



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, May 13, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.
5th Floor Board Room

Present: Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, Weily Soong, MD, Andre' McShan, MD, and Alison Heaton, MD

Absent: Michele Kong, MD and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

Others Present: David Maxey, Esq., Loretta Hicks, Rodney Holmes, Khalilah Brown, MD, Kim Bullock, Ekta Choudhary, PhD, Wesley Willeford, MD, Bryn Manzella, Senitra Blackburn, David Hicks, DO, and Terrie Hartley

April 2026 Financial Statements

Ms. Loretta Hicks, MAcc, Chief Accountant, Finance and Administration, provided a review of the April 2026 Financial Statements and answered questions from the Board. Sales tax and ad valorem tax revenue was reviewed and discussed.

Report of the Health Officer

Report from State Health Officer – March and April 2026

Dr. Hicks presented to the Board for their information summary reports for the months of March and April 2026, from Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer, sent monthly to county Boards of Health describing actions taken by the State Committee of Public Health.

Reportable Diseases Update

There has been a multi-country cluster of hantavirus disease cases linked to a cruise ship caused by infection with Andes virus that can spread person-to-person. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued interim guidance for public health assessment and management of people with potential exposure. Per the CDC, the risk of broad spread to the United States is considered extremely unlikely currently and there are no known at-risk persons in Alabama.

2026 Legislative Session Update

Dr. Hicks provided the disposition of certain bills that had been introduced in the State legislature:

- HB-136/SB-96 - Requires the Governor to certify that there is an immediate threat to “public health, safety, or welfare” before a state agency could issue emergency rules. This did not become law.
- HB-381 - Requires camps with residential facilities for campers to obtain an emergency preparedness license from the Alabama Emergency Management Agency as a condition for operation by demonstrating that certain requirements are met. This was signed into law.

- SB-9 - Prohibits the smoking of electronic nicotine delivery systems in the same manner as the smoking of tobacco products under the Alabama Clean Indoor Air Act. This was signed into law.
- SB-84 - Requires the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) to assume jurisdiction over sanitation in cafeterias and other food services operated by the Alabama Department of Corrections and county and municipal jails by tailoring appropriate requirements which would include regular sanitation inspections and the reporting and correction of sanitary violations. This did not become law.
- SB-197 - Exempts mobile food vendors that hold a valid health inspection certificate and a valid fire inspection certificate from having to obtain additional licenses, permits, or other permissions, in jurisdictions the mobile food vendor temporarily operates. This was signed into law.

Public Health Week Activities Update

During National Public Health Week, the Department conducted a coordinated series of activities highlighting public health leadership, workforce recognition, and community engagement. The week centered on the 2026 *State of the County's Health* address delivered by Dr. Hicks, which outlined key health trends, emerging challenges, and strategic priorities, and included presentation of the Public Health Champion Award to the Violence Intervention & Prevention Partners. A networking reception held in partnership with the UAB School of Public Health showcased Department programs, strengthened cross-sector collaboration, and supported workforce development. Community-focused emergency preparedness outreach events were conducted at the health centers, providing education, naloxone distribution, and gun-lock safety resources. Internally, staff were formally recognized as “Public Health Stars” through department-wide messaging, signage, and tokens of appreciation, and the Department received a county proclamation recognizing its continued dedication to protecting and improving community health. The JCDH Employee of the Year, which the Board helped select, was announced.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

On April 25, Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day was held and 1,724 vehicles dropped off hazardous waste at respective locations in Gardendale, Irondale, and Bessemer.

Privileging of Licensing Independent Practitioner

In accordance with the Board of Health Resolution authorizing the Health Officer to provide credentialing/privileging to Department practitioners, Dr. Hicks has approved initial privileging for Laura Bachmann, MD (Sexual Health and Tuberculosis Clinic). Dr. Bachmann has joined the Department as Specialty Clinic Medical Director and most recently served as Chief Medical Officer in the Division of Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention at the CDC.

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Preparation

The Department has begun preparation for the upcoming FY2027 budget. In response to employee feedback, consideration is being made regarding potential adjustments to employee benefits.

Fluoridation Status – Central Alabama Water

On March 20, 2026, Central Alabama Water (CAW) announced it would permanently discontinue the addition of fluoride to its treated drinking water, citing aging infrastructure, employee safety concerns related to chemical handling, and financial considerations. Fluoride is not required by federal or Alabama regulations, provided levels remain below U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) maximum contaminant limits, and CAW notified the Alabama Department of Public Health of its intent.

