

Executive Director Report May 21, 2019

Organizational Updates

- **2019 District Meetings**
 - All District Meetings are now complete except for Garden City, which will take place on May 29th.
- **2019 Mid-Year Meeting**
 - The Mid-Year meeting agenda is set. Topics will consist of two different social determinant presentations (one involving Aetna Better Health of Kansas and what they want to do with LHDs, and one from CPHI regarding what they're learning are the LHD priorities), TISC, Food Safety, KS-TRAIN, results from the 2019 Aid-to-Local Survey, and a session on Landlords and Tenants.
 - Reminder that Mid-Year is June 18th and 19th at the Hotel at Old Town in Wichita.
 - A free pre-conference Data Day takes place at the same location on June 17th.
 - We want a robust attendance. The Data Day and MYM are not just for LHD administrators, other LHD employees and related entities are welcome!
- **Kansas Health Foundation: Impact & Capacity Grant**
 - I applied for an I&C Grant from the Kansas Health Foundation to fund advocacy work.
 - The nature of the work aligns with what I've been discussing with many of you at the District Meetings. The goal is to get funding to cover staff time related to tracking legislation and creating testimony/letter templates to make the process of participating as easy as possible for LHDs.
 - We should know the status of the funding before July.
- **Sunflower Foundation**
 - I had a meeting with the Sunflower Foundation in early May. Sunflower has been interested in advocacy work and ways to increase participation at the local level.
 - I have proposed a concept whereby KALHD works with the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) to formulate a model process for setting county legislative platforms. This concept would rely on encouraging commissioners to involve their department heads in the creation process, and also to consider letting their department heads speak for the county, officially, to the legislature on items in the platform.
 - In addition, there would be a goal to have a model policy constructed to clarify how county employees can engage, as individuals, with the legislature on items the county is silent on in its platform. The goal being to eliminate the fear of participation by creating a process so LHD administrators know they are in the clear to take action.



- Sunflower is considering the concept, and if green-lit we'll put cost figures together.
- Sunflower is also interested in advocacy work that can unify other public health players (e.g., KPHA, KEHA). There is no active concept proposed on this yet (I'm open to ideas!).

Project Updates

• PHEP

- KALHD and KDHE's PHEP program have reached agreement on the budget and scope of services. These items were shared on the Board listserv.
- We are just awaiting the official contract. KDHE PHEP anticipates it will be in place by July 1st.
- KDHE wants to do a five-year, sole-source contract. KALHD has been neutral on the contract type, but if the State bureaucracy grants this it would be advantageous to us, as it means we don't have to negotiate the contract for half a decade and this won't be the time-sink it was this year.
- KALHD's members of the KALHD-KDHE PHEP Advisory Team have been named, as follows:
 - Thomas Langer, City-Cowley County Health Department Administrator
 - Rebecca Adamson, Crawford County Health Department Director
 - Dana Rickley, Clay County Health Department Administrator
 - Carl Lee, Regional Coordinator for the East Central Kansas Public Health Coalition
 - Andrew Adams, Regional Coordinator for the Wildcat Region
 - Steve Mahuex, Region 15 Preparedness Coordinator

• FPHS

- On May 3rd I had a meeting with Secretary Norman, along with Kendra Baldrige and Cristi Cain with KDHE, and Charlie Hunt from KHI
- The meeting was to go over FPHS, and getting KDHE to start participating again
- Secretary Norman had to leave the meeting early but before doing so did state he agrees with the ideology of FPHS. His questions revolve around goals and ways to move it forward that make sense.
- Separate from this, Kansas was invited to send two representatives to participate with the other 21C states (funded by PHNCI). I will be one of them, but we did invite Kendra Baldrige to be the other one and Secretary Norman agreed. This will give KDHE more exposure as to what FPHS is in the context of the national movement towards it.

• FPHS Subcommittee

- As part of FPHS discussions, the KALHD FPHS Subcommittee came up.
- This Subcommittee worked on a variety (eight) Pathfinder projects, all with deliverables about 90 days out (predating my start with KALHD).
- I've been updated on most of these. Moving forward, this board needs to decide if it wants to try and continue a FPHS Subcommittee.
 - If not, FPHS work can happen through the board
 - If so, CPHI is willing to continue handling the organization of it, but KALHD's funding source for it is gone now and we'd want to seek a new funding source to cover the expenses
 - My understanding is the subcommittee has been seen as useful by the KALHD membership as a place where KALHD-only ideas can flourish. If it wants to move forward on some ideas, I just need to know what those are and I can work to secure grant funding. Organizations like the Anthem Foundation are amenable to funding SDoH work for example, which aligns with our FPHS vision.



Legislative Updates

- The session is all but officially done. Sine Die is on May 29th, and that's technically the final day, generally used for overriding any Governor vetoes the legislature thinks it can overcome.
- HB 2066, what became the Medicaid expansion bill, ultimately failed.
 - There was an attempt to pull the bill out of committee in the Senate but it failed by one vote.
- The House tried to force the Senate to take an up-or-down vote on HB 2066 by rejecting the budget, but the gambit collapsed relatively quickly due to the House not staying unified on the matter.

Important Dates to Remember

- KALHD Board of Directors Meeting: June 19 (in-person at the Mid-Year Meeting)
- KALHD District Meetings
 - Garden City: May 29
- KALHD Mid-Year Meeting: June 17-19 (Hotel at Old Town, Wichita)
 - June 17: Pre-conference (Data Day); no cost to attend, technically separate from the Mid-Year
 - June 18: Mid-Year Meeting Day 1
 - June 19: Mid-Year Meeting Day 2

--Dennis Kriesel, KALHD Executive Director



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