

**KALHD Board Meeting Minutes  
April 15, 2025**

**Board Members**

Jennifer Cure, President  
Brie Greeson, Past President  
Krista Schneider, President-Elect  
Shalei Shea, Secretary-Treasurer  
Angie Kahle, District 1 Representative  
Monica Reuber, District 1 Alternate  
Cortney Murrow, District 2 Representative  
Faye Jones, District 2 Alternate  
Leslie Campbell, District 3 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  
Lisa Scott, District 6 Representative  
Adrienne Byrne, At-Large #2

**Attendees**

Kory Owen		
Jennifer Hurst	Melissa Miller	Natalie Savage
Tonya Medina	Jamie Johnson	Shelly Schneider
Dawn Jones	Terrie Garrison	Cristi Cain
Denice Cragg	Tina Payne	Lori Eichman
Broderick Bean	Teresa Fisher	Cheryl Hoberecht
Brenda Clugston	Brenda Orr	
Cindy Mullen	Jamie Downs	
Shruti Chhabra	Misty Trudeau	
Karen Winkleman	Jenette Schuette	

**Staff**

Randy Bowman, Executive Director

**Call to Order**

Jennifer Cure, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.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 March meeting. **Brie Greeson motioned to approve the minutes which was seconded by Lisa Scott. The motion was approved.**

### **Monthly Financial Report**

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

In March, KALHD realized a net financial gain of \$13,232.26 with \$24,418.11 in total income and \$11,185.85 in total expenses. The ending bank balance was \$487,358.33.

**Lynnette Redington motioned to approve the report and place it on file. Krista Schneider seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

### **PHEP – Budget Period 2**

Randy Bowman began the discussion by introducing Natalie Savage, KDHE Preparedness Section Director, to her first KALHD Board meeting. He then summarized the annual process in which the PHEP Advisory Team has met with KDHE staff and given input on the draft workplan for budget period 2 that KDHE will present today. The changes from last year are to language to add clarity, they are not intended to add tasks or requirements.

Natalie Savage walked through the draft document for the Board, summarizing the language changes where applicable. Natalie took questions from the Board and Administrators throughout the discussion. Some suggestions were made to further clarify items in the draft or for KDHE to consider for changes to processes experienced throughout the year. Some of the processes discussed today included: clarifying KDHE expectations for meetings that occur more often than the workplan requires, potential improvements to KGMS, and potential duplication of effort when KDHE staff require an email in addition to submission of information in KGMS. Natalie expressed her appreciation for the comments and feedback and that she has made notes to look into these suggestions and make changes where that might be possible at the proper time.

Randy Bowman then summarized the draft concurrence letter that was distributed with the meeting materials. KDHE will submit the application assuming flat funding, but the amount awarded to Kansas will not be known until this summer. Jennifer Cure then asked the Board for a motion to approve the letter. **Lisa Scott moved to approve the concurrence letter which was seconded by Lynnette Redington. Motion passed.**

### **Discussion on 2026 KALHD Dues**

Randy Bowman began the discussion by sharing his observation that KALHD has had a few good years of funding, illustrated by a January 2020 bank balance of \$93,452 and the balance in the financial report today of \$487,358. However, we are beginning to see changes in Washington, D.C., illustrated by the federal budget cuts in public health that took effect on March 24, 2025. And what will come in the future is unclear, but other KALHD revenue sources, such as the Medicaid contract, may not be dependable which could result in some tight budget years in the future. Those tighter margins are illustrated in the table that was included with the materials today with updated projections of revenue and expenses for the years 2026-2029.

While those margins are projected to tighten, he said that he is hesitant to recommend any changes to the 2026 dues amounts because of the uncertainty of future LHD budgets. But the purpose for this item on our agenda today is to begin the discussion in advance of a membership vote at our Mid-Year Meeting to set our dues amount for the 2026 budget year. After discussion by the Board, the decision was to recommend a flat dues amount to the membership at the Mid-Year Meeting in June. Randy will include that recommendation on the agenda for the June Board meeting.

### **WSU Updates**

Tina Payne provided updates as Aaron Davis not available today. Those included:

- Data Day will be held as a pre-conference for the KALHD Mid-Year Meeting on June 23, 2025 in Manhattan, Ks. Full day of hands-on training for LHD's with sessions on using the AOS Library, collecting high quality data, using excel for data analysis and then using visualizations in storytelling. Lunch will also be provided.
- She also shared the agenda for the KALHD Mid-Year Meeting in the chat and offered an update on work with KALHD to line up speakers for this meeting.
- In an update on the new staff orientation, the materials are still under review at KDHE who is working to get the modules onto the KS Train site. More soon on this project.
- Provided a reminder for any LHD's who are doing community health assessments or community health improvement plans who are interested in obtaining support with that process to please reach out to WSU-CHPI soon. The calendar for the next year is filling up and they want to be able to support as many as possible.
- The Local Public Health Leadership Series (LPHLS) is back again this year for both alumni and the cohort series. Some details still being tweaked, but WSU appreciates the opportunity to bring this to LHD's again this year.

### **KAC Updates**

Karla Nichols reminded everyone that April is county government month. And thanked everyone who is participating for their efforts to educate communities about county government. She also reminded everyone that they can sign up for the KAC County Comment newsletter as a helpful resource of information across county government.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the KAC legislative updates have concluded for this session.

### **KDHE Updates**

Cristi Cain, KDHE, provided the following updates.

