



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, April 8, 2020 - 5:00 p.m.
5th Floor Board Room
Via Telephone Conference

Present on Call: Yocunda Clayton, MD, Sylvie Stacy, MD, Hernando Carter, MD, Susan Walley, MD, and Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

Absent: Kenny Murray, MD

Others

Present: Mark Wilson, MD, David Hicks, DO, Bryn Manzella, David Maxey, Esq., Kim Cason, and Denisa Pridmore

Call to Order

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

Minutes from the March 11, 2020 meeting are not ready at this time.

Regular Board Meetings to be Conducted Telephonically

On the motion of Commissioner Stephens, and seconded by Dr. Walley, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been detected in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, in Jefferson County, community transmission of COVID-19 poses significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Health has designated COVID-19 to be a disease of epidemic potential, a threat to the health and welfare of the public, or otherwise of public health importance; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, on recommendation of the State Health Officer, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, declared a state public health emergency exists in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Jefferson County Health Officer, in response to a rapidly growing number of cases of COVID-19 in Jefferson County, issued an order suspending certain public gatherings; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Governor of the State of Alabama issued the First Supplemental State of Emergency Order; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Order dated March 18, 2020, allows governmental bodies, such as the Board, to hold their meetings by telephone or video under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the County Health Officer entered an order expanding and clarifying the closures of "non-essential" businesses/activities and further regulating the conduct of "essential" businesses/activities; and

WHEREAS, at this time, Jefferson County has over 330 confirmed cases of COVID-19, the most in the state of Alabama, and the number of cases is anticipated to rise significantly as more testing is performed and results are returned; and

WHEREAS, modeling and estimates show that, without further measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, hospitals and clinics in Jefferson County will likely exceed their treatment capacity; and

WHEREAS, this strain on medical resources could limit the ability of the Jefferson County medical community to effectively respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the circumstances described above and the need to minimize public gatherings requires that the Board's regular meetings be conducted telephonically; and

WHEREAS, as noted above, the Governor issued an Order on March 18, 2020, which allows governmental bodies to hold their meetings by telephone; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Governor's Order, any deliberations and actions the Board may take during a telephonic meeting will be limited to (1) matters within the Board's statutory authority that are necessary to respond to COVID-19 and (2) matters that are necessary to perform the Board's essential minimum functions; and

WHEREAS, the Board will, as required by the Governor's Order, post a summary of all such telephonic meetings on the website of the Jefferson County Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, the summary will describe the deliberations conducted and the actions taken during the telephonic meeting with reasonable specificity so the public may understand what happened during such meeting;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby declares its intent to conduct its regular meetings telephonically, in accordance with the Governor's Order dated March 18, 2020, for so long as it is deemed necessary by the Board and permitted by the Governor's existing and future Orders.

This resolution is effective immediately.

Approving the COVID-19 Unified Incident Command

On the motion of Commissioner Stephens, and seconded by Dr. Walley, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been detected in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, in Jefferson County, community transmission of COVID-19 poses significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people; and

WHEREAS, at this time, Jefferson County has over 330 confirmed cases of COVID-19, the most in the state of Alabama, and the number of cases is anticipated to rise significantly as more testing is performed and results are returned; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Health has designated COVID-19 to be a disease of epidemic potential, a threat to the health and welfare of the public, or otherwise of public health importance; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, on recommendation of the State Health Officer, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, declared a state public health emergency exists in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Jefferson County Health Officer, in response to a rapidly growing number of cases of COVID-19 in Jefferson County, issued an order suspending certain public gatherings; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the County Health Officer entered an order expanding and clarifying the closures of “non-essential” businesses/activities and further regulating the conduct of “essential” businesses/activities; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the State Health Officer entered an order (applicable statewide) describing the closures of “non-essential” businesses/activities and further regulating the conduct of “essential” businesses/activities; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued a recommendation that state and local governments “integrate all emergency management and public health operations”; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board and Jefferson County to integrate emergency management and public health operations to the maximum extent possible; and

WHEREAS, officials from the Jefferson County Department of Health and the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency have implemented the Unified Incident Command structure under the directive from the Administrator of FEMA, specifically addressing local public health agencies:

“Second, integrate all emergency management and public health operations. Identify and integrate your leading health official into your Emergency Operations Center and Unified Command

Group at every level of government. You must form a unified Emergency Management - Public Health Team. Ensure that the entire state political leadership team understand the emergency management process. All requests to the Federal government must be formally communicated by the state's emergency manager to the FEMA Regional Administrator. This is the same process as natural disasters.”

