

**KALHD Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2020**

Board Member Attendees

Jason Tiller (President)
Aften Gardner (President-Elect)
Lindsay Payer (Past President)
Paula Bitter (District 2 Representative)
Tammy Von Busch (District 3 Representative) [arrived 10:21 am]
Rayna Maddox (District 4 Alternate)
Lynnette Redington (District 5 Representative)
Destany Wheeler (District 6 Representative)
Adrienne Byrne (Member-at-Large)

Non-Board Attendees

Dennis Kriesel (KALHD)
Lisa Goins (KDHE)
Cristi Cain (KDHE)
Diana Parke
Lacey Miller
Renee Lucas
Dana Rickley
Betha Elliott
Jenette Schuette
Ladonna Reinert
Shelly Schneider

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. He confirmed a quorum was present.

Approval of agenda

Paula Bitter moved to approve the agenda. Lindsay seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of September 2020 minutes

Destany moved to approve the September 2020 minutes. Rayna seconded. Motion passed.

Monthly financial reports: September 2020

Dennis walked through the September 2020 financial reports.

Aften moved to receive and place on file the September 2020 financial reports. Lindsay seconded. Motion passed.

KDHE updates

Cristi Cain gave the KDHE update.

Those who attended the 2019 Governor's Public Health Conference received a survey to determine what to do for the 2021 conference. Overwhelmingly in favor of virtual only, so that is what KDHE is planning. It will be the 29-31st in March.

Cristi talked about the LHD COVID Coffee Club to share challenges and frustrations with each other to give ideas on what might help deal with the struggles everyone is going through. Registration is now open and currently is slower than KDHE expected. Any feedback as to why would be appreciated.

The workforce assessment that KDHE does every three years, with 30-minute average completion time, feedback was overwhelmingly in favor of postponing until COVID is over or taking significantly less time. KDHE plans to postpone. It will happen in 2021.

Cristi discussed the turnover at LHDs and the concerns relating to that, and the threats and harassment LHD staff are facing in their communities. KALHD and KDHE are working with KAC to develop a legal recommendations document that provides tips on how counties are to proceed if they face legal action related to COVID orders. Cristi has been wondering if media attention would be helpful or hurtful. KDHE is interested in ideas on how KDHE or other partner groups can help with this; let Cristi know if you have suggestions.

Destany asked for an updated count of turn-over of HD administrators and local health officers. Cristi said 15 LHD administrators have left their position and the same, 15, for local health officers.

Adrienne brought up local school boards and their ability to decide if quarantine people can come to school. She wanted to know if it is possible to overturn a legal quarantine order. Lynnette also noted isolation also applies. Cristi said KDHE is trying to get a definitive answer from legal. Cristi indicated legal has claimed if a quarantine order restricted a student to home then going to school breaks the order regardless of what the school board authorizes. Betha noted if the state is doing the investigation and are not sending orders then it wouldn't be a violation of an order. Rayna asked why this went to the Attorney General for an opinion and if the school boards are pushing for this. Dennis brought up he thinks the opinion is the one issued months ago regarding the Governor's mask mandate on schools and the AG opining that school district home rule authority allows them to run their school district as they see fit, and this appears to be an extension of that. Dennis stated he thought breaking an order wouldn't be viable even if this is valid but it could be a big issue if instructions that are not formal, legal orders are in play. Jason noted there are too many quarantined kids to keep up with so his department switched to letters versus individual orders; Adrienne discussed similar.

Cristi noted KDHE would be interested in noting how many counties are facing legal challenges on isolation and quarantine. Dennis offered to create a survey to get at this and that Cristi can discuss question proposals with him at a future meeting.

Cristi isn't aware of school boards pushing for isolation and quarantine powers.

After asked if there is a way for KDHE legal to explain where liability lies, even if school boards have the authority to make changes as that may help discourage the schools from taking action.

Attendees thanked Cristi for her work to keep LHDs in the loop on everything.

KAC update – if any

Dan was unavailable so Dennis mentioned the KAC just concluded its virtual annual conference. Dennis noted the policy statement was not yet approved as KAC lacked a quorum. In his remarks during the general session on October 14th KAC Executive Director Bruce Chladny did bring up the threats against local health professionals and how it is a problem KAC is interested in addressing further.

Legislative Policy Committee: Draft 2021 policy statement to present to the membership

Dennis explained the 2021 draft and requested the legislative policy committee (consisting of the entire KALHD Governing Board and alternates) to recommend it for the membership to approve in November.

Paula Bitter moved to approve the 2021 draft legislative policy statement for consideration by the KALHD membership. Rayna seconded. Motion passed.

SS&C Audit Proposal

Dennis ran through SS&C's proposal for the next three years' worth of audits and recommended the board approve the proposal so that the service can be contracted.

Lynnette moved to approve SS&C's proposal to conduct the 2020, 2021, and 2022 KALHD audits. Rayna seconded. Motion passed.

2021 Draft KALHD Budget

Dennis walked through a draft budget for 2021. He noted the November meeting would be when he would ask the board to approve, but any concerns/feedback in the meantime are welcomed. Numbers may also adjust as new data comes in over the next month.

Executive Director's Report

Dennis ran through his written executive director's report.

Open discussion

Lynnette asked about public health orders for COVID and keeping them in place. Jason discussed how they do a COVID update and they can take action but they don't need to keep renewing their mask mandate. Adrienne explained the 6-week order they did on masks in Sedgwick County and then they did masks, distancing, and bars/restaurants in an order but there are concerns a lot of businesses don't

really know the order exists. Sedgwick's hospitals are not in the best position right now and the county is having an uptick in cases, so the plan is to ask for an order extension through December 6th.

Dennis brought up if KALHD wants to ask KDHE for any pandemic changes. He explained the importance of not alienating the membership with any decisions and to try and only ask for things with broad agreement to avoid that, but that any topic can and should be open for discussion. Lindsay explained the Iowa model and the idea of schools not quarantining if the students are wearing masks. Dennis explained North Dakota's model and asked if mask quarantine changes for students might increase overall mask compliance while loosening the requirement for quarantine.

Discussion ensued about mask effectiveness and students with masks and distancing issues. Acceptable losses also came up regarding COVID.

Dennis will draft mask language for review by the board on the listserv to ultimately survey the membership on to see what the buy-in is. If anything has broad support then next steps will be followed. When asked Dennis indicated the more controversial a topic the broader the support should be obtained, and in this instance he indicated 90%+ would be seen as having very broad support.

Jason brought up what is the state's end-game goal with COVID? Aften noted the public health system is overwhelmed, is it not a part of the health care system too?

Adjournment

Jason adjourned the meeting at noon.