

**KALHD Board Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2025**

Board Members

Brie Greeson, Past President
Krista Schneider, President-Elect
Shalei Shea, Secretary-Treasurer
Angela 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
Karla Nichols, District 5 Alternate
Lisa Scott, District 6 Representative
Charlie Hunt, At-Large #1
Adrienne Byrne, At-Large #2

Attendees

Beverly Wendel	Ray Finley	Lori Eichman
Monica Reuber	Jennifer Hurst	Dennille Schweitzer
Amanda Dreasher	Karen Winkelman	Teresa Fisher
Candice Sauers	Kendra Glassman	Cristi Cain
Christina Beer	Laura Hageman	Tia Mattheyer
Diane Creek	Meckenzie Kelly	Renee Hively
Dana Rickley	Melissa Miller	Tracy Axtell
Chantel Wilborn	Misty Trudeau	Jonathan Smith
Jamie Johnson	Monica Scudder	Ty Kane

Staff

Randy Bowman, Executive Director

Call to Order

Brie Greeson, Past-President, called the meeting to order at 10:01 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

Brie Greeson referenced the agenda and called for its approval for today. **Karla Nichols moved to approve the agenda which was seconded by Denise James. The motion was approved.**

Approval of Minutes

Brie Greeson asked if any comments or questions on the minutes from the September meeting. **Leslie Campbell motioned to approve the minutes which was seconded by Denise James. The motion was approved.**

Monthly Financial Report

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

In September, KALHD realized a net financial loss of \$12,194.53 with \$2,424.78 in total income and \$14,619.31 in total expenses. The ending bank balance was \$431,131.61.

Krista Schneider moved to approve the report and place it on file. Faye Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Discussion: New Federal Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

Randy Bowman began this discussion by framing the legislative origins of the RHTP, the timeline for plans, the haste of the process caused by the legislatively defined timeline, and the process the State of Kansas has implemented to develop and submit a plan. KALHD is among fourteen organizations who were invited to take part in the Kansas Rural Health Innovation Alliance (KRHIA) to help inform the development of a state plan. He described the meetings and process that Jennifer Cure, Brie Greeson, Krista Schneider and Cortney Murrow along with himself have been involved in this month.

He further described the strategic goals in the federal notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and allowable uses of funding, potential amount of funding and the perceptions that this would directly benefit hospitals which is less the case than some expected. During the discussion, Cortney, Brie and Krista shared thoughts from their experiences in the recent meetings and helped address questions from members.

He also share that at the last KHRIA meeting yesterday, a comment was made that the state plans to call upon KHRIA members during implementation. However, no details are known and as Kansas' plan is submitted and hopefully approved, information will be shared in this forum as it becomes available.

Here are some resources for additional information.

[Rural Health Transformation \(RHT\) Program | CMS](#)

[Rural Health Transformation Program | KDHE, KS](#)

Discussion: KDHE Regionalization Vision

Randy Bowman summarized a panel discussion that occurred at the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) conference in September. During which Secretary Stanek responded to a question from the moderator about changes she would like to see in the future and by expressing her vision of a more regionalized system for public health services. He shared that in constructing the agenda for today, it was important to create a space to talk as an organization about that vision but no decision or response is expected.

He also reflected upon our history in which services have been shared by LHD's among counties for many years, that NEK and SEK have been structured as groups of counties for decades, that other public services by counties are sometimes done regionally. So, it is a topic that is not unfamiliar, that others such as KHI and PHAB have studied, and that hopefully we could at least be open to discussing if it might improve service to our citizens. Charlie Hunt also shared his knowledge of work done by KHI with funding support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) about 10 years ago on this topic.

Cristi Cain contributed that KDHE has an internal meeting on this topic this afternoon. As she represents health departments today's discussion is a good opportunity to listen and hear member ideas. She shared that her team is considering a pre-conference session at the 2026 Governor's Public Health Conference where this could be a topic and asked for any thoughts. Suggestions were offered that the planning of the session would be key to be sure it is structured to learn about regionalization and to effectively facilitate discussion.

