



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 - 5:00 p.m.

5th Floor Board Room

Via Telephone Conference

Present on Call: Yocunda Clayton, MD, Sylvie Stacy, MD, Hernando Carter, MD, Kenny Murray, MD, and Susan Walley, MD

Absent: Commissioner Jimmie Stephens

Others Present

On Call: Mark Wilson, MD, David Hicks, DO, Senitra Blackburn, Bruce Braden, Haskey Bryant, Rodney Holmes, Bryn Manzella, and Denisa Pridmore

Call to Order

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

Minutes from the March 11, 2020 and April 8, 2020 meetings were approved as distributed.

February and March 2020 Financial Statements

Dr. Stacy noted that the February and March 2020 Financial Statements were included in the Board package. Rodney Holmes, CPA, Director of Finance, stated at some point JCDH does expect sales tax revenue to decline.

Communal Living Facilities (CLF) Regulations

Dr. Stacy reminded the Board that the draft CLF Regulations were presented and discussed at the March 11, 2020 Board of Health meeting. The Board incorporated the definition of vaping in the CLF Regulations and vaping was added to the restrictions on indoor smoking (Section 1.5).

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

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health “Board” on September 8, 1976, adopted Transitional Home Regulations which were superseded by Communal Living Regulations adopted February 13, 1980; and

WHEREAS, the Board on September 13, 1989, under authority of Alabama Act 89-668, 1989 Regular Session, adopted Boarding Home Regulations “Regulations” which have undergone revisions; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature in 2006 amended Alabama Act 89-668, and enacted Act 2006-591, Alabama Legislation 2006, authorizing the Board to assess civil fines for violation of the Regulations; and,

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Department of Health, “Department”, as the operating arm of the Board under supervision of Mark E. Wilson, MD, Health Officer of Jefferson County, Alabama published notice of Proposed Regulations in the Birmingham News on February 23, 2020 as approved by the Board. The Department has received and responded to public comments over the 15-day public comment period and recommends the Board approve the Regulations.

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

The Jefferson County Communal Living Regulations are approved.

Hearing Officers

Dr. Wilson stated that it is time to renew the Department’s list of Hearing Officers that is comprised of former Jefferson County judges. The Jefferson County Board of Health supervises the enforcement of various health and environmental laws and regulations within Jefferson County. Some JCDH regulations provide an appeal process for permits and licenses which include a hearing before an appointed Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officers will serve on a rotating basis for any such appeals.

On the motion of Dr. Murray, and seconded by Dr. Clayton, the following resolution was approved:

The Board of Health hereby approves the following former judges to serve as Hearing Officers for the Jefferson County Board of Health:

J. Scott Vowell

Edward B. Vines

Julie A. Palmer

James Hard

Arthur J. Hanes, Jr.

Contracts

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

A new contract with Carmine Communications (payee) to provide consultation services for 2020 JCDH team experience training event; not to exceed \$12,000 from March 1, 2020 through November 1, 2020.

A new contract with Comfort Systems USA Midsouth, Inc. (payee) to replace one OEM unit program controller on Carrier heating, ventilation, and air conditioning chiller; not to exceed \$3,261.84 from April 15, 2020 through June 15, 2020.

A new contract with NXTsoft Cyber Security Solutions, LLC (payee) to provide multifaceted cyber platform to allow access to various ThreatAdvice cyber tools, including phishing tests, policies and procedures library, cyber insurance and cyber training and education; not to exceed \$312,268.12 from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2023.

A new contract with Neilsen Capouya (payee) to develop reports from legacy (Greenway) electronic medical record system, at a rate of \$50 per hour; not to exceed \$40,000 from April 27, 2020 through August 31, 2020.

An amendment to a contract with Triage Logic Management & Consulting, LLC (payee) to allow licenses for two additional users to provide software services to assist nurses assigned to JCDH Call Center with telephone triage activities, at a rate of \$240 per month for two additional users; not to exceed \$5,760 from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2021.

A new contract with the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (payee) to provide clinical care and public health preparedness and response services to JCDH patients and Jefferson County residents for COVID-19 Unified Command; not to exceed \$9,778 from April 3, 2020 through July 3, 2020.

COVID-19 Update from Health Officer

New Statewide Orders

Effective Monday, May 11, 2020 Jefferson County is under new statewide public health orders that allowed further opening of certain businesses, including indoor dining for restaurants and bars, athletic facilities, and close-contact services such as barber shops, hair salons, nail salons, and tattoo services. Non-work related gatherings, including worship services, are no longer restricted to 10 persons or less. Dr. Wilson made a recommendation that the larger gatherings refrain from resuming for an extra 2 weeks beyond May 11, 2020 so we can see the impact of the opening of businesses.

