

## **Executive Director Report May 13, 2025**

### **Organizational Updates**

- Confirmed with KDHE that they shifted the remaining local allocation of PHIG funding to help sustain the statewide laboratory courier service. The last accounting balance available from KDHE from February of 2025 indicated approximately \$535,000 was available. They also plan to cancel the contract with the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) for the Public Health Commissioner Roadshow which will provide another approximately \$70,000 for the laboratory courier service. It is unclear just how long this may sustain this service.
- The last KIP reimbursement in the request of \$2,541.17 for the partial month of March 2025 was received along with the \$7,750 reimbursement for those Administrators who had registered for the MYM prior to March 24, 2025. No revenue can be expected from this source going forward.
- KALHD dues payments for 2025 have been received from 99 of 100 LHDs. Geary County payment is still anticipated.
- Secretary of State Lobbyist Report submitted for the month.
- Annual Business filing with the Secretary of State completed and fee paid.
- 2025 Audit of budget year 2024 and 2024 Tax Return. Began internal preparation of notebook containing records for this process. Now awaiting notification from the auditor as to when they plan to begin their work.
- Follow up on applicability of the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) to KALHD Board meetings.
  - Applicability to non-profit organizations or to associations has been the source of dozens of requested Attorney Generals opinions over the past 4 plus decades.
  - In one analysis in a paper written by a Deputy Attorney General in 2009, seven such Opinions affirmed applicability and sixteen found no applicability to individual organizations or groups subject to the request.
  - That analysis specified these key factors may subject non-profit corporations to KOMA:
    - Receives or expends public funds;
    - Is subject to control of governmental units; and

- Acts as a governmental agency providing services or has independent authority to make governmental decisions.
  - While opinions could always vary, KALHD does not appear likely to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> factor. We do receive and expend public funds through member dues payments and grants so the 1<sup>st</sup> does seem to apply. And the 2<sup>nd</sup> may or may not apply as the KALHD Board are employees of Governmental units, however in the capacity of the Board they are not conducting business of those units (not conducting county business).
- The KALHD office will be closed May 22 through June 3, 2025, while the Executive Director is on vacation.

## Project Updates

- Co-presented at the Greeley County Board of County Commissioners meeting on April 21, 2025 with former KDHE Secretary Dr. Robert Moser on importance of public health and statutory requirements.
- I visited the Greeley, Rush and Shawnee County Local Health Departments this month. Thank you to Lisa, Monica and Teresea for the opportunity to visit.
- Presented opening remarks for the 2025 Billing Symposium on April 22, 2025, in Wichita.
- Attended the in-person Budget Period 1 Health Care Coalition Quarterly Advisory meeting in Salina on April 22, 2025.
- Presented at the Shawnee County Health Department's all-staff meeting on the history and present focus of KALHD on April 23, 2025.
- Presented to County Commissioners in a session at the Kansas Association of County Commissioners (KCCA) conference on April 23, 2025. Discussed the importance of public health to communities and future workforce, how best Commissioners can support Local Health Departments, statutory requirements in public health, and impact of Federal policies and priorities on public health.
- The update to the Public Health Scope of Practice Toolkit was posted to the KALHD website and on the listserv. Thank you to Lisa Horn at KDHE for keeping this document current for our members.
- Due to Federal budget cuts, the Public Health Roadshow has now been cancelled. When asked for input by KDHE, KALHD affirmed that using available funding to help preserve the laboratory courier services is a higher priority than the Road Show.

- A list of questions was compiled based upon Administrator input on the changes to the WIC program KDHE announced for FY2026. Those have been submitted to the Local Public Health Team who will present them to their peers within KDHE.
- 2025 MYM Update.
  - 54 LHD participants and 13 speakers registered as of May 6<sup>th</sup>. 31 have registered for Data Day and 31 for the Social Activity the evening of Day 1.
  - Registration reminder sent April 25 and May 9<sup>th</sup>. Another is scheduled to go out May 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Another sponsor solicitation was sent out on April 25th. We currently have 5 sponsors and have secured \$2,500 in funding from the following sponsors.
 

▪ Child Care Aware of Kansas	Break \$750
▪ Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition	Full page ad \$500
▪ Cover Kansas (Community Care of Kansas)	Full page ad \$500
▪ Pittsburg State University School of Nursing SANE Grant	Full page ad \$500
▪ Kansas University School of Medicine	½ page ad \$250
  - We will close registration on Friday, June 6th and hopefully we'll still see more registrations prior to that date.
  - Finalize count, menu, location for evening social and creating the program are the remaining tasks.
- Created an additional folder on the KALHD Google Drive for Measles resources. Distributed link via the Administrator Listserv group on April 28, 2025.
- Authored article for County Commissioners on Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) as 2<sup>nd</sup> of two articles required each fiscal year for our PHEP contract. KAC plans to publish it in the May edition of the County Comment.
- Monthly meetings with the KDHE Secretary and KPHA were scheduled to resume in May, however that meeting had to be postponed. Next meeting is June 20, 2025.

