

**KALHD Board Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
March 19, 2024**

**Board Members**

Jason Tiller, Board Past-President  
Jennifer Cure, President-Elect  
Julie Gibbs, Secretary-Treasurer  
Karla Heble, District 1 Representative  
Paula Bitter, District 2 Representative  
Leslie Campbell, District 3 Representative  
Kendra Walsh, District 4 Representative  
Lynnette Redington, District 5 Representative  
Lisa Scott, District 6 Representative  
Crystal VanHoutan, District 3 Alternate  
Karla Nichols, KAC Representative and District 5 Alternate  
Adrienne Byrne, At-Large #2

**Attendees**

Ruth Walker  
Jonathan Smith  
Dennille Schweitzer  
Cindy Mullen  
Christena Beer  
Denise James  
Alaina Hughes  
Misty Trudeau  
Diane Parke  
Bryce Liedtke  
Tobias Harkins  
Shalei Shea  
Tonya Medina  
Karen Winkleman  
Dana Rickley  
Charlie Hunt  
Monica Reuber  
Teresa Fisher  
Jenda Jones  
Terri Garrison  
Angie Kahle  
Rebecca Adamson  
Aaron Davis  
Shelly Schneider

Cristi Cain

**Staff**

Randy Bowman, Executive Director

**Call to Order**

Jason Tiller, Past-President, called the virtual meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Board Roll Call**

Randy Bowman, Executive Director, conducted a roll call of board members and determined that a quorum was present.

**Approval of Agenda**

Jason asked for any changes to the agenda, and none were identified. **Karla Nichols moved to approve the agenda which was seconded by Paula Bitter. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Approval of Minutes**

Jason referenced the February 2024 minutes provided with the meeting materials. **No changes were identified, and Paula Bitter motioned to approve the minutes. Julie Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Monthly Financial Report**

Julie Gibbs, Secretary/Treasurer shared the February 2024 financial report. KALHD realized a net financial gain of \$55,440.39 for the month with \$79,542.81 in total income and \$24,102.42 in total expenses. As of February 29, 2024, invoices in the amount of \$17,960.56 have been submitted and are payable to KALHD. Julie noted that the ending bank balance is for February not January as reflected in the report.

Jason asked for any questions. None. And then a motion to approve the financial reports and place it on file. **Lynnette Redington motioned to approve the reports and place them on file. Karla Nichols seconded the motion. Dana Rickley noted the report is for February not January. The motion, with the change on the document from January to February noted, was unanimously approved.**

**Approval of Workforce Grants**

Cristi Cain described discussions that have occurred in the past few months on the Public Health Investment Grants also known as the Workforce Development Grant and the plan for a pool of money for systems efforts that would be approved by the KALHD board. A prior board decision focused the use of those funds in the areas of training, self-care and behavior health for the public health system, and accreditation/reaccreditation and pathways fees. Cristi demonstrated the draft portal where organizations would submit requests for funding or ideas for professional

development. Then she reviewed the flow chart on the proposed process for reviewing proposals and bringing them to the monthly KALHD Board meeting for Board approval.

After reviewing these, the meeting was opened up for comments and questions. In response to a question, the timeline for applications is proposed as open, or a rolling, until all of the funding has been allocated. The attendees discussed possible allocations of funds to each funding area but concluded not to allocate in this manner. A question was asked about requesting only the first or multiple years of accreditation costs and the response was that could submit for 4 years of fees. Members and Cristi also discussed how the process would work if more information or clarification was needed from an applicant. In that instance, the submitter will be advised that the Board meets monthly and KDHE will need that information for review and Board consideration the following month, and that applicant would be considered before of any new applications if the requested information is provided. How many applications will be received was discussed as an unknown for all and that the process is best if viewed as iterative and revisit the process as needed in the future.

In response to a question, Crisit clarified that this funding is just for the benefit of LHD's, that is the target audience, but is open to other organizations to provide training. For example, KHDE previously submitted the proposal on KBH training for LHDs. And the process is ready to open. Randy offered that he would sent out to all members so that it is available at the same time.

Discussed if this plan needed an official board vote and concluded that would be appropriate. **Adrienne Byrne made a motion to accept this process described today. Julie Gibbs seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

### **PHEP new 5-year grant period**

Rebecca Adamson, Section Director for KDHE Preparedness, provided an overview of the work with the PHEP Advisory Board as KDHE prepares Kansas' PHEP grant application in response to the federal Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

This is a new 5-year project period, each year of a project period has a Budget Period (BP) and we are currently completing BP5 of the current project period. The new project period will begin on July 1, 2024. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has made some changes in response to lessons learned in the response to COVID.

