



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 - 5:00 p.m.
5th Floor Board Room

Present: Hernando Carter, MD, Kenny Murray, MD, Iris Fancher, MD, and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

Absent: Jeffrey Dobyns, DO and Michele Kong, MD

Others Present: David Maxey, Esq., Mark Wilson, MD, David Hicks, DO, Corey Masuca, Adriana Valenzuela, Rodney Holmes, Bryn Manzella, Jonathan Stanton, Kim Cason, and Terrie Hartley

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the March 9, 2022 meeting were approved as distributed.

JCDH Public Health Language Worker Program and COVID-19 Hispanic Outreach

Adriana Valenzuela, Public Health Language Coordinator in Clinical Services, provided an overview of the Public Health Language Worker (PHLW) Program at JCDH and its community outreach efforts around COVID-19. The Public Health Language Worker division currently has eighteen interpreters and consists of language professionals who provide language access for the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) community in order for them to access JCDH services and information. She said some of the barriers the LEP community faces in accessing health services are: language barriers, fear of public services, inability to receive assistance due to legal status, lack of valid ID, limited cell phone capacity (not enough money to purchase minutes on pay-as-you-go phones), and legal status.

Ms. Valenzuela shared that during the COVID-19 pandemic PHLWs participated in the Jefferson County Unified Command (JCUC) and the JCDH COVID-19 Response Team. Several PHLWs were trained to do contact tracing while others provided access in several languages and translated all documents and COVID-19 orders for the JCUC. A LEP group was formed and held weekly Zoom meetings to plan, distribute educational material, and examine the needs of the LEP community. PHLWs met after hours at trailer parks throughout Jefferson County to answer questions related to COVID vaccine and testing and how to access services. There was also a coordinated effort with community partners and Latino media outlets to get COVID information into the LEP community. These efforts appear to have achieved good results: 71.7% of Hispanic or Latino people in Jefferson County have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine compared to 50.7% statewide.

March 2022 Financial Statements

Dr. Murray noted the March Financial Statements were included in the Board package. There were no questions from the Board.

Contracts

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

A new contract with Athena Health (payee) to add Athena's telehealth platform to existing services which will allow providers to offer telehealth visits in a secure and HIPAA compliance manner for an amount of \$3.50 per telehealth visit from March 4, 2022 through March 4, 2025.

A new contract with Mitchell Humphrey Software (payee) to provide training on new features and include refresher training for existing Financial Management System (FMS) functionality on all ledgers; not to exceed \$7,500 from March 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022.

A new contract with Mitchell Humphrey Software (payee) to create an upgraded test environment for FMS to later be loaded into production by Mitchell Humphrey; not to exceed \$6,000 from March 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022.

A new contract with The Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) (payee) for UAB's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to conduct a Zoom course titled, Cultural Building Blocks and Unconscious Bias, for all JCDH employees at a rate not to exceed \$2,000 from April 27, 2022 through May 31, 2022.

A new contract with Muck Rack (payee) to provide broadcast monitoring and access to radio and television broadcast data; not to exceed \$14,000 from June 30, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

A new contract with Natalie Coaches, LLC (payee) to assess JCDH Executive Management Team's current communication and decision-making processes and provide guidance for leading the EMT into an engaged strategic planning initiative for an amount not to exceed \$13,800 from May 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with Rave Mobile Safety (payee) to provide mass emergency notification communication to JCDH staff; not to exceed \$14,333.01 from April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with Competitive Solutions, Inc. (payee) for access to a certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist Liaison to assist with Peer RX, an online platform for peer suppliers and peer consumers at a cost of \$229 per agency per month; not to exceed \$15,000 from April 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency (payee) to assist JCDH with performing Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) activities; not to exceed \$29,686 from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with Summit Media, LLC (payee) to provide educational and promotional radio commercials, including production, to inform the general public of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day event scheduled for April 9, 2022; not to exceed \$2,400 from March 14, 2022 through April 8, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with Rivera Communications (payee) to provide educational and promotional radio commercials, including production, to inform the general public with relevant information on the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day event scheduled for April 9, 2022; not to exceed \$407.50 from March 21, 2022 through April 9, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with The United States Geological Survey (USGS) (payee) for continuous monitoring of water-quality parameters of pH, turbidity, specific conductance, temperature, and dissolved oxygen at USGS streamflow gaging stations at Cahaba River-02423380, White's Chapel-02423160, Shades Creek-02423160, Shades Creek-02423571, and Valley Creek-ALA-02461405; not to exceed \$96,875 from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

