

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Summary of Meeting
November 17, 2020

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was held by conference call (Dial in Phone Number 1 (301) 715-8592, Access Code: 985 1421 5931#, Password: 598580#) 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, Stacey W. Wing, C.M.A. (Max) Rogers IV, Barbara Mitchell and Commissioner Merceria Ludgood

GUESTS PRESENT: Ms. Nikki Morgan and Mr. John Larsen, Regions Trust Bank

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. **GUESTS – Ms. Nikki Morgan and Mr. John Larsen – Regions Bank**

a. ***Regions Bank Report (GASB 45) (Attachment A):** Ms. Morgan is the Relationship Manager of the GASB 45 Trust and Mr. John Larsen is the portfolio manager. Dr. Bornstein is the Board's representative on the Investment Committee. Mr. Larsen reviewed the portfolio for year ending September 30, 2020 with the Board.

MOTION was made by Dr. Meshad and seconded by Dr. Mitchell to approve the Regions Bank Report (GASB 45) for year ending September 30, 2020 as presented to the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Morgan and Mr. Larsen left the meeting at 7:13 a.m.

III. ***APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 20, 2020** (Attachment B): The minutes for the meeting held on October 20, 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. Wing that the minutes of the meeting held on October 20, 2020 be approved as distributed. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. **HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**

a. **Informational Items:**

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

b. **Mardi Gras:** Dr. Eichold informed the Board that the Governor's Order is in effect until December 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. but does not address Mardi Gras specifically. The Order specifies 6-foot social distancing with no limits on number of people. The Unified Command has discussed having parity with New Orleans. New Orleans learned a lot from their 2020 Mardi Gras experience. The Mayor of Mobile informed the Unified Command that he has been in communication with the Mayor of New Orleans. We hope to have parity with the two largest Mardi Gras cities in the United States. A concern would be if either city cancelled Mardi Gras and the other did not, there would be a potential for one city to be swamped with all the people who normally attend Mardi Gras in both cities. A discussion has taken place with Deans from colleges in Louisiana and Alabama and various public health doctors about potential issues. We do not know what disease spread will look like in February. COVID-19 cases are now on the uptick and we would prefer very limited activities. The biggest concern now is Thanksgiving with small family, super spreading events.

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. Over the last couple of months COVID-19 hospitalizations have increased about 50% which is less than half the maximum COVID-19 related hospitalizations in July.
- b. **COVID-19 Vaccine Update:** Dr. Cepeda informed the Board that USA Health University Hospital is a site for vaccine distribution in the community and Mobile Infirmiry Hospital is on their way to becoming a vaccine distribution site. Ultra-cold temperature is a hurdle for the Pfizer vaccine which requires -80 degrees Celsius. Mobile County Health Department is working on a plan to store vaccine at -80 degrees Celsius. The expectation for arrival of vaccine is late December or early January. There was news about Moderna's vaccine yesterday. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccine could happen very quickly. The two vaccine are not interchangeable. The Alabama Department of Public Health Vaccine Plan has published their plan and the plan will be sent out to the Board members. There was a brief discussion.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- a. ***General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report – October 2020** (Attachment D): Mr. Betros presented to the Board the General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report for the month of October 2020. The month of October was unfavorable by \$158,988 with an unfavorable year to date of \$158,988. 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 General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report for the month of October 2020 be approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Financial Audit 2020:** Mr. Betros informed the Board that the Financial Audit for fiscal year 2020 is underway. The report will be presented to the Board in January 2021.
- c. **State Audit FY 2019** (Attachment E): Mr. Betros presented to the Board the State Auditors report for the FY 2019 audit.

