



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

**Wednesday, September 14, 2016 - 5:00 p.m.
5th Floor Board Room**

PRESENT: Jennifer R. Dollar, M.D., Max Michael, III, M.D., Joshua Miller, D.O., and Yocunda Clayton, M.D.

ABSENT: Commissioner Jimmie Stephens and Hernando Carter, M.D.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Mark Wilson, M.D., Carolyn Dobbs, M.D., James Galbraith, M.D., Kim Cason, David Hicks, D.O., Rodney Holmes, Bryn Manzella, David Maxey, Esq., Lori McManus, Jonathan Stanton, and Denisa Pridmore

Call to Order

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

Minutes

Minutes of the August 10, 2016 meeting were approved as distributed.

Hepatitis C and Injection Drug Use

James Galbraith, MD, Associate Professor at the UAB Department of Emergency Medicine, gave an overview of the public health screenings performed in the UAB Emergency Department (ED). In 2011, they started the HIV screening program and began targeted hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening in 2013, focusing on previously unaware “baby boomers” born between 1945-1965 (who have accounted for 75% of infections in the past), persons reporting a history of injection drug use (ever), persons newly diagnosed with HIV, and persons with new symptoms of liver disease. This led to “universal” (non-targeted) HCV screening in the ED, which has identified a high prevalence of hepatitis C among adults born since 1965, largely accounted for by injection drug use.

Dr. Galbraith noted that Alabama has been identified as one of the highest painkiller prescribing states and has seen a significant increase in overdose related deaths compared to other states. Dr. Galbraith discussed the recent HIV/HCV outbreak in Austin, Indiana that was linked to injection drug use. He also shared data from the MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report that revealed increases in HCV related to injection drug use among people in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. He stressed the importance of planning and addressing the next steps to prevent this from happening here and to help improve the overall health in Alabama.

Dr. Wilson reminded the Board of its discussion several months ago about a possible resolution or policy recommendation on needle exchange from the Board of Health. The Board had requested more data on how many people in the community are using injection drugs. Dr. Wilson stated the data Dr. Galbraith shared from UAB ED is most likely the best local data available that demonstrates Jefferson County has a problem related to injection drug use that may be mitigated by a needle exchange. Dr. Wilson asked the Board if they would now be interested in a policy recommendation or resolution in support of needle exchange.

The Board discussed and approved for Dr. Wilson to proceed with drafting a resolution for consideration at the October meeting. They would like to see the draft the week before the meeting along with lessons learned from other public health agencies who have addressed this situation.

Financial Statement

Rodney Holmes, Director of Finance & Administration, discussed the August 2016 Financial Report. A motion to accept the financial report was made, seconded and approved.

On the motion of Dr. Dollar, and seconded by Dr. Clayton, the following resolutions were approved:

Holiday Schedule

BE IT RESOLVED by the Jefferson County Board of Health that the official holidays for eligible Jefferson County Department of Health employees for fiscal year 2016-2017 shall be the same as adopted by the Board of Health for 2016 including two variable days for a total of twelve holidays.

Contracts

Renewal of a contract with Sheila Moore (payee) to provide training and consultation to Board's employees in human research policy and regulations at a rate of \$60 per hour; not to exceed \$30,000, from August 15, 2016 through September 30, 2017.

Renewal of a contract with The Children's Hospital of Alabama (payee) to provide on-call services for the Board to be handled by professional Registered Nurses at a rate of \$12 per call; not to exceed \$60,000, from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.

Renewal of a contract with the University of Alabama in Huntsville (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, at a rate not to exceed \$18,200 from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

Renewal of a contract with Delbert H. Hahn, MD, P.C. for professional interpretation of adult radiographs and professional support for radiology services with no funds involved from February 1, 2015 through January 31, 2018.

Renewal of a contract with the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (payor) whereby JCDH will produce and issue daily forecasts of particle pollution in Jefferson/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 for a rate not to exceed \$72,000 from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.

A new contract with the Lakeshore Foundation (payor) for JCDH to provide consultant services to Contractor for development of a Health Impact Assessment to inform decision makers regarding transportation options for mobility challenged individuals in order to access primary medical care that may be due to chronic medical conditions at a rate not to exceed \$12,000 from September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017.

An amendment to a subcontract between the Board of Trustees at the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payor) and JCDH for the "Birmingham REACH for Better Health" grant from CDC with \$10,222 carry forward funding and a total of \$70,222 from October 1, 2015 through September 29, 2016.

Write-Off Uncollectible Accounts

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, 2014 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 (\$174,000.00 or less) shall be available upon request for auditing and internal control purposes.

