

Executive Director Report **April 8, 2025**

Organizational Updates

- KALHD received notification from KDHE to immediately discontinue spending any funds associated with our KIP grant due to federal actions to terminate funding effective March 24, 2025. This impacts KALHD finances in two ways.
 - 1) This eliminated projected revenue (estimated at \$10,434) for the period of March 25 to June 30, 2025 and will require a greater portion of our operating costs to be paid from general funds. This is impactful but will not require changes in our business for the current budget year as we were projecting a net gain for the year (estimated at \$38,596 prior to this funding reduction). No KIP funds were anticipated after June 30, 2025 in the current budget.
 - 2) Also eliminated the funding source for KALHD to cover LHD Administrator registration costs (budgeted at \$25,000) at the June 2025 KALHD MYM. A list of LHD Administrators who had registered prior to March 24, 2025, was obtained and KDHE was invoiced for these registrations. This is a departure from past practices under this grant in which KALHD invoiced KDHE after the MYM, so it is unclear if KDHE will or will not pay this invoice in the amount of \$7,750. All future registrations will need to be self-pay from the LHD budget, and if KDHE does not pay this invoice, those who have already registered will be invoiced for payment from the LHD budget.
- Received information from KDHE that the above referenced federal cuts also eliminated KDHE's funding source for the statewide laboratory courier service. KDHE is evaluating options, including the use of PHIG funds, but loss of funded laboratory courier services for LHD's is probable.
- KIP reimbursement request of \$2,541.17 was submitted for March 1 to March 24, 2025 in accordance with the federal termination of this funding source. This reimbursement is anticipated to be the last KALHD will receive from this funding source.
- KALHD dues payments for 2025 have been received from 98 of 100 LHDs. One county is still working on payment and definitely intended to pay and continue membership. After multiple attempts to contact Geary County, no indication of intention to continue has been obtained. Additional outreach will occur prior to the Board meeting and an update provided at that time.

- PHEP reimbursement for the Jan-Mar quarter was submitted in the amount of \$13,687.17.
- Secretary of State Lobbyist Report submitted for the month.
- Visited the Marion County LHD to attend the open house for their new building.
- Visited Shawnee County LHD to attend events for staff during National Public Health Week.
- Follow up on applicability of the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) to KALHD Board meetings. – item still pending

2025 Legislative Session

- Kansas Legislature will return to Topeka on April 10, 2025 to begin the Veto session that is scheduled for the 10th through 12th. As of the morning of April 8th, the Governor has vetoed 11 bills including Sub for SB29, that legislative leadership may decide to attempt an override later this week. In addition, the Governor has allowed 5 bills to become law without a signature, signed into law 48 bills, 49 are pending action by the Governor, and another 8 are still pending enrollment by legislative staff to then be presented to the Governor for action.

A lot will happen and change between this report being written and our Board meeting, additional updates will be provided in remarks during the meeting.

- Key Legislative Deadlines
 - April 10 - Veto session begins (which includes final budget actions)
 - April 12 - End Veto session and adjourn the 2025 Legislative Session.
- Federal Government
 - In response to the March 24, 2025 termination of \$11.4 billion dollars in grant funding for public health by the Federal Government, 23 states filed [legal action](#) against the President in an effort to restore that funding. On April 3, 2024 the [Court granted](#) the requested temporary restraining order for a period of 14 days. A future court hearing will determine what happens next, unless the plaintiffs and defendant come to an agreement on their own. The current interpretation is this applies only to the states who are party to this lawsuit.
 - In meetings among NACCHO members and state SACCHOs (KALHD like organizations) a common item of discussion is the potential for a similar Federal Government elimination of PHIG funding. No one has identified any specific plan at this time; however, several states have commented that they are accelerating expenditure where feasible in anticipation of future cuts.

- NACCHO Governmental Affairs staff have flagged and will monitor Presidential [Executive Order 14239](#) titled “Achieving Efficiency Through State and Local Preparedness” for future impact on Public Health Emergency Preparedness activities and funding. The purpose of this order states in part that “preparedness is most effectively owned and managed at the State, local and even individual levels, supported by a competent, accessible, and efficient Federal Government”. The order then describes federal entities that must make recommendations at intervals of 90, 180, 240 days and one year from the March 18, 2025 date of signature by the President. The timeline suggests that any changes are in the future, however the orders appears to have the potential for changes that could impact local health departments.

Project Updates

- KALHD will be providing a session at the Kansas Association of County Commissioners (KCCA) conference on April 23, 2025. Session content will align with material presented at the New Commissioner Training in January and provide an opportunity to engage with attendees on this topic.
- The updated KALHD New Administrator Orientation manual was posted to the KALHD website and on the listserv.
- 2025 MYM Update.
 - As of March 31st, we had 42 registrations, 31 of which were billed to KDHE KIP and are pending payment. With just under 3 months until the event.
 - We have one break sponsor.
 - Registration reminders will be sent periodically to LHD Administrators in the next couple of months.
 - If KDHE does not reimburse KALHD for registrations prior to March 24, 2025, an invoice process will be set up for those who have already registered, but must now pay a registration fee.
- Hosted the PHEP Advisory Team meeting in which the KDHE proposed Budget Period 2 workplan was reviewed. KDHE will present that plan as part of the April Board meeting agenda and KALHD will vote to provide the federally required letter of concurrence for this budget period.
- Met with KAC staff to explore the potential of transitioning some KALHD activities onto technology platforms used by KAC. This could save some money and also provide a KAC staff resource for those activities at no new cost based upon our affiliate membership. More information will be needed before a proposal could be developed for the Board. But based on this initial conversation, we will continue to explore the potential of these platforms for the listserv, website, and MYM registration.
- I had a meeting with the Public Health Law Center at Mitchell Hamline School of Law located in St. Paul, Minnesota. They are currently receiving funds from CDC to assess technical assistance needs on public health law among local health departments across the

country. They will submit their assessment results and a funding request later this spring, and if awarded they would then provide legal assistance beginning July of 2025 for a period of up to 5 years. We discussed the 2021 law changes in Kansas and the additional changes coming this year due to Sub for SB29 which seems to align with their purpose. I have submitted copies of these bills, our current statutes, and an ask if they could help develop legal training for KALHD. The initial concept is to develop training for LHD Administrators, a standard and legally defensible order form for use by local health officers, and then optimally also develop training for county commissioners and county counselors who are responsible for defending any orders that may be challenged in court.

Important Dates to Remember

- April 22, 2025 [Local Health Department Billing Symposium](#) at the Wichita State University Hughes Metropolitan Complex.
- May 20, 2025, KALHD Board Meeting (virtual)
- May 8-9, 2025 Johnson County Health Department will host the [Kansas Infectious Disease Symposium](#) at the Arts and Heritage Center located at 8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, Ks 66212.
- [KDHE Immunization Conference](#) on May 20-22, 2025 at the Wichita Marriott
- [2025 Mid-Year Meeting](#) June 23rd (data day) and MYM 24-25th 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Manhattan, Ks