

**KALHD Board of Directors/Annual Meeting
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2021**

Board Member Attendees

Aften Gardner, President
Jason Tiller, Past-President (joined 10:27 am)
Dan Partridge, Secretary-Treasurer & KAC Representative (joined 10:57 am)
Jennifer Cure, District 1 Alternate
Tammy Von Busch, District 3 Representative
Paula Bitter, District 2 Representative (joined 10:12 am)
Rayna Maddox, District 4 Alternate
Diedre Serene, District 5 Representative
Lynnette Redington, District 5 Alternate
Betha Elliott, District 6 Representative
Arlene Doll, Member-at-Large #1
Adrienne Byrne, Member-at-Large #2 (joined 10:55 am)

Non-Board Attendees

Dennis Kriesel (KALHD)
Dana Rickley
Rita McKoon
Cristi Cain (KDHE)
Charlie Hunt (KHI)
Cindy Mullen
AARon Davis (CPHI)
Gianfranco Pezzino (KHI)
Bobbi Koerperich
Shelly Schneider (KDHE)
Jamie Downs
Karen Winkelman
Emily Strange

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 present.

Approval of agenda

Tammy moved to approve the agenda. Diedre seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of January 2021 minutes

Tammy moved to approve the January 2021 minutes. Rayna seconded. Motion passed.

KDHE updates

Cristi Cain gave the KDHE update. She noted the March 15th deadline for fiscal applications. She talked about the 3/30-4/1 dates for the Governor's Public Health Conference and that it is virtual-only and that Preparedness funding can be used thanks to having a Preparedness keynote. Cristi talked about CARES-funded supplies and that there is confusion regarding which departments got what supplies. She noted Shelly Schneider can be contacted if there are still issues with Vaccine Finder. KDHE contact tracers and case investigators were discussed regarding having them assigned to groups of counties.

Cristi then moved into a discussion item regarding Federal funding. New funding, akin to the ELC staffing grants that happened in 2020, planned at \$15 million. It will be part of the aid-to-local process which means completing a budget and contact information and thus due March 15th at noon and designed not to take very long. That should come out next week. IAP also designed to be easily modified.

Lynnette asked about IAP and if it is known how much each county will get in addition to allocation to FY 2022 budgets. Cristi said she would get that information to Dennis to provide.

Cristi then asked for discussion regarding additional ELC funding, designed to assist a group of counties. She noted last week's LHD Webinar poll queries about sharing positions was designed to gauge interest in this approach. She summarized those poll results. She talked about the interest in data specialist, epidemiologist, and communications/media, and that the latter two would need job descriptions developed. She also was curious if other positions would be desired.

Dana Rickley said she'd like someone that could monitor social media and squelch rumors and help with updates.

Rayna asked if the positions would be permanent or if they would go away when funding runs out. Cristi noted the funding runs through 2023 and the plan would be to treat the positions as permanent. She thinks there are some private foundations that may support this and are considering pushing for state support. KDHE wants to keep the positions.

Cristi asked about the epi's job description. Lynnette said they don't have a full-time epi on staff and having another resource to go to would be a huge help in a county that lacks a dedicated epi. Rayna noted creation of a variety of message maps for different public health emergencies for communications. Aften asked if they would be KDHE employees and Cristi noted she would address that later.

Cristi asked about the data specialist position. Aften said to get the notes from Aaron as a lot of work was done on that. Diedre said anything to help get more specific data for the smaller counties versus just getting information as a region would be helpful. Aaron Davis said ways to look at community data, ways to help with internal data, navigating elements of WebIZ or EpiTrax, the plan would be the data specialist would be familiar with all those related systems to help LHDs out. Rayna noted that how to use the data is important.

Cristi asked about any issues with KDHE employing the staff and a small discussion ensued. She also asked how many positions would be needed and how to organize it. Some suggested PHEP regions, some suggested HCC regions.

Note: Dennis's power was restored at this point in the meeting and switched over from cell phone to computer system and had a brief period unable to hear the meeting for the minutes.

Cristi asked for any barriers or challenges with using shared staff members. Aften said training and success planning. Betha noted some past issues with no-shows and conflicts regarding who the position works for vis-à-vis the group of LHDs they are assisting and serving and that KDHE employment may solve that problem.

Cristi noted they'd been discussing remote-only for these positions to broaden the hiring pool and wanted to know if there were any issues with that concept. She also wanted to know what these positions would do post-COVID. Aften said she was sure something could be done post-COVID. Diedre said she thinks the positions need to come to the county periodically if the expectation is that they will get to know the county. Jennifer Cure said with the high rate of turnover at the health departments she is sure the regional positions would be put to good use. Arlene suggested they should attend regional meetings and speculated there would be several former health department administrators to pull from.

Gianfranco Pezzino noted the Center for Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing would be happy to help with facilitation and other sharing services if desired to help prepare to launch these sharing activities as there are several challenges with these sorts of projects. Charlie Hunt noted it will be key to establish roles and governance so people know which positions should be contacted when and understanding what the needs are.

Cristi asked to know which would be preferred, regional positions or competitive grants, so Dennis launched a poll. Results were 75% regional and 25% competitive, with poll participation open to any LHDs attending, not just board members. Dana did ask about those who would favor both options, dividing the funding between competitive grants and supporting some regional positions, and Cristi noted that as a concept they could consider.

PHEP letter of concurrence

Dennis explained the PHEP workplan process for SFY 2022, including the plan to have departments just submit for the same budget as SFY 2021 with regards to the \$30,000 placeholder value and plan for that to be addressed later when the actual amount is known, and asked for a motion to provide KDHE with concurrence.

Arlene moved to have Dennis Kriesel, Executive Director, issue a letter of concurrence from KALHD to KDHE for the PHEP 2022 workplans. Paula Bitter seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Dennis ran through his written executive director's report. He included, not in his written report, that 77 LHDs have submitted dues payments to KALHD and 39 have for NACCHO through KALHD.

Monthly financial report: January 2021

This item was initially skipped and returned to after the Executive Director's report. Dan walked through the January 2021 financial report.

Arlene moved to receive and place on file the January 2021 financial report. Tammy seconded. Motion passed.

KAC update – if any

This was initially skipped as Dan wasn't on and was returned to by Dan after he gave the financial report. He noted the KAC Board meets later this week so there is nothing to report yet, but that he is now Secretary of KAC.

Open discussion

There was some general discussion on COVID work.

Adjournment

Aften adjourned the meeting at 11:24 am.