



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 - 5:00 p.m.

Guy M. Tate Building

Present: Sylvie Stacy, MD, Hernando Carter, MD, Kenny Murray, MD, and Iris Fancher, MD

Absent: Susan Walley, MD, and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

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

Overdose Response Effort

Darlene Traffanstedt, MD, Medical Director, Health Equity/Population Health, and Family Planning, shared data which shows the magnitude of the overdose problem at the national, state and local level. Jefferson County data obtained from the Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner's Office showed a historical increase in drug overdose deaths in 2020. Between 2019 and 2020 fentanyl deaths in Jefferson County increased by 100%. There has been a 200% increase in overdose deaths among African American females between 2019 and 2020 and a 96% increase in the 40-49 age group among African American males. Most deaths were from mixed cocaine and fentanyl. Overdose deaths are also impacting emergency medical services (EMS) and emergency departments. JCDH has developed three interactive dashboards where data can be monitored which shows Jefferson County overdose EMS runs, emergency room visits, and where overdose hot spots are located.

Dr. Traffanstedt provided an overview of JCDH overdose response efforts. The Health Equity and Population Health Division has two major grants (Overdose to Action and Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level), that are funding our efforts. The Health Equity and Population Health team has provided naloxone training for numerous law enforcement offices and fire departments in several municipalities. The team has formed partnerships with some government offices within Jefferson County and has provided education at community events. Since in person training was not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an online system was developed to train individuals on how to use naloxone. Once trained, the individual can have the naloxone kit mailed to them or choose to pick the kit up from JCDH or a local pharmacy. Since launching in December 2020, there have been 1,395 individuals from 60 counties trained online. JCDH was recently selected as a 2021 Innovative Practice Gold Awardee by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the May 12, 2021 meeting were approved as distributed.

May 2021 Financial Statements

Dr. Carter noted that the May 2021 Financial Statements were emailed to Board members prior to the meeting. Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance, reviewed the financial statements.

Contracts

On the motion of Dr. Fancher, and seconded by Dr. Murray, the following contracts were approved with one correction to the JCDH contract list. The Birmingham Barons, LLC contract should be listed as payor and not payee.

A new contract with Lavish Events & Marketing, LLC (payee) to provide community outreach to various housing communities, local colleges and universities, local high schools and other organizations by providing COVID-19 public health information for an amount not to exceed \$68,000 from May 1, 2021 through July 1, 2021.

An amendment to a contract with Carrier Corporation (payee) to extend term dates for project completion for HVAC chiller maintenance for an amount not to exceed \$11,970 from February 28, 2020 through April 30, 2021.

A new contract with Carrier Corporation (payee) to provide HVAC annual chiller maintenance services for \$3,159.16 per quarter, \$12,636.66 annually, not to exceed \$37,910 from May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2024.

An amendment to a contract with SanGuard Security Services, LLC (payee) to provide security services for FEMA mass vaccination site at WaterMark Place in Bessemer for \$18 per hour from April 18, 2021 through April 21, 2021.

The following new contracts to provide security services for JCDH at the FEMA Community Vaccination Center at WaterMark Place at a rate of \$45 per hour; not to exceed \$10,000, from April 18, 2021 through July 1, 2021:

Arthur Bracy, Jr., Christopher Sledge, Risha Murry, Tommy M. Bolden, Charles Burton, Jr., Robert T. Slater, Jordan McCoy, Kendra Ward, and Bruce Kevin Wilson

Renewal of a contract with Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency (payee) to assist JCDH with performing Cities Readiness Initiative activities for an amount not to exceed \$32,000 from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

A new contract with Vertiv Corporation (payee) to provide professional yearly maintenance for JCDH's Uninterrupted Power Supply in the JCDH data-center for an amount not to exceed \$5,920 from May 23, 2021 through May 23, 2022.

A new contract with Pluralsight, LLC (payee) for an online technical skills training platform for IT staff for an amount not to exceed \$14,022 from June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022.

A new contract with Auburn University (payee) for numerical investigation of urban flooding in Brighton and Midfield, Alabama for an amount not to exceed \$14,849 from May 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021.

A new contract with Agilaire, LLC (payee) for air monitoring data equipment software maintenance and upgrade support for an amount not to exceed \$5,580 from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

A new bid contract with MXI Environmental Services, LLC (payee) to provide comprehensive Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection processing, transportation and management of recycling and disposal of the HHW per bid award from April 24, 2021 through April 24, 2021.

A new contract with the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation, PC (payee) for a subscription to the ACOER Mortality Data Explorer. This will allow JCDH to access the Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner's Office data visualization tools to improve surveillance around overdose deaths in Jefferson County for an amount not to exceed \$32,400 from March 1, 2021 through April 31, 2021.

A new contract with the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation, PC (payee) for consultants to advise JCDH and ADPH on the development of a statewide coroner/medical examiners case management system as part of the Overdose to Action (OD2A) activities at a rate of \$180 per hour; approximately 10 hours per month and not to exceed \$10,800 from March 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021.

Renewal of a contract with Harvard University Center for AIDS Research (payor) to build foundation for electronic health record-based decision support for the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) that incorporates a HIV prediction model to improve PrEP use. Amount of contract is \$55,087 for current budget period with incrementally estimated total of \$88,031 from January 1, 2021 through July 31, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) to add \$100,000 to the Prevention budget of the Overdose to Action grant project to continue the current grant activities from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2021. Total amount of agreement is not to exceed \$1,070,000.