VII. FAMILY HEALTH CLINICAL SERVICES

- a. **FOPHCC Governing Council Minutes – October 2020** (Attachment F): Ms. Warren presented to the Board, for their information, a copy of the minutes for the FOPHCC Governing Council Meeting held in October 2020.
- b. **Primary Care Clinic Productivity Report – October 2020:** Ms. Warren stated that that primary care clinic productivity numbers for October 2020 were 8,406 visits for 6,007 unduplicated patients.
- c. **AltaPointe Update:** Ms. Warren informed the Board that discussions with AltaPointe are continuing although there have been delays due the recent hurricanes and disruptions in service.
- d. **Safer Socializing Campaign:** Ms. Warren informed the Board that a safer socializing campaign has being launched. Within that campaign we have the “Know B4U Go” event. The idea behind the event is for people to get tested for COVID-19 before travelling or gathering during the Thanksgiving holiday. Rapid COVID-19 testing will be available on Saturday, November 21, 2020 as follows: Keeler Memorial Building 8:00 a.m. – noon; 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Dauphin Island Parkway Health Center, Eight Mile Health Center, North Mobile Health Center, Semmes Health Center and Women’s Center Health.

VIII. PREVENTION & WELLNESS

- a. **Influenza Update:** Dr. Crawford informed the Board that the state is at 1.36% for influenza like illness which is below the seasonal baseline of 3.29%.
- b. **Mardi Gras Update:** Dr. Crawford informed the Board that Dr. Eichold has already covered the Mardi Gras update.

- c. **COVID-19 Vaccination Planning Update:** Dr. Crawford informed the Board that the Mobile County Health Department will be pushing out the Mobile County Health Department COVID-19 Vaccination Plan through a link. The initial vaccine allocation to Alabama will be 540,000 vaccines to cover the initial dosage. There will be a second dose allocation that will need to occur prior to twenty-one days when the second vaccination occurs.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. No meeting in December, next meeting January 19, 2021, Annual Meeting – 7:00 a.m.
- b. Dr. Eichold asked for the Board's approval for Dr. Eichold to negotiate the purchase of a warehouse up to the amount of \$450,000 plus incidental expenses. The warehouse would be utilized to store emergency preparedness supplies.

MOTION was made by Dr. Meshad and seconded by Dr. Mitchell for Dr. Eichold to negotiate the purchase of a warehouse up to the amount of \$450,000 plus incidental expenses. The warehouse would be utilized to store emergency preparedness supplies. The motion passed unanimously.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Dr. Mitchell and seconded by Dr. Meshad to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 a.m.

Dr. C.M.A. (Max) Rogers IV, left the meeting at 7:35 a.m.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **Report from Legal Counsel:** Dr. Bornstein requested that the Board enter into Executive Session for a confidential report from Mr. Michael Murphy, Mobile County Health Department, Legal Counsel, regarding a legal matter.

MOTION was made by Dr. Mitchell and seconded by Dr. Meshad that the Board enter into Executive Session for a confidential report from Mr. Michael Murphy, Mobile County Health Department, Legal Counsel, regarding a legal matter. Roll was called and all Board Members present voted yea: Doctors Joseph Ewing Bornstein, Chairman, Desiree A. Soter-Pearsall, Michael W. Meshad, Stacey W. Wing, Barbara Mitchell and Commissioner Merceria Ludgood. There were no nay votes. Dr. Cepeda, Mr. Betros, Ms. Warren, and Dr. Crawford left the meeting room at 7:40 a.m.

Executive Session began at 7:40 a.m. Present for the Executive Session were Mr. Michael Murphy, Doctors Joseph Ewing Bornstein, Chairman, Desiree A. Soter-Pearsall, Michael W. Meshad, Stacey W. Wing, C.M.A. (Max) Rogers IV, Barbara Mitchell, Commissioner Merceria Ludgood, Dr. Eichold and Ms. White.

Upon completion of Mr. Murphy's report, and a brief discussion, Dr. Bornstein called for a motion to adjourn the Executive Session.

MOTION was made by Dr. Meshad and seconded by Dr. Mitchell to end the Executive Session at 8:00 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Joseph Ewing Bornstein, M.D.
Chairman

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

Approved: January 19, 2021