

## Executive Director Report March 19, 2019

### Organizational Updates

- **New Executive Director**

- I formally replaced Michelle Ponce as of March 1<sup>st</sup>. These first few weeks have been focused on readying for the KALHD district meetings, learning what I need to know regarding ongoing projects and services, and beginning financial planning for budget year 2020.

- **Meeting with Secretary Norman**

- On March 13<sup>th</sup> I had a meeting with Secretary Norman and several high-level KDHE staff individuals. The first half of the meeting focused on FPHS and included the participation of Charlie Hunt and Gianfranco Pezzino from KHI. KDHE was asked by KHI to consider rejoining the informatics workgroup and also to review the FPHS report and provide comments. I introduced myself and provided a bit of my background but mostly listened during the FPHS discussion.
- After the FPHS portion, the KHI attendees left, as did Cristi Cain. The meeting time was over, but Secretary Norman and remaining staff spoke with me for an additional 50 minutes. PHEP was a part of that (to be covered in the Project Updates section of this report), but KDHE staff emphasized a desire to build a better partnership with KALHD. As a part of that, there was an indication that several KDHE staff feel unwelcome when participating with the KALHD board, with Secretary Norman noting he got a strange vibe from the audience during his meet and greet several weeks ago. Staff also expressed concerns about KALHD meetings being KDHE bash sessions (which, as I understand it, ties in to above since they are witnessing it). I appreciate their transparency and am sharing it with you all now.

- **2019 Dues**

- Dues invoices were mailed on January 2 and are payable by March 31. As of March 12<sup>th</sup>, KALHD lacked payment from 12 local health departments (seven who did pay in 2018 and five who were not members in 2018). Physical letters were mailed to all departments, along with invoice copies. The 2018 members letter functioned as a reminder, whereas the letter to the non-2018 members provided a brief introduction of myself and an invitation for the department to join KALHD. As of March 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 departments remain outstanding.

- **Kansas Health Foundation “Core Support” Funding**

- I spoke with KHF Senior Program Director Carolyn Williams on March 14<sup>th</sup>. She indicated there would not be a new round of core support funding available to KALHD after the current funding ends (later this year). She did indicate KHF would be interested in engaging in project grants for KALHD, including supporting staff time, so long as they



align with the key areas of focus for KHF. As such, I am entertaining suggestions for projects that KALHD members think would be worthwhile to both organizations.

- It was also suggested KALHD apply for an impact and capacity grant. That is limited to \$25,000/year but is an unsolicited opportunity. That should open up on May 1<sup>st</sup> and KALHD will apply.
- **2019 District Meetings**
  - The District 3 meeting in Topeka was held on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The District 2 meeting is in flux right now, as the sign-up count is extremely poor. We are exploring dates in April that may better accommodate everyone's schedule.
- **2019 Midyear Meeting**
  - KALHD has not successfully broken even with its mid-year meetings historically, so we are making a few modifications. I have decided to seek sponsorships for 2019. A range of tiers with dollar commitments as low as \$100 and as high as \$1000 were developed, and many organizations with public health ties have been contacted. Sponsorship will not change the function or flow of the meeting, though additional handouts may be provided from the sponsors as a way to promote their products and services. KALHD will evaluate the impact of the sponsorship approach after the mid-year meeting to assess how viable it was. So far, two organizations have indicated an intent to sponsor.
  - As another step, on the cost-control side, all workshops will be held as general sessions rather than using breakout sessions. Other organizations have found success with this approach, as it controls AV costs significantly by avoiding the requirement to set-up multiple rooms. The key is to make sure we select wide-appealing topics of maximum interest to attendees.
  - With the sponsorship and workshop steps, we will not increase registration rates for 2019. After the mid-year meeting we will assess how the event did financially and make 2020 plans from there.
- **PayPal**
  - While KALHD was listed as a non-profit in the PayPal system, it was not verified as a 501(c)3 charity. Heather and I have submitted the necessary information to PayPal. This change should shift our credit card fees from 2.9%+\$0.30 per transaction to 2.2%+\$0.30 per transaction. Our nonprofit documentation is in review at this time.
- **Amazon Smile**
  - KALHD is listed as a selectable charity. Shoppers who go to smile.amazon.com can have 0.5% of eligible purchases sent to KALHD. This has no impact on the total purchase cost and is an easy way to help support the organization. KALHD was already in the recognized list but the option is now configured and we have taken steps to promote the option to our members.

