



Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Thursday, November 17, 2022

108 Lee Street East
Charleston, WV 25301
2nd 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.

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| Dr. Dara Aliff-Lao | 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 September 15, 2022, Board of Health meeting Upon motion by Dr. Rubin, seconded by Dr. Aliff-Lao, the question was put: Shall the minutes of the September 15, 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 there have been two proposals received from consultants who do strategic planning work, and specifically with health departments. Dr. Eshenaur asked Ms. Blackwood to update the board. Ms. Blackwood stated she recently submitted a capacity-building grant to The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation to fund a portion of the strategic planning process. Dr. Eshenaur said that he feels optimistic that TGKVF will award this grant which will help everyone in Charleston and the greater Kanawha County area. Dr. Eshenaur further stated that we will have a decision on the consultant we plan to engage by the next board meeting. No questions asked.

- b. HIV Task Force Update** – Dr. Eshenaur stated moving ahead has been discerning. Some of the stakeholders have disengaged because the task force is too large and not accomplished on setting goals. After a number of surveys, most entities feel they want to work in a smaller, more focused group. Dr. Eshenaur stated with key groups, such as Ryan White, State EPI Office, Care Group from Charleston, Covenant House and Health Right, we would have the ability and capacity to really move HIV and move away from mass screening to be more focused. We have a number of HIV patients that are not involved in care, we need to track them down and get them to stay engaged in treatment. We want to get them the care they need.

Ms. Morris stated she wanted to remind the group that the hospitals would need to be engaged at some point. No further comments or questions asked.

- c. Flu and Heart Healthy Campaign-** Dr. Eshenaur stated the health department had started out the week with a press conference which was very successful. Dr. Eshenaur also stated that we have an early flu season and it is troublesome for the community and hospitals. Dr. Eshenaur mentioned that Dr. Robie spoke about this issue at the Women's and Children's hospital. We are all trying to get the message out. No questions asked.

Dr. Eshenaur stated the health department had also done an OPED and videos on a healthy heart campaign. No questions asked.

- d. Weekly Feedback-** Dr. Eshenaur asked the board on their thoughts regarding the weekly updates that have been pushed to them. Board members stated the weekly updates were informative, very thorough and they felt there was a communication gap that had been filled. Dr. Eshenaur informed the board that every part of the health department was ran by the directors and he was proud of the work they do daily. No questions asked.

6. Report of the Division of Administrative/Operations – Doug Beasley

- a. FY22-23 First Quarter Financial Report** - Mr. Beasley informed the board there was a first quarterly budget report included in their folder. Mr. Beasley stated the budget was on track and doing well, largely because of ARP funding that was received and from the FEMA reimbursement, a check just under \$500,000.00. Mr. Beasley informed the board the funding is not forever, and we will need to see how we are setting once the COVID funding has stopped. Mr. Beasley further stated that there are a few state funding programs, the paperwork is in, but they are slow in getting the funds to us. Mr. Beasley stated there was a little more than two million dollars in the bank. No questions asked.
- b. KCHD Vehicles Update** – Mr. Beasley stated they had a successful auction of the four vehicles using GovDeals making just over \$11,000.00.

Mr. Beasley stated the department was able to purchase a Ford F-250 pickup truck on a state contract from Stephen's Ford. Mr. Beasley further stated that they were very fortunate, the truck was listed as \$46,000.00 and was bought for

\$33,000.00. As previously mentioned, the truck will be utilized for Threat-Prep. No questions asked.

- c. **Building Repair Quote** - Mr. Beasley stated BB Carlton provided the quote for repair of the building. A quote of \$16,000.00 to \$20,000.00 was given, and the walls are currently in fabrication. No questions asked.
- d. **Personnel** - Mr. Beasley stated Ms. Regina Burdette, the accounting tech is no longer with the health department and a new vacancy is open within the agency.

Mr. Beasley further stated that the health department continues to have its Nurse III, Office Assistant II, Accounting Tech and the IT position vacant. No questions asked.

- e. **Department of Personnel** - Mr. Beasley stated they continue to research into severing ties with the Department of Personnel. Mr. Beasley stated they had met with Chris Negley, KCHD's attorney, and no issues are seen with severing ties. Approval of the City and County Commission are still required before proceeding. Still a lot of work to be done with preparing our own Merit System and policies. No questions asked.
- f. **Change in Clinic Hours**- Mr. Beasley stated the health department extended clinic hours on Tuesday's to 6:00 p.m. to help accommodate clients who work late, and to enable children, who are in school, to get required vaccines. No questions asked.
- g. **Additional Holiday Hours for KCHD Personnel**- Mr. Beasley stated he had spoke with Mr. Nelson regarding additional days off for employees during the Christmas and New Year holiday season. The County Commission granted their employees additional holiday days in December, and the health department normally follows their lead. December 23rd and 30th will be considered additional holidays. No questions asked.

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

- a. **Clinic Update** – Ms. Snaman stated the clinic has seen over 3000 patients since September. Ms. Snaman stated the clinic started their extended Tuesday hours on November 1, 2022, where there were three scheduled appointments and nine walks-ins. Ms. Snaman stated she expects the numbers to go up once word is out about the extended Tuesday hours. No questions asked.
- b. **COVID Update** – Ms. Snaman stated COVID numbers have been down since last Board of Health meeting. KCHD has done 71 tests that were sent to QLABS, and billed through insurance, which was down from 135. There were 356 COVID home tests distributed, down from 616 last reported. There were over 3000 COVID vaccines given. Ms. Snaman stated 32 of those were primary. No questions asked.
- c. **Flu Update** – Ms. Snaman stated there were 2,500 doses of the flu vaccine given. Of those, 1,400 were high dose. No questions asked.

