



**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Wednesday, May 8, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**5<sup>th</sup> 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:** David Hicks, DO, Jonathan Stanton, Vincent Nathan, PhD, Kim Cason, Bryn Manzella, David Maxey, Esq., and Terrie Hartley

**Call to Order**

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

**Minutes**

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

**Contracts**

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

An amendment to a bid contract with WE Public Health, LLC (payee) to extend the terms of agreement for completion of a Jefferson County healthcare ecosystem landscape scan and analysis per JCDH Strategic Plan per RFP #24-10-01; not to exceed \$80,280 from December 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with Brentwood Service, Inc. (payee) for on-the-job injury claims administration and loss control services; not to exceed \$9,000 from February 1, 2024, through January 31, 2027.

Renewal of a contract with Lehr, Middlebrooks, Vreeland, and Thompson, P.C. (payee) who will provide employment law legal services at a rate of \$425 to \$465 per hour for legal services and \$150 for paralegal services, from December 6, 2023, through December 6, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Daphne C. Ballard (payee) to provide telephone and in-person support to breastfeeding Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants at a rate of \$13.50 per hour; not to exceed \$22,000 from April 1, 2024, through April 1, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with Alaysia Gurley (payee) to provide telephone and in-person support to breastfeeding WIC participants at a rate of \$13.50 per hour; not to exceed \$22,000 from May 1, 2024, through May 1, 2025.

An amendment to a contract with Phreesia, Inc. (payee) for the addition of Phreesia PadX application to two iPads to be used for the Family Planning mobile unit; not to exceed an additional \$40 per month from March 1, 2024, through ongoing.

Renewal of a contract with Muck Rack, LLC (payee) to provide access to broadcasts from the U.S. market and provide online web-based applications and services to assist with tracking all JCDH public relations, communications, and media coverage; not to exceed \$15,000 from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Dr. Turnipseed asked if these services could be provided in-house. Dr. Hicks said the contractor has extensive resources which are unavailable to JCDH.

A new contract with Fast Forward, LLC d/b/a Explore Media (payee) to create a robust monkeypox (Mpox) vaccination campaign using geo-targeted public health advertising services per RFP #24-03-04; not to exceed \$135,000 from April 1, 2024, through May 31, 2024.

A new contract with Central Pride of Alabama (payee) for JCDH to provide education and promote pre-exposure prophylaxis (PreP), sexually transmitted infections, clinic service information, and provide Narcan kits and training during Pridefest on June 1, 2024; not to exceed \$10,000.

An amendment to a contract with United Way of Central Alabama (payee) to extend terms of the agreement to provide Jefferson County residents with access to 2-1-2 call center for referrals and support for persons impacted by COVID-19; not to exceed \$2,000,000 from July 22, 2021, through April 30, 2026. Dr. Hicks said these funds are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Epidemiological and Laboratory Capacity grant and not from the Department's general fund balance and must be used specifically for COVID-19 testing and does not include vaccination. Dr. Kong asked if the grant would allow for more community services to be provided within the set parameters. Dr. Hicks will check with the Medical Director of Disease Control to see if there are other ways to use the grant funds.

Renewal of a contract with All Traffic Solutions (payee) for annual messaging software for twelve digital signs; not to exceed \$10,488 from May 27, 2024, through May 27, 2025.

A new contract with Eastern Research Group (payee) to provide filter analysis for the Environmental Protection Agency Wylam study; not to exceed \$40,680 from January 11, 2024, through January 11, 2025.

A new bid contract with Armor Pest Control, LLC (payee) to provide pest control services to JCDH per bid #24-03-05; not to exceed \$16,764 from April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2027.

Renewal of a contract with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) to cover the ongoing curriculum development for ALAHOPE under the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) state grant program; not to exceed \$35,000 from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024.

Renewal of a contract with Laura McNeil (payee) who will provide instructional design services using opioid curriculum content provided by JCDH contractors to design and produce an integrated, multimedia learning under the OD2A work-plan; not to exceed \$15,000 from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024.

A new contract with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (payor) for a one-time Inflation Recovery Act award for air monitoring activities; not to exceed \$613,000 from May 1, 2024, through September 30, 2028.

A new contract with Environmental Engineering and Measurement Services, Inc. (payor) to provide preventative maintenance on monitoring site, including data review, installation of new equipment and training of monitoring staff; not to exceed \$407,640 from April 8, 2024, through April 8, 2026.

**Gun Violence as a Public Health Problem**

Dr. Hicks informed the Board the undermentioned resolution is tied to a goal in the JCDH 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. He stated Jefferson County Sheriff, Mark Pettway, reached out to him and would like JCDH to partner with the Sheriff's Office in promoting child gun safety and education. The initiative would include distributing gun safety locks, procured by the Sheriff's Office, throughout the county. There could be a need for the Department to purchase safety locks at a cost of \$3.00-\$10.00 each. Vincent Nathan, PhD, Health Equity Director, provided information from a meeting he attended at the Sheriff's Office last week about this initiative. A news conference and public relations campaign kickoff is planned for May 24, 2024. The theme is "Safe for Me-Locks for Them."

After discussion, Dr. Soong requested that Dr. Hicks ensure there is a mechanism in place to track the effectiveness of this initiative.

On the motion of Dr. Turnipseed, and seconded by Dr. Dobyms, the following resolution was approved.

