

August 2011

*Criminal Justice
Comprehensive
Master Plan for
Sedgwick County*



*Sedgwick County...
working for you*

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HISTORY OF JAIL OVERCROWDING IN SEDGWICK COUNTY

The history of jails in Sedgwick County begins in 1874, when Sedgwick County became a “booming cow town.” The need for a jail became evident to provide for public safety. In 1923, the “Munger Jail” was built to provide a permanent structure for the Sedgwick County Jail. This building was constructed to the north of the Sedgwick County (Historic) Courthouse and served the community for nearly 35 years.

In 1958, the Sedgwick County Courthouse was constructed and contained space for a 135 bed jail. The jail population between 1980 and 1983 rose from 193 to 241. By 1986, the jail population exceeded 325. A federal law suit (Reese v. Gragg) in 1986 required that the jail population be contained to 191-197 inmates and that a plan be developed to deal with the overcrowding issues at the facility. In addition, a 96-bed work release facility was opened as an option for the judicial system in 1987.

In 1990, in response to the increasing jail population and limited space at the courthouse jail, the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners (BoCC) opened a new adult detention facility, with 418 beds. In 2000, the new jail was expanded to 1,068 beds. This expansion took place only 10 years after the jail was built.

In 2001, just one year after the expansion, Sedgwick County was once again faced with jail overcrowding and was forced to start sending inmates out of the county to be housed.

Jail Incarceration Rates in Sedgwick County

Jail incarceration rates are monitored both at the local and national level based on two measures:

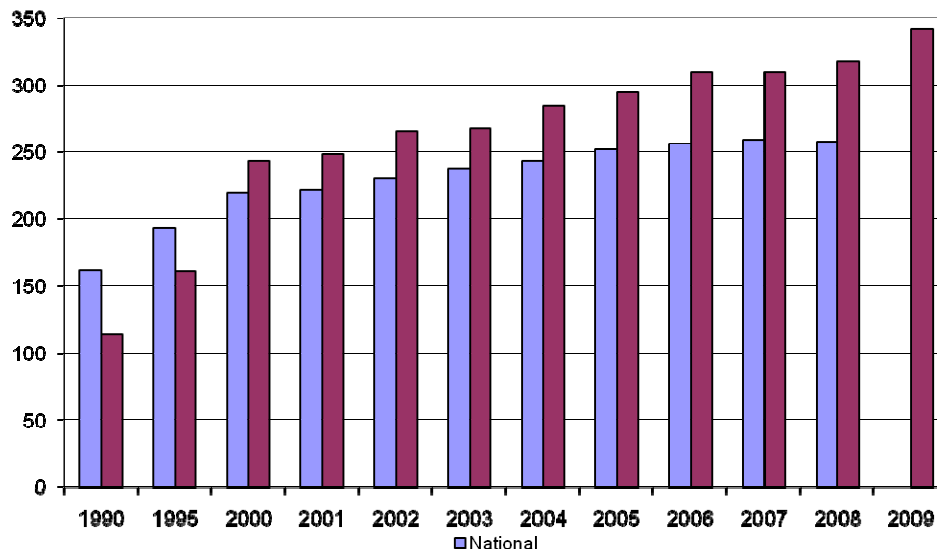
- The actual jail incarceration rate (number of inmates in jail per 100,000 residents)
- The growth rate computed by year as a percentage change in local jail population from the previous year

In 1990, the actual jail incarceration rate for Sedgwick County was a below-average rate of approximately 115 per 100,000 (national rate was 163 per 100,000).

In 1995, the Sedgwick County incarceration rate rose to 162 per 100,000 but still remained below the national rate of 193 per 100,000.

In 2000, the Sedgwick County incarceration rate rose to 243 per 100,000 (national rate was 220 per 100,000) and for each year since has remained above the national level.

Comparison of National and Sedgwick County Jail Incarceration Rate



The rate per 100,000 jail inmates made its most dramatic jump in Sedgwick County in the 1990s, (during the national “War on Drugs”) when the rate more than doubled. Nationally, between 1990 and 2000, the incarceration rate increased by 34.9 percent; during the same time period, the rate in Sedgwick County increased by 111.3 percent.

