



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.

5th 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 Hicks, DO, David Maxey, Esq., Jonathan Stanton, Kim Cason, Allury Lal, MD, Bryn Manzella, Kim Bullock, and Terrie Hartley

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 12, 2025 meeting were approved as distributed.

Contracts

On the motion of Dr. Turnipseed, and seconded by Dr. Fancher, the following contracts are approved:

A new contract with Summit Media, LLC (payee) to provide production and radio broadcasting for National Sexually Transmitted Infections Awareness Week testing event; not to exceed \$6,000 from March 31, 2025, through April 19, 2025. Dr. Hicks, responding to a question from a Board member, stated media vendors are chosen based on the target audience and content of advertisement.

Renewal of a contract with Freedom Source, Inc., d/b/a Addiction Prevention Coalition (payee) for JCDH to be a prevention partner sponsor of the End Addiction Bham Walk scheduled for April 5, 2025; not to exceed \$2,500 from March 7, 2025, through April 30, 2025.

A new contract with Birmingham Host Committee (payee) to provide digital and print marketing, distribute health-related information, sponsor Wellness Zones, sponsor Tier 2 sport, provide volunteers, social media announcement, and promotional items in athlete gift bags during the Birmingham 2025 World Police and Fire Games; not to exceed \$40,000 from June 27, 2025, through July 6, 2025.

Renewal of a bid contract with Hill's Janitorial Service, Inc. (payee) who will provide contractual janitorial services to JCDH facilities per bid #25-12-085 at a cost of \$246,849.60 annually; not to exceed \$814,603.68 from February 2, 2025, through February 1, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Software House International (payee) to enable JCDH to extend our infrastructure into the Azure Cloud; not to exceed \$10,000 per month from April 30, 2025, through May 1, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Rave Mobile Safety (payee) to provide mass emergency notification communication to JCDH staff, not to exceed \$14,619.66 from April 2, 2025, through April 1, 2028.

A new contract with Guardian Systems, Inc. (payee) to provide water quality analyses including parameters such as pH, turbidity, conductivity, nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, phosphorus, oil, and grease, etc.; not to exceed \$30,576 from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2028. Jonathan Stanton, Environmental Health Director, in response to a question from a Board member, stated Guardian Systems is one of two environmental certified laboratories in the area, but due to a conflict of interest, the Department is unable to contract with the other laboratory.

Renewal of a contract with Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency (payee) to assist JCDH with performing Cities Readiness Initiatives; not to exceed \$45,153 from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with All Traffic Solutions, Inc. (payee) for annual messaging software for twelve digital signs; not to exceed \$10,488 from May 28, 2025, through May 28, 2026.

A new contract with Alabama Department of Human Resources for establishment of local Mass Care Planning Group in Jefferson County and to define the roles and responsibilities of the core members which include Jefferson County Department of Human Resources, Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross, and JCDH with no exchange of funds from March 17, 2025, to ongoing. Dr. Hicks noted staffing comes from each agency, but within JCDH, mainly Public Health Nursing and Environmental Health staff would be utilized for a medical needs event.

Title V Permit Fees for Fiscal Year 2025

Dr. Hicks noted the following resolution is to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Title V permit fees for Major Source Operating Permit Fees. The rate did not increase from last year's fee of \$105 per ton. The permit fees are necessary to properly fund the Title V program. Jonathan Stanton provided details on fee collection and calculation.

On the motion of Dr. McShan, and seconded by Dr. Turnipseed, the following resolution is approved:

WHEREAS, The Federal Clean Air Act and the Jefferson County Board of Health Air Pollution Control Rules and Regulations require that the Title V operating permit program fees be established to adequately fund the title V operating permit program's responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, that the Title V permit fees may be used only for the Title V permit program; and

WHEREAS, it is projected that for fiscal year 2025, Title V permit fee revenues, based on a fee of \$105 per ton will adequately fund the **direct** and **indirect** expenses of the Title V permit program from fiscal year 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ORDAINED, ORDERED AND ENACTED BY THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH THAT:

Title V Operating Permit fees will be assessed at the rate of \$105 per ton for the release of each ton of regulated pollutant as specified in Chapter 16 of the Jefferson County Board of Health Air Pollution Control Rules and Regulations for calendar year 2024, which fees will be payable in fiscal year 2025.

