

Executive Director Report December 1, 2025

Organizational Updates

- As shared previously and a reminder, 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.
- PHEP Grant. As anticipated, full PHEP payments were received in October. This included the annual pre-payment of \$14,000 and reimbursement for first quarter expenses in the amount of \$13,687.35. The next reimbursement request will be submitted in January 2026 and at this time there are no indications that we cannot expect full payments going forward.
- After November expenses and with full PHEP payments received, our current budget year is projected to end with a net gain for the year of approximately \$24,000. Throughout the year we reduced expenditures compared to the budget given the negative outlook on future revenue. And this net gain is attributed to reduced expenditures (copier, travel, and others) and a more positive revenue position than was anticipated a few months ago.

Project Updates

- The Governor invited KALHD to be one of 14 organizations on 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. KALHD was represented by Brie Greeson, Jennifer Cure, Krista Schneider, Cortney Murrow and Randy Bowman. In a fast-paced process with 2 virtual and 1 in person meetings in October, Kansas submitted its proposal on November 5, 2025. Award decisions are expected by December 31, 2025 with work beginning quickly after that award. The KRHIA will continue as an advisory body to the State of Kansas during the period of the award. Information on the process and the submitted proposal is available at [KDHE website](#) and on the federal initiative on the [CMS website](#).
- KALHD Legislative Committee. This committee continued its work in October and November resulting in the draft 2026 Policy Statement for consideration of the full membership at our December annual meeting.
- 2026 MYM. A contract was signed with the City of Derby to utilize The Pavillion at Madison Avenue Central Park as the site for the MYM. Our meeting will be held the afternoon of June 15 and all-day June 16, 2026 with Data Day on June 17, 2026. The planning team is currently focusing on content of the agenda which will be followed by opening registration in the spring.

- Completed and distributed to administrators the newly created List of Statutes and Regulations for LHD use. The excel spreadsheet may be saved locally and is available on the KALHD Google Drive for future access.
- Governance committee met and developed recommendations for the slate of officers for the 2026 KALHD Board. That slate will be voted upon during the December 11, 2026 meeting. Thank you to each of the proposed members for their willingness to serve their peers in this capacity.
- Potential pilot project among WSU, MCOs, KAHLD. Conversations resumed this fall on a concept first discussed last spring in which MCO's might fund a pilot project focusing on increasing MCO engagement with LHDs. This concept would seek to identify any current services that might be billable to Medicaid but are not resulting in reimbursement and activities that could be done, or are already being done, by LHDs that help MCO's meet outcomes (primarily around HEDIS measures) under their contracts with the state. A pilot project that could involve 5-7 LHDs beginning early in CY2026 looks promising at this time. But there are several details yet to be determined.
- Visited the SEK Multi-County Health Department. Thank you Becky for your time and for helping me to learn more about your departments organizational model and history.
- Hosted the quarterly PHEP Advisory Team meeting. As a follow up to previous discussions of the team, which originated based upon a discussion at our 2025 MYM, KDHE described new guidance regarding fit testing machines and the costs of maintaining that equipment. That guidance was shared on the November 19, 2025 KHDE/LHD Monthly Meeting and distributed by the KDHE Preparedness program in an email on November 20, 2025.
- Created and distributed a survey on LHD business hours. Sixty-one LHDs contributed a response and that data shared with all LHD administrators on the listserv.
- Created and distributed a survey on LHD budget reductions in 2025 or projected in 2026. Thirty-five LHD's contributed a response. As a result of that low response rate, the survey in the format of the Excel document on the KALHD Google drive remains active and will periodically ask LHDs to contribute data to help inform future advocacy efforts.
- The *Pulse of Public Health: A Commissioners Guide* formerly known as the County Commissioner Roadshow will begin in January of 2026. Reenvisioned by representatives from KDHE, KAC, WSU, KALHD and LHDs these will be virtual sessions (recorded and hosted on KAC website for continued use), delivered in short sessions (20 to 30 minutes each), over a period of months, to help increase Commissioners knowledge of public health and their role in improving health in their communities. Please watch for additional information in December. And when that is published, thank you for any contribution you can make to encourage participation among your Commissioners.

