

**KALHD Mid-Year Meeting
Business Meeting
September 17, 2024**

Board Members

Brie Greeson, President
Jason Tiller, Past President
Jennifer Cure, President-Elect
Paula Bitter, District 2 Representative
Leslie Campbell, District 3 Representative
Kendra Walsh, District 4 Representative
Lynnette Redington, District 5 Representative
Lisa Scott, District 6 Representative
Cortney Murrow, District 2 Alternate
Denise James, District 4 Alternate
Karla Nichols, District 5 Alt/KAC
Adrienne Byrne, At-Large #2

Attendees

Cristi Cain	Dawn Jones	Christena Beer
Denice Cragg	Melissa Smith	Karen Winkleman
Aaron Davis	Charlie Hunt	Gina Pack
Ray Finley	Diana Parke	Dana Rickley
Teresa Fisher	Dennille Schweitzer	Sarah Cannaday
Kendra Glassman	Shalei Shea	Jeni McDonald
Renee Hively	Tonya Sulanka	Melanie Cooper
Faye Jones	Ruth Walker	Jayne Painter
Angie Kahle	Mary Clark	
Shelly Schneider	Melissa Miller	

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 in attendance and confirmed that a quorum was present for conducting business.

Approval of Agenda

Brie Greeson asked if there were any changes to the agenda and none were identified. **Karla Nichols moved to approve the agenda which was seconded by Jennifer Cure. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Approval of Minutes

Brie referenced the July 2024 minutes provided with the meeting materials. No changes were identified. **Dennise James motioned to approve the minutes and Adrienne Byrne seconded the motion.** Jennifer Cure noted that the agenda was inaccurate listing September instead of July, but it was identified that the minutes themselves are correct for July 2024. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Monthly Financial Report

Randy Bowman presented the financial reports for July and August of 2024 due to the current vacancy of Secretary/Treasurer position.

For July, KALHD realized a net financial gain of \$1,697.60 with \$38,563.40 in total income and \$36,865.80 in total expenses. He noted that the financials were reviewed by the Secretary/Treasurer prior to the vacancy. The ending bank balance for this month was \$414,530.23.

For August, KALHD realized a net financial loss of \$6,291.19 with \$16,176.95 in total income and \$22,468.14 in total expenses. The ending bank balance for this month was \$418,543.92. He noted that with the current vacancy of the Secretary/Treasurer, the financials were reviewed by Brie as President.

Brie asked if there were any questions, and there were none, and then for a motion to approve the financial report and place it on file. **Leslie Campbell motioned to approve the reports for July and August and place them on file. Lynnette Redington seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Presentations by Sarah Cannaday with Upstream

Randy Bowman introduced the topic and our presenter today in Sarah Cannaday with Upstream. And our invited guest, Jeni McDonald, the KDHE Family Planning and Reproductive Health Program Manager.

Sarah shared with attendees her background and that of Upstream, a national non-profit working on contraceptive care access. Upstream's expertise is in integrating contraceptive care into primary care and supporting and helping to optimize contraceptive care within women's health services where there's already services happening. Work they do with health centers as quality improvement consultants from a training and technical assistance organization that has been around for just under 10 years. Work began in Delaware where statewide they work with health departments, hospitals, FQHC's, private practice, which then expanded to a handful of states. They have since transitioned to a nationwide team with 150 staff working in over 30 states.

Upstream connected with Governor Laura Kelly last year and the Governor's staff have been helping her make connections in Kansas, including with KALHD.

As an organization, they would like to connect with key stakeholders across Kansas. And as an outsider organization they would look to anyone who is leading both family planning and contraceptive care as the local expert to identify what might be helpful or not. Much of their success has come working with FQHC's so figuring out what makes sense in health departments would be an important part of any work and they would follow the lead of Kansas leaders.

The goal is to support all members of the care team so they are working at the top of their license, and everybody's working off the same evidence-based information to support contraceptive care conversations with women. Because research has found that 1 in 4 women are not using their preferred contraceptive care method, 30% of women report not receiving enough information prior to make that decision, and that 30 days is the average wait time for a new patient OB/GYN visit. Upstream can assist organizations to provide patients with universal screening for reproductive health needs, contraceptive counseling and education, access or discontinuation of method of contraceptive care.

A dedicated Upstream team can provide training and technical assistance, develop and implement a tailored implementation plan, measurement for quality improvement, and funding (\$25 - \$50k) to support the program in a local health department.

In response to questions, Sarah shared that their target population is organizations serving about 1,000 women of reproductive age, however they are currently piloting smaller efforts in Louisiana and Texas. This is a 12–18-month initiative with lots of staff time to work through the process, which can be challenging for smaller organizations. In the pilots they are working to right size this work for smaller organizations, so there currently no hard and fast minimum requirements. Jeni McDonald shared that the Upstream program is great, but the current model would align with only four local health departments in Kansas. And that some health departments cannot justify the cost of a EHR system, so do not have them currently.

