



# Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health



**Thursday, January 19, 2023**

108 Lee Street East  
Charleston, WV 25301  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room

## MEETING NOTES

**1. Call to Order—President Mr. Jeremy Nelson**

The meeting was called to order with the President, Mr. Jeremy Nelson, presiding.

**2. Roll Call—Kandy Forsythe**

Ms. Forsythe called the roll.

Dr. Dara Aliff-Lao	Not Present
Ms. Jessica Hudson	Present
Ms. Lillian Morris	Present
Ms. Danita Nellhaus	Present
Mr. Jeremy Nelson, President	Present
Dr. Arthur Rubin	Present

The President noted the presence of a quorum.

**3. Moment of Silence**

The President called for a moment of silence for those who have died from COVID-19 and first responders who have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**4. Report of the President - Mr. Jeremy Nelson**

- a. **Approval of minutes** – With no further discussion, approval of minutes for the November 17, 2022, Board of Health meeting Upon motion by Ms. Morris, seconded by Ms. Nellhaus, the question was put: Shall the minutes of the November 17, 2022, Board of Health meeting be approved? Motion carried.

**5. Report of the Health Officer - Dr. Steven C. Eshenaur, DO, MBA**

- a. **Strategic Plan Update** – Dr. Eshenaur stated KCHD had received two very good bids for the development of a strategic plan. Dr. Eshenaur further stated KCHD had received a \$5,000.00 capacity-building grant from The Greater Kanawha valley Foundation to fund a portion of the strategic plan process.

Dr. Eshenaur directed the board to review a packet in their folder regarding KCHD's choice, The Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and Development, Inc.

(CESD). Dr. Eshenaur stated that Mr. Mills had worked with the Managing Director of CESD, Dr. Carl D. Hadsell on another organization's strategic plan, and asked Mr. Mills to speak to the board on KCHD's choice. Mr. Mills stated he thought the proposal was very fair and was impressed that Dr. Hadsell had met with them in person to go over details. Dr. Eshenaur stated that the \$5000 capacity-building grant would be applied to the cost of developing the strategic plan, and the rest would come out of the administrative budget.

With no further discussion, approval of entry into agreement with The Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and Development, Inc. (CESD) Upon motion by Ms. Nellhaus, seconded by Ms. Morris, the question was put: Shall we approve of the entry into agreement with The Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and Development, Inc. (CESD)? Motion carried. No questions asked.

- b. EPIC** – Dr. Eshenaur stated he had received contact back from EPIC after their visit last month. Dr. Eshenaur stated they will come either Wednesday or Friday of next week to discuss options and what EPIC may look like for the local health department. Right now, in the state, two health departments are in the process of incorporating EPIC but there are still some concerns over Title Ten Compliance that they are working on.

Ms. Morris asked of Dr. Eshenaur could describe a little bit more about the Title Ten Compliance. Dr. Eshenaur stated specifically, if you provide any birth control to a minor, a parent cannot be able to access that through the ER and that a parent has a right to access a minor's ER records except for those items related to family planning. No further questions asked.

- c. New Year's Resolutions** - Dr. Eshenaur mentioned that everybody thinks about their new year's resolutions and Dr. Eshenaur mentioned that he would bring up his for a specific reason because it rolls into my next subject. Everyone tends to focus on weight, exercise, or their health. In thinking about my resolutions, I wanted my resolution to focus on humility. Dr. Eshenaur stated the reason that he brings that up is that I think the more humble that a leader is, the more respected they can be and the more influential they can be in the messages that they deliver. The key and important role of the health officer is as a physician, especially an experienced clinician, is to be able to convey and relate to the public, concerns about public health and to be a trusted voice, a voice that comes from education, reason, and experience. Unfortunately, we have seen some hits to public health as we move forward. There are some bills, several which that would truncate the abilities and capacities of public health. You may or may not be aware of them, so my question for the board is, as we move forward, we've already received several inquiries on some of the political bills that are being placed forward, specifically the ones that would truncate or reduce our ability to deliver services in the form of particularly restrictions and or immunization requirements some of them would go all the way to the state level. I think it prudent that we be a voice of reason, it's not partisan it's not political it's human that we are all equal humans and that whatever message that I might deliver in reference to health, it is for the greater good of all not any particular

