



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, November 12, 2014 - 5:00 p.m.
5th Floor Board Room

PRESENT: Steven Kulback, M.D., Jennifer R. Dollar, M.D.,
Nicole Redmond, M.D., Ph.D., MPH, and Max Michael, III, M.D.

ABSENT: County Commission President and Katisha Vance, M.D.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Wilson, M.D., Kirsten Bryant, Kim Cason, John Colon,
Amber Courtney, Carolyn Dobbs, M.D., Heather Hogue, PharmD, Ed Khan,
M.D., Judy Madison, David Maxey, Esq., Stephanie Millsap-Ayers, Jonathan
Stanton, and Denisa Pridmore

Call to Order

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

Minutes

Minutes of the October 8, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed.

RISE – A Neighborhood Stabilization Strategy and Mobile Food Markets

John G. Colon, Director, City of Birmingham, Community Development Department, gave a presentation to the Board on the City of Birmingham's community stabilization strategy called RISE. RISE stands for four broad goals: **R**emove Blight, **I**ncrease Values, **S**trengthen Neighborhoods, **E**mpower Residents. Each neighborhood in the City of Birmingham is being looked at to help improve the quality of the citizens' life.

Mr. Colon stated that some of the vacant properties have no clear ownership and become burdens on the City for maintenance liabilities. The City has created a land bank authority that can acquire and dispose of tax-delinquent or abandoned properties. They are currently working on the first 25 lots. The City has adopted the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code which allows them to go after absentee landlords. The City has hired a non-profit legal firm to provide free wills to low income families across the city to help prevent problems with tax delinquencies in the future.

Dr. Redmond commented that end of life planning for health care and estate planning appear to be a common problem for minorities and stated there may be some opportunities for community partnerships to help with this.

Mr. Colon provided an overview of the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge grant the City of Birmingham was recently awarded. IBM sent expert analysts to survey Birmingham and

identify the main areas that were food deserts. One of the ways to help with the problem is to provide a mobile market that goes to the neighborhoods. The Transit Authority is providing four buses at no cost, plus free maintenance and fuel for the next four years with a two year extension. Bus operators are being identified. The mobile markets will have fresh fruit and vegetables. Mr. Colon said they are working on applications that will allow the residents to place orders for the food items that are needed. Data will be collected and at the end of the four year grant period shown to grocers in the private sector to demonstrate the demand for their services.

Financial Statement

Ms. Judy Madison, Chief Accountant, discussed the September and October 2014 Financial Reports.

A motion to accept the financial reports was made, seconded and approved.

Contracts

On the motion of Dr. Redmond, and seconded by Dr. Dollar, the following contracts were approved:

Renewal of a contract with Derrick Lewis (payee) to coordinate the schedule of all contracted sworn officers for JCDH and provide security services to JCDH at a rate of \$25.00 per hour; not to exceed 50 hours per week, from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

Renewal of a contract with the Board of Trustees at the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) whereby the UAB Division of Infectious Disease staff will provide clinical support to JCDH STD Program at a rate not to exceed \$31,000 from September 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

Renewal of a contract with the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) (payee) to provide ongoing operational maintenance and upgrades for the Birmingham Air Quality website, which provides near real-time air quality monitoring data for the Birmingham area, and which was originally developed by UAH through an EMPACT project funded by the EPA, at an amount not to exceed \$18,200 from 10/1/2014 through 9/30/2015.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) to provide tobacco use prevention and control programs to communities in Alabama at a rate not to exceed \$49,753.50 from September 30, 2014 through September 29, 2015.

Endorsement of the Resolution to Endorse Consideration of the Nature-Health Connection in Research, Design, and Decision-Making

Dr. Wilson discussed the following resolution to endorse the Johnson Foundation's Wingspread Declaration on Health and Nature. The declaration was drafted at a conference at Wingspread in Racine, Wisconsin in July led by Yale University. One of the JCDH's Health Action Partners, Wendy Jackson, Director of Freshwater Land Trust, attended the conference and learned there was interest in our unique partnership between a public health department and a land trust. The declaration will be revealed later this week at the American Public Health Association and the World Parks Congress. There are no other communities in the Southeast represented as pre-endorsers so this may help draw additional national attention to Jefferson County and the Health Action Partnership, including national funding agencies

and foundations for future grants. The Freshwater Land Trust and Dr. Max Michael, UAB School of Public Health, have signed a pre-endorsement, and Children's Hospital has agreed to sign one also.

Dr. Wilson stated evidence shows that hospital patients recover faster and require less pain medicine when they are able to view natural scenery. Office workers had less job stress, higher job satisfaction and fewer illnesses.

