



# Kentucky River District Health Department

## Kentucky River District Board of Health Quarterly Meeting

**Date of Meeting:** June 8, 2021

**Time of Meeting:** 6:30 p.m.

**Location of Meeting:** ZOOM Format

### **Members Present**

Judge Scott Alexander  
Dr. Chet Ayres  
Lisa Blackburn  
J. B. Bowman  
Donna Brewer  
Judge Chuck Caudill  
Dr. Don Holbrook  
Judge William Lewis  
Dr. Kenneth Slone  
Sally Spaulding  
Dr. Lisa Triplett-Short  
Judge Cale Turner

### **Members Absent**

Judge Terry Adams  
Judge Raymond Banks  
Gregory Collins  
Dr. William Collins  
Judge Jeff Dobson  
Mike Mays

### **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  
Maxine Shepherd, Leslie County Coordinator  
Brandy Slone, Letcher County Coordinator  
Vivian Smith, Lee & Owsley Counties Coordinator  
James Ed Whisman, Environmental Supervisor

I. Call to Order

Dr. Chet Ayres, Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was done by Helen Ascani.

With twelve (12) of the eighteen (18) members present, a quorum was established.

III. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Ayres thanked everyone for attending.

Mr. Lockard informed the board that Dr. Ricky Collins is the new chairman for the Local Board of Health in Letcher County. He and Judge Terry Adams will represent Letcher County on the District Board of Health.

IV. Minutes of Previous Meetings

**A motion was made by Judge Cale Turner to accept the minutes from the December 15, 2020, meeting as presented to the board.**

**Judge Chuck Caudill seconded the motion.**

**All was in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion was made by J. B. Bowman to accept the minutes from the March 16, 2021, meeting as presented to the board.**

**Judge Cale Turner seconded the motion.**

**All was in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

V. Old Business

No old business was up for discussion.

VI. New Business

A. Clinical Services

The Clinical Services report was given by Mr. Lockard for Ms. Libby Turner.

Clinics are continuing in their efforts to provide the COVID vaccines to the communities, administering over 12,600 doses. The Pfizer vaccine is now being offered to those who are 12 years old and older. The vaccination rate is on the decline. More community outreach and events are being planned to encourage vaccinations. Perry County has the highest COVID vaccination rate at 39.5%. Owsley County has the lowest rate at 29%.

With COVID vaccinations on the decrease, other clinical services, such as immunizations, family planning, and cancer screenings are resuming. WIC services are still done mostly by phone.

Harm reduction services are ongoing with much success. Community events are in the plan to distribute Narcan, and to provide HIV and Hep C testing.

Irsha Wilder, clinical nurses in Lee County, will be retiring before the next board meeting. Mr. Lockard thanked Ms. Wilder for her long service and dedication to the agency.

#### B. Environmental Services

The Environmental Services report was given by James Ed Whisman.

The team continued to issue guidance as COVID guidelines are updated, especially with the reopening of youth camps and swimming pools.

Since the last board report, the Environmental team has inspected over 235 food establishments; visited and inspected over 207 onsite sewages and septic installations. The team continues to provide services for animal bites, nuisance control, mobile homes and RV parks, private water samples, and plan reviews for new commercial constructions. The decrease in the COVID rate has lessened COVID responses and allowed the team to complete more environmental services.

Over the last year, the Environmental team has had to perform duties that are not considered as Environmental Health, such as closing down establishments and issuing COVID citations. Mr. Whisman commended his team on their responses to these issues.

#### C. HANDS Services

The HANDS Services report was given by Melissa Feltner.

The HANDS program is transitioning back to doing home visits. Most of the services are still being provided by phone. Participation rate is slightly down. The primary reason is the retirement of Tammy Peters. Her families have been with her for so long that they decided not to stay in the program.

There are approximately 85 participants in the program. From April 1 to May 31, the program has had 527 billable services, totaling \$66,590.00. With the return of patients to the clinics, Ms. Feltner believes the program will grow. An incentive program has also been initiated to encourage more participation.

#### 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:

The Health Promotion team has distributed over 13,000 educational activity bags to the community.

They have participated in 15 Drive Thru events and have returned to the classrooms for face-to-face classes and event.

The Maternal Child Health program will be presenting at the KY SHAPE Conference on Mindfulness.

The Childcare Health Consulting program is developing raised garden beds for child care centers and In Home centers. They are working with the staff and children in growing fruits and vegetables.

The Tobacco program has received two CHAT (Community Health) grants. The grants will fund community surveys in Letcher and Owsley Counties regarding their readiness for enacting smoke-free policy.

The OD (Overdose) Map has been set up. KRHD will be entering data regarding overdose cases into the OD Map. Most of the counties in Kentucky have agreed to participate.

Partnering with the Kentucky River Consortium, the Covid Vaccine Hesitancy Campaign was displayed on billboards, social media, WYMT, and radio PSA's.

A Staff Satisfaction Survey has been implemented. The team is working with Susan Lutes, Epidemiologist, to create and implement a Patient Satisfaction Survey.

#### E. Home Health Services Report

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

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:

- There are currently 67 Home Health patients.
- Medicare and Wellcare are the top billers.
- Year to date: 123 referrals compared to 95 for last year
- Average length of stay: Owsley – 356 days, Lee – 236 days, Wolfe – 189 days.
- The top three referrals are from Dr. Brittany Bobrowski, Dr. James Noble, and Dr. William Gay.