Health Officer Report

Deputy Health Officer

Dr. Wilson announced that Dr. David Hicks has officially been in the Deputy Health Officer position for the past couple of weeks. Dr. Hicks continues to cover his previous position as the Adult Health/Family Planning Medical Director until interviews take place at a later date.

Dr. Carolyn Dobbs will be assisting as an advisor with Dr. Hicks' transition, as well as completing several projects before her retirement.

Nurse Practitioner Residency

Dr. Wilson stated one of the projects Dr. Dobbs has been working on is the Nurse Practitioner Residency program. He informed the Board that the program will begin next month with three positions.

Opioid Addiction Update

Dr. Wilson has reviewed information from the Jefferson County Coroner's office and has learned that current annualized numbers indicate Jefferson County will continue to have another bad year for heroin/opioid overdose deaths.

Dr. Wilson reported he has been having promising discussions with community partners, including UAB and Cooper Green, about ways to expand access to treatment for opioid addiction.

Pills to Needles Summit 2.0: Building Solutions

Dr. Wilson announced that the Pills to Needles Summit 2.0: Building Solutions is scheduled on September 23, 2016, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Harbert Center in an effort to engage support for solutions to the overall problem.

Parks Rx

Dr. Wilson noted the lobby in the Guy Tate building now includes a kiosk for Parks Rx. As a result of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) REACH for Better Health grant, JCDH is beginning the Parks Rx program. JCDH physicians will be giving prescriptions to parks as a means for exercise. Zip codes entered on a website or the kiosk will locate parks, trails or green spaces in individuals' neighborhoods. JCDH is piloting the program.

Zika

Dr. Wilson stated JCDH continues to be in Incident Command System (ICS) to help manage planning and activities related to the Zika Virus. ADPH has designated Jefferson County as one of the counties that will be doing enhanced surveillance on individuals who have possible exposure or show only a few symptoms.

Mobile County Health Department (MCHD)

Dr. Wilson noted that JCDH has been collaborating on our services with MCHD and they will be visiting Birmingham at the end of September.

Medicaid Funding

Dr. Wilson stated Governor Robert Bentley has signed into law a bill that will give Medicaid \$120 million over the next two years. The money will come from a bond issue that will be backed by BP's payments to the state from a \$1 billion oil spill settlement.

Regional Care Organization (RCO) Grant

Dr. Wilson said JCDH plans to submit two grant proposals for the RCO grant opportunities. A preliminary application for the grants is due October 3, 2016 with the final grant selection later in next calendar year.

Health Action Partnership (HAP)

Dr. Wilson reported on work through the HAP looking at zip codes that included a lot of health disparities and hospital utilization. They were able to use UAB's data to determine which zip code was highest for the number of patients in the UAB Health System with uncontrolled hypertension combined with stroke or heart failure admissions. The group will be developing a plan to target that zip code with creative ways to screen and get people engaged with treatment. The JCDH Nurse Practitioner Residency program will create extra capacity for outreach and linkage to treatment.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Training

Dr. Wilson stated some JCDH staff will be participating in a CDC Thinking in Systems workshop at United Way of Central Alabama on September 21, 2016. The workshop is designed to introduce participants to the Thinking in Systems model, which examines the context around a public health challenge and helps participants identify and evaluate the impact of potential interventions, including policies, in improving community health. The group will be looking at the disparity in infant mortality rates.

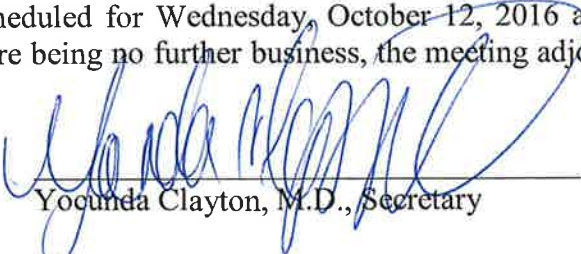
Potential Policy Ideas

Dr. Wilson suggested potential policy ideas for the Board of Health to consider:

1. Needle Exchange
2. To raise the legal age to purchase tobacco and nicotine products to 21.
3. Health equity
4. Infant mortality
5. Communal Living – Boarding Homes (potential revision to JCDH regulations)
6. Mobile sources of air pollution
7. Health Impact Assessment with Lakeshore Foundation

Dr. Wilson asked the Board to be thinking about these or any others they would like to add.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.



Yocunda Clayton, M.D., Secretary

Approved:



Max Michael, III, M.D., Chair