

## Executive Director Report February 10, 2026

### Organizational Updates

- Payments have been received from 69 LHDs for 2026 KALHD dues and 45 of those also paid dues for NACCHO membership.
- Scheduled to attend NACCHO national meeting for State Associations of City and County Health Officials (SACCHO) Leadership Week and Hill Day February 23-25, 2026 in Washington D.C. These occur the same week as the National Association of Counties (NACo) annual Legislative Conference focused on federal policy issues that matter most to county governments.
- A handful of counties changed their email domain for county employees to a .gov address in January. If your county is making this change as well, please let me know otherwise you will be unable to receive messages from the KALHD listserv. After a few undelivered messages the software removes the subscriber and is best if we proactively make the .gov change when necessary.
- Secretary of State Lobbyist Report submitted for the month.

### Project Updates

- Thank you to Lynnette Redington (Harvy), Megan Gottschalk (Reno), Candace Sauers (Saline), and Candace Davidson (Reno) for volunteering to work with the Kansas Health Institute (KHI), on the development of a community engagement course for local health department staff. They will meet between February-May 2026 to provide input on the course curriculum and design and the course should be available in the summer of 2026.
- The Workplace Innovation Now (WIN) AI Challenge grant was finalized by the contributing partners and submitted by the Kansas Health Institute (KHI). Award decisions are anticipated in the fall of 2026. As a contributing partner KALHD has entered into a MOU with KHI that could generate approximately \$6,000 of additional annual revenue for a period of 3 years for hours spent contributing to this project.

- PHEP contract deliverables. Attended the BP2 Health Care Coalition Steering Committee meeting. And hosted the 3rd quarter SFY2026 PHEP Advisory Team meeting.
- Met with Vickie Collie-Akers at the University of Kansas Medical Center about one specific project that KUMC submitted in the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) which was approved in the plan KDHE submitted to the federal government. This Rural Primary Care-Public Health Integration Program project would support assessment and planning and data infrastructure in communities who are interested in establishing rural hubs for delivery of services by clinics and LHDs. KUMC is currently doing outreach to bring partners to the table to design this process that was included as a concept in the RHTP grant, KALHD will participate in this process.
- Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). As of this report, KDHE has not held another meeting of the Kansas Rural Health Innovation Alliance (KRHIA) or provided any updates on next steps towards implementation of this plan. They no doubt submitted the required budget documents to the federal government at the end of January and have been providing testimony on the RHTP to multiple legislative committees.
- Met with Alyson Dalrymple, Director Bureau of Public Health Services and Derik Flerlage, Senior Deputy Division Director for Public Health, to discuss continued concerns of membership and the Board about communication and funding process for the WIC program and the structure of this new Bureau. Those leaders have graciously asked to talk with the Board and have been included on the agenda for our February 17, 2026 meeting.
- Continuing planning for the KALHD MYM by working to finalize speakers and sessions in advance of registration opening end of February or early March as the target.

## **Kansas Legislative Updates**

- Participated in Local Government Day activities at this event hosted by the League of Municipalities and Kansas Association of Counties.
- The Kansas Legislature will be at day 37 the day of our February board meeting. Agency budget hearings were finished in both chambers by early February, well ahead of previous years schedules. Policy committees continue holding hearings on bills as they work towards the next deadlines on their schedule.
  - February 19 Turnaround Day: last day for non-exempt bills in chamber of origin
  - March 20 Last day for non-exempt bills in second chamber/non originating chamber
  - March 27 Consideration of all bills (Drop dead day) First Adjournment
  - April 9 Veto session begins (which includes final budget actions)
  - April 11 End Veto session and adjourn the 2026 Legislative Session (if not earlier)

- Weekly legislative updates have been distributed on the administrator listserv each Friday with additional details on legislation of interest/impact to LHDs.

## Federal Updates

- On January 24, 2025 reports surfaced indicating that the Federal Government had issued notices to States immediately ceasing authorization to spend Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) funds. Outreach by many including NACCHO resulted in a reversal within 24 hours of the notices that were apparently sent late on a Friday evening.
  - This followed a similar action with behavior health funding the week before, which was ceased and restored.
- After a the January 30, 2026 shutdown of parts of the federal government, on February 3, 2026 Congress passed and the President signed legislation providing funding for the remainder of federal fiscal year 2026 for all federal programs except for immigration related functions. This included what analysts at NACCHO have described as [consistent/level funding](#) for public health programs.

## Important Dates to Remember

- 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
- April 21, 2026 KALHD Board meeting (virtual)
- May 19, 2026 KALHD Board meeting (virtual)
- 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