

**KALHD Mid-Year Meeting
Business Meeting
December 11, 2025**

Board Members

Jennifer Cure, President
Shalei Shea, Secretary-Treasurer
Krista Schneider – President Elect
Brie Greeson, Past President
Angie Kahle, District 1 Representative
Monica Reuber, District 1 Alternate
Cortney Murrow, District 2 Representative
Faye Jones, District 2 Alternate
Denise James, District 4 Alternate
Lynnette Redington, District 5 Representative
Karla Nichols, District 5 Alt/KAC
Charlie Hunt, At-Large #1
Adrienne Byrne, At-Large #2

Attendees

Candice Sauers	Renee Hively	Karen Winkleman
Jason Tiller	Kendra Glassman	Monica Scudder
Amanda Snyder	Jaime Downs	Jaime Johnson
Melissa Miller	Brenda Orr	Misty Trudeau
Teresa Fisher	Deanna Lamb	Broderick Bean
Katie Wright	Dawn Jones	Cristi Cain
Jennifer Hurst	Tonya Medina	Sonja Armbruster
Beverly Wendel	Wanda Agnew	

Staff

Randy Bowman, Executive Director

Call to Order

Jennifer Cure, President, called the virtual meeting to order at 9:34 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 asked for a motion to approve today's agenda. **Karla Nichols moved to approve the agenda which was seconded by Brie Greeson. The motion was approved.**

Approval of Minutes

Jennifer referenced the October 2025 minutes provided with the meeting materials and asked for a motion to approve them. **Monica Reuber motioned to approve the minutes, and Faye Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

Monthly Financial Report

Shalei Shea, Secretary/Treasurer, presented the financial reports for October and November of 2025.

For October, KALHD realized a net financial gain of \$16,151.16 with \$29,122.34 in total income and \$12,971.18 in total expenses. The ending bank balance was \$445,866.38.

Brie Greeson motioned to approve the report for October and place it on file. Karla Nichols seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

For November, KALHD realized a net financial loss of \$10,904.30 with \$1,352.80 in total income and \$12,257.10 in total expenses. The ending bank balance was \$434,647.89.

Lynnette Redington motioned to approve the report for November and place it on file. Brie Greeson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

2026 KALHD Budget Approval

Randy Bowman presented a draft 2026 budget for KALHD. He provided an overview of income amounts and sources projected for the 2026 budget year. And then highlighted examples of expenditures that are different from the prior year. Including payments that are made on multi-year cycles for items like the KANFOCUS legislative tracking software and website services in addition to insurance, tax, and audit where expect increased cost. He also shared that have approached both K-WORKS and K-CAMP at the KAC Business Expo yesterday to inquire about the possibility of buying insurance through those entities. Based upon our governance structure and relationship with county health departments, this is a possibility, but it will require them to do research to figure out if KALHD might be eligible.

Overall, the 2026 draft budget presented is less income and expenditure than recent years, mostly due to changes we have experienced throughout 2025. Net income for 2026 is projected at \$16,673, which is below the \$38,000 we projected this time last year.

In response to a question, Randy confirmed that deliverables under the PHEP contract are unchanged from the prior year. And we are in the second year of an up-to-5-year contract, so it is always possible that KDHE could propose a change next summer with the annual renewal of that contract.

Jennifer Cure then asked for a motion to approve the 2026 Budget. Krista Schneider made that motion which was seconded by Adrienne Byrne. During discussion on the motion, an executive session was proposed to discuss the budget, and the original motion was withdrawn. **In a new**

motion, Charlie Hunt moved and Lynnette Redington seconded the motion for the Board go into Executive Session for 5 minutes. The motion was approved by the Board.

Randy then asked those who are online and are not Board members to please sign off and plan to sign back on at 10:02. Then he and those in the room who are not Board members exited so that the Board could meet in Executive Session.

