



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, October 11, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.
5th Floor Board Room

PRESENT: Kenny Murray, MD, Iris Fancher, MD, Michele Kong, MD, and Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD

ABSENT: Jeffrey Dobyms, DO and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

OTHERS

PRESENT: David Maxey, Esq., Bryn Manzella, Senitra Blackburn, Barbara Jackson, Jilisa Milton, Mandy Wong-Davis, Jonathan Stanton, and Terrie Hartley

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the September 13, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed.

2023–2026 Strategic Plan

David Hicks, DO, MPH, FAAFP, Health Officer, provided an update on the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan and reminded the Board that Dr. Mark Wilson, former Health Officer, provided periodic updates on the plan. Dr. Hicks said the future vision of the Strategic Plan is, “The Jefferson County Department of Health is a valued community partner that engages Jefferson County residents, organizational partners, and its staff to co-create an equitable and healthier Jefferson County for all.”

Dr. Hicks discussed the four strategic directions within the plan and highlighted goals and strategies under each Strategic Direction.

- Strategic Direction 1: Collaborate with Community Partners to Positively Influence the Determinants of Health.
- Strategic Direction 2: Focus on Health Systems Transformation
- Strategic Direction 3: Serve as a Trusted Source of Public Health Data and Information
- Strategic Direction 4: JCDH is a Thriving, Equitable Workplace

The Board requested brief quarterly updates with more detailed updates twice per year. Dr. Hicks answered questions from the Board.

Health and Dental Benefits Plan

Dr. Hicks said the following resolution is a Health and Dental Benefits Plan that needs annual approval from the Board. For the past several years JCDH has absorbed any increases in health insurance costs.

On the motion of Dr. Murray, and seconded by Dr. Kong, 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, 2024, 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, 2024, 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	\$1,186.00	\$1,483.00
Individual	\$132.00	\$476.00	\$608.00
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>
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Family	\$300.00	\$2,017.00	\$2,317.00
Individual	\$150.00	\$1,107.00	\$1,257.00
Retiree not Medicare eligible & dependent Medicare eligible	\$300.00	\$1,159.00	\$1,459.00
Retiree not Medicare Eligible & two dependents Medicare eligible	\$300.00	\$1,361.00	\$1,661.00

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	\$ 1,074.00	\$ 0.00	\$1,074.00
Both Retiree & dependent Medicare eligible	\$ 404.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 404.00
Retiree & two dependents Medicare eligible	\$ 606.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 606.00
Single Medicare eligible retiree	\$ 202.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 202.00

*****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.

Signatures on Bank Accounts

On the motion of Dr. Turnipseed, and seconded by Dr. Kong, 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: David Hicks, DO
 Rodney Holmes

Loretta Hicks

Health Credit Union - #35480 -TB Compliance Account
(One signature required)

Authorized Signatures: Rachael Hobgood
Rodney Holmes
Loretta Hicks

Wells Fargo Advisors- #1669-6837 -Investment Account

Authorized Signatures: David Hicks, DO
Rodney Holmes
Loretta Hicks

Wells Fargo Bank- #2000019337513 -Operating Account

Authorized Signatures: David Hicks, DO
Rodney Holmes
Loretta Hicks

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

Authorized Signatures: Loretta Hicks
Rodney Holmes
Mark Sparks, Brentwood Services, Inc.
Collette Mangold, Brentwood Services, Inc.

Wells Fargo Bank- #4424992907 -Flexible Spending Account

Authorized Signatures: David Hicks, DO
Rodney Holmes
Loretta Hicks

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

Dedication of Mark E. Wilson Pavilion

Dr. Hicks stated the following resolution is for the newly constructed Annex pavilion to be dedicated in honor of Dr. Mark Wilson.

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

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Jefferson County Board of Health, in conjunction with the State Health Officer, to elect and assist in directing the Jefferson County Health Officer in conducting all sanitary and public health work within Jefferson County; and,

WHEREAS, in 2011 the Board of Health elected Mark E. Wilson, M.D., to serve as the Jefferson County Health Officer, and Dr. Wilson accepted the position and committed to performing the duties of the office; and,

WHEREAS, for twelve years, Dr. Wilson has served the residents of this County by fulfilling not just the duties required by law but those engendered by good conscience and a willing heart as well; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Wilson fostered cooperation with other agencies, and both public and private entities and personages to create health partnerships to create an environment of mutual aid, creativity, and innovative thinking to address health care needs in the community; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Wilson's leadership and team-building efforts proved critical as our community and state confronted the SARS CoV-2 virus (COVID-19) pandemic, as he worked above and beyond the call of duty and undertook difficult decisions to protect public health and reduce the crisis by making vaccines available to all citizens throughout the County; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Wilson has also initiated efforts to address other health crises and has actively worked to achieve health equity, reduce environmental hazards, and increase green spaces and recreational opportunities, to name but a few of his accomplishments; and,

WHEREAS, it is proper to acknowledge Dr. Wilson's exceptional service.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board of Health announces its decision to name the newly constructed health pavilion the **MARK E. WILSON PAVILION**, to honor Dr. Wilson's service, leadership, and positive contributions during his twelve-year tenure as Health Officer.

