

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**Summary of Meeting**  
**August 18, 2020**

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was held by conference call (Dial in Phone Number 1 (312) 626-6799, Access Code: 924 1497 7446#, Password: 339699#) and was called to order by Dr. Joseph Ewing Bornstein, Chairman, at 7:06 a.m. Roll was called and the following attended:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Doctors Joseph Ewing Bornstein, Chairman, Barbara Mitchell, Desiree A. Soter-Pearsall, Michael W. Meshad and Stacey W. Wing

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Doctor C.M.A. (Max) Rogers IV and Commissioner Jerry Carl

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bernard H. Eichold II, M.D., Dr.P.H., F.A.C.P., Health Officer; Laura Cepeda, M.D., M.B.A., F.A.C.M.S., F.A.A.D., Chief Medical Officer; Paul M. Betros, Jr., M.B.A, Director, Administrative Services; Kelly Warren, M.S.W., M.P.H., Director, Family Health Clinical Services; Stephanie Crawford, M.P.H., D.H.Sc., Director, Prevention & Wellness; and Valerie White, Transcriber

II. **INTRODUCTION OF GUEST, DR. L. SCOTT CHAVERS – DR. STEPHANIE CRAWFORD**

a. **COVID-19 Update – Dr. L. Scott Chavers:** Dr. Chavers presented the Board with COVID-19 update PowerPoint presentation. There was a brief discussion. Dr. Chavers exited the meeting at 7:34 a.m.

III. **\*APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 19, 2020** (Attachment A): The minutes for the meeting held on May 19, 2020 were briefly reviewed since the minutes had been distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting.

**MOTION** was made by Dr. Mitchell and seconded by Dr. Pearsall that the minutes of the meeting held on May 19, 2020 be approved as distributed. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. **HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**

a. **Report from State Health Officer** (Attachment B): Dr. Eichold presented to the Board for their information, summary reports for the months of May, June and July 2020 from the State Health Officer sent monthly to county Boards of Health describing actions taken by the State Committee of Public Health.

b. **Informational Items:**

– **Alabama's Health** (Attachment C): Dr. Eichold presented to the Board, for their information, the June 2020 issue of ALABAMA'S HEALTH, a publication of the Alabama Department of Public Health.

– **Culture** (Attachment C): Dr. Eichold brought the Board's attention to the April-June 2020 issue of the Health Department newsletter, Culture, for their information.

c. **\*Holiday Schedule FY 2020-2021** (Attachment D): Dr. Eichold presented the proposed FY 2020 – 2021 holiday schedule to the Board for their approval. The holiday schedule contains eleven holidays and four personal days.

**MOTION** was made by Dr. Mitchell and seconded by Dr. Wing that the holiday schedule for FY 2020 – 2021 be approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

V. **CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**

a. **Hospital Capacity/Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Dr. Cepeda shared a slide with the Board that contained COVID-19 patients hospitalized each day in Mobile County Hospitals. The data was obtained from the Alabama Incident Management System (AIMS). Surge capacity in Mobile hospitals has always exceed demand. The Emergency Management Agency provided personal protective equipment (PPE) to hospitals, nursing homes, etc. when the supply chains had shortages. The supply chains for PPE have now been re-established although there is a shortage of gloves anticipated.

- b. **KN95 Mask Donation:** Dr. Cepeda informed the Board that the Bloomberg Philanthropic Foundation and the International Medical Corps made a large donation of 75,000 KN95 masks to the Mobile which will be distributed to different organizations within the county by the Medical Society of Mobile County.
- c. **Preparedness Medical Needs Shelters:** Dr. Cepeda informed the Board that the Mobile County Health Department is planning for a medical needs shelter at Cranford Burns Middle School.

**VI. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

- a. **\*General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report – May, June and July 2020** (Attachment E): Mr. Betros presented to the Board the General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report for the months of May, June and July 2020. The month of May was favorable by \$302,811 with a favorable year to date of \$783,644. The month of June was favorable by \$117,762 with a favorable year to date of \$901,740. The month of July was unfavorable by 95,623 with a favorable year to date of 806,117. Mr. Betros asked the Board if there were any questions. There was a brief discussion.

