



Kentucky River District Health Department

Minutes of the Kentucky River District Board of Health Quarterly Meeting

Date of Meeting: December 13, 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
Judge Raymond Banks
Lisa Blackburn
Donna Brewer
Judge Chuck Caudill
Dr. Ricky Collins
Kevin Davis
Dr. Kenneth Slone
Sally Spaulding

Members Absent

J. B. Bowman
Gregory Collins
Judge Jeff Dobson
Dr. Don Holbrook
Judge William Lewis
Dena McIntosh
Judge Cale Turner

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
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 ten (10) members present, a quorum was established.

III. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Chairman Brewer requested a motion to accept the minutes from the September 20, 2022, meeting as presented.

Dr. Kenneth Slone made the motion to accept the previous minutes as presented.

Dr. Ricky Collins seconded the motion.

All were in favor. None opposed. 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. She accentuated on some of the services such as the WIC participation rate of 98.6%. This is above the 95% rate set by the state. A school nurse and a clinic nurse have been recently hired. School nurses are now offering Covid testing to students and staff who are symptomatic. The number of Covid testing and vaccinations are decreasing. Wolf county leads in the number of Covid vaccinations and Bivalent doses in the seven counties. Since the flooding, over 800 Tetanus vaccines and over 475 Hepatitis vaccines have been given. The Diabetes program is doing an excellent job and has just undergone an audit. 40 participants have completed all 8 series. This is the highest number completed of any local health department in the state.

B. Harm Reduction Services

Ms. Jo Anne Vanzant highlighted on the activities at the Hub as presented to the Board in her report. As of the time of the meeting, 115 individuals have been placed into treatment. The Quick Response Team is still taking referrals of overdose, but at a much lower number. Utilizing the emergency food and shelter grant money, the hub has served 335 individuals with meals. Ms. Vanzant is very proud that the team has assisted 16 individuals in gaining employment, especially for the 4 individuals who were homeless. The team continues to assist families with filing Casey's Law and holding recovery support groups. Lee County was selected to participate in the Leave Behind program for overdose emergency medical responses with the EMS. Only Lee County and Whitley County were chosen to participate in this pilot program. The "Leave Behind" overdose rescue kit contains Narcan, CPR mask, hygiene kit, safe sex kit, snack, a bottle water, educational brochures, resource guides, and local contact information for the Hub.

Ms. Vanzant has been working on four grants. The first grant, due January 5, 2023, is for \$300,000. The grant is for a recovery community center, which is what being offered at the Hub. The state is wanting to have more of these centers. The second grant, due January 20, 2023, is for \$150,000. The grant will allow an expansion of services with the SSP program. If successful, Ms. Vanzant will use the grant to establish a mobile exchange unit. The other two grants are for the ARC and OD2A programs.

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.

Since the last board meeting, the Environmental team has completed 234 food establishment inspections; 104 site evaluations for new constructions; and issued 35 permits for onsite sewage. Installer training classes are being taught district-wide with classes completed in Knott, Letcher, and Perry Counties. The team is working with FEMA in the placement of travel trailers, RVs, and mobile homes.

Mr. Whisman reported, for the three counties of Letcher, Perry, and Knott, the District has saved flood victims over \$40,000, in fees associated with new constructions. Unfortunately, FEMA will not be reimbursing the agency for the lost fees. Mr. Lockard submitted to FEMA \$240,000 in expenses. FEMA will be reimbursing us \$4,700. According to FEMA the fees are non-reimbursable because the agency voluntarily waived the fees.

Covid wastewater samplings will be finishing in Knott, Lee, and Wolfe Counties. The same sampling project will begin in Leslie, Letcher, and Perry Counties. The state awarded each county \$5000 to conduct the samplings. They are monitoring the different variants of Covid in the samples collected. The agency also waived the \$50 fee associated with water samplings.

D. HANDS Services

The HANDS Services report was given by Ms. Melissa Feltner. Ms. Feltner reviewed her report as presented in the board packet. There is a steady increase in the number of visits. Currently, there are 109 families receiving HANDS benefits. The number of screenings and positive surveys are also higher than last year.

Ms. Feltner expressed her appreciation for the Hazard ARH's advocacy of the HANDS program. They have referred many clients to the program. Some of the other numerous organizations, such as the Catholic Charities of Lexington and the Hazel Green Food Project, have donated diapers and baby goods.

The team is preparing an emergency kit for all the family in the program. The kit will contain a first aid kit, a flashlight, a fire extinguisher, and multitude of other items that will be useful in an emergency.

Financially, Ms. Feltner reported that since January, they have billed for 2996 visits, for a total of \$416,005. Compared to last year at the same time, there is an increase of \$110,155 in billings.

