

**KALHD Board of Directors/Annual Meeting
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2021**

Board Member Attendees

Aften Gardner, President
Destany Wheeler, President-Elect
Jason Tiller, Past President
Dan Partridge, Secretary-Treasurer & KAC Representative
Karla Heble, District 1 Representative
Paula Bitter, District 2 Representative
Tammy Von Busch, District 3 Representative
Diedre Serene, District 5 Representative (joined 10:06 am)
Lynnette Redington, District 5 Alternate
Betha Elliott, District 6 Representative
Adrienne Byrne, Member-at-Large #2

Non-Board Attendees

Dennis Kriesel, KALHD
Leslie Campbell
Rita McKoon
Lisa Goins, KDHE
Diana Parke
Skye Reid
Karen Winkelman
AAaron Davis, CPHI
Juliann Van Liew
Cristi Cain, KDHE
Shelly Schneider, KDHE
Sheri Tubach, KDHE
Rebecca Adamson, KDHE
Angie Kahle
Ladonna Reinert
Sara Hodges
Jessica Smith, CPHI
Dana Rickley
Bobbi Koerperich

Call to order

Aften 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

Tammy moved to approve the agenda, amending item #7 from PHRASES to Social Determinants of Health Series. Jason seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of March 2021 minutes

Tammy moved to approve the March 2021 minutes. Destany seconded. Motion passed.

Monthly financial report: March 2021

Dan walked through the March 2021 financial report.

Aften moved to receive and place on file the March 2021 financial report. Jason seconded. Motion passed.

KDHE updates

Cristi Cain gave the KDHE update. Cristi noted the expansion from one to three regional public health nurses. Rebecca Adamson and Shelly Schneider are the new hires. Cristi asked for feedback on what tasks did the regional health nurses historically do that folks miss?

Betha noted that back when they had someone local it seemed like the nurses knew more and the regional nurses were the original liaison between the locals and KDHE, plus they did trainings.

Destany noted she's only been an administrator for three years and didn't work under the old regional public health nurse system. Ladonna Reinert stated they used to visit monthly and were the go-to person to call and now instead the LHD relies on other health departments for help. Leslie Campbell echoed Ladonna's comment.

Rita McKoon noted they used to get regional nurse visits at least once per quarter and provided good one-on-one time to discuss and get feedback on improvements.

Cristi said COVID vaccines are now for ages 16+ and wondered if any LHDs were doing special campaigns to promote to that age group. Jason said as part of Saline's vaccine collaborative with the hospital and FQHC that the hospital in their county is taking that on with a weekend focus when younger folks are expected to be available. Juliann Van Liew said her LHD is bringing vaccines on-site to high schools. Leslie said they are sending out a survey to see if there is desire to have vaccine clinics at the school. Adrienne said their communications department has created a flyer, "It's Your Turn," to help promote and encourage younger people to obtain the vaccine and exploring community partnerships to help as well. Juliann said they are doing engagement with students in competitions. Diedre said they've heard back from three out of five school districts and plan to go to the schools to the vaccine, along with inviting the public to obtain vaccine at those sites.

Cristi said all the ELC grants are approved and spending can begin. She asked for additional ideas on what to spend ELC dollars on or ways to avoid wasting COVID vaccines; suggestions should be emailed to Cristi (Cristi.Cain@ks.gov).

Ladonna asked if there were concerns about going to schools to vaccinate and potential side effects when parents are not there. Adrienne said they call the parents and ensure they approve of the child being there for a vaccine. Diedre said they plan to have parents present. Paula B. said they took consent forms to the students and it is up to the parents if they want to attend.

Cristi said the Salesforce app is available and it was demoed yesterday (4/19/2021). It supports contact tracing and can do things like text reminders and can be used without using KDHE's contact tracers. The demo was recorded.

Cristi thanked everyone who was able to attend the 2021 Governor's Public Health Conference; it was the largest attendance ever. Aften said virtual has become the norm lately so it wasn't too unusual to do it that way and she found the website user friendly and it was worth her time. Lynnette said she loved Dr. Covello's presentation.

Cristi then brought up shared services and systems improvement. Discussions have been ongoing with WSU, KHI, and KALHD for an initiative to supply expertise and capacity to LHDs all at once. There are plans for feedback from the Public Health Systems Group but local health feedback is critical. Prior meetings brought up the concept of regional epidemiologists, data specialists, and communications specialists. Planning to move forward with the epidemiologists and communications specialists relatively quickly, and a couple other position ideas have come up: environmental health and health equity. Assistance with grant writing and quality improvement initiatives have also come up. Cristi noted Dennis met with KDHE leadership yesterday (4/19/2021) to discuss these concepts.

Cristi asked what regions would work best for the LHDs to organize these positions around. Diedre said Preparedness regions. Betha said HCC areas. Diana said Preparedness regions. Dana Rickley said KDHE supervisor regions. Jason suggested KALHD regions, as did Leslie Campbell. Jason asked about issues where someone is getting used a lot with a heavy workload versus other counties in the region. Dennis shared that the current plan is for KDHE to hire and employee these positions and that should help avoid any county monopolizing a position. Sheri Tubach shared the positions could serve as backup for other regions. Ladonna said as a small county she would love to have a regional disease investigator. Aften brought up regional purchasing and wondered if this model could support regional purchasing of supplies.

Cristi noted some health departments have these positions and this isn't designed to eliminate those but help those without, especially small and medium-sized departments. Betha said she thought it is a great idea.

