

**KALHD Board Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2026**

**Board Members**

Krista Schneider, President  
Teresa Fisher, President Elect  
Shalei Shea, Secretary-Treasurer  
Angie Kahle, District 1 Representative  
Monica Reuber, District 1 Alternate  
Faye Jones, District 2 Alternate  
Leslie Campbell, District 3 Representative  
Ray Finley, District 3 Alternate  
Brie Greeson, District 4 Representative  
Lynnette Redington, District 5 Representative  
Karla Nichols, District 5 Alt/KAC  
Lisa Scott, District 6 Representative  
Debra Anthony, District 6 Alternate  
Charlie Hunt, At-Large #1

**Attendees**

Beverly Wendel	Laura Hageman	Whitney McCauley
Monica Reuber	Jonna Upton	Tia Mattheyer
Christina Beer	Melissa Miller	Renee Hively
Jamie Johnson	Misty Trudeau	Aaron Davis
Jennifer Hurst	Monica Scudder	Cristi Cain
Karen Winkelman	Lori Eichman	
Tonya Medina	Amanda Synder	

**Staff**

Randy Bowman, Executive Director

**Call to Order**

Krista Schneider, President, called the virtual meeting to order at 10:00 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**

Krista Schneider 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**

Krista Schneider referenced the December 2025 minutes provided with the meeting materials and asked for a motion to approve them. **Brie Greeson 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 report December 2025.

For the month, KALHD realized a net financial loss of \$15,305.16 with \$1,185.21 in total income and \$16,490.37 in total expenses. The ending bank balance was \$424,302.08.

Leslie Campbell motioned to approve the report for December and place it on file. Lynnette Redington seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### **Governance Guidelines**

As this is the first Board meeting of the year, and of this new Board membership, Randy Bowman reviewed the KALHD Governing Board Governance Guidelines for the members. The document is included in the materials for this meeting and the key responsibilities of each member were reviewed.

### **Approval of Revised 2026 KALHD Budget**

Krista Schneider indicated that everyone should have received the revised, 2026 budget that Randy sent out. She explained that at our last meeting in December, there was a motion to do a 4% executive director salary increase, and with that there was increase in the benefits as well, which brings the total budget for personnel to \$126,363.

She then asked if there was a motion to approve the 2026 KALHD Budget as revised. **Brie Greeson motioned to approve, which was seconded by Leslie Campbell and the motion passed.**

### **Review of Data for WIC Program**

Randy Bowman recapped the conversation at the December Board meeting around funding for the WIC program. And indicated that to help answer some of our questions and support conversation today, he prepared a presentation (copy in handouts) using [data](#) from the USDA that is current as of December 12, 2025. He shared that where necessary for the visualizations, lines in the data for tribes and territories were excluded, but the totals are the official USDA figures and still include data from them. He also indicated that he was unable to find any data posted for the current federal fiscal year 2026 which does not seem to have been posted yet.

After the presentation he opened the floor for questions, comments and discussion. Themes discussed included concerns about quantity and quality of communication from KDHE on changes in WIC funding that have been experienced over the past several months. It was noted that the monthly calls have helped some. Concerns were expressed about the approximately \$2.0 million reduction in NSA funding for local WIC programs, yet information some have seen shows that Congress slightly increased funding for the current year. And there does not appear to be any reduction in the portion of NSA funding kept by KDHE. Another concern is with the lack of

transparency in the development of the funding formulas and the data used. Some have had meetings with KDHE personnel and listened to explanations, others have reviewed data submitted to the state to try and replicate the formula results, and in those cases are still unanswered questions.

To wrap up this discussion, he referenced the names listed in the Executive Director report of the local WIC staff and KDHE staff who KDHE selected for a funding formula workgroup. The first meeting was held earlier this month and the group will meet multiple times throughout January, February and conclude in late March.

### **KDHE Updates**

Cristi Cain, KDHE, provided the following updates.

#### *New KDHE Bureau of Public Health Services*

She shared that organizational changes within KDHE include the creation of this new bureau which includes the local public health program, immunizations and WIC. And the person selected to direct this group is Allison Dalrymple.

