

**KALHD Board Meeting Minutes  
March 26, 2025**

**Board Members**

Jennifer Cure, President  
Brie Greeson, Past President  
Krista Schneider, President-Elect  
Shalei Shea, Secretary-Treasurer  
Angie Kahle, District 1 Representative  
Crystal VanHoutan, District 3 Alternate  
Kendra Walsh, District 4 Representative  
Denise James, District 4 Alternate  
Lynnette Redington, District 5 Representative  
Karla Nichols, District 5 Alternate/KAC Representative  
Charlie Hunt, At-Large #1  
Adrienne Byrne, At-Large #2

**Attendees**

Diana Parke	Jamie Downs	Shruti Chhabra
Emily Brinkman	Dana Rickley	Karen Winkleman
Kory Owen	Cindy Mullen	Misty Trudeau
Jenette Schuette	Monica Scrudder	Teresa Fisher
Darcie Van Der Vyver	Jennifer Hurst	
Mica Nave	Mary Clark	

**Staff**

Randy Bowman, Executive Director

**Call to Order**

Jennifer Cure, President, called the hybrid in-person and virtual meeting to order after the conclusion of the Governor's Public Health Conference at 3:45 p.m.

**Board Roll Call**

Randy Bowman, Executive Director, conducted a roll call of Board members in attendance and confirmed that a quorum was present for conducting business.

**Approval of Agenda**

Jennifer Cure asked for approval of the agenda presented for today. **Karla Nichols moved to approve the agenda which was seconded by Brie Greeson. The motion was unanimously approved.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

Jennifer asked if everyone reviewed the minutes of the January meeting. **Brie Greeson motioned to approve the minutes which Denise James. The motion was approved.**

## **Monthly Financial Report**

Secretary/Treasurer Shalei Shea presented the financial report for February 2025.

In February, KALHD realized a net financial gain of \$33,312.18 with \$62,554.55 in total income and \$29,242.37 in total expenses. The ending bank balance was \$478,750.97.

**Crystal VanHoutan motioned to approve the report and place it on file. Adrienne Byrne seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

## **Legislative Updates**

Randy Bowman provided an update on the progress of the 2025 Kansas Legislative Session and on the recently announced Federal cut to public health funding.

### **Kansas Legislature**

- SB125 is now the Budget Bill after HB2007 was inserted into SB125. The Conference Committee has met multiple times this week and is working to reach agreement on the differences between the House and Senate budget proposals. While there are still items to finalize, they appear to have reached agreement on the KDHE items.
  - Including an additional \$250,000 SGF for TB response, language KDHE was attempting to get modified to include other diseases but is currently unclear the final resolution.
  - Allowing KDHE to continue using federal funding for 30 positions that were proposed to be cut in an earlier phase of the budget process. These positions include Regional Public Health Nurse Specialists. However, it is unknown how the announcement by Deputy Secretary Goss yesterday may impact these positions.
  - Includes items specific to Medicaid that would require KDHE to manage the MCO contracts as they currently are written, eliminate continuous Medicaid eligibility for parent/ caregivers, and have an interim legislative study of KanCare 3.0.
  - This version of the budget does include proviso language for \$7,000 to \$12,000 in case SB126 does not advance.
- SB126 is now the bill with language originally in HB2397 to increase minimum from \$7,000 to \$12,000. This topic is packaged with 4 additional bills and the conference committee worked it this morning. One item was removed, then the House did not agree to that

change and replaced its members on the conference committee to continue working on this package of bills.

- SB29 is a setback to future public health responses that has been passed and is currently awaiting signature by the Governor. A veto by the Governor may be possible, however the Legislature can override any veto they want to and which is assumed likely in this instance. The changes include only making recommendations about public gatherings, no enforcement of orders by the Sheriff, and added language in KSA 65-101 which applies to all actions in 65-101 through 65-129f on substance of orders and appeal to the court. This is based on existing language in 65-129b and applied now more broadly to all actions
- HB2294 changes child care licensing laws/regulations and creates the Office of Early Childhood. This bill was heavily amended by the House then passed on March 20<sup>th</sup> and as of yesterday it has been assigned to Senate Public Health Committee – who is not scheduled to meet again as not an exempt committee. It is possible this bill still advances if added to another bill in conference committee, but also possible it will just carry over to next year.

