



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.

5th Floor Board Room

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

Absent: Michele Kong, MD and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

Others Present: Wesley Willeford, MD, David Maxey, Esq., Jonathan Stanton, Bryn Manzella, Sam McCoy, Sid Trant, Kim Bullock, Rusha Smith, Carolyn Buck, Lisa Moore, Terrie Hartley, and Senitra Blackburn

Call to Order

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

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

Freshwater Land Trust Update

Sid Trant, Chair of the Board of Directors; Rusha Smith, Executive Director; Sam McCoy, Land Steward Director; and Carolyn Buck, Red Rock Trail System Director, each representing Freshwater Land Trust (FLT), presented updates to the Board. Their presentation focused on FLT's Red Rock Trail System, outlining recent accomplishments and upcoming projects.

The Red Rock Trail System original plan was funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Communities Putting Prevention to Work" grant and championed by the Jefferson County Department of Health and FLT. The original plan was designed to encourage more active lifestyles to combat prevalent and preventable diseases such as hypertension, heart disease, and diabetes. The FLT's Red Rock Trail System is part of the 2020-2024 Community Health Improvement Plan Strategic Issue 2 to "Provide Timely, Safe, Equitable, Well-maintained Public Transportation System" and Strategic Issue 4 to "Reduce Obesity". There are currently 160 miles of trails, and new sections are added annually, with an estimated usage of over 2.5 million people each year.

The Department-supported Red Rock Trails and Conservation includes Valley Creek Rail-to-Trail, Civil Rights Trail, Beaver Creek Stream Restoration, Grants Mill Tributary Restoration and Trail Extension, and Black Creek Park Restoration. To date, the Department has committed over \$3.2 million for FLT trail and conservation projects, has and is supporting 18 projects, and has completed 15 of 18 approved projects within 5 years.

Upon request from Board members, a high-definition map of the proposed Action Plan Loop—comprising over 36 miles of planned trail around Birmingham—will be distributed via email following the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 10, 2025 meeting were approved as distributed.

Contracts

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

An amendment to a contract with Blankenship & Seay Consulting Group, Inc. (payee) to add leadership assessment for new Executive Management Team member for leadership development and change management support service at an additional cost of \$1,950; not to exceed \$95,000 from March 1, 2025, through October 31, 2025.

A new contract with Metopio, Inc. (payee) for software to develop customized, dynamic public-facing dashboards, data processing, automated Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan services; not to exceed \$202,500 from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2028.

Renewal of a contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) for use of opioid settlement funds to support peer navigator services in the UAB Emergency Department for opioid overdose response efforts; not to exceed \$379,974 from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with The Samaritan Foundation, Inc., d/b/a Connection Health to provide community health worker services as a pilot for infant mortality and develop program curriculum, train, and supervise staff at a rate of \$250,000 per year; not to exceed \$540,000 from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2027.

A new contract with John Keith Hazelrig, Broker, Inc. (payee) to provide lease rate market analysis for Eastern Health Center, Western Health Center, and Guy M. Tate building; not to exceed \$7,500 from October 1, 2025, through October 31, 2025.

A new contract with Birchfield Penuel Architects (payee) for preliminary parking deck assessment; not to exceed \$5,511.42 from August 19, 2025, through February 29, 2026.

A new contract with Ion Integrated Solutions, LLC (d/b/a 1 Point USA) (payee) to provide power circuit for new guard house and rough out conduit for future network cabling; not to exceed \$15,155.23 from September 15, 2025, through March 25, 2026.

A new contract with Verisk 3E Company (payee) for electronic Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) inventory and database; not to exceed \$6,990 from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payor) for tenant to utilize Department premises as a

clinical teaching and research site for UAB Division of Infectious Diseases at a rate of \$1,057.61 monthly; not to exceed \$12,691.35 from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

Medical and Dental Plan

Dr. Willeford stated that the following resolution pertains to the Health and Dental Benefits Plan, which requires annual approval from the Board. In recent years, JCDH has absorbed all increases in health insurance costs. He presented a cost comparison between FY 2025 and FY 2026.

