

## JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, October 9, 2019 - 5:00 p.m. 5th Floor Board Room

PRESENT: Yocunda Clayton, MD, Sylvie Stacy, MD, Hernando Carter, MD, Kenny Murray,

MD, and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

ABSENT: Joshua Miller, DO

**OTHERS** 

PRESENT: Mark Wilson, MD, David Hicks, DO, Senitra Blackburn, Kim Cason, Bryn

Manzella, David Maxey, Esq., Lori McManus, Jonathan Stanton, Wesley

Willeford, MD, and Denisa Pridmore

#### Call to Order

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

#### Minutes

Minutes of the September 11, 2019 meeting were approved as distributed.

#### Sexual Health Clinic

Wesley Willeford, MD, Medical Director of Disease Control, provided an overview of innovations that have occurred over the past several months in the Sexual Health Clinic. Dr. Willeford reviewed the 2018 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Sexually Transmitted Infection Data that revealed increases for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis in Alabama for the past five years. He discussed changes made to help improve the clinic and make it a more open and welcome environment for our patients.

Dr. Willeford noted that a CDC report from September 2019 indicated that in 2017, 52% of new HIV diagnosis in the nation were from the Southern United States. Since January 2017, JCDH has offered Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to people at very high risk for HIV, which involves taking HIV medicine daily to lower their chances of getting infected. Dr. Willeford reviewed changes that have recently been made for expanding the PrEP Clinic such as increasing providers, helping patients who do not have insurance get their medications, pursuing an increased media presence on social media and traditional media, and seeking other innovative ways to reach our most at risk populations. JCDH is starting to think about strategies that are outside of the box to deliver care that has not been typically done before.

Dr. Willeford announced that he will be convening a group of local PrEP providers in November in an attempt to expand efforts to primary care providers in Jefferson County.

# **Ending HIV in Jefferson County**

David Hicks, DO, MPH, FAAFP, Deputy Health Officer, discussed local initiatives that are taking place in response to the federal mandate for a plan to reduce new HIV infection by 75% in 5 years and at least a 90% reduction in 10 years. Fast-Track Cities are leading the effort to achieve the 90-90-90 targets by 2030: 90% of people living with HIV knowing their HIV status; 90% of people who know their HIV-positive status on treatment; and 90% of people on treatment with suppressed viral loads. Dr. Hicks attended the Fast-Track Cities 2019 conference in London in September which was the first international gathering of the Fast-Track Cities to talk about strategies, outcomes, and successes.

JCDH has already launched a planning effort to develop a strategic plan with stakeholder engagement for ending HIV transmission in Jefferson County. A planning retreat was held on September 25, 2019 to review data and obtain feedback. The plan development is now underway.

Dr. Hicks reviewed local strategies for prevention, ideas for diagnosing HIV, linking people to treatment, and viral suppression. Dr. Hicks noted that CDC initiated a project with JCDH to better understand social networks surrounding the highest risk people in the community. Additional questions will be piloted by our Disease Intervention Specialists to try to obtain more insight into the social networks of high-risk persons.

Dr. Hicks discussed a proposed JCDH collaborative project with Harvard Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and UAB CFAR to develop a predictive model for Jefferson County to better identify those at risk for HIV acquisition.

#### Morris Health Center (MHC)

Dr. Wilson stated MHC consisted of two parcels of land and two buildings. JCDH has closed operations at MHC except for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program and it will be closing once the mobile unit is ready. The following resolution will approve disposing of the properties and transferring them to the City of Morris.

On the Motion of Dr. Carter, and seconded by Dr. Murray, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health ("JCBH") desires to convey certain real estate, improvements and personal property, operated as Morris Health Center located at 586 Morris Majestic Road, Morris, Alabama, (the "Premises"), to the Town of Morris, Alabama (the "Town"); and,

WHEREAS, the Town has stated a need for the Premises and desires to accept the conveyance of the Premises from JCBH; and,

WHEREAS, the Premises is comprised of two adjoining real estate parcels: Parcel 1, acquired by JCBH on September 18, 1962 and Parcel 2 acquired on May 6, 1996; and,

WHEREAS, the JCBH will no longer operate the Health Center and has determined that the Premises located are surplus properties; and

WHEREAS, the Premises will be conveyed without cost to the Town of Morris; and,

WHEREAS, the transfer contemplated will promote the commerce and general welfare of the citizens of Jefferson County, Alabama by allowing the Town of Morris to own and use the Premises for municipal purposes.

