



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.

5th Floor Board Room

PRESENT: Iris Fancher, MD, Jeffrey Dobyns, DO, Michele Kong, MD, Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, and Weily Soong, MD

ABSENT: Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

OTHERS

PRESENT: Jannese Covington, Kim Cason, Vincent Nathan, PhD, Allury Lal, MD, Bryn Manzella, Rodney Holmes, David Maxey, Esq., Senitra Blackburn, David Hicks, DO, and Terrie Hartley

Call to Order

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

Minutes

Minutes of the January 10, 2024 meeting were approved as distributed.

Food and Lodging Protection Division Update

Jannese Covington, MPH, Environmental Health Program Manager, provided an overview of the Food and Lodging Protection Division. Ms. Covington reported the Food and Lodging Division regulates the following type of establishments in Jefferson County:

- Retail Food Establishments (restaurants, grocery stores, food trucks);
- Childcare Centers (daycare centers, nursery schools);
- Lodging (hotels, motels, resorts, inns);
- Food Processors (wholesale food manufacturers, breweries);
- Communal Living (boarding and rooming homes); and
- Camps (summer camps, after school programs).

Ms. Covington explained the seven principles of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point and provided data on the number of food safety education classes provided, new permit plans reviewed, temporary food vendors, summer feeding programs, and retail program standards performed during 2023. Recent major projects include the 2019/2020 revision of JCDH Communal Living Regulations, 2022 participation in The World Games food protection operations, and the 2023 Magic City Classic project. Future projects include a Major League Baseball game at Rickwood Field and the World Police and Fire Games which will take place this summer in Birmingham.

January 2024 Financial Statements

Dr. Fancher stated the January 2024 Financial Statements were included in the Board materials. Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance and Administration, answered questions from the Board.

Contracts

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

A new contract with Tammy Howard (payee) to provide training and consultation for on-going projects to ensure JCDH is compliant with regulations impacting the management of health records at a rate of \$50 per hour; not to exceed \$18,000 from January 9, 2024, through June 30, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with Spain & Gillon, LLC (payee) to provide legal services to JCDH at a rate of \$160 to \$255 per hour for legal services, and \$95 per hour for paralegal services from March 1, 2024, to February 28, 2025.

An amendment to a contract with Health Resources in Action (payee) for a no cost extension for training and technical assistance for the Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program within partner hospital and community-based care management provider; not to exceed \$66,800 from August 1, 2022, through February 29, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with SHI-Software House International Corp. (payee) for Microsoft Unified Enterprise Support to provide expedited troubleshooting support for all JCDH Microsoft software; not to exceed \$143,938.20 from February 21, 2024, through February 20, 2025.

A new contract with C-Spire (payee) to provide fifty hours of technical support for JCDH phone service; not to exceed \$6,930 from January 3, 2024, through January 2, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) (payor) for a grant to enhance surveillance of resistant *N. gonorrhoea* in the United States and increase state and local capacity to detect and monitor resistant gonorrhoea; not to exceed \$7,000 from November 16, 2023, through July 31, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) for a sub-recipient funding for JCDH to participate in activities in partnership with ADPH in the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Overdose Date to Action state grant program; not to exceed \$783,624 from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024.

A new contract for the CDC to formalize the receipt of Overdose Date to Action local funding at a rate of \$1,557,500 per year for five years; not to exceed \$7,787,500 from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2028.

Health Officer Report

Report from State Health Officer – January 2024

Dr. Hicks presented to the Board for their information a summary report for the month of January 2024 from Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer, sent monthly to county Boards of Health describing actions taken by the State Committee of Public Health.

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Hicks relayed there have been media reports stating that the CDC plans to recommend that people who test positive for the coronavirus use clinical symptoms to determine when to end isolation rather than isolating at home for an initial five days. The Department is awaiting definitive guidance from the CDC and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH).

Privileging of Licensing Independent Practitioners

In accordance with the Board of Health Resolution authorizing the Health Officer to provide credentialing/privileging to Department practitioners, Dr. Hicks has approved initial privileging for the following practitioners:

- Zachary Greene, DMD (Dental Health); and
- Danielle Gershon, MD (Family Planning).

Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. Attorney General Advisory Opinion

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board of their 2019 approval of the Sustainable Industrial-Residential Buffers Fund to create green infrastructure buffer zones between industrial and residential areas. The Department received a funding request from Cawaco Resources Conservation & Development Council, Inc. (Cawaco) to create buffer zones. At the September 2023 meeting, the Board authorized its General Counsel to request that the Attorney General of the State of Alabama issue an advisory opinion as to whether the Board may sign an agreement in which the Board would donate funds to Cawaco, and its Cool Green Trees program, to create and maintain natural buffer zones to improve the quality of life and public health in Jefferson County.

The Attorney General has affirmed that the Board “may lawfully grant funds...if it finds that such grant of funds serves the public purpose of creating natural buffer zones between active and abandoned industrial sites and adjacent neighborhoods which will eliminate existing diseases, prevent the outbreak of further disease, or eliminate nuisances and insanitary condition. In making such a finding, the Board should give consideration to whether the expenditure confers a direct public benefit to a significant part of the public, as distinguished from a remote and theoretical benefit.”

Dr. Hicks stated that since the Board has already affirmed that the expenditure would confer a significant benefit to the public, the Department will proceed with reviewing the funding request.

Bluestone Coke Consent Decree Update

Dr. Hicks, Jonathan Stanton, Environmental Health Director, and Dr. Vincent Nathan, Health Equity Director, recently participated in a meeting of Birmingham neighborhood officers representing Harriman Park, Collegeville, and Fairmont. JCDH staff provided a status update of settlement funds received by the Department, reviewed examples of potential eligible environmental projects, and reviewed the obligation to receive public comment on the use of the

funds. The neighborhood leaders are planning to hold a townhall meeting to solicit feedback from those living in their respective neighborhoods.

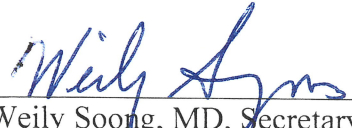
Health Policy Update

Dr. Hicks informed the Board the following bills have been introduced in the State legislature:


- HB-9 – This bill would prohibit governmental entities and the State Health Officer from imposing any face mask mandates to prevent the spread of COVID-19 or any other communicable disease.
- HB-126 – This bill would require that firefighters and emergency medical services personnel undergo annual training on interacting with individuals with sensory needs. ADPH would collaborate with a nonprofit entity that provides training on individuals with sensory needs or invisible disabilities to administer the training.
- HB-77 – This bill would require the State Board of Health to add any condition on the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP). The RUSP is a list of disorders that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services recommends for states to screen as part of their state universal newborn screening programs.
- HB-143 – The bill would require the State Health Officer to gain approval by the Governor before certain emergency rules, orders, or directives related to disease outbreak become effective.
- SB-74 – The bill, in part, would enable the Governor to appoint the State Health Officer.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room.

After the meeting adjourned, Dr. Hicks introduced the Department's new Deputy Health Officer, Dr. Allury Lal.


Weily Soong, MD, Secretary

Approved:


Iris Fancher, MD, Chair