



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, September 11, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.
5th Floor Board Room

PRESENT: Iris Fancher, MD, Michele Kong, MD, Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, and Weily Soong, MD

ABSENT: Jeffrey Dobyns, DO, and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

OTHERS

PRESENT: David Hicks, DO, Kim Bullock, Wade Merritt, Esq., Robert Hannah, Esq., Allury Lal, MD, Senitra Blackburn, Rodney Holmes, Loretta Hicks, Nicole Standridge, Bryn Manzella, and Terrie Hartley

Jefferson County Public Health Fund

Nicole Standridge, MPA, MPH, Senior Program Officer with the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham (CFGB), provided an overview of the Jefferson County Public Health Fund also referred to as the Public Health Advised Fund (PHAF) at the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham. Ms. Standridge stated the PHAF began in 2006 as an opportunity to support public health projects in Jefferson County. A committee of JCDH staff led by Dr. David Hicks, Health Officer, reviews and recommends projects to support. Over \$10 million in grant funds have been distributed. She shared the process in which funds are reviewed and awarded.

Ms. Standridge informed the Board of PHAF grants awarded in 2023 which totaled \$2,386,000 awarded to fifteen recipients. Recovery Resource Center, Nurse-Family Partnership through the UAB School of Nursing, and Jefferson County Greenways Commission being the three largest recipients. She reported there are \$872,031.96 in new grant commitments for 2024. The Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) and ABC Coke Fund were two special grant opportunities through the PHAF. Ms. Standridge and Dr. Hicks answered questions from the Board.

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the August 14, 2024 meeting were approved.

August 2024 Financial Statements

Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance and Administration, informed the Board that due to technical issues with a system upgrade the August Financial Statements were not available. The statements will be sent to the Board once completed.

American Diabetes Association Donation

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board that at last month's meeting he informed them a resolution would be presented for the donation of funds to the American Diabetes Association (ADA). An informational overview "Diabetes Statistics and Information" was emailed to the Board prior to the meeting for their review. He said the Department is exploring whether the donation could be made through the Health Disparities grant instead of through the general fund.

Dr. Allury Lal stated according to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, type 2 diabetes has been increasing among Alabama youth, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Lal shared ADA's goals and program objectives with the target audience being youth ages 5–12 and their families. Funds would go toward "Project Power Impact," a county-wide initiative to educate the community and increase awareness.

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

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Health Officer has recommended that the Board approve a donation of funds from the Health Equity program of the Jefferson County Department of Health ("JCDH") to the American Diabetes Association ("ADA") for the purposes set forth below; and,

WHEREAS, by providing funds to support the "ADA Project Power Impact," the Board seeks to educate Jefferson County, Alabama's proportional share of 7,500 youth diagnosed annually nationwide with Diabetes I to monitor and manage their blood sugar levels to impact their immediate and long-term health prospects; and,

WHEREAS, the grant will also allow JCDH to obtain the ADA Project Power Impact Report to assess the effectiveness of outreach under the program; allow JCDH personnel to network with local ADA leadership and coordinate efforts to educate the community; and will include JCDH in marketing, branding, and media campaigns and obtain JCDH recognition as partnering with the ADA, all to increase public awareness of the health risks associated with Diabetes and educate and empower young patients in Jefferson County, Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, the project serves a public purpose of a general character and furthers the Board's statutory responsibilities, through its Health Officer and assistants, to promote health education of young people in the county and to instruct the people concerning diseases, Ala. Code §22-3-5.; and,

WHEREAS, funds are available in the previously approved JCDH and Health Equity 2024 fiscal year budget to fund the grant in the amount of \$25,000.00.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board of Health authorizes the disbursement of Jefferson County Department of Health funds as specified above to the American Diabetes Association to support the "ADA Project Power Impact" in Jefferson County and authorize the Health Officer to enter into a contract with ADA and to further the Board's public health work in Jefferson County.

Contracts

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

A new contract with Volume Services of America, Inc. d/b/a Sodexo Live d/b/a Centerplate, Inc. (payee) to provide breakfast, lunch, and snacks for Employee Team Day at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC); not to exceed \$29,434.41 on October 21, 2024.

A new contract with Encore Group USA, LLC (payee) for audio and visual production needs for the Employee Team Day at the BJCC; not to exceed \$18,000 from October 20, 2024, through October 21, 2024.

A new contract with Starnes Publishing, LLC (payee) to provide five full-page articles on congenital syphilis in the Medical Guide issue for the Hoover, Trussville, Homewood, Vestavia, and Mountain Brook publication; not to exceed \$8,750 from August 30, 2024, through September 30, 2024. Dr. Hicks, in response to a question from Dr. Soong, stated there has been an increase in congenital syphilis throughout the state and in Jefferson County with many being Medicaid recipients. JCDH is trying to increase awareness and increase third trimester testing.

A new contract with Townsquare Media, LLC (payee) to promote a public health campaign to raise awareness and educate residents on sexually transmitted infections and provide information on JCDH's Sexual Health Clinics per RFP #24-06-15; not to exceed \$50,000 from August 1, 2024, through October 21, 2024.

A new contract with McCain Engineering Company, Inc. (payee) will provide a one-time boiler repair and maintenance service at three JCDH locations; not to exceed \$9,031 from August 1, 2024, through August 1, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with The Force Law Enforcement and Security Company (payee) who will provide, manage, schedule, and coordinate sworn armed "Law Enforcement Alabama Peace Officer Standards and Training Officer Certified" officers; not to exceed \$451,880 from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

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, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

A new contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) to provide external evaluation services for Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)-Local activities and action items as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approved JCDH federal grant work plan; not to exceed \$163,500 from May 1, 2024, through August 31, 2028.

An amendment to a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) (payor) for sub-recipient funding for JCDH to participate in activities in partnership with ADPH in the CDC's Overdose Data to Action state grant program. Amendment is to increase the funding and extend the termination date; not to exceed \$1,567,248 from September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025.

Health Officer Report

Reportable Diseases Update

Dr. Hicks reported that COVID-19 activity in the county peaked at the end of August and is near pre-summer surge levels. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that households will be eligible to order free COVID-19 test kits at www.COVIDTests.gov at the end of this month. The Department expects to have the updated formulation of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at the beginning of October. Dr. Hicks stated JCDH offers COVID-19 vaccine free of charge through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program to those that are uninsured, Medicaid-enrolled, or Medicaid-eligible.

The Department will continue to offer monoclonal antibody for eligible children during the upcoming respiratory syncytial virus season. Dr. Kong asked about data related to monoclonal antibody uptake in the community and any subsequent impact on the progression to respiratory illness. Dr. Hicks stated that he would check with the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board that Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries continues avian influenza surveillance and monitoring of milk processing. There are increased reports of avian influenza in cattle throughout the United States, but due to pasteurization, there is no significant concern about transmission to humans from commercial milk suppliers. There remain no human cases of avian influenza in Alabama.

Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that staff will participate in the Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (PH WINS) that is a nationally representative source of data about the governmental public health workforce. It gathers individual public health workers' perspectives on key issues such as workforce engagement and morale, training needs, and emerging concepts in public health. PH WINS is conducted by the de Beaumont Foundation and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials with support and endorsement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, and other public health supporting organizations.

Acting Health Officer Notification

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that he will be attending the American Academy of Family Physicians Annual Conference and will be a panelist for sessions titled "Addressing Local Health Inequities." Dr. Allury Lal, Deputy Health Officer, will serve as Acting Health Officer September 23-29, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room.


Weily Soong, MD, Secretary

Approved:


Iris Fancher, MD, Chair