

JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

LIVE BROADCAST AVAILABLE VIA – YouTube

@<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCACuytmq2kUAI65z3AYsmYw>

September 22, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Diehl called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson County Health Department to order at 4:16pm .

ROLL CALL

Dennis Diehl, Chairman - Present

Dr. Amber Henry, Vice-Chairman – Excused

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:

Brianne Zwiener, Public Communications Officer
Jaclyn Brown, ASPEN Coordinator

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Ms. Davis stated she did not see anything on the agenda about people being able to speak and we have a guest here today. Chairman Diehl stated he wanted to amend the agenda to add “reading of public comments” to the agenda, under New Business number 1. Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Pigg seconded. Ms. Davis stated that we should allow public comments and the Board did not vote to only let people talk at a public forum at a town hall meeting. Mr. Prater reminded everyone that at last month’s meeting the Board voted to have town hall meetings biannually and allow public comments at those meetings. Mr. Pigg call the motion to question.

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

APPROVAL OF June 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Pigg made a motion to approve the **June 23, 2022** meeting minutes. Mr. Prater seconded. Hearing no discussion, the motion carried and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

APPROVAL OF August 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the **August 4, 2022** meeting minutes. Chairman Diehl seconded. Ms. Davis stated she approves “everything except the rude comments made toward other Board members.” Chairman Diehl reminded Ms. Davis that the approval is to indicate that the minutes were accurate, not whether she agreed with the statements made at the meeting or whether they should be included. Ms. Davis stated she is opposed to including those statements in the minutes. Mr. Pigg abstained because he was not present at the August 4, 2022, meeting.

The August 4, 2022 meeting minutes are tabled until next month.

August 2022 APPROVAL EXPENDITURES

Mr. Pigg motioned to approve the August 2022 expenditures in the amount of \$317,287.11. Mr. Prater seconded. Ms. Davis questioned the legal fees of \$4,252.57, because she believes they continue to be overpriced and that Sunshine request do not need to go to the attorney.

Ms. Davis states she has been closely following the legal fees and expenditures of Lewis Brisbois and she is happy to see that they are coming down. But she saw in her review of the bills there is a lot of time spent on Sunshine requests instead, rather than the Department just providing the requested documents. She does not want the attorney to review the requests or the responses. Ms. Coleman explained to the Board what happens with the Sunshine request process: the Custodian of Records gets a Sunshine Request, and she sends it to Ms. Coleman so she can the COR advice regarding applicable exemptions and the types of documents which are responsive. The COR actually prepares the response and sends to Counsel for a final review. This process usually takes 10- or 15-minutes total on Counsel’s end Ms. Coleman reminded the Board that it is her job to know what the exemptions are that would apply to requests and to make sure that the Board is protected – in particular as it concerns HIPAA issues, personal information of residents and attorney-client privileged communications. Addressing Ms. Davis, Ms. Coleman stated that Ms. Davis seems to have the misconception that whenever the bill matter states “Board Governance” that everything in that bills has to do with the Sunshine Law and that is not true. Ms. Coleman had explained to Ms. Davis last month and again in the

meeting as she reviewed the records that the “Board Governance” file contains all time that has to do with what is not already categorized as litigation, real estate or particular communications about specific issues. So, for example, Counsel’s attendance at the board meetings, her assistance in reviewing the minutes and making sure that the minutes are compliant with the Sunshine Law, Counsel’s assistance in preparing the agenda, reviewing those agendas and making sure that they are compliant with the Sunshine Law, and with any communication that is not otherwise designated. So, whenever Ms. Davis tells the public that the majority of the legal fees are spent not complying with the Sunshine Law that is simply not true.

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

August 2022 APPROVAL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

Mr. Prater motioned to approve the electronic payments for August 2022 in the amount of \$491,346.76. Mr. Pigg seconded.

Ms. Davis asked if the ASPEN bill is on this list for approval, to which Ms. Vollmar replied it was in the regular bills that were just approved. Ms. Davis stated that the ASPEN bill is again \$35,000 this month, she would like to know what we are getting out of that. Ms. Vollmar replied that during the pandemic one of Ms. Davis’s largest concerns was the impact on children's mental health. We have had entire presentations on ASPEN - a tool utilized for the benefit of helping to ensure children's mental health needs are taken care of in schools. Ms. Vollmar asked Ms. Brown to come in again today to reiterate the importance of ASPEN and to answer questions. Ms. Vollmar asked Ms. Davis not to make judgments on something if she does not understand it, and please take the time to listen to Ms. Brown and understand the important work that we are doing.

Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

October 2022 PRE-APPROVAL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

The list of vendors for pre-approved electronic payments for October 2022 presented to the board with an estimated amount of \$604,687.25. Mr. Prater motioned to pre-approve the October 2022 Electronic Payments. Mr. Pigg seconded. Motion carried and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – KELLEY VOLLMAR

ASPEN Update – Ms. Jaclyn Brown

Ms. Jaclyn Brown gave a presentation on ASPEN.

