

**JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**405 Main Street, Hillsboro, MO 63050**  
**LIVE BROADCAST AVAILABLE VIA – YouTube**  
**@<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCACuytmq2kUAI65z3AYsmYw>**  
**May 25, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Diehl called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson County Health Department to order at 4:00pm .

**ROLL CALL**

Tim Pigg, Chairperson - Present  
Dennis Diehl, Vice-Chairperson – Present  
Tammy Stidem, Secretary-Treasurer – Present  
Dr. Amber Henry, 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:

Brianne Zwiener, Public Communications Officer  
Jaclyn Brown, ASPEN Coordinator  
Kristin Firle, Comptroller

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dr. Henry made a motion to amend the agenda to table the approval of the April 27, 2023, meeting minutes. Ms. Stidem seconded. Ms. Davis asked the reason why the minutes were not ready for approval, Dr. Henry replied that Ms. Pinkley was out on vacation. Ms. Davis asked if the minutes could be sent to Board members when they are completed, Chairperson Pigg replied they would be sent with next month’s Board packet. Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried, and Chairperson Pigg announced the motion had passed.

Mr. Diehl made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Ms. Davis seconded. Hearing no discussion, the motion carried, and Chairperson Pigg announced the motion had passed.

**Director’s Report – Ms. Kelley Vollmar**

ASPEN Report and Presentation – Ms. Jaclyn Brown, ASPEN Coordinator

Chairperson Pigg announced that this is the fourth and last presentation on ASPEN.

Ms. Brown along with Kevin Grossnicklaus, CEO of Architect Now, Adam Mueller, Development Team Lead of Architect Now, and Alex, Chief Technology Officer of Architect Now present on ASPEN. The detailed presentation on ASPEN reviewed the introduction, background, resources directory, parent agreement, student portal, school counselor and school social worker portal, referrals, First Responder and Health Care portals, and Incident Response.

Ms. Stidem stated there are not enough resources - what are we doing about that? Ms. Brown replied we have a lot of partners in the last few years such as Chestnut Health System. They were primarily an Illinois based organization but through grant and contract funding we had the opportunity to bring them to Jefferson County. COMTREA is a big provider in our area, but our county is unique because we actually have liaisons in every school in Jefferson County, and Jefferson Franklin Community Action now has two licensed counselors on staff. But what ASPEN has allowed us to do is, for example, in DeSoto we were able to identify a lot of incredible counselors that were in the area that were not part of large organizations like COMTREA, so now the school counselors have more providers to refer parents to instead of just one, so it does not clog the funnel. Also, some children may do better with music therapy, play therapy or Equine therapy; ASPEN can help find those resources and make those referrals.

Ms. Vollmar stated that Public Health is about providing *access* to services - it's making those connections, helping create the documentation of the need in the community. We were very much involved in bringing in other Mental Health Providers into Jefferson County up to and including having them stationed here in our offices at the health department. The statues, the licensing, and the oversight for mental health is different than for public health so we have to make sure that we are staying within our lane, but we are also trying to do as much as we can to help build up the extra systems.

Ms. Stidem asked how many children's self-screenings or counselor-led screenings have been completed, to which Mr. Brown replied the last data that was pulled was 50 from 8 schools and those can only happen after the parent agreement has been signed.

Ms. Davis asked if a student is referred when would the parent get notified, to which Ms. Brown replied that would be up to the school policy and procedures.

Ms. Davis asked if when a child fills out the assessment does the parent get a copy of that assessment, to which Ms. Brown replied again that would be up to the school policy and procedures. Ms. Davis continued to ask if a child is referred through ASPEN when does the school let the parents know. Mr. Brown replied that whether or not the school uses ASPEN or not the school has a policy for referrals, ASPEN and the health department does not set those

policies and procedures. Ms. Coleman stated a lot of it depends on the reason that is behind the referral; for example, if a child is having suicidal ideation because their parents are abusive then that may be a situation where the school counselor has to make the determination that it is in the best interest of the child that the parent not be told right away until law enforcement gets involved to protect the child.

