



**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Wednesday, December 11, 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 Maxey, Esq., Kim Cason, Allury Lal, MD, Kim Bullock, Bryn Manzella, David Hicks, DO, Rodney Holmes, Senitra Blackburn, and Terrie Hartley

**Call to Order**

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

Minutes of the November 13, 2024 meeting were approved as distributed.

**November 2024 Financial Statements**

Dr. Fancher noted the November 2024 Financial Statements were emailed to the Board prior to the meeting and a copy is included in the Board material. There were no questions from the Board.

**Contracts**

Dr. Kong asked for clarification of the professional services bid process. Dr. Hicks explained the process for bids and noted stipulations based on the contract amount and type of service.

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

An amendment to a contract with Blankenship and Seay Consulting Group, Inc. (payee) to provide an organizational and operations assessment per RFP #24-08-19. The Amendment is for additional data collection and extension of the contract terms; not to exceed \$34,000 from August 28, 2024, through January 3, 2025.

An amendment to a contract with CareFusion Solutions, LLC (payee) for automated medication/vaccine management system to control inventory for the Department's mobile unit. The Amendment is to add additional services at \$588 per month; not to exceed \$7,200 from October 2, 2024, from October 2, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with Access Information Management of Georgia (payee) for leased space for storage of paper health records, Environmental Health records, and assistance with paper records as needed; not to exceed \$29,999 for storage from June 30, 2024, through June 29, 2029.

A new contract with Rocky Heights Print & Binding (payee) for printing of one thousand stormwater themed calendars to be used for public outreach; not to exceed \$2,795 from November 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

A new contract with Consolidated Analytical Systems, Inc. (payee) to provide Air Photochemical Assessment Monitoring System (PAMS) annual, calibration and maintenance services; not to exceed \$56,914 from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2027.

A new bid contract with Eastern Research Group (payee) to provide Carbonyl analysis, sample certification, auto-GC standards, and recertification of cylinders per intent to bid (ITB) 20-08-20; not to exceed \$80,736 from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with the University of Alabama in Huntsville (payee) to continue to provide ongoing operational maintenance and upgrades for the Birmingham Air Quality website, which provides real-time air quality monitoring data for Birmingham; not to exceed \$18,200 from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

A new contract with New Solution Group, Inc. (payee) to remove and replace fence with extension, extend gravel pad including crossties and packing of gravel, and removal of existing building for the Tarrant air monitor site prep; not to exceed \$6,750 from November 21, 2024, through November 21, 2025.

A new contract with Counter Threat Group (payee) for contractor to conduct security assessments for the Department; not to exceed \$26,500 from December 2, 2024, through March 2, 2025. Dr. Hicks noted the contractor will conduct a security assessment of JCDH facilities to determine if physical security enhancements are needed.

A new contract with the Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton Foundation (payee) to provide planning preparation, and training activities for the Empowering Faith Leaders Program in Jefferson County; not to exceed \$300,000 from September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025.

A new contract with Publix Supermarkets (payee) for JCDH to reimburse Publix Pharmacies \$35 for each “free” naloxone given at each Jefferson County store location to individuals in a position to assist an individual at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose; not to exceed \$30,000 from October 31, 2024, through March 31, 2025. Dr. Hicks stated the program started in two locations with plans to expand to all seventeen. Dr. Soong requested to know which locations are distributing the most naloxone.

Renewal of a contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) for coverage of the ongoing curriculum development for ALAHOPE under the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) state grant program; not to exceed \$35,000 from September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with Software House International Corporation (payee) for Microsoft true-up order for Enterprise enrollment for Microsoft volume licensing for Microsoft 365; not to exceed \$358,906.52 from December 1, 2024, through November 30, 2025.

A new contract with C-Spire (payee) for Cisco support for phone system hardware as well as software support for phone system software platform; not to exceed \$228,004.28 from November 1, 2024, through October 31, 2027.

A new contract with the Children's Hospital of Alabama to provide access to limited data set for use in project related to firearm-related injuries among Jefferson County residents with no exchange of funds from September 1, 2024, through indefinitely.