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

WHEREAS, the Health Officer of Jefferson County has from time to time recommended to the Jefferson County Board of Health periodic and other changes to the amounts and proportions of premium rates to be paid under the Jefferson County Board of Health Employee Health and Dental Benefits Plan by both current employees and retirees in various classes; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Health has heretofore performed its statutory duty to review and endorse such periodic changes in annual and interim budget proposals; and,

WHEREAS, continuing changes in laws affecting such plans have impacted the costs of maintaining the Jefferson County Board of Health Employee Health and Dental Benefits Plan as well as the administration of the plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health Employee Health and Dental Benefits Plan was at one time administered under the auspices of the State Employee Insurance Board (SEIB), and by statutory change, is now administered under the auspices of the Local Government Health Insurance Program (LGHIP); and,

WHEREAS, as a result of such changes and the likelihood additional changes will occur frequently into the foreseeable future, and after examination of the issues facing different groups of employees and retirees as described herein, the Health Officer has recommended both that the rates and changes contained herein be adopted effective January 1, 2026, and that the Health Officer hereafter submit a report and recommendations of changes each year; so,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Health:

Approves the following rates effective January 1, 2026, for the Jefferson County Board of Health Employee Health and Dental Benefits Plan, recognizing that all rates are subject to change depending upon factors beyond the control of the Board of Health, including actions taken by LGHIP, Medicare, and other programs that may affect the total premiums and proportions paid thereunder; these rates and proportional contributions may therefore change from time to time or year to year.

Medical and Dental Plan

	<u>Medical & Dental Employee monthly premium</u>	<u>JCDH monthly premium</u>	<u>Total monthly premium</u>
Family	\$297.00	\$1,329.00	\$1,626.00

Individual	\$132.00	\$535.00	\$667.00
Part-time Employees	Not Eligible to Participate		

Retirees Non-Medicare Eligible

	<u>Medical & Dental Retiree monthly premium</u>	<u>JCDH monthly premium</u>	<u>Total monthly premium</u>
Family	\$300.00	\$2,242.00	\$2,542.00
Individual	\$150.00	\$1,228.00	\$1,378.00
Retiree not Medicare eligible & dependent Medicare eligible	\$300.00	\$1,299.00	\$1,599.00
Retiree not Medicare Eligible & 2 dependents Medicare eligible	\$300.00	\$1,520.00	\$1,820.00

Medicare Eligible Retirees

	<u>Medical & Dental Retiree monthly premium</u>	<u>JCDH monthly premium</u>	<u>Total monthly premium</u>
Retiree Medicare eligible & dependent not Medicare eligible	\$ 1,178.00	\$ 0.00	\$1,178.00
Both Retiree & dependent Medicare eligible	\$ 442.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 442.00
Retiree & 2 dependents Medicare eligible	\$ 663.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 663.00
Single Medicare eligible retiree	\$ 221.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 221.00

*****Please note that active employees are eligible for \$100 in extra premium discounts if they qualify, non-tobacco discount, walker tracker discount, and wellness discount.

Deputy Health Officer Report

Report from State Health Officer – August 2025

Dr. Willeford presented to the Board for their information a summary report for August 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.

Special Events Update

On September 27, JCDH participated in the community festival “FIESTA” at the Health & Wellness Village. Department staff provided information about the following programs and services: environmental health, sexually transmitted illnesses, prevention and epidemiology,

tuberculosis, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition program, dental health, family planning, naloxone distribution, and social services.

Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program Funding

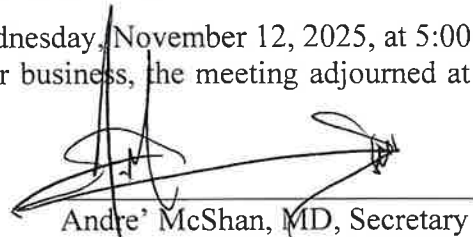
In response to the ongoing federal government shutdown and potential funding limitations, the Alabama Department of Public Health has issued Temporary Guidance to maintain program operations. The measures are as follows:

- Food benefit issuance will occur monthly, instead of up to three months at a time.
- The Approved Foods List has been updated. Planned additions of some new, higher-priced items have been postponed; previously approved food options remain available.
- Efforts to increase enrollment or participation are being reduced to prioritize resources for existing participants.
- New vendor authorizations are on hold, so no additional stores will be added at this stage.
- Travel is restricted except when providing direct services.

Fire at Big Sky Landfill

On September 17, Air Pollution staff responded to a fire at Big Sky Landfill in Adamsville, where construction debris and tires burned for around 24 hours before being extinguished. Although the cause is unknown, preventing such incidents is the facility's responsibility, and this has happened previously. Jonathan Stanton, Environmental Health Director noted the Air Pollution Control program is preparing a Notice of Violation with a monetary penalty.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.



Andre' McShan, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Iris Fancher, MD, Chair Pro Tempore