

KANAWHA COUNTY COMMISSION

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Henry C. Shores
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Commissioner

Ben Salango
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May 16, 2018

Dr. Dominic Gaziano
Interim Health Officer
Kanawha-Charleston Health Department
108 Lee Street
Charleston, WV 25301

Brenda Isaacs, RN, President
Board of Health.
Kanawha-Charleston Health Department
108 Lee Street
Charleston, WV 25301

Dear Dr. Gaziano and President Isaacs:

I am writing concerning the recent audit conducted by the Department of Health and Human Resources which resulted in the suspension of the Kanawha Charleston Health Department's (KCHD) Harm Reduction Program. The audit report listed several concerning findings, such as the lack of adequate record keeping and the absence of a proper procedure to address community concerns. The audit report was prepared by team of healthcare professionals and an honest broker.

Given the findings listed in the 62-page report, I strongly urge KCHD to hold a well noticed meeting and *publicly* address each and every deficiency cited by the WV Department of Health and Human Resources. It is past time for KCHD to take ownership of this program and its mistakes.

On another matter, I would like a status report on KCHD's progress in finding a full-time Health Officer. I want to advise you that your search for full-time Health Director should be as transparent as possible, with candidate interviews held in a public meeting. Further, the KCHD must ensure the selection process complies with the department's original enabling agreement that was set in place when KCHD was created by the Kanawha County Commission and the City of Charleston. Dr. Gaziano has been an outstanding interim director and I want thank him for his public service, still, KCHD needs to find a permanent replacement to lead the department.

Finally, I wanted to thank you for your work with the Kanawha County Ambulance Authority on developing a plan to handle the Hepatitis A outbreak in the area. This is a serious health problem, particularly in the food industry, and it is to be controlled and isolated. Please double your efforts to inform the public about the Hepatitis A crisis until it is fully under control.

Sincerely,

W. Kent Carper
President