- The Kan Be Healthy (KBH) training is approaching soon. Washburn University has contracted with KDHE to update the training and manual and then deliver training. Training will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> in Wichita and May 14<sup>th</sup> in Topeka. There is no cost to attend the KBH training, however there will be an optional vision training which will have a cost to attend. In response to a question, it was clarified that it must be an RN to do KBH, they cannot be done by a LPN.
- She then asked attendees for any feedback about the recent Governor's Public Health Conference. Those comments are appreciated and suggestions are helpful for planning future conferences.

### **2025 Legislative Session**

Randy Bowman shared an update on the legislatures veto session held on Thursday and Friday of last week. The legislature has now adjourned until January of 2026 after passing dozens of bills this session. He shared the following updates on bills with specific LHD impact.

- There was a veto, and then a subsequent legislative override, of a portion of the budget bill that is somewhat conflicting. One paragraph would appropriate \$96,000 of new funding to KDHE for TB response, and the next paragraph would provide \$250,000 of new funding for TB and other disease responses. In the Governor's veto message, she asked for clarification, none was provided in the override process and how this will be interpreted and applied will be learned in the future.
- HB2045, which includes the contents of HB2294 to create the Office of Early Childhood and change childcare licensing laws in Kansas, was passed. As this is a priority of the Governor, a veto of this bill is not expected and this presumably will become law.
- House Substitute for Senate Bill 126 which has the long-sought revisions to K.S.A. 65-242 to make the minimum LHD funding \$12,000 was passed. This is a win for this session.
- A few tax bills were passed on the last day, the fiscal impact of which is unclear, but due to the budget already having been passed are not factored into FY2026.
- Along with the new legislative calendar, the April Consensus Revenue updates will happen later this week as usual, but those were not available to the legislature for decision making prior to their adjournment. If those are stable or up there probably isn't any impact. However, if those are down, the legislature is not in session to make the necessary adjustments. He plans to share the results of that process with LHDs in the final legislative update later this week.
- The Governor vetoed senate Bill 29. However, the legislature did override that veto and this bill will become law. This is a loss for public health and a win for proponents after multiple years of efforts to limit how public health responds to public health needs. As a

result of the bill, beginning July 1, no restrictions can be made on public gatherings, all actions in K.S.A. 65-101 through 65-129f are subject to appeal in court, and Sheriffs will no longer help enforce public health orders.

He shared that he would send out one last weekly update for this session later this week. That will include the updated revenue projections once those are published later this week. As well as a summary of each bill that was passed and the item discussed today.

### **Executive Director's Report**

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

- The federal funding cut effective on March 24, 2025 also affected the KALHD budget. The KIP grant ended on that date instead of June 30, 2025 that was expected. This will result in approximately \$10,400 in lost revenue in this budget year, a number that we can manage. However, this source also paid the \$250 registration fee for LHD Administrators to attend the KALHD MYM. Those who registered prior to that date have been invoiced to KDHE for a total invoice of \$7,750, but this is a change in practice and not yet known if KDHE will pay the invoice. For all who register after this date, registration will for sure be self-pay. And if KDHE does not pay the invoice, those who registered before the date will be sent an invoice. After discussing this here today, a message will be sent to all administrators on this change. In discussion, members identified that PHIG funding should be an allowable source to pay this registration fee if have budgeted for educational activities or make a budget adjustment for that purpose.
- This same federal budget cut also affects KDHE's budget for the laboratory courier services. As a result, KDHE will have to either find another existing funding source, or be unable to provide this for the state. Keeping the courier service has been a KALHD priority, so when asked by KDHE about using PHIG funding, he agreed that it would be an understandable choice should KDHE make that decision. As of this meeting, KDHE has not shared any final decision on the courier, but the courier is currently running. In discussion, there are concerns that LHD's will not be able to bear the costs of courier services through local funding and the need to resume advocacy for a sustainable state funding source to ensure all Kansans benefit from the new laboratory in Topeka, Ks.
- Since the report was written, Geary county has confirmed that payment of dues slipped through the cracks locally. Yes, it is their intent to continue membership, which with the one other pending and all others paid, will result in all 100 LHD's continuing membership for 2025.
- There is a lawsuit filed by 23 states against the federal government to restore the funding cut of March 24, 2025. There is another hearing later this week and we will continue to watch this for any changes.
- NACCHO has found a Presidential Executive Order that they are watching and we should as well. Titled Achieving Efficiency Through State and Local Preparedness, it describes a

year long set of steps to reevaluate preparedness, which could have a future impact on PHEP. Something to keep on our long-term radar.

- Will speak at the Kansas County Commissioner Association meeting next week. Will use some material from the new commissioner training in January, add in SB29, measles, PHEP information as well.
- In addition to the changes to MYM registration payment, the hotel has increased food costs for the event by approximately 20%. The MYM planning team has identified a cost control option in which we will not provide a boxed lunch on Day 2. The last formal activity will be the Board meeting that will conclude at 1 p.m.
- Discussing possible opportunities with KAC to utilize their technology platforms to host some KALHD functions. This might be an opportunity for the website, listserv or other functions that could save some expenses while also utilizing KAC staff at no added cost to help support these functions. Will continue to explore the technology and options over the next few months.
- Exploring possible resources for a LHD Administrator Legal training considering the changes of SB29 and in recent years. In a first conversation with the Public Health Law Center at the Mitchell Hamline School of Law, their technical assistance resources might align with our need. However, the future of their funding is also unclear. We have another meeting scheduled in May to explore this possibility.

#### **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 a request to KDHE to include all LHD's in the new weekly measles call KDHE began hosting last week. Randy will contact the Secretary today to make this request.

#### **Adjournment**

Jennifer asked for a motion to adjourn. **The motion by Brie Greeson was seconded by Adrienne Byrne and passed.** The meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.