Contracts

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

An amendment to a contract with Freshwater Land Trust (payee) to allow additional funds and extend terms of agreement for designation of funds to continue building the Red Rock Ridge and Valley Trail System, improve water and water quality, support environmental protection infrastructure projects, and capitalize on opportunities that improves the health and well-being of Jefferson County residents; not to exceed \$6,000,000 from October 1, 2019 through September 20, 2030.

Renewal of a contract with Integrated Behavioral Health, Inc., d/b/a Uprise Health (payee) who will provide assistance to JCDH employees which will include six counseling visits per year and six coaching visits per year at a rate of \$2.60 per employee per month; not to exceed \$20,000 per year from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Southern Benefit Group, LLC (Alliance Insurance Group) (payee) to administer JCDH Flexible Spending Account and Dependent Care Account Plan for JCDH employees at a rate of \$4.50 per participant from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

A new contract with Southern Benefit Group, LLC (Alliance Insurance Group) (payee) to administer the Health Reimbursement Account Plan for JCDH employees at a rate of \$5.00 per participant from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

A new contract with Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company (payee) to provide company paid short-term disability for JCDH employees; not to exceed \$13,000 per month from October 1, 2023 through January 1, 2026.

A new contract with DebtBook (payee) for implementation support review of application obligations and entry of relevant customer data; amount not to exceed \$17,500 from September 11, 2023 through September 10, 2024.

A new contract with the City of Irondale (payee) for the transfer of funds for the repair of the Beacon Park walking trail; not to exceed \$60,000 from September 11, 2023 through September 30, 2023.

A new contract with Onyx Event Planners, LLC (payee) who will provide poly premier drapes for the JCDH Employee Team Day; not to exceed \$5,150 for October 20, 2023.

A new contract with Petal Pushers Florals and Rentals (payee) for tables, tablecloths, centerpieces, plants, and backdrop for the JCDH Employee Team Day; not to exceed \$7,609 for October 20, 2023.

A new contract with Backstage Productions, Inc., (payee) for audio, video, and visual equipment for the JCDH Employee Team Day; not to exceed \$7,675 for October 20, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with Versick 3E Protect (payee) to provide electronic library of Material Safety Data Sheet system to JCDH; not to exceed \$5,525 from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

A new contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) to cover cost of substance use peers in UAB University Hospital emergency department as part of Sustaining Peers in the Emergency Department grant program; not to exceed \$200,000 from July 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024.

A new contract with Crisis Center, Inc. (payee) to provide Peer Support Specialist services on a full-time basis to support the initiatives of the JCDH Sustaining Peers in the UAB Emergency Department during weekday business hours or as mutually agreed upon; not to exceed \$50,000 from July 23, 2023 through March 31, 2024.

A new contract with Courtney French Broadcasting (payee) to provide radio advertising services for JCDH to potential vendors and merchants selling food and goods during the Magic City Classic at Legion Field; not to exceed \$4,855 from September 18, 2023 through October 28, 2023.

A new contract with Summit Media (payee) to provide radio advertising services for JCDH to potential vendors and merchants selling food and goods during the Magic City Classic at Legion Field; not to exceed \$7,497 from September 18, 2023 through October 28, 2023.

A new contract with Richardson Broadcasting Corporation (payee) to provide radio advertising services for JCDH to potential vendors and merchants selling foods and goods during the Magic City Classic at Legion Field and other areas in close proximity; amount not to exceed \$4,500 from September 18, 2023 through October 28, 2023.

A new contract with Cumulus Media (payee) to provide radio advertising services for JCDH to potential vendors and merchants selling foods and goods during the Magic City Classic at Legion Field; not to exceed \$12,905 from September 18, 2023 through October 28, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with the University of Alabama in Huntsville (payee) to provide ongoing operational maintenance and upgrades for the Birmingham air quality website which provides near real-time air quality monitoring data for the Birmingham area, originally developed by UAH through an EMPACT project funded by the Environmental Protection Agency; not to exceed \$18,200 from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

A new contract with Robert A. Angus (payee) who will provide statistical analysis for water quality data, fish speciation, habitat assessment, and bioassessment evaluation at a rate of \$62.50 per hour; not to exceed \$14,700 over three years from January 1, 2023 through December 30, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (payee) to provide geographic information system services, training, and tools be utilized throughout JCDH; not to exceed \$84,000 from October 12, 2023 through October 11, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with The Force Law Enforcement and Security Company (payee) to provide, manage, schedule, and coordinate contracted sworn "Law Enforcement Alabama Peace Officer Standards and Training Officer Certified" officers; not to exceed \$400,000 from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with The Force Law Enforcement and Security Company (payee) to provide, manage, schedule, and coordinate unarmed security guards to work weekend and fill-in shifts as needed; not to exceed \$50,000 from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

