



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.

5th Floor Board Room

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

OTHERS

PRESENT: David Hicks, DO, David Maxey, Esq., Senitra Blackburn, Bryn Manzella, Tiana Davis, Vincent Nathan, and Terrie Hartley

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the November 8, 2023, meeting were approved as distributed.

Compliance Program

Teresa Bragg, CPA, CHC, CRMA, with Bragg Risk and Compliance Services, provided an overview of the Compliance Program and how it was developed. Compliance Program Orientation and Ethics and Compliance Program Design handouts were provided to Board members. It was noted that an effective compliance program: a) promotes a culture of ethics committed to its mission, vision and values interwoven with compliance with applicable laws and regulations; b) operates consistent with guidance established by multiple federal oversight agencies; c) includes standards, policies, procedures, and controls to ensure compliance; and d) lives through steadfast commitment by leadership.

Ms. Bragg stated the Board of Health engagement includes Board oversight and, according to the 2023 Federal Sentencing Guidelines, Chapter 8, Part B, "The organization's governing authority shall be knowledgeable about the content and operation of the compliance and ethics program and shall exercise reasonable oversight with respect to the implementation and effectiveness of the compliance and ethics program."

Ms. Bragg shared the new JCDH organizational structure. The Compliance Officer reports directly to the Health Officer and indirectly reports to the Board of Health. She stated a Compliance Committee and an Executive Risk Cabinet have been established for JCDH. She will routinely provide reports to the Board on the status of the Compliance Program.

There were no questions from the Board.

Appointment of Rabies Officer 2024

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board that he forwarded them a letter from Susan Parsons, DVM, requesting reappointment as the Rabies Officer for Jefferson County.

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

WHEREAS, The Board, as a county board of health, is required to nominate and appoint a licensed veterinarian to serve as Rabies Officer for the county pursuant to section 3-7A-11(a) of the Alabama Code to serve a term expiring on December 31 of the appointment year but with eligibility for reappointment for succeeding year(s); and

WHEREAS, Susan Parsons, DVM, submitted a request for appointment as Rabies Officer of Jefferson County Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, the Board, having carefully considered the qualifications and application of Susan Parsons, DVM, and finding her to meet the requirements for the position and displaying the desire to serve the public health needs of Jefferson County, Alabama in this capacity:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Susan Parsons, DVM, be appointed as the Rabies Officer of Jefferson County Department of Health for the year 2024; said appointment subject to approval of the State Health Officer and the State Veterinarian per section 3-7A-11(a) of the Code of Alabama.

Adoption of JCDH Code of Ethical Conduct Policy

Dr. Hicks stated the following resolution is affirming the Code of Ethical Conduct policy referenced by Teresa Bragg in her Compliance Program presentation.

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

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health (the "Board") functions as a county board of health under the laws of the state of Alabama, including, without limitation, Ala. Code 22-3-1 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, under said laws, the Board supervises the enforcement of health laws of the state and elects and advises the Health Officer of Jefferson County (the "Health Officer") who is responsible for the operations of the Jefferson County Department of Health (the "Department"); and

WHEREAS, the Board, the Department, and the Health Officer are in agreement that the adoption of a new Jefferson County Department of Health Code of Ethical Conduct (the "Code of Ethical Conduct"), applicable to all members of the Board and Department, is necessary to further establish, grow, and utilize a comprehensive institutional compliance program; and

WHEREAS, the policy of the Jefferson County Department of Health related to Policy and Procedure Development and Review (JCDH Policy No. 5001) provides that "The Board of Health has delegated final approval of all policies and procedures to the Health Officer. The Health Officer may elect to refer any policy to the Board of Health for review and approval."; and

WHEREAS, the Health Officer has elected to refer the Code of Ethical Conduct to the Board for review and approval due to the organization-wide applicability of such policy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jefferson County Board of Health, by a majority vote of its members, does hereby approve and adopt the Jefferson County Department of Health Code of Ethical Conduct, as attached, as a policy of the Jefferson County Department of Health.

Contracts

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

Renewal of a contract with The Bloom Group (payee) to provide consulting and government relation services to JCDH at a rate of \$42,000 plus \$5,000 for expenses; not to exceed \$47,000 from December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2024.

