

Executive Director Report June 29, 2022

Organizational Updates

- **Board Changes**

- Shalei Shea resigned her position as KALHD President effective June 15, 2022.
- Per our bylaws, Jason Tiller (President-Elect) is now President. This does not impact his full term as President in 2023, and thus he is effectively also in the President-Elect spot.
 - Jason still only wields one vote so the board is operating as 11 total voting members rather than 12 for the rest of this year.
- The bylaws language has some aspects that weren't clear regarding succession, and the board (via its listserv) has raised concerns about what happens in terms of succession beyond this so I am working on writing up a proposed bylaws change.
 - I plan to submit that for board discussion next month (the July 19, 2022 meeting).
 - If the board recommends a bylaws change the membership will vote on it during the annual meeting in October.

- **Mid-Year Meeting**

- We ended up with the following registration counts (including presenters):
 - Data Day pre-conference (6/27): 65
 - Day 1 (6/28): 96
 - Day 2 (6/29): 88
- The Kansas State Board of Nursing did approve us to award CNEs. We have 55 registered requesting those.
 - My current intention is to submit that information to KSBN on 6/30.

- **KALHD Annual Meeting**

- Will be at the KAC conference like usual (this year October 17-19 in Overland Park)
 - The board/business meeting will be October 19th
 - This is when the new board members will be elected
 - This is also when the membership approves the legislative agenda
 - Assuming the aforementioned bylaws change receives a board recommendation prior to October, this will also be up for a membership vote
- Registration is open: <https://kansasassociationofcounties.regfox.com/2022-47th-annual-kansas-association-of-counties-conference-exhibition>
 - Those choosing Full Conference or Affiliate/Associate Only can use a coupon code to cover the registration fee. This is via our immunization grant (much like what we did for this conference).
 - Coupon code is not listed here as this agenda is posted publicly and the code is only for those with LHDs. I've shared it with the Administrator and Regional

Coordinator listservs but anyone can contact me (dennis.kriesel@kalhd.org) who doesn't have it and I can send it on directly.

- **2021 Audit**
 - The KALHD 2021 audit field work is done.
 - Auditors indicated they hope to present to the board in July.

Project Updates

- **Delta Grant**
 - KALHD is working with the FQHCs and CMHCs on a project relating to integrated care between the latter two organizations. KALHD is involved as the project also has a focus on racial equity issues.
 - A lot of discussions have been happening regarding z-codes, expanding beyond this project, and involving several areas KALHD is engaged with (e.g., Medicaid Advisory Committee, Kansas Health Matters, etc.).
 - Currently, most groups (KALHD, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Community Care Network of Kansas, Kansas Hospital Association, and the MCOs) have indicated support for the concept of incorporating some of the social determinant of health z-codes into KanCare for reimbursement.
 - KDHE Medicaid leadership is not presently on board with this concept and I have received word they'd rather the MCOs reimburse on this outside of the Medicaid system.
 - Next steps for the Delta Care core team are to have a discussion on whether we want to pursue this MCO concept or to indicate to KDHE the support for KanCare reimbursement is broad to see if they will come around.
- **MCH**
 - On 6/9 I had a discussion with Heather Smith, KDHE's Title V MCH Director, about the MCH program and ways it might better serve Kansans and increase LHD interest.
 - Much of our discussion was focused on the arduous application process.
 - Based on the conversation, Heather seemed most interested in my suggestion of an advisory team that could go through and review modifications to the application process. Her interest is broader than just the application, and she indicated a large review of MCH is planned.
 - The advisory proposal I made is modeled on the KALHD/KDHE PHEP Advisory Team, which is (in my opinion) one of our most effective collaborations that has cut down on a lot of PHEP conflict and helps both the state and locals have meaningful workplans.
 - Heather is checking with her team on this and planned to get back to me within a month. If it happens I stressed the team needs to have meaningful input but if that's what KDHE wants then we can assemble a team this year.
 - I've placed this under projects because I did volunteer to take care of finding the local team members, organizing the meetings, and conducting them (Zoom, minutes, etc.). We are compensated as part of our PHEP contract for the work on that advisory team but I said for 2022 I'd do this for no charge for MCH as I know there is a lot of LHD interest in seeing changes.
 - I said if we do this and KDHE is happy with the results we can talk about a contract for 2023 and beyond.
 - If this happens KDHE does not plan to completely overhaul everything in the first year. They are planning changes already, with a draft in December for a January roll-out.

Legislative Updates

- The Kansas Legislature is done until 2023 (barring any special sessions)

- This is the first year, since 2019, that we did not have a major anti-local public health bill become law. [SB 34](#) (which mostly focused on removing mask mandate authority from government) did pass the Legislature but was vetoed by the Governor (there was no attempt to override that veto). So, it was the closest call we saw during the session.
- [HB 2387](#) did have a veto override; this bill requires the governor to wait to issue a new KanCare RFP until 1/31/2023. So, while this bill does not target locals it could impact some of our interests (such as the desire for z-code reimbursement through KanCare).
- In terms of legislative successes, we did see a couple positives:
 - [HB 2106](#) became law. This bill gradually eliminates the state sales tax on food (rate drops to 4% 1/2023, 2% 1/2024, and is eliminated 1/2025). This was one of our legislative policy goals.
 - The [State budget](#) added another \$800,000 to LHD State Formula funding. This is the second increase in a row we have obtained (last year was \$1,000,000). This is one of our legislative priorities.
- Our bill to permanently increase the State Formula minimum did not get a vote on the floor of the Senate, though the Legislature did extend continue the \$12,000 proviso, a temporary override of the \$7,000 statutory minimum.
 - Based off what the Senate committee did to the bill, coupled with how we are finding it easier to get budget increases than change statutes, our legislative committee may want to look at a different proposal, changing the minimum to a base so that all LHDs benefit from budget increases.

Important Dates to Remember

- July 19, 2022: KALHD board meeting (virtual)
- September 20, 2022: KALHD board meeting (virtual)
- October 17-19, 2022: KAC Annual Conference/KALHD Annual Meeting (Overland Park)
- November 15, 2022: KALHD board meeting (virtual)

--Dennis Kriesel, KALHD Executive Director