Ms. Brown reminded the community that anyone can use the ASPEN Resource Directory, but not everyone can take a screening self-assessment.

Mr. Diehl stated this is a great program and thinks it is great that it is including our First Responders and Health Care workers. "We can all agree that there are not enough resources out there to meet the demand, but we have our role to play on this board and if anyone is concerned about not enough providers, they need to get on COMTREA's board or look for more grant funding."

Questions from the visitors:

Are there concerns of pranking or bullying with student referrals and are there safeguards built in? Ms. Brown responded that the school would follow their school policy and procedure on bullying.

Will counselors be able to report false referrals on an ongoing basis?

Ms. Brown responded, yes, we have sent out our first survey to the school counselor and we continue to work with school administrators and counselors in person.

#### **April 2023 APPROVAL EXPENDITURES**

Dr. Henry motioned to approve the April 2023 expenditures of \$174,100.31. Mr. Diehl seconded. Ms. Davis questioned Architect Now for ASPEN and the legal expenses. Ms. Davis asked if there was a stopping point on spending money on ASPEN. Ms. Vollmar replied that Ms. Brown is working on a sustainability plan. Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried, and Chairperson Pigg announced the motion had passed.

#### **April 2023 APPROVAL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS**

Ms. Davis motioned to approve the electronic payments for April 2023 of \$508,384.58. Mr. Diehl seconded. Hearing no discussion, the motion carried and Chairperson Pigg announced the motion had passed.

#### **June 2023 PRE-APPROVAL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS**

The list of vendors for pre-approved electronic payments for June 2023 was presented to the board with an estimated amount of \$590,192.52. Dr. Henry motioned to pre-approve the June

2023 Electronic Payments. Mr. Diehl seconded. Hearing no discussion. Motion carried and Chairperson Pigg announced the motion had passed.

### **Director's Report – Ms. Kelley Vollmar**

Communications Report – Brianne Zwiener, Public Communications Officer

We have been in the paper a few times over the last few weeks. Our dental team was highlighted as the feature story in last week's edition and Steve Sikes and Tori Bowen were also highlighted in regards to the MEHA awards they received.

Yesterday, community member Liz Downer requested that statements be read to the Board, and also requested certain actions be taken and documents provided. Ms. Downer wrote the following, and I will fill in responses to her questions as is appropriate:

1. **Information request for the Adult Immunization Grant. Please explain this grant. Who provides the funds? Please break down treasury details. How will the money be spent? Requested information to be posted on the JCHD website.**
  - a. We will be treating Ms. Downer's request for documents to be posted, as a Sunshine request. However, in response to the questions about funding and spending, I can provide the following information:
  - b. The Adult immunization Grant funding is provided to the state through from CDC funds. The state has signed various local public health agencies as subcontractors to help meet the grant deliverables, which is what we are. We received the funding as a subcontractor under the state. The funding amount given to JCHD was \$360,498, this includes providing and educating on COVID vaccination, flu vaccination, and ensuring we are serving underserved populations. Funding covers personnel cost, travel for home bound vaccines, software costs for electronic health records, marketing and educations, and support for mass vaccination clinics.
2. **Information request for the Lead Campaign. Please explain details regarding the campaign. Where does that originate? Who provides the funds? Please break down treasury details. How will the money be spent? Requested information to be posted on the JCHD website.**
  - a. We will be treating Ms. Downer's request for documents to be posted, as a Sunshine request. However, in response to the question regarding the origination of the campaign and how the money is spent, I can provide the following information:
  - b. We received notice of this funding in 2019 from EPA. This funding works as a reimbursement which means the founder lets us know how much we are allowed to spend to meet the grant deliverables. In the fiscal year covering 2021, the amount we were eligible to utilize and not to exceed was \$297,993. This funding covers the personnel costs for our staff who performs home assessments, health education, and case investigations for elevated blood lead levels. The funding

also covers health education items including educational printing, education giveaways, community event attendance, campaign materials and more.

**3. Please explain about the '16 lead Point of Care Tests' - where can I find the specifications for these tests and their uses?**

- a. We will be treating Ms. Downer's request as a Sunshine request and providing her the documents accordingly.