A new contract with Offender Alumni Association (payee) to provide case management (education and employment support, housing, food, utility, and transportation services) for clients of Violence Intervention and Prevention partners; not to exceed \$2,103,312 from October 12, 2023, through June 30, 2026.

A new bid contract with Turner Medical Repair, LLC (payee) to provide maintenance and repair services of microscopes per bid #23-07-16; not to exceed \$7,158 from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2026.

A new contract with Enlighten Infant Home Care (payee) to provide in-home phototherapy treatment and education for uninsured newborns with hyperbilirubinemia; not to exceed \$29,999 per year from November 1, 2023, through November 1, 2026.

A new contract with Richardson Broadcasting Corporation (payee) for radio promotion for sexual health messages and the announcement of JCDH's sexual health screening at Western Health Center on October 31, 2023; not to exceed \$1,000 from October 23, 2023, through October 31, 2023.

A new contract with The Birmingham Market Magazine (payee) for introduction of David Hicks as the new health officer of Jefferson County via the Magic City Class edition of the publication; not to exceed \$4,300 from September 1, 2023, through November 1, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with iOn Integrated Solutions, LLC d/b/a 1Point USA (payee) to provide security maintenance services for JCDH to include card access control service, electronic security service, gate operation service, intercom service, and video surveillance system with maintenance; not to exceed \$30,800 from August 2, 2023, through August 1, 2025.

An amendment to a contract with Hill's Janitorial Services, Inc. (payee) to provide cleaning services to the JCDH Annex facility; not to exceed \$14,850 from August 1, 2023, through February 1, 2025.

A new bid contract with JMC Lawncare (payee) to provide landscape service to JCDH per bid #23-07-15; not to exceed \$307,768 from September 8, 2023, through September 7, 2026.

A new contract with AG Lighting and Events (payee) to provide videography services for training provided by the UAB Department of Emergency Medicine in support of the Sustaining Peers in Emergency Department project; not to exceed \$1,000 from October 19, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

A new contract with SPR, Inc., d/b/a Ameriteck Document Solutions (payee) for one year maintenance service for a document management system on DocForm Server and DocForm Designer; not to exceed \$1,250 from November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2024.

An amendment to a contract with Software House International Corporation (payee) for JCDH enrollment in a Microsoft 365 and GitHub Enterprise service; not to exceed \$194,478.85 from December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) to provide funding for Disease Intervention Specialist position within the STD Program to conduct case investigations; not to exceed \$408,039 from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

Election of 2024 Officers

Dr. Fancher was elected to remain as Chair of the Board. Dr. Kong was named to serve on the General Liability Claims & Investment Committee. The new Board of Health member elected by the Jefferson County Medical Society, Dr. Weily Soong, will serve as Secretary.

The Board unanimously approved the election of the officers for 2024.

Board of Health Self-Evaluation

Bryn Manzella, MPH, Quality Improvement Director, asked the Board members to complete the Self-Evaluation forms included in their packages. A link to an electronic survey was emailed to the Board on December 8, 2023. The survey may be emailed to Ms. Manzella.

Health Officer Report

Departmental Vacancies Update

Dr. Hicks introduced Vincent Nathan, PhD, as Health Equity Director whose employment began earlier this week.

Dr. Hicks announced that Allury Lal, MD, will begin her tenure as Deputy Health Officer beginning in January 2024. Dr. Hicks reminded the Board they passed a resolution in March 2023 authorizing the Health Officer to provide credentialing/privileging to Department practitioners. In accordance with the Resolution, Dr. Hicks has approved initial privileging for Allury Lal, MD, in child health.

Viral Respiratory Diseases Surveillance Update

Dr. Hicks reported that, statewide, those with symptoms of influenza-like illness (ILI) and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) managed by emergency departments appear to have peaked toward the end of November. The percent of persons presenting to emergency departments, and subsequently diagnosed with COVID-19, has started to rise statewide although numbers are relatively low compared to the peak at the end of August.

In Jefferson County, we have seen significant decreases in emergency department and non-hospital clinic visits of those with ILI symptoms among our county's sentinel surveillance providers. Based

on local sentinel site testing, 89% of influenza ILI cases are influenza Type B, 7% are influenza Type A, and the rest are unspecified influenza or RSV. Locally, the percent of persons presenting to emergency departments, and subsequently diagnosed with COVID-19, has decreased.