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. The team remains very busy. Daily, there are requests for activities. Currently, they are preparing for the all-staff meeting scheduled for this coming Thursday.

Three Health Educators are now trainers for QPR, a suicide prevention training. QPR stands for Question-Persuade-Refer. Many schools are requesting for this training.

Emma Davidson, partnering with the Department of Public Health, is spearheading a pilot project to create an outdoor learning environment. She was awarded a \$120,000 grant to design an outdoor space that will incorporate gardens, physical activity, and hands on learning.

Tara Vostad presented at the SOAR Conference on smoke-free policy. She and Sherrie Stidham was awarded the best poster presentation on smoke-free policy at the Kentucky Rural Health Association Conference.

Ms. Kincaid reported that they are losing fundings for Sexual Risk Avoidance/Personal Responsibility program. She is working to convince Frankfort of the need to have those classes in the schools.

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.

Mr. Lockard updated the Board on the RFP process and the status of the sale of the Certificate Of Need to provide home health services in our communities. There were some issues of concern that were discussed.

The first issue was that ARH was unable to accept all of the referrals in Wolfe County after we stopped accepting referrals there. This resulted in our agency having to resume services there pending the outcome of the RFP.

The next issue was that little interest has been expressed in the CON in prerelease discussions. It is known that our counties are some of the most difficult to serve. The low census and rural nature of the district makes home health unprofitable. The main reason we have been able to serve the region is the cost settlements that we receive from Medicaid.

The issue that may be of most concern is that through this process it has been determined that Kentucky River District cannot contractually obligate the purchaser of our CON to provide home health services to our patients. One of the agencies that has been purchasing CONs in the state recently has opted not to provide services after purchases in some areas and simply hold the CON for future use. This is an unacceptable possibility for Mr. Lockard and the board.

After much discussion, it was determined that Kentucky River District cannot in good faith continue with the process to sell the CON. It was determined that the following steps should be taken to support the home health agency.

1. Hire additional nursing staff to adequately serve the home health counties.
2. Review all home health business practices to ensure the maximization of revenues while containing expenses.
3. Explore a partnership with a sister public health agency to improve our economies of scale.

Judge Chuck Caudill made the motion to discontinue the process of selling the CON and to continue providing Home Health services.

Dr. Ricky Collins seconded the motion.

All were in favor. None opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Director's Report

Mr. Lockard summarized all the achievements the agency has accomplished since he became the Director five years ago. When he took over the directorship, the agency was \$3 million in debt and it was unable to make retirement payments. He commended the staff for their hard work in turning the agency around.

Using grant money that was a hold-over from last year, Mr. Lockard was able to purchase 5 new Chevy Silverado trucks for the environmental team. The trucks can also be used for preparedness activities and help to bring resources from place to place. These trucks will help our team to respond to wherever they are need.

For 2023, Mr. Lockard will be refocusing on the challenges created by the Public Health Transformation. Emphasis will be on strategic planning to determine the agency's future direction.

H. Financial Report

Mr. Lockard reviewed the financial report 917 ending on October 31, 2022.

Year to Date Total Revenue:	\$ 4,789,415.51
Year to Date Total Expense:	\$ 4,312,689.75
Net Surplus:	\$ 476,725.76

Mr. Lockard reviewed the annual audit report that was completed by the RFH Accounting Firm for Fiscal Year 2022.

Total Revenue:	\$12,385,599
Total Expense:	\$11,409,389
Excess of Revenue:	\$ 976,210
Carryover from FY21	(\$ 310,138)
Net Change:	\$ 666,072
Fund Balance End of Year	\$ 4,139,500

Mr. Lockard recognized the service of Judge Chuck Caudill and Judge Cale Turner. Judge Caudill has served the board with dedication. He always has the best interest of not just the people of Lee County, but of the entire region and of the state. Mr. Lockard wished Judge Caudill well in his future endeavors.

Judge Cale Turner has been a great asset to the Board. His service to Owsley County has been tremendous. Mr. Lockard thanked Judge Turner for his support. His service to the Board has been impeccable. He always has the best interest of his constituents, questioning whether decisions made by the Board would favorably or negatively impact his people.

Mr. Lockard thanked them for their service to the Board. Chairman Brewer also thanked them for their service.

V. Comments from the County Coordinators

The county coordinators reported on their respective counties. All seven counties are very busy and are doing fine.

Vivian Smith thanked Judge Caudill and Judge Turner. They have been very supportive of the counties and have always provided her with assistance when needed.

VI. Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Location to be announced.

VII. Adjournment

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

Judge Chuck Caudill made the motion to adjourn.

Judge Terry Adams seconded the motion.

All were in favor. None apposed. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.



Donna Brewer, Chairman

12/19/2022
Date



A. Scott Lockard, Public Health Director, Secretary

12/19/2022
Date