

**Q3 of FY 2025 PHEP Advisory Team
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2025**

Attendees

Skye Reid	Tonya Medina	Shelly Schneider
Amber Kelly	Steve Maheux	Dana Rickley
Tamara Wilkerson	Lisa Beebe	Tom Langer
Luke Johnson	Kendra Baldrige	Randy Bowman
Nancy Griffith	Natalie Savage	

Meeting Start and Approval of Agenda

Randy Bowman started the meeting at 9:02 a.m. Randy asked if there were any changes to the agenda and none were identified.

Welcome and introduction of new Preparedness Section Director

Kendra Baldrige introduced Natalie Savage as the new Preparedness Section Director. Share shared that Natalie began her duties the end of November 2024 and has been actively involved in meetings and business processes ever since.

Remarks by new Preparedness Director

Natalie Savage shared her excitement for the opportunity to join in this work. She also shared that she was previously in the Bureau of Health Promotions working on substance abuse disorder and overdoes prevention section. Prior to that she worked in state government and as faculty and administration at Friends University.

Discussion: Impact of Federal Executive Orders on KDHE funded PHEP activities

Kendra Baldrige shared that last week the KDHE Secretary distributed through KALHD a memorandum advising Local Health Departments (LHD) to stay the source. No specific information has been provided by the federal government about future cuts, and nothing on cuts has been received from the state legislature. Some communication with federal project officers, including the PHEP project officer, is still happening however KDHE has not heard anything about the PHEP NOFO for next year. No specific cuts or instructions, continue on at this time.

Randy Bowman shared that he has been on national calls where lobbyists working in Washington, D.C. have provided some insights. Currently the Executive Orders to pause federal funding are on hold pending further decisions by the Courts that may or may not find those orders to be legally valid. And what is unknown currently is, if the President's Administration may still try to achieve those same goals with regard to federal funding through another means. In addition, there are discussions around a rescission bill that is expected to be introduced soon and may include large

cuts to Medicaid and other federal programs. That may happen around mid-March which aligns with the expiration of the current continuing resolution that funds the federal government will expire. He also shared an update on the KDHE budget that has been working through steps in Social Service Budget and House Appropriations committees the past couple of weeks. Those committees did not discuss or implement any portion of the 7.5% cut discussed earlier this session and did add expenditure items to their recommendations. The House budget proposal should become clear in another 10 days or so before the Senate begins budget work.

Update on potential partners that could represent health equity on our advisory committee

Kendra reviewed for the group our prior discussions on this topic at meetings and that two names were previously recommended. KDHE has not reached out to those individuals due to unexpected circumstances. The group discussed these names and the uncertainty around possible federal changes to funding requirements and activities around health equity. In the discussion it was acknowledged that some individuals and groups are currently uncomfortable with being on groups, while others expressed that regardless of terminology that is currently acceptable public health emergency preparedness has always sought to serve everyone. In the discussion additional organizations/individuals (disability, black nurses association) were also identified.

As the next step, KDHE will work towards adding additional voices to this body, optimally for our next meeting.

Upcoming year- Budget Period 1 – exercise plan for LHDs/Regions/and CRI's

Luke Johnson KDHE provided an update indicating that about five of the exercises have been completed with varied sizes of regions. Have been able to include county emergency managers in many of those, good discussions on how to engage specific populations who do not use technology or are home bound, and good conversations around roles. Feedback in conversations has been generally positive but unclear if all feel that way so encouraging the completion of evaluations submitted to the regional coordinator to best assess the process and identify any needed changes for the future. KDHE has had to reschedule around weather in some instances and still have about 10 regions to go.

A question was asked about ability to add any artificiality to make the exercise more applicable if a county does not do a certain function. In response it was shared that as these are workshops, they are not inject based. However, the long list of questions and structure of the event are designed to provide opportunities for discussion, which is the focus over completion of a document to help ensure all take something helpful away from the exercise.

General PHEP Updates

- Kendra Baldrige initiated a conversation on our next meeting date to help align that schedule with the Budget Period 2 NOFO that has not been released to States and with a future KALHD Board meeting for a letter of concurrence. Based on the discussion, the

group decided to move the May 8, 2025 meeting to March 31, 2025 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. to attempt to align the application workplan and concurrence letter. This would allow the concurrence letter to be presented to the KALHD Board at either the April 15 or May 20 Board meetings.

After this meeting Randy will send a updated appointment for March 31, 2025 and cancel the May 8, 2025 meeting.

- Randy Bowman mentioned that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) made changes to their website recently that may result in less information available to consumers. If you have CDC pages that you have bookmarked for use, it might be good to check to see if the information is still accessible. It is better to identify those changes now than in a time of urgent need.
- Randy Bowman provided an update on the planning for a PHEP session at the KALHD Mid-Year Meeting (MYM) scheduled for June 23-25, 2025. And thanked Amber, Steven and Tom for being on a panel on this topic at MYM.

Items for Future Considerations and Lessons Learned

Randy Bowman and Natalie Savage initiated this portion of the agenda as a group discussion. The group discussed that this specific workgroup has been successful over many years and nothing was identified that currently needs change. The current uncertainty and importance of continuing emergency preparedness functions should there be changes in federal funding was also discussed. Along with the potential individual impact future changes could have and that individually we each are at different places of either optimism or concern for the future of this work.

This conversation concluded with KDHE expressing their desire to hear ideas or concerns now or in the future about emergency preparedness. Please reach out if you have ideas or concerns.

Adjournment

Randy Bowman adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.