

Executive Director Report October 14, 2025

Organizational Updates

- In January 2026 I will plan to send electronic invoices for 2026 KALHD and NACCHO dues. This will save printing and postage costs for KALHD and hopefully work for each member. If your LHD needs a paper invoice instead, that can easily be done please just let me know.
- With the completion of the 2025 audit of budget year 2024 SSCCPA completed KALHD's tax filing for that year. I reviewed and returned IRS 990 to them for electronic filing with the IRS.
- PHEP Grant. KDHE continues to keep us updated on their issuance of funding for this current PHEP year (state fiscal year 2026). As of this report, the \$14,000 up front payment for this year is expected but has not been received. In addition, the progress and reimbursement request reports for the July 1 to September 30, 2025, quarter have been submitted requesting \$13,687.35. Hopefully both payments will be received soon.
- After September expenses, current year budget is still on target for positive annual revenue at approximately \$17,000. This is a small increase over last month's projection primarily due to the audit expenses coming in below the budgeted amount. And as all indications are that the full PHEP funding will be received, we are in solid financial condition for the rest of this budget year.
- Notified by the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR) that they will change our tax withholding reporting period beginning January 1, 2026. This will reduce reporting from twice to once per month. The notification has been provided to our payroll provider, and they have acknowledged receipt and confirmed they will implement the necessary changes.
- After having paid annual fees for KALHD business and workers compensation insurance for the next year and completing their annual audit of our operations. They increased our premiums (same coverages) by another \$275.

Project Updates

- Signed final contract with WSU for them to deliver another update to the billing manual by the end of the calendar year.

- KALHD Legislative Committee. This committee has met twice this fall to discuss and develop a draft 2026 Policy Statement for consideration of the full membership at our December annual meeting. Discussion is focused on what are our highest priorities and changes in format to reflect those rather than listing several additional topics.
- The 2026 MYM Planning team has begun discussions around format, location and topics for this event that will be held in June of 2026. We are working to develop a program that continues to offer quality content while also helping to reduce travel costs for attendees and the financial risks for KALHD of guaranteeing revenue to a hotel.
- Participated in a panel discussion at the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) conference in Wichita. Other panel members were KDHE Secretary Janet Stanek and Dr. Georges Benjamin the Executive Director of the American Public Health Association (APHA).
- Continued to attend Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) meetings as they develop their legislative policy statement for 2026.
- After invitation from KDHE, I attended their Public Health Workforce Development Council meeting on September 25, 2025. Participants include multiple representatives of KDHE along with KPHA, KHI, WSU. Review of survey data was the primary agenda item of this meeting to help inform future work of the Council. KDHE has asked if KALHD would Co-Chair this along with a university partner in the future and I have agreed to contribute to that role.
- Posted to KALHD website a few technical revisions to the KALHD HIPPA Privacy Rule Handbook to reflect that consultation with the County Counselor is recommended for all actions related to these laws. And that the document does not reflect new federal laws passed since the original publication in the spring of 2021.
- With help from WSU, a survey was developed and sent to LHD Administrators on October 9th seeking input on the level of priority to attempt to find a funding stream to sustain services that will no longer be supported by the Medicaid contract between KDHE and WSU.
- Meetings continue with KDHE to help plan the County Commissioner Roadshow late this year. KDHE has reinvited stakeholders at KHI, KAC, WSU, KALHD to give input on the content and to contribute to the process.
- The Governor invited KALHD (up to 4 representatives) to be members of the Kansas Rural Health Innovation Alliance (KRHIA) to help inform the State of Kansas' application for the new Federal Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) funding. As one of 14 invited organizations, we can give input to the state (KDADS, KDHE, University of Kansas Medical Center, Governor's Office) agencies who are working to meet a November 5, 2025 application deadline for a portion of the \$50 billion dollars that will be available to states under the RHTP. Additional information on this initiative is available from these sources:

- [Governor Kelly press release](#) – lists members of KRHIA
- [Slides](#) from State of Kansas overview of the RHTP requirements, timeline, etc.
- [KDHE website](#) on RHTP
- [CMS website](#) on RHTP
- Federal [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)
- Authorizing [statutory language](#)
- Slides from [Virtual Convening #1](#) of the KRHIA

Federal Updates

- Considering the shutdown of the Federal Government beginning on October 1, 2025, have worked to try and stay abreast of impacts and changes and to contribute to response of LHDs, NACCHO, KDHE as everyone works to navigate the shutdown.
- Seemingly, an eventual end to the shutdown of the federal government is more likely to happen from a Continuing Resolution (CR) than it is from an agreed upon Federal Budget for FFY2026. Votes during the first 2 weeks of the shutdown were to consider a CR until November 21, 2025, instead of adopting a budget. So, the funding level for programs in FFY2026 is still unclear at best.
- Drafted and distributed to LHD Administrators a template letter for members of the Kansas Congressional Delegation on the importance of sustaining WIC funding.
- Signed onto another joint letter of support on federal topics:
 - To the House Congressional Budget Committee leadership expressing support for Title V Maternal and Child Health program funding in FFY2026. The House currently proposes a cut of \$44 million.
 - NACCHO Alert to Congress on sustaining WIC funding during the government shutdown.

Important Dates to Remember

- Kansas Association of Counties 50th Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita, Ks on December 9-11, 2025. Registration is now open at [this link](#).
- December 11, 2025 Annual membership meeting at the KAC Conference (see above). This is an in-person meeting and will have a virtual option as well.