



## **JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**Wednesday, February 12, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.**

**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room**

**Present:** Iris Fancher, MD, Michele Kong, MD, Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, Weily Soong, MD, and Andre' McShan, MD

**Absent:** Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

**Others Present:** David Maxey, Esq., David Hicks, DO, Kim Cason, Senitra Blackburn, Rodney Holmes, Loretta Hicks, Kim Bullock, Wesley Willeford, MD, Terrie Hartley, and Bryn Manzella

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the January 8, 2025 meeting were approved as distributed.

### **January 2025 Financial Statements**

Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance and Administration, reviewed the January 2025 Financial Statements and reminded the Board he presents a financial review once per quarter and the monthly financial statements are emailed to the Board each month with the Board material.

### **Contracts**

On the motion of Dr. Soong, and seconded by Dr. McShan, the following contracts were approved:

Renewal of a contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) to establish an agreement with General Internal Medicine & Population Science for a UAB physician to provide clinical care to JCDH Metabolic Disorder Adolescent Health Program; not to exceed \$31,535 from November 2, 2024, through October 31, 2027. This contract replaces previous version approved November 2024.

Renewal of a contract with U.S. Geological Survey (payee) for the operation of water quality monitoring station at Cahaba River at Whites Chapel and Shades Creek at Elder Creek, water quality monitor and streamflow monitors at Cahaba River near Mountain Brook and Shades Creek near Homewood, and a streamflow monitor at Valley Creek below Brighton; not to exceed \$78,715 from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

A new contract with Advanced Electrical, LLC (payee) to provide and install utility pole, install existing service entrance to pole, and install service feeder from service entrance to building

at Tarrant air monitoring building; not to exceed \$5,311.53 from November 26, 2024, through November 26, 2025.

A new contract with Sonoma Technology, Inc. (payee) for monthly photochemical assessment monitoring stations data validation, technical support, air quality system ready data set and upload per intent to bid (ITB) #24-08-20; not to exceed \$159,100 from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2027. In response to a question from a Board member, Dr. Hicks will consult with the Environmental Health Director to find out if this contractor has been used in prior years.

A new contract with Whitely and Whitely (payee) for the demolition of air monitoring sites; not to exceed \$11,500 from December 23, 2024, through June 23, 2025.

Renewal of a bid contract with Bagby Elevator Company, Inc. (payee) to provide elevator maintenance and repair services to JCDH facilities per bid #25-11-03; not to exceed \$77,712 from February 10, 2025, through February 9, 2028.

A new contract with Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, LLC (payee) for audit of 2024 financial statements at a rate not to exceed \$99,275 from November 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with Spain & Gillon, LLC (payee) to provide legal services, including legal advice and representation, consultation, document preparation, defense of litigation, and other services as requested by the Board and its Health Officer for an amount not to exceed \$160–\$260 per hour for legal services and \$100 per hour for paralegal from March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham (payee) for management of the JCDH Public Health Advised Fund and perform duties outlined in the work plan; not to exceed \$1.0–0.25% of fund balance in the Public Health Community Projects Fund from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027.

Renewal of a contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) to provide staff with appropriate expertise to complete the research and development of the remaining planned ALAHOPE courses on the appropriate prescribing and dispensing of addictive substances, diagnosis and management of addiction, and treatment of acute and chronic pain; not to exceed \$35,000 from September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) (payee) for use of opioid settlements funds to provide for bridge buprenorphine vouchers for patients presenting to the UAB Emergency Department needing treatment for substance use disorder; not to exceed \$72,000 from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2027.

Renewal of a contract with Laura McNeill, PhD (payee) to provide instructional design services using opioid curriculum content provided by JCDH contractors, to design and produce an integrated, multimedia learning under the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) work plan; not to exceed \$15,000 from September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Bureau of Family Services (payor) to establish an agreement between ADPH and JCDH for a supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) in Jefferson County; not to exceed \$2,961,247 from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health (payor) for the purchase of non-surgical contraceptives to reduce unintended births among eligible low-income women of child-bearing age; not to exceed \$27,232 from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

A new contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health Center for Emergency Preparedness (payor) for contractor to provide grant funds for JCDH All Hazards at the local level; not to exceed \$608,042 from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

### **Disease Control Division Updates**

Wesley Willeford, MD, MPH, Medical Director of Disease Control presented an overview of the Disease Control/Specialty Clinic. Disease Control is composed of Sexually Transmitted Disease Program, Tuberculosis (TB) Program, Prevention and Epidemiology Program, and Specialty Clinic (comprised of Sexual Health Clinic, TB Clinic, Community Vaccine/Travel Clinic). Dr. Willeford reported that Prevention and Epidemiology Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) investigated 797 disease-specific reports of notifiable conditions, 45 foodborne illness complaints/reports, 49 respiratory illness complaints/reports, and 31 other outbreaks. He noted Prevention and Epidemiology staff engaged with 2,343 community members across 17 community events in 2024.

