



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 - 5:00 p.m.

**Guy M. Tate Building
Conference Room A/B**

Present: Yocunda Clayton, MD, Sylvie Stacy, MD, Hernando Carter, MD, Susan Walley, MD, and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

Absent: Kenny Murray, MD

Others Present: Mark Wilson, MD, David Hicks, DO, Senitra Blackburn, Kim Cason, Terrie Hartley, Rodney Holmes, Bryn Manzella, David Maxey, Esq., and Denisa Pridmore

Call to Order

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

Minutes from the September 9, 2020 meeting were approved as distributed.

August 2020 Financial Statements

Dr. Stacy noted that the August 2020 Financial Statements were included in the Board package. Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance, answered questions from the Board.

Contracts

On the motion of Dr. Carter, and seconded by Dr. Clayton, the following contracts were approved:

Amendment to a contract with Cathy D. Jones (payee) to provide administrative support services to JCDH at a rate of \$35 per hour. Amendment will increase the not to exceed amount to \$40,000 and extend terms of agreement from October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

New contracts with TaDessa Turner, Lisa M. Bass, Diane Drake and Creasy Shaw, Monita Harris Turner, and Sharonda L. Smith (payees) for license to place a temporary air pollutant monitor at contractor's residence; not to exceed \$10 from August 25, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Renewal of a contract with FLIR Commercial Systems, Inc. (payee) for one week rental of GFx320 infrared camera for detecting and viewing volatile organic compound emissions; not to exceed \$4,500 from March 11, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Renewal of a contract with University of Alabama at Huntsville (UAH) (payee) to provide ongoing operational maintenance and upgrades for the Birmingham Air Quality website, which provides near real-time air quality monitoring data for the Birmingham, Alabama area, which was

originally developed by UAH through an EMPACT project funded by the Environmental Protection Agency; not to exceed \$18,200 from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

Renewal of a contract with AMT Staffing, Inc. (payee) to provide qualified medical assistants and other professional healthcare personnel on an as needed basis to assist with hepatitis A vaccinations at the following rates: Registered Nurses \$47 per hour; Licensed Practical Nurses \$32 per hour; Medical Assistants \$24 per hour; Billing and Coding \$24 per hour and up from August 31, 2020 through August 31, 2021.

A new contract with Dr. Celeste Reese Willis Medical Group, LLC (payee) to provide COVID-19 community testing services at a minimum of five days per week and eight hours per day, or as mutually agreed upon; not to exceed \$475,735 from September 7, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

A new contract with Bham Strong (payee) to provide traffic control services at COVID-19 test sites for an amount not to exceed \$300,000 from August 10, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

A new contract with Golden Point Solutions, LLC (payee) to develop web-based software for appointment scheduling and test results retrieval for mass community testing and vaccination initiatives for persons in Jefferson County during COVID-19 pandemic at a rate of \$128,505 for software development, plus \$2.85 per transaction per billable laboratory specimen, from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021.

A new contract with Sign Language Interpreting Services, LLC (payee) to provide American Sign Language interpreting services on an as needed basis to JCDH; not to exceed \$4,500 from September 1, 2020 through September 1, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with Alabama Institute of Deaf and Blind (payee) to provide interpreting services as needed to JCDH clients and patients at a rate of \$55 per hour; not to exceed \$7,500 from September 30, 2020 through October 1, 2021.

Renewal of a contract with The Cross Cultural Health Care Program (payee) to provide training, certification and license agreement for Adriana Valenzuela to host equity and inclusion trainings; not to exceed \$1,500 from October 5, 2020 through October 5, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with Fiesta (payee) to provide benefits associated with the official sponsorship agreement; not to exceed \$3,000 from September 15, 2020 through October 15, 2020.

A new bid contract with The ESB Group (payee) for installation of integrated audio visual system at Guy M. Tate building per bid #20-08-18; not to exceed \$96,100 from September 2, 2020 through September 2, 2021.

Amendment to a contract with Bhate Geosciences Corporation (payee) to provide inspection services related to structural steel construction repairs for JCDH. Amendment is to extend term dates; not to exceed \$5,000 from April 30, 2020 through October 31, 2020.