**Appointment of Rabies Officer**

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that the current Rabies Officer, Susan Parsons, DVM, requested reappointment for 2025. The request letter from Dr. Parsons was included in the Board material.

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

WHEREAS, The Board, as a county board of health, is required to nominate and appoint a licensed veterinarian to serve as Rabies Officer for the county pursuant to section 3-7A-11(a) of the Alabama Code to serve a term expiring on December 31 of the appointment year but with eligibility for reappointment for succeeding year(s); and

WHEREAS, Susan Parsons, DVM, submitted a request for appointment as Rabies Officer of Jefferson County Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, the Board, having carefully considered the qualifications and application of Susan Parsons, DVM, and finding her to meet the requirements for the position and displaying the desire to serve the public health needs of Jefferson County, Alabama in this capacity:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Susan Parsons, DVM, be appointed as the Rabies Officer of Jefferson County Department of Health for the year 2025; said appointment subject to approval of the State Health Officer and the State Veterinarian per section 3-7A-11(a) of the Code of Alabama.

**Election of 2025 Officers**

Dr. Kong was elected as Chair of the Board. Dr. Turnipseed was named to serve on the General Liability Claims & Investment Committee. The new Board of Health member elected by the Jefferson County Medical Society, Dr. Andre' McShan, will serve as Secretary.

The Board unanimously approved the election of the officers for 2025.

**Board of Health Self-Evaluation**

Bryn Manzella, MPH, Quality Improvement Officer, asked the Board members to complete the evaluations included in their meeting material. An electronic version of the survey was also provided in the Board materials prior to the meeting. Ms. Manzella encouraged the Board to complete the survey by December 20, 2024.

## **Health Officer Report**

### ***Report from State Health Officer – November 2024***

Dr. Hicks presented to the Board for their information a summary report for the month of November 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. Dr. Kong inquired about infant mortality rates and requested a report be done to display the trend in infant mortality as compared to the dates when Department-supported programs have been implemented. Dr. Turnipseed stated the importance of data analysis to demonstrate the effectiveness of programs.

### ***Reportable Diseases Update***

Dr. Hicks provided an update on increased pertussis activity in the county. As of the end of last week, there have been thirty-five confirmed cases of confirmed or probable pertussis. Most of the cases are associated with outbreaks in two high schools. There are a few other cases in various K-12 schools throughout the county. School nurses have been given controls measures to provide to students at increased risk.

Hospital visits for influenza-like and COVID-19-like illnesses, respectively, have steadily increased over the past few weeks above baseline. Dr. Hicks showed the Board the weekly influenza report that includes surveillance data. Dr. Soong asked if the report is available on the Department's website and Dr. Hicks confirmed that it is.

### ***Bluestone Coke Consent Decree Update***

Dr. Hicks recently participated in a meeting that included government officials and neighborhood leaders to review the public input on how the Bluestone Coke Settlement Funds should be spent. There was a consensus from the neighborhood officers to equally divide the funds between the three neighborhoods (Fairmont, Colledgeville, and Harriman Park). Walking trails and community gardens have been proposed as potential projects. They discussed Birmingham Land Bank Authority properties that potentially could be acquired for the projects. There will continue to be ongoing discussions to discuss the next steps.

### ***Air Quality Monitoring Data Influenced by Exceptional Events***

Dr. Hicks explained that per the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, "exceptional events are unusual or naturally occurring events that can affect air quality but are not reasonably controllable using techniques that tribal, state or local air agencies may implement in order to attain and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Exceptional events may include wildfires, high wind dust events, prescribed fires, stratospheric ozone intrusions, and volcanic and seismic activities." The Department has noted twenty-two exceptional events during the 2021–2023 time period that should be excluded from the NAAQS determination. Without this exclusion, Jefferson County would be in non-attainment status for fine particulate matter. Due to limited staff capacity, the Department will be procuring contract services to complete the Exceptional Events Demonstration documentation to be submitted by January 2025.

### **Recognition of Jeffrey Dobyms, DO**

Dr. Hicks presented Dr. Dobyms with a plaque and expressed his gratitude for Dr. Dobyms serving on the Board from 2021–2024.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

  
Weily Soong, MD, Secretary

Approved:

  
Iris Fancher, MD, Chair