**4. Regarding the Covid-19 page on the JCHD website. I request an update to this page. Currently, the website states for How to Protect Yourself and Others the following information: get vaccinated against Covid-19 and wear a mask - these are number 1 and number 2. Ms. Downer wrote, 'These suggestions are obsolete. Please remove these statements from the website. Please remove all suggestions on the website for the covid 19 shots, especially for young children. May I please suggest that the JCHD do recent research on vaccinations? Including flu vaccinations. There are plenty of resources that are not government funded. The VAERS website is part of the Health and Human Services division. I have included a recent report. VAERS is the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System put in place in 1990. It is a voluntary reporting system that has been estimated to account for only 1% of vaccine injuries. It was put in place to monitor reactions. For your information to report out loud: In the state of Missouri as of May 12, 2023 Age range 6 months to 5 years old: Hospitalized: 3 12-18: Died-1 ; Life Threats-5 ; perm disabled-5 ; hospitalized-31 ; myocarditis-5 ; anaphylaxis-2 All ages: Died-281 ; Life Threats-243 ; perm disabled-257 ; hospitalized-1388 ; myocarditis-5 ; anaphylaxis-34 ; miscarriage-33 Total State reports: 13,881**

- a. As a public health department and health care provider, we follow CDC and MODHSS guidance and recommendations for all health topics including COVID. Vaccination is the best prevention method available to prevent COVID-19 infection and/or severity of disease. Per CDC and MDHSS guidance JCHD recommends and provides COVID vaccination for residents who are eligible.
- b. VAERS or other vaccine safety monitoring systems are often used incorrectly, sometimes deliberately, in order to spread misinformation and disinformation. VAERS and similar systems allow anyone to submit reports of vaccine injury or side effects; these claims do not have to be verified meaning they contain unverified reports. After claims are made, government health experts perform investigations to determine whether reported injuries or side effects were due to vaccines. This is why only official government reports and peer-reviewed scientific studies should be trusted.

**5. What is the point of the JCHD pushing vaccinations? Can you supply a treasury report regarding the amount of money spent on vaccinations and money that is received for a vaccination quota?**

- a. We will be treating Ms. Downer's request for documents as a Sunshine Request.

- b. Vaccination is one of the top 10 achievements in public health. Vaccines have greatly reduced diseases that once routinely harmed or killed babies, children, and adults. People all over the world—including in the United States—still become seriously ill or even die from diseases that vaccines can help prevent. Vaccinations are one of many tools that help prevent illness, promote health and well-being, and protect public health.
  - c. At JCHD we provide education and awareness to the community about vaccinations so the public can be informed and make decisions for themselves and their families. We provide accurate, updated information regarding all vaccinations, both required and recommended, answer patient/public questions, and provide vaccines for one main purpose: to protect public health in Jefferson County.
- 6. **Can you please read out loud the ASPEN Terms of Services and the JCHD Notice of Privacy Practices?**
  - a. We will be treating Ms. Downer's request for documents to be read, as a Sunshine request, and will respond accordingly. In the interest of time, we will not read them out loud.
- 7. **JCHD Terms of Services document #4874-9233-4378.3 - Please publish the revision page for this document. In Section 10, "We have the right to change, modify, terminate, or otherwise alter these terms." As a government entity, you are required to publish any changes and revisions. Where may we find those historical references?**
  - a. We will be treating Ms. Downer's request for documents to be posted, as a Sunshine request.
- 8. **In Section 12. Disclaimer of Warranties and Limitation of Liability Certain state laws, including the laws of the State of New Jersey, may not allow limitations on implied warranties or the exclusive or limitation of certain damages as set forth in this Section 12, so these limitations and exclusions apply to you only to the extent permitted by applicable law." Can you supply the reasoning for referencing the State of New Jersey? Is there another document which these terms are derived from?**
  - a. We will be treating Ms. Downer's request for documents to be posted, as a Sunshine request
- 9. **Complete treasury report for: per the April 2023 report, ASPEN FUNDING STREAMS Jefferson Foundation Transformative Grant Missouri DHSS Health Disparities contract**
  - a. We will be treating Ms. Downer's request for documents to be posted, as a Sunshine request
- 10. **Question in regards to Resolution 22-01-27-01 Did law enforcement from a local municipality, county, or state, agree to enforce the JCHD Resolution 22-01-27-01 regarding the health care resolution's authorization of a misdemeanor charge? Did**

