



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, September 14, 2022 - 5:00 p.m.
5th Floor Board Room

PRESENT: Kenny Murray, MD, Iris Fancher, MD, Michele Kong, MD, and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

ABSENT: Hernando Carter, MD and Jeffrey Dobyns, DO

OTHERS

PRESENT: David Maxey, Esq., David Hicks, DO, Rodney Holmes, Kim Cason, Bryn Manzella, Senitra Blackburn, and Terrie Hartley

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the August 10, 2022 meeting were approved as distributed.

August 2022 Financial Statement

Dr. Murray stated the August 2022 Financial Statements were emailed to the Board prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board.

Write-Off of Uncollectible Accounts

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

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health (the “Board”) provides Primary Care and Dental services to primarily two categories of patients; those covered by the Alabama Medicaid Insurance program and to the uninsured and,

WHEREAS, the uninsured have very limited financial resources and are often unable to pay the sliding fee portion of the fees charged for services provided by the Board and,

WHEREAS, it appears to the Board that writing off and ceasing collection efforts for aged, uncollectible accounts serves the public purpose by avoiding the costs associated with perpetually carrying of such accounts on the books;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that accounts receivable balances representing Primary Care and Dental services prior to October 1, 2020 are deemed to be uncollectible after reasonable collection efforts and shall be written off of the Board’s financial records.

The detail account information in support of Primary Care and Dental accounts written off (\$287,885.29) or less shall be available upon request for auditing and internal control purposes.

Longevity Pay Compensation Plan

Dr. Hicks noted the intent of longevity pay is to retain current employees and show appreciation to employees for their dedication. Employee service recognition awards have not been given to eligible employees for the past three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In lieu of the service awards it was decided to provide longevity pay compensation for those employees that did not receive recognition during 2019, 2020, and 2021, and plans are to bring this resolution before the Board annually.

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

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Department of Health values our employees; and,

WHEREAS, the County Health Officer serves as the chief executive officer of the Jefferson County Department of Health, as well as its Appointing Authority; and,

WHEREAS, Alabama law authorizes the County Health Officer to use his or her discretion in the allocation of the resources of his or her office in a method to accomplish the public health work in the county in an efficient, effective, and professional matter; and,

WHEREAS, the County Health Officer has recommended that, as an acknowledgment of appreciation for their years of service, the Board endorses additional compensation to our full-time classified employees in the form of a one-time lump sum longevity payment as set forth herein.

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

- 1. Eligibility for longevity payments shall be based in the following increments of service:

Years of Service Reached during Measurement Period	Longevity Pay Awarded
5 years of service	\$500
10 years of service	\$1000
15 years of service	\$1500
20 years of service	\$2000
25, 30, 35, or 40 years of service	\$2500

- 2. The eligibility measurement period is based on a calendar year. In order to receive the longevity pay during this 2022 resolution, the employee must have met the five (5) year service increment listed above between either January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 **or** January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 **or** January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Only the employees that reached the specific milestone during the measurement period will be awarded longevity pay.
- 3. Longevity payment shall occur as a one-time lump sum payment amount to be paid prior to December 31, 2022.
- 4. Calculation of longevity time shall be based on total uninterrupted full-time service with the Jefferson County Department of Health. Since the calculation is based on five (5) year increments, leaves of absence with or without pay and disciplinary suspensions shall not be deemed an interruption of service.
- 5. This resolution only applies to active full-time classified employees. The employee must be an active employee on the date the longevity payment is awarded.

6. Part-time and temporary employees are not eligible for longevity pay. Active part-time employees however, may be awarded longevity pay if the employee was in a full-time position when they reached the eligible service date for the measurement period and there was no break in service.
7. Payments listed above are gross amounts from which the Department will withhold taxes and other remittances.

Public Health Advised Fund

Dr. Hicks discussed the following resolutions that will authorize JCDH to transfer funds to the Public Health Advised Fund, managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham. The Board previously approved funding for these projects in the FY 2022-2023 budget on August 10, 2022.

Nurse-Family Partnership

On the motion of Commissioner Stephens, 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.”

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2016 the Board approved the Department's 2017-2021 Strategic Plan including a Nurse-Family Partnership Program in Jefferson County to invest in and deliver targeted services to improve birth outcomes and foster optimal infant health and development;

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2022 the Board approved the Department's fiscal year 2023 budget, which included Six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) in expenses for funding the Nurse-Family Partnership program in Jefferson County.

WHEREAS, the CFGB intends to offer grants to help sustain the Nurse-Family Partnership 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 Nurse-Family Partnership in the projected amount of Six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) for fiscal year 2023;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jefferson County Board of Health authorizes 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 the Nurse-Family Partnership program in Jefferson County to further the Board's public health work.

Recovery Resource Center

On the motion of Dr. Fancher, and seconded by Dr. Kong, 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, a coalition of community stakeholders in Jefferson County including the Jefferson County Health Officer, substance abuse treatment providers, and advocates for people with addiction, has determined that there is a need for a centralized location where people with addiction and their families can obtain information about addiction treatment resources and assistance in navigation to those resources; and,

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2016 the Board approved the Department's 2017-2021 Strategic Plan including work with partners to develop capacity to offer information and navigation services to Jefferson County residents in need of substance abuse treatment; and,

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2022 the Board approved the Department's fiscal year 2023 budget, which included Three hundred and ten thousand dollars (\$310,000) in expenses for a Recovery Resource Center program to offer information and navigation services to Jefferson County residents in need of substance abuse treatment; and,

WHEREAS, the CFGB intends to offer grants to help sustain a Recovery Resource Center 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 Recovery Resource Center in the projected amount of Three hundred and ten thousand dollars (\$310,000) for fiscal year 2023;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jefferson County Board of Health authorizes 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 Recovery

Resource Center program in Jefferson County to further the Board's public health work in Jefferson County.