**NOW THEREFORE**, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that JCBH authorizes the Health Officer, Mark E. Wilson, M.D., to execute documents necessary and reasonable to convey the Premises to the Town of Morris at times in the best interest of JCBH.

# Health and Dental Benefits Plan

On the motion of Dr. Murray, and seconded by Dr. Carter, 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, 2020, 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:

1. Hereby adopts and endorses all previous recommendations made by the Health Officer in annual and interim budget proposals containing expenditures for premium payments under the Jefferson County Board of Health Employee Health and Dental Benefits Plan, whether for current employees or retirees, and whether administered under the auspices

- of SEIB, LGHIP, or such other entity as the law may have required in the past or to be required in the future.
- 2. Hereby requests that the Health Officer continue to present an annual report and recommendation of such other and further changes as may be required from year to year to premium rates and proportion thereof, eligibility of different classes of current employees to participate in the Jefferson County Board of Health Employee Health and Dental Benefits Plan, and such other issues as may arise impacting the plan, its administration, and sound principles of financial management.
- 3. That the Board of Health approves the following rates effective January 1, 2020, 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

Medical & Dental Employee monthly premium		JCDH monthly premium	Total monthly premium	
Family	\$297.00	\$909.00	\$1,206.00	
Individual	\$132.00	\$362.00	\$494.00	

Part-time Employees

Not Eligible To Participate

# Retirees Non-Medicare Eligible

Medical & Dental premium	Retiree monthly	JCDH monthly premium	Total monthly premium
Family	\$300.00	\$1,583.00	\$1,883.00
Individual	\$150.00	\$ 872.00	\$1,022.00
Retiree not Medicare eligible & dependent Medicare eligible	\$300.00	\$ 919.00	\$1,219.00
Retiree not Medicare Eligible & 2 dependents Medicare eligible	\$300.00	\$1,116.00	\$1,416.00

#### Medicare Eligible Retirees

Medical & Dental Retiree monthly premium		JCDH monthly premium	Total monthly premium
Retiree Medicare	\$ 907.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 907.00

eligible & dependent not Medicare eligible			
Both Retiree & dependent Medicare eligible	\$ 394.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 394.00
Retiree & 2 dependents Medicare eligible	\$ 591.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 591.00

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

\$ 0.00

\$ 197.00

# Credentialing

Single Medicare

eligible retiree

Dr. Wilson presented the following credentials report: Initial credentialing for Danika Hickman, MD for a Public Health Medical Officer in Clinical Services. The Board unanimously approved the Credentials Report.

# Red Rock Trail System and Environmental Protection Project Fund

\$ 197.00

Dr. Wilson reminded the Board that funds for the following resolution were approved in the Fiscal Year 2019 budget. The \$4 million will be used to establish a fund for trails, green spaces, and environmental protection projects that can be used to leverage funding from local private and public funding sources and draw down major federal funding for this type of work. JCDH has been waiting on an Attorney General Opinion to set the fund up with Freshwater Land Trust (FWLT) and it was received near the end of September. This enabled JCDH to contract with FWLT before the Fiscal Year 2019 concluded, so the fund allocation will be attributed to that fiscal year. The resolution allows JCDH to commit \$4 million from its unassigned General Fund balance for this purpose. The contract stipulates how the funds may be used.

On the Motion of Dr. Murray, and seconded by Dr. Carter, the following resolution was approved:

# Funding Agreement with Freshwater Land Trust

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health (Board) approved budget for Fiscal Year 2019 included funds sufficient to enter agreement with Freshwater Land Trust (Trust) for public health and environmental protection infrastructure projects in Jefferson County, contingent on favorable opinion from the Attorney General of Alabama authorizing agreement with the Trust; and,

WHEREAS, the Trust is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Alabama providing public health and environmental projects in Jefferson County, Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of the State of Alabama issued opinion on September 24, 2019 authorizing the Board to enter into an agreement with the Trust to provide funds to the Trust for use in public health work and environmental protection infrastructure projects in the county if the Board determines that the agreement will further the Board's purposes; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of entering into and funding the Funding Agreement (Agreement) in the total sum of \$4,000,000.00 over five years whereby the Trust will provide public health and environmental protection infrastructure projects to serve the public purpose of creating and enhancing public access to safe and healthy outdoor spaces in which to exercise, breathe fresh air, ambulate, meditate, socialize and benefit from exposure to natural features vital to public health including:

- a) Continue building the Red Rock Ridge and Valley Trail System.
- b) Improve water and storm water quality and support environmental protection infrastructure projects.
- c) Capitalize on opportunities to improve the health and well-being of Jefferson County residents.
- d) Mitigate the effects of air pollution and climate change by reclaiming and re-greening spaces, including spaces affected by industrial or commercial activity.
- e) Establish and maintain the Trail System and Environmental Protection Projects Fund ("Fund").
- f) In addition to any other reporting requirements contained herein, report to the Board in writing at least annually and more often if requested on projects undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by the Trust and Fund.
- g) Submit all projects funded under this Agreement to the Health Officer of Jefferson County for approval as public health work and environmental protection infrastructure projects in Jefferson County, Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, the Trust will propose, for each yearly funding cycle, a reasonably detailed budget and allocation of proposed funding for projects and other expenses as they arise during that yearly funding cycle. The Board has complete discretion in determining the amount of funding to be provided in any yearly funding cycle and for other expenses as they arise during that yearly funding cycle. Once the Board has approved the amount of the donation(s) to be funded in any given yearly funding cycle and for other expenses as they arise during that yearly funding cycle, the Department shall remit payment of the approved donation amounts in a timely and orderly manner in keeping with sound principles of fiscal management; and,

WHEREAS, the Board desires to authorize the transfer of \$4,000,000.00 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the General Fund Committed Fund Balance to fund the Agreement.

# THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jefferson County Board of Health:

1) Approves entering into and funding the Agreement in the sum of \$4,000,000.00 over five years, not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 per year, plus administrative costs, provided in the Agreement.

2) Approves transfer of \$4,000,000.00 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the General Fund Committed Fund Balance to fund the Agreement.

#### Contracts

On the motion of Commissioner Stephens, and seconded by Dr. Stacy, the following contracts were approved:

A new contract with Freshwater Land Trust (payee) to whom the Board will allocate designated funds to continue the Red Rock Ridge and Valley Trail System, improve water and storm water quality, support environmental protection infrastructure projects and capitalize on opportunities that improve the health and well-being of Jefferson County residents; \$1,000,000 annually; not to exceed \$4,000,000 from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with Employment Screening Services, Inc. (payee) to provide background checks consisting of Consumer Report and Investigative Consumer Report and monthly Fraud and Abuse Control Information System; not to exceed \$14,999 from July 10, 2019 through July 9, 2022.

A new contract with Navex Global, Inc. (payee) to provide dedicated Ethics and Compliance Hotline subscription to approximately 450 JCDH employees; not to exceed \$3,031.88 from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

Renewal of a contract with Alliance Insurance Group (payee) to administer Flexible Spending Account/Dependent Care Account Plan for JCDH per Administrative Cost Agreement; \$4.50 per participant from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

A new contract with Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) (payee) for organizational membership for access to improve practice efficiencies through MGMA resources, including benchmark data that will be used to improve clinical practices at JCDH; not to exceed \$7,500 from September 20, 2019 through September 19, 2020.

Amendment to a contract with TruMed Systems, Inc. (payee) for automated vaccine management system to control inventory, temperature, and reporting for both Vaccines for Children and private stock vaccine; not to exceed \$60,000 from September 6, 2019 through September 6, 2023.

A new contract with National March of Dimes (payee) to provide training for the Capacity Building for Sustained Maternal and Child Health Collaboration Program which will be implemented by the National March of Dimes; not to exceed \$6,280 from August 1, 2019 through December 30, 2019.

Amendment to a contract with The Samaritan Foundation, Inc. d/b/a Connection Health (payee) to hire, train, and supervise Community Health Workers to conduct hypertension screenings, register eligible individuals into the Let's Get Down 35211 program, and other related

work to support blood pressure control; not to exceed \$191,212 from May 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

A new contract with Clarus Consulting Group (payee) to provide consulting services to JCDH regarding pregnant women with substance use disorders and the Chemical Endangerment Law; not to exceed \$7,280 from September 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019.

A new contract with FLIR Commercial Systems, Inc. (payee) for one week rental of FLIR GFx320 infrared camera that allows the user to "see" volatile organic compound emissions; not to exceed \$4,500 from September 5, 2019 through September 30, 2019.