**they agree to enforce actions? Which agency or agencies agreed, for example, the Health Department inspector, JC Sheriff department, Hillsboro police, Missouri Highway Patrol, etc?**

- a. In response to these questions, we never had to reach out to any law enforcement agency to enforce this resolution. Rumors regarding enforcement actions are just that – rumors. The JCHC did not seek judicial or law enforcement assistance in enforcement of its resolutions during COVID.

**11. Please read out loud on record Resolution 22-01-27-01.**

- a. This resolution is posted on our website. In the interests of time, I will not be reading it out loud.

**12. Historical documents for JCHD** - I request a time when I can view those in person. All revisions and records are open to the public.

- a. I will be following up with Ms. Downer to ascertain what documents she wishes to inspect and will provide available documents in accordance with our Sunshine policy.

Attorney Update – Ms. Christi Coleman (Board Counsel)

Ms. Coleman gave an update on Sunshine Issues including Sunshine complaints, JCHC responses, AGO responses, AGO position on public comment, and JCHC position on public comment. The update included screenshots of communications between herself and the Attorney General’s Office regarding complaints and resolution thereof. The presentation was visible on the screen in the room, as well as broadcast to the live feed. Ms. Coleman stated that the information she presented is intended to clear up inconsistencies and inaccuracies that have been reported on social media about the Board’s compliance with the Sunshine Law. Ms. Coleman stated that while Board members have been kept apprised of the status of Sunshine disputes, not all of the information provided to the Board members who requested it has been made available to the public, and the consensus of the Board was that the information needed to be shared with the public at large.

Strategic Planning Update

Our strategic planning consultants are coming in for an in-person all-day training and work session and we would like to invite the entire board. They are available on June 27; it would be considered a closed work session if more than two board members are present. We will post an agenda and immediately go into closed session so the discussions about the change of plans will not be open to the public once the plan is adopted that document is open to the public.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Town Hall

The Town Hall will be June 15, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Hillsboro Civic Center to accommodate all Board Trustees that wanted to attend.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Future discussions - limit (3) with 2 members approval

Chairperson Pigg explained this has been added so Board Trustees can add items for discussion to the next meeting with another Board Trustees agreement of adding the item to the agenda. This will eliminate the need to email the Chairperson to add items to the agenda for discussion.

Ms. Davis stated that her attorney submitted a Sunshine request, and she does not want to pay for the responsive documents pursuant to the policy. Ms. Coleman replied that Ms. Davis's attorney submitted a Sunshine request for many documents that were retrieved, and, per policy, her attorney was advised that the documents were ready for retrieval upon payment of the required fee. Ms. Coleman explained to the Board that Ms. Davis then emailed the Board Chair and COR and requested the documents be provided free of charge because the documents were to be used in her combating the censure resolution approved by the Board. Ms. Coleman explained that because the documents were requested in order to pursue action against the JCHC - which is a matter of particularly personal interest to Ms. Davis - Ms. Davis's request is actually a violation of the bylaws, which prohibit a member from using his/her trustee position for any personal or partisan gain. Therefore, for any board member to ask for the fees to be waived for their personal prosecution against JCHC is a violation of the bylaws, and this was actually something for which Ms. Davis was censured already. Ms. Davis stated that it is not for personal gain - it is in regard to her being censured. Chairperson Pigg explained that if it is something she wanted that was related to the business of the Department, and something requested by the rest of the Board in pursuit of that business, then the request would have been proper. However, it is not proper if the request pertained only to Ms. Davis's personal situation.

### **ADJOURN**

Dr. Henry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Stidem seconded. Motion carried unanimously and Chairperson Pigg announced the motion had passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

  
Secretary-Treasurer