- d. **Monkey Pox Vaccines** – Ms. Snaman stated there are 57 doses of the Monkey Pox vaccine in the clinic.

Mr. Nelson asked what the success rate was on the second Monkey Pox? Ms. Snaman stated that they were coming in, and would consider it successful, a good uptake. No further questions asked.

- e. **Mobile Clinic/Outreach** – Ms. Snaman stated that KCHD went to 10 sites, Med Students, DMV, Edgewood Summit, Humana Health Fair, Department of Highways, Health Fair at Federal Court House, Capital Complex, First Responder event at the Health Department, DEP and Charleston Catholic High School, during the outreach and administered 530 doses. There are additional sites scheduled. Ms. Snaman stated there will be more focus next year on getting back into the schools. No questions asked.

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

- a. **Inspections and Training** - Mr. Mills informed the board that Health Space was down and numbers could not be retrieved

Mr. Mills stated there were issues with state in training new sanitarians. The state is now required to spend 64 hours with each new sanitarian. At this time, the state has made 32 hours with one sanitarian. Mr. Mills explained he is going through a food standardization process and that he has passed them all with four documents on risk analysis remaining; then Mr. Mills can do all the training instead of the state. Mr. Mills stated he will meet with the Board of Registration in the middle of December to take over KCHD's own OJT Program. No questions asked.

- b. **Paint Creek** - Mr. Mills stated that it is his opinion that the Paint Creek issue will never really go away. Mr. Mills stated tests have been run and nothing was found in the wells or Paint Creek. The County Commission has funded another lab to do additional testing. Mr. Mills further stated that there is public water in that area, but nothing has been hooked up to it yet. No questions asked.
- c. **Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards** - Mr. Mills stated that they should start to get grant money, starting in September 2023 from enrolling in the program. FDA is wanting the local health departments to perform risk-based inspections which means, not "nit picking" the facility, but to concentrate on those violations that contribute to a food borne illness. No questions asked.

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

- a. **RSV, Influenza, COVID and Monkey Pox Update** – Dr. Tolbert stated that RSV cases have risen sharply in WV earlier than the normal RSV season. Dr. Tolbert

further stated that 2.3% of ED visits in the central region are for RSV with a single mixed RSV-Influenza outbreak at a daycare.

Influenza cases (and influenza-like illnesses) are rising. 29,172 doses of flu vaccine have been given in Kanawha County as of 11-1-2022. 38% of 65+ are vaccinated.

Dr. Tolbert stated that COVID cases are steady in the region but in the northeast US and western US (California, Arizona) they are rising. Immune-evasive variants are responsible for half of new cases in the US. 21% of persons in WV ages 65 and up have received the bivalent booster. We are monitoring 6 COVID outbreaks at LTCFs.

Monkeypox cases have decreased significantly nationwide. No questions asked.

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

- a. **FEMA** - Ms. Blackwood stated they had gotten their second submission check. Ms. Blackwood stated the State is withholding 25% until everything is closed out, which could be years from now. Ms. Blackwood stated it was just under \$300,000.00 that they are holding. Ms. Blackwood stated that there will be at least one more submission to FEMA which will cover our ongoing expenses with the county.
- b. **PHAB** - Ms. Blackwood stated they are in a holding status waiting for the accreditation board to accept the application. Once the application is approved, we can begin uploading documents to the PHAB portal. No questions asked.

Ms. Morris asked if the state holds 25%, KCHD will absorb the cost for now, but once we have gotten it back, we can keep it? Ms. Blackwood stated that was correct.

Mr. Nelson asked if other states withhold a percentage of funding. Ms. Blackwood stated she was not sure of other states, but that is how it is done in West Virginia. No further questions asked.

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

- a. **KCHD Website Update** - Ms. Price stated they were in the build out phase of the new website. Ms. Price stated training will be first week of December to populate the page. Ms. Price displayed what the front page will look like and stated that it will look like this on a tablet and cell phone as well. Ms. Price stated the launch will be in January 2023, if not before. Mr. Beasley stated that payments can also be taken, it will be a self-service site. Ms. Price invited the board to give the site a look over and offer comments on what could be added.

Ms. Nellhaus asked if clients could make their own appointments? Ms. Snaman stated they can request, but not make their own appointments. Ms. Nellhaus also asked if they can get their records? Ms. Snaman stated yes, they could.

Mr. Nelson asked if the site would show when they are due vaccines? Ms. Snaman stated that it will not. No further questions asked.

- b. News Conference** - Ms. Price stated a news conference was held and Dr. Tolbert gave a great deal of information that was well received by the reporters and the mayor. Ms. Price stated that it was good for the reporters, and the city of Charleston to hear from them again. The next couple weeks will show if this had any impact. The flu shot campaign was also mentioned. 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 Dr. Aliff-Lao seconded by Ms. Nellhaus the question was put, "Shall the meeting be adjourned?" Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steven C. Eshenaur, DO, MBA
Board Secretary