The journey to develop ASPEN began in March 2015, 40 county stakeholders came together as part of a Mobilizing for Action through Planning Partnerships (MAPP) assessment led by JCHD. It was identified there was a lack of identifying resources in the region and connecting individuals and families to resources that were available was limited. JCHD began seeking funding to design a Network that would help bridge these gaps. In 2018 JCHD began the Jefferson County Health Network comprised of multiple community partners. There was a focus placed on behavioral health due to the increase of behavioral health needs and youth suicides. JCHD through JCHN began exploring virtual behavioral health platforms for youth and adults, none met the unique needs of Jefferson County and regional schools, families and individuals. In 2019 Jefferson R-VII develop a unique concept of a universal screening tool for schools along with Mercy, COMTREA, Chestnut, Provident and additional school representatives to address urgent needs and how to better utilize resources in our community. In 2020 forces combined and the group began to visualize the concept of a virtual tool that not only could better navigate resources, it could have unique behavioral health components. De Soto and R-VII School Districts, COMTREA, Chestnut, Provident and others began development of phase one of the tool itself began in February of 2021 and we were able to begin alpha and beta testing phases in fall of 2021.

ASPEN was developed and enhanced through partnership and data driven decisions to address rising mental health needs.

ASPEN is designed to help identify need and link to the appropriate resources. This triaged system is also designed to decrease the amount of time school counselors are taking to screen students and find resources. What does a high-risk service look like: A specialized counselor or psychiatrist, more frequency of access to services, shorter waitlist. Moderate Risk: A counselor in school or local that can help meet student needs. Low Risk: Peer support, counseling services, group counseling.

ASPEN helps staff triage to address higher needs and lower needs accordingly, as well as take into account insurance, financial need, and transportation. This is intended to help relieve some of the clogs in the system. We recognize it is not perfect and does not yet fill the need for more counselors, but it is a step in the right direction.

ASPEN is designed like an ASPEN forest with an interconnected root system providing resources to help the forest of trees thrive. The ASPEN resource directory houses a robust resource database, continuing to grow. This database interconnects every ASPEN portal.

The student screening tool was developed by mental health professionals from Jefferson R-VII, De Soto School District, COMTREA, Provident, Chestnut and Mercy and was also reviewed by a representative from BHR. This tool was based off of the PHQ, ASQ and GAD-7 vetted tools. School and licensed counselors working within a school utilizing ASPEN have access to counselor led screening tools. Schools follow their internal processes, policies and Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) when working with students. The Columbia or CSSR-S is one of the most

commonly utilized suicide risk screening tools in schools in Missouri. This screening tool is accessible by counselors if needed to help identify risk level and need.

A referral option was developed after demonstrations with staff, parents, school counselors and youth brought forward the desire to quickly and efficiently refer a student who may need help. This can be accessed through a QR code or website. Prior to schools utilizing ASPEN or students accessing a self-screening there will be a multi-layered communication approach. In partnership with school's parents will have access to an informational letter, FAQ information, and general information shared through school communication methods ie. Email, social media, etc. ASPEN has an opt-out option for parent/guardian to complete. The parent agreement and terms and conditions must be approved prior to a student accessing the self-screening tool, they have already been reviewed by JCHD attorney's at least one school attorney.

Additional populations were identified as high risk for mental health concerns and access to limited resources. These included first responders, health care workers and foster children. Through ASPEN specific portals are being designed to help link these individuals and their families to vetted resources to help meet their specific needs. This is part of the First Responder portal that will be very similar to the health care Worker portal. Screenings were designed for this population with questions to identify general needs such as assistance with utilities, and questions focused on mental health related needs. A unique algorithm was designed if the screening is completed it links them to resources available in their region, including vetted counselors that work specifically with first responders.

There are grants that were awarded in part or full to assist in the Network and design, development, maintenance, and sustainability of ASPEN including contracted services through ArchitectNOW and important attorney costs. The most recent grant was awarded through the Jefferson Foundation to help sustain ASPEN. Funds will be utilized to sustain staffing, hire a consultant who specializes in program sustainability and preferably has worked with either public health or mental health agencies, additional funds will be utilized for necessary technology, behavioral health professional consultants, mileage, system security, insurance and attorney fees.

The Board thanked Ms. Brown for her update.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Diehl read two emails he received from the public.