Contracts

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

A new contract with Addy Systems, LLC d/b/a TimeTap (payee) for subscription to a scheduling software platform which will be used to schedule monkeypox vaccination appointments; not to exceed \$6,000 from August 11, 2022 through August 11, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with Southern Benefits Group, LLC (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, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

A new contract with Precision Speaking, Inc. (payee) to provide supervisor and manager leadership training sessions; not to exceed \$7,000 from October 18, 2022 through October 27, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with Health Resources in Action, Inc. (payee) to provide training and technical assistance for the implementation of a hospital-linked violence intervention program within the partner hospital and community settings; not to exceed \$66,800 from August 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023.

A new contract with Radiology Associates of Birmingham, PC d/b/a Vulcan Imaging Associates (payee) for professional interpretation of radiographs and professional support for teleradiology services at rate of \$14 per film interpreted; not to exceed \$10,000 per year from September 22, 2022 through August 31, 2025.

An amendment to a contract with Dominion Security Group, LLC (payee) to provide security site patrol services for remote COVID-19 testing site. Amendment is to extend the terms of agreement; not to exceed \$18,000 from June 30, 2022 through August 31, 2022.

Renewal of a contract with United States Geological Survey (payee) for operation of a water quality monitoring station at Cahaba River at Whites Chapel-02423160, Shades Creek at Elder Street-02423160 and operation of water quality monitoring and computation of streamflow at Cahaba River near Mountain Brook-02423880, Shades Creek near Homewood-02423571 and Valley Creek below Brighton-02461405; not to exceed \$67,610 from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) to provide funding for Disease Intervention Specialist position within the STD Program to conduct case investigations for an amount not to exceed \$112,500 from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) to scale up Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevention services in dedicated Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinics in offering Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, Non-Occupational Post-Exposure Prophylaxis, strengthening clinics and laboratory capacity for recommended follow-up visits, and optimizing linkage to retention in and re-engagement with HIV medical care for a rate not to exceed \$800,000 from August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (payor) for JCDH 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% of expenses. Total amount of contract will not exceed \$72,000 from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

Deputy Health Officer Report

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board that Dr. Wilson is at The Aspen Institute for the kick-off of the Justice and Governance Partnership aimed at transforming community safety and promoting justice reforms. Birmingham has been selected as one of initial communities in the U.S. to receive 5 years of assistance in setting this up. Others attending include Jefferson County Commissioner Sheila Tyson, three Birmingham City Council members, representatives from the City of Birmingham Mayor's Office, and others.

COVID-19 Pandemic Update

Dr. Hicks stated according to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), Jefferson County's COVID-19 average is at 162 cases per day and falling, with a 15.1% positivity rate compared to 16.3% statewide. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Jefferson County's community level remains High as of last week.

Monkeypox Outbreak Update

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that JCDH expanded the criteria of those eligible for monkeypox vaccination to include healthcare workers at higher risk of exposure. Through September 11, JCDH administered 623 vaccine doses including 70 at a single community event during the past weekend. JCDH has treated 16 individuals with the antiviral drug tecovirimat (TPOXX®).

Congenital Syphilis

Dr. Hicks said that ADPH continues to report record high cases of congenital syphilis. There are a significant number of these cases in Jefferson County. One intervention to help address this issue is screening for syphilis in the third trimester of pregnancy.

Hepatitis A Outbreak Update

Dr. Hicks announced that on September 8, 2022, ADPH announced that the hepatitis A outbreak that started in September 2018 has ended.

Hospital-Linked Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) Update

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that Offender Alumni Association (OAA), the case management provider for the HVIP, welcomed three Violence Intervention Specialists and a Violence Intervention Supervisor as new employees on September 6, 2022. These core HVIP staff are onboarding with the OAA currently and will undertake a two-day course entitled, "Introduction to Violence Prevention Specialist", in September provided by the Hospital Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI). This course will be repeated in mid-October for HVIP support staff from OAA, the HVIP Social Worker, UAB Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Division, and JCDH. Interviews for the HVIP's social worker position will continue during the week of September 19.

Operational policies and procedures for the HVIP as well as asset mapping for HVIP support services are ongoing through both the small and large leadership groups. Enrollment of clients into the program remains anticipated for January 2023, and possibly for December 2022.

Tree Canopy in Urban Areas Update

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that Cawaco Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. has received a grant from the Public Health Advised Fund for their Trees Birmingham initiative. This project aims to increase the tree canopy in urban areas in Jefferson County to mitigate the urban heat island

effect, air pollution, and flooding. Dr. Wilson and the grantee has recently toured North Birmingham to start assessing potential initial sites for tree planting. Community engagement will be needed prior to final selection of sites.

Ambulance Response Times

Dr. Hicks reported that County Commissioner Steve Ammons will be meeting with Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer and Jamie Grey, State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director, respectively, to discuss potential changes to rules related to the training requirements of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Addressing the training pipeline for EMTs is one of several strategies proposed to address long ambulance response times.

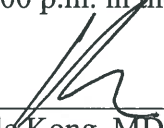
Clinic Recruiting and Staffing Update

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board that JCDH is still facing a significant challenge of recruiting and retaining staff for the clinics. JCDH Human Resources is continuing to exhaust all options to help address this issue.

Community Rabies Clinics

Commissioner Stephens inquired as to when the community rabies clinics will resume. Dr. Hicks said he will follow up on this and provide an answer by the next Board meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Board Room.



Michele Kong, MD, Secretary

Approved: 

Kenny Murray, MD, Chair