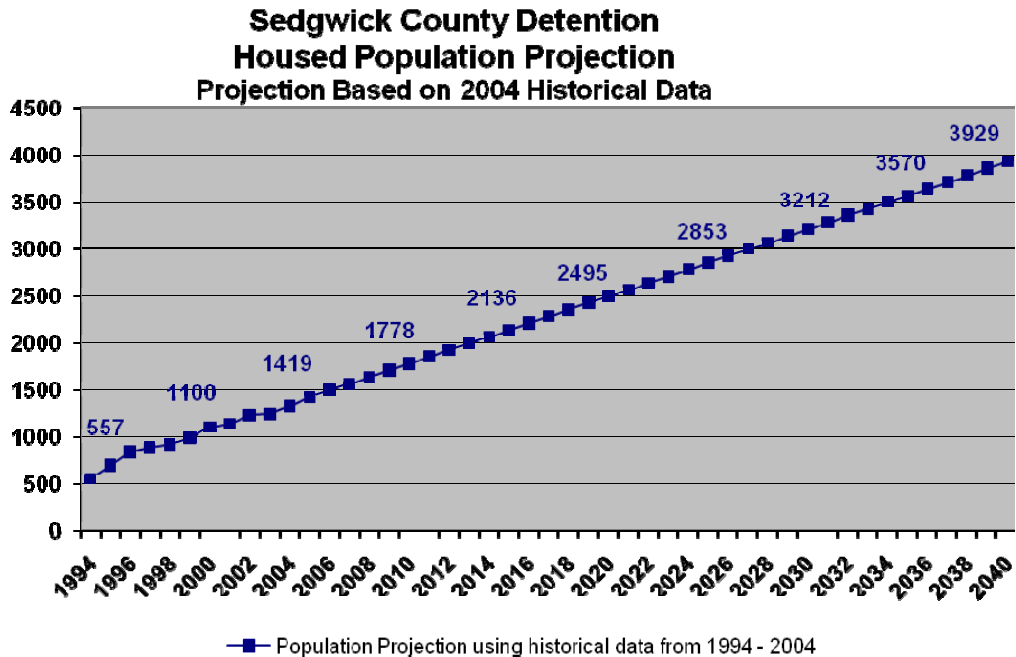
One factor thought to influence the high local increase was changes in state legislation placing convicted felons into county jails to serve their sentences. Examples of felony convictions serving time in county jails include:

- Felony DUI convictions
- Second and third conviction for forgery
- Third domestic violence battery conviction
- Cruelty to animal
- Harming or killing certain dogs

Other factors impacting local jail incarceration rates include:

- Kansas Crime Commission implementation of sentencing guidelines
- Targeted response to crime (gang activity, domestic violence, etc.)
- Increased emphasis and investment in law enforcement, prosecution, and forensic science
- Parolees leaving state prisons and coming to Sedgwick County for work (more than Wyandotte, Johnson, Saline, and Shawnee counties combined)

The driving force behind a need for additional jail bed space is the continuously rising jail population. The average daily population for the Sedgwick County Jail continues to accelerate, again based on numerous factors beyond our local control. Jail population projections based on 2004 historical data show an average daily population in excess of 1,700 in the year 2010 with projections reaching near 2,500 by 2020.



What's the cost?

The monetary investment in infrastructure to address the increasing jail population and assure community safety is significant. The jail constructed in 1990 cost \$25 million. The expansion that opened in 2000 cost \$37.5 million. The daily cost of housing an inmate in the Sedgwick County Jail is detailed as follows:

Daily Jail Cost Per Inmate: **\$66.20***

- Indirect costs: \$6.59 (facility maintenance, security, sheriff training, etc.)
- Direct costs: \$53.45 (salaries & wages, uniforms, food, transport, medical, etc.)
- Other costs: \$6.16 (building and equipment depreciation, bond interest)

* Costs reported are audited from certified public accounts in the 2009 Maximus Jail Rate Analysis.

CREATION OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

In response to expensive jail construction and operational costs, in 2003 the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners hired the Institute for Law and Policy Planning (ILPP) to conduct a jail population and criminal justice system study. The ILPP study was a comprehensive jail population study to examine whether a better understanding of the jail population dynamics and the overall administration of justice might result in re-engineering the system to reduce demand for jail beds.

The number one recommendation from the ILPP study was for Sedgwick County to create a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and use that group of system stakeholders to manage the system and maximize the cost-effective use of criminal justice resources.

The Sedgwick County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) was formed by county resolution in February 2004. Sedgwick County created the CJCC to study our criminal justice system, identify deficiencies, formulate cohesive policies and programs, and implement innovative corrections programs for adult offenders.