political parties' leanings or desires and it's my goal to be a more humble servant in that regard because I want to be a positive influencer. Dr. Eshenaur stated that the bottom line I would like to kind of open up for discussion is one of the bills that has come up is to remove the requirement for public school immunizations. I practiced out of this country for four years and I've been in a lot of the rural countries, a lot of the armpits of the world. You do not want polio here. Polio is in New York now. We also don't want measles and measles is in Columbus right now. I don't want us to become a third world state and it would be a shame to regress back after we have progressed, and we are one of the states that has a very high childhood immunization rate. We do have a good strict immunization policy and it's what keeps everybody healthy. If you're not able to influence the right people, then bad decisions will be made. Dr. Eshenaur stated that on Tuesday, he had his first lunch with a legislator, and he wanted me to be supportive of one of the bills. But I want to come out publicly because if you read the bills, they're not well written. There's a lot of gray area and a lot of details not addressed correctly. So, if you're not talking about those details, if you're not pointing those things out, then it can be interpreted in a very different way. Dr. Eshenaur stated that he has spent most of his days here recently, trying to point out all the details that the bill just doesn't address and when it doesn't address those things, you leave yourself open to so many bad things possibly happening. We have two physicians and two nurses on our board and you all can play important influential roles, the many voices for one message. Dr. Eshenaur asked if they would be willing to assist with some interviews or film a segment and be my co-host, and we talk about immunizations in general, talk about childhood immunizations, talk about infection control and the consequences. I would like us to be the many voices with one message that we are apolitical that we are here for public health, we are here for immunizations that protect us all protect our entire society us individually and us as a community and family. We will most likely get some backlash there's going to be some politicians that are not going to like me making public statements that is not necessarily supportive of a political agenda when it is not congruent with a good health agenda. Dr. Eshenaur asked if Ms. Nellhaus, or if any of the board members would be interested in penning op-eds, to talk about various things. Ms. Nellhaus stated that she is more comfortable with op-eds. Dr. Eshenaur stated that the most trusted profession in America is nursing, and nurses could be far more influential than what you think, especially on the immunization causes. If we keep being proactive, it'll be a lot better for us. State academy of Pediatricians, Dr. Rubin, are very supportive of immunizations along with many other groups that we can work with. No further comments or questions asked.

**6. Report of the Division of Administrative/Operations – Doug Beasley absent, reported by Dr. Steven Eshenaur**

- a. **FY22-23 First Quarter Financial Report** – Dr. Eshenaur stated Mr. Beasley was having internet connection issues and unable to connect. Dr. Eshenaur stated that KCHD is doing very well financially, and we are on track with regards to our budget and is currently working on building out the FY23-24 budget at this time. No questions asked.

**7. Report of the Division of Clinic Services – Deborah Snaman**

- a. **Clinic Update** – Ms. Snaman stated that from the middle of November, until yesterday, visits have dropped drastically, which can be normal during the holiday season. Ms. Snaman stated they have had over 1000 people in the clinic, which was down from 3000 stated at the last meeting. Ms. Snaman stated they still have a lot of latent TB cases that the clinic was following 43 at the moment and have five in the queue to be assigned.

Ms. Snaman stated the clinic had 26 clients in November during the later Tuesday hours, 23 clients in December, with approximately 10 clients so far in January. No questions asked.

- b. **COVID Update** – Ms. Snaman stated COVID numbers have been down once again since last Board of Health meeting. KCHD has done 55 tests through QLABs and billed through insurance. There were 396 COVID home tests distributed. Ms. Snaman also stated there were over 1757 COVID vaccines given. No questions asked.
- c. **Flu Update** – Ms. Snaman stated there were 2,000 doses of the flu vaccine given. Of those, 845 were high dose. No questions asked.
- d. **Monkey Pox Vaccines** – Ms. Snaman stated the clinic has given only 14 doses in the last two months. No questions asked.
- e. **Mobile Clinic/Outreach** – Ms. Snaman stated KCHD did four outreach clinics in the middle of November. The clinic at DHHR, the Diamond Building and Davis Square provided 97 flu vaccines and 49 COVID vaccines. No questions asked.

Ms. Snaman stated KCHD also participated in World Aids Day at the Covenant House in December. Ms. Snaman stated KCHD did not have anything different to offer with so many other health entities providing flu vaccines, etc., but we offered personal care bags and first aid kits. No questions asked.

Ms. Snaman stated KCHD also participated in the Gay Pride Christmas party on December 14, 2022. There were 8 people served, 6 COVID, 1 flu and 3 Monkeypox. No questions asked.

Ms. Snaman stated KCHD participated in the SOAR Meal on December 21, 2022. There were 4 people served, 3 COVID and 1 flu (1 staff member). No questions asked.

**8. Report of the Division of Environmental Services – Stan Mills**

- a. **Sanitarians and Training** - Mr. Mills stated they were back on track, caught up to where they need to be. There are still two sanitarians on OJT for the State Health Department. Mr. Mills stated there continues to be numerous challenges in trying to work with the State Health Department to get this training completed. Mr. Mills stated his goal is to finish by the end of the month. No questions asked.

