



**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Wednesday, January 10, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room**

**PRESENT:** Iris Fancher, MD, Jeffrey Dobyms, DO, Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, and Weily Soong, MD

**ABSENT:** Michele Kong, MD, and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Rodney Holmes, David Maxey, Esq., Bryn Manzella, David Hicks, DO, Vincent Nathan, PhD, and Terrie Hartley

**Call to Order**

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

**Introduction of New Board of Health Member**

Dr. Fancher welcomed Dr. Weily Soong to the Board of Health.

**Minutes**

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

**Contracts**

Before the review of the contracts, a Board member requested clarification on the professional services bid process. Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance and Administration, and David Maxey, Esq., legal counsel with Spain-Gillon, LLC, explained the process for bids and requests for proposals.

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

A new contract with WE Public Health, LLC (payee) for completion of a Jefferson County healthcare ecosystem landscape scan and analysis according to the JCDH strategic plan; not to exceed \$80,280 from December 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC (payee) to provide an audit of JCDH's 2023 financial statements; not to exceed \$95,000 from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with Integrated Behavioral Health, Inc. d/b/a Uprise Health (payee) for the addition of six coaching visits per year, in addition to six counseling visits per year; not to exceed \$20,000 from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation (The Workplace) (payee) to perform fitness for duty testing as part of the pre-employment screening process and for current employees in positions with physical requirements as needed, at a rate of \$100 per agility test and \$40 per physical; not to exceed \$5,000 from October 12, 2023, through December 12, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Maya Interpreters, LLC (payee) to provide Mayan language interpreting services to JCDH patients and clients on an as-needed basis, upon request and availability; not to exceed \$14,999 from November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2025.

A new contract with Visual Language Concepts (payee) to provide sign language interpretation services of different Latin American countries to JCDH patients and clients on an as-needed basis, upon request and availability; not to exceed \$14,999 from December 11, 2023, through December 11, 2025.

A new contract with Advanced Electrical, LLC (payee) to provide electrical service to replace the McAdory air monitoring building; not to exceed \$4,249.22 from December 20, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

A new contract with New Solutions Group, Inc. (payee) for the removal and replacement of a fence, extension of the gravel pad including cross ties and packing of gravel, and removal of the existing building at the McAdory air monitoring site; not to exceed \$5,700 from December 20, 2023 through June 20, 2024.

A new contract with Dr. Jennifer Chambers (payee) to provide two webinars to educate the public health workforce on “Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma’s Effects on the Brain;” not to exceed \$500 from December 5, 2023, through January 31, 2024.

A new bid contract with Healthcheck Network, LLC (payee) for the purchase of stand-alone blood pressure health kiosk machines for the “Let’s Get Down 35211” Blood Pressure Management Program; not to exceed \$43,740 from December 15, 2023, through December 15, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) for a grant to offset the cost of purchasing Family Planning non-surgical contraceptives to reduce unintended births among eligible, low-income women of child-bearing age; not to exceed \$27,232 from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

### **Review of JCDH Vision, Mission, and Values**

Dr. Hicks reviewed JCDH’s Vision, Mission, and Values statement. A Board member suggested the Vision, Mission, and Values wording should include more equity, inclusion, and diversity. Dr. Hicks stated that in the past employees have provided input into these statements and he will ask staff to provide input once again.

### **Review of Board of Health Legal Responsibilities**

Mr. Maxey provided a summary of the Board of Health's legal obligations outlined in the Code of Alabama §22-3-2. Mr. Maxey answered questions from the Board and stated he is available if questions arise in the future.

### **December 2023 Financial Statements**

Mr. Holmes reviewed the December 2023 Financial Statements which were included in the Board material. Mr. Holmes answered questions from the Board.

### **Board of Health Self-Evaluation Summary**

Bryn Manzella, MPH, Director of Quality Improvement, reviewed the results from the Board's Self-Evaluation for 2023. Five of the six surveys distributed were returned. The survey was based on a seven-point scale with an overall mean score of 6.79 or 97 percent, which is higher than the previous year and is the third-highest score since 2015. Ms. Manzella thanked the Board for the work they do and the support they provide to the Jefferson County Department of Health.