- Collaborated with KDHE and the HOOK Co-Chairs to update the Local Health Officer (LHO) list on the KALHD listserv to support future efforts to increase communication and information sharing among LHO's across Kansas.
- Accepted an invitation from the Kansas Health Institute (KHI) to an event in which participants were invited to reimagine the healthcare system in our state. This is a new project at KHI based upon the vision of one of its Board members after what he described as conversations with people from across many sectors, none of which are happy with the current system. The event was attended by a wide range of representatives from within, and consumers of, the healthcare system including Jason Tiller (Saline) and Randy Bowman representing public health. This was a first run of a facilitated process that KHI is building, and will hopefully be able to offer in other settings in the future along with future publications on the process and ideas generated.
- KALHD Policy Manual updates. Continued working on this project to combine separate documents into one manual and review all contents for any updates to meet current business needs. Work will continue into 2026 and at some point there may be a need to recommend changes to the Board.

Kansas Legislative Updates

- Attended a meeting hosted by one of the largest lobbyist firms in Topeka at which Senate President Masterson and House Speaker Hawkins shared thoughts and remarks for clients of this firm about the upcoming legislative session. Topics they commented upon included:
 - Expect a focus on reduction in property taxes, however in what form that may take is not yet clear.
 - The 2025 legislature reduced the overall budget by \$200 million and another reduction should be expected in 2026. These leaders described this as the beginning of what they hope will be a long-term trend. As Kansas does not have a revenue problem, but has a spending problem in their view.
 - Working and passing legislation that helps members of the House in the upcoming elections to retain their seat and sustain the Republican supermajority will be a priority.
 - Like last year, the Legislature will introduce its own budget bill and work that bill instead of the Governor's Budget Recommendations. Different from last year, work on that budget will begin in both chambers (last year it started in House then went to the Senate late in the session) from day one.
 - They plan an efficient session that will not exceed 90 days and could end sooner. Meeting what they describe as a constitutional mandate that the legislature has not followed for some time.
- The legislature will convene in Topeka beginning on Monday, January 12, 2026 and is scheduled to complete their work on or before April 11, 2026. This is the second year of the

biennium so bills that were introduced last year could be advanced this year, and there will likely be hundreds of new bills introduced this session.

- The 2025 Special Committee on the State Budget met on November 4th and again on the 24th and 25th for discussions that will inform the content of the future legislative budget bill. From those hearings.
- November Consensus Revenue Estimates (CRE). In November and April of each fiscal year, the Division of the Budget (DOB) and Kansas Legislative Research Department (KLRD) publish the official revenue estimates upon which the Kansas Legislature must base its appropriations decisions. The short memo, with more details to be released later, was published on November 13, 2025 and revised upwards the previous estimate for FY2026 by \$165.9 million (1.6%) and made an initial estimate for FY2027 which is \$93.9 (0.9%) above the newly revised FY2026 figure. This is a positive sign that economists see stability in future revenue sources during this timeframe.
- The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) expressed to KALHD their interest in having a more of a presence at the Kansas Capitol building during the 2026 legislative session. We explored a range of ideas, and landed on them attending County Government Day (March 3, 2026) with KALHD. Details will be finalized in January or February, but this collaboration is an opportunity to try to increase legislative awareness and bring more resources to the event we can on our own.

Federal Updates

- End of Federal Government Shutdown. In an agreement reached between Congress and the President, a Continuing Resolution (CR) was signed into law on November 12, 2025 resulting in the reopening of the federal government. Key take aways include:
 - This CR extends to January 30, 2026 and unless a budget or another CR is agreed upon by that date, another shutdown would commence.
 - Safe from another possible shutdown are some federal programs including WIC and SNAP that received a full annual appropriation for federal fiscal year 2026.
 - WIC has been funded at \$8.2 billion, which appears to be a small increase over the prior year to account for food inflation.
- Received an invitation from Senator Marshall for a meeting on MAHA strategies released by President Trump in September. The information from his staff gave no indication as to who else was invited, which turned out to be many of the same organizations on Governor Kelly's Kansas Rural Health Innovation Alliance (KRHIA). The Senator asked each of the dozen or so participants to provide brief remarks (1-2 minute) about how this strategy aligns with work of their organizations, he then shared his thoughts with us for the remainder of the meeting. It was an interesting meeting format and in many ways a pitch for the President's plan which he supports. But this was a first opportunity to engage directly with him and his staff after sending a handful of letters in recent months which resulted in only automatically generated responses.

Important Dates to Remember

- January 12, 2026 the Kansas Legislative session begins
- January 20, 2026 KALHD Board Meeting (virtual)
- February 17, 2026 KALHD Board Meeting (virtual)
- March 30 -April 1, 2026 the Governors Public Health Conference (GPHC) at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita, Ks
- April 1, 2026 KALHD Board Meeting, held at the GPHC in Wichita and with a virtual option
- June 15-16, 2026, the 2026 Mid-Year Meeting will be held at The Pavillion at Madison Avenue Central Park located in Derby, Ks. and Data Day on June 17, 2026