Renewal of a contract with Global Resource Group, Inc. (payee) to provide software and maintenance to GPS system installed in JCDH vehicles for a rate not to exceed \$40,320 per year, or \$120,960 for term of agreement, from September 1, 2020 through September 1, 2023.

A new bid agreement with HERR Enterprises, Inc. (payee) to provide comprehensive microscope services per bid #20-06-12; not to exceed \$30,000 from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with Jefferson, Blount, St. Clair Mental Health Authority (payee) to provide mental health access and services to patients who participate in the JCDH Child Health Primary Care Program for a rate not to exceed \$70,000 from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

Renewal of a contract with Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) (payee) for an organizational membership for access to improve practice efficiencies through MGMA resources, including benchmark data that will be used to improve clinical practices at JCDH, for a rate not to exceed \$7,500 from September 20, 2020 through September 19, 2021.

Renewal of a contract with Derrick Lewis (payee) to coordinate schedules for all contracted police officers for JCDH as well as provide security services to JCDH for a rate of \$30 per hour; not to exceed \$60,000 from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

Renewal of the following contracts to provide security services to JCDH at a rate of \$28 per hour; not to exceed \$56,000, from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021:

Roger Eady, Eric Jones, Gregory Edge, Larry D. Scott, Alanda McCurdy, Donna Logan, Michael D. Howard, William T. Camp, and Glenn Pleasant

New contracts with the following Contractors to provide security services to JCDH at a rate of \$28 per hour; not to exceed \$56,000, from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021:

Cecil Ingram, Damarcus Mitchell, Deshawn Cook, and Vincent Hill

Renewal of a contract with Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (payor) to produce and issue daily forecasts of particle pollution in Jefferson and Shelby counties and to facilitate these responsibilities, will enter into contracts for meteorological data subscription services and for maintenance of the Birmingham Air Quality website. JCDH will be reimbursed for those contracts at 80% expenses; not to exceed \$72,000 from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

An amendment to a contract with Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation Foundation (payor) to donate funds to support the Household Hazardous Waste Day event held July 25, 2020. Amendment is to increase funds and extend the terms of agreement; not to exceed \$48,510 from June 10, 2020 through September 30, 2020.

An amendment to a contract with Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) to provide early detection of colorectal cancer in men and women in the state of Alabama. Amendment is to extend the original termination date; not to exceed \$100,000 from June 22, 2020 through December 29, 2020.

Renewal of a contract with University of Alabama Health Services Foundation, P.C. Pediatric Primary Care Clinic at The Children's Hospital of Alabama to coordinate clinic

operations between JCDH and Pediatric Primary Care Clinic to offer extended hours clinic services to existing patients of both facilities with no funds involved from November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

Dr. Wilson provided an update to Dr. Stacy's question as to why people were turned away at the Bessemer location during the July Household Hazardous Waste Day event. After speaking to Environmental Health staff, it was determined that the Bessemer site did close early and people were turned away. The Bessemer location was managed by Jefferson County or City of Bessemer employees rather than JCDH staff. Efforts will be made to alleviate this situation in the future.

Health and Dental Benefits Plan

Dr. Wilson announced that JCDH received a notification from the Local Government Health Insurance Board (LGHIB) that there will be a 5.5% increase in its medical/dental insurance premiums for both active employees and non-Medicare retirees. JCDH will absorb this additional cost and not pass it on to the employees or retirees.

On the motion of Dr. Carter, and seconded by Commissioner Stephens, 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, 2021, 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, 2021, 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	\$975.00	\$1,272.00
Individual	\$132.00	\$389.00	\$521.00

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	\$1,686.00	\$1,986.00
Individual	\$150.00	\$ 928.00	\$1,078.00
Retiree not Medicare eligible & dependent Medicare eligible	\$300.00	\$ 976.00	\$1,276.00
Retiree not Medicare Eligible & 2 dependents Medicare eligible	\$300.00	\$1,174.00	\$1,474.00

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	\$ 947.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 947.00
Both Retiree & dependent Medicare eligible	\$ 396.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 396.00
Retiree & 2 dependents Medicare eligible	\$ 594.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 594.00
Single Medicare eligible retiree	\$ 198.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 198.00

*****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. The walker tracker discount is not being offered every quarter at this time due to COVID-19.