A new contract with Agilaire, LLC (payee) to provide on-site start-up for new air pollution monitoring equipment; not to exceed \$4,880 from March 1, 2022 through March 1, 2023.

A new contract with Agilaire, LLC (payee) to provide air monitoring equipment for capturing data; not to exceed \$48,450 from March 1, 2022 through March 1, 2023.

A new contract with Brice Consulting, LLC (payee) to provide audio visual design and commissioning services to JCDH; not to exceed \$11,700 from April 11, 2022 until completion.

A new bid contract with VSC Fire & Security, Inc. (payee) to provide life safety inspection and maintenance services to JCDH per bid # 22-02-06 for an amount not to exceed \$45,000 from April 27, 2022 through April 27, 2025.

A new contract with CP Construction, LLC (payee) to remove curb, gutter, and debris in JCDH Annex parking lot and replace with new concrete; not to exceed \$3,500 from March 28, 2022 through February 28, 2023.

An amendment to a bid contract with SmartWave Technologies, LLC (payee) to provide managed guest Wi-Fi services for all JCDH Health Centers and Annex per bid #22-01-05 at a rate of \$810 per month, plus \$1,000 for router; not to exceed \$30,160 from February 23, 2022 through February 23, 2025.

A new contract with UserWay, Inc. (payee) who will provide tools to bring the JCDH external website into Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance; not to exceed \$1,680 from March 3, 2022 through March 3, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with Open Text, Inc. (payee) to provide maintenance services for RightFax software; not to exceed \$4,851.40 from August 28, 2022 through August 27, 2023.

A new contract with Townsquare Media (payee) to provide advertising and promotional services using various digital formats to promote the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Program and its services at JCDH; not to exceed \$45,000 from April 1, 2022 through June 1, 2022.

A new contract with Summit Media (payee) who will provide advertising services via radio spots to promote the HIV/STD testing event at Western Health Center; not to exceed \$2,500 from March 31, 2022 through April 14, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with Above Training, Inc./StateFoodSafety.com™ (payor) an online food safety education provider to develop and support an online training platform and provide certification to user. The contractor will collect \$20 from student and make \$10 payment to JCDH for each student from April 1, 2022 through March 30, 2025.

An amendment to a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) to establish or enhance ability to aggressively identify COVID-19 cases, conduct contact tracing and follow-up as well as implement recommended containment measures. Amendment is to amend the original grant termination date; not to exceed \$999,647.79 from February 24, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

An amendment to a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) to provide funding for Disease Intervention Specialist within the STD Program to conduct case investigations. This amendment is to amend the original grant funding to JCDH from \$97,400 to \$590,000 and authorize JCDH to claim 31% indirect cost on salary; not to exceed \$590,000 from April 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Title V Permit Fees

Corey Masuca, Principal Air Pollution Control Engineer in Environmental Health, gave a brief overview of the following resolution to increase Title V Permit fees for Fiscal Year 2022 from \$98 to \$99 per ton. He reminded the Board his division regulates major industrial sources in Jefferson County to make sure they are in compliance with federal, state and local standards. The fee increase is comparable to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management's (ADEM's) fee.

