

Executive Director Report March 19, 2025

Organizational Updates

- KIP reimbursement request of \$13,345.17 was submitted for February. This is higher due to paying invoice for LHD attendance at the December KAC conference this month.
- KALHD dues payments for 2025 have been received from 96 of 100 LHDs with those not yet due until March 31, 2025. NACCHO dues have been paid by 53 LHDs. Reminders were sent on March 4th and 17th.
- Secretary of State Lobbyist Report submitted for the month.
- Attended the KDHE ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Kansas Health and Environment Laboratories (KHEL) on March 19, 2025.
- In researching a topic for one of our members, the information fell in a timeframe in which no KALHD records were found on our drive. Reached out to Dennis Kriesel to learn that was a period of time from early 2000's until early 2010's that KALHD records were on a KAC server before moving to a cloud-based server used today. Worked with KAC to find those files, then moved them to the KALHD cloud-based server for future access.
- Follow up on applicability of the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) to KALHD Board meetings. – item still pending

2025 Legislative Session

- Kansas Legislature is working quickly towards First Adjournment scheduled for March 28, 2025. Committees wrapped up work on bills on March 18th and the legislature will focus the next few days on debating bills and passing them from each respective chamber. Bills that pass both chambers with differences in language will be assigned to conference committees who will be meeting during this time. A lot will happen and change between this report being written and our Board meeting, additional updates will be provided in remarks during the meeting.
- Key Legislative Deadlines
 - March 28 - Consideration of all bills (Drop dead day) First Adjournment

- March 29-April 9 – no session
 - April 10 - Veto session begins (which includes final budget actions)
 - April 12 - End Veto session and adjourn the 2025 Legislative Session.
- Federal Government
 - The Congress and President agreed to a budget on March 14, 2025. This budget avoided a government shutdown will fund public services through September 30, 2025. Media reports indicate this budget increased by \$6 billion defense and border enforcement funding and cut nondefense spending by \$13 billion. As of this report, the specifics of those cuts and if they might impact public health is not clear.

Project Updates

- Submitted a proposal to KDHE to request PHIG funds as discussed by the KALHD Board at our February meeting. The request was submitted on February 24th, beyond acknowledging receipt of the proposal there has not yet been communication from KDHE on their consideration of this request.
- Meetings scheduled among stakeholders from KDHE, WSU, KHI, LHDs, KAC and KALHD to resume planning for the Public Health Road Show were postponed due to inclement weather and then another meeting due to conflicts with a legislative hearing. The next scheduled meeting is on the calendar for April 28, 2025.
- KALHD will be providing a Public Health session at the Kansas Association of County Commissioners (KCCA) conference on April 23, 2025. Session content will align with material presented at the New Commissioner Training in January and provide an opportunity to engage with attendees on this topic.
- I gave a presentation for the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) at the Public Health Advisory Team meeting. Content focused on increasing their understanding of LHD operations and financing and how LHD's can be a strategic partner in local communities.
- Updates to the KALHD New Administrator Orientation manual have been received from WSU and reviewed. Returned to WSU for a few technical corrections before it can be posted for use by LHDs.
- 2025 MYM Update. After finalizing remaining sessions and speakers, registration was launched on KALHD website and in message to administrator listserv group on March 4, 2025.
 - Representative from Pfizer advised that making progress on internal approval process to become a sponsor at our meeting.
 - Another solicitation of vendors was sent out last week.

- WSU has been leading a conversation with KAC, Kansas Health Foundation (KHF), and KALHD on strategies to increase skills/knowledge for county commissioners. Each entity are aligned on the potential benefits, effective strategies and a funding source have been elusive. After a series of discussions over the past year, a potential path forward might be beginning to emerge. Meeting frequency will increase this spring and as details become available they will be included in this update.

Important Dates to Remember

- April 15, 2025, KALHD Board Meeting (virtual)
- April 22, 2025 [Local Health Department Billing Symposium](#) at the Wichita State University Hughes Metropolitan Complex.
- May 20, 2025, KALHD Board Meeting (virtual)
- May 8-9, 2025 Johnson County Health Department will host the [Kansas Infectious Disease Symposium](#) at the Arts and Heritage Center located at 8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, Ks 66212.
- [KDHE Immunization Conference](#) on May 20-22, 2025 at the Wichita Marriott
- [2025 Mid-Year Meeting](#) June 23rd (data day) and MYM 24-25th 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Manhattan, Ks