



Kentucky River District Health Department

Kentucky River District Board of Health Quarterly Meeting

Date of Meeting: September 14, 2021

Time of Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

Location of Meeting: ZOOM Format

Members Present

Judge Terry Adams
Judge Scott Alexander
Judge Raymond Banks by Proxy, Magistrate Wade Gibbs
Lisa Blackburn
J. B. Bowman
Donna Brewer
Judge Chuck Caudill
Dr. Ricky Collins
Dr. Don Holbrook
Judge William Lewis
Dr. Kenneth Slone
Sally Spaulding

Members Absent

Gregory Collins
Judge Jeff Dobson
Mike Mays
Judge Cale Turner

Staff Present

A. Scott Lockard, Secretary, Director
Helen Ascani, Administrative Assistant
K. Nicole Caldwell, Home Health Administrator
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
Sherri Stidham, Health Educator II
Elizabeth Turner, Nurse Administrator
James Ed Whisman, Environmental Supervisor
Stacy Wilson, Wolfe County Coordinator

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

With twelve (12) members present, a quorum was established.

III. Welcome and Introductions

Judge Caudill thanked everyone for attending.

IV. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Acting Chairman Caudill requested a motion to accept the minutes from the June 8, 2021, meeting as presented to the Board.

**A motion was made by Dr. Kenneth Slone.
Ms. Donna Brewer seconded the motion.
All was in agreement. The motion carried.**

The June 8, 2021, minutes were accepted unanimously.

V. Old Business

No old business was up for discussion.

VI. New Business

A. Election of the new Board of Health Chairman

Judge Chuck Caudill opened the floor for the nominations of Chairman.

**Judge Raymond Banks' Proxy, Magistrate Wade Gibbs, nominated Ms. Donna Brewer as the new Chairman.
Judge Scott Alexander seconded the motion.
All was in favor. The motion carried.**

Ms. Brewer was elected unanimously as the Chairman of the Board of Health.

B. The Clinical Services report was given by Ms. Libby Turner.

The School Health Program is in its 15th year. Currently, the agency is staffing school nurses in 20 school-based clinics in Knott, Letcher, Owsley, and Wolfe Counties. In addition to treating sick children, some have been involved in contact tracing for the schools. When schools are not in session, the school nurses help with vaccinations.

The Diabetes program is offering education in multitude of formats, such as telephone, telehealth, and in person. The program has seen an increase in the number of referrals. This can be attributed to three

projects: Diabetes Dollars, the Diabetes Learning Collaborative with the Little Flower Clinic, and the Care Align Project with Grace Health.

All seven clinics are currently offering services in family planning, cancer screening, pediatric immunizations, harm reduction, Covid vaccination, and Covid testing.

Working with communities' partners, including the National Guard, the agency participated in many community events to administer the Covid vaccine. Once the Pfizer vaccine was approved for children 12 and above, the agency, partnered with several school systems to provide vaccination to the children. Approximately 600 adolescents have been vaccinated.

Ms. Turner thanked Judge Cale Turner and Judge Chuck Caudill for their assistance in the vaccination efforts in their respective counties.

Ms. Turner announced the retirement of two clinical nurses, Marsha Hoskins in Perry County and Irsha Wilder in Lee County. She expressed her appreciation for their dedications. She welcomed two new nurses, Anne Hatton in Lee County and Jamie Turner in Perry County. Nurse Hatton will be covering both the Lee and Owsley County Health Departments until the vacancy in Owsley is filled.

C. Environmental Services

The Environmental Services report was given by Mr. James Ed Whisman.

Mr. Whisman congratulated Ms. Brewer as the new Chairman.

In the last quarter, the environmental team completed a total of 637 inspections. The top three categories of inspection were for food establishments - 337, onsite site evaluations for new homes - 124, and onsite final inspections - 53.

The team's Covid responses consisted of issuing recommendations to regulated establishments on quarantine and isolation. They also worked with local and state officials on Covid and environmental concerns.

Four rabies clinics were held across the district. 343 animals were vaccinated. An upcoming rabies clinic will be held in Leslie County on Friday, September 17, 2021.

The team continued to provide services for nuisance control, animal bites, mobile home, RV parks, plan review on new commercial construction, and private water samples. They also completed inspections of temporary food booths for festivals held across the district.

D. HANDS Services

The HANDS Services report was given by Ms. Melissa Feltner.

For a brief period, HANDS services were conducted in the homes. Unfortunately, home visits are now back to being conducted virtually, through Zoom or Facetime. Currently, there are 85 families enrolled in the program. This is an increase compared to the last quarter.

Ms. Feltner welcomed Diana Caudill back to the HANDS team. Ms. Caudill retired over a year ago and has started back as a Parent Visitor.

The program has been receiving referrals from hospitals. Hazard ARH has been especially helpful.

To date, total amount billed is \$51,210.00. The state also granted the program approximately \$294,000.00 to help our multi-gravida families during the pandemic.

Ms. Feltner expressed her appreciation to the community partners that have helped the program. Community partners such as the Harbor Light Ministries have provided food boxes to our families. In Letcher County, God's Love in a Diaper Bags have distributed diapers every other week.

