



Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Thursday, March 24, 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.

Dr. Dara Aliff-Lao	Present
Ms. Lillian Morris	Present via Zoom
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. Also, in remembering Mr. Nusbaum's wife and family as they continue to grieve.

4. Report of the President - Mr. Jeremy Nelson

- a. **Oath of Office Read for Ms. Jessica Hudson** –Mr. Nelson welcomed new member Jessica Hudson and proceeded to read the oath of office. Oath was signed and notarized by Ms. Carol McCormick
- b. **Approval of minutes** – With no further discussion, approval of minutes for the March 2, 2022, Board of Health meeting Upon motion by Dr. Rubin, seconded by Dr. Aliff-Lao, the question was put: Shall the minutes of the March 2, 2022 Board of Health meeting be approved? Motion carried. No further questions.
- c. **Resolution in support of the Kanawha County Safety Levy** – Mr. Nelson asked if everyone has reviewed the resolution to support the safety levy. With all having reviewed, upon motion by Dr. Alif-Lao, seconded by Dr. Rubin, the Board of Health approved the Kanawha County Safety Levy. Motion carried. Copy of the signed resolution is attached.

Dr. Rubin asked that Ms. Hudson say a little about herself. Ms. Hudson stated that she was a lifelong resident of Kanawha County. Ms. Hudson also stated she had an accounting background with a great deal of operations experience. Ms. Hudson stated she had a great deal of experience with the elderly and with a lot of clinicians, both doctors and nursing staff. Ms. Hudson further stated that she appreciates the opportunity to serve on the board.

Mr. Nelson also welcomed Dr. Steven Eshenaur, Dr. Young's replacement and asked him to say a little bit about himself. Dr. Eshenaur stated he had retired from the Army after 30 years and has been the Director and physician at Jackson General Hospital. Dr. Eshenaur stated he was looking forward to getting back into public service.

Mr. Nelson appointed Ms. Jessica Hudson to the finance committee.

5. Report of the Interim Health Officer - Dr. Sherri Young, DO, FAAFP

- a. Welcome of Dr. Steven Eshenaur** – Dr. Young welcomed Dr. Eshenaur to the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department. Dr. Young stated they had attended various meetings together throughout Charleston to ensure collaborations continue well after the pandemic is over. No questions asked.
- b. COVID19 Update** – Dr. Young stated that a lot of places throughout Kanawha County are opening. Dr. Young stated we are 753 days into the pandemic and two years of Health Command. Dr. Young thanked the Board, the KCHD staff, thanked everyone who has been in this pandemic. Dr. Young further stated that because of the hard work and collaboration, we are beginning to put this into the rear-view mirror. As of this date, Dr. Young stated that we were up 9 new cases, 47,763 total cases, 46 active and 621 deaths. Dr. Young stated we must remember those people who died and remember that this was serious. Dr. Young stated the hospitalizations were down. Dr. Young further stated that KCHD was continuing to do the antibody treatment downstairs and that KCHD plans on continuing the treatments to allow CAMC to put their employees in other much needed areas. KCHD continues to vaccinate. Dr. Young stated the question is often asked about the 4th dose. Currently, only the immune compromised are receiving a 4th dose. Dr. Young stated that now we also have the BA2, which is a subvariant of omicron as things open in the UK, Germany, all throughout Europe, but hospitalizations are not up. In that area, 93% of the population are vaccinated in Europe. Dr. Young stated that here, in the United States, we may have pockets of areas with outbreaks shown through wastewater reports. An early indicator is seen through the GI system. Dr. Young stated that we are seeing them in New England, Indiana, and LA. Not a big rise in hospitalization, maybe milder and may not cause as much of a disruption. Dr. Young stated we have all done so much for the community. With the help from the County Commission, the City, Sherriff's Office, Ambulance Authority, WV Health Right, and others, we have been done so much in the community. No questions asked.
- c. Population Health** - Dr. Young stated that people have put off medical care for everything due to COVID. Dr. Young further stated that we need ways to help those who need help and fill those gaps. We need to take the true population health and see what is needed. Is it transportation; insurance; copay; food and try to close the gaps together, collaborate together. This also includes our furry friends. On May 7, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., we will be having a combined rabies drive and health drive at the Carver Career Center. Dr. Young

stated we will be giving blood pressure screenings and COVID vaccines as well. The Kanawha-Charleston Humane Association will be conducting an adoption event there as well. You can make monetary or food donations to the shelter. No questions.

