

Report on the

Mobile County Board of Health

Mobile, Alabama

October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018

Filed: January 10, 2020



Department of Examiners of Public Accounts

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Rachel Laurie Riddle, Chief Examiner



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Rachel Laurie Riddle
Chief Examiner

Honorable Rachel Laurie Riddle
Chief Examiner of Public Accounts
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Madam:

Under the authority of the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-5A-19, I submit this report on the results of the examination of the Mobile County Board of Health, Mobile, Alabama, for the period October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
the 31st day of Dec, 2019.

Alonzo Sterling
Notary Public
Notary: 31 Aug 20

Respectfully submitted,

Phillipe Walker

Phillipe Walker
Examiner of Public Accounts

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Department of
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SUMMARY

**Mobile County Board of Health
October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018**

The Mobile County Board of Health (the “Board”) was established prior to the creation of the Alabama State Department of Public Health; however, it serves as an agency for that department and operates under the provisions of the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Sections 22-3-1 through 22-3-12. The Board is composed of six medical officers and one member of the Mobile County Commission. The Board elects its own officers.

S. W. Chiepalich, Certified Public Accountant, conducted financial and federal audits for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018.

This report presents the results of an examination of the Board and a review of compliance by the Board with applicable laws and regulations of the State of Alabama in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts under the authority of the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-5A-12.

The following instance of noncompliance with state laws and regulations and other matters was found during the examination as shown on the Schedule of State Compliance and Other Findings and it is summarized below:

CURRENT FINDING

- ◆ 2018-001 All of the required performance bonds and payment bonds were not included in the Board’s records.

The following officials/employees were invited to an exit conference: Bernard H. Eichold, II, M.D., Dr.P.H. - Health Officer. The following individuals attended the exit conference on behalf of the Mobile County Board of Health: Bernard H. Eichold, II, M.D., Dr.P.H. - Health Officer; Susan Stiegler, Assistant Health Officer; Paul Betros, Director of Administrative Services; and Linette Clausman, Chief Financial Officer. Representing the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts was Phillipe Walker, Examiner.



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COMMENTS

**Mobile County Board of Health
October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018**

The Mobile County Board of Health (the “Board”) is the oldest legal continuous public health organization in the state of Alabama. In 1816, the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of the Mississippi Territory authorized the establishment of a Board of Health in Mobile. Services have been provided uninterrupted to the citizens of this community since that time. Mobile's Board of Health predates any other health department in Alabama by almost 100 years.

At the turn of the century, there were three boards of health functioning in the county (City of Mobile, County of Mobile and Citronelle). On January 1, 1919, one full-time health department was established for countywide services.

Under a consolidation plan, the first office of the Board of Health was housed at 119 Conti Street. It remained there until 1957 when, in July of that year, the facility moved into a new monolithic structure located at 248 Cox Street.

On December 1, 1974, the Mobile County Board of Health entered into a lease/purchase arrangement with the Sixth District Tuberculosis Association for the U. S. Marine Hospital located at 850 St. Anthony Street. On October 23rd of 1975, the title and deed were duly transferred to the Board of Health.

In 1979, the Board of Health, now being known as the Mobile County Health Department, became the parent organization of the Family Oriented Primary Health Care Clinic.

Renovation of the Keeler Memorial Building, along with the construction of a new addition to the central structure, was completed in 1983 and all of the services were consolidated into this new location during that year.

In 1984, the Keeler facility was rededicated as the Major General William C. Gorgas Clinic. The main entrance was located at 251 N. Bayou Street. The 150th year celebration of the facility was held on December 15, 1993.

During the 1990's, the Mobile County Health Department and Family Oriented Primary Health Care Clinic opened numerous sites around Mobile County including: the Citronelle Clinic (1991), Women's Clinic on Springhill Avenue (1992), Calcedeaver Clinic (1992), School Based Clinic in Plateau (1994), Eight Mile Clinic (1996). In addition, the Onsite Division moved to Schillinger's Road (1998) and the TEEN Center was established at Cox Street (1998).

During the 2000's, Primary Care, Dental and Women's Infants and Children's (WIC) services started being offered to patients on Saturdays at the Keeler Site; the Mobile County Health Department first received accreditation (2003) for ambulatory care, home care, pathology, and laboratory services from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organization; the Women's Center moved to Cox Street into a newly constructed building (2004); and new clinics were added in Semmes (2005) and Mt. Vernon (2007).

In 2011, the Calcedeaver and Mt. Vernon Clinics combined together and moved into a newly constructed building named the North Mobile Health Center.

In 2012, the Southwest Health Center was opened in Tillman's Corner.

In 2013, the Mobile County Health Department rebranded and became known as MCHD. The logo was also changed. The Family Oriented Primary Health Care Clinic became known as Family Health and received a separate logo. The Citronelle Health Center was completely remodeled and was the first site to receive the new Family Health logo.

In 2014, the Dauphin Island Parkway Clinic was opened in a shopping center on Dauphin Island Parkway and the School Based Clinic in Plateau was closed.

In 2016, the Mobile County Health Department purchased a dental clinic in Citronelle, Alabama. The clinic underwent extensive renovations in 2017.

In 2017, the Eight Mile Health Center moved into a newly constructed building on Highway 45.

The Mobile County Health Department celebrated its 200th year anniversary in 2016 and continues working toward meeting its mission, which is to promote, improve and protect the health of Mobile County, with a vision of a healthy, safe, prepared, and educated community.

The MCHD has maintained Joint Commission accreditation, which is a symbol of medical excellence, since 2003.

*Schedule of State Compliance
and Other Findings*

Schedule of State Compliance and Other Findings
For the Year Ended September 30, 2018

Ref. No.	Finding/Noncompliance
2018-001	<p><u>Finding:</u> The <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 39-1-1(a) pertaining to performance and payment bond requirements for public works projects states that any person entering into a contract with an awarding authority in this state for the prosecution of any public works shall, before commencing the work, execute a performance bond, with penalty equal to 100 percent of the amount of the contract price. In addition, another bond, payable to the awarding authority letting the contract, shall be executed in an amount not less than 50 percent of the contract price, with the obligation that the contractor or contractors shall promptly make payments to all persons supplying labor, materials, or supplies for or in the prosecution of the work provided in the contract and for the payment of reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by successful claimants or plaintiffs in civil actions on the bond.</p> <p>In fiscal year 2017-2018, the Mobile County Board of Health solicited a competitive bid for the Keeler Building Exterior Envelope Project, with the awarding price of the bid at \$610,000.00. The review of the bid files revealed that a performance bond and a payment bond were not provided on the Keeler Building Exterior Envelope Project.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Mobile County Board of Health should develop controls to ensure compliance with the <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Sections 39-1-1(a).</p>

Additional Information

Board Members and Official
October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018

Board Members		Term Expires
Hon. Connie Hudson, (Beginning March 20, 2018)	Ex-Officio	
Hon. Merceria L. Ludgood (Ending March 19, 2018)	Ex-Officio	
Hon. D. Lawrence Bedsole, M.D.	Chairman (2017)	12/31/2018
Hon. Barbara Mitchell, M.D.	Chairman (2018)	12/31/2020
Hon. Matthew E. Cepeda, M.D.	Secretary (2017)	12/31/2019
Hon. Max Rogers, IV, M.D.	Secretary (2018)	12/31/2018
Hon. Nina Ford-Johnson, M.D.	Member	12/31/2019
Hon. William O. Richards, M.D.	Member	12/31/2020

Official

Bernard H. Eichold, II, M.D., Dr. P.H., Health Officer	Mobile County Health Department Post Office Box 2867 Mobile, Alabama 36652-2867
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