



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, July 10, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.

5th Floor Board Room

PRESENT: Jeffrey Dobyns, DO, Michele Kong, MD, Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, and Weily Soong, MD

ABSENT: Iris Fancher, MD and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

OTHERS

PRESENT: David Maxey, Esq., Kim Cason, David Hicks, DO, Loretta Hicks, Shaniqua Miles, Erica Perkins, Rodney Holmes, Jason Harpe, Senitra Blackburn, Allury Lal, MD, Kim Bullock, Jonathan Stanton, Bryn Manzella, and Terrie Hartley

Prior to the meeting Dr. Kong announced that in the absence of Dr. Fancher, Board Chair, she was asked to serve as Chair Pro Tem. On the motion of Dr. Dobyns, and seconded by Dr. Turnipseed, Dr. Kong was approved to serve as Chair Pro Tem for this meeting.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kong, Chair Pro Tem.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the June 12, 2024 meeting were approved.

2023 Audit Report

Jason Harpe, CPA, Partner, Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLP presented the Department's 2023 Audit Report. Mr. Harpe said the auditors are once again issuing an unmodified opinion, which is the highest opinion they can issue for financial statements. He noted the net pension liability for JCDH is \$76 million for its unfunded pension obligation with the Retirement Systems of Alabama as of September 30, 2023. Mr. Harpe reported the Department continues to do an excellent job with its contributions to the trust for post-employment benefits. He commended the Department's finance and accounting staff for their continued excellent work. The Board accepted the 2023 Audit Report.

June 2024 Financial Statements

Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance and Administration, presented the June 2024 Financial Statements and answered questions from the Board.

Continuity of Operations Plan and Emergency Order of Succession for the Health Officer

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board of last month's presentation on the general concept of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and stated the final plan was included in their Board materials. He noted that most relevant to the Board is the Order of Succession for the Health Officer which is included within the COOP.

On a motion by Dr. Soong, and seconded by Dr. Turnipseed, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Department of Health ("JCDH"), in the interest of public health, must ensure that its operations can be performed, or rapidly and efficiently resumed, during a disaster, emergency, threat of emergency, or other unforeseen complication (collectively "Emergency Events");

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Public Health ("ADPH") and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency ("AEMA") recommend that all public and private organizations plan and prepare in the case of an emergency, including a pandemic, and suggest using a Continuity of Operations Plan ("COOP") to ensure continued operation¹;

WHEREAS, to ensure the capability to support employees and contractors, system users, emergency responders, local and regional emergency management agencies, and the public during emergencies, the Board desires to adopt the attached Jefferson County Department of Health Continuity of Operations Plan ("JCDH-COOP");

WHEREAS, the JCDH-COOP describes how the Department will sustain the capability to perform essential functions during and after a disruption in internal operations caused by Emergency Events;

WHEREAS, the JCDH-COOP serves to notify the Chair of the Board under relevant Alabama law as to the succession of the Health Officer in case of absence or disability.

WHEREAS, it is the position of the Board that the JCDH-COOP be adopted and subject to activation/de-activation by the Health Officer or their designee during an Emergency Event.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby:

- (1) Acknowledges and agrees with ADPH and AEMA reasoning and recommendations as to the implementation of a COOP for JCDH;
- (2) Approves and supports the attached JCDH-COOP document to ensure the continuity of operations during Emergency Events.
- (3) Confirms that the provisions of the JCDH-COOP related to the order of succession for the Health Officer constitute a valid standing notice of absence or disability to the Chair of the Board. Assuming all appropriate qualifications are met, the order of succession for the Health Officer shall act as the naming of individuals who are to serve as Acting Health Officer during the Health Officer's absence or disability, in accordance with Ala. Code 22-3-5(7).

¹ <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/pandemicflu/assets/coop10.pdf>

This resolution is effective immediately.

Contracts

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

A new contract with First Impressions Marketing Group, LLC (payee) to create and broadcast podcast interviews and make social media posts to educate residents on general sexually transmitted diseases and services provided by Disease Control; not to exceed \$5,000 from July 8, 2024, through September 30, 2024.

A new contract with Summit Media, LLC (payee) to create and broadcast podcast interviews and make social media posts to educate residents on general sexually transmitted diseases and services provided by Disease Control; not to exceed \$27,000 from July 8, 2024, through September 30, 2024.