E. Health Promotion Services

The Health Promotion Services report was given by Ms. Susan Kincaid.

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

The Maternal Child Health (MCH) program are focused on car seat safety. The team participated in four events checking on car seats. Nine car seats were checked. They will be offering virtual car seat safety check and have already had people signing up for the service.

With the SPAN's funding, the team is working on a Bike & Walk Plan for all seven counties.

The Childcare Health Consulting (CCHC) program followed up with the participants in the Raised Garden Bed activity by issuing Gardening Activity Bags.

For the Tobacco program, Knott County has received the Everette Varney Indoor Air Excellence Award. They are still offering the one-on-one Tobacco Cessation program as well as the virtual classes.

For a short time, the OD2A/Jail Education was held on location. Unfortunately, it is now back to being virtual. There was left over money in the program from the previous year. It will be used to purchase Fentanyl strips.

The KRHD Facebook page currently has 12,938 followers and is now also on Tik Tok.

The team has participated in over 30 Back-to-School bashes.

Ms. Kincaid informed the Board that there are two openings for the position of Health Educators.

F. Home Health Services Report

The Home Health Report was given by Ms. Nicole Caldwell.

Referring to the Home Health report that was submitted to the Board, Ms. Caldwell highlighted the following quarterly data for the Lee, Wolfe and Owsley County home health program:

- There are currently 78 patients, up 11 from the last quarter – 33 for Owsley, 30 for Lee, and 15 for Wolfe.
- From January 1 to date, there are 202 completed admissions, up 37 from this time last year.
- The two top billers continue to be Medicare and Wellcare of KY.
- Visit counts totaled 997, down 162 visits from this time last year

- Average length of stay: Owsley – 393 days, Lee – 103 days, Wolfe – 110 days.
- The top three referrals are from Dr. Brittany Bobrowski, Dr. William Gay, and Dr. James Noble.

Ms. Caldwell also informed the Board the transition to the Thornsberry Billing System is going well.

In July, Kalee Woodward was hired as a Billing Clerk.

G. Director's Report

Mr. Lockard thanked everyone for attending. He also expressed his appreciation to Ms. Caldwell for her new role as the Home Health Nurse Administrator. Mr. Lockard also thanked all the staff for stepping up in providing services for the communities.

The COVID incident rate has risen dramatically. On July 4, 2021, there were only 33 cases in the seven counties. There are now over 700 cases. According to ARH Hospital, the majority of COVID patients in the ICU and on ventilators are unvaccinated. The district also has two deaths in Lee County and several deaths in the Knott County nursing home.

KRDHD has escalated its vaccination efforts. Soon, KRDHD will become the regional vaccine distribution hub in Lee County to all the providers. An ultra-cold freezer has been purchased to handle the Pfizer vaccines.

A special session of the Legislature was held last week. They passed the bill eliminating the state-wide mask mandate for schools. Many of the local school boards have voted to continue with the mask mandate locally because of high transmission rate in the district.

Schools are looking at a "Test to Stay" program. Instead of quarantining individuals who were exposed to COVID, they would be tested daily. If the test result is negative, the student can remain in school for the day. Schools will obtain the rapid tests through testing vendors. There will be many other logistic issues with this program. The agency will be working with the schools to see if it will be a feasible solution.

H. Financial Report

Mr. Lockard reviewed the Year End financial report for Fiscal Year 2021.

Total Revenue, FY Year to Date: \$ 8,718,643.36
Total Expenses, FY Year to Date: \$ 7,994,289.73
Net Surplus for the district: \$ 724,253.63

Due to the pandemic, service fees were down considerably in fiscal year 2021. The district still did well, finishing with a surplus.

The surplus has been banked to deal with the increase in the pension payments for this year. There will be much fluctuation in the district's account due to the way the state disburses allocations.

The agency has just completed its financial audit. Hopefully the Board will have the audit report by the next board meeting for review.

For fiscal year 2022, the monthly balance sheet will vacillate because of the increase in payments of the retirement expenses. The agency will only receive the funds to offset the payments at the end of September and April.

The Health Department continues to do well. Mr. Lockard plans to re-evaluate staff positions to determine where additional staff needs to be re-added. He will also be looking at the inequity of salaries.

VII. Comments from the County Coordinators

The county coordinators reported on their respective county except for Ms. Vivian Smith and Ms. Maxine Shepherd. Ms. Shepherd had technical issues and were unable to report on Leslie County. Ms. Smith was not in attendance. Mr. Lockard did state that Lee and Owsley Counties have been very busy, especially with COVID testing and vaccinations.

All other coordinators reported that their respective counties are doing well and are also extremely busy, especially with COVID vaccine clinics. Beside administering the COVID tests and vaccines, they are also providing WIC, HANDS and other regular clinical services.

VIII. Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

IX. Adjournment

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

The motion to adjourn was made by Judge Chuck Caudill.

Judge Terry Adams seconded the motion.

All was in agreement. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.



Donna Brewer
Chairman

Date



A. Scott Lockard, Public Health Director
Secretary

Date