6. Report of the Division of Administrative/Operations – Robby Queen

- a. Financial Report** – Mr. Queen stated the financial report is in the packet. Mr. Queen said KCHD has received the FEMA payment. What we received was 75% and the 25% is held. Ms. McCormick stated with this FEMA payment coming in, we had additional invoices and Julie will be uploading those, so this money will be coming in and out and will level out next quarter. Ms. McCormick stated the ELC grant ends this year with the actual program ending in 2024. Ms. McCormick also stated the mobile lab unit may not get to KCHD until the end of the year, more like April 2023. Ms. McCormick stated the ARP money was received from the county and we are expecting money from the city as well but has been delayed. This is expected to be approved at the April 4, 2022, meeting. No questions.
- b. Certificate of Indirect Costs** – Mr. Queen stated within the financial packet, is the certificate of indirect costs. This is approved by the board annually so we may continue to receive grants. Upon motion by Dr. Rubin, seconded by Dr. Aliff-Lao, the Board of Health approved the Certificate of Indirect Costs. Motion carried.
- c. Don't Wait, Set Your Booster Date** – Mr. Queen stated that KCHD had concluded the "Don't Wait, Set Your Booster Date" campaign. Commercials ran for a month encouraging everyone to get their booster. Well over 100,000 vaccinated, with only about 1/3 for booster. Dr. Young, Mayor Goodwin, Jennifer Herrald, community members and children in the school system participated in the commercials. Mr. Queen stated that as we come up on our second booster, the state has put out a vaccination calculator where your information is entered, and it shows when you go back to get your vaccine. No questions.
- d. FY23 Meeting Dates** – Mr. Queen informed the board that the FY 23 board meeting dates had been included in the folder. FY23 meeting dates approved with no motion. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will be held in the board room of the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department. Meeting dates are as follows: **Thursday, July 21, 2022, Thursday, September 15, 2022, Thursday, November 17, 2022, Thursday, January 19, 2023, Thursday, March 16, 2023, and Thursday, May 18, 2023.** Mr. Nelson asked Ms. Forsythe to send out invites to the board members for these FY23 dates. No questions.
- e. State Budget** – Mr. Queen stated he and Ms. McCormick attempted to get clarification regarding the states budget that was signed last weekend on the 5% raises going to state funds health positions. No confirmation has been made yet, but Mr. Queen was optimistic that it will happen. Mr. Nelson asked Mr. Queen if he'd like to share his news. Mr. Queen announced he would be leaving KCHD on April 1, 2022, for a job in the private sector. Mr. Queen further stated, while short, the job at KCHD had been very rewarding. No questions.

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

- a. Clinical Services** – Ms. Snaman stated clinic continues to offer COVID vaccinations and testing but the numbers have been dropping to mostly single digits. KCHD continues to be grateful for Carla and Joe. Ms. Snaman further stated that the students they have had were wonderful. Mr. Queen stated to Dr.

Rubin that the two students that came in after New Years were incredible. No questions.

Ms. Snaman stated that this was generally their overseas time, and it is picking up, but not where it used to be. Ms. Snaman also stated that she and Sherrie Graves were busy with STD's and with case management for TB. There were numerous latent TB, about 40 cases, with some being medications and some are retest. No questions.

