



**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Wednesday, January 11, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room**

**PRESENT:** Iris Fancher, MD, Jeffrey Dobyns, DO, Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

**ABSENT:** Kenny Murray, MD and Michele Kong, MD

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Mark Wilson, MD, David Hicks, DO, Jonathan Stanton, Senitra Blackburn, Bryn Manzella, David Maxey, Esq., Rodney Holmes, and Terrie Hartley

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Fancher, Acting Chair.

**Introduction of New Board of Health Member**

Dr. Wilson welcomed Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD to the Board.

Minutes of the December 22, 2022 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. Mr. Maxey answered questions from the Board and stated he is available if questions arise in the future.

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

Dr. Wilson reviewed JCDH's Mission, Vision, and Values and Strategic Priorities. He said the JCDH's Strategic Priorities for 2017–2021 was extended to 2022. JCDH is starting a new strategic planning process which will be discussed in the Health Officer Report.

**December 2022 Financial Statements**

Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance and Administration, reviewed the December 2022 Financial Statements which were emailed to Board members prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board.

**Contracts**

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

A new contract with Lehr Middlebrooks Vreeland & Thompson, P.C. (payee) to provide employment law legal services at a rate of \$355 - \$405 per hour for legal services and \$135 per hour for paralegal services from December 6, 2022 through December 5, 2023.

Renewal of a contract with Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC (payee) who will provide auditing of JCDH financial statements; not to exceed \$55,000 from August 19, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), School of Public Health (payee) for continuation of partnership between JCDH and the UAB School of Public Health to strengthen activities of both parties; not to exceed \$38,088 from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) to extend the contract terms consistent with the National Association of County and City Health Officials Implementing Overdose Response Strategies at the Local Level for a no-cost extension; not to exceed \$250,000 from August 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

A new contract with the Crisis Center, Inc. (payee) for the provision of one full-time employee peer support specialist to provide on-site services at the UAB Hospital main emergency department; not to exceed \$50,000 from January 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023.

A new contract with The Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) who will provide in-house peer support specialist services to individuals with substance use disorder who present to the UAB Hospital main emergency department; not to exceed \$160,000 from January 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023.

An amendment to a contract with Addy Systems, LLC d/b/a TimeTap (payee) for subscription for scheduling software platform which will be used to schedule mpox vaccination appointments. Amendment is to add subscription for COVID-19 vaccine and transfer current accounts including data from terminated Bruno's Event Team contract to JCDH; not to exceed \$8,500 from December 15, 2022 through December 15, 2023.

A new contract with Townsquare Media, (payee) to provide advertising services via programmatic audio and streaming television broadcasting to provide public health information on COVID-19 and influenza to the residents of Jefferson County including the limited English proficiency community; not to exceed \$14,995 from December 5, 2022 through February 5, 2023.

A new contract with Townsquare Media (payee) who will provide advertising services via digital media outlets and various tactics to provide public health information on COVID-19 and influenza to residents of Jefferson County; not to exceed \$25,000 from December 19, 2022 through February 19, 2023.

A new contract with Starnes Publishing, LLC (payee) to provide advertising services to educate the residents of Jefferson County on various public health matters via digital and print publications; not to exceed \$8,750 from February 1, 2023 through February 28, 2023.

A new bid contract with Taylor & Miree Construction, Inc. (payee) who will provide construction of a public health pavilion at the JCDH Annex site; not to exceed \$3,500,000 from October 17, 2022 until completion.

A new contract with Accruent, LLC (payee) to provide and host room, workspace and event scheduling platform/software for JCDH; not to exceed \$90,590.50 from March 1, 2023 through March 1, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), Bureau of Family Health Services, WIC Division (payor) to establish a mutual agreement between ADPH and JCDH for the purpose of the establishment of a Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC Program) at Central, Eastern and Western Health Centers; not to exceed \$3,032,810 from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

### **Board of Health Self-Evaluation**

Bryn Manzella, MPH, Director of Quality Improvement, reviewed the results of the Board's 2022 Self-Evaluation. Four of the six surveys distributed were received. The overall score was 6.43 on a 7 point scale or 91.9 percent satisfaction rate. This is down from 6.65 or 95 percent in 2021. Ms. Manzella summarized the mean score for each category and question. She thanked the Board for their participation and reminded them that suggestions for improvement are welcome at any time during the year.

### **Health Officer Report**

#### **COVID-19 Update**

Dr. Wilson reported we are seeing a surge in COVID-19 cases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Community Level went from low to high this past week for Jefferson County and the percent positivity rate was 18 percent. Hospitalizations have increased in the state and over 30 deaths were reported within the past couple of weeks.