On the motion of Dr. Michael, and seconded by Dr. Redmond, the following resolution was endorsed by the Board of Health:

WHEREAS, large numbers of people, many of them children, are more disconnected from nature than ever before; and

WHEREAS, there exists a small but emerging body of evidence that connection to nature may improve physical health, mental health, and the healing process; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH) has already demonstrated a commitment to building an environment that promotes human connections to the outdoors and nature, through the design of its newer health centers, through support of the design and construction of the Red Rock Ridge and Valley Trail and greenway system, and through support of other community initiatives through the Public Health Advised Fund; and

WHEREAS, the JCDH is an anchor organization in the Jefferson County Health Action Partnership, through which there is the potential to accomplish broader community health promotion through collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the Dean of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health and the Executive Director of the Freshwater Land Trust are members of the Jefferson County Health Action Partnership Leadership Team and are endorsers of the Declaration below;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board of Health endorses the goals of the Johnson Foundation's Wingspread Declaration on Health and Nature (Exhibit A) that is to be released on November 14, 2014, and will support local partnerships to help achieve these goals, which call for consideration of the nature-health connection in research, design and decision-making.

Health Officer Report

Western Health Center (WHC)

Dr. Wilson reported there have been some recent delays in getting the new WHC ready for occupancy but we are still ahead of schedule. We anticipate opening after the first of January 2015.

Community Health Improvement Plan

Dr. Wilson announced that the "Community Matters 20/20" Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) has been completed and is posted on the JCDH website. The plan centers

around five strategic priority issues that were established by a review of the community health assessments, including input by residents of Jefferson County. The CHIP will serve as the county's guide to health improvement for the next five years.

Morris Health Center (MHC)

Dr. Wilson noted that services at MHC were scaled down several months ago to three days per week in order to split staff between MHC and Bessemer Health Center (BHC) until the opening of the new health center. A study was conducted of the demographics and access to health care in the rural northern Jefferson County area, and revealed that there is still a need for our services in the area. As planned, BHC is now closing completely and MHC will begin providing services five days per week in January 2015. MHC is an aging facility and will need to be assessed at some point. We will monitor utilization over the next several months.

Ebola

Dr. Wilson stated that Ebola preparedness has settled down. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues active monitoring of travel from the three West African countries affected by Ebola. Dr. Wilson stated he and Dr. Albert White, Tuscaloosa County Health Officer, met with members of the Jefferson County Liberian community on November 2, 2014. The people were very appreciative. JCDH invited the Chief Medical Officers and Infection Control leaders from area hospitals to meet on October 23, 2014 to share ideas on Ebola preparedness. There was a huge turnout for the meeting and it went very well.

Shigella

Dr. Wilson reported that our Disease Control staff have been busy investigating a Shigellosis outbreak in our community. JCDH has investigated over 70 cases so far this year compared to 15 cases in 2013.

New Quality Improvement (QI) Plan

Dr. Wilson shared that a newly formed Quality Council met today and has approved a new Quality Improvement Plan for JCDH. There will be at least two major interdepartmental QI initiatives per year and several smaller intradepartmental QI projects. The Board of Health will be given periodic updates.

Research

Dr. Wilson announced that JCDH now has "Federal-wide Assurance" (FWA) which lays the groundwork for us to be engaged in human research. We are working on an agreement with UAB's IRB Committee to serve as our IRB of record as needed. We are also pursuing an arrangement with Samford University's IRB for potential research that does not involve UAB.

New Board of Health Members

Dr. Wilson reported that Jimmie Stephens was elected as President of the Jefferson County Commission today and will be joining the Board of Health. He will offer to meet with Commissioner Stephens to orientate him to the Board's activities. Dr. Wilson will be presenting Commissioner Carrington with a plaque at a future County Commission meeting to show our appreciation for his engagement in the Board's meetings.

The Jefferson County Medical Society has identified one candidate, Dr. Joshua Miller, for the new Board member beginning in 2015. We will receive official notification once the election process has been completed.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.



Max Michael, III, M.D., Secretary

Approved:



Steven J. Kulback, M.D., Chair

Attachment: Exhibit A



Wingspread Declaration on Health and Nature

November 15, 2014

Nature and human well-being are connected:

The connection between people and the natural world is fundamental to human health, well-being, spirit, and survival. Nature is a source of food, clean water, clean air, medicine, shelter, and economic opportunity. Moreover, in order to thrive, humans require direct access to nature. Whether a city park, a community garden, a tree-lined street, or wilderness - nature in people's daily lives reduces stress, renews the spirit, connects people to each other and increases physical activity. In short, humans are part of nature, our connection with nature is a fundamental human need, and we believe access to nature is a basic right.

However, large numbers of people - many of them children - are now disconnected from nature. As a direct consequence, people around the world are suffering from substantial health challenges, many of them preventable. Likewise, the natural world faces increased pressures and vulnerability. The human, natural, and economic consequences of these challenges are already enormous.