A new contract with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) (payor) for collaboration with the CDC whereby NACCHO will partner with JCDH to increase its capacity to respond effectively to the overdose epidemic by working with partners and rolling out evidence-based strategies at the local level. Total amount of contract will not exceed \$148,705 from November 25, 2020 through July 31, 2021.

A new contract with The Birmingham Barons, LLC (payor) to grant a non-assignable license to use JCDH's property as a passenger vehicle parking area only by the Barons patrons for the 2021 post and regular baseball season for an amount of \$200 per home game from May 1, 2021 through November 30, 2021.

Payment of Civic and Professional Organization Dues

Dr. Wilson reviewed the following resolution which would allow JCDH to pay certain civic and professional organization dues for the Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer. The Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer would represent JCDH with the purpose of promoting public health and JCDH, and connect with key leaders in the community.

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

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Alabama, in describing the duties of the County Health Officer, require that he or she educate diverse segments of the population of the county on various public health issues and the importance of maintaining proper sanitation measures in their businesses and homes; and,

WHEREAS, the Legislature also requires the County Health Officer, in case of a contemplated absence from the county, to designate a member of the county medical society to act in his stead during such absence; and,

WHEREAS, the person often chosen by the Health Officer to fulfill his or her duties when he or she is absent from the County is logically the Deputy Health Officer; and,

WHEREAS, the job description of the Deputy Health Officer for Jefferson County, published by the Personnel Board of Jefferson County, states that he or she is to attend various meetings including community events and professional meetings to represent the agency and promote services provided by the agency, and is to serve on boards and committees and “stay in touch with the community”; and,

WHEREAS, in the Board’s opinion, an essential method of staying in touch with the community and fulfilling the educational aspects of the County Health Officer’s and Deputy Health Officer’s duties are by involvement in approved civic and professional organizations; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Health recognizes that memberships in certain civic and professional organizations are both desirable and necessary for the County Health Officer and the Deputy Health Officer to effectively perform their statutory responsibilities and duties of their positions; and,

WHEREAS, the Board determines that “but for” their occupancy of these essential positions of public service, the individuals holding those positions at any given time would not be required to incur the expense of joining any such organization.

THEREFORE, IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

Finding it serves an important public purpose and one in keeping with the public health mission of the Board, the Board hereby approves the payment of reasonable dues and related membership costs for the Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer to join and participate in such civic and professional organizations that the Health Officer determines are necessary and effective to further the public health education and community-involvement functions of their respective positions. Such organizations are contemplated to include, but not be limited to, the Jefferson County Medical Society, Rotary, Kiwanis, and similar organizations, provided the Health Officer determines that any such specific organization has achieved a reputation for enhancing the community life of Jefferson County and that representation of the Board in such organization aids

in the communication of public health concerns or enhances the knowledge of the state of public health in Jefferson County.

Report of the Health Officer

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Wilson reported that the seven-day average of COVID-19 cases in Jefferson County is seventeen to eighteen new cases per day and the percent positivity rate was at 3% the end of last week. He said the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) website is showing there are five counties in Alabama with an increase in cases. While the increase is not significant, the numbers are being monitored.

JCDH Vaccination Effort

Dr. Wilson said since COVID-19 vaccine is readily available at private medical offices and pharmacies, and because vaccine rates are low, most COVID-19 mass vaccination sites are closing. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) vaccination site located in Bessemer will close on June 16, 2021. The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) will continue their site at UAB Highlands. After the Bessemer site is closed, the Alabama National Guard (ANG) will continue to assist JCDH with targeted community vaccinations. The team has given vaccinations at retirement homes, nursing home facilities, boarding homes, a mobile home park, and a few churches. They have given vaccinations at the Alabama Department of Youth Services Vacca Campus, and Eastern Health Center and Western Health Center. There have been some community events and targeted vaccination sites which have not been successful. The Department is working with the United Way of Central Alabama to identify and vaccinate individual homebound people.

Dr. Wilson noted that many JCDH staff has been reallocated to COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts but we are working to return to normal operations and to providing full services hopefully by early to mid-July. JCDH will not abandon smaller vaccination efforts in the community and may utilize contract or temporary staffing agencies.

Resignation of Board Member

Dr. Wilson stated Dr. Walley announced to the Jefferson County Medical Society that she has accepted a position out of state and will be resigning from the Board of Health. It is unknown when her last day on the Board of Health will be.

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program

Dr. Wilson said meetings are continuing with community partners and with consultants about how to start a hospital-based violence intervention program. UAB will be an initial partner. Estimates from national consultants would put the cost of starting a program at about \$1 million for the initial year but hopefully the program could be expanded with grant money down the road.

Emergency Medical Services

Dr. Wilson reported it has been brought to his attention that there is a crisis in Jefferson County with emergency medical service not being available for some communities. It is taking several hours for some ambulance services to arrive after a 9-1-1 is placed and sometimes they do not show at all. Board members expressed an interest in exploring what role JCDH could play in addressing the situation.

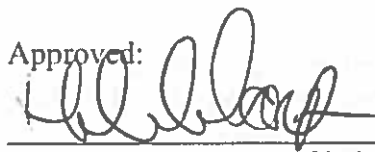
Update on COVID-19 Vaccine Incentives

Dr. Wilson provided an update on COVID-19 vaccine incentives. He said due to other vaccine activities and some legal questions yet to be answered, a resolution is not being presented to the Board of Health at this time. Furthermore, Dr. Wilson did not feel that there was an urgent need for JCDH to offer incentives under the current circumstances. A few community partners and local businesses are offering incentives.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Board Room. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.


Iris Fancher, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Hernando Carter, MD, Chair