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

WHEREAS, The Federal Clean Air Act and the Jefferson County Board of Health Air Pollution Control Rules and Regulations require that the Title V operating permit program fees be established to adequately fund the Title V operating permit program's responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, that the Title V permit fees may be used only for the Title V permit program; and

WHEREAS, it is projected that for Fiscal Year 2022, Title V permit fee revenues, based on a fee of \$99 per ton will adequately fund the direct and indirect expenses of the Title V permit program for fiscal year 2022;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ORDAINED, ORDERED AND ENACTED BY THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH THAT:

Title V Operating Permit fees will be assessed at the rate of \$99 per ton for the release of each ton of regulated pollutant as specified in Chapter 16 of the Jefferson County Board of Health Air Pollution Control Rules and Regulations for calendar year 2021 emissions, which fees will be payable in fiscal year 2022.

Hospital-Linked Violence Intervention Program Funding

Dr. Wilson reported that a grant recipient has been chosen to run the case management and violence intervention part of the Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program (HVIP). A committee of fourteen stakeholders reviewed and scored six grant proposals. The three organizations that received the top scores were invited for in-person interviews with the stakeholders. After the interviews and another round of scoring, the Offender Alumni Association was chosen as the grant recipient. The following resolution is to transfer previously budgeted JCDH funds to the Jefferson County Public Health Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham to administer the HVIP grant funds.

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

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health (Board), on August 10, 2005 resolved to establish the Public Health Community Projects Fund (PHCP Fund) and provide that certain Jefferson County Department of Health funds be transferred to the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham (CFGB) to manage and administer grants under CFGB Fund Policies; and,

WHEREAS, CFGB and Board entered Advised Fund Agreement, dated August 14, 2006, that established the terms that CFGB will manage the Jefferson County Public Health Fund (Advised Fund) and administer grants from the Advised Fund to preserve, protect and enhance the general health and environment in Jefferson County, Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of the State of Alabama, Honorable Troy King, on February 13, 2007 issued the Attorney General Opinion 2007-047, concluding:

“The Jefferson County Board of Health may enter an agreement with the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham under which, and subject to the required annual budget review and approval process, the Board will provide funds to the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham for use in public health work projects in Jefferson County if the Board determines that the agreement will further the Board's purposes;” and,

WHEREAS, the Department’s 2017-2021 Strategic Plan included an Objective to “establish a strategy for JCDH to address the problem of violence in Jefferson County;” and,

WHEREAS, a coalition of community stakeholders in Jefferson County, including the Jefferson County Health Officer and other representatives of the Jefferson County Department of Health, representatives of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Division of Trauma & Acute Care Surgery, representatives of the City of Birmingham and other advocates for reducing gun violence, has determined that a Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program would help address the problem of violence in Jefferson County; and,

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2021 the Board approved the Department’s fiscal year 2022 budget, which included one million one hundred fifty thousand five hundred sixty-five dollars

(\$1,150,565) in expenses for a Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program to offer intervention and case management services to hospitalized survivors of violent injury; and

WHEREAS, the CFGFB intends to offer grants to help sustain a Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program in Jefferson County; and,

WHEREAS, the Department requests the Board to authorize the Department to transfer funds to the Advised Fund to fund grants for the Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program in the projected amount of one million one hundred fifty thousand five hundred sixty-five dollars (\$1,150,565) during fiscal year 2022;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jefferson County Board of Health authorizes the disbursement of Jefferson County Department of Health funds as specified above to the Jefferson County Public Health Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham (Advised Fund) for funding of the Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program in Jefferson County to further the Board's public health work in Jefferson County.

Public Health Threat of Climate Change and Health Department Sustainability Plan

Dr. Wilson reminded the Board that climate change and the idea of a sustainability plan was discussed at the March 2022 Board meeting, and members had expressed interest in pursuing a resolution to address those issues. The following resolution declares climate change is a threat to public health and directs JCDH to develop a sustainability plan to include reducing the use of fossil fuels and increasing the use of renewable energy for our operations. Dr. Wilson noted JCDH may need to hire a consultant to help with the sustainability plan.