Amendment to contract with Heritage Coach and RV Center, LLC (payee) for vendor to provide additional repairs in the conversion of Class C RV to mobile health clinic at an additional cost not to exceed \$975.80 from August 23, 2019 through May 1, 2020.

A new contract with Davlin, LLC (payee) who will provide landscape fabric to keep weeds from growing, overgrown shrubs will be cut back, trimmed and debris removed from front entrance to Guy M. Tate building; not to exceed \$4,400 from July 20, 2019 through April 1, 2020.

Amendment to a contract with Metro Mechanical Services, Inc. (payee) for installation of the new cooling towers at the Guy M. Tate Building on October 18, 2019; not to exceed \$224,872 from April 15, 2019 through April 15, 2020.

Renewal of a contract with Cahaba Medical Care Foundation which will provide Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner residents to participate in primary and public health services at JCDH to develop understanding of public health issues, care and treatment of patients in the public health environment, with no exchange of funds, from October 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023.

Amendment of a contract with Cahaba Medical Care Foundation for collaboration with vendor and UAB School of Nursing to further enable and develop the academic-practice partnership of the Nurse Practitioner Residency Program, with no exchange of funds, from October 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023.

A new contract with Bethel Baptist Church, Inc. to provide space in its facility for JCDH to conduct a public meeting to discuss air pollution issues, with no exchange of funds, on October 21, 2019.

Amendment to a contract with The Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for UAB (payor) for Sexually Transmitted Disease/HIV Training Center; not to exceed \$18,644 from April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2020.

# Sustainable Industrial-Residential Buffers Fund

Dr. Wilson stated the following resolution will allow JCDH to commit \$2 million from its unassigned General Fund balance for the purpose of addressing issues related to residential areas that are adjacent to heavy industrial sites. JCDH would be willing to partner with agencies to leverage other funding opportunities to address some of the issues related to zoning. Dr. Wilson

discussed some potential ideas including creating a green buffer zone around some of these sites. Commissioner Stephens recommended approaching the Birmingham Housing Authority or the Jefferson County Housing Authority as potential partners for projects.

On the motion of Dr. Murray, and seconded by Dr. Carter, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, while some communities in Jefferson County were originally developed near industrial facilities where workers were employed, these communities are now more likely to experience blight, diminished property values, and decreased access to amenities that promote good health and quality of life (1);

WHEREAS, neighborhood blight contributes to poor health and health disparities (2);

WHEREAS, blight, including large numbers of abandoned houses in local neighborhoods resulting in safety and health hazards, as well as environmental problems, have been identified as significant concerns by residents of Jefferson County (3);

WHEREAS, a guiding principle for local city planning efforts is to avoid locating residential land uses near industrial land uses (4);

WHEREAS, the City of Birmingham established the Birmingham Land Bank Authority to work collaboratively and transparently with community stakeholders and the City of Birmingham to steward vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties and dispose of them to the best use as defined by the needs of the community to reduce community blight and stabilize neighborhoods (5);

WHEREAS, Birmingham's Neighborhood Revitalization and Public Safety Committee has recommended utilizing the Land Bank to facilitate development of abandoned land and blighted property, including converting some abandoned land into green spaces (6);

WHEREAS, various environmental improvement projects and other innovations can decrease the impact of industrial activity on nearby residential areas; for example, buffer zones and targeted planting of trees and other plants around heavy industrial sites can reduce particulates and some other pollutants in the air, mitigate heat, protect the water and soil, and improve the aesthetics of the surrounding areas (7);

## **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Jefferson County Board of Health:

- 1) Approves transfer of \$2,000,000.00 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the General Fund Committed Fund Balance to establish the Sustainable Industrial-Residential Buffers Fund;
- Directs the Jefferson County Health Officer to direct the use of this Fund for the public health benefit of residential areas in close proximity to heavy industrial sites in Jefferson County, including creation of buffer zones, green spaces and other environmental improvement projects;

3) Intends for this Fund to provide matching funds for local, state or federal grants, or to cofund with other entities who make substantial financial or in-kind contributions, projects that provide a public health benefit. The Fund may also be used to engage consultants or designers to make recommendations or plans for such projects.

