



Kentucky River District Health Department

Kentucky River District Board of Health Quarterly Meeting

Date of Meeting: March 16, 2021

Time of Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

Location of Meeting: ZOOM Format

Members Present

Judge Terry Adams
Lisa Blackburn
Donna Brewer
Judge Chuck Caudill
Mike Mays
Dr. Kenneth Slone
Sally Spaulding
Dr. Lisa Triplett-Short
Judge Cale Turner

Members Absent

Judge Scott Alexander
Dr. Chet Ayres
Judge Raymond Banks
J. B. Bowman
Gregory Collins
Dr. William Collins
Judge Jeff Dobson
Dr. Don Holbrook
Judge William Lewis

Staff Present

A. Scott Lockard, Secretary, Director
Helen Ascani, Administrative Assistant
Janet Cornett, Perry County Coordinator
Melissa Feltner, HANDS Supervisor
Christy Grigsby, Knott County Coordinator
Hope Kelly, Nurse Supervisor, Home Health
Susan Kincaid, Health Education Coordinator
Kayla Lowe, Health Promotion Specialist
Maxine Shepherd, Leslie County Coordinator
Brandy Slone, Letcher County Coordinator
Vivian Smith, Lee & Owsley Counties Coordinator
Elizabeth Turner, Nurse Program Manager
James Ed Whisman, Environmental Supervisor
Stacy Wilson, Wolfe County Coordinator

Visitor

Emiley Lewis, Morehead BSW Practicum Student

I. Call to Order

Judge Chuck Caudill, Chairman Pro-Tem called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was done by Helen Ascani.

With nine (9) of the eighteen (18) members present, there was no quorum. Chairman Pro-Temp Caudill declared the meeting as an informational meeting only.

III. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Since there was not a quorum, approval of the minutes from the previous meeting was tabled until the next quarterly meeting.

IV. Old Business

No old business was up for discussion.

V. New Business

A. Clinical Services

The Clinical Services report was given by Ms. Elizabeth Turner.

Ms. Turner introduced Emiley Lewis to the Board. Ms. Lewis is a practicum student from Morehead State University working on the Bachelor of Social Work degree. Since August 2020, she has been part of the COVID intake team doing contact tracing. Ms. Lewis updated the Board on the COVID issue.

The number of incoming cases has declined greatly. According to the CDC, the positive rate is at 3.87% and probably will continue to fall. She believed the decline is due to the increase in the number of vaccinations. Ms. Lewis encouraged everyone to get the COVID vaccine.

Ms. Turner continued with the clinical services report. Due to the pandemic, services are continued to be offered by phone and through telehealth.

Diabetes classes, currently, are held by telephone. Soon, some of the classes will be available online. The Diabetes staff participated, virtually, in the SOAR Summit and Diabetes Day at the Capital.

Some of the counties received extra funding to add more school nurses to their staff. One school nurse was added in Letcher County and two in Wolfe County. In Knott County, one of the school nurses has transferred into the clinic. The vacant position was successfully filled. Currently, the District has nurses at 19 school sites located in Knott, Letcher, and Wolfe counties.

The WIC services are still going strong. The participation rate is at 99% for December.

WIC and the COVID vaccine are the primary clinical services. To date, 8,128 COVID vaccines have been administered district wide.

Ms. Turner commended her staff for their hard work. They have stayed late or worked on weekends if needed.

B. Environmental Services

The Environmental Services report was given by James Ed Whisman.

Mr. Whisman expressed his appreciation of the clinical staff on their work to vaccinate the public.

The weather has adversely impacted some of the communities in the region. There had been loss of power to homes, city utilities, and businesses. Boil water advisory and loss of power guidelines were sent to all food service establishments. Mr. Whisman and his team visited food service sites in Lee and Owsley counties that had complete loss of inventory due to flooding. They provided guidance on the proper destruction of food. They also provided clean-up guidelines to these establishments and any others that were affected.

In addition to weather-related issues, the team dealt with animal bites complaints and continues with the regular inspection of on-site sewages and food service establishments. Youth camps and swimming pools are expected to be opening soon. The team will be starting the inspection process for those facilities.

Mr. Whisman congratulated Keven Nichols for receiving the 2021 Kentucky Environmental Health Association Service Award.

Mr. Whisman welcomed Mr. Jeffrey Cornett to the Environmental team in Knott County. Mr. Cornett bring 27 years of environmental health experience.

C. HANDS Services

The HANDS Services report was given by Melissa Feltner.

Due to the pandemic and the bad weather, participation rate is down. Ms. Feltner is working on rebuilding the program. Her team has been assisting with food box distributions and other outreach efforts. They continued to drop off supplies to the homes of the enrolled families.

Currently, there are 102 families enrolled in the program. Since the start of the pandemic, Ms. Feltner and her team have been using Facetime and the phone to make their visits. She feels those methods are not as effective as an actual in-home visit.

A member of the HANDS team, Tammy Isom, will be retiring. Ms. Isom has been with the agency for 27 years. The team will miss her greatly.

