

Minutes

Kentucky Health Departments Association

August 17, 2010

Franklin County Health Department Public Health Center

851 E-W Connector, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Members and Guests Present (as indicated by Sign-in Sheet or observation)

Swannie Jett, Bullitt County

Georgia Heise, Three Rivers District

A. Scott Lockard, Clark County

Jan Chamness, Montgomery County

Fred Goins, Franklin County

Valerie Hudson, Monroe County

Brandon Hurley, Anderson County

Teresa Gamsky, Oldham County

Dennis Cheney, Barren River District

Melinda G. Rowe, M.D., Lexington-Fayette County

Debbie Fillman, Green River District

Karen Cooper, Kentucky River

Bertie K. Salyer, Magoffin County

Russ Briggs, Johnson County

Faith Frazier, Lawrence County

Randy Gooch, Lake Cumberland District

Mark Hensley, Laurel County

Jim Rousey, Madison County

Tammie Bertram, Franklin County

Chris Workman, DPH

Roger Trent, Boyle County

Kathy Crown-Weber, Mercer County

Gordon C. Duke, CDP

Maria Hodge, Garrard County

Heather Gatewood, CDP

Dudley J. Conner, KHDA executive director

Linda Sims, KHDA president, Lincoln Trail District

Paula Alexander, Franklin County

Renee' Blair, North Central District

Stefanie Goff, Lincoln Trail District

Wendy Keown, Lincoln Trail District

Shawn D. Crabtree, Lake Cumberland District

James M. Tolley, Pennyrile District

Gail Timperio, Whitley County

Susan Liford, Knox County

Matt Rhodes, Louisville-Metro

Call to Order and Special Recognition

President Linda Sims called the regular monthly meeting to order at 9 a.m. Special acknowledgement was given to Jim Rousey of Madison County, who is to retire as director at the end of the month. President Sims noted that Jim's leadership has extended to KHDA as well as within his own county. He will be missed.

Action Items

- Minutes from the July monthly meeting were unanimously approved
- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and unanimously approved

Presentation – HANDS

Wendy Keown of Lincoln Trail District provided an overview of her health department's use of "variable hour employees" used in the HANDS program. She noted that prior to going to this format, the health department was experiencing a much lower than expected 15 visits per week. They then opted to use some contract per diem plus hourly rate employees and then changed to variable hour. Ms. Keown said there must be a mixture of regular and variable hour employees, and that this format had met legal standards. She reported this usage has proven very successful financially and in meeting the community needs. See handout. The health department has developed a module to assist with HANDS billing training, which has proven to be a major asset. Clients are presented a \$10 Wal-Mart gift card for the initial screening and another for every fourth visit, per their level. This has resulted in higher participation rates. Lincoln Trail has also discovered that this variable hour arrangement has motivated fulltime staff to do more work.

Presentation – Accreditation Beta Site Progress Report

Fred Goins of Franklin County provided an oversight of the Public Health Accreditation Beta Test Site process, beginning with acknowledgement of the support of many other lhds in Kentucky and addressing our state's general strong interest in public health accreditation. FCHD has formed an Accreditation Team with 13 staff. He noted that the PHAB standards must apply to all sizes of lhds and that those interested in applying must have a Community Health Improvement Plan, a Community Health Status Assessment and a Strategic Plan for the lhd. He noted that FCHD had done the National Performance Standards Program and initiated MAPP (Mobilizing for Action Through Planning and Partnerships) prior to the PHAB application as a beta site.

The Accreditation Team collectively reviewed the PHAB "Self Assessment Tool" to review needed documentation for the national standards. The SAT is about 136 pages, and the team broke down the sections to gather needed documentation. This process eventually involved about 80% of the employees. "The key is to make this as paperless as possible," Mr. Goins observed. Files were uploaded via a high volume scanner. He suggested that those interested visit the PHAB website and others that deal with accreditation. "Don't be turned off by the acronyms," he cautioned. He said a spin-off had been a great team-building effort, one that has crossed programs. Mr. Goins told the group that the PHAB site visitors were very interested in the processes that should ultimately improve the health department and service delivery. In response to a question about how to engage the community, he replied that a key was to get staff involved. There was also discussion about the annual national training for NPHPSP and MAPP.

Presentation – Andrea Adams of the Kentucky Primary Care Association

Andrea Adams of the Kentucky Primary Care Association presented an overview of Kentucky's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and requirements for their establishment. There is now some \$250 million available through HRSA for FQHCs, and Kentucky presently has about 20 grantees identified for service to identified medically under-served areas. Applicants must be public or private non-profit institutions and faith-based organizations are included. The goal is improvement in access to care and improve overall health care status. The FQHC boards of governance are composed of those served by

the centers. Should a public health department choose to apply, they would need to adhere to a split governance model, which comes with “a very complicated structure and regulations”, Ms. Adams noted. LHDs may contract with a FQHC and refer back and forth.

There was discussion that although some communities may not be classified as medically underserved, there are still gaps because the physicians do not accept Medicaid. Ms. Adams also responded that while an FQHC status application is “labor intensive”, these would be put on a “fast track” if it were known that the applicant was pursuing this funding. Ms. Adams stated that she could provide information from other states using the combined governance model of lhds and FQHCs. There was mention of increased interest in accountability and partnerships to serve the underserved.

There was also group discussion of behavioral health needs and services that FQHCs could accommodate.