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

- a. COVID Update** – Mr. Mills stated COVID numbers are down, however, COVID deaths are not. Mr. Mills stated they are not posting as a COVID death until they see the death certificate so they can ensure the death is listed correctly. Mr. Mills stated with regards to the COVID virus and sewage, COVID was found in Brazil in 2018 in sewage. Mr. Mill stated sewage was a very safe way to track and look for COVID. No questions.
- b. Inspections** – Mr. Mills stated that all inspections will be back on track July 1, 2022. Mr. Mills stated they will be resuming the food handlers' course which brings in a great deal of money for KCHD. Mr. Mills further stated that sine we no longer have a training room, the civic center or restaurants may offer us an area for training. Mr. Nelson asked how many go through the food handlers' course a year? Mr. Mills stated 8 to 10 thousand a year. Mr. Mills stated that there are some people who just cannot afford the course and they do wave fees if need be. Mr. Mills also stated there is also a manager certification course that one or two people at a restaurant must have. No questions.
- c. Grants** – Mr. Mills stated they are looking at the FDA grants once again. The grants are not all that terrific, but they do cover travel costs. No questions.
- d. Retirement** – Mr. Mills stated that David Winowich is retiring on April 15, 2022. Mr. Mills further stated that he could not have gotten through the pandemic without him. No questions.
- e. Interviews** – Mr. Mills stated the interviews for the Sanitarian position have not panned out. There was a big list, 22 people, but only one interview and eight not interested. Money is the main issue. Mr. Mills stated that once hired, they have five weeks of state training, then the national exam, which is extremely difficult. This exam is a registered environmental exam with a passing rate of 30% first time around. They have bought workbooks and videos to help improve test scores. Mr. Mills stated that several years ago, Ms. Kirk put in for an increase in hiring salary, but it was rejected due to plenty of people applying. Mr. Mills stated they just do not stay and suggested maybe a "stay" increase of some kind. No questions.

Mr. David Winowich took a moment to speak to the board, stating that he had been with KCHD for over 26 years. Mr. Winowich stated it was a wonderful job, a job he loved. Mr. Winowich stated that 39 people have come and gone since 2012, with a great deal of experience lost, with the issue being money. Mr. Winowich stated when he first started with KCHD his children had free lunches due to his salary. While he is glad that he stayed, he would like to state the importance of a hiring bonus, a raise when the exam is passed, incentive bonus', a good salary so they will stay. It is worth it to keep the experience/knowledge within KCHD. Mr. Nelson thanked Mr. Winowich for his service with KCHD and thanked him for the feedback.

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

- a. Accreditation Process** – Ms. Blackwood stated that we submitted a request for an application extension--in light of current health department leadership transitions--to the Public Health Accreditation Board, and it was approved. The application is now due July 31, 2022, and then we will have six months to provide documentation. Part of the required documentation is a Workforce Development Plan and a Performance Management and Quality Improvement Plan. These documents were sent to board of health members to review. Ms. Blackwood gave a brief synopsis of each plan. Ms. Nellhaus stated as a new board member, she appreciated the effort that went into this. Ms. Blackwood also stated that the PHAB application needs to have a letter of support from the Board and requested a motion to authorize Mr. Nelson to draft such a letter. Upon motion to approve by Dr. Rubin, seconded by Dr. Aliff-Lao, the Board of Health approved the Workforce Development Plan, the Performance Management and Quality Improvement plans, and the Board's letter of support. Motion carried. No questions.
- b. FEMA** – Ms. Blackwood stated in addition to what Mr. Queen and Ms. McCormick had said, we are working on the second submission to FEMA, which should be completed by the end of April. No questions.

10. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business

11. Public Comment

- a.** Ms. Kara Morris, an outreach worker with Presteria Center, spoke to the board regarding a 5 million dollar grant they have. Ms. Morris stated they don't just help with rehab, but they also help with food, housing, job support, therapy, primary care and much more. Mr. Queen suggested Ms. Morris and Ms. Blackwood exchange information to move forward. No questions were asked.

12. Old Business

No old business.

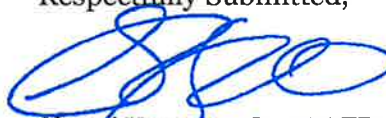
13. Executive Session

- a.** Dr. Aliff-Lao made the motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rubin. The motion carried and the Board moved into executive session at 5:35 p.m.
- b.** Board returned to regular session at 5:55 p.m.

14. Adjournment

Upon motion by Dr. Alif-Lao seconded by Dr. Rubin the question was put, "Shall the meeting be adjourned?" Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sherri Young, DO, FAAFP
Board Secretary