## Project Updates

- **PHEP**
  - During the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting with Secretary Norman, we had a robust discussion about PHEP funding. He read the letter sent by KALHD after the last board meeting (he attempted to connect with me via telephone before the in-person meeting but we were unable to get in touch with each other). He was surprised by the letter and the tone. I walked through the concerns with the Secretary and the staff, and why it was felt a letter was best to convey how serious the contract is viewed. KDHE listened to the KALHD concerns, and they expressed it was not an intent to be punitive to KALHD but driven by



concerns with what the federal project officer wants. To that end, KDHE offered to reach out to the federal program officer and include me and Jennifer Green in that discussion, to see if a way forward is possible with a bid contract similar to the current one. It was noted the travel reimbursement portion would not be included, and that KDHE would administer that, but a discussion regarding the other duties and funding would be viable.

- I had a meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> with Denise Kelly and Kendra Baldridge to help plan out the upcoming discussion with the federal project officer. They indicated a desire to just include the KALHD contract in the workplan outright. They explained that CDC approved of the prior language, the problem stemmed from CDC not being provided enough evidence that deliverables were being met. KDHE conveyed that, in their view, KALHD did not provide enough evidence that deliverables were met. Regardless of where in the provision chain things broke down, we agreed that solving this moving forward was the best course of action. I was asked to solicit suggestions from KALHD on things local health departments would like to see KALHD provide in the new contract, and thus I announce this now and request all suggestions be sent to me ([dennis.kriesel@kalhd.org](mailto:dennis.kriesel@kalhd.org)) so I may embed them. I plan by late next week to produce a revised, draft contract between KDHE and KALHD outlining our expectations in the upcoming contract. A CDC discussion will only happen if CDC objects and then we can make our case to the Federal level if required.

## Legislative Updates

- **Legislative Calendar**

- March 27 Last day to consider non-exempt bills not in originating chamber.
- April 5 (Drop Dead Day) No bills considered after this date except bills vetoed by governor, omnibus appropriations act and omnibus reconciliations spending limit bill.
- May 1 Veto session is anticipated to begin.

- **Bills of Interest**

KALHD Bills of Interest (bold bills had KALHD testimony)		
Bill	Subject	Status
SB 11	Establishing the licensure of dental therapists.	Jan 15, 2019-Senate: Referred to Committee on Public Health and Welfare Jan 14, 2019 -Senate: Introduced Jan 14, 2019-Senate: Prefiled for Introduction on Friday, January 11, 2019
SB 54	Establishing the KanCare bridge to a healthy Kansas program.	Jan 30, 2019-Senate: Referred to Committee on Public Health and Welfare Jan 29, 2019-Senate: Introduced
<b>SB 76</b>	Sales tax rate on food and food ingredients.	Feb 21, 2019-Senate: Hearing: Thursday, February 21, 2019, 9:30 AM Room 548-S Feb 1, 2019-Senate: Referred to Committee on Assessment and Taxation Jan 31, 2019-Senate: Introduced



