

Executive Director Report November 25, 2024

Organizational Updates

- KIP reimbursement request of \$2,295.17 submitted and paid for October.
- After the audit presented by our Accounting firm at the September Board meeting, they invoiced us for the work. The transition from former E.D, to Acting E.D. to myself triggered additional work under the contract, increasing the cost from the base \$8,450 to \$10,098. The invoice was paid in October.
- Federal and State tax returns for calendar year 2023 completed by our accountant SSC CPA. I reviewed the documents and signed forms for electronic transmission on November 12, 2024.
- Verified with the Kansas Department of Revenue that no notice of change to the employer withholding reporting requirements for 2025 has been sent to KALHD. A notice of change in the fall of 2023 was not provided to our payroll service provider (Paychex) and resulted in tax penalties in 2024. All indications are we should not have a similar experience in 2025.
- The IRS notified KALHD in November of a change to employer withholding reporting for 2025. This change to monthly reporting was sent to Paychex on November 22, 2024 and they have indicated in response that the change has been made for IRS reporting.
- Signed a new 3-year lease agreement with the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) for office space. This agreement continues prior terms with a 2% annual increase. Monthly costs will be \$161.04 in 2025, \$164.26 in 2026 and \$167.54 in 2027.
- Compared pricing for lease of another copier and purchase of a printer for use by KAC and KALHD. As of this report, we are still considering the options and have time for a decision as our current lease expires in March of 2025.
- Lobbyist registration as required by law was completed for KALHD for the 2025 Legislative session.

Project Updates

- Attended one of the KANCARE 3.0 public meetings that were held across the state in October. Information obtained at the meeting sent to members via the listserv (future meeting dates, comparison of value-added benefits by MCO, and MCO staff contact information).
- In recent months, a number of members have expressed to the Board President or me their concerns regarding the KDHE Immunization Program. In October I had the opportunity to share these with KDHE Secretary Janet Stanek in a one-on-one conversation, and Board President Brie Greeson and I also met with Deputy Secretary Ashley Goss and Chief of Staff Matt Lara. All expressed their appreciation for us sharing the concerns. As of this report any action based on those concerns would become potential personnel actions within KDHE and are not information available to KALHD.
- KDHE invited KALHD to join the Healthcare Coalition Steering Committee beginning with this new PHEP Project Period. Attended first meeting October 22nd.
- On October 28, 2024 submitted a revised workplan and budget to the KDHE Immunization program to request an additional \$250,000 of one-time funding that must be expended by June 30, 2025. If approved by KDHE, this will create the KPHC Policy and Procedure Library.
 - Framework for contracts with WSU and KHI are in place. Will not be signed unless and until KDHE chooses to award the funding to KALHD.
 - Answered additional clarifying questions for KDHE on November 6th. No known decision from KDHE as of this report.
- In May and June of 2024, the KALHD Board made recommendations to KDHE on the use PHIG grant funds that some LHD's did not accept. Neither KALHD nor the grant applicants had heard of a final award approval or denial by KDHE. And efforts this fall to identify the reasons for the delay were not fruitful. At the end of October, I reached out to Deputy Secretary Goss, who responded quickly, indicating she will look into this question. I have provided her copies of the Board recommendations from six months ago of the protocol we established with the grant review committee, and am currently awaiting information on next steps.
- Attended the Wichita State University – CEI 40th Anniversary Celebration.
- Since the last E.D. report, I have attended two follow up meetings system stakeholders who are interested in developing next steps based on the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) conference theme of Reimagining the Public Health System for Kansas. Other states are at various stages of a comprehensive review of their public health systems including Illinois and Missouri presented at the conference. Representatives from KPHA, KDHE, Kansas Health Foundation, Sunflower Foundation, Kansas Health Institute, University of Kansas Medical Center, Wichita State University, and KALHD have committed to one another to continue this discussion in an effort to define a path forward for Kansas.

- 2025 MYM Update. The planning team continued to meet and make decisions for our meeting that will be held June 23-25, 2025.
 - Developed a rate structure for sponsorships and advertising in the MYM program. No vendors will be participating in the MYM, but we are attempting to increase revenue with these strategies. WSU Conferencing will send solicitations to potential sponsors and advertisers before the end of the calendar year, and periodically in the months leading up to the MYM.
 - The planning team has identified potential topic areas for the MYM sessions. Next WSU-CPHI are working to identify speakers.
 - Targeting mid-February 2025 to open registration for participants. This will be done through the WSU Conferencing online system like in 2024.

- Attended the virtual NACCHO/CDC Statewide Performance Improvement Training Initiative informational webinar to explore this funding opportunity. Also, took them up on the offer for a one-on-one consultation on possible projects in Kansas. This is a reoccurring funding source that would provide up to \$10,000 for projects that must be completed between January 1 and July 31, 2025. No application was submitted for 2025, primarily because of the pending request to KDHE for the Resource Library project which if approved will be in the same time period. If funding continues in 2026, this source might be viable for a small project.

- Our KDHE Meeting and Event Taskforce continued to meet in October and November. We also had the opportunity to share the draft recommendations with Deputy Secretary Ashley Goss in a meeting on November 6, 2024. The Taskforce's recommendations are included as a discussion item on today's Board agenda.

- The KALHD Legislative Committee met in October to develop the 2025 Policy Statement. That statement is included as a discussion and action item on today's Board agenda.

- The KALHD Governance Committee met in October to develop a slate of 2025 KALHD Officers and Board members for consideration of the membership. That slate has been included as a discussion and action item on today's Board agenda.

- Convened the PHEP Advisory Team for the 2nd quarter of SFY2025 meeting. Agenda, meeting facilitation, minutes, and posting of documents to the KALHD website completed per our contract with KDHE.

- Traveled to Wichita to participate in the Local Public Health Leadership Series (LPHLS) awards luncheon. Congratulations to all of the participants and thank you for your commitment to professional development in service of our public health system.

- Visited the Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee county health departments. Thank you Leslie and Ray for the visit.

- Met with Secretary Stanek last week to touch base on a variety of topics, including:

- Based upon the draft KALHD Taskforce recommendations, KDHE is moving forward with some of the recommended changes. (this will be discussed in more detail later in today's agenda)
- They have received approval from the Governor's Office to seek a change by the 2025 Kansas Legislature to change the statutory base amount of aid to local funding from \$7,000 to \$12,000, thus codifying the multi-year proviso language.
- KDHE has also received approval to seek an increase in the current funding cap (\$5.0 million) for the Kansas Newborn Screening Program.
- They continue working on funding to continue the Laboratory Courier which KALHD expressed concerns about this past summer. A possible source of funding has been identified and at the appropriate time they may ask for KALHD to assist in pursuit of that funding source.
- County Commissioner Roadshow. After postponing these until after the 2024 election cycle, KDHE will present at the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) conference. KDHE and KALHD are also planning a presentation for newly elected County Commissioners at the KAC New Commissioner Training that will be held January 15-17, 2025 in Topeka. After those two events KDHE and KALHD anticipate developing a revised schedule for the Roadshow in 2025.
- A portion of this meeting included Steven Mahuex, the incoming Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) President. We discussed the above referenced interest among stakeholders in Reimagining the Public Health System for Kansas.

Important Dates to Remember

- January 13, 2025 the Kansas Legislative session begins
- January 21, 2025 KALHD Board Meeting (virtual)
- February 18, 2025 KALHD Board Meeting (virtual)
- March 18, 2025 KALHD Board Meeting (virtual)
- Governors Public Health Conference on March 24-26, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita, Ks
- 2025 Mid-Year Meeting June 23rd (data day) and MYM 24-25th 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Manhattan, Ks