

**Kentucky Health Departments Association**

**Minutes**

**January 19, 2010**

**Franklin County Public Health Center**

Several members participated by ITV. Those members and guests noted to have signed in by legible signature on sign-in sheet or by observation include:

Linda Sims, President	Lincoln Trail District
Dudley Conner	Executive Director
Vicki Smith	KHDA staff
Larry Davis	Marshall County
Georgia Heise	Three Rivers District
A. Scott Lockard	Clark County
Marci Flechler	Oldham County
Andrea Renfrow	Bullitt County
Teresa Gamsky	Oldham County
Mark Hensley	Laurel County
Nancy M. Crewe	Jessamine County
Shawn Crabtree	Lake Cumberland District
Allison A. Adams	Buffalo Trace District
Tony Cox	Bracken County
Stephanie O. Fryman	Fleming County
Jan Chamness	Montgomery County
Molly E. Corley	Montgomery County
Paul Hopkins	Pike County
Bertie K. Salyer	Magoffin County
Jack N. Morris	Hopkins County

Tammie Bertram	Franklin County
Alan Kalos	Northern Kentucky Independent District
Jim Rousey	Madison County
Kathy Neal	Powell County
Ryan -----?	Louisville-Metro
Roger Trent	Boyle County
Donnie Fitzpatrick	Allen County
Maria Hardy	Ashland-Boyd County
Paula Alexander	Franklin County
Brandon Hurley	Anderson County
Melinda G. Rowe, M.D.	Lexington-Fayette
Greg Brewer	Gateway District
Swannie Jett	Bullitt County
Heather Gatewood	CDP/DPH
Marvin Miller	DPH
Regina Washington	DPH
Steve Davis, M.D.	DPH
----? Moore	DPH
Connie White	DPH
Cheryl Sweeney	MedInservice (?)
---- ----(?)	DPH/Lab
Stan Cochran	CDP
William Hacker	DPH

- President Linda Sims called the regular January 2010 meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
- November and December 2009 KHDA minutes were distributed to membership.
- Stan Cochran provided an overview of progress on the planned CDP website, including handouts projecting WIC EPT rollouts. He commented that local health should not have problems

accommodating these projects from current bandwidths. Heather Gatewood, also of CDP, said the projects were beginning with Barren River local health facilities and private providers and those talks had also begun with UK pediatrics. There were also some questions about continued EMR planned revisions, and that some double work continued with pilot sites. Heather Gatewood is also the CDP point person for such. CDP is to present a WIC demo tomorrow for local personnel who work with this program.

- Mike Garten of GSK told KHDA that his company is “pre-booking” flu vaccine orders for next fall, and provided a handout explaining two products.
- Marci Flechler of the Kentucky Coalition Partnership said she had met with all three providers over the past week. She has continued in Ned Fitzpatrick’s role as the KHDA point person. There is no confirmation that seasonal flu will be combined with H1N1 protection this fall. In response to a question from Jim Rousey, she replied that local health departments could exercise options and that the Coalition was in place for group pricing.
- Linda Sims said the Special Needs Shelter template devised by a committee she created with support from UK was based on what the American Red Cross had done for many years. She said the committee would send representatives to again meet with DPH Commissioner Hacker, and that the Kentucky Hospital Association should also be brought into the conversation. Ms. Sims noted that this template places limits on the acuity of care of a SpNS. Paul Hopkins related Pike County’s recent experience with shelters during an ice storm, Christmas Week 2009, during which time 38,000 persons were without power. Only three of his 50+ staff had power themselves but they reported to work and assisted with shelters. He is continuing to seek out local agreements for assistance and resources. “It was an eye opening experience. It could happen to you at any time,” he commented. Shawn Crabtree suggested that KHDA might want to consider “shelter strike teams”. Bertie Salyer asked about using Home Health staff, but others noted that these staff were “obligated” to care for enrolled patients. Ms. Sims cautioned, “Remember, Red Cross never did this level of acute care before.” Paul Hopkins noted that the eight shelters in place in Pike County “were beyond the health department’s infrastructure”. Larry Davis noted that Marshall County did not have the monetary reserves to support these services while at the same time they are losing revenue. Renee’ Blair commended Pike County Health Department’s services during the Christmas 2009 snow, noting that she had relatives there. She also cautioned membership to remember that mental health care must be considered when planning SpNS. Linda Sims advised membership to “...take the template; go back and look at it; tweak it; meet with your local partners...” Shawn Crabtree said that “in theory” that since DCBS staff are state employees, they would participate in staffing.
- Dudley Conner provided his Executive Director’s report. See handout. He noted that House Bill 258 which supports mandatory accreditation for all Kentucky health departments by 2019 had not yet been assigned to a committee. The bill asks for one-half million dollars to support an independent commission and skeletal staffing to help bring this about. There was considerable discussion among membership about this bill and accreditation, with advice that HB 258 required everyone’s support. Gary Franklin of Cardinal Health’s group purchasing plan with KHDA will be contacting each director.