Childhood Vaccination Rates

Dr. Hicks reported the following childhood vaccine coverage rates of Department patients, persons residing in Jefferson County, and those residing overall in Alabama, respectively. The Healthy People 2020 coverage rate goal was 80%. The Department has made a concerted effort to increase HPV vaccination rates.

Childhood Vaccination Rates (% up-to-date on series by Age Group and Locale, as of 11/07/2023)				
	DTaP, Polio, MMR, Hib, HepB, Var, PCV	DTaP, Polio, MMR, Hib, HepB, Var, PCV, HepA	Tdap, HPV, MCV	Tdap, HPV, MCV
	19-47 Months	4-10 years	11-13 years	14-18 years
JCDH	80%	75%	39%	18%
Jefferson County	66%	68%	21%	33%
Alabama	67%	66%	18%	26%
Abbreviations: DTaP = diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis vaccine; Polio = poliovirus vaccine; MMR = measles, mumps, rubella vaccine; Hib = Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine; HepB = hepatitis B vaccine; Var = varicella vaccine; PCV = Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine; HepA = hepatitis A vaccine; Tdap = tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis vaccine; HPV = human papilloma virus vaccine; MCV = meningococcal vaccine.				

Dr. Hicks reported that JCDH has given 63 doses of newly approved RSV monoclonal antibody for children, as of December 5, 2023. This represents 20% of all doses of either RSV antibody or RSV vaccines administered in Jefferson County. Eleven percent of all doses administered in Alabama have been provided by Jefferson County providers.

Infant Mortality

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) recently announced the 2022 Alabama infant mortality rate was 6.7 deaths per 1,000 live births, a decrease from the 7.6 rate in 2021. Alabama's infant mortality rate, however, remains higher than the provisional U.S. rate for 2022, which is 5.6.

Jefferson County's infant mortality rate increased from 8.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2021 to 9.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022. There remains a disparity in the rates based on race with Blacks having a disproportionately higher rate (16.2) as compared to the rate in Whites (4.1). Based on the 2022 Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner's report, deaths due to co-sleeping was the most common means of infant death. Dr. Hicks reminded the Board of programs directly supported by the Department (i.e., From Day One, Nurse-Family Partnership), that aim to address birth outcomes. The Department continues to support the Department of Human Resources' Baby Box initiative and partners with IMPACT Family Counseling Cribs for Kids to provide safe sleep classes and free Pack-n-Plays for the expectant mothers and mothers who have delivered in Jefferson County who do not have a crib for the baby to sleep. Also, the Department has representation on the Maternal and Child Health Roundtable.

Health Policy Update

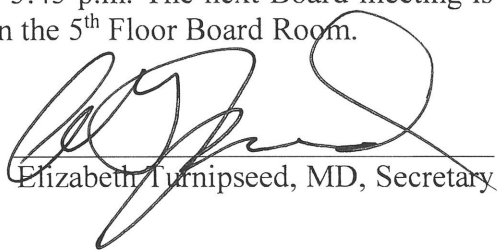
Dr. Hicks informed the Board that Alabama House Bill (HB-9) has been pre-filed in the Legislature and would prohibit governmental entities and the State Health Officer from imposing any face mask mandates to prevent the spread of COVID-19 or any other communicable disease.

Dr. Hicks noted that JCDH is reviewing implications of the Darren Wesley 'Ato' Hall Compassion Act that provides civil and criminal protections to certain patients with a qualifying medical condition who have a valid medical cannabis card for the medical use of cannabis. The Department's Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace Policy will be reviewed.

Recognition of Kenny Murray, MD

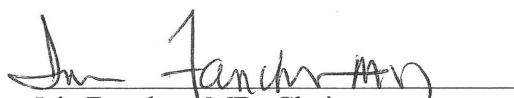
Dr. Hicks expressed his gratitude to Dr. Murray for serving on the Board from 2017-2023 and presented him with a plaque. Dr. Hicks also noted that Dr. Murray graciously served as Board Chair an additional six months to partially cover the time that Dr. Walley would have served as Chair.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Board Room.



Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Iris Fancher, MD, Chair