Voting Members:

- Chief administrative judge of the 18th Judicial District
- Administrative judge of the Municipal Court of the city of Wichita
- Criminal presiding judge of the 18th Judicial District
- District attorney for the 18th Judicial District
- Chief prosecutor for the city of Wichita
- Sedgwick County sheriff
- Chief of police for the city of Wichita
- Chief public defender for Sedgwick County
- Director of Sedgwick County Department of Corrections
- One member from the Wichita City Council
- Two members from the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners
- Sedgwick County manager
- Director of Sedgwick County Division of Public Safety
- Director of COMCARE of Sedgwick County
- One elected official from the Sedgwick County Association of Cities

Non-Voting Members:

- Judges of the 18th Judicial District
- Wichita State University
- Assistant county counselor for Sedgwick County
- Sedgwick County Department of Corrections
- Sedgwick County Department of Information and Operations
- Sedgwick County Facilities Management
- Sedgwick County Association of Police Chiefs
- 18th Judicial District Court Services
- City of Wichita Probation
- State of Kansas Parole

Sedgwick County CJCC Vision, Mission, and Goals

Vision

As a community, we are committed to promoting public safety, addressing the root causes of criminal behavior and creating a better community.

Mission

To provide the community with a comprehensive continuum of custodial care and community-based correctional programs, treatment and supervision, as well as develop proactive and innovative criminal justice practices, policies and processes through effective multi-system local and state partnerships.

Goals

- Maintain safe, well-run detention facilities from maximum to minimum management levels with adequate space to house persons who pose various levels of threats to the community
- Adopt and manage a wide range of adequate, community-based graduated sanctions and alternatives to confinement
- Develop substance abuse and mental health treatment programs to understand the root cause of repeated criminal behavior
- Maintain local control over multi-system operating practices, processes and policies
- Achieve local and state cooperation pertaining to practices, processes and policies
- Maintain a seamless system of information management across all organizations involved in the criminal justice system
- Adhere to our community's values and principles

The initial work of the CJCC was to provide a learning foundation for the members to assure that all perspectives were rolled into a system view of the issues and opportunities. The CJCC meets regularly to share data, review research, and create strategies for greater efficiencies in our local criminal justice system.

Some of the early CJCC actions (many based on the 2003 ILPP study) and initiatives from the city of Wichita include:

- The sheriff expanded the Work Release Facility from 96 to 157 beds
- Additional resources were funded to support an improved sheriff's inmate classification system important to housing placement
- Sedgwick County funded 45 beds in the Adult Residential Facility for state custody offenders to relieve a persistent backlog in the jail
- Additional staff were funded to extend pretrial supervision services to the Wichita Municipal Court
- Wichita Municipal Court expanded the criteria for Drug Court to include probation violators
- District and municipal courts reviewed and adjusted bond schedules, rebalancing offenses with the requirement to appear
- Sedgwick County funded an increase to the district attorney's adult diversion program
- The sheriff implemented "double-bunking" in the jail
- The BoCC adopted the 2005 Criminal Justice Comprehensive Master Plan for Sedgwick County

2005 CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY

The CJCC determined that in order to manage the increasing jail population in Sedgwick County, the following should occur:

- Expand the current adult detention facility
- Implement alternative programs to more effectively deal with offenders

Again, the mission of the CJCC is to develop "a comprehensive continuum of custodial care and correctional programs, treatment and supervision..." Recommendations from the CJCC are based on trends and projections, an understanding of who is in the jail, and evaluated programs and best practices from other communities that have had an effect on controlling jail populations. These are tools to help the sheriff continue to effectively and efficiently manage the jail population.

Expand the current adult detention facility

In 2006, the CJCC recommended a jail expansion. The proposed expansion was to include 384 beds on the north side of the existing jail. The one-time construction cost for the expansion was estimated at \$48 million, with an additional \$7.5 million in annual operating costs. Design of the facility expansion began in 2007. In 2008 the BoCC opposed funding the jail expansion.

Implement alternative programs to more effectively manage offenders

In 2005, the BoCC asked Dr. Delores Craig-Moreland of Wichita State University to work with the CJCC to conduct an analysis of jail population to identify what types of offenders are in the jail and why. This information was the basis of understanding which alternatives (programs) might be most effective in our community. The following alternative programs were recommended by the CJCC to be implemented.

