



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
INSTITUTE**

Center for Public Health Initiatives

2019 KALHD District Meeting

Foundational Public Health Services Discussions

Prepared for KALHD Board and Members
June 2019

Report Prepared by:
Ty Kane, MPH, ASQ-CQIA
& Amber Dean, PhD, MSW, MBA

KALHD District Meeting

Foundational Public Health Services Discussion

Overview

Wichita State University's Center for Public Health Initiatives facilitated discussions at six KALHD district meetings about Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) in Kansas to advance KALHD's vision of *"a system of Local Health Departments committed to helping all Kansans achieve optimal health by providing Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS)."* The discussions lasted about 40 minutes and included a review of recent KALHD activities focused on FPHS in Kansas and a discussion to explore future directions for three priority Kansas FPHS areas: Assessment, Environmental Health and Policy Development and Support.

2019 KALHD District Meetings were held in the spring in a variety of Kansas communities:

- March 15 in Topeka,
- March 27 in Salina,
- April 15 in Wichita,
- April 17 in Iola,
- April 29 in Quinter, and
- May 29 in Garden City.

Purpose

In 2018, four local health departments participated in a FPHS local pilot project to test the feasibility of implementing the Kansas FPHS model locally. The project was facilitated by staff at the Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI), KALHD and the Kansas Health Institute (KHI). Participating local health departments included Coffey, Osage, Franklin and Wabaunsee counties. Participation in the pilot project afforded these local health departments an opportunity to discuss individual and collective strengths and challenges of public health service delivery, as well as possible alternative models for service delivery. The role of local health departments, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and other partners were considered when exploring possible alternative models for public health service delivery.

The FPHS conversation at 2019 KALHD District Meetings was designed to give participants an opportunity to participate in a similar "deep dive" into three priority Foundational Services. These three areas were identified in the 2017 Kansas FPHS Capacity Assessment¹ as having the highest number of low-rated components and perhaps the greatest opportunities for improvement to increase capacity and capability in these areas.

Process

Staff from CPHI provided a high-level summary of recent KALHD activities focused on FPHS and described how Assessment, Environmental Health and Policy Development and Support were selected for 2019 KALHD District Meeting Conversations. Staff from CPHI also distributed a copy of the Kansas FPHS Definitions that outlines each of the Foundational Areas and Components. Discussions at each district meeting were centered on these questions:

1. What are the issues to address in this component?
2. Who needs to be involved as we explore this component?
3. What more do we need to know about this component?

¹ Kansas Health Institute (2017). Kansas foundational public health services capacity assessment. Available at https://www.khi.org/assets/uploads/news/14773/ks_fphs_capacity_assessment.pdf

Summary of Results

The conversations were loosely structured and varied from district-to-district, creating some inconsistency in the recorded notes below. For example, some districts identified Foundational Areas other than those identified above and districts typically addressed a combination of the three discussion questions, but not all.

- *Which Foundational Services were most commonly discussed?*
 - Environmental Health was discussed at 4 of 6 district meetings.
 - Assessment was discussed at 2 of 6 district meetings.
 - Policy Development and Support was discussed at 1 of 6 district meetings.
 - Communicable Disease Control was discussed at 1 of 6 district meetings.
- Key themes that emerged related to Environmental Health include:
 - Lack of clarity about roles and responsibilities that leads to avoidance or delays in addressing environmental issues.
 - Inability to enforce current laws because of lack of stakeholder engagement or political will at the local level.
 - Shortage of trained staff and training opportunities to deal with common environmental health threats.
 - Lack of funding to address nuisance abatement and other environmental health threats.
- Key themes related that emerged related to Assessment include:
 - Inability to quickly respond to data requests from community partners.
 - Shortage of trained staff to address local data needs.
 - Lack of awareness about what data sources exist and how to access them.
 - Limited ability to translate data into a format that useful for partners.
 - Access to local data is limited, especially in communities with small populations.
- Key themes related that emerged related to Policy Development and Support include:
 - Building capacity to implement a Health in all Policies approach at the state and local levels.
 - Inability for the LHD to enforce current public health mandates.
 - Local government leaders lack awareness of the local role in enforcing public health mandates.
- A number of key stakeholders were identified to make progress across the Foundational Service discussions including local government officials, private environmental partners, public health content experts, economic development officials, Kansas Farm Bureau representatives, state agencies, Kansas Association of Counties, League of Kansas Municipalities, local organizational leaders and residents, local and statewide elected officials, County Counselor's Association, faith-based and school partners.

Next steps

- These discussions point to a number of possible priority areas for future discussion and planning by local health department administrators and KALHD.
- Staff from Wichita State University's Center for Public Health Initiatives will present these findings during the KALHD Mid-Year Meeting in Wichita on June 18 and 19 in Wichita, Kansas.
- Staff from CPHI will also be available to discuss these findings with KALHD members at future gatherings.

Recorded Discussion Notes

Topeka – March 15, 2019

Foundational Area: Environmental Health

Kansas FPHS Model Component: *Coordinate and communicate with agencies that carry out environmental public health functions at the local level (e.g., inspections of food service facilities, drinking water, and liquid and solid waste streams).*

What are the issues to address in this component?

Who needs to be involved?

- Emergency management
- Local health officer
- Environmental health subject matter expert
- Inspection officials
- Water companies

Kansas FPHS Model Component: *Prevent or reduce environmental public health hazards and assure abatement of nuisances.*

What are the issues to address in this component?

- Don't know what to do or who to ask (re. nuisance abatement)
- Lack of authority to do anything;
- Ethical dilemma / not knowing best way to ensure compliance; often more behind issues (e.g., mental health and hoarding)
- On smaller, more rural level, I see a need for policy development that would include the LHD in identifying strategies for dealing with environmental health issues

Who needs to be involved?

- Policy makers

Kansas FPHS Model Component: *Participate in land-use planning and sustainable development (e.g., consideration of housing, urban development, recreational facilities and transportation).*

What are the issues to address in this component?

- Unclear boundaries / lack of zoning / no checks and balances, hard for county to create process without zoning
- Knowledge gap, no formal training in these areas

- I could have a vote on county planning and development, but I don't weigh in because I don't have a lot of knowledge here
- HDs are excluded from planning and development process / lack of opportunity to weigh in about issues
- Dozens of different groups and orgs involved in this stuff that all have different agendas, goals, etc. - there's no way I would be able to even remotely keep up with that; bypasses the health department
- Knowledge gaps - even regarding statutory responsibilities; we look at this list and the differences between city vs county vs state responsibility; this underscores a deficiency that we probably all collectively have
- Capability deficiencies / lack of workforce development and workforce experience in these areas

Who should be involved?

- Planning committee
- Planning and development office
- Engineers
- Learn from those who have the strengths/knowledge/experience in these areas

Salina – April 22, 2019

Foundational Area: Environmental Health

Kansas FPHS Model Component: Prevent or reduce environmental public health hazards and assure abatement of nuisances.

What are the issues to address in this component?

- Who pays for abatement?
- Who pays for temporary housing?
- Important to talk about evidence based public health but sometimes it's not enough. Reframe public health thru "investment" lens. LHD doing well with education about why and how.

Who needs to be involved as we explore this component?

- Where do economic development, others, fit to address environmental health?
- What is on the mind of Kansas Farm Bureau?

What more do we need to know about this component?

- Explore role of local health departments in Local Environmental Protection Program era
- Is there a policy opportunity? Bulk up statute for unincorporated areas?

Foundational Area: Communicable Disease Control

What are the issues to address in this component?

- Tension between PH (reframe, abatement) and individual rights
- Roles and authorities

- Enforcement, E.g., homes, septic
- Confusion about roles and responsibilities (e.g., Role of CAH & LHD to ID and address priority health issues; Role of state and LHDs)

Wichita – April 15, 2019

Foundational Area: Policy Development and Support

What are the issues to address in this component?

- Health in all Policies
- Enforcement of Public Health mandates
- Ability to enforce, including authority in statute
- Communicating authority to local legal/County/other departments
- Related due process
- What is the penalty?
- Current situation (Re: Home Rule)

Foundational Area: Assessment

What are the issues to address in this component?

- Respond to data requests
- Capacity/Capability
- Access to Data
- Making readable by audience
- “New role for LHD”; stress to current positions to meet demands

Iola – April 17, 2019

Foundational Area: Environmental Health

Kansas FPHS Model Component: Advocate and seek funding for environmental public health policies and initiatives

What are the issues that need to be addressed in the component?

- Environmental nuisances
- Vector management
- Chemical spills
- Air quality
- Lack of commissioner buy-in / uncertainty about LHD staff advocating for things (fear of discipline or getting fired)

Who needs to be involved?

- KALHD – resource for advocacy tools to approach the local level; help assemble/identify talking points, appropriate interventions, potential funding options
- Concerned citizens / community members-
- Commissioner ally who you can have relationship with and inform about PH importance and needs
- County attorney
- Board of health
- County health officer
- State can be limited resource – counties should have same rights as cities (e.g., nuisance abatement)
- Kansas Association for Counties
- League of Kansas Municipalities
- County Counselors Assn of Kansas

What else do we need to know?

- Do we know what the public health policies and initiatives actually are?
- Disconnect between state and local – turnover; unclear about processes
- Differences in county/city authority

Quinter – April 29, 2019

Foundational Area: Environmental Health

What are the issues that need to be addressed?

- Not knowing “big picture” – KDHE
- Whose jurisdiction certain areas are (e.g., lakes)
- Delayed notification of issues (e.g., blue-green algae)
- Powerful opposition groups
- Quiet noise vs loud noise (“can’t talk about this”)

Who needs to be involved as we explore this component?

- Wildlife & Parks
- KDHE
- KDA

What else do we need to know about this component?

Kansas FPHS Model Component: Prevent or reduce environmental public health hazards and assure abatement of nuisances.

What are the issues that need to be addressed?

- No one to do the remediation
- Remediation costs not feasible
- Differentiate home owners from renters (i.e., go after the slum lords and make sure they're upholding their obligations)
- No jurisdiction to do anything about it (e.g., Landlord-tenant act)
- Powerful opposition groups
- Authority of health officer

Garden City – May 29, 2019

Foundational Area: Assessment

What are the issues to address in this component?

- Educating staff about what data is available, where to get it, what it is going to tell you
- Lack of knowledge about how to do an assessment that gives meaningful info
- Where to get assessment data for different needs (census, KHM, BRFS, etc.)
- Not having local data – only having regional data available
- Lack of guidance on how to do CHNA/CHA/CHIP
- Poor turnout / response rates for assessments

Who needs to be involved as we explore this component?

- Various community partnerships
- VISTA
- Universities
- School districts / board / super intendent
- Large employers – school, hospital, county, city
- Rec center
- Economic development
- People and partners who can use the data for their own needs / grants (win-win)
- Head Start
- Ministries, churches

What more do we need to know about this component?

- What do we do with the data/information – so what? Would be nice to see some real-life examples of what communities have been able to do with the info
- What other entities share the same need? How can we join forces to address this need?
- How to communicate assessment findings and know who to share with