



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.

5th Floor Board Room

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

Absent: Michele Kong, MD and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

Others Present: David Hicks, DO, Rodney Holmes, Jason Harpe, Kim Bullock, Wesley Willeford, MD, Loretta Hicks, Ekta Choudhary, PhD, Khalilah Brown, MD, Bryn Manzella, Senitra Blackburn, Shaniqua Miles, Hazel Collins, Calvin Allen, Erica Adams, Shewanda Clark, and Terrie Hartley

Report of the Health Officer

Dr. Hicks provided the following Health Officer updates.

Reportable Diseases Update

The multistate cyclosporiasis outbreak linked to contaminated fresh produce is ongoing. At the time of the meeting, the Department had confirmed ten outbreak-related cases and one additional probable case.

During the preceding month, reported COVID-19 cases in Jefferson County increased by 204% compared with the previous 30-day period. This increase was expected because, in recent years, cases have typically surged twice annually—once in late summer and again in winter.

Valley Creek Fall Cleanup Update

The Valley Creek Fall Cleanup successfully removed 3.5 tons of litter and debris from the watershed, helping improve the appearance and overall condition of the area. The effort reflects an ongoing commitment to protecting local waterways, reducing environmental hazards, and promoting a cleaner, healthier watershed for nearby communities.

Maternal and Child Health Update

The From Day One Program reached more than 400 community members, coordinated 16 referrals, expanded partnerships with local housing authorities, advanced a child passenger safety proposal, and began planning for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month.

July Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participation increased to 11,628. The program achieved a 91% participation rate, a 95% benefit redemption rate, and completed 3,382 appointments.

The Department received notification from the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) that it would be allocated \$2,633,686 for the upcoming fiscal year through Nutrition Services and

Administration funding, as well as \$221,575 for the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program. The proposed budget exceeds the current ADPH allocation by an estimated \$973,461.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m. by Dr. Turnipseed after a quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the August 12, 2026, meeting were approved as distributed.

Fiscal Year 2025 Audit Report

Jason Harpe, CPA, Partner with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC, presented the Department's Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Statements Audit. Mr. Harpe reported that the auditors have issued an unmodified opinion, the highest level of assurance provided for financial statements. As of September 30, 2025, the Department reported a net pension liability of \$64,734,819 related to its unfunded pension obligation with the Retirement Systems of Alabama. Mr. Harpe commended the Department for its contributions to the trust established for post-employment benefits. He noted a financial statement finding involving certain grant funds that were not recorded at the end of Fiscal Year 2025. The Department will strengthen its internal controls and procedures to ensure grant revenue is recorded accurately and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. Mr. Harpe reviewed the required communications to the Board, located at the end of the Audit Report, and answered questions from Board members.

Dr. Hicks thanked the Finance and Administration Division staff for their continued efforts to achieve strong audit results.

On motion by Dr. Soong, and seconded by Dr. McShan, the Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Statements Audit was accepted.

August 2026 Financial Statements

Rodney Holmes, CPA, Finance and Administration Director, stated that, due to the year-end closeout process, the August 2026 Financial Statements would be emailed to the Board the following week.

Write-Off of Uncollectible Accounts

Dr. Hicks stated that the Department annually presents a resolution to the Board authorizing the write-off of uncollectible balances for primary care and dental services. Under established policies and procedures, patients are given opportunities to pay outstanding balances; amounts that remain unpaid after two years are written off. The Department had suspended patient billing statements after its electronic medical records vendor's software generated inaccurate statements. The issue has been resolved, patient billing statements have resumed, and the Department's Accounts Receivable Management and Collections policy has been updated. The amount presented below represents uncollectible accounts accumulated over fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024.

On motion by Dr. Heaton, and seconded by Dr. McShan, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health (the "Board") provides Primary Care and Dental services primarily to two categories of patients: those covered by the Alabama Medicaid insurance program and those who are uninsured; and

WHEREAS, uninsured patients have very limited financial resources and are often unable to pay the sliding-fee portion of the charges for services provided by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that writing off aged, uncollectible accounts and ceasing collection efforts serves a public purpose by avoiding the costs associated with carrying such accounts on the books indefinitely;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that accounts receivable balances for Primary Care and Dental services provided before October 1, 2024, are deemed uncollectible after reasonable collection efforts and shall be written off the Board's financial records.

Detailed account information supporting the write-off of Primary Care and Dental accounts, totaling no more than \$427,000.00, shall be available upon request for audit and internal control purposes.

Contracts

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

A new contract with Central Fire Protection, Inc. (payee) for replacement of a fire sprinkler head including all labor, supplies, and supervision; not to exceed \$2,280 from June 17, 2026, through December 17, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Rushing Waters Media, LLC d/b/a Bham Now (payee) to increase awareness and utilization of JCDH-related programs, services, and initiatives at a cost of \$5,950 per month; not to exceed \$35,700 from August 1, 2026, through January 31, 2027.

A new contract with Deno Rise Productions (payee) for the contractor to serve as host of JCDH Employee Team Day; not to exceed \$1,400 on October 5, 2026.

A new contract with Volume Services, Inc. d/b/a Centerplate (payee), a required Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center (BJCC) vendor, to provide breakfast and lunch for Employee Team Day; not to exceed \$38,000 on October 5, 2026.

An amendment to a contract with the Jefferson County Commission (payee) for a no-cost extension to facilitate the purchase of an Ultra-Performance Liquid Chromatography–Triple Mass Spectrometer for the Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner's Office; not to exceed \$413,938 from May 4, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

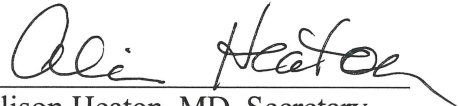
A new bid contract with We the Creative d/b/a Jovenville, LLC (payee) to provide editorial design for the print and online publication of the 2025, 2026, and 2027 JCDH Annual Reports under RFP #26-04-08; not to exceed \$88,500 from September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2029.

Renewal of a contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) to provide consultative services to the JCDH Specialty Clinic through UAB nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians at a rate of \$12,555.42 per month; not to exceed \$150,665 from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027.

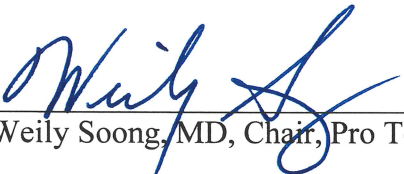
Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) to provide family planning services under the Title X Family Planning grant; not to exceed \$636,570 from April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027.

A new settlement agreement with Buckeye SE Terminals, LP (payor), resolving Notice of Violation #3691; not to exceed \$15,000 from August 28, 2026, through October 25, 2026.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.


Alison Heaton, MD, Secretary

Approved:


Weily Soong, MD, Chair, Pro Tempore