the Attorney General of the State of Alabama which allowed JCDH to enter into an agreement with the Freshwater Land Trust (Trust) in which the Board can donate funds to the Trust to help establish a Trail System and Environmental Protection Projects Fund. The resolution below is seeking the Board's approval to commit an additional two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) of JCDH funds to use for the Freshwater Land Trust projects.

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

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of the State of Alabama issued an opinion on September 24, 2019 authorizing the Board to enter into an agreement with the Freshwater Land Trust (Trust) to provide funds to the Trust for use in public health work and environmental protection infrastructure projects in Jefferson County, if the Board determined that the agreement would further the Board's purposes; and,

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health (Board) on October 9, 2019 approved entering into an agreement with the Trust for public health and environmental protection infrastructure projects in Jefferson County and approved a transfer of funds from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the General Fund Committed Fund Balance to fund the agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the budget for Fiscal Year 2023 approved by the Jefferson County Board of Health (Board) included \$2,000,000.00 in additional funds for Freshwater Land Trust (Trust) to further support public health and environmental protection infrastructure projects in Jefferson County; and,

WHEREAS, the Trust is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Alabama providing public health and environmental projects in Jefferson County, Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, the Board entered into a Funding Agreement (Agreement) for fiscal years 2020 through 2024 whereby the Trust performs the following services to the Board to serve the public purpose of creating and enhancing public access to safe and healthy outdoor spaces in which to exercise, breathe fresh air, ambulate, meditate, socialize and benefit from exposure to natural features vital to public health:

- a) Continue building the Red Rock Ridge and Valley Trail System.
- b) Improve water and storm water quality and support environmental protection infrastructure projects.
- c) Capitalize on opportunities to improve the health and well-being of Jefferson County residents.
- d) Mitigate the effects of air pollution and climate change by reclaiming and re-greening spaces, including spaces affected by industrial or commercial activity.
- e) Establish and maintain the Trail System and Environmental Protection Projects Fund ("Fund").
- f) In addition to any other reporting requirements contained herein, report to the Board in writing at least annually, and more often if requested, on projects undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by the Trust and Fund.
- g) Submit all projects funded under this Agreement to the Health Officer of Jefferson County for approval as public health work and environmental protection infrastructure projects in Jefferson County, Alabama.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board of Health:

- 1) approves the transfer of \$2,000,000.00 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the General Fund Committed Fund Balance to further fund the Freshwater Land Trust for public health and environmental protection infrastructure projects in Jefferson County, and
- 2) authorizes the Health Officer to amend the Agreement accordingly, as well as its duration as practicable.

Health and Dental Benefits Plan

On the motion of Dr. Carter, and seconded by Dr. Kong, with Dr. Fancher abstaining, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, the Health Officer of Jefferson County has from time to time recommended to the Jefferson County Board of Health periodic and other changes to the amounts and proportions of premium rates to be paid under the Jefferson County Board of Health Employee Health and Dental Benefits Plan by both current employees and retirees in various classes; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Health has heretofore performed its statutory duty to review and endorse such periodic changes in annual and interim budget proposals; and,

WHEREAS, continuing changes in laws affecting such plans have impacted the costs of maintaining the Jefferson County Board of Health Employee Health and Dental Benefits Plan as well as the administration of the plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health Employee Health and Dental Benefits Plan was at one time administered under the auspices of the State Employee Insurance Board (SEIB), and by statutory change, is now administered under the auspices of the Local Government Health Insurance Program (LGHIP); and,

WHEREAS, as a result of such changes and the likelihood additional changes will occur frequently into the foreseeable future, and after examination of the issues facing different groups of employees and retirees as described herein, the Health Officer has recommended both that the rates and changes contained herein be adopted effective January 1, 2023, and that the Health Officer hereafter submit a report and recommendations of changes each year; so,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Health:

Approves the following rates effective January 1, 2023 for the Jefferson County Board of Health Employee Health and Dental Benefits Plan, recognizing that all rates are subject to change depending upon factors beyond the control of the Board of Health, including actions taken by LGHIP, Medicare, and other programs that may affect the total premiums and proportions paid thereunder; these rates and proportional contributions may therefore change from time to time or year to year.

Medical and Dental Plan

<u>Medical & Dental Employee monthly premium</u>		<u>JCDH monthly premium</u>	<u>Total monthly premium</u>
Family	\$297.00	\$1,136.00	\$1,433.00
Individual	\$132.00	\$455.00	\$587.00
Part-time Employees	Not Eligible To Participate		

Retirees Non-Medicare Eligible

<u>Medical & Dental Retiree monthly premium</u>		<u>JCDH monthly premium</u>	<u>Total monthly premium</u>
Family	\$300.00	\$1,939.00	\$2,239.00
Individual	\$150.00	\$ 1,064.00	\$1,214.00
Retiree not Medicare eligible & dependent	\$300.00	\$1,115.00	\$1,415.00
Medicare eligible			
Retiree not Medicare Eligible & 2 dependents	\$300.00	\$1,316.00	\$1,616.00
Medicare eligible			

Medicare Eligible Retirees

	<u>Medical & Dental Retiree monthly premium</u>	<u>JCDH monthly premium</u>	<u>Total monthly premium</u>
Retiree Medicare eligible & dependent not Medicare eligible	\$ 1,044.00	\$ 0.00	\$1,044.00
Both Retiree & dependent Medicare eligible	\$ 402.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 402.00
Retiree & 2 dependents Medicare eligible	\$ 603.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 603.00
Single Medicare eligible retiree	\$ 201.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 201.00

*****Please note that active employees are eligible for \$100 in extra premium discounts if they qualify; non-tobacco discount, walker tracker discount, and wellness discount.