This situation calls for placing consideration of the nature-health connection at the center of research, design, and decision-making across multiple fields. Concerted, cooperative action from health, environmental, educational, governmental, and corporate actors is needed to reconnect people with nature and to secure commitment to protecting nature.



Call for action to connect people with nature

We know enough to act now. A robust body of evidence demonstrates the benefits to human health and well-being of the natural world and of nature contact. Evidence also demonstrates substantial co-benefits, such as more vibrant communities, reduced health disparities, mitigation and adaptation to a changing climate, and business opportunities.

Therefore we commit our own efforts to the following goals. We also call on leaders in the public and private spheres to recognize these commitments as central to their own aims, and to commit their own organizational efforts to these goals:

- 1 Today's children will grow up with an understanding of their interdependence with nature. They will habitually incorporate outdoor activity into their everyday lives, and grow up with an appreciation for nature. Achieving this goal will require changes in school facilities and curricula, urban design, public spending priorities, pediatric healthcare, and more. In approaching this goal, we will focus on the most vulnerable and under-served populations of children first.
- 2 Employers and business leaders will recognize the powerful economic benefits of reconnecting people with nature and, in particular, of encouraging outdoor activity in order to lower healthcare costs, improve employee recruitment, retention, and performance. In so doing, employers will become leaders in preventing illness and disability, promoting health and well-being, and working to steward nature.
- 3 Nature, and access to nature, will be recognized as an important part of our health infrastructure and we will invest in places for healing and places to promote health.
- 4 We will help build organizations that have the competencies to factor the nature-health connection into their decisions on a regular basis. This will require training and hiring of knowledgeable employees. It will also rest on incorporation of research findings on this topic, thus:
- 5 New research will further reveal the interdependencies between nature and human health. We will undertake quantitative and qualitative research initiatives to measure and illustrate the health, well-being, and economic benefits of embedding the nature-health connection into decision-making at all levels.
- 6 To support these measures, we will create a clearinghouse of research, information, case studies of success, and partnerships to support good decision-making and to help connect new networks of health and environmental organizations.

To learn about the Declaration and commit to the call to action, contact Kristin Wheeler with the Institute at the Golden Gate at health@instituteatgoldengate.org.

Bradford S. Gentry
Professor in the Practice
Yale School of Forestry &
Environmental Studies and
Yale School of Management

Christopher A. Smith
Senior Program Officer
Colorado Health Foundation

Cynthia West
Associate Deputy Chief
USDA Forest Service, Research
and Development

Elizabeth Ward
Director of Communications
Land Trust Alliance

Elizabeth G. Love
Program Officer
Houston Endowment Inc.

Eugene Grigsby
President and CEO
National Health Foundation

Forrest Berkley
Excess Return Fund

Howard Frumkin
Dean
University of Washington
School of Public Health

Jay Espy
Executive Director
Elmina B. Sewall Foundation

Jeannette R. Ickovics
Professor
Yale School of Public Health

John Cochran
President
Cochran Consulting

Karen Tuddenham
Masters of Environmental
Management
Yale School of Forestry and
Environmental Studies

Kim Elliman
President and CEO
Open Space Institute

Kristin Wheeler
Program Manager
Institute at the Golden Gate

Lisa Sockabasin
Director, Office of Minority
Health
Maine CDC, Dept. of Health
and Human Services

Marc Smiley
Principal
Solid Ground Consulting

Marcie Tyrie Berkley
Board of Directors
Maine Huts and Trails & The
Fenn School

Naomi Sachs
Founding Director
Therapeutic Landscapes
Network

Perry Robinson
Managing Director
Greenwich BioMedical Inc.

Peter Harnik
Director, Center for City Park
Excellence
The Trust for Public Land

Rand Wentworth
President
Land Trust Alliance

Raymond Baxter
Senior Vice President,
Community Benefit, Research,
and Health Policy
Kaiser Permanente

Robert Zarr
Pediatrician
Unity Health Care, INC

Rue Mapp
Founder and CEO
Outdoor Afro

Sarah Milligan-Toffler
Executive Director
Children and Nature Network

Stacy Bare
Director
Sierra Club Outdoors

Wendy Jackson
Executive Director
Freshwater Land Trust

William Bird
Family Doctor
CEO of Intelligent Health, UK

William Rogers
President and CEO
The Trust for Public Land

Max Michael, III, M.D.
Dean
University of Alabama at
Birmingham
School of Public Health

Bobby Cochran
Executive Director
Willamette Partnership

This Declaration took place June 22-24, 2014 at The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread. The work was made possible by Yale University's Program on Strategies for the Future of Conservation, the Land Trust Alliance, Forrest and Marcie Berkley, and The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread. The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread is a family foundation in Racine, Wisconsin, dedicated to being a catalyst for solutions to the most pressing environmental and community problems of our time.

The signatures above represent the commitments of the individuals to the Declaration, and do not necessarily represent the views of the organization as a whole.