



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, November 8, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.
5th Floor Board Room

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

ABSENT: Kenny Murray, MD and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

OTHERS

PRESENT: Rodney Holmes, David Maxey, Esq., David Hicks, DO, Keith Williams, Jonathan Stanton, Kim Cason, J. C. Andrews, Terrie Hartley, Marcia Forrest, Bryn Manzella, Senitra Blackburn, Jalisa Milton, and Barbara Jackson

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the October 11, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed.

Environmental Health Rabies Program

J. C. Andrews, Environmental Health Program Supervisor, provided an overview of the Environmental Health Rabies Program. He stated rabies is a potentially deadly viral disease that attacks the central nervous system of its victim. The rabies virus is found in the saliva of rabies-infected animals and all mammals are susceptible to rabies. Wild animals such as bats, coyotes, cats, dogs, foxes, raccoons, and skunks, are the most common source of human rabies infection in the United States.

Mr. Andrews said that rabies exposure is defined as any bite, scratch, or other situation in which saliva or nervous tissue from a potentially rabid animal enters an open or fresh wound or breaks in the skin or comes in contact with mucous membrane by entering the eye, nose, or mouth. Rabies exposure must be reported by a physician or a police officer to the local health department. JCDH receives and investigates approximately 650 rabies exposure complaints per year. Some animals that are investigated for rabies are placed in quarantine for testing while others are euthanized. The euthanized animal is submitted to JCDH to be processed and shipped to the Alabama Department of Public Health State Laboratory for testing.

The JCDH webpage, jcdh.org, provides information on rabies prevention, animal bite exposure reports, specimen testing, post-exposure treatment, and contact information for the Jefferson County Rabies Officer, Susan Parson, DVM.

September 2023 Financial Statements

Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance and Administration, reviewed the September 2023 Financial Statements. There were no questions from the Board.

Signatures on Bank Accounts

Dr. Hicks noted the following resolution is an update to a resolution approved at the October 2023 meeting.

On the motion of Dr. Kong, and seconded by Dr. Turnipseed, 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, D.O.
 Rodney Holmes
 Loretta Hicks

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

Authorized Signatures: David Hicks, D.O.
 Rachael Hobgood
 Rodney Holmes
 Loretta Hicks

Wells Fargo Advisors - #1669-6837 Investment Account

Authorized Signatures: David Hicks, D.O.
 Rodney Holmes
 Loretta Hicks

Wells Fargo Bank - #2000019337513 - Operating Account

Authorized Signatures: David Hicks, D.O.
 Rodney Holmes
 Loretta Hicks

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

Authorized Signatures: David Hicks, D.O.
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, D.O.
Rodney Holmes
Loretta Hicks

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

Contracts

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

Renewal of a contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health (payee) for a partnership between JCDH and UAB School of Public Health to strengthen activities of both parties; not to exceed \$38,088 from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

A new contract with Courtney French Broadcasting, LLC (payee) to provide radio promotions for public health messaging on Narcan to residents of Jefferson County and provide Narcan information during pre-game Magic City Classic events; not to exceed \$5,000 from October 23, 2023 through December 1, 2023.

A new contract with Summit Media (payee) to provide radio promotions for public health messaging on syphilis to residents of Jefferson County and provide syphilis information during pre-game Magic City Classic events; not to exceed \$7,500 from October 16, 2023 through November 16, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with Central Station, Inc. (payee) to provide alarm monitoring services to JCDH at a rate of \$3,360 annually; not to exceed \$11,088 from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

An amendment to a contract with Ronald McKeithen (payee) to provide a Health Equity Lunch and Learn webinar session for JCDH employees and community partners around Health Equity in the Criminal Justice Involved Population; not to exceed \$500 from August 3, 2023 through October 31, 2023.

A new contract with Kathleen Henderson (payee) to provide a Lunch and Learn webinar session for JCDH employees and community partners around Health Equity; not to exceed \$500 from October 17, 2023 through October 31, 2023.

A new contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) (payor) to identify services that a JCDH licensed medical physician will provide to the Department's Office of HIV Prevention and Care End HIV Initiative to increase education among the state's Black women

about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV/AIDS prevention; not to exceed \$87,200 from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024.

An amendment to a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) to continue to scale up HIV prevention in dedicated sexually transmitted disease clinics in offering pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), non-occupational Post Exposure Prophylaxis (nPEP), and strengthening clinics and laboratory capacity with HIV medical care; not to exceed \$866,667 from October 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024.

An amendment to a contract with The Board of Trustees for the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payor) to extend the term and additional funding for the Alabama/North Carolina Regional STD/HIV Training Center; not to exceed an additional \$10,000 from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2024.

