



Sedgwick County...
working for you

Monday, December 14, 2020
6 p.m.

WebEx Online Meeting
Virtually

Board members in attendance: Sara Dixon, Maria Elena Gonzalez, Nalini Fraser, Philip Fraser, Madison Shriner, Robert Simon, Deb Gruver

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Fraser called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Meeting Minutes from November 9

After reviewing the November minutes, Sara Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Philip Fraser. The motion passed unanimously.

3. CARES Funding Update

Lindsay Poe Rousseau, CFO, described the background of the CARES Grant and shared that the County received \$99.6 million dollars directly from the Federal Government in April.

Originally the funds were only going to be used for government entities and later the rules changed which allowed the funds to be used in other areas.

Additionally with the \$99.6 million dollars, Sedgwick County also was eligible for economic impact funding, which was an extra \$9.3 million dollars from the State of Kansas.

In order to determine where to spend these funds, the County did a needs assessment which allowed the community to express their needs related to the pandemic.

Initially the County dedicated 25% to the funds to testing, because during the needs assessment people expressed that they needed to know what the virus is doing in our community and easy access to Coronavirus testing. Overtime that amount increased to \$20 million due to circumstantial changes with testing.

The County also dedicated funds to cities, schools, and in the most recent spending plan \$18 million dollars was allocated public health and social service organizations.

The impact funding from the State of Kansas had a focal point of relieving the stress of unemployment within the community – so Sedgwick County was able to use that additional \$9.3 million dollars for businesses. The County created a safe operating grant which allowed businesses the opportunity to receive \$5,000 dollars, the County also put together personal protective equipment (PPE) kits and over 10,000 kits were distributed throughout the community.

Another \$1.3 million was dedicated towards workforce development, which has an end goal of helping people stay at their current job, but have the opportunity to learn new skills so that they can stay in the workforce and stay employed.

To help distribute the funds, the County engaged firms to help figure out what was eligible and help maneuver the grant the money. These firms also helped with monitoring information and making sure that tax payer funds were spent appropriately.

Poe Rousseau briefly explained the auditing process to make sure funds are being spent correctly. She also mentioned that some board members may have seen an organization being mentioned in the news for fraud and assured the board that the firms and County are looking into how that organization spent their funds.

At this time, Poe Rousseau asked board members if they had any questions about anything discussed this evening.

Dixon asked, if there were more money that needs to be given out. The CFO answered by saying there aren't left over funds because each category did expand. The left over money for the County will be used for personnel, technology, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Dixon mentions that she has many ideas and asked if applications were still being accepted. Poe Rousseau answered her, stating that all applications are closed and there are no more opportunities for businesses and organizations to receive funding.

Lonny Wright asks if businesses that received money will be audited. Poe Rousseau stated that it depends on what organization they are a part of. Public health and social service agencies had to submit plans for expenditure prior to receiving their grant – while small businesses received funds first and will be audited later.

P Fraser asked if any funds were set aside for vaccine distribution and logistics. Poe Rousseau replied that there are some funds set aside for the vaccine.

Wright, asked about the \$2 million for child care and if those funds could be taken out of the regular budget. The CFO states that in theory it could, but the federal guidelines makes it challenging and there was not enough time to work through those issues.

COVID-19 Vaccine Overview

Deputy County Manager Kaufman asked that everyone keep in mind that information is constantly changing – so something discussed this evening could be different tomorrow.

Kaufman began by stating that the Health Department has a lot of experience with vaccinations and it will be one of the distribution sites for the COVID-19 vaccine, along with other providers.

Late last week the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the Pfizer vaccine for emergency use authorization purposes. Often in times of emergency the FDA will grant vaccinations and drugs for emergency use. Later this week the FDA is scheduled to review the Moderna vaccination for emergency use authorization. By the end of the week there will be two different vaccinations that will be available.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is the primary distribution entity and they are responsible for distributing vaccinations across the state. Today, the state began Phase 1 (A) of vaccine plan.

The vaccine process has started but this is still a work in process, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. It is important that people social distance, wear their masks, and have proper hand hygiene for another 6-8 months.

There will be additional vaccination distribution in Kansas by the end of the month, there should be 150,000 doses that KDHE will distribute.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance to KDHE, KDHE will then refine that guidance and provide it to local health departments.

The Health Department has been working on a plan since June, and that team includes leadership staff from the Health Department, Emergency Management, and Public Health Emergency management staff, and contractors.

In September, the Health Department conducted a planning exercise, in October, Dr. Minns started meeting with his medically focused team, in November, with the help from CARES funds – the County submitted an order for an ultra-cold storage and also submitted their plan to KDHE, which sent the plan to the CDC.

The vaccine will be delivered to the pre-identified locations equipped with an ultra-cold storage, which is Pfizer vaccine; the Moderna does not need an ultra-cold storage.

The general population's targeted vaccination timeframe is late spring or early summer 2021.

Kaufman stated that a lot of information is not available and it is unknown when information will be available.

Wright asked, if a person will receive any type of documentation when they get the vaccine. Kaufman states, yes because the vaccine has two doses. There will be documentation for the first shot and a reminder for the second shot.

Robert Simon stated that he has a couple of questions. The first being if there was any good news about the efficiency and effectiveness about testing, and treatment for people for contract COVID. Kaufman replied, in terms of testing, the tests are very

accurate. In terms of treatment, there has not been a lot of progress medically because it is very new – there is a lot of research and studies, but no treatment.

P Fraser asked if the 150,000 doses were all Pfizer or Moderna or a combination of both. Kaufman states it will be a combination of Pfizer and Moderna. P Fraser followed up, how are they going to administer them. Kaufman stated they would administer them all, and anticipate another shipment.

N Fraser, asked if the staff in long-term care facilities will receive the vaccine. Kaufman confirmed. She followed up, if healthcare workers receiving the vaccine if that is specifically for hospitals or all healthcare workers. Kaufman answered that right now – it will be specifically for healthcare workers who work with COVID-19 patients.

4. Other

Commissioner Cruse asks if anyone has any questions.

Kate Flavin, states there may be one item added to the bylaws regarding a high school student.

Commissioner asks the board if they know any high school students that are in the district who would like to join the advisory board meeting.

Kate shows the board the updated bylaws and highlights the minor changes.

Maria Elena Gonzalez makes a motion to adopt the changes made to the bylaws. Seconded by Deb Gruver. Motion passes unanimously.

N Fraser asked Cruse if there was an update about their budget or is that something that can wait for next year. Cruse suggested that the board focus on their budget in 2021.

The next meeting is January 11, 2021.

Chairperson Fraser made a motion to end the meeting. Seconded by Simon. Motion passes unanimously.

Next Meeting

January 11, 2021 - details to be determined.