

**KALHD Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2024**

Board Members

Brie Greeson, President
Jason Tiller, Board Past-President
Jennifer Cure, President-Elect
Julie Gibbs, Secretary-Treasurer
Leslie Campbell, District 3 Representative
Kendra Walsh, District 4 Representative
Lynnette Redington, District 5 Representative
Lisa Scott, District 6 Representative
Courtney Murrow, District 2 Alternate
Crystal VanHoutan, District 3 Alternate
Adrienne Byrne, At-Large #2

Attendees

Denice Cragg
Kory Owen
Angie Kahle
Amy Teater
Monica Reuber
Peyton Kessler
Cindy Mullen
Christina LoBurgio
Faye Jones
Stephen Maheux
Chelsee Sowder
Amilia Marchant
Renee Hively
Krista Schneider
Sarah Hodges
Kim Reel
Rayna Maddox
Ruth Walker
Dennille Schweitzer
Alaina Hughes
Misty Trudeau
Karen Winkleman
Dana Rickley
Charlie Hunt
Teresa Fisher
Rebecca Adamson

Aaron Davis

Staff

Randy Bowman, Executive Director

Call to Order

Brie Greeson, President, called the virtual meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Board Roll Call

Randy Bowman, Executive Director, conducted a roll call of board members and determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Brie asked for any changes to the agenda, and none were identified. **Lisa Scott moved to approve the agenda which was seconded by Jennifer Cure. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Approval of Minutes

Brie referenced the March 2024 minutes provided with the meeting materials. **No changes were identified, and Jennifer Cure motioned to approve the minutes. Jason Tiller seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Monthly Financial Report

Julie Gibbs, Secretary/Treasurer shared the March 2024 financial report. KALHD realized a net financial gain of \$63,374.85 for the month with \$69,165.08 in total income and \$11,265.23 in total expenses, less \$5,475.00 in NACCHO pass through dues received that reduce monthly expenses and will be paid this summer. Julie noted that the ending bank balance for March is \$427,594.85.

Brie asked if there were any questions, and there were none, and then a motion to approve the financial report and place it on file. Jason Tiller **motioned to approve the report and place it on file. Lisa Scott seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Discussion on Process for Approval of Future Workforce Grants

Randy began the discussion with an update that there are no grant requests to consider this month as Cristi Cain could not participate in this meeting due to attendance at a conference. And that as of about 10 days ago, KDHE had received four applications, and since, Randy has seen another in an email. Currently anticipate reviewing these at the May meeting which raises the question of how much time do we want to devote to discussion of those proposals KDHE has reviewed and is recommending that the Board fund our future agendas.

A suggestion was offered to create a sub-committee of 3-5 people to bring proposals to the Board with a recommendation to fund or not fund to reduce the amount of time required during Board meetings. Additional suggestions during discussion were that members of any sub-committee

should excuse themselves from the review of any grant that may be a conflict of interest. And that the sub-committee could make recommendations as a consent agenda item with any individual grant eligible to be considered separately upon request that is be removed from the consent portion of the agenda for discussion and vote. After discussing the suggestions **Leslie Campbell moved to have a subcommittee created to review grants each month and bring recommendations to the full Board. Adrienne Byrne 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

PHEP new 5-year grant period

Rebecca Adamson, Section Director for KDHE Preparedness, provided an overview of the process and the resulting work plan for Kansas' PHEP grant application for the Board before a vote on the draft concurrence letter from KALHD.

Randy then summarized the draft concurrence letter that was distributed with the Board materials. **Jason Tiller made a motion to approve the concurrence letter for the PHEP work plan. Lynnette Redington seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.**

During this discussion a question was posted in the chat regarding functionality of KGMS. Rebecca could not answer the question and indicated she would take it back to KDHE staff who could answer the question.

Discussion on 2025 KALHD Dues

Randy referenced KALHD records he has seen and that the Board discussed dues in meetings this time a year ago. Then at the Mid-Year-Meeting (MYM) formally adopted a change in the dues formula and dues increase for 2024. Seemed like the intent was to not do rate increases regularly going forward but wanted to provide this opportunity for discussion before the upcoming MYM.