- Creation of a day reporting program
- Creation of a mental health diversion program and Mental Health Court
- Creation of Drug Court in district court and the expansion of municipal Drug Court to include DUI offenders
- Expansion of pretrial services
- Creation of a work center
- Requesting technical assistance to conduct court case flow analysis
- Continue working toward technology improvement to facilitate the exchange of data among user agencies
- Creating a release process to provide the sheriff with the resources to effectively manage the jail population

The purpose of these programs is to provide alternatives and options for the judicial system, which are designed to divert people from the jail. Again, the vision of the CJCC is to address the root causes of criminal behavior. By diverting individuals into appropriate treatment and supervision, we may reduce recidivism, which also reduces the jail population. And, these programs may be more cost-effective in dealing with certain offenders.

PROGRESS UPDATE

In 2010, the BoCC engaged Wichita State University to review the current jail population. The objectives for the study were to identify changes in the jail population over the past five years, seek the appropriate comparisons, assess the impact of jail alternatives, review the financial aspects of jail alternatives, and seek appropriate opportunities for improvement.

As background information in the 2010 study, WSU reports:

“Economic downturns pose difficult choices for all organizations. County government faces particular challenges because of its legal obligation to maintain jails. Jail costs are difficult to control and they compete with other services for scarce public resources. In addition, citizens are demanding fiscal restraint. In order to address the challenges presented by the increasing costs associated with the jail, Sedgwick County is preparing to update its Comprehensive Jail Plan. For the past decade, Sedgwick County has engaged in a process of successive evaluations of elements of the criminal justice system with a view to create a long-term plan for jail space. To that end, the Institute on Law and Public Policy, Wichita State University and Justice Concepts Inc., have reviewed data and made recommendations to at least stem growth in jail bed demand. Current data shows growth in demand has slowed, but there remains a constant pressure on the jail for beds, resulting in use of out-of-county beds to supplement those locally available.”

Since the adoption of the 2005 Criminal Justice Comprehensive Master Plan a number of initiatives and jail alternatives have been implemented in the Sedgwick County criminal justice system; all of these options have now been in operation for at least 18 months, and some for as many as four years. As a foundation to the revision of the comprehensive plan, it will be helpful to review past initiatives and the outcomes for each alternative.

Day Reporting Center

In 2006, the BoCC entered into a contact with Behavioral Interventions (BI), Inc. to operate the Sedgwick County Day Reporting Center. The day reporting program targets misdemeanors, low-level felons, and DUI offenders. The program is a non-residential alternative to incarceration that provides the judiciary with a sentencing alternative to incarceration. The judiciary can place individuals either in treatment or a sanction track. In the treatment track, participants receive risk assessment, substance abuse treatment, case management, cognitive behavioral treatment, pre-employment training, domestic violence and/or anger management treatment, on-site and remote drug and alcohol testing, employment tracking, and verification of compliance with court orders. Participants progress through levels of treatment and supervision based on their own behavioral improvements.

- 2010 Budget: \$1,812,642
- 2010 Average Daily Population: 285
- 2011 Budget: \$1,441,665
- 2009 Net Direct Cost per Day: \$26.63

Sedgwick County Offender Assessment Program

In 2007, a crisis stabilization unit (CSU) became operational to address the needs of SCOAP participants experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis. The CSU provides a safe, structured environment for the provision of crisis intervention and crisis stabilization service 24 hours a day.

To work in collaboration with SCOAP, the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) initiative was established in 2008 as a pre-booking jail alternative program. Successful diversion into treatment relies heavily on the effective interaction between police and mental health providers. CIT-trained law enforcement officers who encounter a person exhibiting signs and symptoms of a mental health disorder are trained to respond appropriately and refer the individual to local service providers, which diverts those individuals to community resources instead of booking them into jail. Currently there are more than 200 law enforcement officers and first responders trained in CIT.

Mental Health Court

In 2009, the city of Wichita implemented a Mental Health Court with funding from a two-year Bureau of Justice Assistance grant. Mental Health Court is a specialty court that uses a problem-solving model focused on connecting individuals diagnosed with a mental illness to treatment. The approach allows for better monitoring of individual compliance to mental health treatment and adherence to court orders. The emphasis of the court is on recovery, thereby enabling the participant to stop cycling through the criminal justice system. Early outcome studies have shown that participants of mental health courts have more frequent participation in treatment services, improved quality of life, and fewer jail bookings.

- 2010 Average Daily Population: 81

Sedgwick County Drug Court

The Sedgwick County Drug Court program was established in 2008 and is designed to serve felony offenders who are most in need of treatment services and whose addictions negatively impact the community. Drug Court is a collaboration among Sedgwick County COMCARE, the Department of Corrections, the 18th Judicial District Court and the Office of the District Attorney. In this program, non-violent, felony offenders who are identified as having a drug dependency problem are offered the opportunity to voluntarily participate in 18 months of probation with intensive drug and alcohol treatment and community supervision.

