

Executive Director Report September 10, 2024

Organizational Updates

- KIP reimbursement request submitted for July 2024 for which \$2,295.17 and \$2,295.17 for August is owed to KALHD.
- Made annual payment to NACCHO for LHD NACCHO membership dues paid to KALHD. Total collected and paid funds were \$24,550.
- Submitted invoice to Wichita State University for the 3rd of the 4-year Medicaid contract. Payment in the amount of \$15,000 for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 was received on August 9, 2024.
- Final PHEP contract executed between KALHD and the State of Kansas (KDHE) on July 29, 2024. KDHE is processing the initial payment in the amount of \$13,918.15. As of this report, that payment is owed to KALHD.
- Submitted budget adjustment to KDHE KIP staff to allocate unexpended funds as of June, 30 2024 for the extension period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024 and a High Level Work plan. This extension will allow KALHD to spend up to \$92,859 on personnel/fringe benefits, Travel/Training, Supplies and other. This will permit KALHD to continue support of member attendance at the KAC Annual Conference (December 2024), the KALHD Mid-Year Meeting (June 2025) and a Immunization Symposium (TBD-pending results of KALHD Taskforce on KDHE meetings/events) event. This was approved on July 29, 2024 and funding is not anticipated to continue after expiration of the current extension.
- The summer (May-June) Lobbyist Report has been submitted to the Secretary of State Office.

Project Updates

- KDHE did not receive any workforce grants in August or September. As a result, the ad hoc sub-committee on Workforce Investment Grants did not meet. And there was no need for a consent item on the July KALHD Board agenda.
- PHEP: Our bid amount was accepted by the State at \$55,672.60 per year and contract awarded on July 29, 2024. This contract is for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026, with the potential for renewal for an additional 3-year period (through June 30, 2029). Services KALHD will provide to KDHE are consistent with the prior contract. Activities in this period include posting of new documents to KALHD website for KDHE. Updated the PHEP portion of KALHD website, content from prior project period was removed. Hosted the first quarter PHEP Advisory Team meeting on September 9, 2024.

- The annual audit for KALHD business year 2023 has been finalized by SSC CPA's +Advisors. Representatives of that firm will present their report to the Board as an agenda item in today's meeting.
- BRFSS data. Coordination with KDHE focused on improving the data available to LHDs continued. In August an email was sent to members with a survey link to give input on new regional maps KDHE would apply to this data set.
- Updates to KALHD website. Updated PHEP section as previously described, updated former "legislative" section to "advocacy" while removing some older content and adding the recently approved Medicaid System Priorities document, removed job postings that pre-dated my knowledge of this content, removed 2024 MYM content with a hold for future 2025 content, and updated out of date plug-ins based on alerts of those technologies.
- KDHE Meeting and Event Taskforce formed and initial meeting held on August 21st. Based on this initial meeting, an information request was submitted to Deputy Secretary Goss. And three additional meetings have been scheduled during September and October. Recommendations are anticipated to be completed in November and shared with our membership at our December 5, 2024 meeting. Your representatives on this taskforce are:
 - Eli Caldwell – Wyandotte
 - Jonathan Smith – Douglas
 - Jennifer Cure – Sherman
 - Kerianne Ehrlich – Ellsworth
 - Paula Bitter – Russell
 - Lynnette Redington – Harvey
 - Shalia Shea – McPherson
 - Chair Brie Greeson
 - Staff Randy Bowman
- Initiated planning with KAC for content at the upcoming Kansas Association of Counties Annual Conference.
 - KDHE Deputy Secretary Goss and Chief of Staff Matt Lara are planned for a breakout session. Subject matter will be on roles of commissioners in public health and value of public health, as part of to be rescheduled in 2025 Public Health Roadshow.
 - Consulting with KDHE PHEP about pro/con of additional public health specific session(s) and have a hold with KAC for one more preparedness specific session if KDHE prefers.
- Visited member health departments in Finney, Grant, Morton and Stevens counties on August 29-30th. Thank you to Cammie, Denise, Kendra and Shruti for the visit.
- Will attend the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) 2024 conference on September 12-13th.