First Email (Embree)

Good afternoon, Dennis Diehl,

1. What was spent on pay-per-click last month? What is the anticipated spend on pay-per-click for 2022? What is the perceived quantitative gain for the citizens in Pevely, Hillsboro, Crystal City, Festus? If I ask the average citizen in Pevely how this expenditure helped him what do you expect him to say?
2. As it is unconstitutional to have a licensed Bar member controlling/influencing the health board meetings, what standing do you have to overrule the Constitution? Whereas policies and procedures of a Federally funded non-profit board of directors, such as yourselves do not override the Constitution, how do you plan to remedy this circumstance? How does having the attorney in the meeting improve the health of the Jefferson County citizens?
3. How many active lawsuits does the Jefferson County Health Department have going against them currently? How many active lawsuits is Jefferson County Health Department participating in as the complainant? What is the set spending cap on the Jefferson County Health Department legal fees? Of the current Sunshine complaints involving the Jefferson County Health Board, what percentage of the complaints that do not target the board at large and are instead intent on named individuals, answer can be estimated or answered as above or below 50%?
4. Cole county lawsuit expenditure was what percentage of the legal fees paid from entrance into the lawsuit, answer can be estimated or answered as above or below 50% of legal fees? Now that we are not involved in the lawsuit, what further plans to spend for additional legal fees in this matter? What was the final expenditure total for the participation in this lawsuit? What was the gain for the Jefferson County citizen? Was that the expected outcome and what was the goal of our participating in the lawsuit? How did it improve the average citizen's health?
5. Resolution enforcement policy indicates that a misdemeanor and fines may be established for refusal to comply. What law enforcement officer(s) has been contacted about this matter and has agreed to enforce this Jefferson County Health Department resolution? What law agency are they with currently? If a citizen resists the enforcement of the resolution, whether by avoiding law enforcement deployed, refusing to comply or pay fines, fees etc. that are assessed can this Health department enforcement action be escalated to a felony, warrant or bench warrant for non-compliance? Can an animal be put down or seized by order of this resolution? Can children be removed from parental custody with the enforcement of this resolution, whether directly or indirectly through the resistance escalation to a felon or court order?

Second email (Nan Backes):

I read with interest the Leader article of Sept. 1 regarding upcoming changes to health department board meetings.

I work until 5 or 6 pm (depending on the schedule), so I can neither attend in person or online (I'm AT WORK!). Therefore, I agree with Suzy Davis' suggestion that meetings be held at 6:30pm at a larger venue so that the public may attend and that local citizens may offer comments. As for meetings being held during the day so that department employees may attend, I suggest for that day, those employees arrive to work later in the day to avoid paying them overtime.

The health department is supposed to function for the citizens of our community. The health department works for us; it is not a private business closed to citizens' ideas and comments. Without our comments and ideas, how will you know our needs and desires of your department? Will you merely guess or assume what we need or desire? Are your decisions based on what monies (via grants etc.) are available which may not be what our community truly needs or wants? The community must have a say in decisions, since our tax money supports your existence. You work for us.

I am in favor of open meetings beginning in the evening and encouraging community input. Once the community knows that meetings will be held in such a fashion, you may have greater attendance and participation.

Mr. Diehl noted that Ms. Embree and Ms. Backes provided their phone numbers, but to protect their privacy he did not read those into the minutes.

To the extent these emails request information from the JCHC, Mr. Diehl construed them as requests for documents under the Sunshine Law and will forward them to the Custodian of Records in order to respond accordingly.

Mr. Diehl thanked Ms. Embree and Ms. Backes for submitting their comments to the Board and reminded the public, anyone who wishes to have a comment read to the Board in our meeting should email it to Mr. Diehl at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Set November and December 2022 Board Meeting Dates

Chairman Diehl stated the November Board meeting falls on Thanksgiving, so possible reschedule dates are Monday, November 28, Tuesday, November 29, or Wednesday, November 30. He asked the Boards preference and stated after discussion that it will be held Wednesday, November 30 at 4 pm.

The December Board meeting falls on December 22nd. We wanted to make sure that everyone could attend that meeting, if not some possible rescheduled dates are Monday, December 19, Tuesday, December 20, or Wednesday, December 21. The December Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 20 at 4 pm. Ms. Pinkley will get the meeting invites sent out.

Act on Recommendation of Building Subcommittee to close High Ridge office

Mr. Prater made a motion to close the High Ridge office sometime between January 1 and June 30, 2023, depending on administrative and contractual obligations. Mr. Pigg seconded the motion.

Ms. Davis asked what the reason is behind closing that office, to which Ms. Vollmar replied we do not have a lot of activity at that location and our Mobile Wellness Van frequently visits the Peace Pantry, we work with the fire department and library so we will not be leaving the area.

Hearing no further discussion, motion carried unanimously, and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

Mr. Pigg motioned to go into closed session citing Sunshine Law Statute 610.021 Sections 1, 2, 3, and 14, with recitations as to what each section covers. Mr. Prater seconded the motion. Chairman Diehl requested a roll call vote with the results as follows:

Chairman Diehl—Approve

Dr. Henry— Not Present

Mr. Prater— Approve

Mr. Pigg— Approve

Ms. Davis— Approve

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

At 5:52 p.m. Mr. Pigg made a motion to re-open Open session. Mr. Prater seconded. Chairman Diehl requested a roll call vote with the results as follows:

Chairman Diehl—Approve

Dr. Henry— Not Present

Mr. Prater— Approve

Mr. Pigg— Approve

Ms. Davis— Approve

Nothing to report from Closed Session.

ADJOURN

Mr. Pigg motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Prater seconded. Motion carried unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm



Secretary-Treasurer