The Home Health program has lost two employees. Vicky Chambers, Lee County Home Health nurse, resigned at the end of May. Tracy Lucas, Wolfe County Home Health Aide, resigned in April.

Beginning July 1, 2021, CDP will no longer be doing the Home Health billings. It will return to Thornberry. Thornberry is our carrier for the data system. Everyone has been busy transitioning insurance information and learning the new system.

#### F. Director's Report

The agency hosted the Commissioner, Dr. Stephen Stack, and his Chief of Staff, Kelly Alexander. They visited with as many of the staff as they could to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication.

Under House Bill 8, for the Agency to receive the subsidy to pay for the increased pension cost, staff with Go Hire must be transitioned back into the more traditional employment arrangement with the agency and will participate in the Kentucky Employee Retirement System, the Kentucky Employee Health Plan, and other benefits that the regular employees have.

Mr. Lockard stated that when he presents the budget to the board, he will not be asking for across the board increments, but because of bringing in the Go Hire staff, he is working with the Local Health Personnel office on the compensation plan. There needs to be some inequities adjustment made for some staff.

Mr. Lockard informed the board of the Chairman, Dr. Chet Ayres' resignation from the Board of Health. Dr. Ayres is moving from the area. This is his last Board of Health meeting. Mr. Lockard thanked Dr. Ayres for his dedicated service to the community and his leadership on the Board of Health.

#### G. Financial Report

- Mr. Lockard reviewed financial report 117 that was submitted to the Board before the start of the meeting.

For Period Ending 4/30/21

Total Revenue, Year to Date: \$7,207,060

Total Expenses, Year to Date: \$6,264,943

Surplus, Year to Date: \$ 942,117

Clinical service fee is down significantly compared to a normal year.

Capital expenditures reflect the purchase of multiple vehicles to replace those that were flooded in Lee and Letcher Counties. The insurance paid out approximately \$35,000 on the flooded vehicles.

Some of the surplus is due to the CARES Act funding we received to help offset the low service fee.

- Mr. Lockard reviewed the appropriation payments the Taxing Districts made to the Agency.

Lee, Leslie, Owsley, and Perry Counties have paid their FY21 appropriation in full. For the counties who still owe for the current fiscal year, Mr. Lockard acknowledged that it has been a challenge for them to come up with the payments.

Knott County has paid all their arrearage and has made some payment on this year's appropriation.

Letcher County Local Board is working diligently to address the financial shortage issue. Property tax valuations and collection have extremely decreased. Approximately \$1.2 million were collected. Projected for next year, the local taxing district will be collecting \$540,000. The local board is working with the agency to attain a long-term systemic solution.

Wolfe County has an outstanding balance, but will be paid by the end of the fiscal year.

- Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget

Mr. Lockard reviewed the 2022 fiscal year budget summary with the board.

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| State Receipts:           | \$3,946,918        |
| Federal Receipts:         | \$2,138,563        |
| Local Tax Appropriations: | \$1,497,441        |
| Service Fees:             | <u>\$3,775,571</u> |
| Total Revenue:            | \$11,358,493       |
| <br>                      |                    |
| Total Expenses:           | \$11,004,221       |
| <br>                      |                    |
| Surplus:                  | \$ 354,000         |

Under House Bill 8, the state has given us \$3,495,775 to cover the retirement expense.

The local appropriation rate is set at 4 cents. Compared to past six years, the agency will be receiving the lowest amount of the local tax appropriations.

The two largest increases in expenses are with employees' fringe benefits and salaries. This is due to the transitioning of the staffing company's employees back to the traditional employment with the agency. Mr. Lockard also plans to fill some vacant positions to provide the current staff with more assistance.

Capital expenditures reflect the costs of upgrading the Agency's automotive fleet and building improvements.

The surplus will allow some room for adjustments as needed.

**A motion was made by Donna Brewer to accept the 2022 Fiscal Year Budget as presented to the board. Dr. Holbrook seconded the motion. All was in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### VII. Comments from the County Coordinators

The county coordinators reported on their respective county. All the counties are doing well and have been working on their budgets. They are continuing with their efforts to promote the COVID vaccines. With the decrease in COVID vaccinations, other clinical services are picking up. HANDS, Family Planning and other clinical services are transitioning back to face-to-face visits.

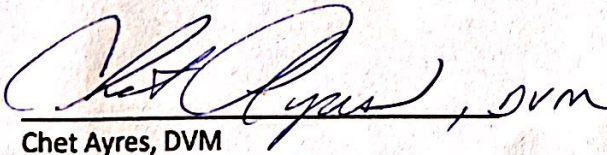
#### VIII. Next Board Meeting

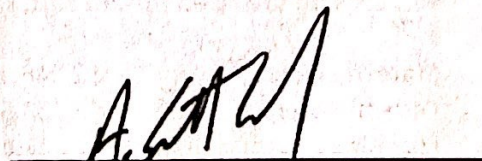
The next board meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

#### IX. Adjournment

**With no other business, Chairman Ayres made the motion to adjourn. Judge Scott Alexander seconded the motion. All was in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8 p.m.

  
Chet Ayres, DVM  
Chairman

  
A. Scott Lockard, Public Health Director  
Secretary

6-14-2021  
Date

6-10-2021  
Date