

Executive Director Report March 19, 2024

Organizational Updates

- The At-Large #1 seat on the KALHD Board is vacant after Arlene Doll resigned to focus more on her LHD. Thank you, Arlene, for your service to the Board! Per KALHD by-laws this seat will remain vacant at this time.
- SSC Advisors, Inc./SSC CPA's P.A. returned my previous messages this month. They do plan to provide audit services to KALHD again this year. Audit field work is tentatively planned for May 2024, with presentation of the draft report to the Board in July. SSC also provided pricing of \$1,350 for our annual tax filing of the IRS 990 and equivalent Kansas tax forms. This is slightly less than the \$1,435 we paid another firm last year. Next step is for a partner at SSC to sign two engagement letters and send those to KALHD to begin this work.
- KALHD Dues. Thank you to all who have paid dues for 2024 ahead of the March 31, 2024, due date. As of March 12th at 4 p.m., 92 of 100 LHD's have paid dues for the year. Reminder sent to those LHD administrators and four of them quickly confirmed payment is being processed.
- NACCHO Dues. This is an optional membership and of 92 KALHD dues paid, 57 also paid NACCHO dues and 35 did not. Last year Kansas had 70 LHD NACCHO members.
- Inquired of Bank of America on account types that would pay more interest. No interest paying checking or money market accounts available, only CD. Also inquired at Capitol Federal Savings, a couple blocks from the KALHD office, they offer a money market account currently paying 1.5%. Better than current but will continue to look for additional options.
- 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 lobbyist expenditure report for the month of February.
- Credit card account is now fully functional. Cards for Shelby Ostrom and Heather Richardson have been closed and a credit (points earned for expenditures) transferred to Randy's card which is now the only active card. Services billed directly to credit card have been updated.

Project Updates

- Participating with the Kansas Association of Counties, Wichita State, Kansas Health Institute and KDHE staff on a group convened by KDHE to plan the “road show”. A lot of ideas are being generated as to content and approach that could be most beneficial to Commissioners and Local Health Departments. Discussions are ongoing and no specifics are available to report this month.
- Delta Center project with the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas (ACMHCK). ACMHCK hosted a workgroup meeting on March 14th where we heard updates on this current (last) phase of this work. For this phase, ACMHCK has contracted with Wichita State University (WSU) to develop a toolkit for community needs assessments. This is in response to one of the previous recommendations to streamline the process and increase cross-system collaboration on community needs assessments that are often done individually by mental health, hospitals and public health.

An outline of the contents of the toolkit and examples of resources that would be included was presented to the workgroup at this meeting. The toolkit should be finished by the end of June 2024, where it can then be shared across each system. The group also discussed hosting the toolkit on the Kansas Health Matters (KHM) website. As this will be completed at about the same time of our MYM, I have included this on a list of possible topics for our MYM planning group to consider.

- 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 last few weeks have been focused on finalizing the content and speakers. Marketing of the event is the next step and will begin yet this month. WSU, KDHE, KALHD will share information through as many sources as possible. Information can be found here [Kansas Immunization Conference \(wichita.edu\)](https://www.kansasimmunizationconference.wichita.edu)

- BRFSS data: Group has been formed to meet with KDHE and the members are selecting a date in May 2024 to begin this discussion with KDHE. Thank you to Paula Bitter, Jennifer Cure and Susan Moore for volunteering to participate.
- PHEP: The KDHE/KALHD PHEP Advisory Committee met on March 11th and 18th to discuss the federal changes contained in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the 5-year period of FFY2024-2028. Rebecca Adamson will brief the Board on these changes during our March board meeting and the draft Kansas application will be sent by KALHD to members for comment later this month or early April. A vote on a concurrence letter will then occur at the April 16th Board meeting. KDHE must submit the application to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) by April 24, 2024. A session on the importance and community benefits of PHEP and the changes for this new project period is being considered for the KALHD MYM.

- KALHD Mid-year-meeting (MYM):
 - Continued conversations this month about contracting for support of this event. It appears promising that either WSU CEI or Conferencing will be able to provide support for this event. The next meeting in finalizing a process is scheduled for Monday, March 18, 2024.
 - Confirmed with the hotel that still expecting us and have information from them on current menu selections and cost (same menu as last year with limited options which may cause some repeats). They do have a meeting room available for the pre-session data day, but WSU is exploring other options before we book that room.
 - Planning committee. I have had a few volunteers, thank you Leslie Campbell, Heaven Schuette and Shelly Schneider. I sent an email last week seeking a couple more volunteers to join us in planning the content for the MYM.

Legislative Updates

- Updates for LHD Administrators were sent each Friday.
- KALHD testified on the following bills since the last report.
 - HB2579 (Senate Side): KALHD submitted written proponent testimony on providing emergency responders, when authorized by medical provider, or upon order of defined medical professionals, authority to distribute nonprescription over-the-counter medications. This bill previously passed the House 120-0 and the March 11th hearing had only proponents and one neutral that had been an opponent in the House.
 - HB2754 (House and Senate Side): KALHD testified in person in the House on February 19, 2024, for this bill that would restore County Commission decision making on whether or not the Local Health Department would conduct school inspections. This passed the House 114-5 and I will also testify on the Senate side on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.
 - HB2785 (House Side): KALHD testified in person on March 7, 2024, on this bill that would create the Kansas Office of Early Childhood and enact in law the current KDHE regulations on childcare licensing.
- KDHE Budget. The House Appropriations and Senate Ways & Means Committees both included an \$843,493 increase in funding to local health departments in the KDHE budget. They also both included the proviso to make the minimum allocation to LHD's \$12,000 rather than \$7,000.

The full Senate recommended passage of their bill on March 13, 2024, and it is scheduled for final action on the 14th (after this report is written). The full House is anticipated to work their bill in the next few days. Then, a conference committee would be appointed to work on the differences in the House and Senate budget bills. So, we do not have a final budget yet, but the process continues moving forward.

- Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT). While neither bill on this policy survived turnaround, the key contributors to this process did a great job working with the Committees through outreach to members and the number of proponents who testified in person or in writing. The group held a

debrief in March and identified some potential strategies for next year. This group will begin to meet again after the session concludes to work towards another attempt next year. Thank you to Dustin Hare and Wesley McKain at the Wyandotte County Health Department for organizing this effort.

From this effort, the group has identified the potential to develop an ongoing legislative advocacy group to benefit all LHD's. Current LHD participants include staff from Johnson, Douglas, and Shawnee counties who as part of their job duties focus specifically on the legislature. While few LHD's are large enough to dedicate staff time to this work, if you have someone in your LHD that you would like to connect to this group please let me know.

Important Dates to Remember

- Board Meeting: March 19, 2024 (virtual)
- Local Health Department Billing Symposium. April 2-3, 2024, at the Wichita State University Metropolitan Complex. [2024 Local Health Department Billing Symposium \(touchnet.com\)](https://touchnet.com)
- 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)
- 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)
 - 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.