



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.

5th Floor Board Room

PRESENT: Kenny Murray, MD, Jeffrey Dobyns, DO, Iris Fancher, MD, Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

ABSENT: Michele Kong, MD

OTHERS

PRESENT: Katie Fox, CRNP, Darlene Traffanstedt, MD, Mark Wilson, MD, Loretta Hicks, Kim Cason, David Hicks, DO, Bryn Manzella, David Maxey, Esq., and Terrie Hartley

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the May 10, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed.

Family Planning Updates

Katie Fox, CRNP, Nurse Practitioner Supervisor, provided an overview of the Family Planning (FP) program. Ms. Fox stated the purpose of Family Planning is to prevent unintended pregnancy through education and contraceptive services, allowing for planning and timing of pregnancies for better health outcomes. She said Title X is a federal grant program dedicated to family planning and reproductive health services for low income and uninsured patients. Plan First is an extension of Medicaid to those who would not otherwise qualify. The goal is to decrease unintended pregnancies, improve access to FP services, reduce Medicaid costs, utilize effective outreach programs, and provide care coordination. Ms. Fox reviewed the age of consent for Title X services and shared a breakdown of funding for the FP program.

Ms. Fox provided a list of services offered through FP and noted JCDH has developed an outreach program to promote and provide FP healthcare services with emphasis on ease of access to the patient, including mobile services and telehealth. The services offered through FP outreach include, blood pressure, weight/BMI, glucose checks, HPV vaccination, and birth control visits. In the future, the FP Division will increase mobile unit deployments, improve access and awareness for males and teens, enhance telemedicine visits, colposcopy, more self-scheduling appointment options, after-hours services, GYN services, and Alabama Breast and Cervical (ABC) screening visits. In response to a question from a Board member, Darlene Traffanstedt, MD, Clinical Services Director, stated that nationally only 10 percent of males use FP services and JCDH percentage is below the national average. She stated males qualify for Plan First and services provided include initial and annual exams, supply visits, and referrals for vasectomies. She said

FP had their first male patient visit at one of their recent mobile unit community events. JCDH is looking to increase male involvement and increase male awareness in Family Planning.

May 2023 Financial Statements

Dr. Murray stated the May 2023 Financial Statements were emailed to the Board prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

Contracts

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

A new contract with the City of Birmingham (payee) for facility rental of the Birmingham CrossPlex for JCDH's Employee Team Day event scheduled for Friday, October 20, 2023, at a rate of \$2,837.50.

An amendment to a contract with Carr, Riggs, & Ingram (payee) to provide medical billing consulting services to JCDH. Amendment is to extend the term date at no additional cost; not to exceed \$35,000 from May 31, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

A new contract with Carr, Riggs, & Ingram (payee) to provide clinical consulting services to JCDH; not to exceed \$30,000 from June 14, 2023 through June 14, 2024.

A new contract with Townsquare Media (payee) to provide advertising and promotional services using various digital formats to inform and educate Jefferson County residents on sexually transmitted diseases and promote off-site testing events during Sexually Transmitted Disease Awareness Week; not to exceed \$37,500 from March 18, 2023 through April 30, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with Women Entrepreneurs in Public Health, LLC (payee) for facilitation of a new strategic plan for JCDH. Amendment is to extend the term date at no additional cost; not to exceed \$92,120 from November 1, 2022 through August 1, 2023.

A new contract with Propio Language Services, LLC (payee) to provide interpretation services when JCDH interpreters are not available, at a rate of 0.85 cents per minute, per phone interpretation, and \$1.50 for American Sign Language video interpretation; not to exceed \$14,999 from April 20, 2023 through April 20, 2024.

A new contract with Daphne C. Ballard (payee) for telephone support and in-person support for breastfeeding Women, Infants and Children participants at a rate of \$12.50 per hour, 15-30 hours per week; not to exceed \$20,000 from April 1, 2023 through April 1, 2024.

A new contract with Krishanda Williams (payee) for telephone support and in-person support for breastfeeding Women, Infants and Children participants at a rate of \$12.50 per hour, 15-30 hours per week; not to exceed \$20,000 from April 1, 2023 through April 1, 2024.

A new contract with Alayisa Gurley (payee) for telephone support and in-person support for breastfeeding Women, Infants and Children participants at a rate of \$12.50 per hour, 15-30 hours per week; not to exceed \$20,000 from April 1, 2023 through April 1, 2024.

A new contract with Infojini, Inc. (payee) for maintenance and support for the Stormwater Online Activity Record erosion control mobile application to include monthly checks for software revisions, patches, and updates, and fix any software bugs; not to exceed \$9,000 from May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024.

A new bid contract with AVX Commercial, Inc. (payee) to provide audio and video system solution services to JCDH; not to exceed \$54,523.41 from May 15, 2023 through May 14, 2024.