A new contract with GE Medical Systems, Ultrasound and Primary Care Diagnostics, LLC (payee) for the purchase of a GE P8 ultrasound machine, appropriate ultrasound probes and printer for JCDH family planning program; not to exceed \$29,640 from September 20, 2023 through September 30, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with the University of Florida Board of Trustees for the Benefit of the College of Pharmacy (payee) who will provide specialized laboratory services to JCDH patients who participates in the tuberculosis program at a rate of \$85 per test for single drug/single draw and \$75 per test for single drug/multiple draws from November 1, 2023 through November 1, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (payor) for JCDH to produce and issue daily forecasts of particle pollution for Jefferson and Shelby counties and to facilitate these responsibilities, will enter into contract for metrological data subscription services and maintenance of the Birmingham Air Quality website. JCDH will be

reimbursed for those contracts at 80% expenses; not to exceed \$72,000 from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

Health Officer Report

New Health Officer Transition

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that he will be meeting with elected officials to introduce himself and inform them of the Department's strategic priorities. He will be meeting with the Jefferson County Commission tomorrow, October 12, and with the Birmingham City Council on October 17.

Departmental Vacancies Update

Dr. Hicks reported that the Department anticipates announcing the selection of a Deputy Health Officer and Health Equity Director, respectively, next month.

Compliance Program

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board that Dr. Wilson had previously detailed the scope of work of our new Compliance Officer, Teresa Bragg. Ms. Bragg has been meeting with key Department leaders to gain a deeper understanding of compliance-related issues. JCDH's Executive Management Team has been briefed on the progress of the compliance program. A Compliance Risk Assessment Workshop will be held on October 24. Dr. Hicks notified the Board that the Compliance Officer will speak at the December Board of Health meeting about the Compliance Program and the Board's role. A Compliance Program Policy will be presented to the Board for approval.

Rabies Vaccine Distribution

Dr. Hicks stated that beginning October 3, the United States Department of Agriculture has been distributing oral rabies vaccine (ORV) to reduce rabies in racoons and the associated public health risks from rabies exposures. Last week the vaccine was distributed in urban and suburban communities in Birmingham by hand from trucks alongside tree lines. This week they began distributing the vaccine packets in wooded rural parts of Jefferson County by aircraft. Dr. Hicks sent a memorandum to local elected officials last week regarding this. Jonathan Stanton, Director of Environmental Health, answered questions from the Board.

Injury Prevention Update

Dr. Hicks said that last week the United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Alabama, announced that One Place Metro Alabama Family Justice Center will be receiving an \$800,000 grant from the Office on Violence Against Women to "enhance services to survivors of domestic violence in Jefferson County". Notable statistics include the following:

- Greater than 70% of homicide offenders in Jefferson County over the past three years have previously committed acts of domestic violence.
- When strangulation occurs in relationships with domestic violence, the risk of lethality to the victim increases by 750%.

The Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (¡HICA!), JCDH, and the Jefferson County Commission supported this application. JCDH agreed to ensure the provision of specialized nursing services to victims of strangulation although there currently is no need for direct JCDH involvement at this time. Dr. Hicks reminded the Board that earlier this year the Public Health

Advised Fund granted One Place “bridge funding” to support their work to address domestic strangulations.

The Jefferson County Department of Health has been selected to receive a \$1.5 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under the Overdose Data to Action program. Grant funds will be used to purchase harm reduction vending machines that supply naloxone and fentanyl test strips, develop public-facing overdose dashboard, develop a harm reduction mobile application, substance use education for interfaith leaders, and pay for peer support staff with a partner agency. This funding represents year one of a five-year grant cycle.

Special Events Updates

Dr. Hicks reported that on September 30, JCDH participated in the community festival “Fiesta”. Department staff provided information about the following services: environmental health, sexually transmitted illnesses, prevention and epidemiology, tuberculosis, Women, Infants, and Children, dental, From Day One, family planning, naloxone distribution, vaccines, and social services.

JCDH has partnered with the City of Birmingham to provide temporary food service guidance for the Magic City Classic event to be held on October 28. Earlier this week, an informational meeting for the public was held and vendors were able to obtain a food permit. JCDH will provide information about our services during the event.

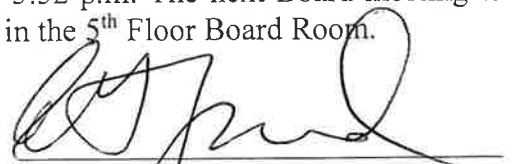
JCDH Annual Team Day

Dr. Hicks noted the Annual Team Day for JCDH staff will be October 20, 2023. The all-day event will consist of team building exercises and educational activities for employees. This training had been on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year’s theme is “Respect for each other and those we serve.”


St. Clair County Landfill Fire

Dr. Hicks announced the environmental landfill in St. Clair County that was burning underground earlier this year has caught fire again. Although this is not in JCDH jurisdiction, there are concerns once again about air quality in the nearby areas of Jefferson County. JCDH’s Air Radiation and Protection Division is still monitoring particulate matter uploaded from Purple Air monitors placed at three Trussville schools earlier this year.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Board Room.


Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, Secretary

Approved:


Iris Fancher, MD, Chair