



Kentucky River District Health Department

Kentucky River District Board of Health Quarterly Meeting

Date of Meeting: March 22, 2022

Time of Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Hazard City Hall and ZOOM Format

Members Present

Judge Terry Adams
Judge Raymond Banks by Proxy, Magistrate Wade Gibbs
Lisa Blackburn
Donna Brewer
Judge Chuck Caudill
Dr. Ricky Collins
Kevin Davis
Judge William Lewis
Dena McIntosh
Dr. Kenneth Slone
Sally Spaulding
Judge Cale Turner

Members Absent

Judge Scott Alexander
J. B. Bowman
Gregory Collins
Dr. Don Holbrook

Staff Present

A. Scott Lockard, Secretary, Director
Helen Ascani, Assistant to the Director
K. Nicole Caldwell, Home Health Administrator
Janet Cornett, Perry County Coordinator
Melissa Feltner, HANDS Supervisor
Christy Grigsby, Knott County Coordinator
Anne Hatton, Nurse Administrator, Lee County
Susan Kincaid, Health Education Coordinator
Maxine Shepherd, Leslie County Coordinator
Brandy Slone, Letcher County Coordinator
Vivian Smith, Lee County & Owsley County Coordinator
Elizabeth Turner, Nurse Administrator
Jo Anne Vanzant, Harm Reduction Program Coordinator
James Ed Whisman, Environmental Supervisor
Stacy Wilson, Wolfe County Coordinator

I. Call to Order

Chairwoman Donna Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Introductions

Mr. Lockard welcomed Ms. Dena McNosh and Mr. Kevin Davis to the District Board of Health.

IV. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Chairwoman Brewer requested a motion to accept the minutes from December 7, 2021, meeting as presented.

**A motion was made by Dr. Kenneth Slone.
Judge Terry Adams seconded the motion.
All were in agreement. The motion carried.**

V. Old Business

No old business was up for discussion.

VI. New Business

A. Clinical Services

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

The COVID vaccine guidelines are constantly changing. This is also the case for the masking, isolating, quarantine, and school guidelines.

The WIC formula guidelines had just undergone major changes when a recall on all the Abbott formulas was announced on February 18, 2022. This affects all the Similac formulas. Allison Hurt, WIC Coordinator, worked continuously with the state WIC office, parents, staff, and local stores to provide appropriate substitution. To date, this is still ongoing.

The WIC participation rate continues to be high. The majority of visits are done by phone. This will continue until the state indicates otherwise.

COVID vaccinations have slowed down considerably. From the start of providing COVID vaccination on December 28, 2020, to date, 20,707 doses have been administered district-wide.

COVID testings are still being given in Lee and Wolfe Counties. Testings have also slowed considerably.

The diabetes team is starting to pick up services and is planning in-person classes. An event has been scheduled at the Little Flowers Clinic on Thursday, March 24, 2022.

Ms. Turner gave a special thank you to Reagan Turner and Stephanie Smith. When the sewerage backed up in the Knott County Health Department, they, themselves, cleaned the facility and rescheduled all the patients.

Mr. Lockard introduced Jo Ann Vanzant as the new Harm Reduction Program Coordinator. The agency received a Harm Reduction Expansion grant from the state. It allowed for the hiring of Ms. Vanzant. Previously Ms. Vanzant was employed by Operation UNITE.

Ms. Vanzant reported on the Harm Reduction Program.

The old Lee County Health Department building has been annexed as a resource hub serving those who are addicts or recovering addicts for Lee, Owsley, and Wolfe counties. The hub opened its door on February 2, 2022. Its goal is to meet people where they are, but not leave them there. It is designed to break down barriers that limit an individual from being sober and self-sufficient. Several community partners were relocated to the hub to help meet this goal. The services provided by the hub are as follow:

- Recovery Community Center
- Recovery Coaching
- Employment Readiness
- Overdose Response
- Help for Family and Friends
- Substance Use Treatment
- Support Groups
- Sober Living Housing
- Harm Reduction Services
- Emergency Food and Clothing
- Transportation
- Casey's Law Advocacy

The following data was collected since conception:

- Care Coordination: 64 individuals
- Long term treatment or IOP treatment: 21 individuals
- Assist in transportation: 10 individuals
- Overdose response: 27 individuals
- Food: 8 individuals
- Casey's Law: 2 families were assisted with information and filing of Casey's Law
- Recovery Groups: 2 groups with 24 in attendance

B. Environmental Services

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

As of March 10, 2022, the environmental team completed a total of 433 inspections. Of these inspections, 139 were for food establishments. The team completed 82 site evaluations for new onsite sewages and issued 36 permits for construction.

