



Kentucky River District Health Department

Minutes of the Kentucky River District Board of Health Quarterly Meeting

Date of Meeting: September 12, 2023

Time of Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Kentucky River Area Development District (KRADD) Conference Room
and ZOOM Format

Members Present

Judge Terry Adams
Judge Scott Alexander by Proxy, Holly Fields
Lisa Blackburn
J. B. Bowman
Donna Brewer
Dr. Ricky Collins
Kevin Davis
Dena McIntosh
Dr. Kenneth Slone

Members Absent

Raymond Banks
Gregory Collins
Judge Jeff Dobson
Dr. Don Holbrook
Judge William Lewis
Judge Zeke Little, Jr.
Judge Steve Mays
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
Christy Grigsby, Knott County Coordinator
Anne Hatton, Ryan White Program Coordinator
Susan Kincaid, Health Promotion Services Coordinator
Maxine Shepherd, Leslie County Coordinator
Brandy Slone, Letcher County Coordinator
Vivian Smith, Lee and Owsley Counties Coordinator
Elizabeth (Libby) Turner, Nurse Administrator
JoAnn Vanzant, Harm Reduction Program Coordinator

Lock boxes are being installed throughout the district. These lock boxes contain Narcan and are for the general public use.

KRDHD is the first health department in the nation to obtain membership to ARCO (the Association of Recovery Community Organizations). Once certification is completed, the Hub will be a nationally certified recovery community center.

The Harm Reduction team has grown to 14 employees. There are four AmeriCorps positions available for the district.

- Started a SMART Friends and Family group. It is similar to Al Anon, but uses a four-point system.
- Also, have two Certified Life Coaches.
- Two Peer Support Counselors are now Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselors under supervision.
- A 12-Step Christ Centered Youth Group has been established.

last Board of Health meeting:
Ms. Jo Ann Vanzant reported on the activities at the Hub. The Hub has been extremely busy. Since the Harm Reduction Services

The new COVID vaccine is expected to be available very soon. Because it is no longer free, the health department will not be the primary source for the vaccine. It will be available at most pharmacies and physician offices.

Regarding personnel changes, Jamie Turner and Jessica Cornett are two new school nurses. Jamie will be working in Wolfe County and Jessica will be in Letcher County. Melinda Polly, RN, has moved from school health to the clinic in Letcher County. Misty Combs, RN, is now the Quality Improvement Coordinator. Finally, Joyce Hurt, long time support staff in Perry County, retired on July 31st.

The WIC program has returned to in-person service. It continues to be the largest service in clinic. District-wide, the participation rate for June was 98.9%, but is expected to decrease upon the return of in-person service.

The Clinical Services report was presented by Ms. Libby Turner. Ms. Turner reviewed her report that was submitted in the board packets.

IV. New Business

1. Call to Order
Chairperson Donna Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Roll Call
With nine (9) members present, a quorum was not established. The meeting will be an information only meeting.
- III. Minutes of Previous Meetings
Chairman Brewer tabled the vote until the next meeting.
- IV. New Business

C. Environmental Services

James Ed Whisman was unable to attend. The Environmental Services report was given by Scott Lockard.

Mr. Lockard reported that the kitchen at the Wolfe County High School recently had to be sanitized. The Wolfe County Health Department received a complaint so James Ed Whisman went to investigate. He discovered that the cook had brought her pet raccoon to work and it was in the kitchen. Mr. Whisman met with the Superintendent, resulting in disciplinary action of the school employees.

D. HANDS Services

The HANDS Services report was given by Mr. Lockard. The HANDS team is currently at the Kids Are Worth It Conference in Louisville.

The HANDS team is growing. There is now a full-time HANDS Home Visitor in Leslie County with the hiring of Karen Turner. Belinda Ferguson was hired as a home visitor for Lee County and Lindsay Durbin will provide the service in Owsley County. The HANDS team is now fully staffed.

The HANDS program received a \$336,000 grant from the state to purchase a new fleet of vehicles. Each of the home visitors will be provided with an all-wheel drive SUV.

E. Health Promotion Services

The Health Promotion Services report was given by Ms. Susan Kincaid. Ms. Kincaid reviewed some of the activities as presented in the board packet.