Sexually Transmitted Disease DIS performs, among other tasks, case investigation and contact tracing for HIV, syphilis, and select cases of gonorrhea. In 2024 Specialty Clinic staff performed 20,890 visits, 13,840 unique patient visits, and 155 visits for Doxycycline-post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). He stated the Sexual Health Clinic focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections with a focus on treating initial issues and looking to future preventative strategies for each patient. Staff in the Specialty Clinic provides consultation, diagnosis, and treatment for active and latent TB, directly observed therapy, x-ray services, and TB testing, including TB skin tests for Jefferson County residents. The Specialty Clinic also provides a variety of vaccine such as hepatitis A and B, inactive polio, MMR, meningococcal A, C, Y, meningococcal B, pneumococcal 23, tetanus, TdAP, varicella, HIB, and rabies. The Community Vaccine/Travel Clinic serves patients who are planning international travel. In addition to commonly administered adult immunizations necessary for travel, travel-specific vaccines include yellow fever, typhoid, and Japanese encephalitis.

### **Health Officer Report**

#### ***Report from State Health Officer – January 2025***

Dr. Hicks presented to the Board for their information, a summary report for January 2025, from Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer, sent monthly to county Boards of Health describing actions taken by the State Committee of Public Health.

#### ***Federal Pause of Federal Financial Disbursements***

On January 28, 2025, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a directive to all federal agencies to temporarily pause the release of federal grants, loans, and other types of

federal financial assistance. A federal judge temporarily blocked part of this directive, and the OMB rescinded the directive. The Department is continuing all grant-related activities. The Board discussed the potential impact on JCDH programs if federal financial assistance is halted in the future.

### ***Health Policy Update***

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that he traveled to Montgomery last week to meet with some members of the Jefferson County legislative delegation. He also reported that ADPH's governmental affairs division has convened bi-weekly legislative update calls that he participates in.

He updated the Board of the following bills which have been introduced in the State legislature:

- HB-2 – The bill would require written consent from a parent or legal guardian for a minor to receive vaccinations.
- HB-89 – This bill provides presumptive Medicaid eligibility to pregnant women.
- SB-101 – This bill would require a minor to be at least 18 years of age to consent to medical, dental, and mental health services.

### ***Investigating Potential Adverse Events After Ceftriaxone Injections***

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) is investigating reports of potential adverse events after injections of ceftriaxone that have occurred in the last few months in Alabama. Persons investigated have had a variety of comorbid conditions and no specific causal link between ceftriaxone and these reactions has been identified at this time. Some of the cases reviewed have had signs and symptoms compatible with anaphylactic reaction, including hives, pruritis, hypotension, and hypoxia, which have been successfully treated with measures for anaphylaxis. At this time, no causal link has been found, but ADPH is continuing to review any additional reports. There are no known cases in Jefferson County residents.

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

Jefferson County is experiencing a second peak of influenza-like illness (mainly influenza A). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Health Alert Network Health Advisory to clinicians and laboratories due to sporadic human infections with avian influenza A (H5N1) viruses amid high levels of seasonal influenza activity. CDC has recommended expediting subtyping of all influenza A specimens among hospitalized patients and increasing efforts at clinical laboratories to identify non-seasonal influenza. There are no known human cases in Alabama.

### ***FDA Ban of Red Dye No. 3***

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has officially banned Red Dye No. 3, a common color additive, from the nation's food supply, due to its association with an increased cancer risk in animals and possibly humans. It has also been linked to neurological problems in children, such as concentration and hyperactivity issues. The FDA has stated that exposure levels for humans are typically much lower than those that cause the effects shown in male rats. Manufacturers who use Red Dye No. 3 in food will have until January 15, 2027, to change their products, while those who use the dye in drugs will have until January 18, 2028.

### ***Infant Mortality***

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that ADPH recently announced the 2023 Alabama infant mortality rate was 7.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, an increase from the 76.7 rate in 2022. Jefferson County's infant mortality rate increased from 9.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022 to 10.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2023. There remains a disparity in the rates based on race with Blacks having a disproportionately higher rate (15.2) as compared to the rate in Whites (6.3). The leading causes of death are congenital malformations, low birth weight, and sudden infant death syndrome. Dr. Hicks reminded the Board of programs directly supported by the Department (i.e., From Day One, Nurse-Family Partnership), that aim to address birth outcomes and reviewed trends in the infant mortality since those programs commenced. Recent reports by the Nurse-Family Partnership suggest that economic hardship and mental health concerns are challenges that their clients face. Dr. Turnipseed would like the Board to have continued discussion about the Department's strategy to improve infant mortality.

### ***Air Quality Monitoring Data Exceptional Events Update***

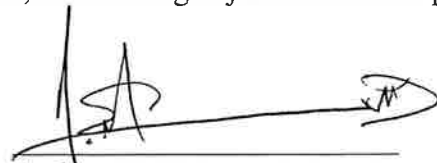
Dr. Hicks notified the Board that the Department has submitted to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) exceptional events (e.g., wildfires, prescribed fires) to be excluded from the National Ambient Air Quality Standards determination. ADEM will subsequently submit documentation to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

### ***Strategic Plan Updates***

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that he will be meeting with local healthcare leaders to review the results of the healthcare ecosystem landscape analysis and discuss a plan of action related to improving healthcare access on February 28, 2025.

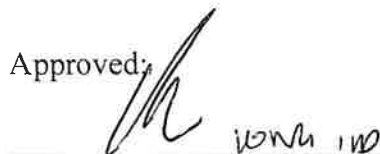
The Department recently received an organizational assessment report from a consultant with recommendation on organization restructuring and leadership development. The recommendations are still under internal review. Dr. Hicks is recommending that the consultant be retained to assist the Department in change management. The Board requested that Dr. Hicks send them a copy of the consultant's report.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.



Andre' McShan, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Michele Kong, MD, Chair