### **Health Officer Report**

#### **Report from State Health Officer – December 2023**

Dr. Hicks presented to the Board for their information, a summary report for December 2023 from Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer, sent monthly to county Boards of Health describing actions taken by the State Committee of Public Health.

#### **Administrative Code Amendment - Expedited Partner Therapy**

Dr. Hicks updated the Board that the Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners approved an administrative rule amendment, effective September 14, 2023, to allow all physicians in Alabama the authority to prescribe treatment for the sexual partner(s) of a patient in accordance with an Expedited Partner Therapy and/or Patient Delivered Partner Therapy protocol for the prevention of transmission and spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

#### **Hoover Health Care Authority Plans**

Dr. Hicks reported that the Hoover Health Care Authority will be submitting a Certificate of Need application to the State Health Planning and Development Agency to establish a new ambulatory surgical center and diagnostic facility in the Riverwalk Health and Wellness Village located in Hoover, Shelby County, Alabama. Dr. Hicks submitted a Letter of Support for the project, as he expects a significant number of Jefferson County residents will seek care at the proposed healthcare facilities.

#### **Birmingham Regional Hospital Council Meeting**

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that he participated in a meeting with the Birmingham Regional Hospital Council on January 4, 2024, and updated the Council on the Department's new Strategic Plan and desire to strengthen partnerships through collaboration.

#### **Viral Respiratory Diseases Surveillance Update**

Dr. Hicks reported in emergency departments statewide over the past month, those with symptoms of influenza-like illness (ILI) and those diagnosed with COVID-19 have increased while those with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) have decreased.

In Jefferson County emergency departments over the past month, there has been a significant increase in visits for those with symptoms of ILI and COVID-19. Based on local sentinel site testing, 58% of influenza ILI cases are influenza Type B, 32% are influenza Type A, 6% are RSV, and the rest are either unspecified or rhinovirus/enterovirus.

**Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Compliance**

As a follow-up to the last month’s childhood vaccination rates report, Dr. Hicks reported the following data from the Alabama Department of Health’s (ADPH) Immunization Division:

- Program oversight metrics include conducting compliance visits for at least 50% of VFC program participants annually and at least 10% of storage and handling visits being unannounced.
- Ninety-four percent of VFC program participants received a compliance visit for the previous budget year (July 2022 through June 2023) with 6% being unannounced storage and handling visits.
- Seventy-nine percent of VFC program participants have received a compliance visit for the current budget year to date with 21% being unannounced storage and handling visits.
- Eighty-nine percent of all clinics visited received at least a 90% visit score and 51% of all clinics visited received a 100% visit score.

**Jefferson County Home Health Program**

Dr. Hicks met with representatives from ADPH and was informed of current staffing challenges as ADPH operates the Medicare/Medicaid Certified Home Health Program in Jefferson County. ADPH has proposed mitigation plans and will keep Dr. Hicks abreast of new developments.

**New Mobile Unit**

Dr. Hicks reported that the Department will host a news conference on January 11, 2024, unveiling our new mobile unit. It will allow for the provision of physical examinations, including breast and cervical cancer screening, vaccinations, and some clinical procedures. Funding for this project was provided by a grant from the Office of Population Affairs of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

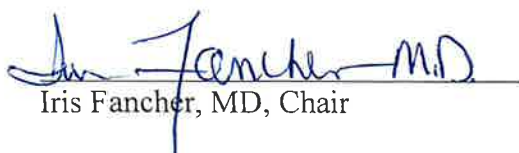
**Evidence-Based Public Health Training**

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that twenty-one employees will be participating in a seven-week evidence-based training course, led by the Dean of the UAB School of Public Health (SOPH) and other SOPH faculty, beginning January 12, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room.

  
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Weily Soong, MD, Secretary

Approved:

  
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Iris Fancher, MD, Chair