



## JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, September 9, 2015 - 5:00 p.m.  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room

**PRESENT:** Steven Kulback, M.D., Jennifer R. Dollar, M.D., Nicole Redmond, M.D., Ph.D., MPH, Max Michael, III, M.D., Joshua Miller, D.O., and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

### **OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Mark Wilson, M.D., Kim Cason, Carolyn Dobbs, M.D., Rodney Holmes, Matt Lacke, Bryn Manzella, David Maxey, Chris Osborne, Jonathan Stanton, and Denisa Pridmore

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Minutes**

Minutes of the August 12, 2015 meeting were approved as distributed.

### **Financial Statement**

Mr. Rodney Holmes, Director of Finance & Administration, discussed the August 2015 Financial Report. A motion to accept the financial report was made, seconded and approved. Mr. Holmes reminded the Board that September is JCDH's fiscal year end and the financial statements would not be completed until after the October Board of Health meeting. The September financial report will be presented at the November meeting.

### **Contracts**

On the motion of Dr. Kulback, and seconded by Dr. Miller, the following contract was approved with Dr. Michael abstaining:

Renewal of a contract with the University of Alabama, School of Public Health (payee) for the continuation of partnership between JCDH and UAB School of Public Health to strengthen activities of both parties at a rate not to exceed \$38,088 from August 1, 2015 through July 31, 2016.

On the motion of Dr. Michael, and seconded by Dr. Miller, the following contracts were approved:

A new contract with Clarus Consulting Group (payee) for team development and planning for Clinical Services leadership team at a rate not to exceed \$11,300 from August 14, 2015 through November 30, 2015.

Renewal of a contract with Pediatric Radiology Associates (payee) for professional interpretation of pediatric radiographs at a rate of \$12.00 per film interpreted from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2018.

A new contract with New South Research (payee) for research to measure the need for a clinic in the Morris, Alabama area at a rate not to exceed \$9,350 from August 25, 2015 through December 30, 2015.

A new contract with Mid South Controls (payee) for HVAC upgrades and installation of monitoring systems for freezers and refrigerators for the Guy Tate building, Eastern and Western Health Centers at a rate not to exceed \$65,000 from July 16, 2015 through October 16, 2015.

A new contract with Green Media (payee) for video production, video, post production, and editing for air monitoring workshop video for air pollution at a rate not to exceed \$3,000 from September 2, 2015 – September 24, 2015.

A new contract with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (payor) to provide reimbursement of funds to JCDH for equipment purchased to meet obligation of grant activities for 2016 ADEM Recycling Grant at a rate not to exceed \$93,573 from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

A new contract with United Health Care Insurance Company (payor) for JCDH to bill Contractor for patients who are enrolled for this coverage, with the amount to be determined by patient services provided, from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2018.

A new contract with Dental Benefit Providers, Inc. (payor) for JCDH to bill Contractor for patients who are enrolled for this coverage, with the amount to be determined by patient services provided, from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2018.

On the motion of Dr. Kulback, and seconded by Dr. Miller, the following contract was approved with Dr. Michael and Dr. Redmond abstaining:

A new contract with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease (payor) for UAB personnel to interview STD program personnel to assess practices related to HIV testing and linkage to care services for the UAB Center for AIDS Research Deep South Cascade Project at a rate not to exceed \$2,575 from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

### **Holiday Schedule**

On the motion of Dr. Michael, and seconded by Dr. Miller, the following resolution was approved:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Jefferson County Board of Health that the official holidays for eligible Jefferson County Department of Health employees for fiscal year 2015-2016 shall be the same as adopted by the Board of Health for 2015 including two variable days for a total of twelve holidays.

### **Write-Off Uncollectible Accounts**

On the motion of Dr. Kulback, and seconded by Dr. Michael, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health (the "Board") provides Primary Care and Dental services to primarily two categories of patients; those covered by the Alabama Medicaid insurance program and to the uninsured and,

WHEREAS, the uninsured have very limited financial resources and are often unable to pay the sliding fee portion of the fees charged for services provided by the Board and,

WHEREAS, it appears to the Board that writing off and ceasing collection efforts for aged, uncollectible accounts serves the public purpose by avoiding the costs associated with perpetually carrying of such accounts on the books;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that accounts receivable balances representing Primary Care and Dental services prior to October 1, 2013 are deemed to be uncollectible after reasonable collection efforts and shall be written off of the Board's financial records.

The detail account information in support of Primary Care and Dental accounts written off (\$191,000.00 or less) shall be available upon request for auditing and internal control purposes.

