

Executive Director Report **August 28, 2026**

Organizational Updates

- The annual PHEP pre-payment \$14,000, has not yet been received. The contract was signed in April and payment owed by KDHE and is expected to be received.
- The Audit for 2025 was finalized by SSCCPA and will be presented to the Board at our September meeting. As noted in the audit report, they believe the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, the cash receipts and disbursements for 12/31/25. And there are no proposed journal entries for 2025.
- SSCCPA has begun work on our 2025 IRS Form 990 tax return. I asked the accountant to take a closer look this year at legislative activities that could be considered “lobbying”. In all tax returns since 2010, KALHD has claimed that no such activities are conducted. Yet we engage in activities that some might interpret differently including our annual policy statement, taking positions and testifying on bills, engage with elected officials (federal, state, local) regarding LHD needs and public health priorities, and as ED I continue the long-standing practice of registering with the Secretary of State as a Lobbyist. Given the current climate it is important that we have updated professional tax advice on this topic so that we do not take any unreasonable financial or political risks. After reviewing this topic, the accountant believes that we are operating within applicable IRS definitions and are not engaged in “lobbying” activities. So, no changes are necessary for the 2025 tax return that should be finished soon.
- Annual renewal of Business Owners and Workers’ Compensation insurance policies were renewed for the period of August 31, 2026 through August 31, 2027. We did not see a large premium increase like last year and pricing actually decreased by \$89.00.
- Our contract for legislative tracking software (KANCARE) expires in October which presents an opportunity to compare the functionality and cost of other products in the marketplace. Most of the alternatives offer greater functionality, however, at increased cost. At the same time the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) is restructuring their legislative work. They have signed a contract with a new firm, Engagifii, that will allow KAC to offer this legislative tracking service to their affiliate organizations. After seeing a demo of this product, it will hopefully be an improvement in functionality while allowing KALHD to avoid the cost (\$1,500 for 2 years with prior service) for our own service.

Project Updates

- NACCHO and CDC Legal Preparedness project. NACCHO provided an update in early August that their funding for this project is on hold. They hoped that might resolve by the end of the month, but as of this report no additional update has been received. If funding does not come through, this will be disappointing. As the focus on developing jurisdiction-specific toolkits and training focused on administrative and legal preparedness would be beneficial in Kansas.
- 2026 MYM Revenue. KAC transferred \$4,388.75 (\$4,400 gross less credit card fees) and one \$250 payment was made directly to KALHD for the outstanding registration fees collected from our MYM. In that process we identified 3 attendees with unpaid invoices for which additional notice was sent and may still be collected.
- Attended the North-Central regional public health meeting in Beloit.
- Attended the annual South-Central region billers meeting in Hutchison.
- Visited LHDs in Butler, Greenwood and Osage counties. Thank you to Emily, Jayme, and Chelsea for hosting me at your health department.
- Developed criteria and process for a potential new award that would recognize Commissioners or Boards of County Commissioners who's leadership has advanced public health and improved community well-being. KAC would provide time at the KAC Annual Conference where we could recognize the recipient should we decide to implement this award. This will be a discussion item at our September meeting.
- Initiated planning with KAC to include KALHD on the agenda at key events in SFY2027 that will satisfy our obligations to KDHE PHEP for the next year. This will include two articles (fall and spring) that will be included in KAC publications, a session at New Commissioner Training (winter), and at the Kansas Association of County Commissioners conference (spring).

Federal Updates

- The comment period ended on July 13, 2026, for the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposed changes to regulations on the administration of federal funds that would affect States, Counties, Cities, Universities, and businesses who receive federal funding. The federal government website lists this as closed for comment. These were proposed to take effect October 1, 2026, however no next step or timeline is apparent in public records I could locate. NACCHO has shared that they have been advocating with others for Congress to include language in a future budget bill that would prevent these from being implemented.

- PHIG 2.0. NACCHO has begun advocacy work towards goal of future law and appropriations that would provide further Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) funding opportunities for local health departments and state agencies. PHIG 1 goes through November of 2027, so any future version is more than a year away. NACCHO staff recently shared with us that there is some initial traction around a version that could provide funding for Foundational Capabilities (A2 in version 1) and Data Modernization (A3 in version 1) but at this stage there does not appear to be traction on Workforce Development (A1 in version 1). If that were the case, they are advocating for the 40% local share language in the current A1 to be applied to any funding in PHIG 2.0. It is very early, so what might prevail would be anyone's guess.
- Congress continues to work on their Federal Fiscal Year 2027 budget that would begin October 1, 2026. None of the twelve regular appropriations bills have completed the full legislative process and instead both the House and Senate have apparently focused on adopting a Continuing Resolution (CR) instead. The House passed their version on July 21st which would extend current funding through December 4, 2026 and the Senate passed another version that would extend until December 11, 2026. Press accounts at the time of this report suggest that the House could vote on the Senate version of the CR as soon as the first week of September. Something must happen by the end of the day on September 30, 2026 to avoid a government shutdown.

Kansas Legislative Updates

- Kansas House primary election results. The Secretary of State lists the results as unofficial from the primary election on August 4th until the State Board of Canvassers certify the results by September 1st. Of note from those unofficial results, four incumbent members of the Kansas House lost and will not be returning next year (2 Republicans and 2 Democrats). One additional incumbent is close with 34 more votes out of over 3,200 cast leaving a possibility for a change in the final count. These 4 add to the 15 who did not seek reelection as seats that will see a new member in 2027.
- KDHE invited stakeholders to submit recommendations to them again this year that they consider in the development of their budget request submitted to the Governor and Legislature. And again, this year, KALHD submitted a recommendation that they request funding to restore laboratory courier services on a statewide basis.
- The House Select Committee on Government Oversight has scheduled a hearing for September 3, 2026. The published [agenda](#) includes legislative staff presentations on statutory authority for day care licensing, policy and fiscal overview of recent changes, process overview by key staff of the new Office of Early Childhood, Contracted Surveyor Inspection role of LHDs by LHD representatives, and public testimony.

Important Dates to Remember

- October 20, 2026, KALHD Board meeting (virtual)

- KPHA [Annual Conference](#), October 5-6, 2026, in Manhattan, Ks
- No KALHD Board meeting in November
- KALHD Annual meeting in-person and virtual, December 10, 2026, at the KAC conference in Wichita, Ks
- Kansas Association of Counties [Annual Conference](#), December 7-10, 2026, in Wichita, Ks