Organizational Updates

- **2018 Dues.** Dues invoices were mailed on January 2 and are payable by March 31. As of February 16, 77 counties have paid dues.

- **2018 Calendar.** During the 2017 annual meeting, the KALHD board adopted a new meeting schedule for 2018: January-board development; February-regular monthly board meeting; April-regular monthly board meeting; June-midyear meeting (Wichita); August-regular monthly board meeting; October-regular monthly board meeting (Overland Park in conjunction with KAC annual conference); and November-annual meeting (location to be determined). Board members are encouraged to attend board meeting in person.

- **2018 District Meetings.** District meetings have been scheduled. There is no cost to attend, but please register to attend on KS-TRAIN, course #1075265. Each meeting will be take place from 10:00 to 3:00, and lunch is provided. The draft agenda includes a vaccine purchasing project to identify best practices in the process and prices; the adaptive challenge of modernizing public health in Kansas; and member engagement/feedback survey.
  - **District 1** Thursday, May 3
    - Jay Johnson Public Library, 411 Main Street, Quinter, KS 67752
  - **District 2** Wednesday, April 11
    - Saline County Health Department, Conference Room, 125 W Elm St., Salina, KS 67401
  - **District 3** Thursday, March 8
    - Conference Rooms AB, Shawnee County Health Department, 2600 East Circle Drive South, Topeka, KS 6606
  - **District 4** Wednesday, May 16
    - Finney County Administration Center, Carol Brown Conference Room, 311 N. 9th Street, Garden City KS 67846
  - **District 5** Friday, April 27
    - Community Engagement Institute, 238 N. Mead, Wichita, KS 67202
  - **District 6** Tuesday, May 8
    - Riverside Park Community Building, 510 Park Avenue, Iola, KS 66749

- **Informatics Subcommittee.** The KALHD Informatics Subcommittee has continued to meet monthly excluding December. The subcommittee is still actively looking at various opportunities and barriers affecting all LHDs. Currently there is a focus on trying to identify what types of Informatics activities do LHDs want the capability and capacity to address. Along with these conversations, the committee has developed the following:
- Rough Draft of a Public Health Informatics Infographic. The aim of this infographic is to educate LHDs on the important role of informatics, and it can be shared with partners and commissioners to explain why Local Public Health needs to be at the forefront of data utilization.

- Workforce Development summary of current Public Health Informatics related trainings and guides available for free and at a cost. These trainings are through KS-Train, universities, and national organizations. The summary of trainings will be made available in the coming months once it is finalized.

**Project Updates**

- **Public Health Center for Innovations (PHNCI) Grant.** The four-county pilot site is in the process of assessing capacity, strengths/weaknesses, and best service delivery mechanism for each of the 109 components of the KS FPHS model. The group is also reviewing and discussing revisions to the draft performance measures as the analyze each component. Michelle Ponce, Lindsay Payer, and Gianfranco Pezzino will represent the Kansas Innovations grant project team at the PHNCI learning community meeting in Alexandria, VA March 13-14 and will also participate in change management training. Michelle and Lindsay will provide a presentation regarding the project at the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) Open Forum for Quality Improvement and Innovation in Public Health in Louisville Kentucky on March 29-30, 2018.

- **KDHE/CEI/KALHD Medicaid Workgroup.** The Medicaid workgroup will meet on February 23 in Topeka.

- **PHEP.** After the January 30 KALHD meeting, staff compiled the feedback/concerns that were shared and documented them in a letter to KDHE PHEP staff (a copy of the letter is available in the KALHD Community Forum at kalhd.forumbee.com). In her response to the letter, Catherine Byrd confirmed that KDHE no longer intends to review the PHEP regional boundaries (also, in a related e-mail that was forwarded to members, she also stated that “keeping the [HCC] boundaries is definitely a viable option) and has agreed to participate in a KALHD meeting to review the 2018-19 PHEP work plans, ask questions, and provide feedback. KDHE anticipates providing draft work plans by March 9, and the KALHD meeting will be held on March 15, 10:00-12:00 at the Kansas Historical Society at 6425 SW 6th Ave in Topeka. We will make an Adobe Connection option available, but in-person participation is strongly encouraged to further emphasize the importance of the meeting.

KALHD is currently gathering local in-kind match contributions for the federal grant application. An e-mail was sent to members with the in-kind match form. If you have any questions or need the form to be re-sent, please contact michelle.ponce@kalhd.org. Please return the completed forms by March 9.

