

**KALHD Board of Directors/Annual Meeting
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2020**

Board Member Attendees

Aften Gardner (President-Elect)
Lynnette Redington (District 5 Representative)
Adrienne Byrne (Member-at-Large #2)
Tammy Von Busch (District 3 Representative)
Dan Partridge (Secretary-Treasurer & KAC Representative)
Paula Bitter (District 2 Representative)
Diedre Serene (District 5 Alternate)
Rayna Maddox (District 4 Alternate) [joined 10:13 am]

Non-Board Attendees

Dennis Kriesel (KALHD)
Rebecca Johnson
Angie Kahle
AAron Davis (CEI)
Diana Parke
Lisa Horn (KDHE)
Rita McKoon
Sara Hodges
Lori Eichman
Cristi Cain (KDHE)
Lisa Goins
Shelly Schneider
Denise Koo (CDC Foundation)
Betha Elliott
Karen Hammersmith

Call to order

Aften called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Board roll call

Dennis ran through a roll call of online board members. He confirmed a quorum was not present but would announce if that changed. [Note: Rayna Maddox, District 4 Alternate, joined the meeting at 10:13 am and a quorum was thus obtained; this was during the CEI Presentation and some agenda review happened as noted in the minutes from this –DK].

Approval of agenda

No quorum initially so no approval of the agenda. This item was revisited after the CEI update.

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

Approval of October 2020 minutes

Dennis asked for any changes on the minutes. None were presented. No quorum so no vote to approve was made. This item was revisited after the CEI update.

Lynnette moved to approve the October 2020 minutes. Dan seconded. Motion passed.

Monthly financial reports: October 2020

Dan walked through the October 2020 financial reports. No quorum so no vote to receive and place on file. This item was revisited after the CEI update.

Rayna moved to receive and place on file the October 2020 financial reports. Tammy seconded. Motion passed.

Community Engagement Institute update

Aaron Davis gave a presentation on the Community Engagement Institute (CEI) and its Community for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI) work. He covered the Kansas Public Health Collaborative, the local public health leadership series, the KALHD billing manual, the ELC care resource coordination grants, exploring LHDs and SDoH, work on the new director orientation and manual, revised 10 essential services conversations, ACES, community health worker coalition, and PHRASES. He also explained the activities of the KALHD Informatics Subcommittee and the various groups it is working with: Academy of Sciences workgroup, Shared Public Health Information Specialist workgroup, Data Day workgroup, and ESSENCE workgroup.

KDHE updates

Cristi Cain gave the KDHE update. KDHE has put in a request to the Recovery Office for \$18 million worth of COVID supplies on behalf of the LHDs (these supplies would be shipped to the LHDs) as this is for CARES Act money that needs to be spent by 12/30/2020. Approval did not happen last Friday so it is going before the State Finance Council this Friday; Recovery Office seems to think approval is likely but KDHE can't confirm purchases until actual approval is in hand.

KDHE has surveyed LHDs to see if they are struggling to spend the CRF/CARES/SPARK money in time and those struggling they want to try to redirect to other purchases, versus having to send the money back. KDHE will help with finding items and planning if requested.

The White House report, as of last week, is being sent out now to the LHDs. Cristi summarized some information from the latest report.

Cristi noted vaccine planning is continuing and more information on this is expected to come soon.

Cristi noted Dennis worked with Jay Hall with KAC on some legal guidance for county attorneys to defend isolation and quarantine orders. That may be available as soon as today.

Cristi reminded everyone that the BinaxNOW are in stock with KDHE and there is a pilot project using them with schools; if LHDs would like some contact your Emergency Manager.

A lot is going on with the Unified Testing Plan. Farah Ahmed gave an update on this on the Monday LHD Webinar. Different labs that are participating are doing different things. There is a map that shows which LHDs are assigned to which lab, including contact information. KDHE is contracting with BCG to coordinate the entire unified strategy and that organization communicates with all the labs. Cristi showed the map, the list of the counties served by lab, and what the labs do and do not do.

Aften asked where her lab, NicUSA, is based out of. Cristi noted Wellhealth and NicUSA are the two based out-of-state; the others are in Kansas or the Kansas City area.

KAC update – if any

Dan noted the Governor's Office and the Legislature reached out to KAC to see how to encourage mask use by the counties. KAC felt this was too hard of a hurdle to clear and instead believes focus to win the hearts and minds of the citizens themselves would work better with a well-funded media campaign. Dan hasn't seen more on that yet and there hasn't been another meeting.

Dan also noted a model resolution to address workplace safety and LHD staff harassment that Dennis has been working on with KAC.

Dennis elaborated on the legal guide work with Jay Hall.

Aften mentioned getting asked about a media campaign by the press. Cristi noted the Recovery Office did talk about the campaign extensively and the State Finance Council was supportive. Cristi offered to try and find out more. Dan noted some of the concepts were to try and find regional-level influencers to participate in the effort but it is a tall lift to do by year-end. Dan wanted something to happen before Thanksgiving but that is no longer possible.

2021 KALHD Budget approval

Dennis summarized the budget. Dan asked about the number of LHDs assumed to join. Dennis loosely assumed a loss of 4-5 LHDs in the budget though he is not aware of any that are unhappy; Dennis explained the drop is more of a flat percentage loss assumption for budget purposes and his standard approach is to always assume less-than-100% uptake in case a change in commissioners or administrators results in a lost membership. Aften asked about PHEP funds being used for dues and Dennis confirmed that is an allowable expense.