#### References:

- 1) Birmingham Community Framework Plans. Found at https://www.imaginebham.com/
- Erwin de Leon and Joseph Schilling, "Urban Blight and Public Health: Addressing the Impact of Substandard Housing, Abandoned Buildings, and Vacant Lots" The Urban Institute, April 11, 2017.
- 3) The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, "Community Matters: Assessment, Visioning and Planning for a Healthy Jefferson County, Alabama;" 2019.
- 4) "Future Land Use, Regulations and Urban Design," from the City of Birmingham Comprehensive Plan, Part IV, Chapter 134. Adopted by the Birmingham City Council on October 2, 2013.
- 5) "Planting Healthy Air" Nature Conservancy
  <a href="https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/20160825">https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/20160825</a> PHA ExSumm
  <a href="https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/20160825">https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/dam/tnc/nat
- 6) "Our Mission," Birmingham Land Bank; Found at <a href="http://birminghamlandbank.org/about/">http://birminghamlandbank.org/about/</a>
- 7) Neighborhood Revitalization & Public Safety Committee Report, in "The Woodfin Way: A Citizen-led Transition for Progress in Birmingham," March 15, 2018.

## **Health Officer Report**

#### **Smoke-Free Health District**

Dr. Wilson announced that there will be a Public Hearing for the Smoke-Free Health District ordinance on October 15, 2019 during the Birmingham City Council meeting, followed by a vote of the City Council. The Health District will include Children's Hospital, Veteran's Administration Medical Center, the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), UAB Medical Center, Cooper Green Mercy Health Services, the Southern Research Institute and JCDH. There are plans to ask the City of Birmingham to add vaping and e-cigarettes to its smoke-free ordinance at a later date.

### Tobacco 21

Dr. Wilson noted the Board of Health previously approved a resolution in support of raising the tobacco products purchase age to 21. A federal bill, HR 2339, Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic bill was introduced in the US House of Representatives in April by Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr. and Representative Donna Shalala, that would raise the

purchase age for all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to age 21. It is expected to have a legislative hearing on October 16, 2019 in House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. We will know more about the likelihood of federal action following the hearing.

# Vaping Update

Dr. Wilson reported that today Alabama announced its second confirmed vaping-associated lung injury case; in the first case the patient died.

## Safety Net Leaders

Dr. Wilson reported that on September 25, 2019 the Safety Net Leaders were provided with a very encouraging update from UAB Health System Executive Leadership on UAB's plans for the Indigent Care Fund and Cooper Green Mercy Health Services. The October meeting will be with UAB Medical Leadership to talk about ways to ensure good collaboration between community "safety net" primary care providers and UAB/Cooper Green under the new Health Care Authority.

# Valley Creek Clean-Up

Dr. Wilson said the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Valley Creek Clean Up was Saturday, September 28, 2019. There was a great turnout with community involvement, including high school students. Twenty students actually helped retrieve over 150 old tires from the creek.

#### Point of Dispensing (POD) Exercise

Dr. Wilson stated that JCDH participated in a POD exercise today in collaboration with ADPH, the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency, Birmingham Police Department, Birmingham Fire and Rescue and other community partners. The drive-through and walk-up POD was conducted at the annex parking lot from 7:30 am until 3:00 pm to administer seasonal flu vaccine to simulate a vaccine that would be administered in response to a pandemic influenza. The exercise will test JCDH's capacity to respond to a major public health emergency and provide mass vaccinations.

#### "Meetings with Mark"

Dr. Wilson said he is conducting "Meetings with Mark" this week with staff at all JCDH locations. The twice yearly event is a time to communicate directly with staff and allow them to ask questions of the Health Officer.

## JCDH Annual Team Experience Day

Dr. Wilson announced that JCDH staff will be attending the annual Team Experience Day on October 18, 2019. The focus will be on customer service and staff will also participate in team building exercises.

#### **Hepatitis** A Update

Dr. Wilson reported that six cases of hepatitis A have been confirmed in Jefferson County, and as of September 27, 2019, a total of 959 vaccines have been administered since the outbreak was declared in Jefferson County. JCDH has extended offering free vaccine to county residents through the end of October. The Public Relations campaign continues to plan for billboards in targeted areas and bus sides. Community partners are helping to vaccinate the at-risk population. JCDH will be contracting with an agency to provide temporary workers to help provide vaccinations.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Kenny Murray, MD, MPH, Secretary

Approved: