

**KALHD Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2020**

Board Member Attendees

Jason Tiller (President)
Aften Gardner (President-Elect)
Paula Bitter (District 2 Representative)
Lindsay Payer (Past-President)
Tammy Von Busch (District 3 Alternate)
Cheryl Goetz (District 1 Alternate)
Lisa Kenworthy (District 3 Representative)
Destany Wheeler (District 6 Representative)
Ranya Maddox (District 4 Alternate)
Lynnette Redington (District 5 Representative)

Non-Board Attendees

Dennis Kriesel (KALHD)
Melissa Mumm Wachendorfer (Sheridan)
Tisha Coleman (Linn)
Kerianne Ehrlich (Ellsworth)
Sara Hodges (Ottawa)
Cristi Cain (KDHE)
Lisa Horn (KDHE)
Emily Strange (Thomas)
LaDonna Reinert (Lincoln)
Rita McKoon (Miami)

Call to order

Jason called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Board roll call

Dennis ran through a roll call of online board members. At the original count there was not a quorum but ultimately enough board members arrived (final listing of board and non-board members appear above).

Approval of agenda

Lindsay moved to approve the agenda. Aften seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of February 2020 minutes

Lindsay moved to approve the February 2020 minutes. Paula Bitter seconded. Motion passed.

Monthly financial report: February 2020

Dennis presented a summation of the February 2020 KALHD financial report.

Lindsay moved to receive and place on file the February 2020 financials. Paula Bitter seconded. Motion passed.

KDHE updates

Cristi Cain gave the update. The Governor's Public Health Conference was cancelled and will not be rescheduled.

Yesterday (3/16/2020) was the deadline for aid-to-local grants. If anyone has had issues they are to contact Cristi.

Cristi noted daily COVID-19 updates will be done daily for LHDs and that information to register for those was sent out. She also noted KDHE has been receiving questions about health officer authority. That information will be sent out as well as the Executive Order from the Governor restricting mass gatherings.

Cristi noted a new process is being put into place as the Epi hotline is overwhelmed with calls. The plan will triage the calls. The phone bank is for the general public but this week it is scheduled to run until 7:00 pm and it is planned to have a few hours on the weekend.

Lindsay asked why the governor went with 50 people rather than 10 people for the mass gathering prohibition. Cristi said 50 was the CDC guidance but Lindsay pointed out CDC has now revised to 10.

Aften asked why the Executive Order has not been released yet. Cristi said she does not know why that was delayed but that it will be sent out ASAP.

Cristi noted after-hours contact information they have on file for local health departments (LHDs) isn't completely current. Dennis stated he would send Cristi KALHD's latest gathered data.

Cristi moved on to testing supplies and noted there are shortages; even KDHE is out of swabs. KDHE expects to receive more today. She discussed LHDs going through the Emergency Manager if needed for a request. Lindsay asked about waiting for PPE supplies; Cristi indicated she would research that and provide information to Dennis to send out to KALHD. Cristi noted more PPE is to come from the feds and then KDHE will send it out.

Cristi noted there have been issues with PCPs not doing testing and referring to the LHDs. Cristi asked for those with that situation to type it into chat and that she is open to suggestions for what KDHE can do to help. Jason brought up that reference labs are supposed to start doing the COVID-19 testing but purportedly the reference labs don't have enough supplies and that it would be more helpful to stop saying the reference labs can do the tests until they actually have the supplies to do them. He stressed that it isn't very clear and his understanding is KDHE is the only one doing testing in Kansas. Cristi believes reference labs have started testing. Lisa Horn stated the University of Kansas Hospital is supposed to be online for testing this week in Kansas but she's not sure about Quest or LabCorp. Aften

noted Quest is testing but the samples are sent to California and so there are huge delays (e.g., 6 days) and a high cost (\$199). Aften said Quest is their only option because driving samples to Topeka is not feasible for them. Lindsay did say there are state partners willing to be couriers if LHDs call and request it, per Friday's EOC meeting. Lisa Kenworthy noted there are agencies that will transport but you must reach out to your emergency manager. Tisha Coleman confirmed including options to drive to another, closer county who would handle delivery from there. Aften noted Quest can only order eight swabs per day. Lisa Kenworthy asked if hospitals must collect both swabs and what exactly the shortage is. Lisa Horn said the test is now just one swab, the nasopharyngeal, and that it is where the shortage lies; herpes testing uses the same swab so any LHDs with those can use them for COVID-19 instead.

Cristi shared contact information in the chat box. Cristi noted Destiny Wheeler was on an NPR piece on rural response to COVID-19 (link: <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/13/814917520/rural-towns-insulated-from-coronavirus-now-may-take-a-harder-hit-later>).

Cristi mentioned a USDA affiliate (FSA offices) is offering to help and they want to partner more with LHDs.

Ladonna asked about viral transport media and where labs are getting it. Cristi said she would follow up on that one.

Lisa Kenworthy asked if the governor has briefings somewhere aside from Facebook. Jason noted it is on her website as well.

Rayna asked if a KS HAN alert could be put out to public health before Executive Orders on COVID-19 are issued so LHDs know before the public. Cristi would check on that.

Emily Strange noted she got an email from their FSA Agent. They were interested in positive cases but was told LHDs would handle that investigation.

Aften noted the quality of the COVID-19 calls have been poor from a technical standpoint. Cristi apologized for yesterday's approach; Cristi asked if the format for the population health webinar and the Thursday webinars worked better? Aften said yes, anything that mutes the audience. Cristi said the LHD daily updates will be done in the format of the Thursday updates.

Jason asked when the change in testing procedure be posted (going to the one swab). Cristi said she will find out.

Kansas Association of Counties update – if any

Nick noted he could not be at this board meeting so no update was provided.

COVID-19 discussion

Dennis summarized what KALHD has been doing. Lisa Kenworthy asked about private schools, and Cristi confirmed you can close one if you believe it is necessary to protect the public's health. Lisa Kenworthy also asked about PUI information and releasing (anytime or just positives?). Cristi said KDHE isn't sharing

where the tests are done (tests per county) but have been sharing statewide negative counts and positives by county, and it is fine to share if you want to provide more detail locally.

Rayna asked about the Governor's Executive Order. Aften echoed she needs the Executive Order. Dennis indicated he cannot find a copy and KDHE via Lisa Horn says they don't have it yet but they are tracking it down to get it.

Jason noted COVID-19 has demonstrated we all need training on executing health officer duties and it could be a good future training topic.

Tammy asked about closing schools and if it applies to colleges. Cristi said the local health officer authority includes all schools, colleges, businesses, etc. to protect public health.

Aften asked about disease investigation questions to print off, and Lisa Horn noted it is as a PDF on the KDHE COVID-19 website.

Lisa Kenworthy noted they've had delay on KDHE labs (Friday lab coming back today), so they have a lot of questions from physicians about when the results will arrive. Cristi noted it should be faster than that and she will follow-up. KDHE's lab was backlogged over the weekend and extra equipment has been ordered.

Lisa Kenworthy said she has some questions from her Sheriff's Department. If they stop someone (e.g., traffic stop) and the officer comes down with symptoms but lacks the travel component what are they supposed to do? The attendees discussed the scenario. Lisa Horn explained he could fall under a PUI but other diseases must be ruled out first before he would be eligible for a COVID-19 test.

Lisa Kenworthy also had some quarantine questions involving homeless people. How to enforce isolation/quarantine on the homeless? Aften noted her sheriff indicated their association was against trying to enforce a quarantine by law at this time. Most seemed aligned with just encouraging quarantine, but it was noted enforcement of isolation has happened elsewhere when the infected has refused to comply.

Discuss future Mid-Year Meeting (MYM) contract/dates

Dennis asked about moving future (post-2021) MYM. The board did not cast a vote but broadly indicated a desire for him to explore options such as other facilities and moving the MYM a week later to create some more space between it and the immunization conference KDHE hosts earlier in June.

Executive Director's report

Dennis ran through his written executive director's report.

Legislative strategy discussion: State Formula

Dennis noted the typical budget negotiation process has been upended by COVID-19 and thus this was less of a strategy session and more of an update. The board conveyed satisfaction with a hands-off approach with the accelerated approach and the hope that COVID-19 has raised awareness and that

State Formula will see some level of benefit given both chambers have approved increases, albeit different amounts.

Member discussion (any attendee)

Jason shared a message from Shelly Schneider, who resigned her position at Barton County. Karen Winkelman has replaced her there. Jason is responsible to appoint a board replacement for Shelly but he invited board members to send him suggestions at: Jason.Tiller@sschd.org

Adjournment

Jason adjourned the meeting at 11:22 am.