Dan moved to approve the 2021 Budget. Aften seconded. Motion passed.

KALHD Mid-Year Meeting contract discussion

Dennis explained the three proposals. Holiday Inn was the cheapest and Dennis did not recommend the Hilton at the Wichita Airport as it was priced well above the other two. Hotel at Old Town was quoting very similar to the existing agreement though Dennis explained that the conference facility is under new management now.

Aften recommended waiting until 2021 to revisit this. Lynnette agreed with Aften. Dennis indicated he would add it to a 2021 agenda for discussion.

Approval of the 2021 KALHD Board of Directors meeting schedule

Dennis walked through the meeting dates as proposed and his plans regarding a bylaw change to address annual meeting concerns and how they currently impact when the board of directors is seated.

Paula B moved to approve the agenda. Rayna seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Dennis ran through his written executive director's report. Aften asked about if the MYM can't happen and Dennis explained the force majeure provision that would avoid penalty and, by comparison, if KALHD voluntarily chooses to abort having an in-person event that such penalty amounts could be absorbed via cash with the approved 2021 budget.

Member vote: KALHD 2021 legislative agenda

Dennis walked through the changes of the policy statement and the process for member voting.

Lynnette moved to approve the 2021 KALHD legislative policy statement. Adrienne seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a vote of the membership present.

Lynnette asked about sharing the policy statement with commissioners. Dennis encouraged it to be shared but that the LHD administrators, not KALHD, are best to do that sort of outreach work; KALHD's efforts focus on the state legislators.

Member vote: KALHD 2021 Board of Directors election

Sara Hodges moved to approve the Governance Committee's 2021 recommended slate of officers and board members. Tammy seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a vote of the membership present.

Open discussion

Dennis went over his meeting on Monday with Dr. Norman, explaining COVID items KDHE is discussing and/or Dr. Norman is willing to consider changing to assist the LHDs with the staff burden being experienced.

Dennis introduced Denise Koo with the CDC Foundation. Denise introduced herself and walked through what CDC Foundation has been doing during COVID. She noted her contact information (dkoo@cdcfoundation.org) and that she can help LHDs with tracking down resources with the CDC, that CDC Foundation is putting out information via funding Facebook ads for the states to access, and they can help with writing fundraising proposals. She noted CDC priorities on investigation have been held up for review but do exist.

Adrienne asked how anyone is doing contract tracing; Sedgwick is still gathering the bulk of the information before sending on to the state and it still takes a lot of time. There are just not enough disease investigators and even though hiring more they won't be enough. Dennis explained what he said to Dr. Norman about the sheer burden of it all and the need to act quickly. Adrienne elaborated on the challenges introduced by HB 2016 and the lack of compliance with public health investigations.

Diedre noted her LHD called KDHE to get case investigators and then got an email that the state can't handle the caseload. They were advised to have their cases notify their contacts and so that's what her LHD is starting to do.

Rita McKoon noted if KDHE doesn't do something soon there isn't going to be a public health staff at the local level left to work with.

Dennis expressed his frustrations at getting KDHE leadership to move faster and commit to changes to help with the staffing burden. Expressing sympathy on the local webinars isn't good enough when KDHE refuses to implement any changes, and their desire to study issues, like the students wearing masks, where other states have already moved, leads to more and more frustration.

Adrienne noted Sedgwick County can't get to all the cases in a timely fashion for investigation, but the cases are at home so from a disease containment strategy they are where they should be. She noted a lot of health departments are making changes at this point because they must in order to survive.

Aften noted her small county is struggling with their increased caseload and the sheer amount of overtime her part-time nurse is running to try and keep up. She also noted the frustrations with PHEP keeping requirements in place. Shelly Schneider noted there are changes being made. Dennis spoke about the PHEP Advisory Team work earlier in the month to lessen the workplan burden and that more should be announced soon.

Lisa Horn noted the caseload volume is becoming a big problem but at KDHE they are trying to get enough data to feel secure in their decisions. She's not sure of the timeline and if it can happen before Thanksgiving. Adrienne noted the LHDs really need a modification as the local system is drowning right now.

Betha noted she doesn't think all KDHE staff is overwhelmed, but that it depends in which silo the person works for. She gave an example of a business-as-usual WIC meeting that happened during the pandemic. The LHDs are required to give KDHE 24/7 access to LHD staff, which often means access to LHD leadership; locals can only contact the Epi Hotline and that's handled in off-hours by an answering service. The commitment just isn't the same when comparing the state to the local level.

Additional discussion continued regarding COVID-19 and the frustrations at the local level, including the RISER Act and the likelihood of extending CARES funding beyond 12/30/2020. Dennis noted Senator Moran was cautiously optimistic something, as part of a package deal, would get through the U.S. Congress, though Dennis was skeptical that it would happen in time and questioned whether President Trump would sign any such package deal.

Betha Elliott asked about giving out 211 for people to get answers to COVID questions. Lynnette noted that yes, 211 will do that and 211 just wanted to know any testing locations for COVID so they had that information (not for-profit ones).

Adjournment

Aften adjourned the meeting at 12:59 pm.