



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 - 5:00 p.m.
5th Floor Board Room

Present: Kenny Murray, MD, Iris Fancher, MD, Jeffrey Dobyns, DO, and Michele Kong, MD

Absent: Hernando Carter, MD and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

Others Present: Mark Wilson, MD, David Maxey, Esq., Rodney Holmes, Bryn Manzella, David Hicks, DO, and Terrie Hartley

Call to Order

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

Introduction of New Board Member

Dr. Murray welcomed Dr. Michele Kong to the Board of Health.

Minutes of the December 8, 2021 meeting were approved as distributed.

Board of Health Legal Responsibilities

David Maxey, Esq., legal counsel with Spain-Gillon, LLC, provided a summary of the Board of Health's legal obligations outlined in the Code of Alabama §22-3-2.

Jefferson County Department of Health's Mission, Vision, and Values

Dr. Wilson reviewed the Mission, Vision, and Values of JCDH. Dr. Wilson also briefly mentioned the 2017-2021 Strategic Priorities and explained that in 2016 there was a robust effort to develop the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan with input coming from the five-year county-wide Community Health Assessment, the Community Health Improvement Plan, input from JCDH employees, leadership and management team, and Board of Health members. Dr. Wilson said the JCDH Executive Management Team postponed development of a strategic plan for the next five years due to the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on our workforce. In the meantime, the Executive Management Team is considering pursuing a short term strategic plan that would be a streamlined extension of the current strategic plan.

December 2021 Financial Statements

Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director, Finance and Administration, reviewed the December 2021 Financial Statements which were included in the Board of Health package and answered questions from the Board.

Contracts

On the motion of Dr. Dobyns, and seconded by Dr. Fancher, the following contracts were approved:

Renewal of a contract with Pediatric Radiology Associates, P.C. (payee) to provide professional interpretation of pediatric radiographs at a rate of \$17 per film interpreted; not to exceed \$500 per year from November 29, 2021 through November 29, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham (CFGB) (payee) to manage the JCDH Public Health Advised Fund and perform all duties outlined in the 2022-2024 Work Plan at a rate of \$18,000 per calendar year; not to exceed \$54,000 from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024. Dr. Wilson noted the CFGB puts out requests for proposals, issues grants, and monitors those grants on behalf of JCDH. JCDH advises the CFGB and ultimately their Board makes final approval.

Renewal of a contract with Verisk 3E Company (payee) to provide Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) management via an electronic inventory/database as well as 24-hour chemical spill and poison control hotline access at a rate not to exceed \$12,750 from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2024.

A new bid contract with Pace Analytical Services, LLC (payee) to provide analytical services for particulate matter 2.5 and particulate matter 10 concentrations from ambient air monitoring program, per bid award # 21-08-14, at a rate not to exceed \$113,400 from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2024.

An amendment to a contract with University of Alabama Health Services Foundation, P.C. (payee) for subscription to the ACOER Mortality Data Explorer which 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. The Amendment is to extend the terms of the agreement and the monthly fees associated with accessing the software service at a rate not to exceed \$64,800 from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022.

A new contract with Laura McNeill, PhD (payee) who will convert content of the Overdose to Action (OD2A) Opioid Curriculum project into integrated, multimedia content for online learning at a rate not to exceed \$10,272 from October 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022.

An amendment to a contract with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) to cover the development of a curriculum for health professions students in Alabama regarding the safe prescribing of addictive substances and the treatment of acute and chronic pain at a rate not to exceed \$39,728 from October 1, 2021 through August 1, 2022.

An amendment to a contract with Health Resources in Action, Inc. (payee) for training and technical assistance for establishing a Jefferson County-based healthcare violence intervention program to assist in reducing the impact of violence locally. The Amendment is to extend contract terms at a rate not to exceed \$40,800 from February 15, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

A new contract with SHI International Corporation (payee) for Microsoft Unified Enterprise Support to provide expedite troubleshooting support for all JCDH Microsoft software,

access to training and a team of experts to help implement best practices for new and existing infrastructure at a rate not to exceed \$88,498.37 from December 15, 2021 through November 30, 2022. In response to a question from Dr. Murray, Rodney Holmes said JCDH has multiple copies of its systems and data.

An amendment to a contract with Bruno Event Team, LLC (payee) to cover cost for extending the Jefferson County COVID-19 call center hotline agreement at a rate not to exceed \$1,589,580 from February 19, 2021 through November 30, 2022.

An amendment to a contract with Bruno Event Team, LLC (payee) to cover cost for extending the COVID-19 vaccine appointment scheduling platform at a rate not to exceed \$489,250 from February 19, 2021 through November 30, 2022.

An amendment to a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Emergency Preparedness (payor) to provide grant funds for JCDH Healthcare Coalition activities at the local level. ADPH increased the original funding amount by \$33,434.35; not to exceed \$133,434.35 from November 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

An amendment to a contract with Harvard University for AIDS Research (payor) to build foundation for EHR-based decision support for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) that incorporates a HIV prediction model to improve PrEP use. The Amendment is to extend contract and carry forward funds covering extension of period of performance at a rate not to exceed \$33,000 from August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022.

Credentialing

Dr. Wilson presented the following credentials report: Initial credentialing for Steven A. Carter, DMD, as a Clinical Dentist in the Dental Health Division. The Board unanimously approved the Credentials Report.

