



# Kentucky River District Health Department

## Minutes of the Kentucky River District Board of Health Quarterly Meeting

**Date of Meeting:** March 12, 2024

**Time of Meeting:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location of Meeting:** KRADD Board Room and ZOOM Format

### **Members Present**

Judge Terry Adams  
Judge Scott Alexander by Proxy, Micah Gayheart  
Lisa Blackburn  
J. B. Bowman  
Donna Brewer  
Dr. Ricky Collins  
Kevin Davis  
Judge William Lewis by Proxy, Shirley Baker  
Dena McIntosh  
Dr. Kenneth Slone  
Sally Spaulding

### **Members Absent**

Judge Raymond Banks  
Gregory Collins  
Judge Jeff Dobson  
Dr. Don Holbrook  
Judge Zeke Little, Jr.  
Judge Steve Mays

### **Staff in Attendance**

A. Scott Lockard, Secretary, Director  
Helen Ascani, Assistant to the Director  
K. Nicole Caldwell, Home Health Administrator  
Janet Cornett, Perry County Coordinator  
Emma Davidson, Health Promotion & CCHC Coordinator  
Melissa Feltner, HANDS Supervisor  
JoAnn Fraley, Harm Reduction Program Coordinator  
Ann Hatton, Ryan White Coordinator  
Susan Kincaid, Health Education Coordinator  
Maxine Shepherd, Leslie County Coordinator  
Brandy Slone, Letcher County Coordinator  
Melissa Slone, Chief Operation Officer (COO)  
Vivian Smith, Lee County & Owsley County Coordinator  
Libby Turner, Nurse Administrator  
Stacy Wilson, Wolfe County Coordinator

I. Call to Order

Chairman Donna Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

With eleven (11) members present, a quorum was established.

III. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Chairman Brewer requested a motion to accept the minutes from the December 12, 2023, meeting as presented.

**Dr. Kenneth Slone made the motion to accept the previous minutes as presented.**

**Micah Gayheart seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor. None opposed. The motion passed unanimously.**

IV. New Business

A. Clinical Services

Updates on clinical services were given by Ms. Libby Turner.

For the Family Planning program, billboards will be going up in the next couple of months to promote the program.

For Preparedness, Sherrie Stidham and Emma Davidson have been training staff for CPR, first aid, and stop the bleed. All KRDHD's buildings are equipped with AEDs and stop the bleed kits as well as some of the agency's vehicles.

The Diabetes team continues to offer Diabetes Management classes. The American Diabetes Association has declared March 26<sup>th</sup> as Diabetes Alert Day. The Diabetes team will be joining with local diabetes coalitions to promote diabetes and pre-diabetes awarenesses as well as services that are available in the communities.

Ms. Turner reviewed the WIC Participation rates that were submitted in her report to the Board.

B. Harm Reduction Services

Updates on the Harm Reduction services were given by Ms. JoAnn Fraley.

Mr. Lockard, Ms. Fraley, and other staff were interviewed by the UK College of Public Health. A course was developed for the students that will focus on Substance Abuse Disorder.

Ms. Fraley pointed out the following participants number for the following services:

- 171 participants are in the Recovery Data Platform.
- 47 participants are in the New Beginning Program.
- 35 individuals have current treatment plans.

The Hub also offers 10 different support groups every week.

For the syringe exchange program, the district-wide return rate as a district is 97% with 190 participants. Some of the counties have a 100% return rate.

By partnering with UK, HepC treatment is now being offered. This service is starting to garner attention.

Tentatively, in May, another Hub will be opening in Letcher County. It will replicate the services that are offered in Lee County.

With the help from Melissa Slone, COO, Ms. Fraley has submitted a grant of \$500,000. If successful, the grant will provide for 2 years of service. Other grants awarded for next year include the extension of the Recovery Community Center grant for \$135,000 and the SSP Harm Reduction Expansion Project for \$112,000.

Ms. Fraley distributed Naloxone kits to the board members. With the high overdose rate in the district, Mr. Lockard encouraged the board members to take multiple kits and to distribute them to family members and friends.

C. Environmental Services

The Environmental Services report was given by Scott Lockard. Mr. Lockard reviewed the report that was submitted by Mr. Whisman to the board in the board packet.