Rebecca described some of the NOFO changes of how exercises will be approached, a capstone at the KDHE level each year, the 5<sup>th</sup> year will require a large full-scale exercise. Full details are not yet available from CDC, but they are assuring States more information is coming.

Many parts of the workplan will remain the same and Rebecca highlighted some of the resulting changes in the workplan that KDHE and the PHEP Advisory Board have drafted, including: will have one workplan for BP1 instead of separate plans for small, medium, and large communities; working with KALHD to collect success stories instead of that being done by LHDs; instead of just one per year will do one KS-HAN drill per quarter; will ask PHEP funded positions to take specific

MIMS trainings and added one additional topic this year as the NOFO wants to see more to help ensure we are ready to respond; health equity also a focus in the NOFO. When do exercises will focus on how to improve the inclusion of all groups; and data modernization will be a state level focus in the plan.

In response to a question, Rebecca clarified that yes KDHE will design exercises and participate every year alongside LHD's.

Randy then described the next steps in the process. He will send the draft workplan to LHD's via email today or tomorrow for a comment period in which LHDs can provide any written comments back to Randy who will compile them and get them to Rebecca. Then, the concurrence letter will be an agenda item for the KALHD Board at our April 16, 2024, meeting before KDHE submits the application by April 24, 2024. The concurrence letter will be based on last year with the same percentages of split state/local/tribes as no changes in CDC funding is expected.

### **KDHE Updates**

Cristi Cain gave multiple updates.

#### *Governor's Public Health Conference*

Thanked those who attended the GPHC and asked for participants to place in the chat their favorite experience at the conference. And for ideas for next year or comments about this year's event.

#### *Quarterly Regional Public Health Meetings*

This round is coming up on April 3<sup>rd</sup> in Beloit, April 4<sup>th</sup> in Hutchinson, April 10<sup>th</sup> in Topeka, April 11<sup>th</sup> in Chanute, May 8<sup>th</sup> in Garden City and May 9<sup>th</sup> in Colby. The agenda includes mandated reporter training for adult protective services 101, county health rankings and using the data to advance health in your community, title V assessment overview, and continuing the conversation with childcare licensing leadership who will be back out for a listening tour.

#### *Foundations of Public Health*

Kicked off at GPHC for people who have been in the public health system for 5 years or less. Have a great group and just wanted this group to know this is going on and recognize that several participants in today's meeting have been asked to be mentors to participants in this program.

#### *National Public Health Week*

Is the first week of April. KDHE has worked with the Governor's Office and the Governor will sign a proclamation recognizing this week. Invited at least one small, medium, large LHD and KALHD to attend the signing at the Capitol Building in Topeka on Wednesday, March 27, 2024. Volunteers should contact Cristi to be one of the 10 who can attend.

#### *County Road Show*

Following up to previous updates that have a design team working to bring training to County Commissioners and invite other local officials. Working on an important survey of LHD's to have

input in the topics that will be most beneficial. Deputy Secretary Goss and Chief of Staff Matt Lara will attend, not sure about Secretary. Cristi showed the attendees a map illustrating potential sites to hold these events to minimize travel and the draft survey questions.

Comments on the event included discussion on a possible survey of Commissioners to ask them what they are interested in hearing instead of LHDs guessing, if this could integrate into regular Commission meetings, the impact of open meetings law requirements, and understanding the goal and objectives of this event.

#### *All Hands on Deck*

Several attendees are grantees already for this Drug Endangered Children Grant. There are additional grant funds available. Application is short and is due April 15, 2024 and is available on KGMS. This is an opportunity to work on substance use disorders or build upon current collaborative work in the community.

#### *Research on Behavioral Health Apps*

KDHE intern Bryce Liedtke presented KDHE's research on behavioral health resources currently available to LHD staff, how such resources can support the workforce, and apps that are available in the marketplace. Cristi indicated that with the workforce fund portal now in place, KDHE anticipates making a proposal to the Board at the April meeting to possibly invest in an app.