- 2010 Budget: \$894,175
- 2010 Average Daily Population: 90
- 2011 Budget: \$927,035

Expansion of Pretrial Services

Pretrial services divert appropriate inmates from the adult detention facility to their own homes under supervision of program staff. Electronic monitoring is provided, as needed, to strengthen supervision and help ensure clients abide by the conditions of their release and appear before the court as directed. Inmates are assigned to the pretrial program as a condition of bond as ordered by the court. In 2009, the pretrial program refocused attention to the Wichita Municipal Court.

- 2010 Budget: \$721,942
- 2010 Average Daily Population: 277
- 2011 Budget: \$732,127

As part of the 2010 study, WSU performed a cost-benefit analysis on SCOAP, day reporting, pretrial services, and the Sedgwick County Drug Court. Conclusions were as follows: "Jail alternative programs in Sedgwick County appear to be working very well. Nearly all estimates show positive net benefits even when measuring benefits only as jail days saved. Overall, the programs are saving taxpayers a minimum of \$4 million to \$5 million annually."

In addition to the successful implementation of jail alternatives, the CJCC has recommended and the BoCC has supported procedural changes in the criminal justice system that has had a positive impact on the jail population.

Implementation of a Housing Fee

In January 2008, Sedgwick County began charging municipalities a fee for housing inmates in jail based on municipal charges only. A housing fee is a reimbursement paid by a municipality for the cost of housing municipal offenders. Municipalities are charged the direct costs of housing an inmate, which equates to an hourly rate of \$2.09.

Progress: Municipalities within Sedgwick County continue to seek efficiencies and alternatives to booking inmates into jail who do not pose a public safety risk. Recent data taken from jail snapshots shows the number of inmates booked on a municipal charge only has declined.

Interface Management Team

In 2007, the Sedgwick County Interface Management Team was established to design and implement a comprehensive information sharing system to provide accurate, complete and timely sharing of information among criminal justice agencies. In 2008, the county purchased JIS (formally called Metatomix), a customizable multi-database search tool that connects disparate systems and provides users a single point of entry for searching multiple database systems. The reporting tool will increase the accuracy of stored information, speed the creation of reports, and remove obstacles to clerical functions.

Progress: Sedgwick County has taken a phased implementation approach with phase one connecting district court and the jail management system and phase two adding the city of Wichita. With each phase, users can search multiple databases to produce background checks, pre-sentence investigation reports, journal entries, and a variety of other reports. Prior to the Interface Management Team and JIS software implementation, agency users would frequently access up to seven separate databases to retrieve information for necessary reports. Eventually, the JIS software will connect as many as 14 local criminal justice databases and has the potential to connect with state and federal systems.

Justice Concepts, Inc. Review of Jail Population

In 2008, still struggling with an overcrowding condition in the jail and the desire to not expand the current facility, the BoCC hired Justice Concepts, Inc. Justice Concepts reviewed and assessed the current jail population and criminal justice practices in Sedgwick County.

Progress:

- Assisted in facilitating the 2009 expansion of pretrial services to the city of Wichita
- Provided Sedgwick County with a jail capacity analysis

Adult Residential Intake Criteria

In 2009, a committee was formed to look at the target population for the adult residential center, specifically how inmates are assigned to the program. All inmates in the program are felons and are either 1) serving a probation violation sanction, or 2) serving an original sentence as a condition of probation. The original sentence population represents 31 percent of the adult residential population, and 22 percent as “presumptive prison” on the sentencing grid. Departure from the sentencing grid occurs because the adult residential center is located in Sedgwick County.

Progress: The committee determined the probation violation population would best utilize the program and would help relieve the waiting list of inmates in jail awaiting a bed. The courts were approached and asked to consider only utilizing the adult residential center for probation violation sanctions and not for original sentencing.

