

**KALHD Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2021**

Board Member Attendees

Aften Gardner, President
Shalei Shea, President-Elect
Jason Tiller, Past-President
Dan Partridge, Secretary-Treasurer & KAC Representative
Karla Heble, District 1 Representative
Jennifer Cure, District 1 Alternate (joined 2:37 pm)
Paula Bitter, District 2 Representative
Tammy Von Busch, District 3 Representative
Rayna Maddox, District 4 Alternate (joined 2:45 pm)
Lynnette Redington, District 5 Representative
Betha Elliott, District 6 Representative

Non-Board Attendees

Dennis Kriesel, KALHD
Lisa Goins, KDHE
Emily Strange
Angie Kahle
Ladonna Reinert
Rita McKoon
Karla Nichols
Sandra Bullock
Cindy Mullen
Karen Winkelman
Renee Lucas
Cristi Cain, KDHE
AAron Davis, CPHI
Sara Hodges
Lori Eichman
Brie Greeson
Lisa Hoppock
Jennifer Cure
Rayna Maddox
Kathy Janousek
Diana Parke

Call to order

Aften called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

Board roll call

Dennis ran through a roll call of online board members. He confirmed a quorum was present.

Approval of agenda

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

Approval of July 2021 minutes

Paula B. moved to approve the July 2021 minutes. Lynnette seconded. Motion passed.

Monthly financial report: June 2021

Dan walked through the July 2021 and August 2021 financial reports.

Dan moved to receive and place on file the July 2021 financial report and the August 2021 financial report. Paula B. seconded. Motion passed.

KDHE updates

Cristi Cain gave the KDHE update. She announced the new regional public health nurses. She talked about the upcoming regional public health meetings. She noted KDHE open positions. She provided an update on the workforce assessment and the drawings tied to that. Cristi also updated everyone on the number of LHD departures since the start of the pandemic and because of the pandemic; it is now 53 and includes administrators, health officers, and those in dual-roles.

Cristi noted there are now no restrictions on the number of cases you can send of COVID to KDHE. KDHE is doing a fireside chat on Tuesdays from 3-4 pm Central for talking and venting. She also talked about Public Health AmeriCorps.

Discussion ensued regarding the regional nurses. Aften asked for an LCaP update; Cristi noted it is on pause and there is no update.

KAC update – if any

Dan said the annual conference is Oct. 18-20 in Overland Park and the registration link is at kansascounties.org. It is noticed when LHD folks show up.

Dan noted in July there was a presentation by Bruce Chladny about the immunization grant but there was instant negative reaction amongst some of the board members. A lot of defense had to be played to make clear it wasn't just about COVID. Also, at the KAC conference will be the legislative policy statement will be discussed and voted on by each county; at a prior meeting staff asked the board about downgrading Medicaid expansion from a priority. It wasn't moved but it is something worth talking about with commissioners.

KALHD Executive Committee action summary

Dennis announced that, between KALHD board meetings, the KALHD ExCom took the following action:

On August 19, 2021 the ExCom voted to provide concurrence to KDHE on their proposed use of the local share of the American Rescue Plan Act's grant funding related to workforce development. This plan

proposes \$311,250 for academic health departments, \$1,942,046 for tuition reimbursement and a training fund initiative, \$1,881,038 for paid undergraduate and graduate internships, and \$1,287,322 for K-State Research and Extension to assist with local health departments.

Discuss if a bonus/overtime pay letter would be helpful

Dennis noted KDHE has heard from some LHDs wanting help with getting county commissioners on board with bonus and/or overtime pay for LHD staff. He said they thought a letter may be helpful. Dennis noted a letter was done, in conjunction with KAC, earlier in the pandemic. He also has heard a letter going to all commissioners automatically may work against some LHDs and not be their preferred approach.

Aften said she thought a letter would be helpful. Sara Hodges said a letter going out would actually hurt her standing with her commission. Cristi suggested leadership loss data being included in a letter.

KALHD 2022 budget draft

Dennis walked through his draft 2022 budget for the association.

Executive Director's Report

Dennis ran through his written executive director's report.

Open discussion

Aften congratulated Dennis on getting a KPHA award. She also said she really liked KPHA's conference for the first day.

Dennis asked Jason if he would like, via email, the legislative policy statement to move forward for final committee approval so that it can be presented to the members in October. Jason told Dennis to move forward with that.

Dennis stated that the deadline has been reached for Aften to appoint a Governance Committee to set a slate of candidates to serve on the 2022 KALHD board. Aften said she would take care of that.

[NOTE: during open discussion some "hackers" joined into the meeting and began to disrupt via chat, video, and audio. Upon Aften's suggestion Dennis ended and re-started the meeting to regain control and then the meeting continued.]

Aaron gave an update about disease investigation and contact tracing from other states. Aaron reported out of 10 other decentralized states was that most are still do case investigation for all positive cases. A few have made some modifications. Minnesota and North Carolina are doing some form of prioritization. Oklahoma has LHDs only following up on outbreaks.

Renee Lucas noted the texting through Salesforce for close contacts only, not positives. Cristi said she would bring this up with KDHE's ICS. Renee also noted it would be great to group households in EpiTrax like you can in Salesforce. Aaron also noted that Renee's use of Alchemer would be available to 95 LHDs so it could be something worth highlighting.

Betha asked if it makes a difference with the other states when the employees are actually state employees. Some discussion happened around KORA requests. Jennifer Cure noted that yesterday's webinar and the confusion on schools with contact tracing. Discussion about isolation and quarantine orders versus recommendation ensued. Renee gave an update about damage to her LHD window. Discussion of the fireside chat concept occurred including renaming it to be more clear as to its purpose.

Adjournment

After adjourned the meeting at 3:47 pm.