The Board resumed their regular meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Charlie Hunt motioned to increase the Executive Directors salary in the 2026 budget by 4%. Faye Jones seconded the motion which was approved. To reflect this amendment to the draft budget discussed today, Randy will update the budget and present it to the Board for final approval at the January meeting.

In discussion after this motion, Jennifer also updated the membership that the annual evaluation has been completed for Randy with no discrepancies and very positive feedback from the Board.

Approval of the 2026 KALHD Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Randy presented a draft schedule for calendar year 2026 meetings based upon the same schedule as this year. This includes virtual meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, except in August and November, in addition to in-person meetings (with a virtual option) at the Governor's Public Health Conference, the Mid-Year Meeting in June and the Annual Meeting at the KAC conference in December.

Jennifer asked for a motion to adopt the 2026 meeting schedule. **Brie Greeson moved to adopt the schedule and Krista Schneider seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

KALHD 2026 Board of Directors Election

Randy presented the 2026 Recommended Slate of Officers/Board members proposed by the KALHD Governance Committee for consideration of the membership today. This slate reflects individuals nominated to fill expiring terms and to fill the district #3 Alternate position that was recently vacated due to organizational changes at the Jefferson County Health Department. He also reminded members that our by-laws specify that we can consider volunteers or nominations from our membership for any position or vote on the slate as presented. No changes to the slate were presented.

Jennifer asked for a motion to approve the slate as presented. Jason Tiller made that motion which was seconded by Adrienne Byrne. The motion was passed by the KALHD members who were present.

KALHD 2026 Legislative Agenda

Randy presented the draft KALHD 2026 Policy Statement which was developed by the KALHD Legislative Committee for consideration and action by the membership today. He described the change in approach of this policy statement compared to the previous year. The Governance

Committee proposes that our policy statement continue to include the broad all-encompassing language supporting public health that appears on the top of page 1, and then a focus on our highest priorities with the rest of the policy statement. This is not intended to suggest the longer list from prior years are any less important, they are included in the broad language. And this proposed change in format will help elected officials to see our highest priorities.

In discussion, Charlie Hunt offered added language for the policy statement. "The Kansas Association of Local Health Departments supports evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies to promote and protect public health and the environment." A consensus was reached to add that language at the end of the top section of the document and with the change of content that provides sufficient space on the page, to publish this on KALHD letterhead.

After the discussion, Jennifer asked for a motion to adopt the policy statement as amended. **Brie Greeson made that motion which was seconded by Adrienne Byrne. The motion was approved by the members who were present.**

KDHE Updates

Cristi Cain, KDHE, provided the following updates.

2026 Governors Public Health Conference

This event is scheduled for March 30, 2026 as the pre-conference with the general session on March 31st and April 1st.

Keynote Speakers include former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome Adams as well as a panel who will talk about lessons learned from the July 4, 2025 flood that happened in Texas. The pre-conference will include a morning session on MCH/Family Planning (attendance is not required is her understanding) and in the afternoon a session on regionalization and shared services.

New this year will be the availability of scholarships for local health departments. The details are still being developed, but KDHE's vision is to use PHIG funding to pay the cost for one registration per LHD. This is in addition to the continuation of scholarships for students enrolled in university public health programs. In response to a question, Cristi indicated that KDHE will reach out to Washburn Universities new public health program to include them in this opportunity.

This event will be held in Wichita at the Hyatt Regency hotel (same hotel as our meeting today).

Release of Updates to KGMS

Last week KDHE released an update to KGMS and that she understand are a couple of glitches that are being worked out, but overall, this is going well. The update includes a new user guide, new features, and has been supported with training that was recorded for those who could not attend. If anyone needs help with these changes please contact Keith Jex or Aubrey Richardson.

In discussion, questions were asked about functionality that may have changed related to printing BMR and FSR, signature pages, users being able to see documents for other counties, changes to

who is listed as administrators, and the inability to submit progress reports. Members reported helpful and quick responses from Keith and Aubrey about KGMS. While others reported difficulty getting responses from PHIG staff.