The decision has raised public health concerns regarding potential impacts on dental health. A temporary restraining order initially required CAW to resume fluoridation while compliance with Alabama's 90-day notice requirement was reviewed. However, in April 2026, a Jefferson County Circuit Court judge dissolved the order, finding that CAW provided sufficient statutory notice and that the court lacked authority to compel continued fluoridation beyond that period. As a result, CAW is legally permitted to end fluoridation, and treated water supplied to Jefferson County is no longer fluoridated.

The Department is considering conducting a community opinion survey, using the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) methodology. Ekta Choudhary, PhD, Prevention and Wellness Director, provided information on CASPER which is a rapid needs assessment tool developed by the CDC to provide household-level information for public health and emergency decision making.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Dr. Turnipseed when Dr. Soong arrived and there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 11, 2026 meeting were approved as distributed.

Contracts

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

Renewal of a contract with Wolters Kluwer (UpToDate, Inc.) (payee) for JCDH to manage the assurance of usernames via the UpToDate subscriber manager console for eighteen subscribers; not to exceed \$13,098.96 from August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2027.

A new contract with Courtney French Broadcasting, LLC (payee) for radio commercials for Sexually Transmitted Infections Awareness Week; not to exceed \$2,575 from April 3, 2026, through April 17, 2026

A new contract with Horizon Entertainment, Inc. d/b/a Lider News (payee) for marketing and advertising for STI Awareness Week; not to exceed \$1,500 from April 3, 2026, through April 17, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with U.S. Geological Survey (payee) for operation of water quality 2025,oring stations at Cahaba River at Whites Chapel and Shades Creek at Elder Street, water quality monitors at Cahaba River near Mountain Brook and Shades Creek near Homewood, and a streamflow monitor at Valley Creek below Brighton; not to exceed \$76,390 from October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026.

A bid renewal with MXI Environmental Services, LLO (payee) to provide comprehensive household hazardous waste (HHW) collection processing, transportation, and management of recycling and disposal of the HHW materials per bid award RFP #26-12-02 from February 6, 2026, through February 6, 2029.

Renewal of a contract with Environmental Engineering and Measurement Services, Inc. (payee) for preventative maintenance on monitoring sites, including data review, installation of new equipment and training of monitoring staff and question and answer support; not to exceed \$313,836 from April 9, 2026, through April 9, 2028.

An amendment to a contract with Guardian Systems, Inc. (payee) to provide water quality analysis including parameters such as pH, turbidity, conductivity, nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, phosphorus, oil, and grease. Amendment is to provide total dissolved solids parameter services; not to exceed \$30,577.50 from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028.

Renewal of a contract with the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency (payee) to assist JCDH with performing Cities Readiness initiatives activities; not to exceed \$35,560 from July 1, 2025, through June 12, 2026.

An amendment to a contract with The Force Law Enforcement & Security Company (payee) to increase payment amount to account for additional utilization of contractor's listed services for unarmed security guards; not to exceed \$105,000 from February 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026.

A new contract with Tecta America Southeast, LLC (payee) to provide roof leak repair services on the back right corner of the Annex warehouse; not to exceed \$3,025 from April 6, 2026, through October 31, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Formax, LLC (payee) for maintenance and repair services to vacuum feed folder and hydraulic cutter in the print shop; not to exceed \$13,200 from March 14, 2026, through March 13, 2029.

An amendment to a contract with the Crisis Center, Inc. (payee) to provide peer navigation services to Jefferson County per the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)-LOCAL amended workplan and budget. This is an increase of \$81,157 above the original \$333,661.17 and has been pre-approved by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); not to exceed \$414,818.17 from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026. Dr. Hicks provided background information on the OD2A grant.

An amendment to a contract with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (payee) to approve budget revision which includes expanding recovery capital and overdose education and naloxone distribution data science support from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), expand peer support from the Recovery Resource Center, and purchase and distribution of wound care kits; not to exceed \$1,557,500 per year from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2028.

An amendment to a contract with the Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton Foundation (payee) to strengthen recovery capital, develop conceptual framework and measurement model, and expand overdose education and naloxone distribution by faith leaders per the OD2A-LOCAL amended workplan and budget; not to exceed \$1,204,000 from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026.

A new contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) to provide statistical support to JCDH to further the objectives of the OD2A grant; not to exceed \$34,556 from February 15, 2026, through January 31, 2029.

A new 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 25, 2026; not to exceed \$1,000 from March 4, 2026, through April 30, 2026.