2025 Mid-Year Meeting

- Solicited proposals from sites in Hutchinson (1), Manhattan (1), McPherson (1), Salina (2) and Wichita (1) to host our 2025 MYM.
- The 2025 MYM will be held on June 23rd (data day) and MYM 24-25th 2025.
- Convened the 2025 MYM Planning Team. Decisions made to accept the proposal of the Manhattan Hilton Garden Inn to host the event. **(contract finalization ongoing)**.
 - Larger meeting room allow growth
 - Separate breakout rooms if needed based on future session decisions
 - Located close to activities in the downtown area
 - Improved location and size of projector screen compared to the Salina facility
- Also decided to contact with WSU again this year for support of the planning process, presenters, registration and onsite support. Parts of the WSU work can be covered by their Medicaid Training project, reducing total cost to KALHD.
- Increase 2025 full registration from \$200 to \$250 to offset increased food and beverage costs.
- Budgeted extension of the KALHD KIP grant for 2025 to continue one free registration per LHD.
- Surveyed the 28 LHD's who have not attended the MYM in the past three years to inquire about barriers to attending. Only 5 responded and those responses will be reviewed in future planning team meetings.

Legislative Updates

While the legislative session is several months away, important initial steps in that process began this summer. Some highlights include:

- From our Board discussion at the July meeting, a membership survey was conducted in July on the KDHD Laboratory Courier Services. That survey informed the substance of a letter that was hand delivered to KDHE Secretary Janet Stanek asking her to include a request for courier service funding for FY2026 in the KDHE budget request that will be submitted to the Governor on September 16, 2024.
 - Also sent to Senate President, Senate Minority Leader, House Speaker, House Minority Leader and the Chair, Vice Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Ways & Means and House Appropriations Committees.
 - And to the Governor's Budget Director, Senior Advisor for Federal & State Affairs and Deputy Director for Policy - Human Services

- Is possible that Legislative Leadership would have this request discussed by a Joint Interim Committee, however no one has yet acknowledged receipt of the letter.
- The more likely next opportunity on this topic will come when the new Legislature convenes in January of 2025.
- The above topic was also submitted to the Kansas Association of Counties for consideration on their future list of Legislative Priorities for 2025. Randy and Karla Nichols as our KAC representative, presented this topic to their committee on August 28, 2024. Any decision to include or not will be made in the next few months.
- KDHE invited stakeholders to provide written or verbal input on their budget as part of their preparation for submitting their request for FY2026. Per the above, the letter on courier services was also submitted to the KDHE staff leading this process. From that August 15, 2024 meeting, 25 entities submitted 36 letters of requests (some letters one topic, some multiple) requesting consideration by KDHE in their budget request and policy change considerations.

Johnson County Health Department submitted 7 requests on behalf of LHDs. These will be shared with the KALHD Legislative Committee for consideration this fall for our 2025 Policy Statement.

- At the above referenced meetings, KDHE provided an update on the Medicaid rate study they have initiated through a contract with a company named Optimist.
 - The study will compare Kansas to benchmark rates of Medicare and 5 other Medicaid states (Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee).
 - Commercial rates are not part of the study because CMS views Medicare rates as the benchmark, typically requiring Medicaid rates to be below Medicare rates.
 - Is on track for results this fall and will provide that to the Legislature.
 - Won't include nursing facilities or DRG codes that will be phase 2 and may not have that data before the 2025 session.
 - Long term then also looking to implement a model similar to Indiana. Where that state reviews all Medicaid rates on a 3-4 year interval, where some are reviewed every year and all at the completion of each cycle.
- KDHE staff have also been assigned to work on a legislative proposal to attempt to get the multi-year proviso language making the current \$ 7,000 minimum LHD funding \$12,000 in statute. KALHD and Dennis Kriesel at Johnson County contributed to this staff project.
- Pursuant to our by-laws the KALHD Legislative Committee will begin later this month to develop our Legislative Statement for 2025.
 - If you are pursuing a particular budget item or policy (law) change for your individual county health department and would like to have the committee and ultimately full

membership add our support, please get me a copy of your information as soon as possible.

Important Dates to Remember

- October 2-4 The Kansas Prevention Conference in Wichita, Ks
- October 15, 2024 KALHD Board meeting – virtual
- October 17-18 Kansas Breastfeeding conference in Wichita, Ks
- Kansas Association of Counties Conference December 3-5, 2024 in Wichita, Ks
- KALHD Annual Meeting at the KAC conference in Wichita, Ks on December 5, 2024
- KALHD 2025 Mid-Year Meeting June 23rd (data day) and MYM 24-25th 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Manhattan, Ks