

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Summary of Meeting
October 20, 2020

I. **CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was held by conference call (Dial in Phone Number 1 (301) 715-8592, Access Code: 970 4894 4756#, Password: 060279#) 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, Desiree A. Soter-Pearsall, Michael W. Meshad and Stacey W. Wing

MEMBERS ABSENT: Doctors C.M.A. (Max) Rogers IV, Barbara Mitchell, and Commissioner Jerry Carl

GUEST PRESENT: Brandi L. Lowe, Esq., Compliance/Privacy 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

The chairman announced that there was not a quorum present and only informational items that required no action would be presented until a quorum became present.

II. **HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**:

- a. **Report from State Health Officer** (Attachment C): Dr. Eichold presented to the Board for their information, a summary report for the month of September 2020 from the State Health Officer sent monthly to county Boards of Health describing actions taken by the State Committee of Public Health.
- b. **COVID-19 Vaccination Planning**: Dr. Eichold informed the Board that the State of Alabama submitted a COVID-19 Vaccination Plan to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced this morning that they will contract with Walgreens and CVS to provide COVID-19 vaccination in long term care facilities. Long term care facilities received a letter from the health officer requesting they give flu vaccine to all eligible employees and residents under their care. There was a brief discussion.

The Chairman announced that a quorum was present at 7:04 a.m.

III. **GUEST**: Brandi L. Lowe, Esq., Compliance/Privacy Officer, Mobile County Health Department

- a. ***Corporate Compliance Plan 2020/2021** (Attachment A): Ms. Lowe presented to the Board for their approval the Corporate Compliance Plan 2020-2021.

MOTION was made by Dr. Meshad and seconded by Dr. Wing that the Corporate Compliance Plan 2020/2021 be approved as distributed. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Lowe left the meeting at 7:09 a.m.

IV. ***APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 22, 2020** (Attachment B): The minutes for the meeting held on September 22, 2020 were briefly reviewed since the minutes had been distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting.

MOTION was made by Dr. Pearsall and seconded by Dr. Meshad that the minutes of the meeting held on September 22, 2020 be approved as distributed. The motion passed unanimously.

V. **CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**

- a. **COVID-19 Hospital Update:** Dr. Cepeda informed the Board that meetings with the Chief Medical Officers of local hospitals continue on a weekly basis. COVID-19 cases numbers are fluctuating. We will continue to track and monitor hospital numbers especially as we enter the flu season.
- b. **Influenza Recommendations for Long Term Care Facilities:** Dr. Cepeda informed the Board that Dr. Eichold sent a letter to all the long term care facilities encouraging employees and residents to receive a flu vaccine.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- a. ***General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report – September 2020** (Attachment D): Mr. Betros presented to the Board the General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report for the month of September 2020. The month of September was favorable by \$289,585 with a favorable year to date of \$1.3 million. Mr. Betros asked the Board if there were any questions. There was a brief discussion.

MOTION was made by Dr. Wing and seconded by Dr. Meshad that the General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report for the month of September 2020 be approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Preliminary State Audit Report – FY 2019:** Mr. Betros informed the Board that the preliminary state audit report for FY 2019 was received and there were no findings.
- c. **Newburn Building Renovation Update:** Mr. Betros informed the Board that a bid was awarded in the amount of \$298,000 to partially replace windows in the Newburn Building, \$178,000 were received in federal funds and \$42,000 were received from WIC funds for the project. 56 percent of the windows have been replaced and the Mobile County Health Department plans to replace the remainder of the windows in the upcoming fiscal year with capital improvement funds.
- d. **Building Leases:** Mr. Betros informed the Board that the Mobile County Health Department received funds from the ELC grant to lease space. Two spaces have been leased: 605 Bel Air Boulevard which will be utilized for office space for COVID-19 employees through the ELC grant; a warehouse has been leased near the airport to store supplies that will be shared with the Healthcare Coalition. Both spaces will be leased through 2022.

