



Minutes

Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health
Oct. 22, 2020

Call to Order—President, Dr. Arthur Rubin

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. with the President, Dr. Arthur Rubin, presiding.

Roll Call

Kandy Forsythe called the roll.

Dr. Aliff-Lao	Present
Mr. Nelson	Present
Mr. Nusbaum	Present
Mr. Scalise	Present
Mr. Weber	Present
Mr. President, Dr. Rubin	Present

The President noted the presence of a quorum.

Moment of Silence

The President requested those in attendance observe a moment of silence for first responders and those lost to COVID.

Report of the President—Dr. Rubin

Approval of the minutes from the July 16, 2020, meeting

Upon motion by Mr. Scalise, seconded by Mr. Nelson, the question was put, "Shall the minutes of the July 16, 2020, meeting be approved?"

Motion carried.

Swearing in of new board member—Dr. Dara Aliff-Lao

The President announced the appointment of Dr. Dara Aliff-Lao to the Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health. Dr. Aliff-Lao was appointed by Charleston Mayor Amy Shuler Goodwin, with the advice and consent of the Charleston City Council, to represent the City of Charleston. Her term began July 01, 2020 and concludes June 30, 2025.

The President administered the oath of office to Dr. Aliff-Lao and congratulated her on becoming a member of the Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health.

Discussion of the board's role in policy making

There being no discussion, the board proceeded to the next order of business.

Report of the Executive Director—Dr. Sherri Young

Dr. Young reported the following:

This is Day 233 of health command in the Coronavirus pandemic.

We have held 71 drive-through clinics throughout the county.

KCHD, in partnership with the Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority, has administered 22,809 COVID tests and 2,995 flu shots.

In the KCHD clinic, we have administered 2,739 Coronavirus tests and 742 flu shots. Since we received them early in September, we have been offering flu shots during the drive-through COVID clinics. Our model is being emulated around the country.

There are some questions surrounding contact tracing. Between KCHD staff, the National Guard and employees of the Kanawha County Commission, we have about 15 contact tracers who do interviews with individuals diagnosed as positive. We work seven days a week, so it's rare they are all in the building at the same time. There are 25-30 people at the Department of Health and Human Resources who assist KCHD with contact tracing. When working with schools and other agencies, those organizations assist with contact tracing.

We get between 30 and 50 new positive cases each day. Sunday is generally the day we get the fewest cases. On bad days, we can get 70 or 80 positive cases. These cases are generally reported overnight. We assign the cases first thing the next morning and begin interviewing and contact tracing.

Contact tracers ask people lots of questions: If those testing positive are presenting symptoms, we find out what day they became symptomatic. We begin our tracing process two days before they became symptomatic. That's when they would have been shedding the virus. If they are asymptomatic, we go back two days before they received a positive test. Many people may hear someone they know tested positive. If they're outside that two-day window, we're probably not going to follow them. If they weren't within six feet of you for more than 15 minutes, you'll also probably not get a call.

CDC recently changed its guidelines to say you may have been exposed if you are in the presence of someone positive for a total of 15 minutes. As care definitions change, we see the number of positive tests increase.

The CDC is sending three employees to assist us. They will arrive Oct. 28 and stay through mid-November.

Sometimes people don't remember or don't want to share their contacts. They don't tell us where they've been.

We call all the contacts listed by a positive person. Sometimes, we do it internally. Sometimes, we work with our partners at DHHR, an effective use of resources.

If someone doesn't answer, we call them at home at different times during the day. We send registered letters. We visit last-known addresses. We track them. If one of the contacts becomes positive, the process starts over.

We've been asked our success rate. From more than 3,000 cases, we've lost about 100 to follow-up.

We're doing timely surveillance. We've recently added two employees through a temporary agency.

We'll maintain our pandemic contact tracing efforts and add to our staff as needed.

We're giving away flu shots this year for as long as they last. The Kanawha County Commission generously provided funding. We're on track to break a flu immunization record. On Saturday, Nov. 07, we'll partner with Charleston Area Medical Center and the Kanawha-County Emergency Ambulance Authority, along with the Kanawha County Board of Education and Aetna Better Health, to provide flu shots at all eight Kanawha County high schools. This will allow us to provide shots to the high school students and students from surrounding feeder schools. These will replace our annual clinics we held at schools.

This Saturday [Oct. 24], we'll partner with CAMC and KCEAA for a pediatric flu clinic on the grounds of Women's and Children's Hospital in Charleston.

We had a meeting yesterday [Oct. 21] of the Kanawha-Charleston HIV Task Force. On Oct. 28, we're doing HIV testing in Kanawha City along with COVID testing. We're working with the Bureau for Public Health on arranging this testing. We're working with the Ryan White Program at Charleston Area Medical Center to provide a continuum of care for those testing positive for HIV.

We're meeting regularly to discuss our reaccreditation with the Public Health Accreditation Board.

We're regularly recording *Spotlight on Health* at the West Virginia Library Commission.

We continue to meet with Kanawha Superintendent of Schools Tom Williams and members of the board and work daily with the lead school nurse and others to consult and exchange information.

The holidays are upon us. In November, we have election day, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. We're probably going to see a bump in cases after the holidays. We'll be announcing clinics available through the month of November including clinics for flu shots.

I'm glad to answer any questions.

Remarks by members

Mr. Scalise inquired regarding the number of individuals KCHD interviews after they test positive. Mr. Mills said it is nearly 100 percent.

Mr. Nusbaum said he is impressed by the number of physicians who have complimented the job KCHD is doing addressing the Coronavirus pandemic.