Unified Incident Command

JCDH is still in Unified Incident Command with the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency. Talks have begun about benchmarks for demobilizing Unified Incident Command, but we don't anticipate any significant demobilization any time soon.

Status of COVID-19 Disease

Overall, the number of new cases per day has been steady. In the last 7 days in Jefferson County, there have been 133 new cases; in the 7 days before that, there were 159 new cases. For the past 3 weeks, roughly 40-45% of our new cases have involved skilled nursing facilities. There are also a fair number of people testing positive who are health care workers. The number of people hospitalized for COVID-19 each day has been hovering at around 100 for the last few days, which is slightly higher than a plateau of between 80 and 90 since the beginning of April. We are following data for racial disparities and sharing that data at the county level with the public on

our website. So far, 41% of the COVID-19 deaths in Jefferson County have been African Americans, compared to 43% of the general population; 57% of deaths are white, compared to 53% of the population; 2% of deaths are other race or unknown race. The number of people tested and the number testing positive is approximately evenly split between black and white, but there are a lot of “unknowns or other” because race data is not always provided with test results, especially the negative tests.

Testing

To guide COVID-19 testing going forward, JCDH has convened three groups around testing coordination and strategy:

- 1) A small group of experts to advise us in our testing and contact tracing efforts.
- 2) A group of providers providing community testing
- 3) A group of representatives from each of the five County Commission Districts to help with communication with the public and input or assistance with establishing testing sites

Testing is now more accessible and is more widespread. JCDH helped pay for testing of uninsured Jefferson County residents initially, but now providers who collect specimens as well as laboratories are able to get reimbursement from the federal government (HRSA), while funding lasts. If this funding runs out, JCDH will consider again covering testing for the uninsured. Based on reports from the providers we convened, all currently have more capacity than there is demand in the community. Community demand is down from earlier on. There is some increased testing related to outbreaks in skilled nursing facilities.

The UAB test site team, which JCDH helps staff, is being mobilized to go to one-day pop up sites on Wednesdays and Fridays. We are targeting underserved areas with these mobile sites. All four of the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) are now providing community testing. Cahaba Medical Care, which is providing testing at its clinic sites, recently agreed to provide one-day pop-up testing sites in some public housing communities in the western part of Birmingham. Aletheia House is focusing on testing people with substance use disorders, including some who are homeless. The Ross Bridge clinic and the lab they are associated with are working with JCDH and City Council President William Parker to set up a test site at Legion Field, and that is planned to begin tomorrow. There are several private entities providing testing. Information is available on JCDH's website and we are working to provide more detailed information.

COVID-19 and JCDH Services

JCDH is limited in what it can do because of limited PPE supplies. Dental clinics are completely closed except for a few phone consultations. Primary care clinics are mostly by telemedicine, although we are doing well baby checks and childhood immunizations. Sexual Health Clinic is a combination of screening by phone followed by in-person testing when indicated. We are continuing Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supply pick-ups and supply visits for Family Planning using the mobile clinic. The TB program is operating as usual except that patient visits for TB screening are being spread out to avoid contact in the waiting areas. Clients and staff are required to wear face coverings in the building. Much of Environmental Health has been refocused on helping with compliance with social distancing and sanitation orders for retail

stores, restaurants and bars, and this is in high gear with the re-openings. Regular food inspections, body art inspections, etc., will resume in the next few weeks. Environmental Health is also helping to enforce quarantine orders.

Contact Tracing

JCDH has expanded contact tracing staff to approximately 30 people, from a baseline of about 5-6 people for our usual Epidemiology Division work. This has mostly been done by reassigning staff, supplemented with a handful of student interns (medical students and MPH students). This is currently an adequate number. The state health department has decided to use a technology platform to assist with tracing, called “Sara Alert,” which is compatible with the state reporting system.

Homeless Population

Most of the local homeless shelters have not been accepting new clients. JCDH has executed a contract with One Roof to staff the old Salvation Army site, which was made available by the Jefferson County Commission, to be a temporary shelter site where people wanting to enter shelters can be tested and held in quarantine until we can assure that they are disease free before they go into a shelter. In the meantime, hospitals have been holding some of them until they are in the all-clear.

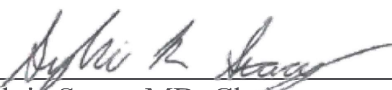
COVID-19 Vaccinations

Dr. Walley inquired about a strategic plan for a COVID-19 vaccination once approved. Dr. David Hicks, Deputy Health Officer, reported that JCDH would utilize its Emergency Preparedness Point of Dispensing (POD) plan already in place with community partners to give mass vaccinations throughout Jefferson County. Dr. Wilson noted this would be dependent on the supply chain and prioritization for the vaccination.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 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 5:45 p.m.

Susan Walley, MD, Secretary

Approved:



Sylvie Stacy, MD, Chair