



*Sedgwick County...*  
*working for you*

District 1 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting  
Meeting Minutes

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Monday, November 8, 2021  
5:30 p.m.

Bel Aire City Hall  
7651 E. Central Park Ave., Bel Aire, KS 67226

**Board Members in Attendance:** Daniel Bateman, Judah Craig, Kendall Hershberger, Jacqueline Kelly, James Reid

**County Representatives in Attendance:** Commissioner Pete Meitzner; Mike Pepoon, County Counselor; Nicole Gibbs, Community Relations Specialist

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**1. Call to Order**

- a. Commissioner Meitzner called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. A motion was made by Judah Craig to approve the minutes for the Oct. 18, 2021 District 1 Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting. Kendall Hershberger seconded this motion. **The CAB approved the motion with a vote of 5-0.**

**3. New Business**

- a. Establishment of Chair/Viceperson

- i. Judah Craig nominated himself for Chairperson and received a second by Kendall Hershberger. **The CAB approved the motion with a vote of 5-0.**
- ii. Kendall Hershberger nominated Jacqueline Kelly to be Vice Chair. Daniel Bateman seconded and Jacqueline Kelly accepted the nomination. **The CAB approved the motion with a vote of 5-0.**

- b. Mental Health Presentation

- i. Brenda Dietzman of the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Coalition (MHSAC) was introduced by Chairmen Meitzner. Ms. Dietzman shared her personal work history and how she fits into the Coalition now. There are 20 people on the coalition board that vary from the private sector, nonprofits, private citizens and local and state government officials.
- ii. In 2019, leaders came together and worked to develop a strategic plan that would guide the work of the MHSAC from 2020 to 2025.
- iii. The Mission of MHSAC is to develop a sustainable, accessible and integrated system of care that serves people with mental health and substance abuse disorders who are in crisis, in order to efficiently and effectively deliver services that create positive outcomes. The Vision of the MHSAC is to create a community where people in crisis find a place of hope and a path to health. Learn more about the MHSAC at <https://www.mhsacoalition.org/>.
- iv. Jacqueline Kelly asked if the state was becoming more receptive to mental health and if the state was seeing this as opportunity to invest?
1. Chairman Meitzner shared that elected officials across the state are well aware, starting to get involved and be educated on mental health.
- v. Kendal Hershberger asked if funding for MHSAC was strictly private.

1. Ms. Dietzman shared that the MHSAC is pursuing government grants and accepting donations as well. It's most vital that we can show our return on investment, including data collection & analysis.
2. Chairman Meitzner added that the visibility of the mental health issues & homeless downtown is a detriment to the businesses and want to help solve this.
- vi. Jacqueline Kelly asked if there are other cities or communities that have blazed this trail so we are not inventing the wheel.
  1. Ms. Dietzman shared that San Antonio is a front runner on this and started about 20 years ago. They received a large donation from an oil company to "fix the problem" and have a physical campus called Haven for Hope. The hopes for a local physical campus would include housing, COMCARE, shelters up to transitional housing and build an access center where service providers could serve in one area to make the at minimum first connection.
- vii. James Reid asked where MHSAC was working out of.
  1. Ms. Dietzman shared they are currently on the WSU Campus.
- viii. Kendall Hershberger asked if there were local charities and churches that MHSAC was partnering with.
  1. Ms Dietzman spoke on the many organizations plus United Way that are partners.
  2. Chairman Meitzner shared that the Lord's Diner is actively assisting with food. MHSAC can focus on other services needed.
- ix. Ms. Dietzman pointed out "If you give them a house, but not a job, they will fail. If you give them substance abuse treatment but not training, they will fail." She also spoke to investing in the beginning will save money down the road.
- x. Chairman Meitzner shared that our area is not as bad as some of the bigger cities, however we are also not that population either.
- xi. Ms. Dietzman shared that the opioid crisis is across the US, but meth is a big problem locally. She also shared that crisis looming in the community because of the lack of service providers. IF folks are overworked, pretty soon they're going to leave. A lot of this overwork is not voluntary. We're not unique; this is happening all over the USA when it comes to law enforcement, corrections & behavioral staff. She also discussed Larned State Hospital and how it's taking 10-12 months for folks to into the state hospital. The lack of beds and providers are backing up the system.
- xii. Daniel Bateman asked, for perspective, what percentage in the Sedgwick County Jail population is substance abuse related.
  1. Ms. Dietzman shared that District Attorney Marc Bennet reported around 20% of all cases that he agrees to charge, the person has possession of meth when they are arrested.
- xiii. Chairman Meitzner thanked Ms. Dietzman for her time and presentation.
- xiv. Kendall Hershberger commented about the amount it's costing us to hold and transport the people that in limbo.
  1. Ms. Dietzman commented that if she was not in the field of mental health, her knowledge level would be a zero and it's important for people to understand the crisis we're in regarding the mental workforce and state hospitals.
- xv. Kendall Hershberger also asked if having a facility closer to where the problems are would be more beneficial.
  1. Ms. Dietzman shared that she is working with Sheriff Easter on presenting an idea like this to the state. Also shared that it doesn't have to be a brick & mortar building, but putting resources here, we could partner. Looking (max) at a 50 bed facility to take care of surrounding counties plus mobile work.

2. Chairman Meitzner shared that the state is aware, has a budget and is now trying to answer questions for establishment.
  3. Jacqueline Kelly commented that we don't want folks to get comfortable with "the jail" being their bed space.
- c. Discussion of future agenda items
- i. Judah Craig & Jacqueline Kelly was ok with having Sheriff Easter come to the December meeting.
  - ii. James Reid mentioned the redistricting meeting on Nov. 15.
    1. Chairman Meitzner invited members to attend and comment. He also mentioned that the City would be conducting a redistricting process as well.
  - iii. Chairman Meitzner commented that there are 3 openings on the D1 Citizens Advisory Board and would welcome recommendations,
  - iv. **The CAB decided to have Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office to speak at the December meeting regarding mental health issues in the Sedgwick County Jail.**
  - v. Daniel Bateman asked if it was possible to do field trips for meetings.
    1. Chairman Meitzner said yes, as long posted as a public event with location and time.
4. Adjournment
- a. The District 1 Citizen's Advisory Board adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

*The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be **Monday, January 10, 2022, 5:30 p.m.**  
at Bel Aire City Hall, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., Bel Aire, KS.*

If you are unable to attend, meetings will be streamed via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89672613144?pwd=SVJKeGJobmx1dG1HZGtLYU8vbmxDZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 7261 3144

Passcode: 776132