VII. FAMILY HEALTH CLINICAL SERVICES

- a. **FOPHCC Governing Council Minutes – September 2020** (Attachment E): Ms. Warren presented to the Board, for their information, a copy of the minutes for the FOPHCC Governing Council Meeting held in September 2020.
- b. **Primary Care Clinic Productivity Report – September 2020:** Ms. Warren stated that primary care clinic productivity numbers for September 2020 were 6,798 visits for 4,922 unduplicated patients.
- c. **Health Center Utilization:** Ms. Warren informed the Board that the number of unduplicated patients and number of visits is on a downward trend. The agency was closed for six day during September due to Hurricane Sally and the Labor Day Holiday. On September 25, 2020, normal appointment intervals were resumed. Patients are being seen by physicians every 15 minutes. Nurse practitioners are seeing patients every 20 or 30 minutes depending on visit type.
- d. **Hours of Operation:** Ms. Warren informed the Board that hours of operation at all Mobile County Health Department sites are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday with a Saturday clinic at the Downtown Health Center from 8:00 a.m. until noon. There is currently a family health and a dental provider for the clinic on Saturday. A pediatric provider will be added this week. The Women's Center was open on the Friday following Hurricane Sally as a post disaster triage site to see patients who needed prescription refills and acute care.

VIII. PREVENTION & WELLNESS

- a. ***Appointment of Rabies Officer for 2021:** Dr. Crawford requested the Board's approval to appoint Ann Branch, D.V.M., as the Mobile County Rabies Officer for 2021. Dr. Branch has been the Rabies Officer since 2004.

MOTION was made by Dr. Meshad and seconded by Dr. Wing to appoint Ann Branch, D.V.M., as the Mobile County Rabies Officer for 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Influenza Update:** Dr. Crawford informed the Board that there is minimal influenza activity within the county. The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) will no longer send out a weekly and monthly newsletter to report influenza activity. The information will be available on the ADPH website under influenza/flu. When the link is available, it will be shared with the Board.
- c. **Employee Appreciation Week:** Dr. Crawford informed the Board that the Mobile County Health Department employee appreciation week will be October 26 through October 30, 2020. A homecoming style week of activities and celebration is being planned for employees.
- d. **Masking Education:** Dr. Crawford informed the Board that Mobile County Health Department continues to receive complaints from the community about establishments and businesses throughout the county that are not enforcing the masking order. When Mobile County Health Department receives a complaint, inspectors go into the community to educate the managers and employees within those businesses about masking and provide cloth face coverings.
- e. **Hurricane Sally Response:** Dr. Crawford informed the Board that the agency stood up a medical needs shelter at Cranford Burns School. The medical needs shelter was closed the following day. The agency also stood up two more shelters. One was at the Mobile County Health Department Newburn Facility, which was opened due to calls from hospitals to address a need for individuals to charge their equipment. No one appeared at the shelters and they were closed without the need to provide the assistance requested. The inspection services and on-site teams provided assistance post storm by inspecting food establishments within the community who had prolonged power outages. The vector services department responded by spraying for mosquitos throughout the community.
- f. **Direct Assistance to Long Term Care Facilities for COVID-19:** Dr. Crawford informed the Board that the Mobile County Health Department is providing direct assistance to long term care facilities for COVID-19. The Alabama Department of Public Health is sending a shipment of BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Cards to the Mobile County Health Department for distribution to the long term care facilities. The BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card result can be read directly from the card; it is an antigen test.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **Questions Regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Status – Dr. Scott Chavers:** Dr. Eichold informed the Board that Dr. Scott Chavers was available to join the meeting if the Board had any questions regarding COVID-19 vaccine status. There being no questions, Dr. Scott Chavers did not join the meeting.

There was a brief discussion.

- b. Next meeting November 17, 2020.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Dr. Bornstein and seconded by Dr. Meshad to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 a.m.

Joseph Ewing Bornstein, M.D.
Chairman

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

Approved: November 17, 2020