## Federal Updates

- On May 2, 2025, President Trump submitted his [Federal Fiscal Year \(FFY\) 2026 budget](#) to Congress. Key elements of this budget request include:
  - Language reflecting the Administrations consideration whether governmental services could be better provided by State or local governments.
  - **22.6% decrease (\$163 billion)** in discretionary (funding that must be approved annually for everything from transportation, housing, education, social services, science, etc.) budget spending.
  - **13% increase** for Defense spending and additional increases in Homeland Security to increase boarder security with at least \$325 million of the funding coming from a future budget reconciliation (cuts to other funding sources).
- Budget items specific to Health and Human Services (HHS) budget:

- Add \$500 million for the Making America Healthy Again (MAHA) initiative.
  - Elimination of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
  - \$1.7 billion reduction in programs by the Health Resources And Services Administration (HIV/AIDS, MCH programs, Workforce Programs, Family Planning programs) while maintaining \$6.0 billion in former HRSA programs
  - \$3.588 billion reduction in CDC Disease Control Prevention Programs while consolidating many programs into one grant program to States. \$4.0 billion of current funding would be retained under this new approach.
  - \$17.965 billion in reduction at the National Institute of Health while restructuring functions under budget that will now be \$27 billion.
  - \$1.065 billion reduction in SAMSHA funds, restructuring, remaining budget of \$5.7 billion for former SAMHSA activities.
  - \$129 million reduction at Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality whose functions now assigned elsewhere
  - \$674 million reduction in Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Program Management and outreach and education activities funded by the Inflation Reduction Act.
  - \$250 million decrease by eliminating the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Hospital Preparedness Program to allow States and Territories to fund hospital preparedness.
  - \$180 million decrease by eliminating several programs related to sexual risk avoidance, teen pregnancy prevention, women's health and minority health.
- Impact on Public Health Funding in Kansas. An analysis of the Presidents budget proposal shared by NACCHO reflects the following:
    - Reduction from \$2.938 billion (based on FFY2023 figures) to \$130 million for FFY2026. This \$2.8 billion dollar cut is a 95.5% decrease.
    - This proposal would eliminate multiple funding streams while creating one new stream.
    - The one new funding stream would provide Kansas with \$889,629 a 96.7% reduction from the current \$26,954,912 (based on FFY2023 figures).
    - This includes the elimination of funding the following funding streams: Tobacco, PHEP, HPP, State Block Grant, Epi & Lab Capacity, HIV, PH Infrastructure, Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Disease & Stroke, Opioids. Some of which appear likely to be fundable through the new Health Infrastructure stream to the limited extent of the proposed funding for that item (\$889k).
  - Steps in the Federal Budget Process.
    - President Budget Submission – Completed May 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - Adoption of Budget Resolution - not law, but a framework or target for revenue and expenditures by subcommittee
    - The budget process is divided among 12 subcommittees - work typically begins in May, however some reports are that the Presidents fully detailed budget will not be available to Congress until sometime after May 19<sup>th</sup> and Congress is scheduled to Recess beginning May 23<sup>rd</sup> and will not return to Washington, D.C. until June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- May – September 30<sup>th</sup> (excluding August when not in session) subcommittees, then the full House and Senate will develop, debate and vote on a Budget. This often is multiple budget bills or may be one bill.
- Upon passage of a budget by both the House and Senate, the President must sign it into law.
- October 1, 2025 begins the Federal Fiscal Year 2026.
- During this same timeframe, Congress can also consider Reconciliation Legislation to consider changes to existing federal budget laws (e.g. FFY2025) and appears to be working towards such legislation. Different levels of targets for funding reductions have been set by [the House \(\\$880 million\)](#) and [Senate \(at least \\$1 billion\)](#) in the next 10-year budget window. A reconciliation bill can pass the Senate by a majority vote rather than the 60 votes required of a new appropriations bill increasing the likelihood of cuts desired by the President and his allies more likely.

## **Patterson Family Foundation**

Faced with the possibility of significant changes in the amount of federal funding for public services, and specifically public health services, WSU and KALHD are exploring potential opportunities for non-public funding. Because, while we cannot predict what cuts will or will not be made by the Federal Government, given the scope of the cuts being proposed by the Administration some reduction in federal funding beginning in FFY2026 feels likely. And if so, some of the existing supports for LHD could be lost.

[The Patterson Family Foundation \(PFF\)](#) is accepting grant applications before July 25, 2025. Their priorities are Economic Opportunity, Education, Community Engagement and Healthcare. And within those four priorities are just over a dozen areas of focus, including Healthcare Workforce Development.

The two primary requirements are applicant organizations:

- 1) must be a non-profit corporation (KALHD qualifies), and
- 2) located in or serving a county or community within their catchment (KALHD partially qualifies)

They focus on rural communities covering 95 of the smallest counties in Kansas. Excludes: Johnson, Wyandotte, Leavenworth, Douglas, Shawnee, Riley, Saline, Reno, Sedgwick, Butler due to population over 50,000.

We are exploring the feasibility of submitting a proposal that could sustain some of the workforce-specific resources for LHD's, with KALHD being the applicant and WSU the contractor to provide the deliverables under any grant proposal.

## Important Dates to Remember

- [KDHE Immunization Conference](#) on May 20-22, 2025, at the Wichita Marriott
- [2025 Community Health Worker Symposium on](#) June 13, 2025, at the Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex, located in Wichita, Ks.
- [2025 Mid-Year Meeting](#) June 23rd (data day) and MYM 24-25<sup>th</sup> 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Manhattan, Ks
- July 15, 2025, KALHD Board Meeting (virtual)
- September 16, 2025, KALHD Board Meeting (virtual)
- [Kansas Public Health Association Conference](#), September 23-24, 2025, at the Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex, located in Wichita, Ks.