If members are interested in learning more, they can contact Sarah directly at scannady@upstream.org or contact Randy who will help with the connection. Meanwhile, Upstream and KDHE will connect to look at what might be possible on a statewide basis.

Update on KALHD Taskforce on KDHE Events/Meetings

Brie Greeson updated participants that the taskforce held its first meeting and submitted a request to KDHE Deputy Secretary Ashley Goss asking for clarification on what meetings and events are required. We are awaiting that information and will meet again tomorrow (September 18th) to continue this work. The Taskforce is working toward draft recommendations for discussion at our December meeting, after which those will be finalized and provided to KDHE by the end of the year.

Vacant Board Positions

Randy Bowman provided an update on recent changes in local health departments that resulted in multiple vacant positions on the KALHD Board. Currently vacant are the District 1 Representative and Alternate, the #1 At-Large, and Secretary/Treasurer positions. The KALHD by-laws specify that the Board President appoint a person to complete the remainder of the term, except for the Alternate position which remains vacant until the next membership vote at the annual meeting (December 2024). If there are members who are interested, or who would like to nominate a peer, please contact Randy or Brie. Once a member has been appointed to these positions, that information will be shared with everyone.

KDHE Updates

Cristi Cain, KDHE, provided the following updates.

Regional Meetings

The next round of regional meetings begin on October 9, 2024. Topics include Improving PAN Respiratory Surveillance, Addressing Obesity in Rural Families with the I Am Healthy Program, Breaking Ground in Public Health the new KDHE Laboratory and Future Collaboration.

Governor's Public Health Conference

The save the date has been circulated for March 24-26, 2025 for this event which will be held in Wichita. Current work is focused on Keynote and Breakout presenters and if you have ideas, please share them with Cristi or Shelly Schneider.

Fall Hook Event

This event is being held on Thursday September 19, 2024 at the Wichita Metroplex. If you have not registered and would like to, you can still do so. The agenda will include Ed O'Malley with the Kansas Health Foundation, Dr. Totten the State Health Officer, and a presentation on behavioral health.

Drug Endangered Children Conference

Another hold the date is for the Drug Endangered Children Conference scheduled for April 8, 2025.

Workforce Assessment

Hopefully you have seen the emails on this survey that is completed every three years and provides data to tailor training and workforce development opportunities. The survey is currently open and please forward the survey link to staff to complete the survey.

WSU Updates

Aaron Davis provided the following updates.

Public Health Aspire Series

This is focusing on the new effort rolled out last year by the Surgeon General on the impact of social connectedness. A lot of interesting items are coming from this office and WSU is focusing on condensing those down to share, so be on the lookout for more in the future.

New Staff Orientation

At the KALHD Mid-Year Meeting this idea of a new staff orientation for all local health departments was identified. Since that conversation, WSU has been working with a few local health departments to develop a package of materials. The idea is to create a packet of public health materials for every new staff person, videos on Kansas Train, and to create engagement opportunities for staff to connect virtually with others across the state. Making good progress and will hopefully be more to share in October or November.

Medicaid Priority List

The Medicaid Advisory Committee has been working on the first priority on the list approved by KALHD at the Mid-Year Meeting. This is generally around Medicaid training, and there are some existing trainings that are being assessed to see if they are meeting the need. Aaron also offered that if you have specific Medicaid questions, please get those to Randy to share with this committee.

Randy added that he is encouraged by the receptiveness of KDHE Medicaid staff on this topic and the potential to improve knowledge and potentially generate additional revenue for local health departments. However, the size of the Medicaid system makes this likely to be slow work. And with the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO) changes coming in January of 2025, it is recognized that members need more information on the expectations of the MCO's under the new contracts which is, and continues to be, part of this conversation.

In addition, with a recent vacancy there is a need for other local health departments to contribute to this work if any of our medium-sized departments are interested.

A question about TB Medicaid coverage was raised by Brie Greeson. After the meeting Aaron will help by making contact with the KDHE Medicaid staff to see if more information is available.

Informatics Workgroup

A thank you to those who went to the KDHE regional meetings for the feedback and support on the Informatics Assessment. From the survey and feedback, a report has been compiled and once it has been finalized and shared with KDHE, it will be shared more broadly. The report addresses data improvements in terms of connections, interoperability, and electronic health records as things that could be connected and streamlined. Training around data also a theme. The Informatics Subcommittee will continue this work in addition to meetings with the Kansas Health Information Exchange that Aaron and Randy have had and will continue to have to identify potential next steps. This will be slow work but is continuing.

KAC Updates

Karla Nichols provided an update on the recent KAC Legislative Policy meeting at which Randy presented our need to maintain funding for the statewide courier service. KAC will meet again next week as they continue work on their legislative policy for 2025.

