

**JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**LIVE BROADCAST AVAILABLE VIA – YouTube**  
**@<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCACuytmq2kUAI65z3AYsmYw>**  
**December 17, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Diehl called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson County Health Department to order at 10:37 am .

**ROLL CALL**

Dennis Diehl, Chairman - Present  
Dr. Amber Henry, Vice-Chairman – Present  
James Prater, Secretary-Treasurer – Present  
Tim Pigg, Member – Present  
Susan (Suzy) Davis, Member – Present

**OTHERS ATTENDING**

Kelley Vollmar, Executive Director  
Steve Sikes, Deputy Director Operations  
Jennifer Pinkley, Deputy Director Admin.  
Christi Coleman, Legal Counsel

Others in attendance:

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Pigg seconded.

Mrs. Davis stated that she did not receive what she requested in regards to what would be voted on today, Mrs. Coleman responded that there would not be a vote until after the Closed Session as it concerns to attorney client privileged communication. Mrs. Davis replied that as long as there is nothing being discussed that the public needs to know about it, because it can't be in close session unless it is about personnel, land matters or active litigation that we are involved in. Ms. Coleman clarified to Ms. Davis that in addition to these areas of exemption, the Sunshine Law exempts attorney-client privileged communication from the open session. Mr. Prater stated that Mrs. Davis was very good at telling the attorney how to do her job. Chairman Diehl responded that we are following all of those guidelines within the Sunshine Law.

Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried with Mrs. Davis being the only dissenting vote. Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

Mr. Pigg motioned to go into closed session citing Sunshine Law Statute 610.021 Sections 1 and 14. Mr. Prater seconded the motion. Chairman Diehl requested a roll call vote with the results as follows:

Chairman Diehl—Approve  
Dr. Henry— Approve  
Mr. Prater— Approve  
Mr. Pigg— Approve  
Mrs. Davis— Approve

Chairman Diehl announced the motion carried and they were now in closed session.

Mr. Prater made a motion to re-open Open session. Dr. Henry seconded. Chairman Diehl requested a roll call vote with the results as follows:

Chairman Diehl—Approve  
Dr. Henry— Approve  
Mr. Prater— Approve  
Mr. Pigg— Approve  
Mrs. Davis— Approve

**NEW BUSINESS**

Act on recommendations of Counsel discussed in Closed Session regarding pending litigation affecting the JCHC.

Dr, Henry made a motion to authorize Counsel to file a Motion to Intervene in the case of Robinson vs DHSS. Mr. Prater seconded.

Mrs. Davis states that this matter could involve our department and cost us a lot of money in legal fees, and a lot of our directors' time to be available for testimony and meeting with the attorney. The attorney will have to represent us in court. There are other counties that that are challenging the AG's orders and decisions and about the Cole County lawsuit judgment and there's no reason whatsoever that Jefferson County needs to step into this. Ms. Davis argued that it's going to run its course, it's going do what it's going to do, and we do not need to join into it. Ms. Davis stated that we do not need to spend our peoples tax money, we do not need to involve our attorney, we do not need to involve our director's time and take her time away from her regular duties. The public that is watching needs to hear this and understand that we have no need to do this. Ms. Davis stated that whatever this board decides to do, if she is out voted, she has made the statement and the Board is all well aware that this board may choose to spend your tax money foolishly, and that "If they do, I'm out of this and I'm not I'm not going to be responsible if they are sued personally."

Mr. Pigg stated that JCHC has spent a lot of money in reference to other matters - specifically with investigations into complaints against people, that have been caused by people. We must protect the County, and part of that is this.


Chairman Diehl stated that one of the points that was made in closed session is that what the attorney general is proposing is to prevent local health departments from performing the duties that they have performed, for Jefferson County Health Department for example for 70 years. So, we're using the same approach to try to control and prevent COVID that we have with all communicable diseases like measles, tuberculosis, and meningitis all those are things we deal with on a regular basis and what the attorney general is asking us to do is to no longer try to prevent or deal with any communicable disease. That as a public health person, as a board member, as a citizen of Jefferson County, and as a citizen of Missouri is totally unacceptable. Trying to ignore this issue, trying to ignore other communicable diseases, trying to stop the good work that public health has done in the United States, in Missouri, in Jefferson County for years is totally unacceptable. If people are watching this and you don't know what public health does, please look at our website, please look at all the things public health does for you. If you go to a restaurant, you can depend on that it's safe. If you have children in a licensed daycare, you can feel that it's safe. We deal with nursing homes. If you consider mosquitoes a nuisance, much less a vector for disease, we are the only entity in Jefferson County that controls that , so your tax dollars are being spent extremely well. Mr. Diehl stated, "I can tell you as a past Director of the Health Department, as a Board member, as a person who's been in public health for 40 years, as the Executive Director of the Missouri Institute for Community Health which provides accreditation to local health agencies, I've seen all the health departments in this state. I've worked with them and can tell you that they all do great work, and I can tell you that Jefferson County Health Department has been one of the best health departments in the state. To villainize the people who do this work, to villainize the people who are trying to protect the health and safety of our community, is just wrong. This is not a political issue - it's a health issue and people need to understand that and stop the ridiculous attacks against public health."

Mr. Pigg called the motion to question. An argument ensued with Mrs. Davis and Chairman Diehl. Mr. Pigg called the motion to question again.

Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried with Mrs. Davis being the only dissenting vote. Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

### **ADJOURN**

Mr. Pigg motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Henry seconded. Motion carried with Mrs. Davis being the only dissenting vote and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:13 AM.

  
Secretary-Treasurer