



# Kentucky River District Health Department

## Minutes of the Kentucky River District Board of Health Quarterly Meeting

**Date of Meeting:** March 18, 2025

**Time of Meeting:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location of Meeting:** KRADD Board Room and ZOOM Format

### **Members Present**

Lisa Blackburn  
J.B. Bowman  
Donna Brewer  
Dr. Ricky Collins  
Kevin Davis  
Judge Jeff Dobson by Proxy, Leah Fugate  
Dr. William Hagans  
Judge William Lewis by Proxy, Nancy Hibbs  
Judge Zeke Little, Jr.  
Dena McIntosh  
Dr. Kenneth Slone

### **Members Absent**

Judge Terry Adams  
Judge Scott Alexander  
Judge Raymond Banks  
Gregory Collins  
Brittany Maggard  
Judge Steve Mays

### **Staff in Attendance**

A. Scott Lockard, Secretary, Director  
Helen Ascani, Assistant to the Director  
K. Nicole Caldwell, Home Health Administrator  
Tammy Caudill, Chief Financial Officer  
Janet Cornett, Perry County Coordinator  
Melissa Feltner, HANDS Supervisor  
Ann Hatton, Ryan White Coordinator  
Hannah Hogan, Health Educator  
Maxine Shepherd, Leslie County Coordinator  
Melissa Slone, Chief Operation Officer  
Vivian Smith, Lee County & Owsley County Coordinator  
Stacy Wilson, Wolfe County Coordinator

I. Call to Order

Chairman Donna Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

With eleven (11) members present, a quorum was established.

III. Welcome

Chairman Donna Brewer welcomed Dr. William Hagans to the District Board.

IV. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Chairman Brewer requested a motion to accept the minutes from the December 3, 2024, meeting as presented.

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

**Judge Zeke Little, Jr., seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

V. New Business

A. Clinical Services

Updates to clinical services were given by Scott Lockard.

Mr. Lockard announced the hiring of several new clinical nurses. Whitney Johnson, LPN, started in December, covering the Lee and Owsley clinics. Briana Madden, RN, and Madison Hollon, RN, started in January. Briana covers the Letcher County clinic, and Madison covers the Knott County clinic.

A new regional epidemiologist, Hannah Hartley, has been hired by the Dept. of Public Health. Hannah covers KRHD seven counties as well as Breathitt County. She replaced Susan Lutes, who unexpectedly passed away in September 2024. Ms. Lutes was a valued employee

A new Breastfeeding Peer Counselor has been hired. Because Southeastern Kentucky has the lowest breastfeeding initiation rate in the country, the agency will be developing a new breastfeeding awareness project. Misty Combs, the Breastfeeding Coordinator, will be looking at some evidence-based practices and ways of implementing these practices.

Vaccinations for Tetanus and Hepatitis are not in much demand like that after the 2022 flood. The current flood caused most of the damage to Pike County.

There are measles outbreaks in Texas and New Mexico. A case has been confirmed in Kentucky. The resident had contracted the measles while traveling and had exposed others to it.

B. Harm Reduction Services

Updates on the Harm Reduction services were given by Melissa Slone.

The Harm Reduction program continues to grow. There is much interest in the Hub model. The team hosted a group from W. Virginia at the Lee County Hub. They were interested in how the Hub operates and the services provided.

The Kentucky Health Department Association (KHDA) has applied for a grant to fund the replication of the Hub model to be implemented statewide.

Since November, Lee, Letcher, and Owsley Hubs have provided over 1500 services, ranging from Care Coordination to distributing emergency supplies. Some of the highlights include:

- The syringe exchange program has a 97% return rate with 152 active individuals.
- Continuation of jail education classes.
- Five overdose cases were reversed in Lee County and no fatalities.

Some notable community impacts are:

- The establishment of a steering committee in Lee and Owsley, comprising of 40 community partners.
- The creation of Quick Response Teams in Lee and Owsley, partnering with EMS and law enforcement.
- Placement of Americorp volunteers throughout the district to work in the Harm Reduction program.

Ms. Fraley and Ms. Slone have submitted a proposal to the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Commission to fund the replication of the Hub model for two more counties. If the fund is awarded, community assessments will be performed in the four counties that currently don't have Hubs to identify the counties with the most need.

Mr. Lockard praised Ms. Slone and Ms. Fraley for their work in creating an implementation manual for the replication of the Hub. Mr. Lockard is looking at either copyright or trademark the manual before sharing it with interested parties.

#### C. Environmental Services

The Environmental Services report was given by Scott Lockard. Mr. Lockard reviewed the report that was submitted by Mr. Whisman to the board in the board packet.

The environmentalist team have been staying abreast of issues caused by the flood. They worked closely with restaurants and grocery stores, helping with the cleanups and reopening procedures. There were also large numbers of requests for well water testing. The team distributed bleaches and educated the public on how to treat their wells.

The team has been made aware of unlicensed body art (tattoo) parlors operating in the district. They plan to educate the community on the possibility of being exposed to hepatitis when they choose to go to an unlicensed tattoo parlor.

A new environmentalist has been hired for Knott County. Cassidy Everidge has already started and is currently in training.

#### D. HANDS Services

The HANDS Services report was given by Ms. Melissa Feltner. Ms. Feltner reviewed her report as presented in the board packet.