From the discussion several important themes were identified, including: the need for clarification on what is envisioned different than shared or regional services that exist today, that any additional or new regionalization would be a process and it should not be undertaken quickly, to be successful important to build relationships and gain support from affected stakeholders, the potential benefits of locally defined regions, the existence of planning tools that could be used in any process, local capacity to facilitate such strategic conversations are limited, the importance of health departments contributing to any future planning discussions, potential benefits of state funded incentives, and the need for outside support.

KDHE Updates

Cristi Cain, KDHE, provided the following updates.

- Please mark your calendars for March 30 through April 1, 2026 for the Governor's Public Health Conference.
 - Planning for sessions are underway and she is very excited that one Keynote Speaker is confirmed in Dr. Jerome Adams a former U.S. Surgeon General and author.
 - Registration will open in January of 2026.

- Good changes are coming to KGMS in November of 2026. This will include simplified work flows, hyperlinked work cues, clear display of due dates, automatic BMR unlocking, etc.
 - Go live will be November 17, 2026.
 - Training will be offered throughout that week. Along with video tutorials hosted on KSTRAIN.
- The last regional meeting for this calendar year in Beloit. Derik Flerlage and Jason Jones have been conducting their listening tour at each meeting and have heard many concerns about WIC that have been brought back for KDHE discussions. Other topics have included presentations by Ed O'Malley of the Kansas Health Foundation and the KDHE home visiting program staff.

WSU Updates

Ty Kane provided the following updates.

- He thanked members for their contributions and continued support of the current cohort of LHD participants in the Local Public Health Leadership series. He shared that it sounds like WSU will be able to continue to offer this opportunity for emerging public health leaders from across the state.
 - A comment was offered that it is more difficult for smaller health departments to send staff in the fall and a spring session is preferable.
- The KALHD Informatics Subcommittee is another area of work WSU has supported that was uncertain due to contract changes with the state. And he reported that WSU will be able to continue this work if there is sufficient interest from local health departments in participating in this effort. The group is working to update their purpose and deliverables with updates by WSU planned for the KALHD Annual Meeting in December.

KAC Updates

Karla Nichols provided an reminder that the annual Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) conference is coming up on December 9-11, 2025. The KALHD Annual Meeting will be held at that event on the 11th. It is a beneficial opportunity to be more well rounded and connected to work across county government.

Executive Director's Report

Randy highlighted some of the items in the written report that are included with the Board materials and provided updates on topics that have happened in the days since it was written.

- He shared that planning to send dues invoices electronically this year using QuickBooks online. Saves a little cost and hopefully a little more efficient. And he asked if that is problematic for anyone, please just let him know as he can do a paper invoice where necessary. A comment was shared that it would be helpful to let administrators know

when those have been sent in case the invoice were blocked by spam filters. Randy will plan to notify by separate email when those have been sent.

- PHEP payment for the first quarter has finally been received as of late last week. And it was the full amount which places KALHD on solid financial ground for the rest of the budget year. And looking forward toward a budget for next year.
- The KALHD Legislative Committee has been meeting to develop a 2026 Policy Statement to present to membership at our upcoming annual meeting. Discussion has focused on identifying and including our highest priorities this year, which will be a departure from past years where several topics are listed. In addition, he shared that a survey has been developed and will be distributed soon to gather financial information on the reduction in budgetary authority of health departments. If response rates are adequate, that data could help inform a legislative ask for funding in the Policy Statement.
- Planning for the 2026 MYM is also underway and a preferred site has been identified in the Wichita area. He will visit the site next week before signing a final contract. Members can expect more information in early November on location and dates.
- Not in the report, he shared that a next step is to convene the Governance Committee to develop a slate of officers for membership consideration at the annual meeting. Anyone who is willing to continue on the Board or who may have nominations to fill any vacancies if they would please let him know that is helpful.

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

No items identified for follow up.

Having been compiled after the Executive Director report was published. The results of the member survey on WSU Supports for LHDs were shared in this discussion and a copy is included with the distribution of the minutes. Thank you to those who contributed a response to the survey.

Adjournment

Brie asked for a motion to adjourn. **The motion by Charlie Hunt was seconded by Adrienne Byrne and passed.** The meeting adjourned at 11:49 p.m.