



## Minutes

Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health  
March 11, 2021

### 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

Ms. Kandy Forsythe called the roll.

Dr. Aliff-Lao	Present
Mr. Nelson	Present
Mr. Nusbaum	Absent
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 to honor first responders and those lost to COVID.

### Report of the President—Dr. Rubin

#### Approval of the minutes from the February 04, 2021, meeting

Upon motion by Mr. Scalise, seconded by Mr. Nelson, the question was put, “Shall the minutes of the February 04, 2021, meeting be approved?” Motion carried.

Dr. Rubin thanked Kanawha-Charleston Health Officer and Executive Director Dr. Sherri Young and KCHD employees for the work they have done during the last year since the onset of the COVID-19 epidemic. Dr. Rubin stated nothing has lasted as long as the COVID epidemic, nor has it affected as many people. Dr. Rubin stated he is proud of KCHD’s accomplishments and noted KCHD is setting national standards for COVID care throughout the United States.

### Report of the Executive Director—Dr. Sherri Young

The day of the board meeting is day 374 of health command in the Coronavirus pandemic.

KCHD has held numerous clinics throughout the county. As of the date of the board meeting, there are 12,471 total COVID cases: 10,630 confirmed cases, 1,841 probable cases, 616 active cases, 11,595 recovered and 260 COVID deaths. The number of deaths will probably increase because of the recent discovery of unreported deaths.

KCHD, in partnership with the Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority and others, has administered 71,000 vaccinations in Kanawha County.

KCHD is participating in a pilot project with Johnson & Johnson to vaccinate populations in areas where there are vaccination challenges.

Dr. Rubin asked Dr. Young if there are plans to go to areas with a high minority population. Dr. Young stated KCHD conducted clinics in Rand and the North Charleston Recreational Center and will continue to schedule clinics with a high minority population.

Mr. Scalise asked Dr. Young if there are people stating they want one vaccine over another? Dr. Young stated some people are passionate about their choice of vaccine.

Regarding an HIV update, there are weekly planning meetings with the state and HIV testing at KCHD. We will be housing a Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS). DIS will be working with those HIV positives and doing contact tracing leading to more working knowledge of the outbreak.

The Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority sold KCHD a small bus for \$1.00 that will be repurposed for outreach activities.

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

Ms. McCormick announced the regional epidemiologist is transferring to the state. The position is posted.

Ms. McCormick provided staffing and financial reports to the board.

Mr. Scalise inquired about the reserve and financial reports. Ms. McCormick stated annual financial reports will be provided at the next meeting.

The county has increased its share of funding to \$200,000. Income is down from the Division of Clinic Services and the Division of Environmental Services because of the impact of the COVID pandemic.

Ms. McCormick announced she plans on retiring during October or December 2021.

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

Ms. Snaman stated there has been a lot of STD testing, which is normal. This would normally be a busy time for overseas travel vaccinations. However, KCHD has seen as few as five patients seeking immunizations for overseas travel.

Ms. Snaman stated the clinic personnel continues to be inundated with COVID testing and vaccines.

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

Mr. Mills stated two temporary sanitarians have nearly finished their training. KCHD Sanitarian David Winowich has been permitted to do the training, normally done by the state. With the loosening of COVID restrictions at restaurants, food service inspections will increase. KCHD has been doing compliance inspections, which meet the requirements of the governor's executive orders and answering complaints.

Mr. Scalise asked Mr. Mills if he foresaw the restaurants not complying with health regulations once back in full operation. Mr. Mills stated he does not foresee any issues.

Dr. Rubin asked Mr. Mills if the governor's orders reopening restaurants includes those that offer buffets. Mr. Mills stated not yet.

Dr. Rubin asked Mr. Mills if KCHD is going to do mosquito monitoring. Mr. Mills stated KCHD still has equipment and is ready.

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

#### **Ms. Julie Blackwood**

Ms. Blackwood stated the Homeland Security Grant Program, which will provide funding for PAPRs to be purchased after July 1, 2021, was received. Funding for radios was not approved. It was recommended that KCHD resubmit the grant next year.

Ms. Blackwood stated she is working with FEMA on an application for funding. There will be two applications for vaccine funding. KCHD is monitoring the potential impact of new federal funding through the American Rescue Plan to determine where to seek reimbursement.

With regards to PHAB, Ms. Blackwood will be submitting the annual report next week and continues work on the reaccreditation process.

Ms. Blackwood is working with numerous volunteers and different businesses who are bringing their employees to assist at COVID clinics, as well as students who need community service hours to meet a degree or work requirement.

#### **Unfinished Business**

Mr. Weber asked if there is a collective board opinion about the needle exchange program. Dr. Rubin stated KCHD is waiting to see what the legislature does.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **Adjournment**

Upon motion by Mr. Scalise, seconded by Mr. Weber, the question was put, "Shall the meeting be adjourned?" Motion carried.