



Kentucky River District Health Department

Minutes of the Kentucky River District Board of Health Quarterly Meeting

Date of Meeting: September 20, 2022
Time of Meeting: 6:30 p.m.
Location of Meeting: Hazard City Hall and ZOOM Format

Members Present

Judge Terry Adams
Judge Scott Alexander by Proxy, Bill McIntosh
Lisa Blackburn
J.B. Bowman
Donna Brewer
Judge Chuck Caudill
Dr. Ricky Collins
Kevin Davis
Judge Jeff Dobson
Dena McIntosh
Dr. Kenneth Slone
Judge Cale Turner

Members Absent

Judge Raymond Banks
Gregory Collins
Dr. Don Holbrook
Judge William Lewis
Sally Spaulding

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
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

Chairman 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. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Chairman Brewer requested a motion to accept the minutes from the June 14, 2022, meeting as presented.

Judge Cale Turner made the motion to accept the previous minutes as presented.

Mr. J. B. Bowman seconded the motion.

All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

A. Clinical Services

The Clinical Services report was presented by Ms. Libby Turner. Ms. Turner reviewed her report as presented in the board packet. Ms. Turner commended her staff on their flexibility since the flooding. They did whatever it was necessary to help the communities to recover. She also reported to the Board that KRHD has received the Bivalent COVID-19 Booster vaccines and the Influenza vaccines. Ms. Turner also expressed her concern regarding the difficulty in keeping clinic and school nurses due to the competitors paying nurses at a much higher rate.

B. Harm Reduction Services

Ms. Jo Anne Vanzant reported on the activities at the Hub. The Hub has been extremely busy. For August:

- 123 individuals have been care coordinated
- 6 individuals have been sent to treatment
- provided transportation to treatments for 4 individuals
- the quick response team has received and responded to 31 referrals
- the emergency food and shelter program assisted 100 individuals with food and 38 individuals with clothing
- there are 50 people enrolled in the jail education
- and have assisted 3 people in recovery to get employment.

The hub is becoming the model to use throughout the district.

C. Environmental Services

The Environmental Services report was given by Mr. James Ed Whisman. Mr. Whisman reviewed his report as presented in the board packet. Mr. Whisman thanked the County Judges for expeditiously dealing with the flood destructions.

The environmental team worked with FEMA to get housing setup for the flood victims. There are approximately 40 temporary sites set up in Knott County, approximately 20 sites in Perry County, and approximately 30 sites in Letcher County.

The team worked with the EPA to set up a mobile lab to provide private water samplings for those with well water. Approximately 75 samples were taken and well disinfection kits were issued. Mr. Whisman noted that all the samples were infected with E. Coli or other bacteria.

Mr. Lockard received permissions from the State Department of Public Health and the Commissioner to waive all fees for the septic evaluations and permits of those who sustained flood damages. The loss in revenues will be filed with FEMA. Hopefully, the agency will reclaim some of it.

D. HANDS Services

The HANDS Services report was given by Ms. Melissa Feltner. Ms. Feltner reviewed her report as presented in the board packet. Participation has steadily rose. There are 108 families currently enrolled in HANDS. Unfortunately, financials are down slightly. Ms. Feltner believes with the increase in reimbursements for home visits, the loss in financials will be rectified.

In the aftermath of the flooding, the HANDS team provided assistance to all babies, regardless of their enrollment status in HANDS. They provided beds for the babies that were in the shelter. Unfortunately, approximately \$15,000 worth of car seats and Pac-n-Plays were lost in the flood.

The team also participated in CASPER. Mr. Lockard explained to the Board that CASPER is a community assessment by the CDC in partnership with the local and state Department of Public Health. Students from the University of Kentucky and the University of Michigan also assisted in the assessment. The data gathered from the assessment is valid information that will be used to apply for more grants.

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.

There will be an increase in mental health/suicide prevention education in schools. This is in response to mental issues arising from the devastations caused by the flood.

Ms. Kincaid praised her team for their selflessness in respond to the flood. They worked tirelessly at centers distributing goods to flood victims.

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 reviewed the quarterly data for the Lee, Wolfe, and Owsley County home health program.

The number of patients has continued to be on the decline. The Wolfe County site is no longer admitting patients. They are unable to hire another nurse as a replacement for Hope Kelley.

Mr. Lockard does not think home health can survive, especially since Medicare is cutting reimbursement by 4.67%. Mr. Lockard asked the board permission to contract with the Cull & Hayden Law Firm to do an RFP to see if the CON can be sold to another agency that has more resources to serve the communities.

Judge Cale Turner made the motion to contract the Cull & Hayden Law Firm to do the RFP.

Mr. Lockard is to present the results to the Board.

Dr. Ricky Collins seconded the motion.

All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Director's Report

The state has provided much support to the area. Dr. Steve Stack, the Commissioner, has been to the Kentucky River District more than any other health department in the state. Dr. Stack, along with the state Epidemiologist, Dr. Kathleen Winter, was present when the result from CASPER was disclosed.

Mr. Lockard also hosted Dr. Eric Friedlander, Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and Wendy Morris, Commissioner for the Department of Behavior Health. Mr. Lockard is facilitating a weekly call with all the mental health providers in eight counties.

H. Financial Report

Mr. Lockard reviewed the year-end financial report 917 ending on June 30, 2022.

Total Revenue: \$ 12,076,037.06
Total Expense: \$ 11,416,234.23
Net Surplus: \$ 659,802.83

Mr. Lockard reviewed the fiscal year-to-date financial report 117, ending on August 31, 2022:

Total Revenue, FY Year to Date: \$ 1,733,178.25
Total Expense, FY Year to Date: \$ 2,061,859.52
Net Loss: \$ 328,681.27

The deficit is comprised of \$118,000 loss of Home Health revenue and the annual payments of all the insurances.

The USDA has committed the funds for the addition of the conference building and the renovation of the District Office. The USDA grant is for \$475,000 and the match amount from the agency's general fund is \$389,000.

I. Employee Recruitment and Retention

Mr. Lockard reported to the Board on the new compensation plan the state Department for Public Health has adopted. All employees, merit system and contract, must be re-allocated to the new compensation. This new compensation plan will increase the minimums for each pay grade by approximately 33%. There is a standardized increase between each grade level of 6%. Employees who have been employed with the district 6 months or longer will receive the greater of the new pay grade or a 6% raise. If an employee has been employed less than 6 months and their salary is less than the new minimum, they will be brought up to the minimum of that pay grade. According to Mr. Lockard's initial analysis of the plan, 68 of the employees will receive a 6% raise and the remaining 46 will receive a raise higher than 6%. He plans to implement the plan the first of October.

The increase in salaries will cost \$564,977 per year. When Mr. Lockard submitted the budget to the Board, he kept in reserve \$500,000, anticipating this increase.

Per the state Department of Personnel's encouragement, Mr. Lockard plans to reinstate tuition assistance and educational leave for nurses and licensed social workers as authorized by the administrative regulations. If an employee was granted tuition reimbursement of paid educational leave, the repayment is a time commitment to KRHD upon graduation. A legally binding contract would be drawn between the employee and the agency. If the contract was not completed, the employee will have to pay back the amount of tuition or the money paid during the educational leave.

V. Comments from the County Coordinators

With the exception of Christy Grigsby, the county coordinators reported on their respective counties.

VI. Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. Location to be announced.

VII. Adjournment

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

Dr. Ricky Collins made the motion to adjourn.


Bill McIntosh seconded the motion.

All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.



Donna Brewer, Chairman



Date



A. Scott Lockard, Public Health Director, Secretary



Date