

## Executive Director Report February 12, 2025

### Organizational Updates

- KIP reimbursement request of \$2,398.21 was submitted for January.
- The previously submitted PHEP reimbursement request for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY2025 in the amount of \$13,841.88 is still owed.
- KALHD dues payments for 2025 have been received from 83 of 100 LHDs with those not yet due until March 31, 2025. NACCHO dues have been paid by 44 of the 83.
- A thirty-six (36) month copier lease contract was signed with Century Business Technologies located in Topeka, Ks. The monthly cost will decrease from \$673.95 to \$270.74 plus any overages if make more than the allotted number of copies in a calendar quarter. After splitting costs with KAC, KALHD's portion will be \$108.30 per month.
  - Two final lease payments will be made for the canon copier in February and March.
  - A shipper will pick up the old machine and return it to a canon location in Illinois which will cost \$856.75.
- Secretary of State Lobbyist Report submitted for the month.
- Management letter received from SSC CPA's to provide audit and tax services for the year ending December 31, 2024. This includes a small rate increase of \$200 for the audit and \$150 for the tax return. Audit work will commence in May or June.
- Follow up on applicability of the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) to KALHD Board meetings. – item still pending

### 2025 Legislative Session

- Kansas Legislature
  - Laboratory Courier Services - KDHE has advised that they will be able to continue these services for FY2026 from grant funding. The legislative budget for KDHE will only focus on FY2025 and FY2026, so no further action is anticipated this session and we will plan to resume advocacy this fall for FY2027 funding.

- KDHE Health Budget – Neither the Social Services Budget (SSB) or House Appropriations have discussed or taken action on the previously requested 7.5% budget reduction. However, as many different tax cut proposals continue to be discussed, the potential for budget cuts later in the legislative process persists.
- [SB29](#) enacting the constitutional right to health freedom act was worked and passed in the form of a substitute bill by the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. This new language has not yet been published however appearances are that it dropped many of the concerning provisions. However, it would still negatively impact future public health responses by removing isolation and quarantine authorities and public gatherings in K.S.A. 65-119.
- Key Legislative Deadlines
  - February 20 - Turnaround Day: last day for non-exempt bills in chamber of origin
  - March 21 - Last day for non-exempt bills in second chamber/non originating chamber
  - March 28 - Consideration of all bills (Drop dead day) First Adjournment
  - April 10 - Veto session begins (which includes final budget actions)
  - April 12 - End Veto session and adjourn the 2025 Legislative Session.
- Federal Government

Given the discussions happening in Washington, D.C. and the potential significant impact future decisions may have on public health services, and more specifically to public health, it is prudent to expand this update beyond the usual State of Kansas topics. The items in this section could change significantly by the time you read this, or we discuss them at our meeting, but hopefully this gives you some context for what is happening.

- **Federal Funding Freeze:** Monday, February 10, [federal judge](#) John J. McConnell [ruled](#) that the Administration defied his January 29 temporary restraining order, which compelled the Administration to release federal grant funds, and ordered that these funds be unfrozen as such a pause or freeze on federal funding is “likely unconstitutional” and causing harm to a “vast portion of this country.” This is the state-led case on the OMB memo and subsequent actions. Importantly, the Judge is telling the Feds that they aren’t complying fully and have to. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/10/us/trump-unfreezing-federal-grants-judge-ruling.html>
- **NIH Overhead Caps:** There are now two lawsuits related to NIH overhead funding cuts. <https://www.nbcnews.com/science/science-news/trump-administration-sued-22-states-funding-cuts-research-projects-rcna191529>. As of this morning, there is a temporary restraining order on those cuts going into place, pending litigation. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/11/health/nih-research-funding-lawsuit-injunction.html>
- **Data/Website:** The CDC Advisory Committee members have sent a letter to the acting CDC director expressing concerns with the data removed from the CDC website.

