

Executive Director Report February 20, 2024

Organizational Updates

- Emailed for a second time, and still no engagement from SSC Advisors, Inc./SSC CPA's P.A. as the firm who conducted the 2022 annual audit for KALHD to begin process for 2023. Will try again but may have to look for new service provider.
- No progress this month on identifying a new accounting firm to do our 2023 tax returns.
- Have been unable to make time this month to find a new account or new bank that would pay us interest on the balance currently held at Bank of America.
- Received two more letters from Bank of America rejecting request for access and a card for our corporate credit card account. I spoke with a person by phone who was able to make multiple changes to our account the week of February 12th. Currently awaiting receipt of a credit card in my name and the next billing statement to, hopefully, verify those have at last been made.
 - A card should arrive in my name the week of February 19th via U.S. Mail
 - KALHD has been receiving statements for a former employee named Heather Richardson who separated on September 30, 2019. The BoA employee explained that is because of a \$472.07 credit on that account, while confirming the account has been closed.
 - Requested BoA to transfer that credit to my new account when it is opened. This could take 7-14 days best case or two billing cycles (est. April 2024). Once it occurs, statements for Ms. Richardson will supposedly end.
 - I have not yet changed bill payment from Shelby's card, but if a card is finally provided will begin to make those changes. And then must call back to close that account.
- In communications with KDHE Immunizations, there does remain potential for future no cost extension of the remaining KIP funds. But does not appear to be a path to more funds that would be necessary to replace the Assistant Director. Position remains vacant.
- Signed a one-year extension with Kansas Association of Counties to continue leasing office space for calendar year 2024. This was at the anticipated small increase to \$1,894.51 annually payable at the rate of \$157.88 per month for 12 months commencing on January 1, 2024.
- Invoiced members for 2024 calendar year KALHD dues and NACCHO dues that are payable by KALHD to NACCHO by July 1, 2024.
 - Payments being received and will provide full accounting for continued membership after the due date of March 31, 2024.

- Year end W-2 tax forms verified and provided to current and former employees.
- A member inquired about the 2021 KALHD HIPAA PRIVACY RULE HANDBOOK and the possibility of that being updated as is nearly 3 years since this edition was published. I found the invoice from that project and we paid a firm \$26,000 for this document. Currently nothing is budgeted for an update, but I will keep this on a list of needs for the future.
- Kansas Health Institute (KHI) inquired about a possible extension of a previously expired contract with KALHD. The contract retained KALHD as a possible technical assistance provider under KHI's role as a regional Hub and Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) partner in Region 7. Renewed the contract and if any project were later identified where KALHD might be a resource, KALHD can decide if workload permits participation at that time (e.g. a no obligation contract extension). If work were performed that would be billed as a maximum of 40 hours and maximum income of \$2,500 to KALHD.
- Received a unexpended \$10,000 check from the Association of Community Mental Health Centers (ACMHC). This is an extension of previous Delta Grant work which KALHD documents reflected an expiration of June 2023, but some notes said an extension was possible. A recent email indicate ACMHC is working on an agenda for a next meeting in mid-March and KALHD will continue to contribute to this effort.
- Attended the Health Officers of Kansas (Hook) day at the Capitol event on January 19th. Weather contributed to light attendance, but those who could participate received great legislative training by Heather Braun with Kansas Action for Children and Shelby Ostrom Douglas County.
- Attended lobbyist meetings hosted by the League of Municipalities (Thursdays) and the Kansas Association of Counties (Friday) legislative update meetings on multiple occasions.
- Completed the Secretary of State's required business entity registration process for KALHD. The process has changed from annual to every two years. KALHD is listed as current with next report due in June of 2025.
- Attended the KDHE hosted Regional Meetings in Topeka and Chanute. I had to cancel my plans to attend others due to legislative activities. Will plan to attend the other regions in future quarters.
- Attended City and County Officials Day hosted by the Kansas Association of Counties and League of Municipalities. Met some County Commissioners and Administrators, attended two panels where invited legislators spoke to those in attendance. Was good context for the priorities of the legislature this year.
- Visited with some participants in the Immunization Kansas Coalition (IKC) Legislative day at the Capitol. Event was well attended by stakeholders.
- Electronic Embers is the company which owns and supports our email list serve. They provided notification of a change that needed to be made to our domain name due to upcoming security changes required by Google and Yahoo. As with the TV show, used the "call a friend" lifeline to get help from an IT professional who made this change and fixed a prior patch that had not been implemented. That prior change may have been at random discarding sent emails from my email address (not even to recipients spam and no bounce back).

- Also making updates to the list serve membership as those changes come in with dues payments. Thank you to all who have sent updated lists.
- Attended County Day at the Capitol sponsored by the Kansas Association of Counties. KALHD had a table like the other affiliates and multiple other county entities. Well attended.
 - A thank you to Teresa Fisher for sending Craig Barnes from her leadership team to help out at our table while I attended a required committee hearing.