- Scott Lockard presented the Treasurer's Report. See handouts electronically mailed to members. Upon motion by Larry Davis and second by Mark Pyle, the report was unanimously approved by membership.
- Mark Hensley presented the Environmental Report. He noted that the new food code training was to be held in Lexington January 26-28 and that the class was full with a waiting list, but DPH staff would be meeting one on one with others. He continued that work was continuing on set up of an Environmental Strike Team.
- Regarding the Personnel and Resource links on the KHDA website, it was noted that no changes have been made. Regarding the new director proposals, members were cautioned that these drafts were to be put in place for new hires and would not affect those already employed as a local health director. Linda Sims said, "These are just proposals. They are not meant to intimidate or attack anyone. About one-half of all local health staff are required to have an undergraduate degree. This is not set in stone. If you are not comfortable with the drafts, you can send questions to me, Georgia or Dudley." Jim Rousey noted that the 1988 Institute of Medicine report said public health 'was in a state of disarray', and that the Ten Essential Services Model and related competencies have been recognized since that time. He explained that he thus thinks the education requirements as proposed are appropriate. Renee' Blair said she was in agreement that education important but that she had also learned much from experience. She added that she believed many KHDA directors were divided on this issue, and that the first draft had not differentiated between existing directors and new hires. She also noted that many health departments already have some difficulty in attracting qualified staff. Ms. Sims acknowledged these comments and added that the revised director series drafts were about future hiring and that these requirements were in line with evolving higher educational standards. "These are in no way a personal attack. We're just trying to be proactive...This is just a way of saying we need to be ready. We need to do the right thing." Bertie Salyer commented, "Education gives you the background to integrate into experience." She added that she has found that promoting an experienced employee into a higher level of tasks does not work (without the education). Georgia Heise noted that the proposal has a combination of education and experiences. Swannie Jett suggested that consideration may need to be given to placing directors with a bachelor's degree in more rural areas.
- Accreditation was discussed by Paula Alexander, with invitation to all members to participate in the full meeting immediately following KHDA. She noted that there was interest in assuring that all local health departments who were interested in accreditation were assisted. Members were reminded of related educational opportunities, including acting as accreditation site visitors and the annual NPHPSP/MAPP training this spring in Dallas. Survive and Thrive fellowships through NACCHO's RWJ funding are also opening up again to individuals, although there is now a tuition requirement. KHDA has not yet heard of its joint application with UK for a state group educational program.
- Larry Davis reported on Legislation. See earlier electronic information on related public health bills. He also requested assistance from membership in supporting public health legislation by attendance each week at both the House and Senate's Health and Welfare and related

committee meetings. Jim Rousey questioned if there was a plan in place to address “approaching funding issues”. Larry Davis said as in previous years, public health lacks sufficient funds and there are too many unfunded mandates, along with other major issues such as Special Needs Shelters which have no additional funding. Dudley Conner said he has heard some legislators comment that we (public health) do not “don’t show up unless there is a problem”. He said directors should be a regular presence at the Legislative committees, to better support public health interests.