D. Health Promotion Services

The Health Promotion Services report was given by Susan Kincaid.

Ms. Kincaid highlighted the following activities from her report to the Board:

They have distributed over 10,000 educational activity bags to the community. The activity bags covered a wide-range of topics such as bullying, first aid, and suicide prevention.

In partnership with the volunteer fire departments in all seven counties, the team will be hosting a Fire Prevention week. It will take place at the fire departments.

The team has virtually exhibited at many conferences, including the upcoming Kentucky Public Health Association (KPHA) Conference in April.

Along with the Department of Public Health, the team created a “Wellness Toolkit.” The toolkit is to encourage mental health wellness for the general public during the pandemic. A kit will be sent to each board member. Alesha Stacy and representatives from the Department of Public Health and the Department of Education will be presenting on the toolkit at the upcoming KPHA Conference.

Working with the HANDS program, the Health Promotion team provided First Aid kits, and Safety kits resources to all the HANDS families.

The Tobacco Program has successfully passed a 100% Comprehensive Smoke- Free Ordinance in Knott County. They also wrote and received a \$100,000 state grant to continue with the program. The grant is for the 2022 fiscal year.

The Kentucky River District Health Department Facebook page has over 12,100 followers. Ms. Kincaid feels that the agency’s messages are getting out and the Facebook platform is a successful one.

The Health Promotion Team has been a huge support of the clinics’ Covid-19 vaccination efforts. They are committed to helping in any way possible.

E. Home Health Services Report

Hope Kelly updated the Board on the services of Home Health.

Referrals to the Home Health programs have picked up as hospitals are doing more elective surgeries, such as hip and knee replacements.

Referring to the Home Health report that was submitted to the Board, Ms. Kelly pointed out the following quarterly data for the Lee, Wolfe and Owsley county home health program:

- Medicare and Wellcare are the top billers.
- Passport has been replaced with Passport by Molina.
- There are currently 63 patients.
- Year to date: 36 admissions compared to 50 for last year
- Average length of stay: Owsley – 628 days, Lee – 330 days, Wolfe – 221 days.
- The top three referrals are from Dr. James Noble, Dr. Brittany Bobrowski, and Dr. Adrian Banks.

Mr. Lockard informed the Board that all the vehicles in Lee County were flooded, including those assigned to Home Health. He has purchased six replacements from Surplus Properties to help replaced the fleet. The plan is for home health to use these older vehicles until new ones can be purchased. Mr. Lockard did allocate funds in the upcoming budget for four new Ford Escapes. He has contacted the state contractor, Paul Miller Ford, to purchase the vehicles.

F. Director's Report

The agency has been in the Covid response mode for one year. The district has had over 8000 positive cases and 120 plus deaths. Mr. Lockard commended the staff for their dedications and outstanding work performances.

Legislators are in session. House Bill 8 will have the most impact on the agency. It deals with the pension issue. The Legislator has given the local health departments subsidies to assist with the new pension cost. This will help many of the health departments with their pension liabilities for the long term. For the Kentucky River District Health Department, without the subsidy, the liability will be too large to handle on their own. The district is secure for this budget year and the following two years but, Mr. Lockard stressed, advocacy must continue. It is the intent of the Legislator to have taxes raised locally to pay for the pension liabilities.

The agency is in very good shape for the next three years. Because the pension situation has resolved, for the upcoming budget, Mr. Lockard hopes to add some positions back to the merit system.

Judge Chuck Caudill commended Mr. Lockard and the staff. He asked if the information on tetanus shots can be disseminated. Mr. Lockard said that Ms. Kincaid has been putting tetanus shot information on Facebook. He assured Judge Caudill that they will post even more information to increase the exposure. Mr. Lockard also stated that he had brought some tetanus vaccine to Lee County and has placed an order for more.

Mr. Lockard thanked Jon Allen with Emergency Management for his help in the retrieval of Covid vaccines when Lee County was flooded. Using a boat, along with Chris Smith, James Ed Whisman, Irsha Wilder, and Vivian Smith, they managed to save 150 doses.

G. Financial Report

Mr. Lockard reviewed the financial report addendum that he had submitted to the Board before the start of the meeting.

Total Revenue, Year to Date: \$5,462,621
Total Expenses, Year to Date: \$4,960,435
Surplus, Year to Date: \$ 502,086

Clinical service fee is down significantly because school health and Medicaid have not been billed. The CARES Act Funding helped to offset the loss.

Despite the pandemic, with the support received from the State Department of Public Health, the agency is financially solid.

VI. Comments from the County Coordinators

The county coordinators reported on their respective county. All the counties are doing well and have been very busy, especially with Covid vaccine clinics. At the same time, they are also providing WIC, HANDS and other clinical services. The current bad weather also had created extra problems due to flooding and loss of electricity.

Mr. Lockard welcomed Christy Grigsby as the new coordinator for Knott County. She has hit the ground running since taking the position.

VII. Next Board Meeting


The next board meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.



Chet Ayres, DVM
Chairman



A. Scott Lockard, Public Health Director
Secretary

3/23/21
Date

3/23/21
Date