Aid to Local Applications

The applications for next year's funding will open on January 15, 2026 and close on March 16, 2026.

Regional Meetings

The next round of regional meetings for first quarter of 2026 have been set. The state veterinarian will be speaking about animal bites and other zoonotic topics. In addition, the Bureau of Epidemiology will share information on enhancing disease investigator training with digital tools and AI.

Commissioner Roadshow

This has been retitled to the *Pulse of Public Health: A Commissioners Guide*. KDHE, representatives of local health departments, KALHLD, and KAC been working to develop a virtual option instead of the earlier plan of 12 in person sessions across the state. She described the format of short 20-minute virtual sessions, each on a specific topic, which would be recorded for later use, and that if participation is good these could be offered over multiple months based upon the list of potential topics that have been identified. In discussion, suggestions were made to help encourage Commissioner participation, messaging to make them aware of the opportunity, and how the recordings might be used locally. A target begin date of January 16, 2026 was shared with the Board, and based on the discussion today KDHE will explore a later start date as nothing has been announced publicly for Commissioners to know if this will be available.

KDHE Reorganization

Cristi shared that beginning January 1, 2026, the Local Public Health Program team, WIC and Immunizations will be reorganized into a new Bureau of Public Health Services. She is unable to share more details currently, and said that more information is expected to be shared by KDHE Leadership before the effective date of this restructuring.

She then asked if there were other questions. It was asked if KDHE could provide an agenda in advance of the Monthly LHD Update meetings and in the discussion there was a consensus that it would be helpful if KDHE were to provide an agenda in advance of those meetings.

KAC Updates

Karla Nichols welcomed everyone to this Annual Meeting and the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) 50th Anniversary Convention. She highlighted in her remarks the sessions from the last 2 days, the importance of LHDs within each county, and thanked everyone for their efforts.

WSU Updates

Sonja Armbruster provided the following updates as Aaron Davis could not attend today.

2026 Billing Symposium

A save the date has been sent out for this event which will be held on April 28-29, 2026. It will be held at the WSU Eugene M., Hughes Metropolitan Complex in Wichita and registration is \$75.00.

Kansas Urban Native Health Summit

This is a new initiative at WSU to bring together tribal leaders, community members, Native and non-Native organizations and stakeholders, to focus on supporting Native community members living in Kansas. This will be held at the WSU Eugene M., Hughes Metropolitan Complex here in Wichita on April 30, 2026.

MCO Community Innovations

In another new initiative a pilot project between the three MCOs and five LHDs focusing on improving health outcomes is expected to begin in January of 2026. She and Randy described that the goals are to identify performance measures for MCOs (focusing primarily on HEDIS measures) under their Medicaid contracts with the State of Kansas and identify where LHDs might be able to help improve those measures either through submitting data and billing for services they might already be providing to Medicaid beneficiaries, or add new services. Which could then help LHDs through increased revenue.

Informatics Subcommittee

After a period of changes in Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) staff within KDHE, a refresh of this subcommittees planned activities for 2026. The subcommittee is meeting next week to decide the next steps and activities which will include a more broad engagement with all local health departments on DMI efforts and capacity to build trainings. So be on the lookout in January for a schedule of opportunities to engage.

Foundations of Public Health Program

In the first year this was a 12-month training program and last year it was revised to an eight-month program. A source of funding has been found and will hopefully be finalized soon which would allow WSU to launch this again as an eight-month program providing over 70 hours of training from more than 30 subject matter experts. Hopefully, a contract will be completed soon, which will be followed by the opening of registration.

Local Public Health Leadership Series

Registration is currently open for the spring session and will close January 8, 2026. The training will be held at the Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute (245 North Waco., Suite 300, Wichita, KS 67202). Participants will have to attend all sessions which will be on February 10-12, 2026 (3 Days), March 3-4, 2026 and April 14-15, 2026. The cost for registration is \$275.00.