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

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of Americans are already being affected by climate change, with the adverse health consequences projected to worsen with additional climate change. Climate change is expected to lead to increases in heat-related illness, lung and heart disease, food- and water-borne illnesses, vector-borne diseases, food insecurity, injuries, mental health and stress-related disorders, disruptions adversely affecting social determinants of health, and health inequities (1)(2)(3); and

WHEREAS, the National Association of County and City Health Officials has urged local health departments to strongly lead in acting to identify, prevent, and respond to climate-related health impacts, including coordinating with stakeholders to implement and support programs and policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions (4);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jefferson County Board of Health declares that climate change poses a serious threat to public health, and directs the Jefferson County Department of Health to develop a sustainability plan which includes reducing its use of fossil fuels and increasing its use of renewable energy for its operations.

Report of the Health Officer

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Wilson reported the number of COVID-19 cases has started to increase. The 7-day average went from a nadir of 14 cases per day to 23 cases per day. It is unknown at this time whether this is a significant trend but JCDH will continue to monitor.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

Dr. Wilson provided a report from the Household Hazardous Waste Day which was held on Saturday, April 9 at three locations throughout Jefferson County. The following shows the location and number of vehicles that dropped off waste at each site: Bessemer-146, Gardendale-302 and Irondale-475. Data is being collected to see where people are traveling from, to help determine locations for future events. Dr. Wilson thanked the Jefferson County Commission and County employees for their financial and staff support.

Alabama Legislative Session

Dr. Wilson reported the Alabama Legislative Session ended last week. The Alabama Department of Public Health had two bills that passed the legislature. One is an amendment to strengthen the Childhood Lead Reduction Act which aims to reduce a child's exposure to lead paint. The bill allows for greater regulation of building renovations where lead paint is present and stiffer penalties for violations. The other is the Natural Death Act which allows certification of a surrogate to determine whether to continue life-sustaining treatment for terminally ill patients who do not have an advanced directive. The bill removes the requirement for certification by a notary or attestation.

National Sexually Transmitted Disease Week

Dr. Wilson announced that in recognition of National Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Week, sexual health screenings will be provided free of charge at Western Health Center on April 14 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Hospital-Linked Violence Intervention Program


Dr. Wilson said a news release went out this week announcing the Offender Alumni Association (OAA) is the recipient of the Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program grant. As mentioned previously, OAA was chosen based on scoring and interviews by a fourteen-member stakeholder committee. OAA was established to help support people coming out of incarceration. The organization has an excellent reputation in our community and has done some violence intervention work and training for people in the Atlanta area for the Cure Violence Program and also a hospital-based program at Grady Hospital.

Advancing Tobacco and Vaping Policy

Dr. Wilson mentioned that he is getting more involved in conversations about advancing tobacco and vaping policy, which is already a priority of the Jefferson County Health Action Partnership in and with United Way of Central Alabama's Bold Goals Coalition which involves Jefferson County and Walker County. Dr. Wilson is co-chair of UAB's Live HealthSmart Alabama policy committee where tobacco/vaping is also a topic of conversation. The group includes organizations such as the American Heart Association, American Lung Association, American Cancer Society, UAB, the City of Birmingham, ADPH and others. In the short-term they will ask the Birmingham City Council to expand the Health District to include the St. Vincent's Hospital campus and the new Southtown development. The Health District is an extension of the Birmingham Smoke-free Ordinance to prohibit smoking in public outdoor spaces.

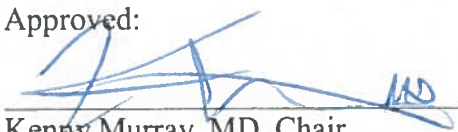
In the past, Dr. Wilson had spoken to the Jefferson County Mayor's Association about policy opportunities to address vaping and tobacco use, and more recently he and a couple of health advocacy representatives spoke with a few members of the local legislative delegation about some statewide tobacco/vaping policy recommendations.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Board Room.



Michele Kong, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Kenny Murray, MD, Chair