

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Summary of Meeting
September 22, 2020

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was held by conference call (Dial in Phone Number 1 (301) 715-8592, Access Code: 939 4583 6532#, Password: 799853#) and was called to order by Dr. Joseph Ewing Bornstein, Chairman, at 7:00 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

GUEST PRESENT: Linette Clausman, M.S., Chief Financial Officer, Mobile County Health Department

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. ***APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 18, 2020** (Attachment A): The minutes for the meeting held on August 18, 2020 were briefly reviewed since the minutes had been distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting.

MOTION was made by Dr. Wing and seconded by Dr. Meshad that the minutes of the meeting held on August 18, 2020 be approved as distributed. The motion passed unanimously.

III. **HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT:** Dr. Eichold informed the Board that shelters are open and Mobile County Health Department team(s) are working in the shelters. Dr. Eichold requested the agenda to be amended and taken in order of the action items.

IV. **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

a. ***General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report – August 2020** (Attachment C): Mr. Betros presented to the Board the General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report for the month of August 2020. The month of August was favorable by \$97,659 with a favorable year to date of \$917,695. 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. Wing that the General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report for the month of August 2020 be approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

b. **Proposed Budget** (Attachment D): Mr. Betros presented to the Board the proposed budget for FY 2020 – 2021 for their approval. Mr. Betros stated that anticipated total revenues for FY 2020 – 2021 are \$56,627,852; total projected expenditures are \$55,813,883; anticipated balance for FY 2020 – 2021 is \$803,969. The budget includes a 2.5 percent merit increase and a 2.5 percent cost of living increase for all employees which will start October 1, 2020. The budget includes \$83,000 for Tier II Retirement which will be discussed later in the meeting (Attachment F). Mr. Betros asked the Board if there were any questions. There was a brief discussion.

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

c. ***Community Foundation of South Alabama Resolution** (Attachment E): Mr. Betros requested the Board's approval of a resolution authorizing a one-time withdrawal of \$2,000.00 from the Mobile County Health Department Fund at the Community Foundation of South Alabama to purchase appreciation items to be distributed to all employees of the agency during the 2021 fiscal year. There was a brief discussion.

MOTION was made by Dr. Mitchell and seconded by Dr. Pearsall that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the Mobile County Health Department seeks ways to convey its appreciation to the many employees who promote, improve and protect the health of Mobile County on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, the Mobile County Board of Health realizes the importance of trained, competent and committed staff to the execution of public health duties;

WHEREAS, the Mobile County Health Department plans to show appreciation to public health employees for their dedication and hard work throughout the year;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mobile County Board of Health does hereby approve the withdrawal of \$2,000 from the Mobile County Health Department Fund housed at the Community Foundation of South Alabama to purchase appreciation items to be distributed to all employees of the agency during the 2021 fiscal year, which runs from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. A copy of this resolution shall be included in the minutes of the regular meeting of the Mobile County Board of Health and noted that they have been adopted as signified herein below.

The motion passed unanimously.

- d. ***Resolution to Provide Tier I Retirement Benefits to Tier II Plan Members:** Mr. Betros presented to the Board a resolution to approve Tier I Retirement Benefits for Tier II plan members. In 2012 the legislature split employees into two tiers for retirement system purposes to reduce the unfunded liability in the system; Tier I and Tier II were created which was effective January 1, 2013. Tier I was in effect for all employees who were hired before January 1, 2013 with the employee making a 7.5% contribution to their retirement plan and can retire with 25 years of service at any age or at age 60 with 10 years of service (retirement is based on the highest 3 years' salary of the last 10 years salary). Tier II became effective for employees who were hired after January 1, 2013 with the employee making a 6% contribution to their retirement plan and can retire at age 62 with at least 10 years of service. In order to receive the same 25-year benefit as a Tier I employee, an individual would have to work approximately 48 years. The Tier II package decreased the benefit and increased the contribution to the fund. In 2019 it was determined that this was an overcorrection of the unfunded liability by the legislature and caused a recruiting issue. In 2019 the Local Retirement Fairness Act was passed (Act: 2019-132) which allowed employees which were Tier II to become Tier I employees. Employers have the option to elect to change employees back to Tier I employees at the beginning of a fiscal year. The cost for Mobile County Health Department will be \$561,432 which will be paid over a 15-year period. The first year will cost \$83,429 and each year after the yearly amount will decrease. The \$83,429 was included in the budget. There was a brief discussion.

MOTION was made by Dr. Meshad and seconded by Dr. Wing that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Act 2019-132, employers who participate in the Employees' Retirement System pursuant to Ala. Code § 36-27-6 may elect to provide Tier I retirement benefits to Tier II plan members, and

WHEREAS, the **Mobile County Health Department** participates in the Employees' Retirement System pursuant to Ala. Code § 36-27-6 and wishes to improve retirement benefits for its Tier II plan members;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY The **Mobile County Board of Health**, that the **Mobile County Health Department** elects to provide Tier I retirement benefits to its Tier II plan members, subject to approval by the Employees' Retirement System Board of Control; that, if approved, such election shall be effective the following fiscal year (October 1, 2020) and is irrevocable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Mobile County Board of Health** has reviewed the actuarial cost estimates provided by the Employees' Retirement System for such election and agrees to pay any resulting increases in the employer contribution rate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that beginning in the month that such election is effective, that **Mobile County Health Department's** Tier II plan members shall contribute 7.5% of their earnable compensation to the Employees' Retirement System, as required by Act 2019-132.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

- a. **Influenza Vaccine Planning/Drive Through:** Dr. Cepeda informed the Board that Mobile County Health Department will be receiving additional influenza vaccine at no cost from the Alabama Department of Public Health. Plans are being made for a mass vaccination event at Hank Aaron Stadium.
- b. **Hospital COVID-19 Update:** Dr. Cepeda informed the Board that the COVID-19 hospitalization rates have been below 100 per day for over a week.

VI. FAMILY HEALTH CLINICAL SERVICES

- a. **Optometry Services:** Ms. Warren informed the Board that Family Health will suspend optometry services effective September 23, 2020 due to the department not being sustainable.

VII. PREVENTION & WELLNESS

- a. **Back to School/Athletics Update – COVID-19:** Dr. Crawford informed the Board that Mobile County Health Department continues to help schools and athletic programs with their COVID-19 plans.
- b. **Mardi Gras:** Dr. Crawford informed the Board that Mobile County Health Department is working with Mardi Gras Associations on their COVID-19 plans.
- c. **Rental Properties:** Dr. Crawford informed the Board that new space is being rented with Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) grant funding. Since we have expanded capacity with new employees, we need to expand space where they are housed. We also need to rent warehouse space to store COVID-19 supplies.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **Reports from State Health Officer – August 2020** (Attachment B): Presented to the Board by email prior to the meeting for their information, a summary report for the August 2020 from the State Health Officer sent monthly to county Boards of Health describing actions taken by the State Committee of Public Health.
- b. **FOPHCC Governing Council Minutes – August 2020** (Attachment G): Presented to the Board by email prior to the meeting for their information, a copy of the minutes for the FOPHCC Governing Council Meeting held in August 2020.
- c. Next meeting October 20, 2020.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Dr. Mitchell and seconded by Dr. Pearsall to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 a.m.

Joseph Ewing Bornstein, M.D.
Chairman

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

Approved: October 20, 2020