**Signatures on Bank Accounts**

On the motion of Dr. Michael, and seconded by Dr. Miller, the following resolution was approved:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Jefferson County Board of Health authorizes signatures for the bank accounts for the Jefferson County Department of Health as follows:

**Regions Bank of Birmingham**      Investment Accounts  
(One signature required)

- #1010004727 - JCDH Professional and General Liability Trust
- #M57901 - Section 115 Trust
- #1051002420 Regions Trust Cash Sweep Account
- #1051002439 Low Duration Investment Account
- #1051002448 Enhanced Cash Investment Account

Authorized Signatures: ..... Mark E. Wilson, M.D.  
Rodney Holmes  
Toni Bellina

**Health Credit Union - #1334 00 – Payroll Account**  
(One signature required)

Authorized Signatures: ..... Toni Bellina  
Loretta Hicks

**Health Credit Union - #35480 - TB Compliance Account**

(One signature required)

Authorized Signatures: . . . . . Charles Esther Kellum  
Rachael Hobgood  
Toni Bellina

**Wells Fargo Advisors – #1335-9530 and #1669-6837 Investment Account**

Authorized Signatures: . . . . . Mark E. Wilson, M.D.  
Rodney L. Holmes  
Toni Bellina

**Wells Fargo Bank - #2000019337513 - Operating Account**

Authorized Signatures: . . . . . Loretta Hicks  
Mark E. Wilson, M.D.  
Rodney Holmes  
Toni Bellina

**Wells Fargo Bank - #2000019337539 - OJI- Medical Claims Account**

Authorized Signatures: . . . . . Loretta Hicks  
Tracy H. Carter, Hill Administrative Services  
Nancy Robertson, Hill Administrative Services  
Toni Bellina

This resolution supersedes any previous resolutions in contravention with this action.

**Transportation Planning Process**

Dr. Wilson introduced Matt Lacke, Meteorologist in Environmental Health, who gave a brief synopsis for the following resolution. Mr. Lacke said the agreement ensures the transportation planning process in the Birmingham metropolitan area is carried out with the rules in place for federal regulations.

On the motion of Dr. Michael, and seconded by Dr. Kulback, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, Section 134 of Title 23 of the United States Code and Chapter 53 of Title 49 of the United States Code require that each urbanized area, as a condition of the receipt of Federal capital or operating assistance, have a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning “3C PROCESS” that results in plans and programs that consider all transportation modes and supports metropolitan community development and social goals that lead to the development and operation of an integrated, intermodal transportation system that facilitates the efficient, economic movement of people and goods, and

WHEREAS, an agreement concerning a transportation planning process for the Birmingham Urbanized Area was executed in May 1995 between the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority, the Birmingham Regional Planning Commission, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the

Jefferson County Department of Health, and the State of Alabama acting by and through the Alabama Department of Transportation, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration and Federal Highway Administration issued on July 6, 2012 new regulations concerning metropolitan transportation planning. New regulations govern the development of metropolitan transportation plans and programs for urbanized areas resulting from the passage of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), and

WHEREAS, an updated agreement, attached hereto, referencing MAP-21 provisions has been prepared, and

WHEREAS, an unwillingness to participate in the "3C PROCESS" may result in the Secretary of Transportation refusing to approve federal-aid funds for surface transportation within the Birmingham urbanized area,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Jefferson County Department of Health, that it be a party to and execute the updated agreement concerning a transportation planning process.

**Resolution in Support of a Tobacco Tax Increase by the Alabama State Legislature**

Dr. Wilson reminded the Board a similar resolution was approved by the Board of Health in 2010 but it did not raise the issue of how much money tobacco is costing the state. The State Legislature is currently looking at ways to balance the state budget and fund Medicaid, which incurs a substantial cost for tobacco. The Legislature is considering a 25 cent tobacco tax to offset the revenue shortfall. The Board discussed endorsing a tobacco tax increase and agreed to include an explicit amount for the tax increase in the resolution.

On the motion of Dr. Michael, the following resolution was unanimously approved by the Board:

The Jefferson County Board of a Health hereby reaffirms and updates the Board of Health Resolution of October 13, 2010 in support of a tobacco tax increase by the Alabama Legislature.

Whereas, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disability nationwide; and

Whereas, 8,600 adults in Alabama die each year from their own smoking;<sup>1</sup> and

Whereas there are 108,000 kids now under 18 and alive in Alabama who will ultimately die prematurely from smoking,<sup>2</sup> and

Whereas, 21.5% (804,400) of adults in Alabama smoke tobacco<sup>3</sup>, compared to the national rate of 17.8%;<sup>4</sup> and

Whereas, 18.0% (45,700) of Alabama high school students smoke, compared to the national average of 15.7%;<sup>5</sup> and

Whereas, each year in Alabama 5,200 youth under the age of 18 become new daily smokers;<sup>6</sup> and

Whereas 23.1% of male high school students in Alabama use smokeless tobacco, compared to the national rate of 14.7% (The percent of female users is much lower);<sup>7</sup> and

Whereas, the annual health care cost in Alabama directly caused by smoking is \$1.88 billion, and the portion of that cost covered by the state Medicaid program is \$288.2 million;<sup>8</sup>

Whereas, smoking-caused productivity losses in Alabama are equivalent to \$2.71 billion;<sup>9</sup>

