



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.

5th Floor Board Room

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

Absent: Michele Kong, MD, and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

Others Present: David Maxey, Esq., Rodney Holmes, Jonathan Stanton, Bryn Manzella, Kim Cason, Allury Lal, MD, Senitra Blackburn, David Hicks, DO, Kim Bullock, and Terrie Hartley

February 2025 Financial Statements

Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance and Administration, reviewed the February 2025 Financial Statements. There were no questions from the Board.

Health Officer Report

Report from State Health Officer – February 2025

Dr. Hicks presented to the Board for their information, a summary report for the month of February 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.

Reportable Diseases Update

Jefferson County has seen a significant decrease in influenza-like illness (mainly influenza A) in the county as reported by sentinel (i.e., outpatient) providers. A similar trend has been seen in the percentage of hospital visits for influenza-like illness.

This past month, there was a 16 percent increase in reported cases of COVID-19 in the county. We are currently experiencing a moderate level of transmission defined as 10 to 49 new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days. This is slightly above baseline.

Gun Violence Prevention Update

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that there are 99 active clients in the Violence Intervention & Prevention Partners (VIP²) program that is financially and administratively supported by the Department. This hospital-linked violence intervention program is a collaboration with University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Division of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery and the City of Birmingham. There have been 149 total clients served. The City of Birmingham is supporting an effort to provide some of the same services to clients of the UAB Emergency Department. Our

department is not directly involved in that effort. Bryn Manzella, MPH, Quality Improvement Director reviewed outcomes data for the VIP² program.

Dr. Hicks reminded the Board of the partnership with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, called Project ChildSafe, to promote firearm safety by providing free gun locks and education during the past summer. JCDH staff distributed 318 gun locks through our health centers and community events. Preliminary data analysis indicates that Jefferson County ZIP codes receiving gun locks may statistically have been less likely to have children injured by a firearm. The Sheriff's Office would like to resume the partnership by targeting the highest risk areas in the county.

Call to Order

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Dr. Fancher announced that in the absence of Dr. Kong, Board Chair, she was asked to serve as Chair Pro Tempore. On the motion of Dr. McShan, and seconded by Dr. Turnipseed, Dr. Fancher was approved to serve as Chair Pro Tempore for this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Fancher, Chair Pro Tempore, at 5:36 p.m. after Dr. Soong arrived and there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 12, 2025 meeting were approved as distributed.

Contracts

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

A new contract with Courtney French Broadcasting (payee) to promote a public health campaign to raise awareness and educate residents of Jefferson County on sexually transmitted infections during JCDH's National STI Awareness Week testing event; not to exceed \$3,000 from March 31, 2025, through April 19, 2025.

A new contract with AIDS Alabama, Inc. (payee) for the Specialty Clinic to provide information on sexually transmitted infections and other public health information to attendees during the "Red Hot for The Cause" event on March 7, 2025, at a rate not to exceed \$1,000.

A new contract with Counter Threat Group (payee) to conduct security assessments at all health centers, annex, and exterior parking pavilion; not to exceed \$26,500 from February 24, 2025, through May 24, 2025. The previous contract approved on December 11, 2024, is void.

A new contract with Woodbury Engineering, PLLC (payee) will provide engineering design service for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) update in JCDH server room; not to exceed \$2,310 from January 27, 2025, through May 26, 2025.

A new bid contract with Syra Health Corporation (payee) to provide project management, planning, data collection, community engagement, data analysis, framework development, final reporting and presentation for Community Engagement in Health Equity per request for proposal (RFP) #25-10-01; not to exceed \$76,250 from March 1, 2025, through June 1, 2025. Dr. Hicks, in response to a question from a Board member, stated the money may be encumbered with ADPH through a pass-through grant from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A new contract with Blankenship and Seay Consulting Group, Inc. (payee) to provide leadership development and change management support; not to exceed \$93,050 from March 1, 2025, through October 31, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with Vertiv Corporation (payee) to provide professional yearly maintenance to uninterruptible power system (UPS) in the data center; not to exceed \$7,850 from May 23, 2025, through May 22, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Software House International (payee) to provide expedite troubleshooting support for all Microsoft software and access to training and teams of experts to help implement best practices for new and existing infrastructure; not to exceed \$552,315.79 paid over a 3-year term from February 21, 2025, through February 20, 2028.

Renewal of a bid contract with SmartWave Technologies, LLC (payee) to provide managed guest Wi-Fi services to all health centers and the annex per RFP #25-01-06 at a rate of \$825 per month; not to exceed \$29,700 from February 24, 2025, through February 23, 2028.

A new contract with Wellable, LLC (payee) who will provide an online platform for wellness activity challenges and tracking at a rate of \$7,200 annually plus a one-time implementation fee of \$500; not to exceed \$7,700 from February 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Alabama Department of Public Health Bureau of Family Health Services (payor) to provide maternal and child health services to JCDH clients; not to exceed \$217,545 from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

Renewal of a contract with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (payor) for continuing Section 103 EPA grant for particulate matter; not to exceed \$588,492 from April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2027.

Health Officer Report Continued

Health Policy Update

Dr. Hicks updated the Board on the status 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. It has passed in the House and under review in the Senate.
- HB-89 – This bill provides presumptive Medicaid eligibility to pregnant women. It has passed in the House and under review in the Senate.
- HB-367 – This bill would prohibit any governmental entity or county health departments from expending public funds to advertise or promote vaccines. This bill would also require the county health officer of a county health department that violates this act to reduce the amount allocated to the county health department by the amount expended on the advertising during the fiscal year following the violation. It is pending committee review.
- SB-29 – This bill would require a state or local governmental body to approve or deny an application for a license, permit, or other certification within 45 days of receiving the application and any applicable public notice and comment period closes. This bill is under review in the Senate. Jonathan Stanton, Environmental Health Director, stated that

clarification is needed to see if this would substantively impact the Department's on-site sewage disposal permit process.

- 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. This bill is under review in the Senate.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regulatory Changes

The Department is aware of today's announcement by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency related to possible regulatory changes and will maintain situational awareness.

All-Staff Meetings

Next week, Dr. Hicks will be conducting all-staff meetings to discuss updates related to the landscape analysis and organizational assessment, respectively.

Safety-Net Community Partners Meeting

Dr. Hicks noted he convened a Safety-Net Community Partners meeting on February 28 where he presented the detailed landscape analysis and issued a call to action on how to address healthcare access in the community. There are plans for follow up strategy meetings.

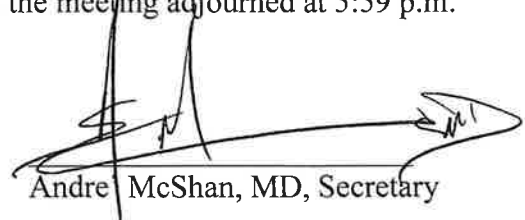
Public Health Week Activities

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that National Public Health week is April 7–13. He will provide The State of County's Health address at the UAB School of Public Health on April 9 that will be followed by a networking event for students where they can interact with JCDH staff and learn about public health careers.

Acting Health Officer Notification

Dr. Hicks informed the Board that he will be on vacation at the end of the month and Dr. Allury Lal, Deputy Health Officer will also be out of the office. Dr. Wesley Willeford, Medical Director, will serve as Acting Health Officer March 21–28.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.



Andre McShan, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Iris Fancher, MD, Chair Pro Tempore