One of KALHD’s primary responsibilities within the PHEP program is to provide or coordinate training or technical assistance to local health departments. To this end, KALHD is sponsoring 10 attendees from member departments representing nine PHEP regions to attend the providing an opportunity for up to ten individuals to attend the 2018 Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, GA, April 17-20

- **Kansas Hospital Association Critical Issues Summit.** KHA is hosting a Critical Issues Summit in Wichita on March 1-2 that will include a panel discussion on “The State of Public Health in Kansas—Governance and Service Delivery Options.” Panelists are Michelle Ponce, ED, KALHD; Cristi Cain, Director of Local Public Health, KDHE; Vada Winger, Administrator, Haskell Co Health Department; Kerry McCue, Administrator, Ellis County Health Department; Gina Frack, CEO, Norton County Hospital; and Dr. Gianfranco Pezzino, Senior Fellow and Strategy Team Leader, Kansas Health Institute. The panel discussion will be very similar to
the KHI Local Public Health Governance and Service Delivery Options convening on December 13 (http://www.khi.org/policy/article/18-02).

Legislative Updates

Calendar

- February 7: Last day for Individuals to introduce bills in originating chamber.
- February 9: Last day for non-exempt Committees to introduce bills in originating chamber.
- February 22: (Turnaround Day) Last day to consider non-exempt bills in house of origin.
- March 29th: Last day to consider non-exempt bills not in originating chamber.
- April 6: (Drop Dead Day) No bills considered after this date except bills vetoed by governor, omnibus appropriations act and omnibus reconciliations spending limit bill

Bills

- **SB 38 Establishing the KanCare bridge to a healthy Kansas program.** A hearing was held in SPHW on 2/14. KALHD provided written testimony in support of the bill.
- **HB2721 AN ACT providing for a certificate of authorization for a business entity to practice medicine; amending K.S.A. 2017.** This bill deals with the defining what entities are considered “medical facilities.” It will add Child Advocacy Centers to the list in order to allow them to conduct sexual assault exams. A member department wants to work to include LHDs in the definition as well. We are researching the issue. The bill has been referred to HHHS.
- **SB 305 AN ACT concerning the department of health and environment; relating to regulation of programs for children; authority; exemption from certain licensure and inspection requirements.** The bill would exempt “drop-in” childcare facilities from licensing requirements. The bill is supported by the Boys and Girls Club. It was referred to SPHW and had been scheduled for a hearing on January 30, but the hearing was cancelled.
- **SB 312 AN ACT concerning the Kansas dental board; relating to the practice of dental therapy.** (Update from Kansas Dental Project) As co-leads of the Kansas Dental Project, Kansas Action for Children and the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved provided neutral testimony on the initial draft of this legislation, as did a number of Kansas Dental Project coalition members. We then worked with the Kansas Dental Association, the Kansas Dental Board, other stakeholders, and policymakers to propose two changes to Senate Bill 312:
  - Adjusting the scope of practice to allow the newly-established dental provider to perform all the procedures a Kansas extended-care permit hygienist can perform, under general supervision.
  - Clarifying the definition and interpretation of "direct supervision." (This is important because unlike previous proposals to establish dental therapists in Kansas, Senate Bill 312 requires that certain procedures - including drilling and filling cavities - may only be performed under direct supervision, for the duration of the dental provider's career.)

The Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee adopted these changes and recommended Senate Bill 312 to the full Senate for consideration. On February 15, the full Senate voted unanimously to pass the bill as amended. The bill was introduced into the house on February 16.
- **SB 316 AN ACT concerning health and healthcare; relating to the Kansas medical assistance program; providing coverage for tobacco cessation treatments.** The bill has been referred to SPHW and is expected to be worked by the committee on February 19. (Full update to be provided by NAMI ED Rick Cagan)
SCR 1604 *A PROPOSITION to amend article 11 of the constitution of the state of Kansas by adding a new section thereto, concerning the sales and compensating use taxation of food and food ingredients, rates.* The SCR would create a constitutional amendment lowering state sales tax on food. A hearing was held on February 1 in Senate Assessment and Taxation committee. The committee chairwoman asked that the constitutional amendment be rewritten and introduced as a bill to allow for more flexibility in the legislative process. (for more information, access kchealthykids.org).

**Important Dates to Remember**

- KDHE/CEI/KALHD Medicaid Workgroup: February 23, 10:00-3:00
- KALHD Informatics Subcommittee: February 27 at 11:00-12:00
- KALHD-KDHE PHEP Meeting: March 15, 10:00-12:00
- Governor’s Public Health Conference: April 3-5
- KALHD Board of Directors Meeting: April 17