Sign-On Bonus

Dr. Wilson stated as mentioned in previous Board meetings, JCDH has struggled to recruit and retain employees in certain job classifications, especially Medical Clerks. The Personnel Board of Jefferson County has told Human Resources that JCDH is allowed to offer a one-time sign-on bonus for recruitment purposes.

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

WHEREAS, the County Health Officer serves as the chief executive officer of the Jefferson County Department of Health, as well as its Appointing Authority; and,

WHEREAS, Alabama law authorizes the County Health Officer to use his or her discretion in the allocation of the resources of his or her office in a method to accomplish the public health work in the county in an efficient, effective, and professional matter; and,

WHEREAS, the County Health Officer has recommended that, as a method to enable the Health Department to attract and retain its essential corps of public health workers, the Board endorses a Sign-on Bonus Plan (the "Plan") pursuant to which the employees will be eligible as follows:

- A one-time sign-on bonus of \$500 will be paid to all active Medical Clerk employees that are hired on and after October 17, 2022 until the time the bonus is no longer needed to attract the necessary number of hires.
- The one-time bonus will be paid upon the new hire receiving their first paycheck.
- Temporary employees are not eligible.
- Payments listed above are net amounts.

and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Health agrees that the Plan is both appropriate and necessary as an incentive to attract essential public health workers for the Health Department to continue serving the residents of Jefferson County,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board of Health:

- 1) Has determined that the Plan serves an important public purpose and one in keeping with the public health mission of the Board.
- 2) Approves the Sign-on Bonus Plan as set forth above for the employees of the Jefferson County Department of Health.
- 3) Requests that the Health Officer (or designee) inform and provide a copy of this Resolution to the Director (or designee) of the Personnel Board of Jefferson County and work to coordinate the details and logistics necessary to implement the Plan with the appropriate officials.

Health Officer Report

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Wilson reported Jefferson County is averaging around 55 new COVID cases per day, and the percent positivity rate is 4.4% compared to 5.6% statewide. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) our community level remains in the low category. The CDC has authorized the updated COVID booster vaccines from Pfizer for children ages 5 through 11 years and for Moderna for children and adolescents ages 6 through 17 years.

Monkeypox Vaccine

Dr. Wilson stated Alabama has 130 confirmed cases of monkeypox compared to about 27,000 nationwide. At the beginning of this week, the JCDH Disease Control team and Incident Control team has administered 1,163 doses of the monkeypox vaccine and has done several community outreach vaccination events. JCDH vaccinations account for over half of the doses given statewide.

JCDH Clinic Self-Scheduling

Dr. Wilson announced JCDH is starting to offer self-scheduling on our website for patients for the following appointment types.

- COVID-19 Vaccine
- Monkeypox Vaccine
- Birth Control Supply (Refill)
- Testing for sexually transmitted infections for asymptomatic patients after answering a few screening questions (Fast Track Clinic).

JCDH began self-scheduling due to staffing shortages and long hold times in our Call Center. Other appointment types may be added to decrease the burden on the Call Center.

Influenza Update

Dr. Wilson said JCDH is seeing a significant rise in cases of influenza in our Pediatric clinics. We may have an early flu season, and there are concerns this could be a severe flu season based on the flu season in Australia, which was their worst in five years. JCDH is acquiring extra flu vaccine to be administered free of charge at community events.

Community Rabies Vaccination Clinics

Dr. Wilson provided a follow-up from the September Board of Health meeting regarding the community rabies clinics that were suspended in August 2021 due to the COVID pandemic. Jeff Swinney, Program Manager in Environmental Health, talked to the Jefferson County Rabies Officer who indicated he planned to resume the rabies vaccination clinics but Mr. Swinney has not received a schedule. Dr. Wilson has followed up with a formal letter.

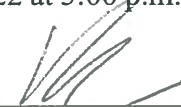
Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program (HVIP)

Dr. Wilson announced there have been three Violence Intervention Specialists and a Violence Intervention Specialist Supervisor hired for the HVIP by Offender Alumni Association (OAA). The interviews were conducted jointly between OAA, JCDH and UAB Trauma staff. They are still looking to fill the Social Worker position. Dr. Wilson and other staff will be participating in a training provided by The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) consulting group later this week. The HAVI will have a site visit to JCDH next week.

JCDH Strategic Planning Process

Dr. Wilson noted the current JCDH Strategic Plan was for 2017–2021 and was extended through 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. JCDH is in the process of engaging a consulting group, Women Entrepreneurs in Public Health (WE Public Health), to facilitate the next strategic planning process. The Executive Management Team chose WE Public Health based on their involvement and experience on the national public health scene. The next strategic plan will represent what might be a significant inflection point for JCDH based on national public health trends.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Board Room.



Michele Kong, MD, Secretary

Approved:


Kenny Murray, MD, Chair