- b. Inspections** - Mr. Mills stated there have been involved in some compliance issues. Mr. Mills stated there was a coffee shop open in Nitro without a permit and stated he would do what he wanted. Mr. Mills stated they were working with the prosecutor to get him closed until they obtain a permit. The health department cannot close a facility, but they can pull a permit and go to court to get the judge to order you closed. We normally start with a certified mail, but, a lot of times, with compliance issues, we go back and continue to show up once a week until they become compliant. No questions asked.

Mr. Mills stated there are also a great deal of calls regarding garbage and trash in yards and vacant lots. There are often repeated calls of trash but address unknown, and our response is we do not investigate calls without an address. These inspections are often handled with a visit, or a notice sent through the mail. No questions asked.

Mr. Mills stated often, there are calls that take a great deal of our time to only find that the caller has mental health issues. A gentleman called stating, even yelling that he in infested with bedbugs from his apartment. These bedbugs crawl up his spinal column and pop out of his skin. After investigating the issue, being to his apartment, we find that he is a meth addict and there are no bedbugs. No questions asked.

## **9. Report of the Division of Epidemiology – Dr. J. Tolbert**

- a. RSV, Influenza, and COVID** – Dr. Tolbert stated RSV peaked in early November in WV and has decreased significantly, with 448 total positive lab-reported cases in Kanawha County in the past two months. 1 RSV outbreak and 1 RSV/Flu mixed outbreak was reported over the past two months at long term care facilities. No questions asked.

Dr. Tolbert stated Influenza peaked in early December in WV and has been slowly decreasing. 1,425 positive lab-reported Flu cases in Kanawha County were reported over the past two months. No questions asked.

Dr. Tolbert stated COVID-19 had increased over the holidays. Data may be inaccurate due to increased use of rapid at-home tests. 35.1% of Kanawha County residents aged 65 and over have received the bivalent booster. Nationally, variants BQ.1.1 and XBB.1.5 predominate. 12 COVID outbreaks in LTCFs occurred over the past two months. Dr. Tolbert stated there were 9 COVID outbreaks in LTCFs are still open and being monitored in Kanawha County. No questions asked.

**10. Report of the Executive Assistant to the ED/HO – Julie Blackwood**

a. **FEMA** - Ms. Blackwood stated there was another submission to FEMA. Most of the costs were from our agreement with the Kanawha-County Commission and the Sheriff's Office. This was the final submission under the 100% reimbursement rate. Ms. Blackwood stated that anything that is submitted from now on, and there may be a few invoices from the county for the Sheriff's Office in the coming months, goes under the 90% reimbursement rate. Ms. Blackwood also stated that the most recent submission may take a bit longer to process because organizations around the country were all submitting documentation in advance of the December 31, 2022, deadline for 100% reimbursement. FEMA staffing shortages may also have an impact on processing time. No questions asked.

b. **PHAB** - Ms. Blackwood stated that PHAB has completed its computer system upgrade and she received an email providing a login for the new website. June 1, 2023 is the due date for all documentation to be uploaded. Ms. Blackwood stated the application is divided into 12 domains, with different requirements for each domain. Ms. Blackwood stated staff has been working on this periodically, but the bulk of the work is going to take place in the next five months.

Ms. Morris had asked if there is anything that can be asked of the board? Ms. Blackwood stated there was nothing at the moment.

Mr. Nelson thanked Ms. Blackwood and staff for all the hard work that is going into this. No further questions were asked.

**11. Report of the Public Information Officer (PIO) – Lalena Price**

a. **PR Campaign** - Ms. Price stated they had heard three different pitches, from three different agencies in response, at the time, to a dramatic rise in flu and COVID cases and a reduction in flu vaccinations. Ms. Price stated they had heard from three PR agencies about a campaign to bolster vaccination rates and they were really all great pitches. However, with the rates of infection now going down, we are now thinking of working with one of those agencies in the summertime to push school vaccinations and just vaccinations in general if the budget allows. No questions asked.

b. **KCHD Website Update** - Ms. Price stated training was finally accomplished on the new management system. Hopefully, by the time we meet again, the new website will be running and current. No questions asked.

**12. Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business

**13. Public Comment**

No public comment

**14. Old Business**

No old business.

**15. Adjournment**

Upon motion by Ms. Morris seconded by Ms. Nellhaus the question was put, "Shall the meeting be adjourned?" Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steven C. Eshenaur, DO, MBA  
Board Secretary