



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact Wanda Heard at (205) 930-1483  
wanda.heard@jcdh.org

### BOARD OF HEALTH APPOINTS JEFFERSON COUNTY'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH OFFICER

**Jefferson County, AL October 2, 2023** -- Today, Dr. David Hicks is officially appointed the 12<sup>th</sup> Health Officer of Jefferson County, replacing Dr. Mark Wilson, who served as Health Officer for the last twelve years. On Monday, October 2, 2023, at 10:00 am, the Jefferson County Department of Health will host a news conference to announce Dr. Hicks' appointment publicly. The news conference will be held at the Central Health Center at 1400 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South, in Conference Room A.

Historically, Dr. Hicks will be Jefferson County's first African American Health Officer. Dr. David Hicks is a board-certified family medicine physician and served as Deputy Health Officer at the Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH), overseeing clinical operations. Additionally, he served as Incident Commander for JCDH's COVID-19 response efforts. Before this role, he was the Medical Director of Adult Health & Family Planning. "Dr. David Hicks has been a valuable asset to the Jefferson County Department of Health for several years. He brings a wealth of experience to his new role as Health Officer, and I look forward to working with him to build on the Department's prior successes and to create new opportunities for growth and improvement for the Department and the citizens of Jefferson County," noted Dr. Iris Fancher, Chairwoman, Jefferson County Board of Health.

Before working at the health department, Dr. Hicks oversaw five clinic locations as Chief Medical Officer at Birmingham Health Care. He also has provided medical care in various settings, including urgent care clinics, correctional facilities, and an academic health system. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, Chairman of Alabama's STD Medical Advisory Council, and a member of Alabama's Rural Medical Service Awards Advisory Board. Dr. Hicks is a Leadership Birmingham graduate and a member of the Freshwater Land Trust Red Rock Committee, Kiwanis Club of Birmingham, and UAB School of Public Health's Community Engagement Council, respectively. In 2021, he received the NAACP Metro Birmingham Branch's Community Trailblazer Award. Dr. Hicks stated, "I thank God for putting me in a position to continue the legacy Dr. Wilson and the other remarkable Jefferson County Health Officers set forth. Our staff remains committed to our vision of a healthier Jefferson County for all by strengthening partnerships, engaging with communities, and promoting health equity."

Dr. Hicks earned a Master of Public Health degree in Behavioral and Community Health Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and was a National Institutes of Health Fogarty MIRT Program research trainee at the National University of Science and Technology in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. He later earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his Family Medicine residency at Christiana Care Health System and served as Chief Resident. Dr. Hicks is married, and he and his wife have three children. Dr. Hicks stated, "In my free time, I enjoy fishing, doing genealogy research, reading, and cheering on my favorite sports teams."

###

**About JCDH**

*The Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH) was established in 1917. JCDH serves as the primary resource for public health issues in Jefferson County. JCDH has three health centers strategically located throughout the county. JCDH is responsible for providing health care, preventing the spread of diseases, and protecting against outbreaks. JCDH provides outpatient health care for Jefferson County's underinsured and uninsured residents. JCDH health centers provide child health, dental health, family planning, immunizations, maternity care, nutrition (WIC), case management, and Medicaid enrollment. JCDH Disease Control Specialty Clinics include Tuberculosis, Sexual Health, and International Travel Clinics. Vital Records can be obtained for birth, death, or marriage events that occurred in the state of Alabama. Environmental Health Services is responsible for Air and Radiation, Food and Lodging, Community Assessment, and Community Environmental Protection. For additional information, please visit [www.jcdh.org](http://www.jcdh.org)*