

Executive Director Report

January 16, 2024

Organizational Updates

- Emailed SSC Advisors, Inc./SSC CPA's P.A. as the firm who conducted the 2022 annual audit for KALHD to begin process for 2023. No response as of December 29, 2023.
- Received a letter on December 18, 2023, from BT & Co advising that they have been forced to reevaluate client relationships due to recent staff and tax changes, resulting in them terminating income tax preparation services for KALHD.
 - This will impact our 2023 IRS form 990 that must be filed by May 15, 2024
 - If SSC Advisors plans to do our audit this year, I will inquire about them doing our 2023 Taxes as well. If they cannot do our taxes, I will explore other firms.
- Additional revisions to documents and signatures provided to INTRUST Bank for access to KALHD accounts by the new E.D. and President Elect.
- Our Bank of America account earned \$1.24 on a commercial savings account balance of \$150,784 in November 2023. Among seven local banks that I checked, here are our options if we changed types of accounts or institutions to secure additional interest income on our reserve funds.
 - On commercial checking or savings accounts, none pays more than a fraction of a percent interest except for our other current bank, INSTRUST, which is currently paying 3.25% on our savings account.
 - KALHD cash resources exceed the \$250,000 amount covered by FDIC insurance, so we should not have all funds at this bank.
 - Two banks offer higher interest rates on money market accounts which function like a savings account but limit the number of transactions each month. Rates in December were 1.49% at Capitol Federal and 4.25% at US Bank and do fluctuate with the market.
 - Certificates of Deposit (CD) are an option at most institutions if opt for their "specials" that have renewal terms ranging from 9 to 14 months at rates in the 4-5% range. Funds are not accessible during the term without an interest penalty which makes these less flexible than other types of accounts. Rates are fixed for that term, then when term ends would need to find the next "special" for a new term.

I plan to pursue moving our BoA funds to a money market account to secure higher interest rates without the limitations of a CD. Will give BoA a chance to sustain our business, but if not competitive will move funds to another bank.

- Submitted more signatures to BoA in mid-December in the ongoing effort to secure a KALHD credit card for the ED. With the resignation of the AD, that card is in possession of ED and remains active due to some monthly expenses being direct billed to that credit card.

- Assistant Director position became vacant December 22, 2023. No funding is currently identified beyond June 30, 2024, and continue to explore options.
- Invoicing for PHEP from the July-September quarter was caught up and submitted to KDHE in mid-December. Payment of \$9,008.47 is in accounts receivable. No wages for September due to E.D. vacancy reduced the amount of both expenditure and reimbursement this quarter.

Project Updates

- Policy and Procedure Repository for LHD's: Based upon interest expressed at the December meeting, Aaron Davis at WSU shared with me a past initiative he and Dennis had worked on, but no funding was identified.

That proposal would fund WSU to add functionality to the Kansas Public Health Collaborative website to provide LHD's access to shared policy and procedure documents. The project would include conducting a needs assessment to identify the policies, protocols, guidelines, and other documents needed. And a process to evaluate and vet documents to ensure quality.

I have had a preliminary discussion with Lauren Swensson at KDHE about any potential unexpended federal fund that KDHE might be able to make available for this project. A draft proposal was submitted by KALHD and WSU on December 28, 2023.

- BRFSS data: As discussed in the December meeting, KALHD and KDHE will organize a small workgroup of 4-5 LHDs from counties without county level BRFSS data to discuss revisions to the analysis and reporting processes by KDHE. Randy will solicit volunteers in February for a meeting in March/April.
- KIP: Met with KDHE staff on the potential to extend the period for any KALHD unexpended funds and/or if may be additional funding opportunities that might sustain immunization work done primarily by the Assistant Director. KDHE advised that the CDC has indicated they will grant up to one additional year (to summer 2025) to States to spend previously awarded grant funding, however specifics on allowable use, timeframe for decisions, etc. are not yet available.
- The potential date conflict identified at our December meeting between the immunization conference and the MYM has been resolved. KDHE has advised that the immunization conference will be in May, the week of the 20th.

Met with WSU on sustaining the new immunization work between WSU and KALHD that the AD had developed this fall and secured contract amendments from KDHE to support in November. This work includes a landing page on the Kansas Public Health Collaborative website for a resource hub, development of social media resources for LHD's to use to inform the public on vaccinations, and a one-day immunization summit. This work will be done mostly by WSU and ED will sustain this collaboration with WSU during the AD vacancy.

- PHEP:
 - The KALHD/KDHE PHEP Advisory Team met on December 15, 2023, for the FY 2024 2nd quarter meeting. Minutes posted to KALHD website.
 - KDHE provided updates on the new project period that will begin a 5-year cycle in July of 2024. Awaiting issuance of the notice of application by the CDC and is reasonable to assume that could be some changes in this next cycle.

- The Team has two potential meeting dates calendared in February 2024 to work on KDHE's plan and application that is anticipated to be due in March of 2024.
- New Project with the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas (ACMHCK).

During the KAC conference, Associate Director Michelle Ponce introduced me to an opportunity that the ACMHCK hoped to pilot in Kansas in collaboration with KALHD and a few LHD's. Through the National Council for Mental Wellbeing's Center of Excellence for Integrated Health Solutions, the ACMHCK, KALHD and four pairs of CMHC and LHD's (serving Crawford, Douglas, Finney, Ottawa counties) will be part of a learning collaborative using The Comprehensive Health Integration Framework (CHI) which provides guidance on implementing the integration of physical and behavioral health.

This work will occur in Kansas and Texas beginning this month (launch meeting on the 18th) and continue for 7-8 months. The teams will do a self-assessment early in the process, then have access to individual technical assistance, group support and CHI faculty support to help increase integration of the CMHC and LHD services using this framework.

Legislative Updates

- Registration with Secretary of State for KALHD with Randy Bowman as lobbyist has been completed as required by law.
- Contacted the Kansas Association of Counties and League of Municipalities who will include me in their weekly lobbyist meetings for legislative activities during the 2024 session.
- Sent LHD Administrators a pre-session update on December 28, 2023. Additional updates will be provided on Friday's (or weekends) beginning January 19th and continuing through the session.

Important Date to Remember

- HOoK Legislative Workshop at the Capitol: January 19, 2024 ([registration](#))
- Board Meeting: February 20, 2024 (virtual)
- 2024 Kansas Governor's Public Health Conference: March 4-6, 2024, in Wichita