She also thanked WSU for their work on the new employee orientation which will be helpful for everyone.

Randy also shared that he has been working to identify sources of training around management and leadership skills. There are several existing options through Wichita State University, University of Kansas, the Kansas Leadership Center, and the Kansas Association of Counties. Also exploring the possibility of a contact in Geary County providing Human Resources training for local health department administrators. Hopefully he will have more to share in October.

Presentation of 2023 KALHD Financial Audit

Jayne Painter, Director of Assurance with CCS CPA's shared information about the financial audit for the year ending December 31, 2023. She summarized the audit results and indicated that in the opinion of the auditors, the financial statements presented are materially correct for cash receipts and disbursements and KALHD is in an overall good financial position.

Jayne reviewed key items in the materials that were previously distributed to the Board. There were no required adjusting journal entries, but were two minor items that were recommended to be reclassified, but do not impact receipts or disbursements. Two internal material weaknesses were identified, the first being additional training on the accounting system and second improved monitoring and segregation of duties over cash. These were discussed with the KALHD Treasurer during the audit, however with the recent change it is important to share with the Board.

After presentation of the audit report **Brie asked for a motion to accept the report and place it on file. Jason Tiller moved to accept the report and place on file. Jennifer Cure seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

Executive Director Report

Randy reported out highlights from the written report that is included with the Board materials.

A final PHEP contract was entered into between KDHE and KALHD that will continue funding in the amount of \$55,672.60 per year for the two-year period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026. This contract also has an option for an extension for an additional three years to June 30, 2029. Currently awaiting the first payment from KDHE who indicated it is being processed. This is our second largest revenue source with member dues being the first.

From our expired KIP funding, a total of \$92,859 was unexpended as of June 30, 2024 with the largest portion of that being from vacant assistant director salary and benefits and less activity with KAC around social media when that position was vacated. Under a one-year extension with KDHE, these funds have been budgeted to sustain member services like registration for KAC Annual meeting, the KALHD MYM, and a 2nd Immunization Summit if we choose to do that which appears less likely at this time, and for a portion of salary and office expenses.

Will continue working with KAC on their legislative priorities as they consider our recommendations related to the courier services previously discussed today.

In August he visited local health departments in Finney, Grant, Morton and Stevens Counties. A personal goal will be to visit all LHD's over the course of the next few years.

He attended the Kansas Public Health Association (KHPA) conference last week. Was well done and topics interesting and timely.

Working to finalize a contract with a hotel to host the 2025 KALHD Mid-Year Meeting. That is almost complete, so can share today that this event will be held at the Manhattan Hilton Garden Inn on June 23 (data day), 24th and 25th. Sites in Salina, Hutchinson, McPherson and Wichita were considered and this site provided the best opportunity to have a larger space, breakout rooms, and improved sight line for presentations, for the cost. The cost will necessitate an increase in full registration fee from \$200 to \$250. For 2025 KALHD will be able to offset this impact for one administrator per health department using the KIP funding.

He thanked the members who completed the survey on courier services as that information was helpful in framing our position. That position has been shared in a letter sent to Legislative leaders and the Governors Office but there has not been any response from them.

Open Discussion

Brie indicated that if she receives any information on TB Medicaid from KDHE that she will put that on the list serve for the benefit of others. In these times of county budget reductions that can impact health departments, any information on how to cover TB costs is helpful.

In addition, she shared that hearing interest in the current Kansas statutes that govern the qualifications of the Health Officer position. The increasing number of retirements of Physicians who have served their communities in this role for a long time are becoming more challenging. Younger Physicians seem to be less willing to serve in this capacity, and if they are willing, costs to the county are increasing. There is growing interest in looking at mid-level practitioners as an option to perform this function, but that would require a change in the current law.

In discussion, a clarification was offered that this would be to address the Medical Advisor, not the Health Officer, as a potential change in law (K.S.A. 65-201) to permit use of mid-level practitioners. And that the Nurse Practitioner Act may need to be reviewed as could be functions a Health Department does that would still require a Physician necessitating the continuation of a contract for those functions. It was also observed in this discussion that under current law, there isn't a provision for an interim or other qualified person who is not the Health Officer to act if the named Health Officer is unavailable.

Randy shared that the KALHD Legislative Committee meet next week to begin the annual work of developing a Policy Statement. If any members have ideas, please share those so that we can include the idea in the discussion of this committee.

Cristi Cain shared that her team submitted a white paper within KDHE to consider KDHE seeking legislation on the statutory minimum (K.S.A 65-242) allocation to local health departments. Their proposal is to increase that amount from \$7,000 to \$12,000 in statute (editor note: the \$12,000 has been in budget provisos in recent years but is not in statute).

Adjournment

Brie adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.