**WHEREAS**, the Board, the Department, and the Health Officer are responsible under Alabama Code §§ 22-3-1-5 to exercise supervision over the sanitary conditions and public health conditions in Jefferson County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department's 2017-2021 Strategic Plan included an Objective to "establish a strategy for JCDH to address the problem of violence in Jefferson County;" and

**WHEREAS**, on April 13, 2022, the Jefferson County Board of Health authorized the disbursement of Jefferson County Department of Health funds as specified above to the Jefferson County Public Health Fund of The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham (Advised Fund) for funding of a hospital-linked violence intervention program in Jefferson County to further the Board's public health work in Jefferson County; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 12, 2023, the Jefferson County Board of Health and the City of Birmingham, Alabama, entered into an agreement to implement a hospital-based and hospital-linked violence intervention program to reduce gun violence and further the Board's public health work in Jefferson County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan includes a Goal to "Engage and collaborate with community members and organizational partners to facilitate and communicate equitable improvements to health and well-being throughout Jefferson County"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH) is committed to the safety and well-being of all its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the JCDH recognizes the importance of responsible gun ownership and the role it plays in preventing accidental injuries and fatalities; and

**WHEREAS**, as of April 21, 2024, at least 42 persons in Jefferson County have died as a result of gun violence, as reported at <https://gunmemorial.org/AL/birmingham> (“Fatal Shootings in Birmingham, Alabama—Real people, not just statistics”); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to his statutory authority (including Alabama Code section 22-3-5(11)), the County Health Officer has identified gun violence as a hazard to public health and recommends the distribution of gun locks free of charge to the residents of Jefferson County as an appropriate control measure to reduce loss of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board agrees that providing free gun locks to community members is a proactive step towards enhancing public safety and promoting responsible gun storage.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Jefferson County Board of Health declares gun violence as a public health problem.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the JCDH, through its Health Officer, will collaborate with local organizations, stakeholders, and community leaders to ensure the successful implementation of this program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Jefferson County Board of Health authorizes the use of Jefferson County Department of Health funds to provide and distribute gun locks free of charge to the residents of Jefferson County as part of its ongoing commitment to community health and safety; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, signifying the JCDH's dedication to fostering a safe and healthy environment for all.

### **Health Officer Report**

#### **Air Pollution Control Program Updates**

Dr. Hicks reported that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lowered the national ambient air quality standard for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) from a level of twelve micrograms per cubic meter to nine micrograms per cubic meter. Retrospectively using the new threshold, Jefferson County would have still been in attainment from 2020–2022. Dr. Hicks stated that it takes at least a year to have our data validated by the EPA. Sources of PM<sub>2.5</sub> include dust, dirt, soot, and smoke. Dr. Hicks noted there is a background PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration in ambient air representing contributions from natural sources, non-industrial human activities, and distant industrial facilities.

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that a Local Program Case Study about the Department’s school air sensor program was published in The Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies’ (AAPCA) State Air Trends & Successes 2024 Report. The AAPCA is a national non-profit organization that is an affiliate of The Council of State Governments.

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board of the Public Input Session to be held on May 31, 2024, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the Jefferson County Department of Health’s Guy M. Tate Building, to give the public the opportunity to comment on the proposed use of a portion of the Bluestone Coke settlement funds.

#### **Major League Baseball (MLB) at Rickwood Field Events**

Dr. Hicks informed the Board the Department will be assisting with environmental and disease surveillance activities for the MLB at Rickwood Field events later this summer. He noted The World Games 2022 Food Safety and Security Team, of which JCDH staff were members of, received a U.S.

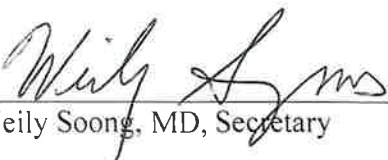
Food & Drug Administration’s Group Recognition Award “for successful collaboration between local, state, and federal partners in providing outstanding food safety and defense measures”. JCDH staff will play a similar role for the MLB at Rickwood Field events as was done during The World Games.

**Health Policy Update**

Dr. Hicks updated the Board on the status of the following bills introduced in the State legislature:

- HB-77 – This bill requires the State Board of Health to add any condition on the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP). The bill has been signed by the Governor.
- HB-126 – This bill requires 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. This has been signed by the Governor.
- HB-165 – The bill would require written consent from a parent or legal guardian for a minor to receive vaccinations. This has passed in the House of Representatives and is awaiting a vote in the Senate.
- HB-195 – This bill would require sex education and human reproductive system curriculum and programs to teach sexual risk avoidance and encourage abstinence from sexual activity; prohibit the promotion of abortions or any sexual activity in sex education or human reproductive systems curriculum; prohibit demonstrations of contraceptives in sex education or in human reproductive systems curriculum; authorize parents or guardians to opt their child out of sexual education or human reproductive system curriculum or programs. This has passed in the House of Representatives and is awaiting a vote in the Senate.
- SB-37 – This bill would prohibit smoking of electronic nicotine delivery systems in public areas. This has passed in the Senate and is awaiting a vote in the House of Representatives.
- SB-59 – This bill requires hands-on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator use instruction for high school students. This has been signed by the Governor.
- SB-128 – The bill abolishes the State Board of Health and confer all duties and authorities provided by law to the State Committee of Public Health; revises the membership of the State Committee of Public Health; provides minimum qualifications for the State Health Officer; provides a mechanism to review and discipline certain actions taken by the State Health Officer. This has been signed by the Governor.
- SB-246 – This bill would clarify that a parent or guardian’s written declaration is sufficient documentation to exempt a child from a vaccine requirement for religious reasons; provide that a student may be exempt from vaccination or disease testing for medical or religious reasons. This bill has passed in the Senate and is in Committee in the House of Representatives.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room.

  
Weily Soong, MD, Secretary

Approved:

  
Iris Fancher, MD, Chair