



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Thursday, December 22, 2022 - 5:15 p.m.
5th Floor Board Room

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

OTHERS

PRESENT: Mark Wilson, MD, David Hicks, DO, Rodney Holmes, David Maxey, Esq., Bryn Manzella, and Terrie Hartley

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Murray, Chair. The meeting originally scheduled for December 14, 2022 was rescheduled due to lack of a quorum.

Minutes of the October 12, 2022 meeting were approved as distributed. The notes from the November 9, 2022 meeting, at which there was no quorum, were accepted as information only.

October and November 2022 Financial Statements

Dr. Murray stated the October and November 2022 Financial Statements were included in the Board of Health materials. There were no questions from the Board.

Contracts

On the motion of Dr. Dobyns, and seconded by Dr. Fancher, the following contracts were approved with Dr. Kong abstaining from the contract with Kulture City, Inc.:

Renewal of a contract with American Behavioral Employee Assistance Program, LLC a/k/a Uprise Health (payee) who will provide employee assistance services to JCDH employees and their dependents at a rate of \$2.50 per employee per month; not to exceed \$15,000 from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

A new contract with Tate & Associates, LLC (payee) to provide a virtual training class for JCDH leadership staff at a rate not to exceed \$1,700 from November 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

A new contract with Women Entrepreneurs in Public Health, LLC (payee) for facilitation of a new strategic plan for JCDH at a rate not to exceed \$92,120 from November 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023.

A new contract with Summit Media, LLC (payee) to provide commercial promotions on WBHJ and WBHK; Geofence Mobile Application around Legion Field; sponsor logo on JAMZ

Morning Show and webpage; on-site distribution at Rickey Smiley Morning Show and Rickey Smiley Legion Field Tailgate; not to exceed \$10,000 from October 5, 2022 through November 5, 2022.

A new contract with Auburn University, Harrison College of Pharmacy (payee) to provide technical housing for continued training of healthcare students and professionals in opioid prescribing and dispensing practices as part of JCDH Overdose Date to Action project; not to exceed \$47,375 from June 21, 2022 through June 20, 2027.

An amendment to extend terms of a contract with the Crisis Center, Inc. (payee) to provide peer support specialist to support the National Association of County and City Officials Implementation Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level at a rate not to exceed \$100,000 from August 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

A new contract with Kulture City, Inc. (payee) to provide training for all JCDH clinical staff to become Sensory Inclusive™ Certified and provide recertification training for an amount not to exceed \$15,000 from September 20, 2022 through September 20, 2025. Dr. Kong said the purpose of Kulture City is to train all front line providers so they know how to best engage people with invisible disabilities. They also provide tools such as mobile sensory stations.

A new bid contract with Rapid Miner, LLC (payor) for an advanced analytics platform that will enable JCDH to conduct data science activities in order to make data driven decision through the organization at a rate of \$91,000 per year; not to exceed \$273,000 from October 1, 2022 through September 20, 2025.

An amendment to a contract with The Children's Hospital of Alabama (payee) to provide on-call services handled by professional Registered Nurses at an increased rate of \$20 per call for approximately 1,500 calls annually; calls related to morning appointments paid at a reduced rate of \$6 from December 25, 2022 through September 20, 2024

An amendment to a contact with Bruno Event Team, LLC (payee) to cover cost for extending the Jefferson County COVID-19 hot line agreement; amount not to exceed \$2,067,420 from February 19, 2021 through November 30, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) to cover the development of a curriculum for health professions students in Alabama regarding the safe prescribing and dispensing of addictive substances and the treatment of acute and chronic pain; amount not to exceed \$35,000 from September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation, P.C. (payee) for a subscription to the ACOER Mortality Data Explorer which will allow JCDH to access the Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner's office data visualization tools to improve surveillance around overdose deaths in Jefferson County. The amendment is to extend the terms of the agreement and the monthly fees associated with accessing the software services for an amount not to exceed \$64,800 from September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with Laura McNeil, PhD (payee) to provide instructional design services, using opioid curriculum content provided by JCDH/contractors, to design and produce an integrated, multimedia learning course appropriate for online learning under the

Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) work plan. The amendment is to extend the terms of the agreement; not to exceed \$15,000 from September 1, 2022 through August, 31, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with Competitive Solutions, Inc. (payee) for a Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist Liaison to assist with Peer Rx, an online platform for peer suppliers and peer consumers for an amount of \$229 per agency per month; not to exceed \$19,236 from September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with Auburn Technical Assistance Center (payee) to provide Lean Training and Project Coaching Services for designated JCDH staff; not to exceed \$54,000 from November 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) (payee) for contractor to continue to provide ongoing operational maintenance and upgrades for the Birmingham Air Quality website, which provides near real-time air quality monitoring data for Birmingham, which was originally developed by UAH through an EMPACT project funded by the Environmental Protection Agency; not to exceed \$18,200 from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with Novarad South (payee) for an interface to continue to facilitate data communications between x-ray software, x-ray equipment, and electronic medical records. The amendment is to extend terms of agreement; not to exceed \$11,627 from November 16, 2022 through February 1, 2024.

A new contract with Summit Media, LLC (payee) to provide advertising services via radio promotion for sexually transmitted disease and World AIDS Day to Jefferson County residents; not to exceed \$2,500 from November 14, 2022 through January 14, 2023.

A new contract with Lider News (payee) to provide advertising and promotion services using various print and digital formats to inform and educate the Hispanic Limited English Proficiency Community on the mpox virus for an amount not to exceed \$10,000 from November 1, 2022 through January 1, 2023.

A new contract with 1 Point USA (payee) to provide and install access controllers on two doors at Western Health Center; not to exceed \$8,676.39 from November 10, 2022 through November 10, 2023.

A new bid contract with Harold A. Burdette Dental Laboratories, Inc. (payee) to provide dental lab services for JCDH per bid #23-11-02; not to exceed \$12,600 from November 15, 2022 through November 15, 2025.

A new contract with Software House International Corp. (payee) Microsoft365 will allow JCDH to obtain an enterprise agreement with Microsoft and the ability to take critical infrastructure into Office 365; not to exceed \$530,840 from December 1, 2022 through December 1, 2025.

An amendment to a contract with Harvard University Center for AIDS Research (payor) to build foundation to electronic health record-based decision support for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) that incorporates a HIV prediction model to improve PrEP use. The

amendment is to extend budget period carryover of unobligated balance; not to exceed \$53,947.06 from August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) (payor) for a grant to offset the cost of purchasing Family Planning non-surgical contraceptives to reduce unintended births among eligible, low-income women of child-bearing age; not to exceed \$27,232 from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with Alabama Department of Public Health Center for Emergency Preparedness (payor) to provide grant funds for JCDH Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) grant activities at the local level; not to exceed \$88,105 from October 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health Center for Emergency Preparedness (payor) for ADPH to provide grant funds for JCDH All Hazards at the local level, not to exceed \$478,042 from October 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with Alabama Department of Public Health Center for Emergency Preparedness (payee) for ADPH to support one Full Time Equivalent (FTE) for JCDH to manage the Jefferson County Healthcare Coalition; not to exceed \$100,000 from October 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Credentialing

Dr. Wilson presented the following credentialing report: Initial credentialing for Roleen Bright, DDS as a Clinical Dentist in the Dental Health Division. The Board unanimously approved the Credentials Report.

Appointment of 2023 Rabies Officer

Dr. Wilson reminded the Board that he forwarded them a letter from Susan Parsons, DVM, requesting to be the Rabies Officer for Jefferson County.

