

Executive Director Report

July 14, 2026

Organizational Updates

- PHEP reimbursement request submitted to KDHE. This is the final expense report for the state fiscal year in the amount of \$14,302.98 which zeroed out available funds. As KDHE issued a pre-payment last summer in the amount of \$14,000, the remaining \$302.98 is anticipated as payment. Pre-payment for state fiscal year 2027 is anticipated later this summer.
- Auditors with SSCCPAs continue their work on our annual audit. No additional information or questions have been requested from KALHD since late May. Currently anticipating presentation of the report at our September meeting.

Project Updates

- MYM wrap up. On July 8th, one additional sponsorship was received from the Sunflower Foundation in the amount of \$1,500. Expenses and income finalized, evaluations completed, certificates issued for CEUs, and other miscellaneous tasks completed to bring this years event to a conclusion. See the Final Report included with the meeting materials for details. Will initiate planning for 2027 this fall.
- Member survey completed regarding PHIG funding. Results sent to all LHD Administrators via the listserv on July 7, 2026. And time for discussion of those results is included on the agenda for the July 2026 KALHD Board meeting.
- KALHD has been selected for 2nd cohort of NACCHO and CDC Legal Preparedness project. The goal of this work will be to develop jurisdiction-specific toolkits and trainings focused on administrative and legal preparedness. Since being notified just days before our MYM, no new information yet available from NACCHO. Based on most recent correspondence this will hopefully begin to move not long after the NACCHO 360 conference when staff shift to other projects such as this one.
- 2025 Certified population file received from Kansas Legislative Research Division (KLRD) and used to update dues table for 2027. That document is complete and will be used to invoice members in January 2027.

- Exploring a new project concept with one of the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO) after prior discussions with them and others did not materialize. Exploring possible pilot site(s) where LHD(s) could receive technical assistance from MCO to help identify opportunities to maximize existing Medicaid billing and/or expand to new billable services that could increase LHD revenue while benefiting MCO Medicaid consumers through new/additional service access point helping the MCO meet its contractual requirements for service delivery. Additional conversations anticipated this summer that will inform if this is a go forward and then if so will begin to gauge interest in a small number of LHD who may be interested in participating in this pilot project.
- LHD Technical Assistance Requests in ATL Survey. The most recent survey identified the biggest gap in LHD needed technical assistance (63 of 100 this year and was #1 prior year) in policy development and support. Met with KDHE and PHAB as follow up on previous conversations about how those two entities might be able to partner to begin to support this need and how KALHD might help identify interested LHDs. In July KDHE committed to going forward and is currently beginning to work on an agreement with PHAB. That would provide resources to support interested LHD's in a peer-driven space focusing on topics related to this technical assistance need. This group would be designed to foster connection, shared learning, and collaborative problem-solving among health departments across the state helping in the development of policies. PHAB has supported similar work in other states around their Pathways Recognition and Accreditation, and if some LHDs later have an interest in those having been part of this project would be a helpful first step.
- Met with Kevin Kovach at the Kansas Health Institute regarding a research project he is working on to study the vision and values of County Commissioners. The project is underway with interviews of volunteer Commissioners and there is still an opportunity for additional participants. If you have an opportunity to help connect additional Commissioners to this project, please share this link <https://www.khi.org/articles/share-your-vision-for-your-community/>
- Virtually attended the NACCHO meeting of SACCHO's (KALHDs) that is held in person as part of the NACCHO 360 conference in Louisville Kentucky. Examples of some of the good discussions include engagement with business sector, engagement with elected officials, RHTPs in states, engagement with contract lobbyists vs doing in house, government affairs updates.

Federal Updates

- The President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published for comments proposed regulations on the administration of federal funds that would affect States, Counties, Cities, Universities, and businesses who receive federal funding. The 45-day comment period ended July 13, 2026 with over 300,000 comments received. These are proposed to take effect October 1, 2026.

Among the changes are the insertion of political appointees in grant award decisions, peer reviewed scientific recommendations can be overridden by appointees, active grants can be terminated at any time and for any reason, certain topics and activities are banned based on priorities of the Administration, ends conference attendance as a allowable cost unless expressly approved by the Federal agency, memberships and subscriptions to professional societies academic and technical groups will require prior approval, places restrictions on public communication and outreach, and federal agency heads can exempt funding opportunities from being posted publicly.

NACCHO and NACo among other national entities have done outreach to their membership encouraging them to submit comments or to write to members of their Congressional delegation asking them to request that the President withdraw the new OMB proposed rules. That was shared on the Administrator listserv on July 2nd and KALHD submitted letters to our congressional members on our behalf.

- Signed on to National WIC Association campaigns for fully funding WIC and in support of remote appointment service options.
- Congress continues to work on their Federal Fiscal Year 2027 budget that would begin October 1, 2026. The House Labor and Health and Human Services Committee and the full House Appropriations Committee have approved a budget that reflects the majority political party priorities and would substantially reduce funding. This bill has not passed the full House. The Senate has not yet released its proposed budget markup and as such has not yet considered a budget proposal. As of mid-July, the process is behind the typical timeline that would result in the passage of a budget by both Chambers making a Continuing Resolution (CR) to begin FFY2027 the most probable path forward beginning October 1st.

Kansas Legislative Updates

- Meetings of Legislative Interim Committees continues to be very slow seemingly attributable to summer and the upcoming primary election (August 4th). May pick up some in September and in election years is not uncommon for some Interim Committees to do most of their work in November and December.

Important Dates to Remember

- No Board meeting in August
- HOOK In-Person Event September 10, 2026, at Rolling Hills Zoo, Salina, Ks
- September 15, 2026, KALHD Board meeting (virtual)
- KPHA [Annual Conference](#), October 5-6, 2026, in Manhattan, Ks