Currently, there are over 100 families in the program. The team continues working hard to build the program.

Aligning with breastfeeding awareness, all of Tracy Neace's prenatal families in Leslie County are planning to breastfeed their babies.

The team is working with all the local hospitals to promote the program. Several calls have come in from maternity wards with referrals. They are also participating in community baby showers and other community events to promote the HANDS program.

State site visits were completed with positive reviews. They noted improvements were made compared to last year.

There are currently 12 staff members. Two members will be retiring this coming year. Their positions will be posted soon. Currently, the program is looking to hire a supervisor for the upper counties. The position will require a Bachelor of Social Work.

#### E. Health Promotion Services

The Health Promotion Services report was given by Ms. Hannah Hogan. Ms. Hogan reviewed some of the activities from the report submitted to the Board.

The Maternal Child Health program, using the Youth Thrive grant, hosted a Youth Café #2 at Buckhorn school. The first café focused on New Year's goals and adolescent development. The focus of the second café is on Self Love and Social Connection. A site visit was attended by the Department of Public Health during Youth Café #2 event. The team is preparing to host Youth Café #3, which will focus on resilience.

All the Health Educators are now trained in QPR Suicide Prevention. Emma Davidson and Susan Kincaid just completed teaching their first classes which were held at the Leslie County and Perry County Sapling Centers.

Upcoming car seat check events are being planned for Lee, Owsley, Wolfe, Leslie, and Knott counties.

Emma Davidson, for the CCHC Program, created 120 resource bags for newborns at the ARH hospitals in Hazard and Whitesburg. The resource bags contained Safe Sleep Sacks and car seat safety materials.

The Tobacco Program was finally able to have anti-vaping and smoking billboards in five of the seven counties. Lee and Leslie counties do not have their billboards due to the unavailability of spaces.

The Sex Education Program received a community engagement grant. The team plans to host two Family Fun Nights in May. The focus will be on family time, talking to your kids, self-esteem, and more.

#### F. Home Health Services Report

The Home Health Report was given by Ms. Nicole Caldwell. Referring to her report that was submitted to the Board, Ms. Caldwell reviewed the quarterly data for the Home Health Program operating in Lee, Owsley, and Wolfe counties.

The staff of the Home Health Program comprises of 4 full-time nurses, 1 part-time nurse, 2 full-time Home Health aides, 2 physical therapists, 1 physical therapist aide, 1 occupational therapist, and multiple clerks at each of the sites.

As of the time of the meeting, the patient counts stand at 72. January was at its lowest, but slowly there was an increase. The current census is comparable to last year.

Ms. Caldwell updated the board on the Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) data system that was implemented on January 1, 2025, as a requirement for the billings of claims. It is going very well for all payers, except for Wellcare Medicaid. The agency has not received any payments from Wellcare. Talks are ongoing to locate the issue(s) that is preventing the reimbursements of claims billed

Ms. Caldwell presented to the board an update on the Home Health Policies and Procedures. She requested the board to approve its adoption.

**Dr. Ricky Collins made the motion to adopt the Home Health Policies and Procedures as presented.**  
**Dena McIntosh seconded the motion.**  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

G. Financial Report

The Financial Report was given by Tammy Caudill, CFO.

Ms. Caudill review the Monthly Income Statement for February 2025. She reminded the board that the current report does not look like past reports because of the state-wide change in the financial system. Ms. Caudill feels confident in the accuracy of the revenue and expenses as reported.

	<u>Current Period</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budgeted at 2/3 of the FY</u>
Total Revenue	1,133,252.54	9,580,216.80	9,452,298 (revenue over budget)
Total Expenses	1,035,800.46	8,954,143.57	9,452,298 (expenses under budget)
Excess Revenue or Expenses	97,452.08	626,073.16	

Mr. Lockard thanked the counties for paying their tax appropriations to the district so quickly this year. All the local taxes have been paid for this point in the year.

Mr. Lockard commended Ms. Caudill for her work and wanted to publicly express his appreciation for her dedication.

H. Director's Report

Mr. Lockard presented the new Employee Handbook to the Board and requested for its adoption.

**Dr. Ricky Collins made the motion to adopt the new Employee Handbook as presented.**  
**Judge Zeke Little, Jr., seconded the motion.**  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

The Legislature is currently in its veto period. For a non-budget year, it has been a very active session.

Since it is budgetary time, the next fiscal year allocations will be revealed shortly. The Department of Public Health receives approximately \$400 million from the Federal Government to disburse across the state. Mr. Lockard anticipates a cut in the allocations due to policy changes in the Federal and State governments. More conclusive information will be available at the June board meeting.

VI. Comments from the County Coordinators

Apart from Christy Grigsby and Brandy Slone, who were unable to attend, the county coordinators reported on their respective counties.

All counties are keeping busy participating in many community events and things are going well in the clinics.

VII. Next Board Meeting <sup>2025</sup>

Tuesday, June 10, ~~2024~~, at 6:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

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

**Dr. Ricky Collins made the motion to adjourn.**

**Dr. Kenneth Slone seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Donna Brewer, Chairman

4/24/2025  
Date



A. Scott Lockard, Public Health Director, Secretary

3/28/25  
Date