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

WHEREAS, The Board, as a county board of health, is required to nominate and appoint a licensed veterinarian to serve as Rabies Officer for the county pursuant to section 3-7A-11(a) of the Alabama Code to serve a term expiring on December 31 of the appointment year but with eligibility for reappointment for succeeding year(s); and

WHEREAS, Thomas P. Dawkins, DVM, has served as Rabies Officer of Jefferson County Department of Health since 2011; and

WHEREAS, Thomas P. Dawkins, DVM, did submit a notice of resignation from the position of Rabies Officer of Jefferson County Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, Susan Parsons, DVM, submitted a request for appointment as Rabies Officer of Jefferson County Department of Health on December 8, 2022, for calendar year 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Board, having carefully considered the qualifications and application of Susan Parsons, DVM, and finding her to meet the requirements for the position and displaying the desire to serve the public health needs of Jefferson County, Alabama in this capacity:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Susan Parsons, DVM, be appointed as the Rabies Officer of Jefferson County Department of Health for the year 2023; said appointment subject to approval of the State Health Officer and the State Veterinarian per section 3-7A-11(a) of the Code of Alabama.

Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Amendment

Dr. Wilson reported JCDH planned to build a pavilion at the JCDH Annex using Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases federal grant funds designated for pandemic preparedness. The pavilion would be used for drive-through testing and vaccination including future pandemic preparedness events. He said work had already begun on the project when it was found out federal grant funds could not be used. Dr. Wilson convened a meeting of emergency preparedness and incident command staff who decided to proceed with the project using JCDH funds.

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH that the Board wishes to amend its fiscal year 2023 Capital Budget by \$3,500,000 (three million five-hundred thousand dollars) to a total of \$7,259,994. The budget addition will be used to fund the construction of the JCDH Annex Pavilion.

Funding Commitment for Jefferson County Greenways Commission

Dr. Wilson stated that at the November Board meeting he shared information that Red Mountain Park, Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve, and Turkey Creek Nature Preserve plan to combine efforts under a single operational entity to be known as the Jefferson County Greenways Commission. He said the three parks have subsisted mostly on private donations and without regular designated funding from county government. The following resolution would allow the Board of Health to direct Dr. Wilson to issue a letter of commitment to the three parks to make a request to the Community Foundation to grant \$400,000 from the Jefferson County Public Health Advised Fund to the Jefferson County Greenways Commission, to be disbursed after its establishment as a single entity.

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

WHEREAS, Red Mountain Park Foundation, Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve and Turkey Creek Nature Preserve are operated as 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and exist primarily on private donations and without any significant designated funding source; and

WHEREAS, the three organizations desire to take advantage of increased efficiencies and economies of scale by combining efforts under a single operational entity to be known as the Jefferson County Greenways Commission; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission resolved to allocate and set aside \$2,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (to be held through October

2023) to support these efforts, provided that the Jefferson County Greenways Commission is able to secure additional required funding of \$1,600,000 from other funding sources and has taken the steps necessary to combine the organizations together into a single legal entity; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health (Board), on August 10, 2005 resolved to establish the Public Health Community Projects Fund (PHCP Fund) and provide that certain Jefferson County Department of Health funds be transferred to the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham (CFGB) to manage and administer grants under CFGB Fund Policies; and,

WHEREAS, CFGB and the Board entered Advised Fund Agreement, dated August 14, 2006, that established the terms that CFGB will manage the Jefferson County Public Health Fund (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 Board affirms that preservation and maintenance of outdoor green spaces and parks for the public to access for exercise and enjoyment of the outdoors, and for protection of the natural environment, serves a public health purpose; and,

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to assist the Jefferson County Greenways Commission in its effort to secure the additional \$1,600,000 referenced above;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jefferson County Board of Health directs the Health Officer to issue a letter of commitment to Red Mountain Park Foundation, Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve and Turkey Creek Nature Preserve, to make a request to the Community Foundation to grant \$400,000 from the Jefferson County Public Health Advised Fund to the Jefferson County Greenways Commission, to be disbursed after its establishment as a single legal entity.