SB 113	Providing for the legal use of medical cannabis.	Mar 15, 2019-Senate: Hearing continuation: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:30 AM Room 118-N Mar 14, 2019-Senate: Hearing: Thursday, March 14, 2019, 9:30 AM Room 118-N Feb 7, 2019-Senate: Referred to Committee on Public Health and Welfare Feb 6, 2019-Senate: Introduced
HB 2030	Expanding eligibility for medicaid benefits to the extent permitted by the affordable care act.	Jan 14, 2019-House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services Jan 14, 2019-House: Introduced
HB 2066	Updating certain requirements relating to advanced practice registered nurses.	Mar 6, 2019-House: Withdrawn from Committee on Appropriations; Rereferred to Committee on Health and Human Services Feb 27, 2019-House: Withdrawn from Calendar; Referred to Committee on Appropriations Feb 27, 2019-House: Committee of the Whole - Passed over and retain a place on the calendar Feb 26, 2019-House: Committee Report recommending bill be passed as amended by Committee on Health and Human Services Feb 11, 2019-House: Hearing: Monday, February 11, 2019, 1:30 PM Room 546-S Jan 23, 2019-House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services Jan 23, 2019-House: Introduced
HB 2082	Allowing pharmacists to administer drugs pursuant to a prescription order.	Mar 6, 2019-House: Withdrawn from Committee on Appropriations; Rereferred to Committee on Health and Human Services Feb 28, 2019-House: Withdrawn from Calendar; Referred to Committee on Appropriations Feb 26, 2019-House: Committee Report recommending bill be passed as amended by Committee on Health and Human Services Feb 6, 2019-House: Hearing: Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 1:30 PM Room 546-S Jan 24, 2019-House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services Jan 24, 2019-House: Introduced
HB 2102	Establishing the KanCare bridge to a healthy Kansas program.	Jan 29, 2019-House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations Jan 29, 2019-House: Introduced



HB 2198	Allowing the use of expedited partner therapy to treat a sexually transmitted disease.	<p>Feb 28, 2019-Senate: Referred to Committee on Public Health and Welfare</p> <p>Feb 27, 2019-Senate: Received and Introduced</p> <p>Feb 27, 2019-House: Final Action - Passed; Yea: 89 Nay: 35</p> <p>Feb 26, 2019-House: Committee of the Whole - Be passed</p> <p>Feb 22, 2019-House:Committee Report recommending bill be passed by Committee on Health and Human Services</p> <p>Feb 14, 2019-House: Hearing: Thursday, February 14, 2019, 1:30 PM Room 546-S</p> <p>Feb 7, 2019-House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services</p> <p>Feb 7, 2019-House: Introduced</p>
HB 2228	Relating to penalties for operating a child care facility without a license.	<p>Mar 6, 2019 -House: Withdrawn from Committee on Appropriations; Rereferred to Committee on Children and Seniors</p> <p>Feb 27, 2019-House: Withdrawn from Calendar; Referred to Committee on Appropriations</p> <p>Feb 26, 2019-House: Committee Report recommending bill be passed as amended by Committee on Children and Seniors</p> <p>Feb 19, 2019-House: Hearing: Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 1:30 PM Room 346-S</p> <p>Feb 11, 2019-House: Referred to Committee on Children and Seniors</p> <p>Feb 11, 2019-House: Introduced</p>
HB 2261	Decreasing the sales and use tax rate on food and food ingredients to 5.5%.	<p>Mon, Feb 18, 2019 House Hearing: Monday, February 18, 2019, 3:30 PM Room 112-N Tue, Feb 12, 2019 House Referred to Committee on Taxation 160Tue, Feb 12, 2019-House: Introduced</p>

- Note that since it is past turnaround, most of these bills appear dead (I am confused about SB 113 having a hearing on March 15<sup>th</sup> since that committee is not exempt; it may have just been for educational purposes). Bills that live are HB 2066, HB 2082, HB 2198, and HB 2228.

## Important Dates to Remember

- KALHD Board of Directors Meeting: April 16
- KALHD District Meetings
  - Salina: April 22
  - Wichita: April 15
  - Iola: April 17
  - Quinter: April 29
  - Garden City: May 29
- KDHE-KALHD-WSU Medicaid Workgroup: April 26

