



**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room**

**Present:** Michele Kong, MD, Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, Weily Soong, MD, Andre' McShan, MD, and Alison Heaton, MD

**Absent:** Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

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

Dr. Turnipseed welcomed everyone to the January 14, 2026, Board of Health meeting.

**December 2025 Financial Statements**

Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance and Administration, stated financial statements for December 2025 were emailed prior to the meeting. Mr. Holmes briefly reviewed highlights from the financial statements and answered questions from the Board. He noted a more detailed review is given quarterly.

At 5:05 p.m., Dr. Kong arrived, bringing the total to four members present, thereby establishing a quorum.

**Board of Health Legal Responsibilities**

David Maxey, Esq., legal counsel with Spain-Gillon, LLC, stated that included in the Board material is a draft of Rules, Regulations, and Operation Policies for the Board to consider. He noted that the President Pro Tempore of the Jefferson County Commission may serve if the President is unavailable. Additionally, if a Board member is unable to attend a meeting due to illness, they may now participate electronically, provided there is an in-person quorum.

The Board decided to review and vote on whether to adopt the rules and regulations at the February meeting.

**JCDH Mission, Vision, and Values**

Dr. Hicks reviewed the Department's Mission, Vision, and Values statements. He noted these are typically reviewed and updated every four to five years based on the Department's strategic plan cycle or upon the Board's request.

**Introduction of New Board Member**

Dr. Turnipseed welcomed Dr. Alison Heaton to the Board of Health.

## Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 10, 2025 meeting were approved as distributed.

## Contracts

On the motion of Dr. Soong, and seconded by Dr. Kong, the following contracts are approved:

Renewal of a contract with Equitable (payee) for company paid short-term disability and life insurance for 415 full-time employees; not to exceed \$850,000 from January 1, 2026, through January 1, 2028. Senitra Blackburn, Human Resources Director, provided details of the services provided by the vendor.

A new contract with Birchfield Penuel Architects (payee) for a preliminary parking deck assessment at Guy M. Tate building; not to exceed \$6,611.42 from August 19, 2025, through February 19, 2026.

A new contract with SESCO Lighting, Inc. (payee) to provide automated lighting at Western Health Center including possible software update; not to exceed \$2,181 from November 19, 2025, through March 19, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with 1 Point USA (iOn Integrated Solutions, LLC) (payee) to provide security maintenance services to include card access control service and electronic security, gate operator service, intercom service, and video surveillance system services and maintenance; not to exceed \$66,825 from November 13, 2025, through November 13, 2028.

A new contract with Cumulus Broadcasting, LLC d/b/a/ Cumulus Radio (payee) for JCDH to be a title sponsor for HOT 107.7 Day to Better Health including promotions, live liners, web, and social media graphics; not to exceed \$10,000 from January 1, 2026, through April 30, 2026.

A new contract with Rushing Waters Media, LLC d/b/a/ Bham Now (payee) for digital marketing services for JCDH-related programs, services, and initiatives; not to exceed \$21,390 from February 1, 2026, through July 31, 2026.

A new contract with Pioneer Production Services, LLC (payee) to promote education, prevention, and harm reduction for opioid substance use; not to exceed \$29,300 from November 25, 2025, through April 30, 2026.

A new contract with Bruce Edwards (payee) to provide laboratory consultation services to ensure compliance with all rules and regulations related to laboratory operations at a rate of \$60 per hour and \$15 per 0.25 hours, from December 10, 2025, through June 1, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Tammy Howard (payee) to provide consultation and oversee project to digitize paper health records and provided training as needed to ensure compliance with regulations impacting the management of protected health information at a rate of \$50 per hour; not to exceed \$25,000 from January 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026.

Renewal of a bid contract with Harold A. Burdette Dental Laboratories, Inc. (payee) to provide dental lab services per dental lab service price per bid #26-10-01 from November 16, 2025, through November 25, 2028.

Renewal of a contract with Vulcan Imaging Associates (payee) for professional interpretation of radiographs and professional support for teleradiology services; not to exceed \$12,000 per year from September 1, 2025, through September 30, 2028.

Renewal of a contract with Eurofins Environmental Testing, LLC (payee) for fence line air pollution monitoring; not to exceed \$10,800 from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

An amendment to a contract with Command Link, LLC (payee) to provide primary and secondary internet access solution, next generation fire wall with SD-WAN and Session Initiation Protocol. Amendment is to include more monthly minutes to avoid overages; not to exceed \$1,250,000 from May 1, 2023, through May 1, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with Alabama Department of Public Health-Bureau of Family Services (payor) to provide maternal and child health services; not to exceed \$217,545 from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

### **Board of Health Self-Evaluation Summary**

Bryn Manzella, MPH, Quality Improvement Officer, reviewed the results from the Board's Self-Evaluation for 2025. Five of the six surveys distributed were completed. The survey was based on a 7-point scale with an overall mean score of 6.95 (99.6%), which is higher than previous years. Ms. Manzella thanked the Board for their participation and reminded them that suggestions for improvement are welcome at any time during the year.

### **Report of the Health Officer**

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

Dr. Hicks presented to the Board for their information a summary report for the month of December 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. Effective January 1, 2026, the state approved a \$15 rabies vaccination fee for public rabies clinics. Additionally, Alabama's immunization schedule is made by the State Committee of Public Health and not the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

#### ***Environmental Health Public Notice***

Drummond Company, Inc. has applied for a renewal of its Title V Operation Permit for its facility, ABC Coke, in Tarrant. The Department issued a public notice on January 10, 2026, announcing that a public hearing will be held on February 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Guy M. Tate building following the public comment period. Dr. Hicks answered questions from the Board regarding permitting of this facility.

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

Hospital visits for influenza-like and COVID-19-like illnesses, respectively, have decreased over the past few weeks. Influenza A remains the leading type of respiratory illness identified through sentinel testing.

#### ***Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2025–2030***

On January 7, 2026, the federal government issued revised dietary guidelines. The Department is currently evaluating how these updates may affect the enforcement of food establishment sanitation regulations within schools.

**2026 Legislative Session**

The Alabama legislative session began on January 13, 2026. Dr. Hicks mentioned that multiple health-related bills have been introduced, including HB-136 and HB-129. HB-136 would require the Governor to certify that there is an immediate threat to “public health, safety, or welfare” before a state agency could issue emergency rules. Meanwhile, HB-129 proposes that licensed midwives be permitted to both order and administer newborn screening tests. Dr. Hicks will update the Board on any pertinent proposed legislation.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.



Alison Heaton, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Michele Kong, MD, Chair Pro Tempore