In February, eight installer classes were offered district-wide. Nearly 100 installers completed the classes and were issued certifications.

The team attended the 2022 KY Environmental Health Association (KYEHA). They completed their CEU and Registered Sanitarian requirements.

The team continued to provide services for nuisance control, animal bites, mobile home, RV parks, plan reviews on new commercial construction, and private water samples. School inspections will be completed over the next few months.

Mr. Lockard commended Mr. Whisman for being recognized as Environmentalist of the Year for the Commonwealth.

C. HANDS Services

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

Currently, there are 97 families in the HANDS program. This is an increase from the last quarter. The increase can be attributed to an increase in referrals. Giveaways such as car seats and Pac 'N Plays are also great incentives for families to join HANDS. Visits are done in homes as well as virtually.

The team is doing more individual activities with the families, but they are hoping to be able to hold more group events this year.

Three HANDS staff members were trained to be car seat technicians. A special thank you to the Health Promotion team for providing the training.

Since the first of January, 489 services have been billed, totaling \$63, 970.00.

Ms. Feltner welcomed Emiley Lewis to the team. Ms. Lewis has hit the ground running and is doing very well.

D. 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:

To increase awareness in Car Seat Safety/Seatbelts Safety, billboards will be promoting this topic in Leslie, Perry, Knott, Letcher counties. Billboards will also be used to promote COVID vaccines in Knott, Letcher, Perry, and Wolfe counties.

With the receipt of the "Preventing Child Abuse 2022 Community Mini-Grant" from Berea College and Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, the Health Promotion team has planned numerous promotions on this topic for April.

The Master Bike & Walk Plan is complete for Hazard/Perry County and Whitesburg/Letcher County. It is in progress for Booneville/Owsley County, Hyden/Leslie County, and Hindman/Knott County.

For the Tobacco Program, Owsley County and Beattyville passed their smoke-free ordinances in December. Signage and business kits have been passed out throughout the areas. Trust ID kits have been distributed to stores in Letcher, Knott, Leslie, Lee, and Owsley. They are in progress for Perry and

Wolfe counties. Once complete, these kits will be in all stores that sell tobacco products in all seven counties. These kits help to identify people before they buy tobacco products.

The new budget for the OD2A program has been approved. Sara Shouse has started back with classes at the Three Forks Regional Jail. The OD2A office has also relocated to the Hub location.

E. 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:

- At the start of the quarter, there were 57 patients. 65 were admitted and 49 were discharged over the last three months, ending with 73 patients. This is on track with this time last year.
- Admissions: Lee County - 19, Owsley County – 28, and Wolfe - 18 admissions.
- The average length of stay: Owsley – 303 days, Lee – 126 days, Wolfe – 95 days.
- Visit counts totaled 1049, down 73 visits from this time last year
- The top three payors are Medicare, Wellcare of KY, and Humana.
- The top three referrals are from Dr. Brittany Bobrowski, Dr. William Gay, and Dr. Jessica Wilson.

Ms. Caldwell asked the Board to approve the adoption of Mandatory Covid-19 Vaccine Policy and Procedure. CMS is requiring for those who participate in Medicare and Medicaid for all staff to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 by March 15, 2022, unless a medical or religious exemption is requested.

A motion was made by Dr. Ricky Collins to adopt the Mandatory Covid-19 Vaccine Policy and Procedure as presented.

Ms. Dena McIntosh seconded the motion.

