



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, October 9, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.
5th Floor Board Room

Present: Iris Fancher, MD, Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

Absent: Jeffrey Dobyns, DO, Michele Kong, MD, and Weily Soong, MD

Others Present: Rodney Holmes, Loretta Hicks, David Hicks, DO, David Maxey, Esq., Bryn Manzella, Kim Bullock, Allury Lal, MD, Senitra Blackburn, Terrie Hartley, Rusha Smith, Carolyn Buck, Jeannie Jackson, and Tom Thagard

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Fancher, Chair. Dr. Fancher noted that a quorum was not present for the Board of Health to conduct official business.

Health Officer Report

Healthcare Ecosystem Landscape Analysis Update

Dr. Hicks briefed the Board on the results of the recent landscape analysis of the outpatient healthcare ecosystem in the county. Based on recommendations from the consultant the Executive Management Team recommends the following:

- Expansion of the Department's footprint in higher-risk communities with intentional engagement;
- Enhancement in coordination of services to address the social determinants of health;
- Working with partners to address behavioral and mental health needs;
- Ensuring efficient use of taxpayer funds with improved clinic operations with new performance standards and goals and active exploration of partnerships to ensure access to health care in Department facilities.

Dr. Hicks held staff meetings to review the report and solicit feedback. Dr. Turnipseed requested that a copy of the report be sent to Board members. Dr. Hicks stated he will keep the Board abreast of implementation plans.

Amended Alabama Law Related to Seafood Products

Dr. Hicks notified the Board that the Department is currently evaluating the implications for food regulation compliance of the newly amended law (Act No. 2024-339) related to requirements of certain food service establishments to notify consumers of the country of origin or importation status of seafood products.

Acting Health Officer Notification

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that he will be on vacation starting the end of this week and Dr. Allury Lal, Deputy Health Officer, will serve as Acting Health Officer October 11–18, 2024.

August Financial Statements

Dr. Fancher stated the August Financial Statements were included in the Board material. Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance and Administration provided a brief review of the August Financial Statements. There were no questions from the Board.

Freshwater Land Trust

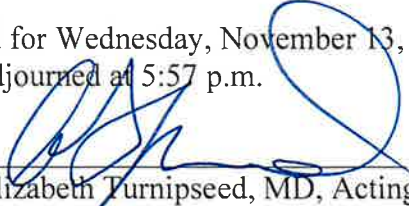
Jeanne Jackson, Board Chair, Rusha Smith, Executive Director, Tom Thagard, Immediate Past Chair of the Freshwater Land Trust (FLT), and Carolyn Buck, Red Rock Trail System Director expressed their appreciation to the Department and the Board of Health for contributions and support of the Freshwater Land Trust and Red Rock Trail System.


Rusha Smith provided an overview of the FLT. Freshwater Land Trust conserves, connects, and cares for land and water in Central Alabama, creating dynamic green spaces for future generations. The Freshwater Land Trust was founded in 1996 with three main concentrations: conservation, stewardship, and outdoor recreation. Ms. Smith said FLT is applying for an Environmental Protection Agency grant in November to transition from Project Litter Gitter to an anti-litter program to include education.

Carolyn Buck provided an overview and updates of the Red Rock Trail System which is a network of proposed and existing trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks connecting Jefferson County with a goal to connect every resident to a green space within one mile of their home. Ms. Buck said the Red Rock Trail System original plan was funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) “Communities Putting Prevention to Work” grant and was championed by the JCDH and FLT. The trail was designed to encourage more active lifestyles to combat prevalent and preventable diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension. She said there are 129 miles of trails on ground, with new trails opening every year. There are estimated over 2.5 million users every year. Ms. Buck shared the Red Rock Trail System Action Plan and Goals. She stated JCDH to date has invested a little over \$3 million towards FLT trail and conservation projects, has supported fifteen FLT projects, and FLT has completed thirteen of the fifteen projects within five years. FLT estimates that the Department’s financial support has yielded a nearly 42% return on investment given additional local and federal contributions.

Dr. Fancher thanked the group for providing updates on the Red Rock Trail System and the FLT and for the work they are doing in Jefferson County.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.


Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, Acting Secretary

Approved:

Iris Fancher, MD, Chair