#### **WSU Update**

Aaron Davis provided an update on the LHD Billing Symposium on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Registration is now closed as of last week with 126 total registrations. Also, the KALHD Informatics Subcommittee continues to look at data modernization and continuing to look at "Data Day" held annually with the KALHD Mid-Year-Meeting. The Kansas Public Health Collaborative (KPHC) is a joint effort between Wichita State, Kansas Health Institute, KALHD and KDHE to bring resources to the governmental public health workforce. On the KPHC website, information on AI in public health has been added under the resources tab. KPHC is also working on updates to the website to make the information more beneficial and if attendees have time Aaron asked them to please take the feedback survey posted in the chat.

#### **KAC Update**

Karla Nichols gave an update focused on legislative activities and the updates from both KALHD and KAC that are provided for KALHD members. Also reminded members that they can sign up to attend the Legislative updates that Jay Hall presents on Friday afternoons between 2-3:00 p.m.

#### **2024 Legislative Session Update**

Randy updated attendees on the hearing this morning on HB2754 which would restore the County Commissions decision making authority as to whether or not LHDs conduct school inspections. After passing the House 114-5 the Senate held the hearing with proponents only, no opponents or neutral conferees or testimony. Hopefully this bill can be noncontroversial and get done by first adjournment on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

In other legislative activities, the House is scheduled to take up their budget bill today and the most important point is the \$843,493 in additional funding in our KALHD legislative position is in both budgets in both chambers. The Senate has already passed their budget. Both budgets also have the continuation of the proviso to make the minimum allocation to each health department \$12,000 instead of the statutory \$7,000 amount. If the House does not change, these items will not come up for discussion in conference committees. Is looking favorable, but things can happen before the process is complete.

The Legislature is scheduled for first adjournment April 5<sup>th</sup>, there had been rumors otherwise in recent weeks, but word now is they will adjourn this date and will return at the end of the month and an Omnibus Budget will be worked just like a typical year. Randy provided an explanation of this process and the timeframe.

HB2785 to create the new Office of Early Childhood was heard last week and it, along with SB96 are scheduled to be worked in the House Commerce Committee on Thursday of this week. The comments of the Chair were that these bills would be combined, but what that exactly means is not yet known. Will provide more information in Friday's legislative update, but seems like something is likely to get passed.

Randy recognized the work of staff in individual LHDs on Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) this year. The organization of individual health departments on this topic was a great effort by Dustin Hare and Wesley McKain in Wyandotte County, Dennis Kriesel in Johnson County and others and in a debriefing of a group of stakeholders after the bill did not pass, there is an interest in formalizing and continuing such efforts that could be beneficial in the future. If your department has a staff person dedicated in part to legislative work and you would like to connect them to this group, please let Randy know.

### **Executive Director Report**

Randy gave an update on organizational activities including that the company who has done KALHD audits in recent years did make contact this month. They are planning to begin field work in May and report to Board in July. They also will do tax services at a rate of \$1,350 a small savings from the past. Awaiting management letters for both from the firm partners. Thank you to all who have paid the KALHD dues which is 92 of 100 at the time of this report. Not past due, but Randy reported sending reminder notices to the 8 and have heard that payment is expected from all but two who have not heard from. Only 57 have paid NACCHO dues that KALHD will pay in July.

Items not in the written report due to timing include the question from the list serve about unexpended IAP 3 and \$ funds. Working with Lauren Swenson to get a meeting set up that she requested with Cristi and Randy on the topic. And another list serve question was on county department head salary data. Randy shared that have talked with KAC and learned that the County Clerks are currently doing a survey and KAC will ask if that can be shared with KALHD for members when it is completed.

Updated members on a meeting yesterday on the Delta Center project. Described the work WSU is doing under contract with ACMHCK to develop a Community Needs Assessment Toolkit. Randy will plan to distribute it to members when it is available which is anticipated to be in June.

KALHD Mid-Year-Meeting. Randy thanked those who volunteered to help define the content of this meeting. And then discussed his thoughts for including LHD and WSU and KDHE in the process that will continue to be a professional meeting for benefit of members in the same spirit as it has been in the past. Close to finalizing with WSU how to get KALHD some logistics support for the event with registrations, onsite needs, etc. Intend to enter into a contract with WSU soon. Then asked group a question about interest in soliciting additional sponsorships to generate revenue and the pro/con of the possible changes in the feel of the meeting when more non-LHD organizations were in attendance. Based upon the discussion, this idea will be place in a “parking lot” for possible consideration in the future. This year will keep the same approach and simply try to sustain existing level of revenue.

#### **Open Discussion**

None.

#### **Adjournment**

Jason adjourned the meeting **11:58 a.m.**