A new contract with Bhate Geosciences Corporation (payee) to provide on-call geotechnical observation and construction material testing services to JCDH; not to exceed \$43,202.50 from March 17, 2023 through March 17, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency (payee) who will assist JCDH with performing Cities Readiness Initiative activities; not to exceed \$39,932 from October 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

A new contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) for the use of opioid settlement funds to provide suboxone vouchers for patients presenting to the UAB Emergency Department needing treatment for substance use disorder; not to exceed \$20,000 from June 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with Open Text, Inc. (payee) to provide maintenance services for Fax Service Connector, RightFax, and Microsoft Exchange; not to exceed \$6,024.56 from August 28, 2023 through August 27, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with NXTsoft Cyber Security Solutions, LLC (payee) to provide multifaceted cyber platform to allow access to various ThreatAdvice cyber tools, including phishing test, policies and procedures library, cyber insurance review, and cyber training and education; not to exceed \$310,998.60 from April 1, 2023 from March 31, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Pluralsight, LLC (payee) to provide online technical skills training for Information Technology staff for one year, at a rate of \$10,516.50 from June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024.

An amendment to a contract with Software House International Corp (payee) for the upgrade of five JCDH Microsoft 365 licenses to gain access to advanced security and compliances features; not to exceed \$2,950.30 over a three-year term from December 1, 2022 through December 1, 2025.

A new contract with Command Link, LLC (payee) to provide primary and secondary internet access solution, next generation firewall with software-defined, wide area network virtual private network and session initiation protocol used for JCDH phone system at a rate of \$24,089.97 per month for three years; not to exceed \$867,238.92 from May 1, 2023 through May 1, 2026.

A new contract with The Lioce Group, Inc., (payee) for replacement of outdated Xerox copiers when the current JCDH contract expires in July 2023, by leasing or leasing to purchase printers, maintenance and other services from the contract maintained by The Lioce Group; not to exceed \$591,692.40 from July 1, 2023 through July 1, 2028.

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 Sexually Transmitted Disease HIV Training Center; not to exceed \$18,499 from April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024.

An amendment to a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) to provide additional funding for prevention activities under the Overdose Data to Action grant for a total not to exceed \$353,483 from April 28, 2023 through August 31, 2023.

A new contract with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) (payor) to provide goods and/or services for NACCHO to enhance the programmatic activities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant. This contract will fund activities under the Sustaining Peers in the emergency department grant program; not to exceed \$149,999.99 from April 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023.

A new contract with the Alabama Department of Mental Health (payor) for the purchase of Narcan, fentanyl test strips, and the shipping costs of these items to non-Jefferson County residents as part of the JCDH online training and mail order program; not to exceed \$317,025 from May 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

An amendment to a contract with the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham (payor) for a grant awarded to JCDH for the “Let’s Get Down 35211 – A High Blood Pressure Management Program”; not to exceed \$50,000 from June 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

Opioid Settlement Funds

Dr. Murray asked if JCDH has a contingency plan if no settlement funds are received from the opioid lawsuit filed by JCDH in 2018 against manufacturers and distributors of opioids. Dr. Wilson stated there were no plans made prior to receiving settlement money. He said JCDH has received some money that was set aside and earmarked for opioid education and treatment.

Commissioner Stephens requested the Board consider providing funds to smaller unincorporated fire districts in Jefferson County for the purchase of Narcan. Dr. Wilson said he and Dr. Darlene Traffanstedt serve on Governor Ivey’s Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council. Last fall the council made recommendations on how to spend settlement money coming to the state with one of the top priorities being access to treatment for those with substance use disorder and making money available to help first responders in those districts with limited funds.

Changes to Employee Benefits Program

Dr. Wilson stated the following resolution came about due to feedback received from an employee benefits survey conducted by Human Resources earlier this year. The resolution would provide better benefits for employees and prospective employees and hopefully attract new employees and retain current staff. He stated the proposed changes are bulleted below.

Dr. Wilson stated the finances were reviewed, and worst-case scenarios were considered. The changes in benefits are not “locked in” and are reviewed on a year-to-year basis. The Board members discussed the resolution and requested the cost analysis. Dr. Wilson will email the requested information to the Board members.

On the motion of Dr. Fancher, and seconded by Dr. Turnipseed, with Commissioner Stephens abstaining from the vote, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health (the “Board”) previously delegated final approval of all policies and procedures of the Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH) to the Health Officer as its Chief Executive Officer, with the option that the Health Officer may elect to refer any policy to the Board of Health for review and approval; and,

WHEREAS, the Health Officer has received a recommendation from the JCDH Director of Human Resources to make certain changes to benefit programs available to JCDH employees; and,

WHEREAS, the Health Officer has received a report from the JCDH Director of Finance and Administration as to the cost and net financial impact to JCDH and concurs that the net economic impact of the proposed benefit changes is both reasonable and may be expected to increase employee morale, lower turnover, and provide additional incentive for talented individuals to consider employment with JCDH; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed benefit changes are summarized as follows:

- Implementation of JCDH-paid short-term disability policy for all full-time employees effective October 1, 2023;
- End JCDH-paid long-term disability benefit effective December 31, 2023;
- Implementation of a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) program effective January 1, 2024, with a \$1000 JCDH-paid contribution per employee for all full-time employees and part-time employees who work an average of thirty or more hours per work week, provided each employee will lose any amount not used within the calendar year;
- Implementation of a parental leave benefit effective July 1, 2023, under which full-time employees may take six weeks (uninterrupted) of JCDH-paid parental leave in a “rolling” year upon a child’s birth to, adoption by, or placement for foster care with the employee and/or employee’s spouse or domestic partner; and,
- Implementation of a bereavement leave policy providing eight hours of paid bereavement leave for full-time employees and four hours for part-time employees every fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, provided each employee will lose any leave not used by September 30 of each respective year; and,

WHEREAS the Health Officer is in favor of the proposed changes, but given his previously announced plans for retirement in the near future, has requested that the Board review and approve the proposed employee benefit changes; and,

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Board that the proposed changes in employee benefits should be implemented.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Health Officer and JCDH personnel he designates may implement the proposed employee benefit changes as outlined above and with discretion to authorize such changes and details as otherwise deemed practical and efficient for

JCDH operations and beneficial to JCDH employees in carrying out the public health work for Jefferson County residents.

Health Officer Report

Vaccines for Children Audit

Dr. Wilson noted the Alabama Department of Public Health is currently conducting a routine audit of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program at Western, Eastern, and Central Health Centers. Two centers have passed with one center still in the audit process.

Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Wilson said the JCDH strategic planning process is still ongoing. A first draft from Women Entrepreneurs in Public Health (WE Public Health) should be ready later this month for Executive Management Team review. A second draft will be sent out later for broader input and comments from staff. WE Public Health hopes to have a final plan by the end of July. Dr. Wilson said this is an adaptive plan with some flexibility going forward and will have one or two years of specific objectives which is different from the previous strategic plan.

Bluestone Coke Settlement Update

Dr. Wilson reminded the Board that Bluestone Coke was ordered to pay JCDH \$925,000 for civil penalties due to violations of the Alabama Air Pollution Control Act of 1971. Half of the payments are to be put into the Residential-Industrial Buffers Zone fund and be used for public health improvements in North Birmingham. He said Bluestone Coke has been delinquent on its required monthly payments, so JCDH is taking them back to court for failure to comply with the settlement agreement.

Dr. Wilson is convening an initial meeting of experts as well as some community leaders on June 21 for an initial discussion on potential projects and ideas on how best to spend the settlement money. The Board initially approved \$2 million dollars to be put into the Residential-Industrial Buffers Zone fund and JCDH is about to commit \$221,000 of that for a project in Bessemer, and more to Cool Green Trees for tree planting projects. He said there are enough funds still available out of the original \$2 million to go ahead with one or more projects in North Birmingham regardless of whether settlement funds are received from Bluestone Coke. More input will be requested from the community in the future before a final decision is made.

2023 Alabama Legislative Session

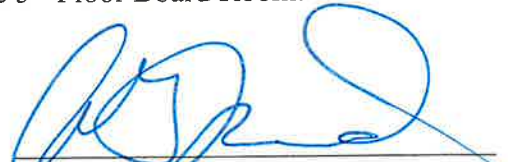
Dr. Wilson announced the 2023 regular Alabama legislative session has ended. The Tobacco Retail Licensing bill that was introduced by the tobacco industry, which JCDH opposed, was killed. He said hopefully a tobacco retail licensing fee bill endorsed by our public health partners can be introduced earlier in next year's session. Dr. Wilson said Senate Bill 171 died. This bill would have taken away some authority of the State Health Officer and make the appointment of the State Health Officer by the governor rather than the State Board of Health. A bill that would have allowed parents to decide whether their child should wear face coverings in the event of another pandemic also died.

JCDH Environmental Sustainability Plan

Dr. Wilson stated he emailed initial steps for a JCDH environmental sustainability plan to the Board which is in compliance with a resolution approved by the Board in April 2022 that asked JCDH to create a sustainability plan. While these are just the initial plans, they are robust. They

will require JCDH to put out a Request for Proposals (RFPs) for engineering consultations to produce a plan for solar panels. JCDH is already starting to transition our vehicle fleet to electric or plug-in/hybrid, as feasible. He said JCDH will also be looking at the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards to look for other opportunities to make JCDH facilities and operations more sustainable.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Board Room.



Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Kenny Murray, MD, Chair