

Executive Director Report January 13, 2026

Organizational Updates

- Emails with electronic invoices for 2026 KALHD and NACCHO dues were sent to Administrators on January 5, 2026. If you have not seen that email, please let me know and will send again or by U.S. Mail. Thank you to everyone for your payment by March 31, 2026.
 - SEK-Multi County and Lawrence Douglas County were the first to pay their dues which were received on January 12th.
- PHEP Grant. Progress report and reimbursement request for the 2nd quarter of SFY2026 for \$13,799.11 submitted to KDHE. Payment is pending.
- Revised KALHD budget for calendar year 2026 based on Board action at our December meeting. Thank you to the Board for the generosity!
- At the KAC Conference, explored the possibility of KCAMP/KWORC as an insurer for KALHD for business and workers compensation insurance. After some research on their end, they concluded that could cover KALHD given our relationship to county government through member LHDs and KAC affiliation, however their minimum policy amount for just the workers compensation components is \$1,150 and we paid \$450 last year. Will not pursue this further.
- The engagement letter for tax and audit services has been signed by the Executive Director and Board President with SSCCPAs for this year was signed in January. Work is currently expected to begin in May 2026.

Project Updates

- As a new project, the Kansas Health Institute (KHI), with planning contributions from KALHD, have received funding from NACCHO to develop community engagement course for local health department staff. This course will develop staff skills needed to engage community members and center community voice in public health improvement and planning. We are currently working to recruit up to 10 LHD volunteers who will join KHI as a contributor to the course which will be hosted on KHI's new online learning platform and designed to be self-paced and publicly available for any staff member at a local health department. Volunteer LHD's and KALHD will contribute to four one-hour meetings between February 2026-May 2026 to provide input on the course curriculum and design.

- Thank you to our Billers and the team at Wichita State University who completed the planned 2025 update to the Local Health Department Clinical Services Coding Guide! That document has been posted to the KALHD [website](#) and shared on the administrator and billers listserv groups. Payment in the amount of \$5,000 for WSU's services made in December.
- As anticipated, the Governor and KDHE scheduled a meeting of the Kansas Rural Health Innovation Alliance (KRHIA) for January 13, 2026 at which the 14 member organizations are invited to help inform the State of Kansas' implementation of new Federal Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) funding. KALHD will continue to serve on this body and updates will be provided to our members as appropriate.
- The Kansas Health Institute (KHI) has organized a group of stakeholders to contribute to the design of an application for funding for The Workplace Innovation Now (WIN) AI Challenge. WIN seeks bold, scalable solutions to address the impact and potential of AI in quickly evolving workplaces, from AI-powered solutions that help support women at work, to AI skill-building and solutions that mitigate bias in AI. KHI's vision is to empower women working in healthcare and public health in Kansas by providing a tailored, holistic AI support model that builds sustainable and scalable capacity. Contributing to this application are the Kansas Hospital Association (KHA), Kansas Leadership Center (KLC), The Center for Practical Bioethics (CPB) and KALHD. If funding is awarded in the fall of 2026, each organization will contribute to the project and be compensated for its efforts.
- Thanks to Immunize Kansas Coalition and the Kansas Pharmacists Association each LHD will be able to receive one English and Spanish copy of *Jesse Vaccinates* for local use in educating parents and children. Lisa Horn at KDHE will bring these to the Regional Meetings being held in January and February of 2026 if you or your designee could please plan to pick up your copies.
- KHDE announced the membership and schedule for the WIC Funding Formula Workgroup. The initial meeting was held on January 12, 2026 and members include:

Cortney Murrow (Mitchell)
 Jason Tiller (Saline)
 Allyson Henley (Cowley)
 Alyson Dalrymple (KDHE)
 Ashley Lause (Wyandotte)
 Cassandra Florea (KDHE)
 Danica Lam (KDHE)
 Denise James (Grant)
 Dennille Schweitzer (Ness)
 Junna Hutchinson (KDHE)
 Kaylyn Speth (Riley)

Kelly Vickers (KDHE)
 Laura Drake (Johnson)
 Leslie Pfannenstiel (Norton)
 Linda Speirs (KDHE)
 Meckenzie Kelly (Miami)
 Missy Middendorf (Shawnee)
 Taylor Stout (KDHE)
 Tracy Sabo (Konza Prairie Community Health Center)
 Tristen Stuart-Grant (Harvey)

This group will continue to work through the end of March of 2026.

- KDHEs de-obligation of PHIG funding at 15 local health departments. Thanks to our combined advocacy efforts, after these LHD's were initially notified on November 21st that KDHE intended to end PHIG funding in these communities that action has been reversed (N=10) all or in part, or progress (n=4) is still being made to a possible reversal, for 14 of the 15 health departments.
- Accepted an invitation from NACCHO to attend the 2026 Leadership SACCHO Council Meeting and Hill Day in Washington, D.C. on February 23-25th. Early indication is that 45 States have accepted the invitation which they indicated would be a record for this event. NACCHO will pay the costs for the hotel, up to \$400 in travel expenses, and provide some meals. KALHD will cover the remaining travel costs (local transportation, mileage and airport parking, remaining meals, etc.).

Kansas Legislative Updates

- The legislature convened in Topeka beginning on Monday, January 12, 2026 and has scheduled the Veto Session (their last activity) to begin on April 9th which probably means they will conclude the session on 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.
- Laboratory Courier Services. Obtained an update from KDHE on their current plans for continuing and restoring these services. They did not request funding in their budget but shared with KALHD that within existing resources they project being able to sustain the current level of services for 44 counties to at least June of 2027. KALHD will plan to share this with legislators during the session along with a recommendation that money be provided to restore services to all counties.
- Legislative Budget. Various interim and standing legislative committees continued to meet in December and the week before the session to finalize the budget bill that will be introduced this week in both the House and Senate. The State Budget Committee's recommendation, which will be the starting point for a budget that will ultimately be determined by the House Appropriations and Senate Ways & Means committees, would provide total funding of \$10.628 billion for SFY2026 and \$10.394 billion for SFY2027. Both of which slightly exceed revenue estimates of \$10.226 and \$10.132 billion respectively. A lot will be discussed between now and early April, but this beginning deficit and the goal held by many legislators to reduce government spending are likely to dominate the decision-making process.

Federal Updates

- The Federal Government continues to work under a Continuing Resolution (CR) that was signed into law on November 12, 2025. The CR provided budget authorization for federal agencies to January 30, 2026 and unless a budget or another CR is agreed upon by that date, another shutdown would commence. Updates this past week from NACCHO and other

sources seemed positive that Congress and the President are making some progress towards a budget solution that could avoid such a shutdown.

- A previously scheduled meeting with William Jeff Kahrs, Regional Director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in Region VII, and KALHD has been rescheduled multiple times the latest being on January 16th. An update on that conversation will be provided at another time.

Important Dates to Remember

- 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