A new contract with Horizon Entertainment, Inc. d/b/a Lider Media, LLC (payee) to create and broadcast podcast interviews and make social media posts to educate the Hispanic Community on sexually transmitted diseases and services provided by Disease Control; not to exceed \$7,500 from July 8, 2024, through September 30, 2024.

A new contract with Latino News, LLC (payee) to create and broadcast podcast interviews and make social media posts to educate the Hispanic Community on sexually transmitted diseases and services provided by Disease Control; not to exceed \$7,500 from July 8, 2024, through September 30, 2024.

A new contract with Kristin T. Sloan (payee) to provide telephone and in-person support for breastfeeding Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants; not to exceed \$20,000 from June 1, 2024, through June 1, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with Fiesta (payee) for JCDH to be a Patron Level Sponsor for Fiesta 2024; not to exceed \$3,500 from June 7, 2024, through October 1, 2024.

A new contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) to provide infectious disease consultative services in the Sexual Health Clinic; not to exceed \$99,209 from January 10, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

A new contract with Duane Bernard Maxwell Jones, II (payee) for the lease of the Shuttlesworth air monitoring site; not to exceed \$1,500 from May 31, 2024, through May 31, 2025.

A new contract with Deno Rise Productions (payee) to host the Employee Team Event on October 21, 2024; not to exceed \$1,200.

A new bid contract with Republic Services, Inc. (payee) to provide waste removal services for all JCDH sites per bid #24-05-09; not to exceed \$37,726.92 from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2027.

A bid amendment to a contract with VSC Fire & Security, Inc. (payee) to provide life safety inspection and maintenance services to JCDH per bid #22-02-06. The amendment is for one time set-up, equipment installation program, and test fee for single or dual path cellular or internet monitoring communication to the central monitoring station; not to exceed \$47,000 from April 15, 2022, through April 27, 2025.

An amendment to a contract with JCM Lawncare (payee) to add lawncare, lawn maintenance and landscaping services to the Annex; not to exceed \$310,768 from September 8, 2023, through September 7, 2026. In response to a question from a Board member, Mr. Holmes stated the contract went through a bid process and includes all three health centers, the Annex, and air monitoring sites.

A new contract with Formax, LLC (payee) to provide repair and maintenance service to the twenty-eight-inch hydraulic cutter in the print shop; not to exceed \$2,615.80 from May 2, 2024, through March 13, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with the Board of Trustees for the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) for use of opioid settlement funds to provide suboxone vouchers for patients presenting to the UAB Emergency Department needing treatment for substance use disorders; not to exceed \$20,000 from June 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024.

A new contract with Crisis Center, Inc. (payee) to provide peer navigation services and harm reduction services to Jefferson County per the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)-Local Plan; not to exceed \$148,304.19 from April 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024.

A new contract with the Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton Foundation (payee) to provide planning and preparation for the Empowering Fatih Leaders Program for substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts per the OD2A-Local Plan; not to exceed \$93,807 from April 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024.

An amendment to a contract with SPR, Inc. d/b/a Ameriteck Document Solutions (payee) for one year maintenance services for document management systems on docform server and docform design. Amendment will add-on professional services to Request for Proposal (RFP) awarded for software license, professional training, form design and data mapping; not to exceed \$5,002.58 from April 16, 2024, through April 17, 2025.

An amendment to a contract with CommandLink, LLC (payee) who will provide primary and secondary internet access solutions, next generation firewall with software-defined, wide area network, virtual private network, and session initiation protocol used for the telephone. Amendment is to increase the number of minutes from 50,000 per month to 100,000 per month; not to exceed \$900,000 from May 1, 2023, through May 1, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with DISA Global Solutions formerly Global Resources, LLC (payee) to provide high quality reporting background checks, drug screenings and monthly fraud and abuse computer information system reporting; not to exceed \$29,999 from July 10, 2024, through July 10, 2025.

An amendment to a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) for grant funding to establish a leadership level Health Equity office and provide for the employment of leadership, support, and consultants. Amendment is to extend date of agreement; not to exceed \$4,000,000 from February 1, 2023, through May 31, 2025.

Renewal of contracts with Alabama Medicaid–Alabama Coordinated Health Network (payor) to provide and bill primary care services for pediatric, adult health and mobile service patients at Central Health Center, Eastern Health Center, and Western Health Center including Disease Control; payment based on services provided from October 1, 2024, until terminated.