In addition, on Tuesday Feb 11, [a federal judge](#) in DC issued a [temporary restraining order](#) directing HHS, CDC, and FDA to temporarily restore webpages that were taken down by the agencies on January 31, in compliance with President Trump's executive order preventing federal agencies from referencing race, gender, or sexual orientation. This order is in response to a lawsuit filed by Doctors for America and will remain in effect while the case moves through the court.

- **Communications pause:** The CDC has resumed some of their external communications and I've heard an account from KDHE staff that there is some limited communication occurring with some of their federal project officers (this was specific to PHEP). So maybe the flow of information will begin to improve.
- **Federal budget:** Congress and the President are actively working towards a budget bill, some refer to this as a rescission bill others a reconciliation bill, in which they are reportedly considering significant cuts to public services to finance the Presidents priorities and tax cuts. As you may have read in the media, there are lots of ideas and opinions, which change rapidly. I have been able to find one [list of possible cuts](#) that may or may not become final, but if you look through the list it may give a sense of what could happen.

This process has been used in prior administration changes and the NACCHO Government and Public Affairs team have been providing periodic updates to KALHD and like organizations. My understanding is that in the past, reductions were applied to funding previously approved by Congress and signed into law by the President but not yet distributed to States and organizations. There is however concern that it could work differently this time, in the form of either stop work orders or claw backs, in which funding already distributed may be required to be returned to the federal government.

- **March 14, 2025 Continuing Resolution Expires:** Mixed in with the above, the current federal budget, which was approved in a continuing resolution in December, is set to expire on March 14, 2025. Absent approval of a budget or another continuing resolution, all spending authority will cease and the federal government would shutdown. I found an [article](#) online that says there have been 10 of these shutdowns in our U.S. history and the most recent was from Dec. 2018 to Jan. 2019 (for 36 days). If this will happen and how it could impact services is uncertain but the potential needs to be on our radar.

## Project Updates

- Thursday, February 6, 2025 was County Day at the Capitol hosted by the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC). A thank you to Candace Sauers, Saline County Health Department, who helped me staff a KALHD table at this event.
- Updates to the KALHD New Administrator Orientation manual have been slowed. We have been evaluating the pro/con of publishing this first update since 2021 with the uncertainty at the federal level and potential for portions of this manual to quickly become outdated.
- 2025 MYM Update. The planning team will meet on February 13, 2025 to assess progress and determine if we are ready to open registration.

- Provided requested information to a representative from Pfizer who is seeking internal approval to become a sponsor at our meeting.
- Received a \$750 payment from Childcare Aware of Kansas who will be a break sponsor at our meeting.
- The quarterly PHEP Advisory Team meeting was held February 10, 2025. KDHE has not received the Budget Period 2 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) from the CDC. When that may be released is not known, however we plan for the team to meet again March 31<sup>st</sup> to hopefully review that information. Depending on the timing of the NOFO, we currently anticipate action on the annual concurrence letter at either the April 15 or May 20 KALHD Board meeting.
- KDHE submitted a proposal to the KALHD Board for a project that would be funded with PHIG funds. The currently dormant KALHD grant subcommittee will be reconvened in March to review the proposal and make recommendations to the Board.

## **PHIG Funding**

Please see the included document with a list of options that have been identified to further our conversation on this topic. The document includes options that could be selected independently of one another, modified, or help to generate additional ideas. The document also includes an estimate of the available funding, obligated funds, and funding needed for each option.

If all options were to be pursued, some choices would be necessary to reduce the cost of some items to align with the amount of funding that is available.

## **Important Dates to Remember**

- Governors Public Health Conference March 24-26, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency, Wichita, Ks
- March 26, 2025, KALHD Board Meeting (hybrid from the GPHC)
- April 15, 2025, KALHD Board Meeting (virtual)
- May 20, 2025, KALHD Board Meeting (virtual)
- KDHE Immunization Conference on May 20-22, 2025 at the Wichita Marriott
- 2025 Mid-Year Meeting June 23rd (data day) and MYM 24-25<sup>th</sup> 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Manhattan, Ks