Mr. Lockard mentioned that the Environmental team had attended the Kentucky Environmental Health Association (KEHA) conference, and some team members also attended the Kentucky Public Health Association (KPHA) conference.

D. HANDS Services

The HANDS Services report was given by Ms. Melissa Feltner. Ms. Feltner reviewed her report as presented in the board packet.

The HANDS team has been working very hard to get all their home visits in for the quarter. Unfortunately, there is a decrease in the number of families as compared to last year. Currently, there are 85 families in the program compared to 101 families last year. Ms. Feltner believes the loss of a few staff members is the cause of the decrease in the participation number. Currently, there are 11 staff members. She believes the program will grow with the hiring of more staff.

Staff are continuing to do in-home visits, with the approval to do 25% virtual visits.

Financially, at print time of the board packet, the program has billed for 504 services, for a total of \$71,950. Another \$15,000 was billed for the month when Ms. Feltner checked today.

The program has completed its annual site visit from the state. All areas show improvement. The corrective plan status for last year was brought up to the plan for growth status.

Using the \$330,000 infrastructure grant from the state, 10 Chevrolet Equinox AWD vehicles and 1 Chevrolet Silverado truck were purchased and delivered to the HANDS staff. Previously, the home visitors were driving old vehicles that Mr. Lockard had purchased from Surplus Properties.

E. Health Promotion Services

The Health Promotion Services report was given by Ms. Susan Kincaid. Ms. Kincaid reviewed some of the activities from her report to the Board.

Ms. Kincaid introduced the 11 Des Moines University medical students to the Board. This is the fourth year that medical students have come to our region. They are here for one week in March, shadowing the Health Educators.

For Maternal Child Health, three Health Educators are now trained in the Checkpoints program. This program is being implemented at Perry County high schools. It is a program for teenagers and parents dealing with different topics such as distracted driving.

Ms. Kincaid has also submitted another Office of Highway Safety grant. If successful, the grant will be used to increase seat belt usage, proper car seat usage, and to decrease distracted driving.

Ms. Kincaid introduced Emma Davidson to the Board. Ms. Davidson is the Childcare Health Consultant. Ms. Davidson had planned and executed a day of professional development training for staff of childcare centers and pre-school programs. Topics covered included Conscious Discipline for Infants and Toddlers, Math and Literacy for Infants and Toddlers, and After School Best Program. There were over 50 participants even though it was snowing that day.

For the Tobacco Program, Hannah Hogan has been teaching the INDEPTH Program at Perry County Central High School and Beaver Creek Elementary. The program is geared towards students who were caught violating school policy on smoking and vaping. Instead of being suspended, these students must come to school to attend the INDEPTH Program. Ms. Hogan has also mailed out approximately 45 Tobacco Informational Parent mailers. By accessing the survey using the QR code on the mailer, parents can request information on tobacco.

Ms. Kincaid has applied for a grant to host 7 parent nights, one in each county. Some of the topics the parents requested include cyberbullying, talking to your kids about sex, eating disorders, vaping, and teen lingo.

As mentioned in the Clinic Services report, Ms. Kincaid is working with Libby Turner to promote Family Planning. Besides incentives, three billboards will soon be going up.

F. Home Health Services Report

The Home Health Report was given by Ms. Nicole Caldwell. Referring to her report that was submitted to the Board, Ms. Caldwell reviewed the quarterly data for the Home Health Program operating in Lee, Owsley, and Wolfe counties.

A full-time home health nurse has been hired for Wolfe County. She brings with her over a decade of home health nursing experience.

Jonathan Sizemore, the speech therapist with Mountain Therapy, has terminated his contract citing the increase in his office patients as the reason. He was providing speech therapy to Home Health and EPSDT patients.

As of February 29, 2024, the patient counts are as follows:

Lee County – 20  
Wolfe County – 29  
Owsley County – 17  
Total – 60

Ms. Caldwell informed the Board that Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield has paid out \$38,3700 for the annual Medicaid cost settlement with the agency. Aetna paid out \$39,092.

Staff have met the goal set by the state for collecting data for the Electronic Visit Verification. The February goal was to implement 75% of visits and for March, 100% of EVV implementation.