#### *Governor's Public Health Conference*

As a reminder this event is scheduled for March 30, 2026 as the pre-conference with the general session on March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. She summarized the keynote speakers and topics while sharing that registration is going to open soon, early February is the target.

#### *Funding Applications are Open in KGMS*

Applications are currently open and they will close on March 16, 2026 at noon. She shared that there are video tutorials on the KGMS homepage to help in completing applications and to access the signature page. There are also guides under the help tab and Aubrey Richardson is available if a one-on-one Zoom would be helpful as there have been a lot of changes to KGMS. She also apologized for the glitches that have been reported with the recent KGMS updates, which are believed to have been fixed but if not please let her know right away if you encounter any issues.

On the state formula funding survey, if you need your responses from last year as a starting point, reach out to your local public health specialist who can get those to you.

There will be an overview of these grants on the monthly LHD Update Webinar scheduled for tomorrow.

#### *Additional topics.*

- *Upcoming Environmental Survey.* The public health specialist will be sending out a environmental survey tailored to LHDs and to identify their needs. She asked everyone to please watch for it and to please complete the survey.
- *Avian Flu.* She shared that there are a couple of current outbreaks of avian flu in Kansas. The specialists sent out information last week that will hopefully be helpful if you get questions.

- *Monthly Partner calls.* Held on the First Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. (central) with the new year these may not be on everyone's calendar. She provided a link in the chat to re-register. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)
- *Quarterly Regional Meetings.* These began in Northeast Kansas last week and an overview of the agenda was shared.
- *Staff changes.* As a reminder, if you have change in your local health officer or medical consultant, please be sure to let your specialist know or update KCOMS or both.

## **WSU Updates**

Aaron Davis provided the following updates.

### *Local Public Health Leadership Series*

As you may recall there have been adjustments to funding and format of this program, and with those more applications were received than could be included so a few had to be turned away. This group will begin next month, and when another session is planned he will let us know.

### *2026 Billing Symposium*

Hopefully you have seen the emails on this event that WSU is excited to do again this year. Please share with staff and hopefully you will be able to attend. This will be held on April 28-29, 2026 at the WSU Eugene M., Hughes Metropolitan Complex in Wichita and registration is \$75.00.

### *Kansas Urban Native Health Summit*

The same week as the billing symposium, the first of hopefully many, Urban Tribal Health Summits will be held. The university is beginning to work with Tribes with a focus on urban areas. If anyone is interested or have community members who are involved with tribal groups WSU will make sure to get more information to you.

### *Academy of Sciences*

Not everyone may be familiar with this work, but Kansas has been a leader in this space for the entire country. He described this work as creating a catalog primary data collection surveys and measures that are shared statewide to reduce the need to develop these from scratch. With CDC funding, the next step at WSU will be to expand their support of this work nationally and to bring other states onboard to contribute to these resources. Under this contract, all LHDs will continue to have access to the Alchemer survey platform for at least another year. He thanked those who have been part of this work or allowed their staff to be part of this work.

### *Informatics Subcommittee*

The past 3 months have continued working to revamp this group. That is not yet final, but progress is being made to review the purpose, strategic direction and to align the work with current KDHE efforts around data modernization. Looking at four areas of work: strengthening statewide support of data modernization, capacity building, systems and processes. Limits on WSU resources will necessitate this being more focused on supporting LHD staff who will hopefully volunteer to share what their health departments are doing in this area with other LHDs.

## **KAC Updates**

Karla Nichols shared that the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) is hosting weekly legislative updates again this session. Those calls are held at 2:00 p.m. (central) each Friday and everyone is invited to join the call. These are a good source of information on the many topics that impact county government. If anyone would like to sign up, the information was sent out by Randy, but if you need it again please let Karla or Randy know.