- Jack Morris reported on Oral Health. He said a group was still working with Dr. McKee on protocols.
- Jim Rousey reported on Chronic Disease Management, saying the roll out is still said to be slated in phases, starting March 1. Funding questions remain.
- Shawn Crabtree reported that the School Health Committee was to meet at the PHC following KHDA, and that a plan was in place for the Summer School Health Conference.
- Budgeting and Purchasing continues to look to web-based implementation, with training at KPHA. Dr. Hacker is to address budget issues.
- Larry Davis reported that KALBOH was to meet March 29 at the Crown Plaza during KPHA. All board of health chair persons have been invited, with emailed copies to directors. The letter also noted membership benefits. There will be two different sessions on the Tuesday portion of KPHA.
- FQHC- no report as Steve Katkowsky not in attendance.
- Insurance – no report as Russell Briggs not in attendance. There was some discussion about monies returned if employees waived reimbursement, via the Kentucky Employee Health Plan through FEBCO. Charlie Ross reported that if the plan is a HRA, it does roll over; if it is a FSA, it does not. Ron Horseman of DPH will look into this.
- EMR – Renee’ Blair had nothing to report.
- Retreat – The annual conference has been scheduled for October 27-29 at Barren River State Resort Park.
- Dudley Conner noted that KHDA would be hosting a Legislative reception on February 24 at the Kentucky History Center, along with other organizations.
- The DPH Report was initially provided by Dr. Hacker, who noted that Keller Campbell was the new manager of the Training Branch, replacing David Knapp who had decided to step down from this post but remains with staff. The branch has been returned to AFM. It is hoped that more persons will be vaccinated against H1N1 before a possible “third wave” hits. Alabama and Georgia are already trending back upwards. Kentucky will be applying for Phase 4 Preparedness monies to supplement cost centers 726 and 731. Phase 4 is more detailed, with additional evidence of need required. Directors were reminded of a survey sent out a few days ago that. Directors were asked to include information on how they might spend additional funds. Dr. Hacker said he has heard from several physicians that have complimented public health staff on steps taken to ameliorate H1N1. He said DPH’s CDC assignee Dr. Margo Riggs was on her way to Haiti to help lend U.S. support in the wake of that country’s devastating earthquake. Kentucky has not yet had requests for assistance. On February 2, KET will air a show called “Healthy

Babies: Worth the Wait". Dr. Hacker also told KHDA that the IRS is putting increasing pressure on hospitals to document how they are benefiting the community. He said ASTHO and NACCHO have hired Pat Libby to look into local health consolidation. Dr. Davis told KHDA that the Nutrition Branch would be supplying computers following a needs survey and that these could be used wherever WIC is carried out. Dr. Davis also noted that CMS must give final approval to Kentucky Medicaid but that "CMS likes what they see". He said Kentucky DMS would pay DPH in a "grant type format" but that CMS continued to "negotiate on payment means". He said that weekly meetings between DPH and DMS continue and that the March 1 start date may be "pushed back a little". Dr. Davis said there have been complaints about travel requirements to the 25 sites. He said the Diabetes Management Sites will not do diabetes management "hands on" but would contact a primary site and physician to "devise a diabetes management plan of care...actual service will take place in the county...and most in health departments". Dr. Davis said a long-term vision is for this program to expand. He said the KPAP sites are now in 90 of the 120 counties and that plans were going on to enroll the remaining 30 counties. Dr. Davis said that in regard to the state budget, "\$1.3 million must be raised quickly". He explained DPH plans to cover local health by moving state restricted reserves into allocations for a one-time event. Linda Sims commented that this seemed like a good plan but cautioned that many health departments hold the restricted reserves for payroll on occasion.

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned about noon.