A new contract with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (payor) to support the monitoring of particulate matter 2.5 pollutants in and near communities at existing particulate matter 2.5 air monitoring sites; not to exceed \$86,387 from June 1, 2023 through June 1, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health Services (payor), to continue the agreement between ADPH and JCDH for the purpose of managing a supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) in Jefferson County at JCDH Health Centers; not to exceed \$3,064,215 from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

Health Officer Report

Departmental Vacancies Update

Dr. Hicks reported that the Department has received acceptance of offers of employment for the Deputy Health Officer and Health Equity Director, respectively. The Child Health Medical Director position remains vacant, and Dr. Maria Meyers will continue to serve as Lead Pediatrician.

Air Program Update

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board that JCDH started a program to provide free air pollution sensors to public schools in Jefferson County. The following public school districts have agreed to place air pollution sensors at various schools:

- Jefferson County Schools: 25 schools.
- Trussville City Schools: 4 schools.
- Birmingham City Schools: 1 school.

Data from the sensor is available on the AirNow website at fire.airnow.gov.

Bluestone Coke Consent Decree Update

Dr. Hicks reported that the judge ordered Bluestone Coke to pay JCDH for attorney fees incurred when JCDH took them back to court for failure to comply with the settlement agreement. Dr. Hicks recently participated in a meeting that included elected and appointed governmental officials to clarify misunderstandings about settlement funds. None of the portion of civil penalty funds received that are allocated for the communities adjacent to the Bluestone Coke plant has been spent. Community meetings will need to be held to garner public input on how the funding should be spent.

Special Events Update

Dr. Hicks reported that on the last weekend of October, JCDH participated in the 82nd Annual Magic City Classic (MCC). Disease Control staff provided health education for the following topics: safer sex, congenital syphilis, mpox, and other communicable infections. Information regarding clinic self-scheduling, self-testing home kits, and prevention resources (i.e., masks, condoms, hand sanitizer, and tissue) was also provided. It is estimated that Disease Control staff engaged with over 3,000 individuals. Another JCDH team provided naloxone training and distributed opioid overdose kits.

Due to increased food safety concerns and the number of illegal vendors at the previous MCC, Environmental Health partnered with the City of Birmingham to educate and enforce the applicable rules and regulations. This resulted in a 71 percent decrease in illegal food vendors encountered as compared to last year.

The Communications team enlisted the advertising services of several media outlets (e.g., television, radio, and local publications) to promote various public health messages, which yielded more than 700 promotional advertisements and media outreach to thousands of Jefferson County residents.

JCDH Annual Team Day Update

Dr. Hicks stated the Annual Team Day was held on October 20, 2023. He reported that surveyed staff rated the following training sessions as either “excellent” or “good”:

- The Power of Respect: 85%.
- Conflict Resolution: 81%.
- Understanding Forgiveness: 89%.

Viral Respiratory Diseases Surveillance Update

Dr. Hicks reported that, statewide, COVID-19 cases managed by emergency departments continue to drop, but those with symptoms of influenza-like illness (ILI) and respiratory syncytial virus have started to increase. In Jefferson County, we are slightly above our ILI baseline incidence. Based on local sentinel site testing, over 80 percent of influenza cases are Type B. We are averaging about 40 new reported COVID-19 cases per day marking a dramatic decrease in cases over the past few months although this does not include self-collected results.

County Rabies Officer

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that the annual appointment of the Rabies Officer will be made during the December Board Meeting. Letters received from potential candidates regarding interest in the position will be forwarded to the Board prior to next month’s meeting.

Governmental Affairs

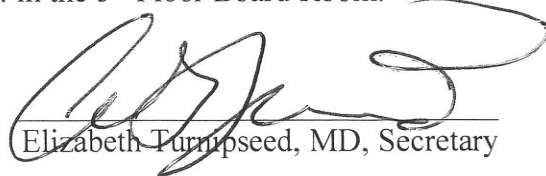
Dr. Hicks informed the Board the Alabama Department of Public Health will convene regular meetings with representatives from the Jefferson County Department of Health and Mobile County Health Department, respectively, to discuss public health policy. Dr. Hicks asked the Board to let him know if there are any Jefferson County public health policies that the Board would like him to advocate for.

Department Recognition

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing recently recognized the UAB School of Nursing with its Exemplary Academic-Practice Partnership Award for its collaboration with JCDH on the

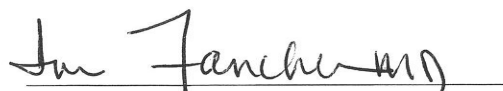
Nurse-Family Partnership program. Awardees are “involved in highly productive and model academic-practice partnerships.” Former Health Officer, Dr. Mark Wilson, accepted the award on the Department’s behalf.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Board Room.



Elizabeth Turnpseed, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Iris Fancher, MD, Chair