President’s Report

Linda Sims noted that Special Needs Shelter issues remain, telling of a recent nursing home fire in her district, which prompted a call for her health department to address care of the residents. She noted that this was “not an appropriate response” and that the care was actually overseen by the nursing home staff in an exemplary manner. “It bothers me that there’s an assumption that the health department is going to do it all,” she observed.

Ms. Sims noted that the KHDA Strategic Planning process kicks off September 1 at My Old Kentucky Home State Park in Bardstown with a cook-out at her home the evening before. This first meeting will be for KHDA only, followed by a 2nd with DPH, a third with judge executives and remaining sessions with additional partners.

There has been discussion within KHDA about considering contract services for legal, personnel, financial and lobbying capabilities. This topic is expected to expand with Strategic Planning.

Director’s Report

Dudley Conner reviewed his activities since the July meeting. An earlier emailed document had been forwarded to membership. Consult.

Committee Reports

- Environmental – Mark Hensley reported that DPH has been advertising for two positions made vacant with retirements. Linda Sims has been discussing interpreter issues with DPH.
- Home Health – Gail Timperio noted that every lhd with a Home Health agency should be doing required patient satisfaction survey dry runs. Members were encouraged to contact legislators if they had concerns.

- Personnel – Georgia Heise said the most current directors’ classifications are with DPH now for review.
- Accreditation – Paula Alexander said FCHD intends to share details of the site visit as soon as permissible, and that the June report is slated for presentation on the 23rd to board members. KHDA is still looking to support from Angela Carmen with UK’s College of Public Health for assistance with lhd accreditation, as part of her doctoral studies.
- Debbie Fillman – She reported that a Legislative Health and Welfare meeting is to be held tomorrow in Owensboro and encouraged members to attend.
- Chronic Disease Management – Jim Rousey noted that he will soon be retiring and that Mark Pyle will now oversee this group.
- School Health – Shawn Crabtree observed that “the state was getting school health for free”, referring to cuts in the traditional 20% Medicaid preventive match.
- Budget – Dennis Chaney said there was nothing new to report, although he did state that he would be going to the board with an amended budget to reflect the KHDA leadership retreat. He said all meals are technically covered. The Chamber CEO is to attend, too, as is an official with NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials).
- KALBOH – No report; Allison Adams not present
- Insurance – Russ Briggs had nothing to report
- Group Purchasing – No report from Faith Frazier
- EMR (Electronic Medical Records) – Renee’ Blair did not have a report but mentioned that she has been talking to an EMR group based in Ohio. Melinda Rowe cautioned that any lhd considering contracting with a FQHC should carefully examine their EMR systems.
- Awards – Debbie Fillman said she was now accepting nominations for the annual KHDA awards, for a new director of less than five years and that for an experienced director.

Additional Business

Members were advised to register for the October leadership retreat at Barren River State Resort Park

The next meeting is to be September 8 in Louisville at the Galt House from 9-12, in conjunction with the annual Local Issues Conference.

DPH Overview

- Dr. William Hacker said the Governor’s Office of Health Information headed by Jeff Brady and hired by Secretary Miller, is to link public health with other “information highways”. Mr. Brady

has a staff of three persons for this long-term project. Dr. Hacker said he would like for him to talk with KHDA. Dr. Hacker said he had discussed public health IT issues in Washington and found it “frustrating” that the White House did not see the difference between preventive and primary care.

Dr. Hacker also noted that a physician in Owensboro has agreed to help start an Immunization Registry, and that Dennis Chaney was piloting at Barren River.

Dr. Hacker said an electronic death system reporting is now in place for coroners, certain MDs and funeral homes. This has decreased the wait from 21 days to 11.

He thanked lhds for allowing volunteer staff at the State Fair. He said all four public health schools will be sending students.

Two new staff are now in Dr. Brawley’s office.

DPH is applying for two public health infrastructure grants. Angela Carmen of UK’s College of Public Health doctoral program helped write the first, which would establish two persons with performance management oversight within the commissioner’s office. The second is more competitive, with 15 awards expected, for one million dollars annually for five years. This will address strengthening data management systems. Kentucky and Tennessee have submitted parallel applications to leverage their positions.

- Dr. Connie White told the group her office has been working on a grant for patient navigation for the CDC Breast and Cervical grant, and also made mention of other applications. She wants to compare differences in the state. A new abstinence grant is out and this is not an “abstinence only until married” one.
- Rosie Miklavcic said she and Joy Hoskins had formed a focus group of lhd ARNPs that also included Dr. Connie White and Natalie Lonkard. Deliverables have included an email list on the global network just for ARNPs and a two-day conference for this group at My Old Kentucky Home State Park the last week in October. This conference will provide required pharmacy CEUs. It will not be available by ITV. DPH hopes 50 of the pool of some 70 or so ARNPs can attend.

License renewal time is here so everyone is asked to make sure there are no lapses.

Furloughs of state employees will begin Friday, September 3. DPH is still awaiting a decision regarding pass-throughs and university employees. Guidance will be made available when received. State administrative staff will be available should a need arise.

- Guy Delius said that registered sanitarians need to renew their registrations soon.
- Jim Rousey on behalf of Madison County presented a “Team Award” to Dr. Hacker, Dr. Davis, Rosie Miklavcic and Your Teams”.

- Dr. Regina Washington called attention to Laurel County's "Building a Healthier Laurel County" as a good example of a Healthy Communities project.

The meeting was adjourned at noon, with the next meeting date slated for September 8 in Louisville at the Galt House.