The rumor that is being said by many is they want to finish on Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> instead of the scheduled Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> to not have themselves or their staff in the Capitol during a protest on the 28<sup>th</sup> by the “black mass” supporters. The legislature will then return for the veto session April 10-12<sup>th</sup> then session done for this year.

In discussion, the continued legislative discussion of tax reduction measures, some of which KAC is sending out update sharing their concerns about the impact of them, was mentioned by members of the Board. At this time, it does not appear that any have been adopted, but that seems likely before the legislature finishes their work.

### Federal Budget Cuts

Randy mentioned that each Administrator should have received an email just prior to this meeting with a notice from KDHE related to the Federal budget cuts that were announced yesterday. And that KDHE will be sending this to stakeholders later today. Some members mentioned that KDHE has sent that out during our meeting.

The letter from KDHE advised partners to stop spending of funds listed in the letter as of March 24, 2025.

He also shared that he has seen multiple emails today from peer organizations across the nation and no one has additional clarity as to the impact of this announcement. In discussion, some members expressed concerns that other funding streams could be impacted next.

## **KDHE Updates**

KDHE was not able to attend today to provide any updates.

## **WSU Updates**

Emily Brinkman provided updates as Aaron Davis not available today. Those included:

- Elevate which is a new initiative that is now officially up and running. Currently focused on capacity building and engagement sessions for coalitions. Elevate is looking to connect coalitions from across the state to a common focus of improving a communities quality of life. Next year the plan also includes a program to help build new coalitions. If LHD's run or participate in a coalition, please sign up for updates <https://elevatekansas.org/>
- The Public Health Orientation for new Local Health Department staff is almost ready. The materials are with KDHE currently who is converting the modules so that they can be on the Kansas Train site. When that is live and ready to use with your new staff WSU will let us know.
- Recently completed group one of the Foundations of Public Health and are preparing to start a second cohort in 2 weeks. Space is still available and if you have staff who would benefit from this opportunity, please contact Emily. This group will run from April through November and more information is available here <https://kphcollaborative.org/foundations-of-public-health/>

## **KAC Updates**

Karla Nichols shared that April is county government month and asked members to please promote that throughout the month. More information is available at <https://kansascounties.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1948216&group=>

And reminded everyone of the legislative update that is hosted by KAC every Friday at 2:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to learn what is going on that affects county government and all of our employees in local health departments.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Randy highlighted some of the items in the written report that is included with the Board materials.

- A funding request was submitted to KDHE on February 24<sup>th</sup> for PHIG funding to support member training based on our Board discussions in the past few meetings. KDHE

acknowledged receipt but no other information has been provided. He will plan to follow up after this meeting to ask about the status of our request.

- Meetings that had been scheduled to resume discussions on the public health roadshow that was paused last summer have been impacted by weather related closures of state offices and legislative hearings. As a result, the next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2025. How the road show may resume is not currently clear, but this delay is due to schedule conflicts not a decision about resuming these events.
- A space on the agenda for the Kansas County Commissioners Association (KCCA) conference in April has been reserved to share information about local health departments and public health in a session. This presentation will largely follow the content of the New Commissioner training done in January and an invitation will be extended to KDHE to contribute. This is another opportunity to engage with Commissioners on behalf of our members.
- He also shared information on a conceptual conversation that was initiated by Aaron Davis approximately a year ago that focuses on Commissioner training specific to public health. Periodic conversations have included WSU, KAC, KHF, KALHD, but to date a clear set of strategies has proven elusive. Based on a call in March, this might gel into clear next steps and a possible funding request to KHF in the next few months.
- A question was asked about the number of registrations so far for KALHD MYM. He indicated that we are at about 50 so far. Another question was the average from past events, around 100 has been the number in recent years.

### **Discussion for Board Members and KALHD Members Only**

*Prior to discussing the next agenda item, Jennifer thanked our guests for attending and asked them to please leave the meeting. These minutes will only reflect the final actions/decisions from this discussion.*

### **Open Discussion**

Based upon this discussion, KALHD will make recommendations to KDHE for the agenda for the April March 16, 2025, KDHE/LHD Monthly Meeting. Including updates on the process, common findings, and KDHE recommendations from KDHE site visit and audits of local health departments.

### **Adjournment**

Jennifer asked for a motion to adjourn. **The motion by Brie Greeson was seconded by Lynnette Redington and passed.** The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.