Opioid Litigation Settlement Update

David Maxey, Esq, Legal Counsel, at the request of Dr. Soong, discussed the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Harrington v. Purdue Pharma L.P.* as it relates to opioid litigation settlement. Mr. Maxey said some of the Department's litigation involves the Purdue Pharma lawsuit. The State Attorney General is managing the litigations. He noted the Department has received some settlement funds from smaller claims.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Funds Update

Dr. Turnipseed asked about restrictions on the use of COVID-19 grant funds. Dr. Hicks said these funds are from the CDC's Epidemiological and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant and must be used for COVID-19 testing and not vaccination. He noted the Department has previously reached out to our community partners to explore initiatives using grant funds. The current grant expires in September 2024 and other uses of grant funds must be approved through the grant project manager. Dr. Hicks asked the Board for ideas on ways they would like to see the money used.

Health Officer Report

Report from State Health Officer – May and June 2024

Dr. Hicks presented to the Board for their information, a summary report for the months of May and June 2024, respectively, from Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer, sent monthly to county Boards of Health describing actions taken by the State Committee of Public Health.

Air Pollution Control Rules and Regulations

Dr. Hicks informed the Board of issuance of a Notice of a Public Hearing on July 29, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Guy M. Tate building on proposed revisions to the Jefferson County Board of Health Air Pollution Control Rules and Regulations. The revisions include the following:

- Redefining Volatile Organic Compounds;
- Clarification of requirement for confidential business information claim submission;
- Clarification of permitting requirements;
- Change the period when open burning is prohibited;
- Incorporation of federal New Source Performance Standards;
- Clarification of national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants; and
- Amending the list of hazardous air pollutants.

Jonathan Stanton, Director of Environmental Health, provided the rationale for the revisions based on federal guidance. The Department is unsure of implications of the recent U. S. Supreme Court decision related to the extent to which federal agencies can interpret laws passed by Congress.

Major League Baseball at Rickwood Field Events Update

Dr. Hicks reported that the Department successfully assisted with environmental and disease surveillance activities for the MLB at Rickwood Field event. Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer, was able to visit Birmingham and receive a briefing on food protection and defense operations by environmental health staff. He expressed appreciation for our efforts.

Butler County Health Department Fire

Dr. Hicks notified the Board that the building housing the Bulter County Health Department was destroyed due to a fire. The Alabama Department of Public Health requested to borrow the Department's new mobile unit, after Dr. Hicks offered, to provide family planning services onsite for the next 30 days. The mobile unit is scheduled to be deployed to Butler County this week. Dr.

Harris noted the dire need for assistance and expressed gratitude for the unit. Other accommodations have been secured to continue planned mobile services in Jefferson County.

Community Engagement Activities

Dr. Hicks briefed the Board on the Sexually Transmitted Disease Program activities focused on addressing increased rates of sexually transmitted illnesses (STIs). So far this year, there have been over 1,600 people that Disease Control staff have engaged with at various community events. Over 500 people have been screened for STIs.

The Department's Public Health Language Workers have engaged with over 2,500 Spanish-speaking persons in the community and distributed 1,100 bags containing educational materials. They have provided information about naloxone, COVID-19, health department services, and the Your Opinion Matters! survey. Additionally, they recently completed training offered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health to be "promotores de salud" (trusted individuals).

Departmental Vacancies Update

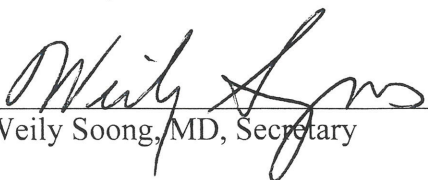
Dr. Hicks introduced Kim Bullock, CIA, CHC, CPC, as Chief Compliance Officer whose employment began earlier this week.

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that, due to personnel changes, "lead workers" have been assigned to manage administrative duties, respectively, for the pediatric clinics, family planning clinics, and opioid overdose crisis response efforts.


Acting Health Officer Notification

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that he will be attending the National Association of County and City Health Officials Annual Conference at the end of the month and Dr. Allury Lal, Deputy Health Officer, will serve as Acting Health Officer July 22–26, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room.


Weily Soong, MD, Secretary

Approved:


Michele Kong, MD, Chair Pro Tem