Whereas, Alabama ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation with one of the lowest rates of cigarette excise tax at 42.5 cents per pack;<sup>10</sup> and

Whereas, raising the price of tobacco products can help prevent people from initiating tobacco use. For example, adolescent tobacco use drops by a median of 3.7 percent for every 10 percent price hike;<sup>11</sup> and

Whereas, studies have shown an estimated 3–5% reduction in overall cigarettes consumed as a result of a 10% increase in cigarette prices, and youth and young adults have proven to be even more responsive than adults to higher cigarette prices;<sup>12</sup> and

Whereas the U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that increased cigarette taxes would lead to substantial long-term improvements in health;<sup>13</sup> and

Whereas, smoking declines produce enormous public and private sector savings that more than offset any state revenue reductions from fewer packs being sold;<sup>14</sup> and

Whereas, numerous public opinion polls across the country have shown that a majority of voters is supportive of increases in state tobacco excise taxes;<sup>15</sup> and

Whereas, the benefits of raising tobacco excise taxes in reducing death and disease can be further increased when combined with other evidence-based interventions of a comprehensive tobacco control program;<sup>16</sup>

**Be it therefore resolved** that the Jefferson County Board of Health urges the Legislature of the State of Alabama to raise smoking and smokeless tobacco taxes to a level at least high enough (an increase of over \$1.00) to offset tobacco-related costs to state government, including the Medicaid program, and to support expanded statewide and local evidence-based comprehensive tobacco control interventions including tobacco use cessation programs.

**References:**

<sup>1</sup>CDC, “Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs” 2014.

<sup>2</sup>A Report of the Surgeon General, “The Health Consequences of Smoking: 50 Years of Progress” 2014.

<sup>3</sup>CDC, 2013 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) online data

<sup>4</sup>2013 National Health Interview Survey.

<sup>5</sup>CDC, 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

<sup>6</sup>U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS), "Results from the 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health"

<sup>7</sup>CDC, 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

<sup>8</sup>Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, updated May 12, 2015 (See additional details about data sources at [https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts\\_issues/toll\\_us/sources/](https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/sources/))

<sup>9</sup>Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, updated May 12, 2015 (See additional details about data sources at [https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts\\_issues/toll\\_us/sources/](https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/sources/))

<sup>10</sup>Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (Available at <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0097.pdf>)

<sup>11</sup>Community Preventive Services Task Force (Available at <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/tobacco/>)

<sup>12</sup>2012 Surgeon General's Report, "Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults"

<sup>13</sup>CDC: "Reducing tobacco use: a report of the Surgeon General" 2000. (Available at [http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/sgr/2000/complete\\_report/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sgr/2000/complete_report/index.htm))

<sup>14</sup>Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (Available at <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0303.pdf>)

<sup>15</sup>Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (Available at <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0309.pdf>)

<sup>16</sup>Institute of Medicine, "Ending the tobacco problem: a blueprint for the nation" 2007. (Available at [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=11795](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11795))

### **Health Officer Report**

#### **JCDH 2014 Annual Report**

Dr. Wilson noted that the JCDH 2014 Annual Report was included in their meeting material. The report will be on our website in the near future. Board members made suggestions for the future annual reports.

#### **Guy M. Tate (GMT) Building**

Dr. Wilson reported that the roof of the GMT building is being replaced. The work is scheduled to be completed within the next four weeks.

Dr. Wilson stated we will be resurfacing the GMT parking deck later this fall. Logistics are still being worked out for offsite parking during the construction.

#### **Health Insurance**

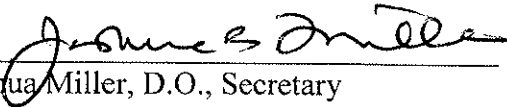
Dr. Wilson announced that the State Employee's Insurance Board has notified us that health insurance premiums will increase for 2016. JCDH will be able to absorb the cost of the increased premiums for employees. Beginning in the calendar year 2016, JCDH will include in its Wellness Program a \$50 increase per month for each employee's health insurance premium with an opportunity to receive a tobacco non-user \$50 discount. There will be an opportunity for tobacco users to qualify for a discount by completing an approved tobacco cessation program.

#### **Board of Health's Public Health Policy Discussion**


Dr. Wilson discussed the list of Potential Board Policies and Resolutions that has been prepared for the Board's consideration. Dr. Dollar asked the Board members to rank five topics they would be interested in pursuing or areas they would like to have more information on. She will compile the results and email them to the Board members. Dr. Redmond noted

general environmental issues such as community gardens or the trail system may be good public health topics. Dr. Redmond discussed having a defined process for the Board's policy development. Dr. Dollar suggested having a presentation on this at the November Board meeting. The Board also discussed having a task force or committee of experts on some of the potential policy issues.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

  
Joshua Miller, D.O., Secretary

Approved:

  
Jennifer R. Dollar, M.D., Chair