Journal Entry Completion Support

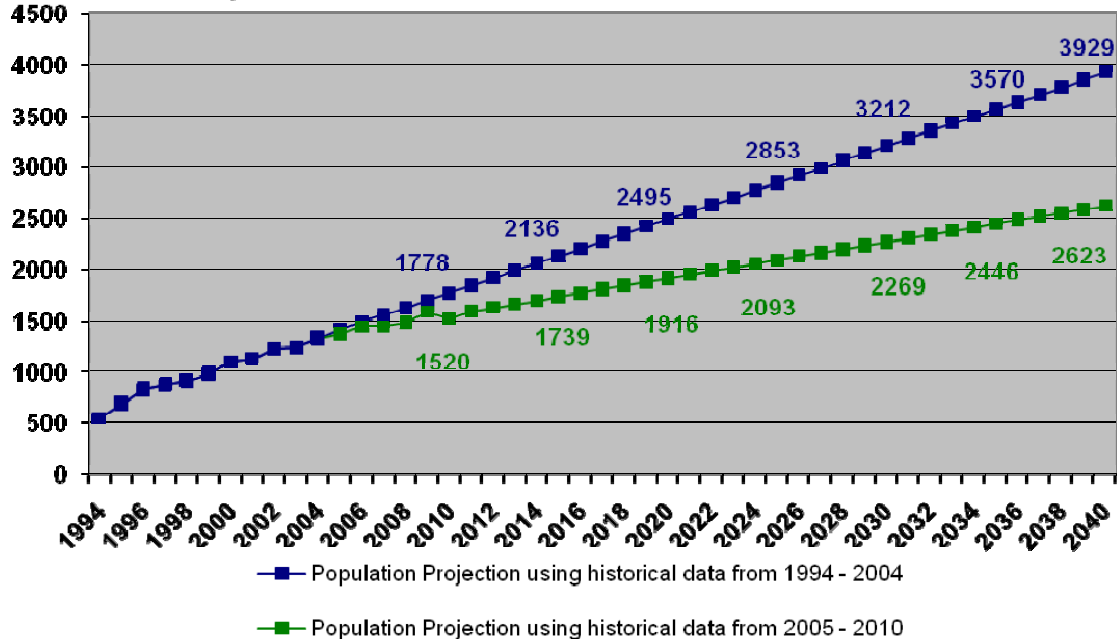
The courts, district attorney, and sheriff’s office developed a process to ensure timely completion of journal entries for inmates remanded to the Kansas Department of Corrections. In 2010, the BoCC approved the addition of staff to assist with journal entry completion.

Progress: With the approval of additional resources to the district attorney’s office, journal entry completion averaged 14.5 days during 2010.

CURRENT STATUS

In 2004, a projection of the jail population showed that at the previous rate of increase in the average daily population at the Sedgwick County Jail would reach nearly 2,500 by the year 2020. Action by the CJCC and its partners, including the implementation of jail alternatives, progress on data exchange, and efforts to improve case flow has had a positive impact of jail usage. Current projections using historical data through 2010 show that the community has significantly reduced the rate of increase in the jail population, with the new projection estimating the jail population just above 1,900 in the year 2020.

Sedgwick County Detention Housed Population Projection Projection Based on 2010 Historical Data



While the slower rate of increase in the Sedgwick County Jail’s average daily population does improve the outlook for the future, the current rate-of-increase projection shows approximately 35 inmates annually. Unless the rate of the jail population begins to decline, it will continue to be a problem for Sedgwick County.

Also noteworthy is the fact that the profile of inmates in the Sedgwick County jail has also shifted over the past four years. While the percentage of inmates classified as felons has increased by 7 percent, the percentage of inmates classified as misdemeanors has decreased by 6 percent.

In addition to individuals in the custody of the sheriff, on any given day in Sedgwick County more than 7,000 adults are supervised in the community. The following chart shows the programs and number of individuals assigned to each program for the month of December 2010.

**ADULT SUPERVISION SNAPSHOT
December 2010**

PROGRAM	Adults Supervised
Sedgwick County Corrections - Day Reporting	256
Sedgwick County Corrections - Pretrial Services	283
Sedgwick County Corrections - Adult Intensive Supervision	1,457
Sedgwick County Corrections - Adult Residential	115
District Attorney - Diversion	380
Sedgwick County Offender Assessment Program	135
Sedgwick County Drug Court	104
Wichita Mental Health Court	83
Wichita Drug Court	244
Wichita Municipal Court Probation	1,286
Wichita DUI Diversion	241
18th Judicial Court Probation	2,470

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Over the past several years, the CJCC, Sedgwick County, the city of Wichita, and the numerous criminal justice agencies within Sedgwick County have worked in successful collaboration in slowing the rate of increase in the jail population. As we look toward the future in a continued effort to increase efficiency in the criminal justice system and curb the growing population in the Sedgwick County Jail, the following aspects must remain in the forefront of decision making:

- Ensure public safety
- Take a systems approach
- Provide best outcome
- Utilize evidence-based practices

As part of the 2010 study, WSU provided a review of further opportunities for Sedgwick County. As reported in the WSU report, “there are many possible opportunities to consider, but some fit more closely with the current efforts in Sedgwick County. It is worthwhile to keep an observant eye on the national scene because innovation is a constant process that can lead to improvement. At this time a relatively limited number of opportunities appear to be a good fit locally.”