2019 JCDH Annual Report

The 2019 JCDH Annual Report was shared with the Board members via email earlier in April. The Board members were provided with a paper copy at tonight's first in-person meeting since that time. Dr. Stacy commended JCDH staff for the report.

Report of the Health Officer

Dr. Stacy stated that the Board will continue its discussion from last month's meeting on Racism as a Public Health Issue after Dr. Wilson shares his updates. A draft resolution was sent to the Board via email recently and feedback has been provided.

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Wilson reported that the number of new COVID-19 cases per day reported in Jefferson County have remained fairly constant over the past month. He stated that Jefferson County is beginning to see a racial disparity emerge in COVID-19 deaths. It was noticed that a growing number of people who died with COVID-19 were being reported as an "other or unknown" race in the reports JCDH was receiving from ADPH. JCDH Disease Control staff looked through these reports and were able to verify the correct race on many that had contained ambiguous or contradictory racial information. An updated chart has been posted on the JCDH website showing a smaller percentage of COVID-19 deaths among "other or unknown" races in Jefferson County, and an increase in deaths among African Americans, representing 49% of the COVID-19 deaths compared to 42% of the population.

A new UAB COVID-19 testing site was launched this week at the Cooper Green Mercy Health Services parking deck. JCDH anticipates opening a pediatric COVID-19 testing site in the Annex parking lot on October 19, 2020. JCDH is planning to integrate influenza testing and vaccination at the Legion Field testing site.

JCDH pediatric primary care and dental services are still limited due to JCDH's pandemic response. Environmental Health services have returned to normal operations.

Forestdale Fire

Dr. Wilson reported that the underground fire at an illegal dump in the Forestdale area is finally out. He thanked the Jefferson County Commission for its efforts in digging up the fire, putting it out, and removing over 20,000 tons of debris. JCDH Air Pollution staff have put together a report from the information obtained from the air monitors that were placed on private property in the area. The report will be available on the JCDH website.

Racism as a Public Health Issue

Dr. Wilson stated that the draft resolution he prepared and emailed to the Board on Racism as a Public Health Issue was included with the Board's material for tonight. He has received feedback by email and through conversations with some of the Executive Management Team and Board members.

Dr. Wilson met with Commissioner Stephens, County Manager Tony Petelos, and Deputy County Manager Walter Jackson to discuss the draft resolution. There were some concerns that the resolution focused on negative aspects of the county's history rather than the progress that has been made by our local government to mitigate racial inequities. The group, however, was collectively interested in further discussing how JCDH might address racism from a public health perspective. Follow-up conversations with individual Board members and community leaders such as the Birmingham Business Alliance were suggested.

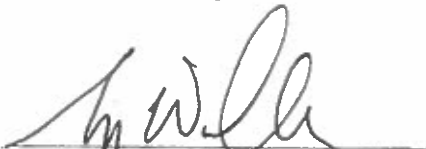
Dr. Wilson indicated that the Board's options for the resolution included the following: pass it now without revisions, make revisions and then pass it, table it until later, or don't pass it at all. He

noted that, regardless of the action taken, JCDH will continue to address health inequities in our community that appear to exist, in part, due to racism. Feedback from Board members included several opinions, including that the draft resolution would be an important step to make progress on racism as a public health issue; that the resolution was not necessary to make said progress; and that the draft resolution required substantial revision. One such proposed revision was to convey more of the progress that has occurred when referencing Birmingham's history. Conversely, some board members felt that the drafted language was a necessary component of the resolution. Board members shared input for the draft resolution with recommendations to re-work the document to include statements advocating for equitable health care and equitable outcomes for all residents of Jefferson County.

A suggestion was made to include the new Executive Director of the Birmingham Business Alliance, Mr. Kenneth Coleman, in a meeting with Walter Jackson, Dr. Wilson, and selected Board of Health members to look at ways to revise the draft resolution for reconsideration by the Board of Health. The majority of the Board was in agreement to reconsider a revised draft resolution after the above referenced meeting takes place.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stephens, and seconded by Dr. Carter, to table the resolution for further discussion after input has been received from members of community stakeholders.

Due to the Veteran's Day holiday falling on the regular meeting date, the next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room A/B. A quorum has been confirmed for the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



Susan Walley, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Sylvie Stacy, MD, Chair