



## **JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**Wednesday, July 12, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.**

**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room**

**PRESENT:** Kenny Murray, MD, Jeffrey Dobyns, DO, Iris Fancher, MD, Michele Kong, MD, and Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

### **OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Rodney Holmes, Mark Wilson, MD, David Maxey, Esq., Jonathan Stanton, Kim Cason, David Hicks, DO, Senitra Blackburn, and Terrie Hartley

### **Call to Order**

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

Minutes of the June 14, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed.

### **June 2023 Financial Statements**

Dr. Fancher stated the June 2023 Financial Statements were emailed to the Board prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board.

### **Election of New Health Officer**

Dr. David Hicks exited the room for this part of the meeting. Dr. Fancher reviewed the process used to advertise the Health Officer position and interview the applicants who met the job qualifications. Beginning in late March, the Health Officer job opening was posted and shared via several outlets, including through the job postings with major national public health organizations and publications, and through the Jefferson County Medical Society, the local Mineral District Medical Society, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, and through other local and state networks. The physicians on the Board divided into two interview teams who each interviewed the applicants using a structured interview process.

Dr. Fancher then asked for a nomination for Health Officer. Dr. Murray put forth a nomination for Dr. David Hicks, which was seconded by Dr. Dobyns. The Board unanimously voted to elect Dr. David Hicks as the next Health Officer.

Dr. Hicks was invited back into the room and congratulated on his election. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Health Officer. Dr. Wilson will notify Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer, who will present the Board's election of Dr. Hicks to the Alabama State

Committee of Public Health (representing the State Board of Health) for its approval. If approved, Dr. Hicks will take office on October 1, 2023.

### **Contracts**

On the motion of Dr. Murray, and seconded by Dr. Kong, the following contracts were approved:

Renewal of a contract with Up To Date/Wolters Kluwer (payee) for a subscription to Up To Date for providers which is a software system that is a point-of-care medical resource; not to exceed \$12,593 from August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024.

A new contract with Bragg Risk & Compliance Services, LLC (payee) to provide personnel to serve as Compliance Officer for JCDH and provide general assistance and expertise to JCDH and its Compliance Committee in establishing a compliance program that promotes a culture of compliance with laws, regulations, and policies. The hourly rate will vary based on personnel and hours worked; not to exceed \$150,000 from June 23, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with UserWay, Inc. (payee) to provide tools to bring JCDH external website into Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance; not to exceed \$8,493 from June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2026.

A new contract with Precision Speaking, Inc. (payee) for a speaker for the JCDH Team Day on October 20, 2023; not to exceed \$3,750.

Renewal of a contract with Smartsheet, Inc. (payee) for annual purchase on a work collaboration software called Smartsheet; not to exceed \$1,643.40 from June 7, 2023 through June 6, 2024.

A new contract with Rivera Communications, LLC (payee) to provide radio advertising to the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) community for the 2023 National HIV Testing Day at a rate not to exceed \$515 from May 31, 2023 through June 27, 2023.

A new contract with Summit Media, LLC (payee) to provide radio advertising for the 2023 National HIV Testing Day at a rate not to exceed \$3,000 from May 31, 2023 through June 27, 2023.

A new contract with Courtney French Broadcasting, LLC (payee) to provide advertising for the 2023 National HIV Testing Day at a rate not to exceed \$1,506 from May 31, 2023 through June 27, 2023.

A new contract with Richardson Broadcasting Corp. (payee) to provide radio advertising for the 2023 National HIV Testing Day at a rate not to exceed \$500 from June 13, 2023 through June 27, 2023.

A new contract with Muck Rack, LLC (payee) to provide access to broadcast (television and radio) from the U.S. market and provide online web-based application and services to assist with tracking all JCDH public relations, communications, and media coverage; not to exceed \$14,000 from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

An amendment to a contract with Samaritan Foundation, Inc. d/b/a Connection Health (payee) to provide community health workers to address levels of intervention through innovative COVID-19 vaccine education and outreach efforts with a goal of increasing vaccine update; not to exceed \$670,995 from November 14, 2022 through June 30, 2024.

A new contract with iOn Integrated Solutions, LLC d/b/a 1 Point USA (payee) to provide and install seven digital cameras and two gate operators for the Annex pavilion renovation project; not to exceed \$60,883.55 from May 5, 2023 through May 4, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) for JCDH to provide Family Planning services under the Title X Family Planning grant; not to exceed \$636,570 from April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) to provide early detection of breast and cervical cancer for women in the state of Alabama; not to exceed \$180,000 from June 30, 2023 through June 29, 2024.

**City of Birmingham Funding Agreement for Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program**

Dr. Wilson reminded the Board that the Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) has been discussed in previous Board meetings. He said last year he went to the Birmingham City Council to ask for the City to contribute funds to help expand the HVIP after year one of the program, which was solely funded by JCDH. The City agreed to provide funds from the American Rescue Plan Act through a funding agreement titled “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recover Funds Agreement between the City of Birmingham, Alabama and Jefferson County Board of Health.” The City requires that the agreement be accompanied by a Board of Health resolution authorizing Dr. Wilson to sign the agreement.

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

**WHEREAS**, the **Jefferson County Board of Health**, (the "**Board**") and the **City of Birmingham, Alabama** ("**City**") are desirous to enter into an agreement to implement a hospital-based and hospital-linked violence intervention program to reduce gun violence (the Agreement); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board is a county board of health constituted under the laws of the State of Alabama with its administrative arm the Jefferson County Department of Health (the “Department”) under the direction of the Jefferson County Health Officer (“Health Officer”); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board, the Department, and the Health Officer are responsible under Alabama Code §§ 22-3-1–5 to exercise supervision over the sanitary conditions and public health conditions in Jefferson County, including the municipalities, therein; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City is duly constituted under the laws of Alabama, located primarily within Jefferson County; and,

**WHEREAS**, The City is authorized pursuant to §§ 11-47-130–131, Code of Alabama 1975 to maintain the health and cleanliness of the City and may adopt such ordinances and regulations as the Council may deem necessary to insure such sanitary condition both in public places and in private premises in the City; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2021, Congress enacted the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) to provide additional relief to address the continued impact of COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses; and,

**WHEREAS**, the public health challenges of violent crime and gun violence were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

**WHEREAS**, to respond to the far-reaching public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, by supporting the health of communities, and helping households, small businesses, impacted industries, nonprofits, and the public sector recover from economic impacts, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) announcing the availability of ARPA funding to be allocated across discrete categories of services, as specified in the RFP; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jefferson County Board of Health submitted a proposal for the Jefferson County Department of Health to implement the Jefferson County, Alabama Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program (the “HVIP Program”) to be operated in collaboration with UAB Hospital’s Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Service and aimed at reducing the revolving door of violent injury by engaging survivors of gun violence with hospital-based intervention and case management; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Jefferson County Board of Health has selected the Offender Alumni Association (“OAA”) to serve as the Case Management provider for the HVIP Program; and,

**WHEREAS**, Act 1969-916 of the Acts of Alabama authorizes the municipalities and other governmental entities within Jefferson County to make the most efficient use of their powers by enabling them to cooperate with the state, the federal government and with each other on a basis of mutual advantage and thereby to provide services and facilities in a manner and pursuant to forms of governmental organization that will accord best with geographic, economic, population, and other factors influencing the needs and developments of the county and municipalities and other governmental units and agencies therein; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is in the public interest for the City and the Board to cooperate in the implementation of the HVIP Program; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board is desirous of entering into this Agreement whereby the City will donate funds in an amount not to exceed \$2,103,312.00 (“Total Agreement Funds”) to support the HVIP Program’s approved activities as described in the Agreement and Exhibits thereto:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, THAT THE HEALTH OFFICER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO SIGN THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM ON BEHALF OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AND OVERSEE THE PERFORMANCE OF ALL OTHER ACTS REQUIRED OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT.

### **Health Officer Report**

### **Compliance Officer**

Dr. Wilson noted as mentioned in the contracts that were just approved, JCDH is entering into an arrangement with Bragg Risk and Compliance Services to develop a comprehensive compliance

program relative to the services, business and grant activities of JCDH. Teresa Bragg, who formerly served as the Chief Risk and Compliance Officer at UAB, will serve as JCDH Compliance Officer. Ms. Bragg and her experienced staff will work to provide general assistance and expertise to the Department and the Compliance Committee to assure we have a broad-based compliance program that ensures a culture of compliance with laws, regulations and JCDH policies, and provides relevant educational material and training.

### **JCDH Strategic Plan**

Dr. Wilson provided an update on the development of a new JCDH Strategic Plan. A second draft has been reviewed by the Executive Management Team (EMT) and is under review by another group of employees who helped shape and organize the priorities for the initial draft. He said one overarching concept that is coming out of the planning so far is that of the health department as “Community Health Strategist.” This is an emerging theme in public health nationally for the future role of health departments and has been incorporated into a draft vision statement that Dr. Wilson shared with the Board.

Dr. Wilson said four general Strategic Directions have been identified, and initial goals and tactics for each of these are in the process of being finalized:

Strategic Direction 1: Collaborate with community partners to positively influence the determinants of health.

Strategic Direction 2: Focus on health systems transformation (this one pertains to assuring access to and effectiveness of prevention and health care services).

Strategic Direction 3: Serve as a trusted source of public health data and information (to the extent that we are able to legally share health information).

Strategic Direction 4: JCDH is a thriving, equitable work place. (The idea is for all employees to have access to the resources and opportunities they need to grow, develop, and collaborate for achieving our shared vision of improved health for all).

Dr. Wilson said there are at least a couple of more weeks of work to do before the plan is finalized. There were no questions from the Board.

### **Air Pollution Monitoring Program**

Dr. Wilson stated JCDH has a new 2023 Air Monitoring Network Plan that has been out for public comment and will go to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for final approval. In the plan, JCDH Air and Radiation Protection Division (ARPD) proposes to consolidate some monitoring sites to better align with the needs of the county. Specifically, ARDP will shut down a site in Corner and combine the Fairfield and Wylam monitoring sites into one site in Wylam. With Bluestone Coke currently closed, ARDP will shut down the Shuttlesworth site, with the agreement that monitoring will resume if the plant opens again. This consolidation will allow ARDP to better focus its resources on the monitoring sites which remain in the Environmental Justice areas.

The Air and Radiation Protection Division will deploy and study continuous Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5) monitors at several sites. The new monitors should result in more accurate real-time information for the general public and residents. These monitors will eventually replace older filter-based monitors.

### **Bluestone Coke Settlement**

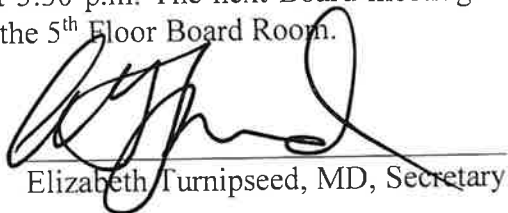
Dr. Wilson mentioned at the last Board meeting he was convening a group to get ideas on potential environmental projects for the benefit of the Collegetown, Harriman Park, and Fairmont neighborhoods of North Birmingham using Bluestone Coke settlement funds. The meeting was held June 21 and included representatives from the community, some of our environmental health partners, and some JCDH staff. The group decided that Francesca Gross, who is leading the Cool Green Trees initiative and who had already begun some preliminary work through Cool Green Trees in Collegetown, would come up with some specific project sites to consider. Once she is ready, there will be a follow-up meeting which will include a larger number of community members.

Dr. Wilson said the Bluestone Coke monetary settlement was \$925,000 total, half of which JCDH agreed to place in the Residential-Industrial Buffers Zone Fund for the use in the North Birmingham neighborhoods listed above. In 2019 the Board had passed a resolution which established the Residential-Industrial Buffers Zone Fund and approved an initial transfer of \$2 million dollars of JCDH unassigned fund balance into the Fund. Dr. Wilson went ahead and made a commitment at the June 21 meeting above to use \$600,000 out of the original \$2 million dollars for use in North Birmingham regardless of whether all the settlement funds are received from Bluestone Coke.


#### **Expedited Partner Therapy**

Dr. Wilson announced the Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners is considering a new administrative rule amendment to allow prescribing medicines for the sexual partner(s) or a patient in accordance with an Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) or Patient Delivered Partner Therapy for the prevention of transmission and spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Currently, EPT is permissible by law in forty-six states and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has concluded that "EPT is a useful option to facilitate partner management." Dr. Wilson said under current rules in Alabama, public health providers or public health nurses under a standing order may dispense drugs to a patient for delivery to their sexual partner for treatment of chlamydia and trichomoniasis, but non-public health providers providing a prescription to partners without evaluating them directly is considered "misconduct".

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room.

  
Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, Secretary

Approved:

  
Iris Fancher, MD, Chair

Attachment 1