Cristi moved on to the environmental health specialist and asked is it necessary. Lynnette said yes, Harvey County needs someone. Destany asked if there were already regional environmental offices. Cristi said there are but she doesn't know the details. Lynnette confirmed they are listed in the local health department directory but they are assigned to do specific things. These would be for local health departments specifically to use like nuisances and lead investigation. Dennis shared that the prior discussions with KDHE leadership emphasized lead inspections, local environmental protection program septic inspections, and school inspections. Betha noted the school inspections and lead inspections

would be helpful. Juliann noted her LHD is in the middle of downsizing their environmental health program due to an inability to fund it. Dan noted Douglas County, as a larger department, isn't concerned with shared services help going to small and medium departments primarily.

Lynnette asked about HB 2016 going permanent and Dennis noted he would cover that in his Executive Director's report.

Betha and Destany suggested starting with six environmental specialists, but Juliann said more would be needed if large LHDs are going to be supported.

Cristi moved on to the health equity position and asked for thoughts. Dennis explained the positions are currently envisioned to help with health equity and social determinant of health issues. Juliann wanted to know what the support would look like, whether it is technical assistance or something else. Cristi said that is still being set based off this feedback and wanted to know what people wanted to see. Rebecca Adamson said back when she was a LHD Administrator she would have loved a position to help with Community Health Assessments and Community Health Improvement Plans and if that would be an option, and Cristi said yes that could be something they help with. Betha agreed with Rebecca. Juliann suggested a survey for the health equity position to get additional specifics. Shelly Schneider suggested the positions could try and tackle an issue regionally to get multiple counties to work on an issue together. Aaron Davis said the shared data specialist position the KLAHD Informatics Subcommittee outlined had several deliverables to help support CHA/CHIP and empowering LHDs with data to inform partners on inequities. Each series will have an action plan.

Social Determinants of Health Series discussion

Jessica Smith with the Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI) discussed the social determinants of health series. It's a developing opportunity. CPHI recognizes there's a desire to improve on SDoH in local communities. On a recent survey 62% of LHDs said technical assistance to address SDoH was a moderate to high level of importance. So CPHI is working on Public Health Aspire. It's designed to help no matter where you are in the process. The first series is expected to launch Summer/Fall 2021 in a fully virtual format. It would be 7-8 sessions of 30 minutes in length, with work to be done in between sessions, with a goal of 1-2 sessions per month. Aaron noted some of this was driven by what LHDs stated to CPHI pre-COVID on things they wanted to address but didn't know how to start.

Jessica said the point of this is to support the governmental public health system and strengthen it, and CPHI has several questions.

First, given the format proposed, when would be the right time to start the series? Leslie Campbell suggested July 2021. Lynnette suggested late Summer; Aften agreed with Lynnette. Jason suggested CPHI just pick a time because it's too hard to identify a great time to start. Diedre agreed with Lynnette.

Second, the 30-minute sessions mean everything will be fast and heavy, is there more tolerance for hour-long sessions or is 30-minutes the best format? Leslie said an hour is better. Jason said 30 minutes seems too short and he would rather plan for an hour and just end early if things wrap up fast. Destany said an hour seemed to provide good value and it would be hard to unpack the subject matter in 30

minutes. Lynnette agreed with Jason. Lynnette suggested the use of Monday or Wednesday at 3:00 pm once the COVID-19 updates from KDHE are reduced, but not to use the 3:00 pm Friday period.

Third, would folks attend housing, specifically on homeless, and food insecurity as topics... just one, both, or neither? Adrienne said she is interested in both topics. Destany said she is interested in both but more so food insecurity. Leslie noted this is a chance to rebrand public health after COVID and its role in encouraging good healthy decisions for everyone. Adrienne said she is focusing on what the LHD's challenges and opportunities are and they have a good opportunity, as the focus moves from COVID, to restructure to a modified ICS and beyond that to being more community focused rather than program focused. Jason said that instead of being the bad guys to the public LHDs can show there is more to public health than COVID rules, and he likes both topics. Aften asked if Jessica had reached out to any Food Council Policy groups around the state; Jessica said they are reaching out to partners and she'll flag that one.

Fourth, knowing that some of this work has value to being done in person, is there opposition to moving to a hybrid model of virtual and in-person for future series, noting this would not impact this first series? Destany said yes, she wants in-person. Jason agreed. Betha likes in-person but it may be harder to convince commissioners to support hotel rooms after all the virtual events.

Jessica asked for folks to reach out if they had any questions or wanted to follow up further via email: Jessica.smith@wichita.edu

Bylaws change: approval for membership vote

Dennis noted no requested changes to last month's bylaws draft were provided and he asked for a motion to endorse the draft for presentation to the membership for adoption at KALHD's 2021 Mid-Year Meeting.

Destiny moved for the board to endorse the draft KALHD bylaws for consideration by the membership at the KALHD 2021 Mid-Year meeting. Jason seconded. Motion passed.

KAC update – if any

Dan said the board met last month but no public health items came up.

Executive Director's Report

Dennis ran through his written executive director's report. In the legislative section he explained HB 2016 per Lynnette's prior question about what is permanent with it.

Lynnette caught an error in the Organizational Update on the KALHD MYM dates. Dennis confirmed the Important Dates to Remember section, listing June 15-16, was the actual correct date range.

Open discussion

Dennis explained the changes at Old Town and steps he was taking regarding COVID for the Mid-Year Meeting. Dennis asked about PHEP and the additional funding; support was expressed for regional rather than budget modifications for each LHD. Dennis also said he would look at other local-benefit

options, like routing through KALHD to aid LHDs on travel or a project like HIPAA, should that appear to make more sense.

Adjournment

Aften adjourned the meeting at 11:53 am.