



**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room**

**Present:** Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, Weily Soong, MD, Andre’ McShan, MD, and Alison Heaton, MD

**Absent:** Michele Kong, MD and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

**Others Present:** David Maxey, Esq., Ekta Choudhary, PhD, Rodney Holmes, Bryn Manzella, Robert Hannah, Esq., Senitra Blackburn, Khalilah Brown, MD, Kim Bullock, David Hicks, DO, and Terrie Hartley

**Compliance Program Update**

Ms. Kim Bullock, CIA, CHC, CPC, Chief Compliance Officer/Privacy Officer, provided an overview of the Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH) Compliance Program, including its fundamental components and a review of activities from 2025. She emphasized that Board members are expected to always act in the best interests of JCDH. The Board serves as a trusted advisor and provides oversight of the Compliance Program, receiving updates as necessary.

Key elements of the Compliance Program include:

- Policies and Procedures, Code of Ethical Conduct, Compliance Commitment Statements
- Oversight
- Education and Training
- Effective Lines of Communication
- Enforcement Standards
- Auditing and Monitoring, Exclusion Screening
- Responding to Reports and Corrective Action

Ms. Bullock presented an update on the 2024–2025 Workplan and compliance-related initiatives. She also detailed the proposed 2025–2026 Risk Workplan, which identifies key areas with potential to elevate departmental risk, including data security and cyberattacks, unregulated use of artificial intelligence, documentation, coding, billing, patient accounts receivable management, routine copayment write-offs, application of discounts and grant funding, Alabama Ethics Act education, privacy breaches, as well as discriminatory practices. Ms. Bullock further noted her role in facilitating quarterly compliance committee meetings.

After discussion, the Board recommended that the Chief Compliance Officer, Board Chair, and General Liability Claims/Investment Committee Board member hold quarterly compliance update meetings, either virtually or by telephone. The Board also requested that minutes from the compliance committee meetings be provided for them.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Turnipseed.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the February 11, 2026 meeting were approved as distributed.

**February 2026 Financial Statements**

Dr. Turnipseed noted the February 2026 Financial Statements were included in the Board material. There were no questions from the Board.

**Contracts**

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

An amendment to a contract with Henry Schein One, LLC (Dentrix Enterprise) (payee) for addition of a Lighthouse Software subscription to existing Dentrix Enterprise application at Central, Eastern, and Western dental clinics; not to exceed \$1,047 per month from December 19, 2025, through ongoing.

Renewal of a contract with Carr, Riggs, & Ingram (payee) for audit of 2025 financial statements; not to exceed \$103,750 from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

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 Health Officer or Board of Health at a rate of \$265 per hour for legal services, and \$100 per hour for paralegal services; not to exceed \$1,614,764 from March 11, 2026, through February 28, 2027.

Renewal of a contract with Honorable Edward B. Vines (payee) to serve as Hearing Officer for contested cases regarding environmental and public matters with JCDH at a rate of \$245 per hour, minimum of 10 hours; not to exceed \$3,500 from May 11, 2026, through May 11, 2029.

Renewal of a contract with Honorable Julie A. Palmer (payee) to serve as Hearing Officer for contested cases regarding environmental and public matters with JCDH at a rate of \$245 per hour, minimum of 10 hours; not to exceed \$3,500 from May 11, 2026, through May 11, 2029.

Renewal of a contract with Honorable Arthur J. Hanes, Jr. (payee) to serve as Hearing Officer for contested cases regarding environmental and public matters with JCDH at a rate of \$245 per hour, minimum of 10 hours; not to exceed \$3,500 from May 11, 2026, through May 11, 2029.

Renewal of a contract with Honorable James Hard (payee) to serve as Hearing Officer for contested cases regarding environmental and public matters with JCDH at a rate of \$245 per hour, minimum of 10 hours; not to exceed \$3,500 from May 11, 2026, through May 11, 2029.

Renewal of a contract with Accruent, LLC (payee) for EMS Workplace hosted package fee for one subscription, room workspace, and event scheduling platform for 500 EMS end users; not to exceed \$24,213.75 from March 1, 2026, through February 26, 2027.

A new contract with Counter Threat Group (payee) to assist in developing a plan for natural disasters or imminent threat scenarios for each JCDH location; not to exceed \$16,500 from February 9, 2026, through May 10, 2026.

A new contract with Southern Overhead Door, Inc. (payee) to replace one RSX control board, one FDO board, replace two back up batteries, and drop test fire door, including initial calls; not to exceed \$3,272.22 from December 3, 2025, through May 3, 2026.

Renewal of a contract with University of Alabama Health Services Foundation (WorkPlace) (payee) to provide annual mask fit testing for specific positions and be back up to perform testing for new hires at a rate of \$20 for medical questionnaire review and \$40 for questionnaire plus filing; not to exceed \$24,000 from February 16, 2026, through February 16, 2029.

**Title V Permit Fees**

Dr. Hicks provided the Board with a summary of the resolution concerning the approval of Title V Permit fees. He noted that Environmental Health is responsible for regulating large industrial sources within Jefferson County to ensure compliance with federal, state, and local standards. There will be no fee increase for 2026.