Authority of Health Officer to Negotiate and Sign Settlement Documents Relating to Opioid Litigation Resolution

Dr. Wilson reminded the Board they had previously approved for JCDH to enter into lawsuits directly and indirectly against manufacturers and distributors of opioids with any opioid settlement funds received to be used to address the opioid epidemic in Jefferson County. The following resolution, if approved, would authorize Dr. Wilson to “enter into negotiations and to execute documents and agreements deemed necessary to effect settlements with individuals or multiple Defendants in the Litigation as circumstances may require.”

David Maxey, Esq., reported that Jefferson County has received some settlement money from a lawsuit between the State of Alabama through the Attorney General’s office and Endo Health Solutions, Inc., and Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Jefferson County will share a portion of the settlement with JCDH to use for opioid projects as promised.

On the motion of Dr. Dobyms, and seconded by Dr. Fancher, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS the Jefferson County Board of Health (the “Board”) has statutory oversight of the activities of the Health Officer of Jefferson County and the Jefferson County Department of Health (the “Department”); and,

WHEREAS the Board, agreeing it was necessary to fulfill its statutory duties and mission to abate public health nuisances endangering the residents of Jefferson County, previously authorized the Health Officer to join other local government entities and public officials in litigation against Defendants that are manufacturers, marketers, and distributors of opioid medications reasonably thought to be responsible for creating the opioid crisis in Jefferson County (the "Litigation"); and,

WHEREAS the Litigation is complex and now part of nationwide, multi-district litigation against the Defendants, some of which have invoked the protection of United States Bankruptcy laws, but which is also starting to result in proposed settlements designed to assist state and local government entities to recover funds to be used entirely in the abatement and remediation of the damages caused by opioid addiction and its public health and societal consequences; and,

WHEREAS the Board of Health has determined that it would advance the goals of abatement and remediation, and in keeping with the statutory duties of the Health Officer, to authorize the Health Officer to enter into negotiations and to execute such documents and agreements deemed necessary to effect settlements with individual or multiple Defendants as deemed prudent to obtain maximum benefit for public health in the County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board of Health, by a majority vote of its members at a regularly scheduled meeting, does hereby authorize the Health Officer to enter into negotiations and to execute such documents and agreements deemed necessary to effect settlements with individual or multiple Defendants in the Litigation as circumstances may require, whether or not any particular settlement results in direct financial compensation to the Department, so long as in the Health Officer's discretion each such settlement agreement aids in the abatement of the opioid crisis in Jefferson County or in the remediation of the consequences of that crisis in Jefferson County.

Board of Health Self-Evaluation Summary

Bryn Manzella, MPH, Director of Quality Improvement, reviewed the results from the Board's Self-Evaluation for 2021. Ms. Manzella reported all six surveys distributed were completed and returned. The survey was based on a 7-point scale with an overall mean score of 6.65 or 95 percent, which is slightly lower than the previous year. Ms. Manzella reminded the Board their suggestions are welcome anytime during the year. She also thanked them for their participation.

Report of the Health Officer

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Wilson reported the seven-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases per day, based on when people were tested, is 1,682. The highest we reached with the Delta variant was 660 cases per day. The positivity rate is forty-one percent for Jefferson County. The curve of cases is starting to level off and projections from Dr. Suzanne Judd, Epidemiologist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Public Health, indicate the numbers should peak sometime in the upcoming week. Urban areas such as Jefferson and Mobile Counties get hit sooner and faster with the Omicron variant than in other parts of the state. Dr. Dobyms asked if JCDH is still doing contact tracing. Dr. Wilson said with the numbers being what they are it is impossible to do contact tracing on all cases even with extra staff JCDH has hired.

Dr. Wilson stated hospitalizations for Jefferson County as of yesterday totaled 473 adults and 23 children with COVID. Last week hospitals were reporting that anywhere from twenty-five to forty percent of COVID-positive patients were hospitalized incidentally with COVID and not because of COVID. As of yesterday, Jefferson County had 123 COVID-positive adults in intensive care units (ICU) with 56 on ventilators. Among the 23 COVID-positive children in the hospital, 8 were in the ICU and between 1 and 5 were on ventilators.

Dr. Wilson provided the following JCDH COVID vaccination numbers for 2021: JCDH administered over 32,550 doses of the vaccine; roughly 17,500 were given at drive-through clinics with the rest given in our indoor clinics or through our outreach efforts including homebound people and those in retirement homes. JCDH has vaccinated over 1,400 children and adolescents. Of those who reported their race, fifty-eight percent reported being black and twenty-nine percent reported being white; fifty-five percent female and forty-five percent male.

COVID-19 Testing

Dr. Wilson said JCDH has been focused mainly on administering COVID vaccinations but due to the high rate of spread with Omicron, JCDH has begun a small drive up testing operation at the Guy Tate building and has signed a contract with an external vendor to do mass testing. The details are still being worked out but the community testing site will likely be located in the Hoover area. Appointments for testing can be made through the JCDH COVID Call Center. JCDH and the vendor have adequate testing supplies but some other organizations have reported having limited supplies.

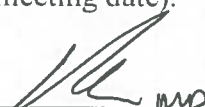
Legislative Update

Dr. Wilson noted the Alabama Legislative Session began yesterday and we will be monitoring for any items that may have an impact on public health or JCDH. Dr. Wilson said he is having conversations with the American Lung Association and the American Heart Association about strengthening the current vaping legislation.

In Person Board of Health Meetings

Dr. Murray asked if Board of Health meetings could be held virtually due to the high Omicron numbers. Dr. Wilson said previous COVID-related State of Emergency Declarations by Governor Kay Ivey had allowed for a virtual option, but we are not currently under a State of Emergency.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Board Room or via Zoom (announcement will be made prior to the meeting date).



Michele Kong, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Kenny Murray, MD, Chair