The Medicare Targeted Probe and Education (TPE) audit is completed. 40 patient records were audited. Nine claims were denied and then appealed. The claims remained denied and Medicare recouped \$12,206.73. Medicare will be scheduling an educational meeting with Ms. Caldwell to discuss the proper procedures to mitigate future denials.

G. Director's Report

Mr. Lockard introduced Dr. Melissa Slone as the new Chief Operation Officer (COO). Previously, Dr. Slone was employed by the UK Center of Excellence for Rural Health. She will bring her expertise on grant writing to assist the agency in securing more direct funding. Additionally, Dr. Slone will be reviewing and updating KRDHD policies and procedures. She will be collaborating with Dr. Angela Carmen to finalize the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the Community Health Information Plan (CHIP). Dr. Slone has already presented at the Kentucky Public Health Association (KPHA). She, along with Mr. Lockard and Dr. Fran Feltner, will be presenting at the upcoming NACCHO Preparedness Conference.

The current legislative session is a budget session. Already, 1200 bills have been filed. Mr. Lockard has worked vigorously advocating for Public Health Transformation funding and pension funding for the health departments. The Senate will be unveiling its version of the budget later this week. Mr. Lockard hopes the advocacy work is successful. This will help KRDHD to be financially solvent for the next biennium.

The sale of the Letcher County Health Department building should be finalized on Thursday, March 14, 2024. The building will be sold at its appraised value to a private entity. An agreement between the health department and the private entity will allow the health department to lease the first floor for the next ten years. The purchased land next to the recreational center will be developed as a shared parking lot. The sale will aid the Letcher County Taxing District to become solvent. Mr. Lockard thanked Dr. Ricky Slone and Judge Terry Adams for their hard work with this project.

The first week of April is National Public Health week. Mr. Lockard will be the keynote speaker at the University of Kentucky College of Public Health. He will be on campus for two days, bringing the message about public health to the students and the interim dean, Heather Bush.

The Department for Public Health has released the funding allocations for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Lockard received notice that KRHD will not be receiving tobacco funding for next biennium, even though the tobacco cessation program is doing an excellent job. For the fiscal years 2021 and 2022, KRHD was awarded \$100,000. Despite KRHD being the only health department in the commonwealth that worked to pass a secondhand smoke free ordinance in Perry County, Knott County, Owsley County, the city of Hazard, and the city of Beattyville, the amount was cut in half for fiscal years 2023 and 2024. Now, the program is completely defunded for the next two fiscal years despite its expansion into schools and other areas.

Mr. Lockard sent a letter to the State Commissioner expressing his disappointment. He noted in his letter that, according to the list of the 12 unhealthiest counties, Wolfe County is ranked 120 out of 120 counties with a smoking rate of 35%. Yet, funding for tobacco cessation will not be provided. While three of the top 12 healthiest counties will be receiving funding. Mr. Lockard also mentioned how impressed the Commissioner was with KRHD's work.

#### H. Financial Report

Mr. Lockard reviewed the financial report 917 ending on February 28, 2024:

Year to Date Total Revenue:	\$ 9,961,882.33
Year to Date Total Expense:	\$ 9,274,084.44
Net Surplus:	\$ 687,797.89

The agency is scheduled to receive the second installment of the pension payment assistance of approximately \$1.7 million in April.

Responding to Chairman Brewer's question on CDs, Mr. Lockard said two CDs were purchased at \$1 million each. One CD is for 7 months, and the other is for 24 months. The general fund bank account balance is approximately \$3 million.

Mr. Lockard concluded that the health department is in good financial health and will finish the year with a net surplus.

#### V. Comments from the County Coordinators

Apart from Christy Grigsby who was unable to attend, the county coordinators reported on their respective counties.

All counties are keeping busy participating in many community events and things are going well in the clinics.

#### VI. Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Location: KRADD Board Room

VII. Adjournment

With no other businesses to discuss, Chairman Brewer requested a motion to adjourn.

**Dr. Ricky Collins made the motion to adjourn.**

**Judge Terry Adams seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor. None opposed. The motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Donna Brewer, Chairman  
Secretary

3/28/2024  
Date



A. Scott Lockard, Public Health Director,

3/18/24  
Date