Individual members shared their recollections of the discussion a year ago. One consideration recalled was to rebalance the amount of KALHD funds that come from dues compared to contracts and grants. And that we do not want to prevent a barrier to LHD membership due to the cost of dues. Also, as funding is changing for LHDs with the end of COVID funding, a future conversation of what to do with dues over the next 3-5 years has some merit. The consensus reached was, as there is no immediate need to increase revenue from dues, we will plan to keep the 2024 dues rates the same in 2025. Adopting the dues amounts for calendar year 2025 will require formal action at the MYM.

Brie then referenced the discussions over the past few months about the use and approval of the work force funding that was retained at KDHE when some counties could not apply for those grants. And the agreed upon goal to use those funds to benefit all LHDs. She proposed for discussion, the idea of KALHD potentially apply for some of those funds to be used to reduce membership dues for members for one year. In discussion it was identified that KALHD would be applying for funds, would review and approve, and that could be a conflict of interest. After discussion KALHD will not pursue funding to reduce the cost of membership dues.

WSU Update

Aaron Davis provided an update on projects at Wichita State University Center for Public Health Initiatives. One of those projects will be presented at the KALHD MYM which is the development of a list of Medicaid priorities. To identify those priorities WSU has conducted about a dozen focus groups as well as individual interviews. KALHD and WSU have supported work on various Medicaid related issues over the years and are now working to identify a priority list of small and big things that LHDs and KALHD would like to see changed to improve public health.

Another is the launch of the next aspire series which have been done in the past. This is a professional development opportunity for public health departments to identify areas that public health could be working in and learn from one another. This next series will be looking at economic stability and what does it mean for a health department to be working in this area.

The KALHD Informatics Subcommittee have been working on a number of things for Public Health Data Day, which is the pre-session for the KALHD MYM. Will be focusing on how to use data, primary and secondary, in ways that benefit us including in logic models and grant applications.

Last thing, on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and community of practice group that launched in September, some months there are 6 participants and other times up to 20. If anyone would like to be included in this conversation to learn, explore, and think about the use of AI, please contact Aaron. The Kansas Health Institute and WSU are also presenting on the use of AI at the Kansas County Commissioner Association (KCCA) conference later this week.

2024 Legislative Session Update

Randy provided updates on the Legislative Session which reached First Adjournment last week. The session will resume on April 29th for all members, with some specific committees returning the Thursday and Friday before that date. They could meet one, two, three days or more but rumors are that want to do “sine die”, which is the final action of each session, within this timeframe instead of returning later in May which is the historical practice.

The current legislative activity is staff doing the enrollment process for bills to put them in final form before they are presented to the Governor for action. Discussed the time frame and process for the Governor to act on bills, the authority for line-item veto in a budget bill, and next steps.

The budget does include \$843,000 in additional funding for LHD’s in FY2025 and continues the proviso language setting the minimum allocation for a LHD at \$12,000 in stead of the \$7,000 in statute. No reason to think these won’t be approved, but until the Governor signs the budget bill nothing is final.

HB2754 is the bill that restores the County Commission’s authority to use home rule to exempt the LHD’s Local Health Officer from conducting school inspections. It was signed by the Governor last Friday and will become law upon publication in the statute book which happens around July 1 each year. This allows the Commission to make this decision, not the LHD. If an LHD is interested in ceasing school inspections, you will need to work with your Commission.

The House and Senate Conference Committee did meet in the final week before First Adjournment and worked on bills described in last week's legislative update. The most important take away is that they did not discuss the very concerning public health bills of SB390/391/5/6 that in different forms would limit the ability of state and local public health officials to respond to infectious and contagious diseases. The Legislature has not adjourned, so these could still come up, but that they did not discuss them last week is favorable.

The Conference Committee Report (CCR) for the childcare licensing bill SB96 did get approved by the House before they adjourned, but not by the Senate. This could still be considered when they return. It has also been discussed in hearings on this bill that the new Kansas Administrative Regulations (KAR) proposed by KDHE have been under review at the Attorney General's Office and could be approved this summer. So, we could still see changes in child care licensing based on these KAR's even if the bill does not pass.

Randy will monitor legislative activity when they return. There will not be a Friday update report this week and will do a wrap up of the session in a report in May or at our May meeting.