Election of 2023 Officers

Dr. Wilson announced because Dr. Susan Walley relocated and was not able to finish her Board term, Dr. Murray agreed to remain Chair of the Board for the first six months of 2023, with Dr. Fancher taking over the role in July.

Dr. Murray was elected as Chair of the Board for January–June. Dr. Fancher was elected as Chair of the Board for July–December. Dr. Dobyns will continue to serve on the General Liability Claims & Investment Committee. The new Board of Health member elected by the Jefferson County Medical Society, Dr. Elizabeth Turnipseed, will serve as Secretary.

The Board unanimously approved the election of the officers for 2023.

Board of Health Self-Evaluation

Bryn Manzella, MPH, Director of Quality Improvement, asked the Board members to complete the self-evaluations included in their meeting material. An electronic version of the survey was also provided in the Board materials emailed prior to the meeting. Ms. Manzella thanked the Board for the work they do and the support they provide to the Jefferson County Department of Health.

Health Officer Report

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Wilson stated the number of COVID cases per day is between 140 and 150 but could be higher due to unreported at-home testing. The percent positivity rate for the past week was 7.4%. The

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention community transmission rate is high but the community level, which is linked to masking guidance for the general public, remains in the low category.

Influenza-like Illness

Dr. Wilson reported that outpatient visits in Jefferson County for influenza-like illness for the past week was 4.9% and 4.1% statewide which is down considerably from a few weeks ago.

Mpox (Monkeypox) Response

Dr. Wilson said JCDH has administered over 1,400 doses of the mpox vaccine since the beginning of the outbreak and is continuing to offer the vaccine along with treatment when indicated. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has stated they do not anticipate renewing the emergency declaration for mpox when it expires at the end of January 2023.

Strep Pneumonia Outbreak

Dr. Wilson reported that Disease Control staff have been working an outbreak of strep pneumonia at a local congregant living facility in Birmingham. There were 6 confirmed cases with some hospitalizations and one confirmed fatality. The JCDH response team assisted in giving prophylactic antibiotics and prophylactic pneumococcal vaccines to 286 individuals. No additional cases have been reported. Dr. Wilson commended the JCDH staff who worked to control this outbreak.

Opioid Litigation Settlement

Dr. Wilson stated JCDH is beginning to receive some funds from the opioid litigation settlement. A separate fund will be set up within JCDH in order to track the funds and ensure the money is used exclusively on projects related to the opioid-related crisis.

Bluestone Coke Consent Decree

Dr. Wilson reminded the Board of the email he sent on December 14 regarding the Bluestone Coke Consent Decree. In August of 2021, JCDH filed a complaint against Bluestone Coke in the Circuit Court of Jefferson County seeking civil penalties due to violations of the Alabama Air Pollution Control Act of 1971. An agreement was reached in which Bluestone Coke agreed to pay a \$925,000 civil penalty to JCDH. Fifty percent of this money will go into the Residential-Industrial Buffer Zone Fund and will be used in the community surrounding Bluestone Coke. The Consent Decree does not authorize Bluestone Coke to resume operations, as several steps must be taken before a new permit can be considered. JCDH issued a news release on December 9, 2022.

Dr. Murray asked if JCDH has any recourse on the underground landfill fire that has been burning in Moody, Alabama since November 25. David Maxey, Esq., stated since Moody is located in St. Clair County JCDH has no legal jurisdiction. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management should be handling the situation.

Recognition of Hernando Carter, MD


Dr. Wilson expressed his gratitude to Dr. Carter for serving on the Board from 2016–2022 and presented him with a plaque. Dr. Wilson noted Dr. Carter does a lot of work and devotes a lot his free time mentoring youth. Dr. Carter shared a personal experience as to why mentoring is important to him.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Board Room.



Michele Kong, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Kenny Murray, MD, Chair