**MOTION** was made by Dr. Meshad and seconded by Dr. Mitchell that the General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report for the months of May, June and July 2020 be approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. **\*Ad Valorem Tax FY 2020-2021:** Mr. Betros requested the Board's approval for the use of up to 50% of Ad Valorem Tax revenue for the General Fund Budget during FY 2020 – 2021. Legislation enacted in 1986 provides that up to 50% of the ad valorem tax collected and allocated to the Health Department for Vector Control could be used for general health purposes. The FY 2020 – 2021 budget will include 50% distribution of funds for public health activities with 2.4 million allocated to the general fund and 2.4 million allocated to the vector fund.

**MOTION** was made by Dr. Mitchell and seconded by Dr. Pearsall to approve the use of up to 50% of Ad Valorem Tax revenue for the General Fund Budget during FY 2020 – 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. **\*COVID-19 Revenue & Expenditure Report - March through July 2020** (Attachment E): Mr. Betros presented to the Board the COVID-19 expenditure report for the months of March through July 2020. The Mobile County Commission presented the Mobile County Health Department with \$10,000 to pay COVID-19 testing for the uninsured population but the funds have not been needed due to federal funds received that pay for testing for the uninsured population. Mr. Betros requested the Board's approval to refund the \$10,000 allocation received from the Mobile County Commission. There was a brief discussion.

**MOTION** was made by Dr. Mitchell and seconded by Dr. Wing to approve the refund of \$10,000 allocation of funds received from the Mobile County Commission to pay for COVID-19 testing of uninsured patients since adequate federal funding has been received to pay for testing of the uninsured population. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. FAMILY HEALTH CLINICAL SERVICES**

- a. **FOPHCC Governing Council Minutes – May, June and July 2020** (Attachment F): Ms. Warren presented to the Board, for their information, a copy of minutes for the FOPHCC Governing Council Meetings held in May, June and July 2020.
- b. **Primary Care Clinic Productivity Reports – May, June and July 2020:** Ms. Warren stated that primary care clinic productivity numbers were 5,408 visits for 3,731 unduplicated patients in May; 8,219 visits for 5,743 unduplicated patients in June; and 8,301 visits for 6,247 unduplicated patients in July. Mobile County Health Department has expanded to offer telehealth services to patients.
- c. **AltaPointe Discussion:** Ms. Warren informed the Board that Mobile County Health Department has been approached by AltaPointe Health System regarding a proposal to fully integrate behavioral health and primary care. Both entities are doing due diligence to explore the relationship for the future provision of high-quality care. We are communicating with legal counsel and an accounting firm to make sure the best interests of the agency and the patients are protected.

**VIII. PREVENTION & WELLNESS**

- a. **\*Review Inspections Services Exemption Requests FY 2020-2021** (Attachment G): Dr. Crawford presented to the Board for their approval a list of organizations requesting exemption from Food & Lodging fees for October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. At its meeting on March 19, 2013, the Mobile County Board of Health recommended to revoke all previously issued fee exemptions except the Mobile County Commission, legally recognized incorporated municipalities and all public-school systems in Mobile County effective October 1, 2013. Entities are given the opportunity to apply for a one-year exemption before July 1<sup>st</sup> for consideration by the Mobile County Board of Health annually. There are no new entities on the list.

**MOTION** was made by Dr. Mitchell and seconded by Dr. Wing to exempt the organizations which applied for and met exemption criteria from paying food and lodging fees for the period effective October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. The motion passed unanimously

- b. **COVID-19 Plans for Schools, Colleges & Sports:** Dr. Crawford informed the Board that the Mobile County Health Department has several teams which have been working with the schools, colleges and school sports programs in order to provide them with the best COVID-19 guidance.
- c. **COVID-19 Restaurants:** Dr. Crawford informed the Board the Mobile County Health Department inspectors are working closely with restaurants to assist with COVID-19 guidance and best practices for patron and employee safety.
- d. **Fee Schedule Revision – Upcoming:** Dr. Crawford informed the Board that revisions to the environmental fees may be forthcoming due to the environmental system going to a digital system.

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Next meeting September 15, 2020 – Budget Approval.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** was made by Dr. Mitchell and seconded by Dr. Wing to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 a.m.

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Joseph Ewing Bornstein, M.D.  
Chairman

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Desiree A. Soter-Pearsall, M.S., M.D.  
Secretary

Approved: September 21, 2020