Project Updates

- Immunization Symposium: WSU CPHI continues to assist KALHD with planning the first of its kind KALHD Immunization Symposium. This event will be held in conjunction with the KDHE Immunization Conference on May 20th. It is intended for immunization professionals from local health departments.

The KDHE Kansas Immunization Program and WSU Conferencing continue to work out logistics and plans for the event. WSU Conferencing will include the KALHD Immunization Symposium in their conference materials, handle registrations, and other logistics such as room rental and catering. They are working on the graphic design portions of their project. KDHE Kansas Immunizations Program staff created an initial streamlined save-the-date to promote the full conference.

KDHE has approved the graphics and a save the date has been circulated with agenda and hotel information coming soon. See here [Kansas Immunization Conference \(wichita.edu\)](https://www.kansasimmunizationconference.org/)

- Policy and Procedure Repository for LHD's: As an update from last month. Checked in with KDHE Immunizations on the previous proposal KALHD and WSU proposed in December. If, KDHE may get permission from CDC to use any unexpended funds on projects like this is still unclear.
- BRFSS data: As discussed in prior meetings, will commence this work by KALHD and KDHE organizing 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 later this month for a meeting in March/April.
- PHEP: KDHE has not received the anticipated guidance from the CDC with the requirements for the new project period that will begin a 5-year cycle in July of 2024.
 - The KALHD/KDHE PHEP Advisory Team meeting scheduled for February 16th was canceled due to lack of that information and a meeting is scheduled for March 1st.
- KALHD Mid-year-meeting (MYM):
 - Reviewed materials and evaluations from last year as a starting point for planning my first MYM.
 - Reached out to WSU on the possibility of contracting with either the Conferencing or CPHI team for assistance in planning this event. My intent is to develop a proposed work list and seek a bid from WSU.
 - Identified that the KALHD contract with the hotel does not currently include meeting space for the "data day" that has been held before the MYM in recent years. Will be working on a solution with the hotel or exploring another location for that day.
 - While there are some ideas members have shared with me for content of the MYM, I'd like to ask for a few volunteers (3-5) who could help identify content for the meeting.

Legislative Updates

- The January monthly lobbyist report was submitted to the Secretary of State for KALHD with Randy Bowman as lobbyist.
- Updates for LHD Administrators were sent on each Friday beginning on January 19th.
- KALHD has testified on the following bills so far this session.
 - SB404 (Senate Side): KALHD's written proponent testimony for defining Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) in Kansas and providing an additional tool to clinicians in the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.
 - HB2579 (House Side): KALHD's written proponent testimony on providing emergency responders, when authorized by medical provider, or upon order of defined medical professionals, to distribute nonprescription over-the-counter medications.
 - HB2750 (House Side): written proponent testimony for defining Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) in Kansas and providing an additional tool to clinicians in the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.- this is same substance as SB404.
 - SB390 (Senate Side): in person opponent testimony on the conscientious right to refuse act which creates a civil cause of action for persons who believe they are discriminated against for refusing certain medical care. And then repeals the authority of the Secretary of KDHE to quarantine an area along with related statutes.
 - SB391 (Senate Side): in person opponent testimony on the constitutional right to freedom act which would reduce/eliminate authority of the Secretary of KDHE, county or joint board of health and the local health officer in responding to infectious or contagious diseases. They could make "recommendations" under part of the proposal to the Senate President and House Speaker.
 - KDHE Budget (House Side): in person testimony to support the Governor's Budget Recommendations, ask them to be certain the proposed continuation of the proviso stays in the budget, and ask them to increase funding to local health departments from KDHE by \$843,493.
 - KDHE Budget (Senate Side): in person testimony to support the Governor's Budget Recommendations, ask them to be certain the proposed continuation of the proviso stays in the budget, and ask them to increase funding to local health departments from KDHE by \$843,493.
- Meeting agenda will include a specific discussion on childcare legislation, including the Governor's proposed reorganization in SB501 and HB2785.

Important Dates to Remember

- 2024 Kansas Governor's Public Health Conference: March 4-6, 2024, in Wichita

- Board Meeting: March 19, 2024 (virtual)
- Kansas Infectious Disease Symposium 2024 – hosted by Johnson County on May 9-10, 2024. See here [Kansas Infectious Disease Symposium 2024 | Johnson County Kansas \(jocogov.org\)](https://jocogov.org/kidsymposium2024)
- 2024 Kansas Immunization Conference: WSU has sent out save the date for May 20-23, 2024, at the Wichita Marriott. See here [Kansas Immunization Conference \(wichita.edu\)](https://wichita.edu/kansas-immunization-conference)
 - WSU CPHI is assisting KALHD with planning the KALHD Immunization Symposium. This event will be held in conjunction with the KDHE Immunization Conference on May 20th. It is intended for immunization professionals from local health departments.