Mr. Nelson congratulated the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department for instituting flu shots along with COVID testing.

Mr. Nusbaum inquired about expected COVID surges. Dr. Young noted surges seem to occur two weeks after most holidays.

Mr. Nusbaum inquired about hospital capability to deal with the pandemic. Dr. Young said KCHD receives daily updates from Charleston Area Medical Center and weekly updates from Thomas Health System. She noted a decline in hospitalizations.

Report of the Division of Administrative Services—Ms. Carol McCormick

The total projected budget for Kanawha-Charleston Health Department for FY2020 is \$2,856,147.96.

We are down \$89,382.68 from this time last year. That is mostly attributable to a decrease in income from immunizations. We have more than made that up in grants we have received.

We received a \$2.5 million ELC grant (Epidemiology and Laboratory Testing Grant). We get \$1.5 million this year and \$1 million next year. These are being received by local health departments throughout the state as part of the COVID response.

We submitted a request for \$121,671.14 in CARES funding and received \$114,569.90. Special thanks to the Kanawha County Commission for working with us to invoice the CARES money.

We currently have postings for an HHR Specialist and Epidemiologist 2.

All positions being paid for by COVID funding are filled.

Report of the Division of Clinic Services—Ms. Deborah Snaman

Flu vaccinations have arrived – 4,250. We have an ample supply. We are on a waiting list to receive more flu vaccinations. Because of COVID, we are restricting the number of mobile clinics we usually hold.

We continue to COVID test daily and have, on at least one occasion, extended clinic hours to address emerging needs.

Report of the Division of Environmental Health Services/Division of Epidemiology—Mr. Stan Mills

We have hired Ashley Meadows through the ELC grant to help manage contact tracing and investigations and our response to the epidemic. She is a registered nurse. Some of you may remember Ashley. She worked in the clinic as an LPN before she returned to school.

We are currently using the state's ChexOut system for contact tracing and investigations. The state has mandated all local health departments use the system. New cases are being monitored in ChexOut, while the cases we had prior to Friday, Sept. 11, are still being traced in the WVEDDS System.

We currently have 15 people doing contact tracing. This number has increased as our caseload has increased. It does not count the DHHR employees who assist us daily with contact tracing.

We are still responding to complaints, but routine food-service establishment inspections remain suspended by Executive Order. George Hanna, a long-time sanitarian who retired, has returned on a part-time basis to assist with inspections and other environmental service duties.

We work every day with the school board and municipalities and businesses across the county to answer questions on what is and is not permissible during the pandemic.

As of the date of the meeting [Oct. 22], KCHD had 25 outbreaks.

While routine restaurant inspections are still suspended, there have been no reported increases in food-borne illnesses.

Report of the Executive Assistant to the Executive Director/Health Officer—

Ms. Julie Blackwood

Grant updates:

KCHD received the ELC grant from the Bureau for Public Health for \$1.5 million for year 1 (ends June 30, 2021); Year 2 funding is \$1 million.

Working with Monica Mason of Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority on the request for quotation for the mobile health unit KCHD will be purchasing with part of these funds.

We are finishing the first year of the Quick Response Team (QRT) grant, \$88,000; This is a three-year grant, and year 2 is anticipated to begin Oct. 1. We are working with KCEAA and the City of Charleston for this effort to get those who overdose into treatment.

KCHD was a co-sponsor of the Save A Life—Free Naloxone Day Sept. 2 as part of the QRT grant. More than 1,000 Naloxone kits were distributed at 17 sites around Kanawha and Putnam counties on this day with nearly an equal number of people trained to administer Naloxone. (Several people who received kits already had been trained and just needed more Naloxone).

Automatic Temperature Scanner(s) that were purchased from grants given by The United Way of Central West Virginia and the BPH (part of the ELC money is being used for this)—should be installed soon. These will be at the main entrance and the clinic/side entrance.

Grants that were submitted to WVDHS (West Virginia Department of Homeland Security, Emergency Management Division) for new radios and PAPR (powered-air purifying respirators). The grants should be announced/awarded by the end of October.

We are working with the City of Charleston on an application to the BPH for a Healthy People, Healthy Places designation (no money attached—just a recognition). Applications are due in late November; awards are anticipated to be made in February 2021.

We continue to prepare for our reaccreditation with the Public Health Accreditation Board.

Unfinished Business**Report of Finance Committee**

Mr. Nelson gave the report of the Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee met this afternoon.

While clinic revenues remain down, we received enough money from our CARES submission to cover any pandemic expenses we incurred.

Our income remains stable because of proceeds from the ELC grant.

Discussion of one-time COVID-19 Hazard pay for KCHD employees who have worked through the pandemic.

Mr. Nelson noted:

Each Kanawha-Charleston Health Department employee will receive a non-base building supplement of \$500 in recognition of their continuing work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The are 25 full-time employees and two part-time employees who will be affected.
Total projected cost is \$14,553. (\$13,500 for employees. \$1,053 in benefits.)

KCHD will seek to have this money reimbursed through CARES Act funding.

Employees should see the additional money in the paychecks they receive Oct. 30, 2020.

This is only for employees who have been working since the beginning of the pandemic and does not include contracted employees.

Upon motion by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Nusbaum, the question was put, "Shall the board approve a one-time, non-base building COVID-19 hazard pay increment for KCHD employees who have worked throughout the pandemic?"

Motion carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Nusbaum, the question was put, "Shall the meeting be adjourned?"

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted



Sherri Young, DO, FAAFP
Board Secretary