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District 1 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting  
Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 28, 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, Amy Cox, Kendall Hershberger, Jacqueline Kelly, Jim Reid, Drake Robinson

**County Representatives in Attendance:** Commissioner Pete Meitzner

**1. Call to Order**

- a. Chair Judah Craig called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. A motion was made by Drake Robinson to approve the minutes for the Jan. 10, 2021, District 1 Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting. Daniel Bateman seconded this motion. **The CAB approved the motion with a vote of 7-0.**

**3. New Business**

- a. Discussion of Future Meeting Dates & Agenda Items
- i. Judah Craig reviewed of list of upcoming scheduled speakers to include County Manager Tom Stolz, Election Commissioner Angela Caudillo, Director of Budget Lorien Showalter and Assistant County Counselor Justin Waggoner on various topics. The Board agreed with the list of scheduled speakers.
  - ii. Jacqueline Kelly asked about the relationship with Jabara Airport Strategic Plan and the Airport Authority. The suggestion for an upcoming meeting could be to have both entities attend and allow each to speak for half of the meeting.
    1. Kendall Hershberger asked if the Airport Authority was upset about the Jabara expansion.
      - a. Jacqueline Kelly shared that the expansion at Jabara does not compete with the regional airport.
  - iii. Judah Craig mentioned learning more about Public Works.
    1. Jacqueline Kelly shared a desire to learn more about the water plant.
  - iv. Judah Craig recommended the following topics to be scheduled based on availability:
    1. ICT-1 and COMCARE
    2. Jabara Strategic Plan and Airport Authority
    3. Reschedule Sheriff Easter
    4. Public Works
  - v. The Board agreed on those topics and asked for them to be scheduled.
- b. Sedgwick County Mental Health/En Banc Discussion
- i. Sheriff Easter was unable to attend the Feb. 28 meeting, so the Board asked to reschedule him for a later date.
  - ii. Commissioner Meitzner gave an overview of the Feb. 24 City/County En Banc Meeting on Mental Health & Substance Abuse. He shared that the first hour of the meeting focuses on tangible things that can be accomplished. Commissioner Meitzner reviewed

the Sixty-Day Update that was shared by the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Coalition. He talked about the “Have, Need and Want Survey” and the desire for 1,100 people. The current ask is if there is a need to have all the education and training requirements currently needed to fill open/needed positions. The Update also shows cases for turnover and describes requests and estimated costs.

- iii. Commissioner Meitzner also talked about the Social Service Hub. This would be modeled off of the San Antonio model where it'd be a campus concept where a person would have access to services and resources that could be resolved in one location. The state legislature is in favor of adding a regional mental health hospital and hospital leadership is convinced a 50-bed hospital is the answer. The plan is to submit a Request for Information (RFI) that allows anyone in the community to share resource opportunities that could aid this endeavor. The hope is for the state legislature to approve the regional mental health hospital this legislative session.
- iv. Commissioner Meitzner shared history on how and where this movement came from. Sheriff Easter and District Attorney Bennett started this effort two years ago because the jail is overcrowded and DA's office has a huge workload. Since then, many barriers have been broken down and the movement is gaining traction.
- v. Amy Cox asked about the hospital and its next steps.
  1. Commissioner Meitzner shared that it doesn't have to be on the proposed campus but could be located anywhere.
- vi. Daniel Bateman commented that transportation usually relies on medical or law enforcement, which is similar to taking folks out of state. Commissioner Meitzner shared an example of how transportation works for a jail inmate.
- vii. Jacqueline Kelly asked if the hospital would be located in this region.
  1. Commissioner Meitzner verified that it would and that it was wanted here.
- viii. Commissioner Meitzner discussed staffing. He shared that KU and WSU are looking at creating a Science Center locally. With this type of community opportunity, we would have a better chance of staffing a Social Service Hub.
- ix. Jacqueline Kelly asked about the timeline and what the goal is to fund this.
  1. Commissioner Meitzner shared that businesses are engaged and the hope is to get funding for the hospital this legislative session. He also shared that mental health wasn't something commonly discussed prior to now.
- x. Daniel Bateman asked if potential spaces had been identified and if it would be in the City of Wichita or on the outskirts.
  1. Commissioner Meitzner shared they're looking at both options. An example includes land west of Ascension Via Christi St. Francis.
- xi. Kendall Hershberger asked if the preference was for the campus to be farther out than where the problem is.
  1. Commissioner Meitzner shared that this topic is part of the current discussion. It has been mentioned to relocate the services to out of the current area and to include areas for children and pets.
  2. Daniel Bateman commented that this location could be included in the bus transportation routes.
- xii. Jacqueline Kelly asked if 50 beds would be enough.
  1. Commissioner Meitzner shared that's the information they've been told and that this amount allows the pipeline to get folks through the system faster.
- xiii. Jim Reid asked about the March 22 BOCC meeting and about DA Bennett's need for additional legal staff.
  1. Commissioner Meitzner explained that the state supreme court dictates how many judges are in each area. Due to the need, the Courthouse is transitioning

to support the system and backlog. DA Bennett is getting budget authority to make progress with his needs.

- xiv. Judah Craig mentioned that having DA Bennett speak at a future meeting would be a good idea.
- xv. Jim Reid commented that Sheriff Easter's job isn't getting any easier until there are more courts and movement in the system.
  - 1. Commissioner Meitzner shared that this has led the BOCC and County leadership to make the move into the Ruffin Building. The court system was already backed up and with the pandemic, it pushed the need for more courts over the top. With the help of ARPA funding, this move and transition is made possible.
- xvi. Drake Robinson asked if rehabilitation services are considered into the mental health initiative.
  - 1. Commissioner Meitzner shared that they are part of the long-term plan.

4. Adjournment

- a. The District 1 Citizen's Advisory Board adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

*The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be **Monday, March 21, 2022, 5:30 p.m.** at Bel Aire City Hall, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., Bel Aire, KS.*