## **Report from the Executive Director**

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

- He shared that invoices for KALHD and NACCHO dues have been sent out electronically. There have been a few questions, but overall going smoothly and as of Friday 23 of 100 LHD's have paid KALHD dues for 2026. And if there are any glitches for those who are still working on payments, please reach out.
- The Board President and Executive Director have signed the management letter with SSCCPAs for the to conduct our annual audit and complete our tax return for this year.
- He shared that four representatives from LHDs responded to his email last week to volunteer to work with the Kansas Health Institute (KHI) to develop a community engagement course under a grant KHI received from NACCHO. Hopefully the course will be helpful for LHD staff in engaging with multiple types of stakeholders around all public health topics.
- The latest update to the billers manual was completed and posted to the KALHD website and shared on the listserv in December. He thanked the billers and WSU for their work on this project again this year.
- The *Jesse Vaccinates* books that many of you requested when an offers of a free copy was posted to the listserv will be ready for you to pick up at the KDHE Regional Public Health meetings this quarter. He thanked Cristi and Lisa Horn for their help getting these to everyone. There are enough copies for each LHD to have a English and Spanish copy. And there will be a few leftovers if you check with Lisa at the meetings.
- He also provided an update on PHIG funding for the 15 LHD's who received de-obligation letters from KDHE in November. A couple LHDs are still working through this, but the others have been notified by KDHE that funding has been restored and it looks like 14 of the 15 should get to this result soon.
- NACCHO invites SACCHOs (e.g. KALHDs in other states) to an event each February to learn and take part in Hill Day where they set up individual meetings with members of each states congressional delegation. He accepted this invitation for the first time this year and will attend in late February. Hotel and up to \$400 of travel expenses will be paid by

NACCHO, some other expenses are expected but we included funding for travel in the KALHD budget. NACCHO is expecting record attendance from states with 45 registered to attend.

- An updated was also provided on the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) for which Kansas was recently awarded the first year of up to 5 years of funding. The first-year award is \$221 million for transformation of rural healthcare and future year funding is dependent upon progress and awards could go up or down. He shared updates from a meeting earlier this month of the Kansas Rural Health Innovation Alliance (KRHIA) which included:
  - The State (via KDHE the grant recipient) must submit a budget revision by January 30<sup>th</sup>. Until that is approved by the Federal Government, no spending can begin and KDHE hopes that it could be completed more timely than a typical 45-day turnaround (which would be mid-March).
  - Parallel to that process, KDHE is working to stand up funding application processes for the first projects in the RHTP and to post those in early February with a mid-March application due date.
  - Those will then have to be reviewed and an estimate share by KDHE was that the first projects under RHTP could begin receiving funds in early June.
  - Apparently based on input from the federal government, KDHE shared that they will transition from the definition of “rural” that was in the RHTP application which relied upon the Metropolitan Statistical Area and will now use the [HRSA Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer](#) to define rural for this funding. Generally, this appears to allow more Kansans to benefit from this funding as fewer geographic areas are ineligible but it appears there are still details to be worked out going forward.
  - RHTP is for rural health transformation, it is not directly for hospitals to cover costs of care, or a public health specific funding opportunity. However, within the 5 Initiatives there are more than 30 areas, and within those there will be opportunities for LHD’s in rural communities, as part of each local healthcare system, to participate in transforming healthcare in their community. It will be important to [monitor the KDHE website for grant and RFPs](#) across time. As the February target is just the first few areas and more will come as the plan is implemented across 5 years.
- Updates as the legislative session begins were also discussed. Including:
  - KDHE confirmed this month that they will be able to sustain the laboratory courier in its current form, which picks up samples in approximately 42 of 105 counties) through June of 2027. That is good news, but it is not the needed restoration of statewide services, which will be a request made by KALHD in upcoming budget hearings.
  - The Legislature has introduced its budget bill and are holding hearings on smaller agencies and the larger ones begin later this week. Without considering agency enhancement request or other newly identified needs, the budget is by a small

amount spending cash reserves as it would spend more than is projected to be received in 2026 and 2027. There will not be interest among most legislators in increasing expenditures, the revenue just is not there.

- A summary of bills that carried forward from last year or have been introduced so far was discussed. These will be monitored and when appropriate KALHD will testify, and in some instances may ask LHDs to send testimony.

### **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**

Krista Schneider asked for a motion to adjourn. Brie Greeson made the motion, which was seconded by Debra Anthony, and the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.