Executive Director Report

Randy began the report with some updates on things that have changed since it was written.

First, the PHEP Request for Proposal (RFP) for the work KALHD has done for KDHE the past 5-years has been posted as was expected. This is an open competitive bid that will need to be successful in order to continue the work and to receive the revenue. The bid specs are significantly similar to the past and the process to develop a proposal is underway. KDHE did cap the bid at \$56,000 annually or \$280,000 over 5-years. Our bid is due May 16, 2024.

The MYM Planning team met again yesterday, continuing to finalize a list of topics and presenters. Did finalize decision to keep fee structure the same for this year for both participants and sponsors. Do have money in KIP grant to offset participant attendance cost also. WSU is working on a registration link that will then be placed on the KALHD website by or around May 1st. Will send an email to the administrator list serve group when it is ready. Data Day will be the day before.

The next KALHD Board meeting falls on May 21, 2024, which conflicts with the Immunization Conference. After comments by attendees, the decision was made to keep our Board meeting on the same date and time on May 21, 2024.

Randy then highlighted some items in the written report. All 100 LHD's continued their membership in KALHD this year, thank you all! Two checks are in the mail but have confirmation from those Directors that payment will be made. A total of 61 also joined NACCHO.

We are at the highest point of the year in terms of cash on hand with dues payments having been made for expenses that will be incurred throughout the year. Moved \$120,000 from the primary

operating account to the savings account at INTRUST bank to generate additional interest. Also signing up for a one-year promotional offer at Bank of America that will pay approximately 4% interest on funds in that account. This will require the move of at least \$25,000 from INTRUST to Bank of America.

A member suggested the creation of a KIHPs user group on the list serve. This can be done without impacting the cost of the service and he will work with the vendor to get that set up. Anyone who would like to be included in the group please send Randy an email.

Reviewed the Immunization Symposium and the activity on the list serve over the last week or more. Randy described his communications with KDHE related to this topic, including the Deputy Secretary who reached out last night. Registration is open. Encouraged people to attend this new portion of the Immunization Conference which has been developed by LHD staff for LHDs.

This generated a discussion among those in attendance about the Immunization Conference, the target audience for that event and value for new or veteran staff, communication among KDHE staff and organizational units that is impacting LHDs, impact of conferences on LHD operations and budgets, past challenges with too little communication to LHD's from KDHE and the opportunity to potentially improve the quality of current communication from KDHE. From this conversation it was identified that the LHD Support Team meetings could be a venue for KALHD to bring this up for a discussion on strategies. The LHD Support Team was described for those who are not familiar as being established around 2021 to address system needs and has members from KDHE, LHD's, KALHD, WSU and KHI.

Immunization Funding. Recapped the amount and duration of funding KALHD receives and updated the Board on the amount of projected unspent funds of approximately \$90,000. In response to a KDHE email, Randy has submitted a response in the form of the requested letter of intent. The potential exists to have an extension of current activities through June of 2025. Current activities that may be eligible include the KAC Conference, KALHD MYM, Immunization Conference, but is unlikely to be a viable option for the Assistant Director position due to the time limited nature of this funding source. Will work with KDHE on the extension as the process continues. In response to a question, clarified no extension has been approved, only the letter of intent and the possibility of an extension in the near future.

Open Discussion

A question was posed about Fireside Chat participants and if this would be the place to discuss that or to have that discussion among the current participants in that group. KHI as an example would like to make a presentation but should that request come to KALHD or KDHE. In the discussion, concluded that Fireside Chat is a place to speak with KDHE nurses. And that the content and participation in Fireside Chat, and other KDHE sponsored meetings, is something that could use some definition and can also be discussed by the LHD Support Team.

It was identified that KHDE has posted a position for a KDHE Public Health Public Information Officer. If the duties might be to support communication issues like those discussed today or has other duties would be helpful to have clarified by KDHE.

Brie also shared that she has been contacted about communication specifically around TB, STD and Immunizations and has shared that with Deputy Secretary Goss and Randy. If LHD's are having issues that are unresolved, she recommends that each reach out directly to Deputy Secretary Goss.

Adjournment

Brie adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.