All were in agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Director's Report

Mr. Lockard presented to the board the district's Epidemiology Curve showing the downward trend of the Omicron variant. The state is transitioning from a pandemic phase to an endemic phase. They have adopted new criteria in the reporting of Covid-19 cases. The severity of illness and hospitalization rate/capacity are a few of the criteria determining the outbreak status of the community. Outbreak status will be classified as Low, Medium, or High. Specific guidance is established for each level.

The state is moving away from contact tracing, disease investigation, and data entry. Effective July 1, 2022, funding for the regional and local contact tracing staff will cease.

The health department was recognized at an award ceremony for its response to the March flood.

Mr. Lockard asked the county judges to contact Senate President Rober Stivers and ask him to fully fund the Public Health Transformation as was done in the House budget. Public Health Transformation under the House budget will give \$17 million to the health departments. Kentucky River District will receive \$1.4 million.

Kentucky River District has been participating in a research project with Bangor University in Wales, the United Kingdom. The research project examines the attitudes and beliefs on Covid vaccinations for the coalfields of Wales and the coalfields of southeastern Kentucky. Through a grant from Bangor University, Mr. Lockard was invited to visit Wales. While in Wales, Mr. Lockard gave a lecture on the public health of southeastern Kentucky at the Cardiff University Medical School. Mr. Lockard hosted the team from Wales when they traveled to eastern Kentucky. The international collaboration fostered the valuable exchange of information.

G. Financial Report

Mr. Lockard reviewed the fiscal year-to-date financial report ending on February 28, 2022.

Total Revenue, FY Year to Date: \$ 7,150,498.46
Total Expenses, FY Year to Date: \$ 7,389,286.19
Net Loss: \$ 238,787.73-

The deficit is because the agency has gone ahead and paid the first two monthly installments of the assigned retirement liability. The two monthly payments total \$650,000. Reimbursement from the state will go out at the end of March to offset the liability, giving the agency a net gain of approximately \$400,000.

H. Proposed Salary Adjustment

With the inflation rate at 7.9%, salaries are not keeping up with the inflation rate. Some staff are having to take a second job to keep up with their expenses. Kentucky River District has finished in the surplus for the past three years and is scheduled to do the same for this fiscal year and the next fiscal year.

Mr. Lockard proposed a 5% yearly raise for all staff. Currently, the yearly salary expenses are \$3,688,596. The 5% raise will cost an additional \$217,627 annually and \$60,000 for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Mr. Lockard asked the Board to approve the 5% across the board yearly raise for staff as presented.

**Judge William Lewis made the motion to approve the 5% raise for all staff.
Judge Raymond Bank's proxy, Magistrate Wade Gibbs seconded the motion.
All were in agreement. The motion carried unanimously.**

I. Grant for District Office Renovation

Working with Nesbitt Engineering, the agency has applied for a USDA grant. The purpose of the grant is to build a state-of-the-art conference room on the back of the District Office to provide a meeting space for the District and serve as the Department Emergency Operation Center in case of a disaster. The grant will also provide much-needed renovation to the current building.

If the USDA makes the funding available, they are asking if the Board is willing to commit the agency's percentage of the funds. It would be a 55%-45% match. The total project cost is \$855,000. The amount out of the District funds for the Board to approve is \$388,960. The USDA would provide 55% of the \$855,000.

Judge Cale Turner made the motion to approve the allocation of \$388,960 to the USDA Grant project as presented.
Judge Raymond Bank's proxy, Magistrate Wade Gibbs seconded the motion.
All were in agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Comments from the County Coordinators

The county coordinators reported on their respective counties

VIII. Executive Session for Personnel Matters

Judge Cale Turner made the motion for the Board to go into an executive session.
Judge Terry Adams seconded the motion.
All were in agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon completion of the executive session, Judge Terry Adams made the motion to reopen the board meeting.
Judge Raymond Bank's proxy, Magistrate Wade Gibbs seconded the motion.
All were in agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

X. 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.
Dr. Ricky Collins seconded the motion.
All were in agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.


Donna Brewer, Chairman

3/24/2022
Date


A. Scott Lockard, Public Health Director, Secretary

3/24/2022
Date