The following opportunities for the future have been recommended by Wichita State University as the best jail population intervention efforts.

Legislative Action

The CJCC and Sedgwick County should consider petitioning the Kansas Legislature to tackle some of the statutorily issues that contribute to jail overcrowding including:

- **Good Time Credit:** One important tool in managing the jail population is the availability of good time credit. If “good time” is a respected means to encourage good behavior in the prison setting, it could be equally valuable in the jail setting. Good time credit in jail would help to relieve crowding, and would encourage inmates to behave well for early release.
- **Custody of the Sheriff:** Another topic for CJCC consideration is having the opportunity for offenders to spend their sentence in the custody of the sheriff, rather than in the jail. This would allow the sheriff flexibility in placing inmates in appropriate alternatives.
- **Modification of Felony Sentences:** Another important consideration is the ability of a judge to modify sentences for felons serving time in local jails. The ability to modify sentences would impact DUI and domestic violence cases, as well as forgery, and any other new legislation that might move other felons out of prison and into the jail population.

Some balance is necessary to afford local control of these moves from state facilities to county facilities.

Cost: Undetermined, but it may be necessary to engage a government relations professional.

Jail Population Expeditors

To improve the process of releasing inmates from the criminal justice system in Sedgwick County, a person/position entirely dedicated to coordinating, communicating and facilitating the movement of inmates through the system would be beneficial. Should such position(s) be created, a CJCC committee for jail population management should convene to establish a process for finding and releasing eligible offenders. Upon establishing the necessary guidelines, a first priority would be the hiring of two population expeditors to manage the jail population on a daily basis. Their main function would be to gather information and then notify a judge (either one designated for this purpose, or the judge assigned to the case) if an inmate could be moved out of jail either through release or into a more appropriate correctional setting. Jail expeditors would also be in a position to maintain records that detail movement of inmates - information that could drive future efforts to improve flow of the jail population.

Cost: \$120,000 in annual salary and benefits for two experienced criminal justice professionals.

Risk Assessment

The proposed CJCC jail population management committee could also weigh options for various offender risk assessment tools at both the municipal and district court level. Best practices show that maximum benefit from programs requires knowledge of risk to ensure programs are directed to those who are moderate to high risk of reoffending. The expeditors could be certified in use of the level of service inventory-revised (LSI-R), or the screening version of that instrument, so they could make a risk level determination on inmates, thereby establishing their need for treatment.

Cost: To be determined upon selection of an instrument. Cost would include a per-item cost plus staff time, which is included in the expeditor cost.

Court Case Flow Review

The judicial processing system is very complex and court case flow can be a source of unnecessary jail days when case flow is delayed. The CJCC may wish to create a working group to assess court case flow for areas in the system that may cause undue delays in judicial processing. If such a committee determines there are areas that require further assessment or require research, WSU would be available to facilitate the efforts within their expertise and assist in finding technical assistance as appropriate. Both district and municipal courts should be involved in the effort to restrict jail stays to only the days that are serving some function of community safety or correction.

Cost: To be determined, but the WSU study group has a small contingency fund in the current contract, which will cover small projects.

Expand Availability of Cognitive Behavioral Treatment

As risk assessments become more accessible to local criminal justice systems, they can facilitate the use of cognitive behavioral treatment (CBT). CBT has a reputation for dramatically improving the likelihood of success for offenders, whether offered while incarcerated or in the community. According to the Washington State Institute on Public Policy, CBT returns more than \$15,000 for every participant. If, for example, offenders referred for treatment in the Day Reporting program were primarily in the moderate- to high-risk range (as shown by the LSI-R or LSI-SV), and were given CBT set by their risk level (higher risk gets longer treatment) the probable benefit to the community would be substantial. Strategically provided CBT could increase the use of the Day Reporting program, thereby substantially reducing recidivism and reducing demand for jail beds. CBT is the most effective choice in dealing with condition violators if it is assigned according to the offender's risk level.

Cost: To be determined, but the capacity exists in the current Day Reporting Center contract.

