

**KALHD Board Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2025**

Board Members

Jennifer Cure, President
Brie Greeson, Past President
Krista Schneider, President-Elect
Monica Reuber, District 1 Alternate
Faye Jones, District 2 Alternate
Leslie Campbell, District 3 Representative
Kendra Walsh, District 4 Representative
Lynnette Redington, District 5 Representative
Karla Nichols, District 5 Alternate/KAC Representative
Charlie Hunt, At-Large #1

Attendees

Jennifer Hurst	Jamie Johnson	Broderick Dean
Denice Cragg	Dennille Schweitzer	Stacey McCrea-Robertson
Jamie Downs	Karen Winkleman	– KUMC
Meckenzie Kelly	Misty Trudeau	Tonya Medina
Kerry McCue	Teresa Fisher	Amy Hallauer
Renee Hively	Melissa Miller	Jamie Lewis
Susan Moore	Jason Tiller	
Cindy Mullen	Dr. Christie Befort - KUMC	

Staff

Randy Bowman, Executive Director

Call to Order

Jennifer Cure, President, called the virtual meeting to order at 10:02 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.

Attendance today was impacted by a winter storm that caused closures of agencies and organizations in many parts of Kansas.

Approval of Agenda

Jennifer Cure asked for approval of the agenda presented for today. **Brie Greeson moved to approve the agenda which was seconded by Monica Reuber. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Update on iAmHealthy Parents First

Randy introduced Dr. Christie Befort with the University of Kansas Medical Center. Dr. Befort is our guest today who provided an update on progress of the iAmHealthy Parents First program and how LHDs are and can continue to contribute to the work.

A recap of the program was provided by Dr. Befort in which the program aims to help parents and their children adopt healthier eating and lifestyle habits, with a focus on rural families. The program involves a 9-month intervention, with the first three months focusing on the parents' nutrition, physical activity, and weight loss. The program also includes a referral program for those who make personal referrals into the program.

To date through connections with KDHE, KALHD, KAC, about 40 counties have helped connect one or more families to the program. A list of counties and a copy of the slides presented today will be provided to Randy for distribution on the listserv. If any LHD needs additional flyers to distribute at events or any information on the project, they can reach out directly to the research team at KUMC or Randy.

Approval of Minutes

Jennifer asked if everyone reviewed the minutes of the January meeting. **Karla Nichols motioned to approve the minutes which Brie Greeson seconded. The motion was approved.**

Monthly Financial Report

Randy Bowman presented the January 2025 financial report on behalf of Shalei Shea, Secretary/Treasurer.

For January, KALHD realized a net financial gain of \$46,679.72 with \$59,021.05 in total income and \$12,341.33 in total expenses. The ending bank balance was \$439,666.75.

Brie Greeson motioned to approve the report and place it on file. Lynnette Redington seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Legislative Updates

Randy Bowman provided an update on the progress of the 2025 Kansas Legislative Session and on various Federal legislative topics.

Kansas Legislature

- KDHE indicated earlier in the session that they have identified a grant source to sustain the laboratory courier services in FY2026. Presumably we will resume advocacy for a sustained funding source this fall for the FY2027 budget.
- The House budget in Sub. HB2007 became available to the public on the legislative website just this morning. He confirmed that the budget proviso to provide a minimum LHD allocation of \$12,000 does still appear in this version. There is however a technical citation error (paragraph j instead of k) that may need to be fixed.
- There are some lapses of reappropriated money in the FY2025 budget, one to ATL of just over \$10,000 should not be of concern due to small amount which KDHE had attributed to a staff vacancy. Others do not appear to directly impact LHDs.
- This budget bill will be worked on the House floor sometime this week. From there the Senate will begin budget work at the end of February or early March. We are still several weeks away from a final budget, but so far this is more favorable than seemed likely during the first week of the session when the Chair of House Appropriations asked agencies for a 7.5% cut. Implementation of those cuts did not materialize in either Social Services Budget or the Appropriations committees. However, tax cut proposals continue to be considered and if passed, presumably a commensurate expenditure reduction will have to be identified before the end of the session.
- Sen. Sub. SB29, which is the concerning health freedom act, was placed on the Senate calendar for debate later today. It will presumably pass, and we will see if the House does or does not act on this bill. Generally among opponents this bill is viewed as much less concerning as now it only impacts public gatherings.
- Along with Sub. SB29, 40 other bills are scheduled to be debated in the Senate today and 36 in the House. They are scheduled to debate bills through Thursday of this week.
- HB2294 is the bill creating the new Office of Early Childhood that would move approximately 19 programs out of other state agencies into this new agency. It is being discussed as a bipartisan compromise on the bills of recent years. It was moved from House Appropriations to House Commerce committee yesterday, perhaps forecasting intent to hear and work this bill. It does contain the language from last year that was of primary interest to LHDs, language that would allow the head of this agency to continue to cause childcare facility inspections to be done by a contractor (e.g. LHD). At this time KALHD would likely stay neutral or support this bill, but if you have thoughts please reach out as we could change this position. SB132 is a parallel bill with the same text.