A new contract with Blankenship & Seay Consulting Group (payee) for selection and implementation of a customer service assessment for various clerk level positions and a supervisory and management competency assessment for supervisor and management level candidates; not to exceed \$29,250 from May 1, 2026, through May 1, 2027.

Renewal of a contract with Wellable, LLC (payee) for the vendor to provide an online platform for wellness activity challenges and tracking; not to exceed \$7,200 from March 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027.

An amendment to a contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payor) to extend period of performance for providing chest x-rays for UAB international medical students; not to exceed \$30,000 from September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2028.

A new memorandum of understanding with the Alabama Department of Public Health who will provide JCDH employees with an emergency tuberculosis (TB) PCard to offer incentives for TB patients to encourage testing or medication adherence with no exchange of funds from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2030.

Renewal of a contract with Muck Rack, LLC (payee) to provide access to broadcast from the U.S. market and provide online web-based applications and services to assist with tracking all public relations, communications, and media coverage; not to exceed \$17,850 from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

A new contract with Central Alabama Pride, Inc. (payee) to educate and provide PrEP, Sexual Health Clinic services information, and provide Narcan training and relevant information; not to exceed \$7,500 from June 1, 2026, through June 14, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Courtney French Broadcasting, LLC (payee) for Dr. David Hicks, Health Officer, to participate in the "Wellness Wednesday" segments on V94.9 radio; not to exceed \$55,000 from March 23, 2026, through March 21, 2027.

A new contract with Maya Interpreters, LLC (payee) to provide Mayan language interpreting services to patients and clients on an as needed basis upon request and availability; not to exceed \$14,999 from April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2028.

A new contract with Lifestages Media, Inc. (payee) to provide space for JCDH participation in the annual Babypalooza Baby and Maternity Expo event on May 9, 2026; not to exceed \$450 from April 28, 2026, through May 9, 2026.

A new contract with Canadian Outback Adventure Company Limited d/b/a Outback Team Building (payee) for team building activity for Employee Team Day 2026; not to exceed \$2,400 from October 5, 2026, through October 5, 2026.

A new contract with Birchfield Penuel Architects, LLC (payee) to replace heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system in the MIS server room; not to exceed \$75-\$255 per hour from March 27, 2026, to upon completion.

A new contract with 1 Point USA d/b/a iOn Integrated Solutions, LLC (payee) to provide low voltage cabling services and refrigerator and freezer monitoring system; not to exceed \$25,291.13 from March 30, 2026, through March 30, 2029.

A new contract with 1 Point USA d/b/a iOn Integrated Solutions, LLC (payee) to install door-propped alarms on six exterior doors, install six battery powered door-propped alarms, and test for proper function; not to exceed \$4,720.38 from April 13, 2026, through October 13, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Servco, LLC (payee) to provide maintenance and service to refrigeration equipment; not to exceed \$14,058 from May 16, 2026, through May 16, 2029.

Renewal of a contract with Carrier Corporation (payee) to provide HVAC annual chiller maintenance services; not to exceed \$50,450 from May 1, 2026, through May 1, 2029.

An amendment to a bid contract with Johnson Controls Fire Protection (payee) for fire protection for JCDH facilities per ITB #26-02-08 to add three additional fire sprinkler system lines; not to exceed \$50,795.80 from May 1, 2026, through April 27, 2028.


Renewal of a contract with Kestrel Software, LLC (payee) for inventory management software bi-directional interface setup and monthly subscription fee in conjunction with Athena Health electronic medical records; not to exceed \$8,162.65 from April 20, 2026, through February 3, 2027.

An amendment to a contract with Software House International (payee) for Microsoft Unified True-Up year two utilization for troubleshooting support for all JCDH Microsoft software to help implement best practices for new and existing infrastructure; not to exceed \$9,068.80 from February 21, 2026, through February 20, 2027.

A new contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) for funding providing support staff salaries who conduct reportable disease investigations, outbreak mitigation, and education; not to exceed \$1,061,645 from March 1, 2026, through November 30, 2027.

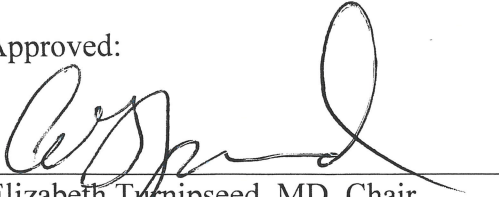
Renewal of a contract with Software House International with no exchange of funds to provide services that will enable JCDH to extend infrastructure into the Azure Cloud. Year One True-Up statement Microsoft Enterprise applies to previous year and confirms that there are no outstanding licenses from year one from June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.



Alison Heaton, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, Chair