



## **JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**Wednesday, January 8, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.**

**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room**

**Present:** Iris Fancher, MD, Michele Kong, MD, Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, Weily Soong, MD, and Andre' McShan, MD

**Absent:** Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

**Others Present:** David Maxey, Esq., Loretta Hicks, Rodney Holmes, Bryn Manzella, Kim Bullock, Jonathan Stanton, David Hicks, DO, Allury Lal, MD, Terrie Hartley, and Senitra Blackburn

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Introduction of New Board Member**

Dr. Kong welcomed Dr. Andre' McShan to the Board of Health.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the December 11, 2024 meeting were approved as distributed.

### **December 2024 Financial Statements**

Loretta Hicks, Chief Accountant, informed the Board that due to the holidays, the December Financial Statements were not ready at the time of the meeting. Once finalized, they will be emailed to the Board. Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance and Administration, explained that financial statements are typically emailed with the Board materials prior to the meeting. He provides a financial overview quarterly and is available monthly for financial inquiries.

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

David Maxey, Esq., legal counsel with Spain-Gillon, LLC, provided an annual review and printout of the Board of Health's legal obligations as outlined in the Code of Alabama §22-3-2.

Dr. Hicks stated in a follow up from a previous Board meeting, a copy of the Alabama League of Municipalities, "The Competitive Bid Law" which summarizes Alabama's bid law is included in the Board material.

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

Dr. Hicks reviewed JCDH's Vision, Mission, and Values statements, noting that these were last updated two years ago and are typically reviewed and updated every four to five years based on the Department's Strategic Plan cycle.

## **Contracts**

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

A new contract with Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center Authority for rental space, parking fee, and any additional charges for Employee Team Day 2025; not to exceed \$31,140 from October 9, 2025, through October 10, 2025.

A new contract with the Geological Survey of Alabama for statistical analysis of water quality data, fish speciation, habitat assessment, and bioassessment evaluation; not to exceed \$12,818 from October 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026.

A new contract with Sonoma Technology Institute for exceptional events demonstration work; not to exceed \$645,457 from December 4, 2024, through December 4, 2025. Funding comes from the Title V Operating Permit Program Fee account, with actual costs expected between \$200,000 to \$300,000.

A new contract with Gen-Co, Inc. to repair the generator at GMT building, provide and install a new radiator, hoses, and coolant; not to exceed \$21,252.54 from December 16, 2024, through March 16, 2025.

A new contract with Flash Forward Media, LLC to provide elevator door wraps and removal services; not to exceed \$6,843.20 from December 9, 2024, through March 31, 2025.

## **Amendment to Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Budget**

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board about his email sent on January 3, 2025, regarding the following resolution. In 2019, the Board established a funding agreement with Freshwater Land Trust (FLT) to develop the Red Rock Ridge and Valley Trail System, initially allocating \$4 million over five years, which was set aside in a dedicated sub-account within the General Fund, known as the General Fund Committee Fund, for financing these approved projects. This agreement was amended in 2023 to allocate an additional \$2 million and extend the contract term to 2030.

FLT has now requested an amendment to the FY2025 budget to authorize and transfer funds for three projects: Birmingham Civil Rights Urban Trail project, Moving Fairfield Forward Trail and Restoration project, and Surveys in the Turkey Creek Watershed (Beaver Creek) project. An internal team has reviewed and approved these projects. Following discussion, the Board voted on the resolution to amend the FY2025 budget.

On the motion of Dr. Soong, seconded by Dr. Fancher, the following resolution was approved:

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Jefferson County Board of Health that the Board wishes to amend its Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Budget by \$808,039 (Eight hundred eight thousand and thirty-nine dollars) to a total of \$65,913,210. The budget addition will fund additional Freshwater Land Trust projects.

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

Bryn Manzella, MPH, Quality Improvement Officer, reviewed the results from the Board's Self-Evaluation for 2024. Four of the six surveys distributed were returned. The survey was based on a 7-point scale with an overall mean score of 6.9 or 98.5 percent, which is the second highest score

in recent years. Ms. Manzella thanked the Board for their participation and stated copies of the evaluation results are available for those interested.

**Health Officer Report**

***Report from State Health Officer***

Dr. Hicks presented a summary report for December 2024 from Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer. This report, sent monthly to county Boards of Health, describes actions taken by the State Committee of Public Health.

***Reportable Diseases Update***

Dr. Hicks reported a significant increase in influenza-like illness in the county, with 73 percent of cases being type A and 23 percent unspecified. He also noted widespread H5N1 bird influenza in wild birds worldwide, affecting poultry and causing outbreaks in the U.S. dairy cows. There have been sixty-six confirmed human cases in the U.S., primarily in adults exposed to infected poultry or dairy cows, with one fatality reported in Louisiana. There have been no additional H5N1 cases in Louisiana nor evidence of person-to-person transmission. In response to a question from a Board member, Dr. Hicks stated the U.S. Department of Agriculture regulates poultry farms.

***Opioid Settlement Update***

Dr. Hicks provided an overview of the opioid settlement funds that have been distributed to the Department, reminding the Board that these funds are designated for education and treatment of opioid addiction in Jefferson County, per a May 2018 Board resolution. The Department is projected to receive approximately \$9,600,000 over 15 years. An overview of fund usage to date was provided.

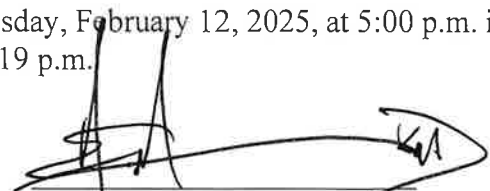
***Cooper Green Mercy Health Services***

Dr. Hicks reported the opening of the new Cooper Green Mercy Health Services facility on December 16, 2024. Services include primary and specialty care clinics, urgent care, physical, occupational and speech therapy, laboratory services, imaging, and a pharmacy. These services are available to Jefferson County residents regardless of their ability to pay. The facility is affiliated with UAB Health System and managed by the UAB University Healthcare Authority. The Board discussed a recent landscape scan and analysis of the Jefferson County healthcare ecosystem.

***Birmingham Crime Commission Update***

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that the Birmingham Crime Commission, of which he is a member, released a report with recommendations for reducing homicides in Birmingham, highlighting premature deaths due to gun violence as a top health concern. He will email the report to the Board.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.



Andre' McShan, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Michele Kong, MD, Chair