Engage a Consultant to Assist with Computer Guided Placements

As the menu of jail alternatives has expanded, it is clear that finding the right people for the right programs will become increasingly valuable and provide for maximum use of alternatives. The effort to control the jail population requires good information. An effort is under way to improve the information sharing system, with the end goal of having all needed information readily available to staff in the various criminal justice agencies. With the utilization of risk assessment and integrated information systems, a consultant in computer guided placement could be valuable in making sure all needed information is considered in selecting an alternative to the jail for offenders. Dr. Sue Abdinnour of WSU is a specialist in computerized decision making models. One opportunity to utilize her expertise is for the CJCC data committee and Dr. Abdinnour to meet and discuss computer assisted decision making and the potential of utilizing such technology.

Cost: To be determined, but would depend on the complexity of the information available.

Adult Residential Program Expansion

For several years, the state of Kansas has recommended ceasing to fund adult residential programs in Sedgwick and Johnson counties. If the state funding for this program is not available for the 2012 budget year or beyond, the entire burden of the program would fall to Sedgwick County. Adult residential is an expensive program that has seen an increase in the average length of stay, mostly due to difficulty in employment for program participants. On any given day there are at least 40 males and seven females in the jail awaiting a bed at the adult residential facility. While the waiting list would appear to justify expansion of the adult residential program, the issue is complicated by the possible absence of state funding. If the entire cost of the program falls to Sedgwick County it would be prudent to consider the highest and best use of the current facility.

Cost: To be determined after the SFY budget for Kansas is approved.

Work Center

Employment is one of the strongest weapons against recidivism, according to the studies reviewed by the Washington State Institute on Public Policy. The high rate of unemployment among detainees in the Sedgwick County Jail suggests a work center, where offenders in the custody of the sheriff could gain work experience under close supervision, could be a valuable asset. In other communities, work centers fill valuable roles for local government and train offenders lacking in basic job skills. The type of work typically undertaken includes office cleaning, lawn work and any other jobs where the skills are at an entry level. The cost of such programs typically runs above that of work release, but below that of regular jail housing.

Cost: To be determined upon selection of a facility, programs, and starting requirements.

In addition to the recommendations provided by WSU, the CJCC has established four work groups to address mental health, data collection, facilities and satellite booking.

Mental Health Work Group

The mental health work group was established to determine the best use of currently budgeted funds to address the needs of those in the jail suffering from a mental illness. The work group examined numerous options, all of which entailed different scopes of service and associated costs. The group settled on recommending three options to the CJCC as those would have the greatest, most immediate impact on the mentally ill jail population.

The three proposed options include:

- Fund a mental health pod in the detention facility. While the mental health pod does not impact jail bed days, it does provide detention staff with a better way to manage mentally ill inmates and impacts inmate and staff safety (estimated cost of \$700,000).
- Fund an additional competency evaluator through the SCOAP program (estimated cost of \$36,000)
- Fund two case manager positions for jail release planning (estimated cost of \$100,000).

In January 2011, the aforementioned options were presented to the CJCC, who in turn voted to recommend funding the mental health pod and the two case manager positions to the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners. Funding of the competency evaluator position had been recommended for funding by the CJCC in December 2010. Sheriff Bob Hinshaw presented the recommendations to the BoCC at a staff meeting on April 5, 2011.

Data Work Group

The data work group was established to examine available data for collection and to develop a template for reporting meaningful data to the CJCC. The reporting template has been developed and is used monthly, quarterly, and annually for reporting purposes.

Currently, the group is working to automate the jail snapshot process – a historically time-consuming process conducted manually by sheriff's office staff members.

Additionally, the group assisted in the establishment of a criminal justice information website featuring CJCC by-laws, criminal justice trends, and current initiatives. The site has been highlighted in the media and is updated as any new information about the CJCC or its activities becomes available.

Facilities Work Group

The facilities work group is tasked with determining what type of facility/facilities will be necessary to meet the future detention needs in Sedgwick County, based on the understanding that the current facilities are inadequate to meet current and future jail housing needs. Future needs would include sufficient space to house the population currently placed in out-of-county jails. Jail alternatives and programming are also under discussion. Currently the work group has endorsed the concept of a campus-type facility to house minimum- and medium-security inmates that is capable of future expansion as needed.

Satellite Booking Work Group

The satellite booking work group was established to examine the benefits of creating satellite booking stations in Sedgwick County. After examination of the data, the group determined that establishment of satellite booking stations was not economically feasible and would not impact the jail housing population. Instead, the work group continues to review initiatives that might impact the jail booking population, including the use of handheld ID verification devices and express booking processes in the jail.