Health Officer Report

Report from State Health Officer – March 2025

Dr. Hicks presented to the Board for their information, a summary report for the month of March 2025, from Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer, sent monthly to county Boards of Health describing actions taken by the State Committee of Public Health. Dr. Kong questioned the measles vaccination rate of 92–93 percent reported in the summary. Dr. Hicks will get clarification on the vaccination rate and email the Board after the meeting.

Reportable Diseases Update

Dr. Hicks reported that during the past month, there have been three suspected cases of measles in children in Jefferson County with all testing negative for the illness. A recent media report has stated that seventy-three percent of children aged 19–47 months old in the county are up to date on measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination.

Federal Grant Cancellations

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board of his recent updates regarding the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services cancelling the following federal grants that were allocated during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Health Disparities Grant; and
- Enhancing Lab Capacity (ELC) Grant.

The Department has discontinued related external contracts and will now use funds from the General Fund account to continue certain projects.

Dr. Hicks noted 15 percent of the Department’s budget comes from federal grants, with 65 percent from the county’s ad valorem and sales taxes. After discussion, the Board suggested the Department consider planning for a “worst-case scenario” situation and consider essential and priority functions of the Department. Dr. Hicks agreed to explore this with the Executive Management Team when planning for the fiscal year 2026 budget.

Organizational Restructuring Follow-up

Dr. Hicks reported that after meeting individually with each Board member and providing feedback to the consultant, Blankenship and Seay Consulting, Inc. has recommended reorganizing into three main divisions: Administrative Services, Clinical Services, and Prevention and Wellness. Dr. Hicks emphasized that, within this restructure, we will evaluate the Department's

role as the chief health strategist among our community partners. The Board discussed how to maintain a research and quality component as part of essential public health and how to prioritize community partnerships. Dr. Hicks agreed and will convene a team to explore how to maintain academic relationships, research, and quality, and how those fit within the structure.

Legislative Session Update

Dr. Hicks updated the Board on the status of the following bills introduced in the State legislature:

- HB-2 – The bill would require written consent from a parent or legal guardian for a minor to receive vaccinations. It has passed the House and under review in the Senate.
- HB-89 / SB-102 – This bill provides presumptive Medicaid eligibility to pregnant women. It has passed in the Legislature and is awaiting signature from the Governor.
- HB-367 – This bill would prohibit any governmental entity or county health departments from expending public funds to advertise or promote vaccines. It is pending committee review. Dr. Hicks stated that, if passed as written, Alabama could lose access to the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. He reported that 19,000 Jefferson County residents annually receive vaccines through VFC Program, with 46,000 doses administered each year.
- HB-444 – This bill would allow for a parent or legal guardian to submit a written statement for religious exemption to vaccine requirements for private and church school students and require the schools to accept it.
- HB-503 / SB-85 – This bill would allow for a parent or legal guardian to submit a written statement for religious exemption for K-12 students. This has passed in the Senate and under review in the House.
- HB-445 – This bill would authorize the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to regulate all consumable hemp products through the license of manufacturers, wholesale distributors, and retailers. This bill would prohibit the sale of any consumable hemp products to individuals under 21 years of age.
- SB-101 – This bill would require a minor to be at least 18 years of age to consent to medical, dental, and mental health services. This bill is under review in the Senate.
- SB-275 – This bill would exempt mobile food vendors from having to obtain additional licenses, permits, or other permission, in jurisdictions where a mobile food vendor temporarily operates. Dr. Hicks noted that the Department does not require a permitted out of county mobile food vendor to obtain an additional permit from the Department.

Public Health Week Activities

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board that it is National Public Health Week and noted that earlier today he presented his State of the County's Health address at the UAB School of Public Health and Department staff participated in a networking event for students. The Board members requested a copy of the presentation.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that the next biannual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is on April 12, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Gardendale, Classic Car Motoring in Irondale, and the City of Bessemer Public Works Laydown Yard.

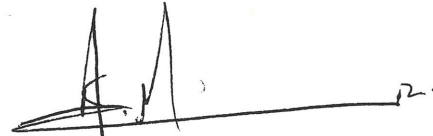
Medical Association of the State of Alabama's Annual Session

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that he will be attending the Medical Association of the State of Alabama's Annual Session at the end of the week and has been nominated to serve as a Counsellor for District 6.

Fraud and Related Party Transactions Response

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board, if they have not done so, to complete the Fraud and Related Party Transactions Response form requested from the Alabama State Examiner of Public Accounts office.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andre' McShan', written over a horizontal line.

Andre' McShan, MD, Secretary

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michele Kong', written over a horizontal line.
Michele Kong, MD, Chair