Report from the Executive Director

Randy reported out highlights from the written report that is included with the Board materials.

- He reminded members that the plan is to invoice LHDs for their 2026 KALHD and NACCHO dues electronically instead of sending invoices through the U.S. Postal Service. If anyone needs a paper invoice that can easily be done, please just let him know. He will also send an email on the listserv after these are sent so Administrators can watch for the emailed invoice and reduce the chances it is lost to a spam filter or blocked by a firewall. He is targeting the first full week of January to get these sent out.
- Since our last discussion, the State of Kansas submitted its application for the new Federal Funding under the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) program based upon input from the Kansas Rural Health Innovation Alliance (KRHIA). Members of the KALHD Executive Committee participated in these meetings along with Randy in October. At this time, it is expected that there will be an announcement about an award of funding to Kansas on or before December 31, 2025. He shared that this does not benefit the largest counties in Kansas, but for most of our communities this will be important to continue to monitor and engage as work begins in 2026.
- A contract was signed for space to host our 2026 Mid-Year Meeting and a save-the-date email has been sent to Administrators. A list of potential topics and presenters have been identified and over the next few weeks he will be reaching out to those individuals to hopefully finalize our agenda. This year we will place an emphasis on speakers who are LHD Administrators in Kansas so that we can learn from each other, while also mixing in speakers from other organizations.
- The list of Kansas Statutes previewed in draft back at our September meeting has been finalized and sent to Administrators via email. The document is also saved to the KALHD Google Drive for use at anytime it could be helpful. He also described recent scenario in which an obscure statute was found and added to this document.
- The Kansas Legislature will convene in Topeka on January 12, 2026. He summarized some of the goals for this session that he heard from the Senate President and the House Speaker at a meeting he recently attended. It is anticipated that reducing property taxes, cutting the 2027 budget from the current 2026 approved level of expenditure, passing legislation to help individual legislators get reelected, and meeting the constitutional requirement for a 90-day session were priorities they shared at the meeting. In that meeting those Legislative Leaders also described how they will develop a budget this year, which will be like last year in which they build their own budget. The Governor's Budget Recommendation will not be the foundation of their budget discussions.
- The Consensus Revenue Estimates were published in November by the Kansas Legislative Research Division (KLRD). Those projections and collections in November and December were on target, indicating that any reductions in future approved budgets will be a policy choice rather than necessitated due to projected economic conditions.

- From other discussions since the end of the 2025 session, we might expect bills on any of these topics to come forward this year. Vaccine mandates, fluoride in water, purchase of food/pop/candy by SNAP beneficiaries, using public dollars (state, county, city) to serve persons who are not U.S. Citizens, and housing. There will be others and he shared that his plan is to distribute a weekly update on Fridays again this year to help keep everyone aware of what is happening at the Capitol.
- Discussed with leaders at the Kansas Public Health Association their interest in sponsoring a “public health day” at the Capitol during the 2026 session. That felt to ambitious in November to organize this year. But he worked with KAC who will help by providing an additional table to KALHD at County Government Day that will allow us to invite KPHA to participate.
- He highlighted that in the reopening of the Federal Government in November, some programs were funding for the entire federal fiscal year, including WIC and SNAP. However, most of the budget is only approved through January 30, 2026, which will require a future budget approval and in absence of that, could result in another government shutdown.
- He concluded this report by sharing that 15 LHDs were notified by KDHE on Friday, November 21st that KDHE had “de-obligated” unspent PHIG funding previously awarded to those counties. This notice was sent at the end of the day, provided insufficient explanation for this decision, and no opportunity to appeal. Based on the advocacy efforts of those LHDs and KALHD, we were able to secure a commitment from KDHE to meet with those LHDs and allow them to submit revised/additional information by December 8, 2025. As of this meeting, it is unclear whether that will result in restoration of funding to those LHDs or not, but a response is anticipated in the next couple of weeks.

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.

Adjournment

Jennifer adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.