



*Sedgwick County...  
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District 3 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting  
Minutes

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Monday, Oct. 5, 2020

Goddard School District  
Conference Center  
7 p.m.

**Board members in attendance:** Lamont Anderson, Sherry Livingston, Janice Manlove, Kevin McWhorter, Glen Shafer, David Wright

**County representatives:** Commissioner David Dennis, Aneesa Redd, Kate Flavin, Shantel Westbrook

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**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by Chair Lamont Anderson, 7:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of July 6 and July 27 Minutes** – Janice Manlove moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by Glen Shafer

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

Three potential board members introduced themselves during the public agenda. Luke Sponsel, Carl Loosey, and Zac Daher.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. COMCARE's Support During COVID-19 – Shantel Westbrook, Rehab Services Director**

Rehab Services Director, Shantel Westbrook prefaces the meeting by explaining what she will be talking about this evening and welcomes any questions that may come up during her discussion.

For many years COMCARE has been use to face to face meetings, therapy sessions, and community outreach. Case managers went everywhere within the community and therapy was always the traditional, where clients would come in and talk with their therapist for their allotted time. COMCARE has a diverse amount of services. Whatever a person is needing COMCARE support staff would connect clients with specific services.

With the school programs, COMCARE has introduced the use of telehealth services due to COVID-19, this platform allows clinicians to meet with student clients via video conference for intakes, case management, and therapy sessions.

The outreach workers are still out in the community and the Community Crisis Center is still open 24/7 for any Sedgwick County resident.

A new program that has been implemented is called Support Now. This program is for those who are not quite in a crisis, but are wanting services immediately. This program is not open 24/7 but is open throughout several hours of the day.

Throughout the pandemic what COMCARE staff has noticed is that hospitalizations have increased and people are waiting longer to seek help or services.

Another program that Ms. Westbrook wanted to emphasize were the school programs. For many years COMCARE has brought many services into the schools. Studies show that it is easier to reach children where they are at instead of being taken out of school and coordinating transportation to therapy appointments. There is a pilot program that is in its third year called the School Mental Health Pilot Project. It is a pilot project because it is not a permanent line item on the school budget. Right now this program is in the Wichita School District, Maize School District, and Valley Center School District.

COMCARE was able to receive a \$1 million grant to assist with the School Mental Health Pilot program. This does not cover the entire cost of the program, but helps out tremendously. COMCARE is a bill for fee program – so all services are billed based off of a sliding fee or through public or private insurances.

At this time Shantel asks if there are any questions.

Janice Manlove asks where the grant money for the School Mental Health Pilot program comes from. Shantel answers, the by stating that the grant money comes from the Kansas Board of Education. The Schools receives the grant and Sedgwick County receives are percentage of what the schools receive.

Lamont Anderson asks what the name of the program in the schools. Shantel states that program is called the School Mental Health Pilot Program. Wichita School District named theirs the KOSP – Kansas Opportunity Support Program. Valley Center School District named theirs the Hornets Care – because they are the Valley Center Hornets and care team.

Janice Manlove asked, what would change this school program from a pilot program to a standard program? Shantel answers she could see this program transferring

into a permanent program, but she does not have any information on this. This program is looked at year by year.

Lamont Anderson also asks Overall, how many students are utilizing this program? Ms. Westbrook answers by stating that last year there were 883 students through Wichita Public Schools that took advantage of the program. Valley Center and Maize were smaller, because they are smaller school districts.

Commissioner Dennis asked Shantel if there any updates on the mental health coalition and she answered that there are no current updates.

Lamont Anderson asked – what are some of the biggest challenges that our young people are facing? Shantel answered by stating that there is a lot of depression, suicidal thoughts, anxiety related to school. Depression is the biggest issue and a lot of work is put into suicide prevention. There are also many children facing issues at home and then there are a lot of biological issues that children face as well.

David Wright asked – How have issues more prevalent or severe this year opposed to last year, which would be considered a “normal” year? Shantel states that this year the cases are vastly different. There have been some really difficult cases and it is important to work with staff to promote self-care because staff are hearing some really difficult stories. David’s second question asked what the impact has been verses taking children to Kansas City to receive inpatient mental health. Shantel states that it has been very beneficial to have KVC in Wichita because there is no longer an issue of coordinating transportation for children who are needing inpatient services.

Glen Shafer asks – in regard to the low income youth, how the billing and reimbursement process of Medicaid? Shantel answers that Medicaid does pay for all of COMCARE services, if someone has an active Medicaid card – services will be paid for. The rates are low, but they are high enough to continue care.

There are no other questions at this time and Shantel Westbrook concludes her discussion and leaves the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

### **Board Agenda**

Lamont asks the board members if anyone has anything that they would like to share or anything for Commissioner Dennis.

Janice Manlove inquired about mowing in the Sedgwick County – she noticed that there are many cotton trees growing and was wondering if the County would come

take care of this. Commissioner Dennis states that he would check on this issue and get back with her.

Commissioner Dennis states that there are several things that he would like to discuss this evening. Commissioner Dennis states that the biggest project that the County has going on is distributing CARES funding. Schools have received their funds are now businesses who have applied for the CARES grant are starting to receive their grant money as well. The CARES review is also putting a recommendation together for Nonprofit Organizations and how they can receive grants.

The County is also paying INTRUST Bank Arena to use the facility and staff to help distribute PPE kits and use the facility as a voting location.

There was a tragic accident that happened on 71<sup>st</sup> S and 261<sup>st</sup> W. The results are not in on how fast the truck driver was going, but a man hit a woman that was in the car with four children and all five were killed. The engineering standards states that there is no need for a flashing light, but the County has ordered a flashing red light to help with traffic and this light should be in later this week.

Commissioner Dennis asks the board members to think about some issues that should be on Sedgwick County's legislative agenda. Commissioner Dennis lists a few things that the County is considering putting on the agenda and also names a few past items as well.

Commissioner Dennis mentions the discontent about masks and states that his opinion about the masks is not changing and he believes that the masks are helping slow the spread of Coronavirus.

Janice Manlove asked a question about the grant that Sedgwick County would be receiving for 800,000.00 to help towards elections. Commissioner Dennis states that he reached out to the County Manager about what this grant is for and what the details are for the grant and what strings are attached for this particular grant. Commissioner Dennis also stated that he has not heard back from the County Manager and does not have much information on the grant.

Board members are discussing their experiences with hybrid and at home learning. Most members discussing this issue state how difficult it has been for their families.

Kevin McWhorter asks Commissioner Dennis on clarification regarding Dr. Minns and if the Board of Health can overturn his decisions. Commissioner Dennis explains that there is no disconnect between the Commissioners and Dr. Minns – if the board

of health disagrees with something they are able to voice their concerns to Dr. Minns. Commissioner Dennis also mentioned that each order that Dr. Minns has put into place – the County Counselors office has assisted in writing the order.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2, 2020, at the Goddard School Conference Center.