WHEREAS, the joint Unified Incident Commanders for Jefferson County are Dr. Mark Wilson, Jefferson County Health Officer, and Jim Coker, Director of the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency; and

WHEREAS, Policies and Procedures adopted by the Jefferson County Department of Health authorize a “designee” of the Jefferson County Health Officer to perform specified Human Resource duties with the same authority as the Health Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Health Officer has designated Dr. David Hicks, Deputy Health Officer, and Mr. Rodney Holmes, Director of Finance & Administration, as designees of the Health Officer for the specified Human Resource duties in the Policies and Procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Health Officer requests the Jefferson County Board of Health to confirm the appointment of Dr. David Hicks and Mr. Rodney Holmes as designees of the Health Officer for those specified duties pertaining to personnel matters, and recognizing the right of the Health Officer to withdraw or rescind this designation without the need to seek approval from this Board; and

WHEREAS, the Health Officer has designated Dr. David Hicks and Mr. Rodney Holmes to act as the Health Officer’s designees for the purpose of executing and entering into contracts on behalf of the Health Department; and

WHEREAS, the Health Officer requests the Jefferson County Board of Health to confirm that Dr. David Hicks and Mr. Rodney Holmes may act as the Health Officer’s designees for the purpose of executing and entering into contracts on behalf of the Health Department;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby (1) approves and supports the Jefferson County Unified Incident Command structure; (2) confirms Dr. David Hicks and Mr. Rodney Holmes as designees of the Health Officer for the performance of the specified duties in the Policies and Procedures of the Jefferson County Department of Health, until the Health Officer designates different, other, or no employees to fulfill that role; and (3) confirms Dr. David Hicks and Mr. Rodney Holmes may act as the Health Officer’s designees for the purpose of executing and entering into contracts on behalf of the Health Department until the Health Officer designates different, other, or no employees to fulfill that role.

This resolution is effective immediately.

Contracts

On the motion of Dr. Walley, and seconded by Dr. Clayton, the following contracts were approved:

A new contract with Bagby Elevator Company (payee) to provide and install resistors for new drive and install drive upgrade to elevators in the Guy M. Tate building; not to exceed \$3,192 from March 3, 2020 through March 3, 2021.

A new contract with Central Alabama Flooring, LLC d/b/a Don's Carpet One (payee) to replace carpet at Western Health Center; not to exceed \$2,166 from March 19, 2020 through May 9, 2020.

A new contract with Standard Roofing of Montgomery, Inc. (payee) to provide roofing repair services to JCDH by repairing three active leak areas at Guy M. Tate Annex location; not to exceed \$1,670 from February 11, 2020 through February 29, 2020.

A new contract with Servco, LLC (payee) to provide HVAC and refrigeration services to JCDH; not to exceed \$3,780 from March 30, 2020 through March 30, 2021.

A new contract with Bhate Geosciences Corporation (payee) to provide inspection services related to structural steel construction repairs for JCDH; not to exceed \$5,000 from February 14, 2020 through April 30, 2020.

A new bid contract with AVX Commercial, Inc. (payee) to install audio and video equipment in Conference Room A at Guy M. Tate building per bid #20-02-09; not to exceed \$85,634 from March 13, 2020 through March 13, 2021.

A new contract with Nuance (payee) to provide medical headsets, maintenance, professional, and training services for a secure cloud-based speech platform for clinicians to securely document patient care in the electronic health record; not to exceed \$12,000 from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2025.

A new contract with Christian Service Mission (payee) to provide medical supply services to JCDH under COVID-19 Emergency Declarations at a cost of \$7,500 per month; not to exceed \$22,500 from March 23, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

A new contract with The Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama Hospital (payee) for JCDH to provide reimbursement for uninsured residents of Jefferson County for COVID-19 testing at UAB drive through collection sites at a cost of \$65 per test from March 20, 2020 through March 19, 2021.

Renewal of a contract with Alabama Department of Public Health, Family Health Services (payor) to offset the cost of purchasing Family Planning non-surgical contraceptives to reduce unintended births among eligible, low income women of childbearing age; not to exceed \$27,232 from March 17, 2020 through September 30, 2020.

Renewal of a contract with Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Emergency Preparedness (payor) to provide grant funds for JCDH Cities Readiness Initiative activities at the local level; not to exceed \$87,062 from July 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020.

An amendment to a contract with Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Emergency Preparedness (payor) to provide an additional \$100,000 grant funds for JCDH all hazards at the local level; not to exceed \$387,931 from April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

Credentialing

Dr. Wilson reported that JCDH is in the process of hiring Dr. Alyssa A. Pfister for an Appointed Physician position in Clinical Services. Initial credentialing for Dr. Pfister is complete except for one letter of recommendation. He asked for the Board’s approval to hire her once this item is received. The Board unanimously approved the Credentials Report pending receipt of the additional document.

COVID-19 Update from Health Officer

Dr. Wilson provided an update on activities that JCDH has been involved with around the COVID-19 pandemic.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room or via telephone conference (announcement will be made prior to the meeting date). There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Susan Walley, MD, Secretary

Approved:

Sylvie Stacy, MD, Chair