On the motion of Dr. Heaton, and seconded by Dr. McShan, the following resolution is approved:

WHEREAS, The Federal Clean Air Act and the Jefferson County Board of Health Air Pollution Control Rules and Regulations require that the Title V operating permit program fees be established to adequately fund the Title V operating permit program’s responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, that the Title V permit fees may be used only for the Title V permit program; and

WHEREAS, it is projected that for Fiscal Year 2026, Title V permit fee revenues, based on a fee of \$105.00 per ton will adequately fund the operating and capital expenses of the Title V permit program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ORDAINED, ORDERED AND ENACTED BY THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH THAT:

Title V Operating Permit fees will be assessed at the rate of \$105.00 for the release of each ton of regulated pollutant as specified in Chapter 16 of the Jefferson County Board of Health Air Pollution Control Rules and Regulations for calendar year 2025 emissions, which fees will be payable in fiscal year 2026.

**Rules, Regulations, and Operating Procedures: Jefferson County Board of Health**

Dr. Turnipseed reminded the Board that they had previously received a draft of the Rules, Regulations, and Operating Procedures for the Board of Health. She noted that if a Board member is unable to attend in person due to illness, participation via telephone or video conference is permissible, provided a physical quorum is present.

Upon a motion by Dr. McShan, and seconded by Dr. Soong, the Rules, Regulations, and Operating Procedures for the Jefferson County Board of Health were formally approved.

## **Report of the Health Officer**

### ***Report from State Health Officer – February 2026***

Dr. Hicks presented to the Board for their information a summary report for the month of February 2026, 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***

Dr. Hicks reported over the past few weeks, there has been a significant decrease in influenza-like illness and COVID-19-like illness related clinical visits in the county, respectively.

The Department is maintaining situational awareness of the measles outbreaks across the country and refining outbreak response plans.

At the request of a Board member during a previous meeting, Dr. Hicks presented data ranking ZIP codes with the highest rates of individuals receiving religious exemptions from JCDH for the past five years. This information is intended to inform targeted strategies in the event of an outbreak. Currently, those seeking religious exemptions are required to visit a local health department; however, there is proposed legislation that would permit school officials to issue religious exemptions.

### ***2026 Legislative Session Update***

Dr. Hicks continues to participate in legislative update calls with the Alabama Department of Public Health's governmental affairs division. He updated the Board on the following bills that have been introduced in the State legislature:

- HB-136 - Requires the Governor to certify that there is an immediate threat to “public health, safety, or welfare” before a state agency could issue emergency rules. This has passed in the House and pending vote in the Senate.
- HB-381 - Requires camps with residential facilities for campers to obtain an emergency preparedness license from the Alabama Emergency Management Agency as a condition for operation by demonstrating that certain requirements are met. This bill has passed in the House and pending committee review in the Senate.
- SB71 - Prohibits an agency from adopting a new rule, or amending an existing rule, which establishes standards for certain environmental protection subjects that are more stringent than federal law or regulations. In the absence of federal law or regulations, agencies may not adopt a new rule, or amend an existing rule, which establishes standards for certain environmental protection subjects unless the rule is based on the best available science and the weight of scientific evidence. The Governor has signed this bill.
- SB-9 - Prohibits the smoking of electronic nicotine delivery systems in the same manner as the smoking of tobacco products under the Alabama Clean Indoor Air Act. It has passed in the Senate and pending vote in the House.
- SB-84 - Requires ADPH to assume jurisdiction over sanitation in cafeterias and other food services operated by the Department of Corrections and county and municipal jails by tailoring appropriate requirements which would include regular sanitation inspections and the reporting and correction of sanitary violations. This bill has passed in the Senate and awaiting vote in the House.
- SB-136 - Places the Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board as a division within ADPH. The Governor has signed this bill.

- SB-128 - Places to Alabama Sickle Cell Oversight and Regulatory Commission as a division within ADPH. The Governor has signed this bill.
- SB-197 - Exempts mobile food vendors that hold a valid health inspection certificate and a valid fire inspection certificate from having to obtain additional licenses, permits, or other permissions, in jurisdictions the mobile food vendor temporarily operates. This bill has passed in the Senate and awaiting vote in the House.

***Make Alabama Healthy Nutrition Study Group Appointment***

Dr. Hicks announced he was selected by Alabama Speaker of the House Nathaniel Ledbetter to join a study group headed by Dr. David Thrasher. The group's first meeting took place yesterday at the State Capitol.

***Public Health Week Activities***

Dr. Hicks announced that National Public Health Week is April 6–12. On April 7, he will give the State of County's Health address at UAB School of Public Health, followed by a networking event for students with JCDH staff about public health careers. The JCDH Employee of the Year will also be named during the week.

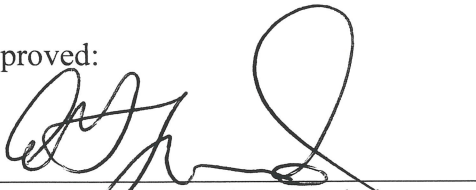
Dr. Turnipseed announced that Dr. Hicks has requested that the Board choose the Employee of the Year. A committee will select three finalists, and the Board will choose the winner from these candidates.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.



Alison Heaton, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Elizabeth Turnipseed, MD, Chair