The activities of the MCHC program include the training of all Perry County School staff on the suicide prevention curriculum, QPR, before the start of school. Mental health presentations on mindfulness were shown at several summer programs. Working with the Leslie County Health Department, a Community Baby Shower was held in Leslie County. Twenty car seats were given to parents in need. The Health Promotion team collaborated with the KY River Health Consortium to create "Calm Down Kits" for children and teens who were affected by the 2022 flood. With September being Child Passenger Safety Month, several PSA videos are being made to run on Facebook.

For the CCHC program, with the OLE grant, Emma Davidson has been busy putting together outdoor learning centers at Oak Tree Academy in Letcher, Kids Kave in Letcher, and New Beginnings in Perry. This is a pilot program and its progress and results will be monitored. Also, The Governor's Office of Early Childhood will be making a site visit.

Ms. Kincaid announced the promotion of Tara Vostad to Area Health Liaison for DPH. Hannah Combs is the new Tobacco Program Coordinator.

To promote vaccination, billboards will be going up in Letcher, Perry, Lee, Wolfe, and possibly Owsley Counties. There will also be television advertisements during UK football games, and radio advertisements for broadcasted high school football games.

Ms. Kincaid and Mr. Whisman are applying for a UK Care grant, titled "Does Your Water Pass the Test?". They will be visiting 50 flood-stricken homes that use water well as the main source of water. The water will be tested, and they will be given well disinfecting kits. A post-survey will also be done.

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.

Admission numbers have increased steadily. There are currently 31 patients in Lee County, 27 patients in Owsley County, and 25 patients in Lee County. The census tracker shows an upward trend as compared to the downward trend of last year.

Visit counts rose from 901 last year to 1266. Currently, there are four full-time nurses. Ms. Caldwell hoped to add another full-time nurse for Wolfe County. This is a difficult task because she is competing with the higher pay offered by hospitals and other private organizations.

Mr. Lockard commented that reimbursements are down. They are encountering pre-authorization issues. Insurance companies are limiting the number of visits and additional visits must be pre-approved. The administrative burden has increased, yet reimbursement has decreased.

G. Director's Report

The agency will be partnering with the Department for Public Health, and the University of Kentucky, to implement a breastfeeding survey. This region has the lowest rate of breastfeeding initiation in the nation. The survey will target the providers. The project hopes to create a culture where breastfeeding becomes the norm for the region and it will be universally promoted by healthcare professionals.

The upcoming legislative session will be a budget year. They have requested for a presentation on the impact of the Public Health Transformation funding. Mr. Lockard will be presenting to the legislature because Kentucky River District was one of the biggest recipients of the funding.

The sale of the Letcher County building project is still ongoing. The Letcher County Taxing District was unable to self-finance the project due to bonds that were initially issued to fund the building. The entity wanting to purchase will have to pay for the building outright. Mr. Lockard is hoping the city and county can forgo some property taxes to induce the completion of the sale.

The local health departments were the recipients of "one-time" money from the Department for Public Health. The Owsley County Health Department was its first recipient. The money enabled for the purchase of the lot across from the health department to be used as its parking lot. Mr. Lockard has asked the other county coordinators to determine the best way to utilize the money for their county.

The agency has entered into an agreement with the University of Kentucky to provide hepatitis treatment at the Lee County Health Department. They will be coming twice a month to do testing and to provide treatments for hepatitis.

The Kentucky River Health Consortium will be visiting the Lee County Health Department. Mr. Lockard, Ms. Vanzant, and Ms. Smith plan to highlight the work of the Kentucky River District to the Consortium. The agency will be partnering with the UK Center for Excellence on Rural Health on an Elevate grant. This is a Community Health Worker Apprenticeship Program. Details are being finalized with Medicaid so that CHW services and Peer Counselors services can be billable.

H. Financial Report

Mr. Lockard reviewed the fiscal year-to-date financial report 117, ending on June 30, 2023, submitted in the board report.

For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023:

Total Revenue: \$ 14,060,976

Total Expense: \$ 13,280,822

Net Surplus: \$ 780,154

Mr. Lockard commented that the health department is a \$10 million economic development engine, providing jobs and benefits to the communities.

V. Comments from the County Coordinators

Comments were given on their respective counties by Christy Grigsby, Maxine Shepherd, Vivian Smith, Janet Cornett, and Brandy Slone.

VIII. Next Board Meeting

December 12, 2023

To be held at the KRADD Boardroom.

IX. Adjournment

With no other businesses to discuss, Chairman Brewer adjourned the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Donna Brewer, Chairperson

9/28/2023

Date



A. Scott Lockard, Public Health Director, Secretary

9/19/2023

Date