Federal Legislation

- There are an abundance of questions and concerns about actions already taken, or that may be taken, by the new Presidential Administration. Some of those have been held up by the Courts while they are reviewed, and the final outcome is nearly impossible to predict. Randy indicated that he is trying to monitor this so we can at least be informed as to what is happening. A key source of information and advocacy in this time are the lobbyists at NACCHO and being dues paying NACCHO members is especially valuable at this time.

- Much of the discussion in Washington D.C. centers around efforts to reduce federal spending and the current budget continuing resolution that will expire on March 14, 2025. With previous expirations, the federal government has shutdown for a few days to up to 36 days. If no agreement is reached by the deadline, that would occur again and how soon that might impact local programs delivered with federal funds is not known.
- In these times, it would be best if each LHD administrator began thinking about how you would need to respond if there are funding reductions. It is not possible to predict the specific cuts, but if enacted, cuts would likely take effect immediately. So, planning potential scenarios in advance is recommended.

KDHE Updates

Due to closure of state offices no KDHE updates were provided today.

WSU Updates

Due to travel, Aaron Davis, WSU, was not available today to provide updates.

KAC Updates

Karla Nichols provided an update on the legislative advocacy efforts of the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC). And reminded everyone of the legislative call hosted by KAC every Friday at 2:00 p.m. These calls help to provide perspective on the many other items that are happening in the legislature that impact county government. She also remarked on the helpfulness of KALHD's weekly legislative update that is sent out on Fridays.

Executive Director's Report

Randy highlighted some of the items in the written report that is included with the Board materials.

- Since the report was written additional dues payments have been received bringing the total who have paid 2025 KALHD dues to 89 of 100 LHD with 48 of the 89 electing to pay dues to NACCHO.
- A new lease signed for the office copier machine and delivery/set up is scheduled for next Monday. Costs to return the current copier to Canon to their location in Illinois have been charged to the credit card in the amount of \$856.75.
- Letter for audit services has been signed by Jennifer and Randy with SSC CPAs. The audit schedule is to be determined but will probably be in early May or in June to work around Randy's vacation.

- We did not include a PHEP concurrence letter on the agenda this month as KDHE has not yet received the budget period 2 NOFO from CDC. It is unknown when that will be available to states. But we anticipate it will be in the next few weeks and the concurrence letter would then be an action item on the Board agenda in either April or May.
- He reviewed the document that was included with today's material which listed eight options for discussion today. He also shared that last week KDHE submitted a proposal to the Board and that he planned to ask the currently dormant sub-committee to meet in March to review. The KDHE proposal is for a wellness/behavior health app that would serve an estimated 1,400 LHD staff at a cost of just over \$100,000 for 2 years.

Members discussed the options, and a consensus was reached that it is best to prioritize items that do not have a long-term cost as funding to sustain those would not be available. Items 1, 2, 7 and 8 were determined to be the highest priority for the approximately \$535,000 that KDHE indicates is available from PHIG funds. And that KALHD should proceed to apply to KDHE for PHIG funds and that sub-committee review of the KDHE app proposal will not be necessary.

Brie Greeson moved that KALHD should make an application for PHIG funding for items 1, 2, 7 and 8 which was seconded by Charlie Hunt. The motion was passed.

Discussion for Board Members and KALHD Members Only

Prior to discussing the next agenda item, Jennifer thanked our guests for attending and asked them to please leave the meeting. These minutes will only reflect the final actions/decisions from this discussion.

Open Discussion

Based upon this discussion, KALHD will recommend to KDHE that the agenda for the March 19, 2025, KDHE/LHD Monthly Meeting include an update on the topic of Vaccines For Adults (VFA) and an opportunity for discussion. Randy will also provide feedback to KDHE on the need for KDHE to circulate an agenda few days before each monthly meeting to help administrators identify staff that might need to attend based on the agenda. And that communication of staffing changes at KDHE continues to be challenging due to limited information on who to contact during vacancies.

Adjournment

Jennifer asked for a motion to adjourn. **The motion by Krista Schneider was seconded by Monica Reuber and passed.** The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.