#### **Mpox (Monkeypox) Response**

Dr. Wilson stated mpox cases have decreased significantly. Alabama reported 9 new cases during the last month bringing the total to 186 for the entire outbreak. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced they do not anticipate continuing the mpox public health emergency declaration once it expires on January 31, 2023.

#### **Influenza-like Illness**

Dr. Wilson noted that influenza-like illness cases were down this past week to 2.5 percent of outpatient visits, which is below the baseline. He cautioned that there could be another surge of influenza this season.

#### **St. Clair County Landfill Fire**

Dr. Wilson said the underground fire at an environmental landfill in St. Clair County is not in JCDH jurisdiction and is being handled by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and others. However, there are concerns about air quality from residents living in the nearby Trussville area of Jefferson County. The interim school superintendent for Trussville reached out to JCDH due to concerns from parents about children's exposure to smoke from the fire. JCDH's Air Radiation and Protection Division placed air monitors at three Trussville schools: Hewitt-Trussville High, Cahaba Elementary and Magnolia Elementary. The air monitors measure

particulate matter (PM) and upload real-time data to the website [www.PurpleAir.com](http://www.PurpleAir.com). The advocacy group Greater-Birmingham Alliance to Stop Pollution (GASP) installed monitors next to the landfill and in three housing subdivisions in St. Clair County; the data from these monitors can also be accessed on the PurpleAir website.

JCDH is encouraging the public to visit the website [www.AirNow.gov](http://www.AirNow.gov), which has fire and smoke detection maps. These maps include the locations of and data from both the PurpleAir monitors and the JCDH permanent monitors. The Air Radiation and Protection Division is considering getting more PurpleAir monitors to be installed at schools in Jefferson County to be used as an educational tool and to provide more comprehensive coverage.

### **Opioid Overdose Deaths Report**

Dr. Wilson announced that a preliminary report from the Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner Office shows there were 402 overdose deaths in 2022. Three hundred and twenty-six or 81 percent of those deaths involved fentanyl. There are 48 more suspected overdose deaths awaiting final confirmation, bringing the total to possibly 450 cases, which is the highest number we have ever seen. In 2021, the number of overdose cases was 401. Unofficial preliminary reports show that for the first time black male overdose deaths have surpassed white male overdose deaths.

Dr. Wilson said although overdose deaths increased, countless lives have been saved with naloxone kits. JCDH distributes naloxone kits and fentanyl test strips throughout the state. People can visit the JCDH website and complete an online training and the kits will be mailed free of charge. The Alabama Department of Mental Health helps fund kits distributed outside of Jefferson County. Because of recent reports of overdoses and drug trafficking at high schools in Alabama, JCDH is working to get naloxone kits everywhere there is an automated external defibrillator (AED) machine in local high schools. JCDH has provided naloxone kits for all school systems except for three and we are waiting to hear back from those.

### **Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program**

Dr. Wilson shared the Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program is close to being up and running. Policies and procedures and consent forms are being finalized and hopefully the program will launch by the end of January. There will be a joint news conference with our partners to announce the launch of the program after it is started.

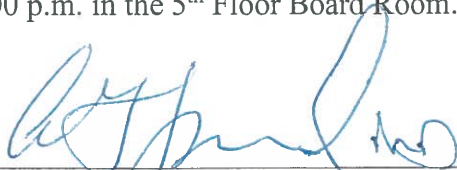
### **Cool Green Trees Initiative**

Dr. Wilson reminded the Board they approved for JCDH to provide funding for the Cool Green Trees Initiative through the Public Health Advised Fund. The purpose of the Cool Green Trees Initiative is to plant trees in heat island areas in Jefferson County to help reduce temperatures, prevent flooding and improve air quality. Cawaco Resource Conservation and Development has hired an arborist and a community outreach person to help with these efforts. There will be a heavy emphasis on community outreach and education initially. Additionally, the program will need memoranda of understanding with various cities in order to plant trees in city right-of-ways.

### **Strategic Planning Process**

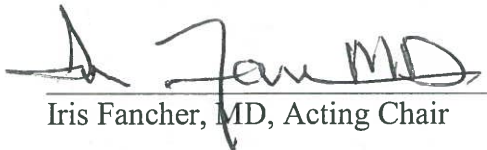
Dr. Wilson stated Women Entrepreneurs in Public Health (WE Public Health) was chosen to facilitate the JCDH strategic planning process. WE Public Health has held interviews with several managers and key staff and had virtual meetings with the Executive Management Team. The process is anticipated to last 6-9 months.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room.



Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Iris Fancher, MD, Acting Chair