**DRAFT**

**South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital Advisory Panel**

**Minutes**

**November 6, 2023, 1:00-3:00 PM**

**Ruffin Building – 6th Floor Conference Room**

**100 N. Broadway, Suite 630**

**Wichita, KS**

**Panel Members Attending:**

Scott Brunner, Deputy Secretary of Hospitals and Facilities, KDADS

Sarah Lopez, Sedgwick County Commissioner, 2nd District

Sen. Usha Reddi, 22nd District

Jason Gregory, Downtown Wichita

Tom Stolz, County Manager, Sedgwick County

Marc Bennett, District Attorney, Sedgwick County

Jeff Easter, Sheriff, Sedgwick County

Claudio Ferraro, Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph

Mary Jones, Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas

Rep. Will Carpenter, 75th District

Joan Tammany, Director, COMCARE

Rep. KC Ohaebosim, 89th District

**i.** **Call to Order**

* Scott Brunner called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Panel members in attendance were introduced.

**ii.** **Adoption of October 9, 2023 Minutes**

* Scott Brunner noted corrections to the minutes during the internal review. Sen. Reddi asked about FY2024 projected costs: $10.4 million for adults utilizing SIA beds. The rate is about $1,170 per patient day.
* Jeff Easter corrected the minutes: page three, section VIII, paragraph eight.
	+ Wait time was corrected from 186 days to 467 days.
* Joan Tammany made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, Seconded by Sheriff Easter.
* No objections to approving the minutes as corrected

**iii.** **Updates from KDADS on the Hospital Project**

* Scott Brunner introduced The Learning Tree Institute at Greenbush (LTI) as the contractor hired to assist with public outreach, meeting management, and reports.
* Monica Murnan provided an overview of the LTI and introduced staff.
* Dr. Lisa Pelkey provided information regarding the initial phase of community surveying.
	+ The survey is active and has been distributed by email.
	+ Postcards will be mailed to areas with low rates of internet access.
	+ The survey is available in English and Spanish. Also available in five other languages.
	+ The survey is available in low vision and was developed for reading at the 8th-grade reading level.
	+ The survey sent through email has been active for three days. Initial responses indicated they would prefer something other than the hospital near early childhood education centers or elementary school buildings.
	+ The survey is being monitored closely to ensure that the data given is representative of the population. The survey needs a minimum of 400 responses for Sedgwick County to have 95% confidence. (2020 Census 600,000 population in Sedgwick County).
	+ Monica Murnan requested help from the panel to access larger businesses in Sedgwick County for survey distribution.
	+ As LTI moves forward, focus groups and community outreach will be completed.
* The survey will be open until the end of November.

**iv. Updates and next step from Sedgwick County**

* Representative KC Ohaebosim, 89th District, introduced himself as this was his first in-person meeting.
* Tania Cole, Assistant City Manager, provided updates on the bid process.
	+ The first Request for Proposal was released on 11/6/2023 for architectural and engineering services for the hospital. The date for closure is 11/21/23. A review will occur from 11/21/23-12/12/23. The proposal should go to the Bid Board by 12/14/23 and the Commission by 12/20/23.
	+ A Request for Proposal was released on 10/25/2023 for the location of the state psychiatric hospital. Two options are included in the bid: Option One is for land, and Option Two proposes renovation of an existing building. The bid will close on 11/30/23; “Phase One” review will occur 12/1/23-12/7/23; and “Phase Two” review will occur 12/8/23-12/14/23, with recommendations and approval to the Commission 12/15/23-12/20/23. The bid will then go through a comprehensive process (purchase signed contract, due diligence, and closing period) from 12/20/23-01/31/24. The RFP contained specifications for each and required an ability to close no later than January 2024.
	+ There was discussion and clarification from the Panel on options around the building requirements. Rep. Carpenter expressed his concern that more than 50 beds were needed and encouraged the group to consider potential savings in building 100 beds at once instead of building 50 beds initially and then adding on to the facility later. Mark Bennett emphasized the importance of ensuring the review is comprehensive, and identifying the best location should not be rushed. Input was received from Mark Bennett, Jeff Easter, Sarah Lopez, and Rep. Carpenter on ensuring the panel comprehensively receives community input, including a Town Hall meeting.
	+ Sarah Lopez emphasized the tight timeline due to ARPA funding. Allocation is due by December 2024, with it spent by December 2026.
	+ Jeff Easter inquired about a third option of building a hospital that could add 50 beds later. Tania Cole mentioned that the land or the building utilized for the hospital would be created/remodeled with the vision to add 50 beds later.
	+ Sarah Lopez asked about utilizing the $15 million the County receives over multiple fiscal years to increase the amount available for the project. ($15 million for two years with the $25 million from ARPA could provide $55 million in funding instead of $40 million.) Scott Brunner indicated it’s possible to reprogram the budget but would require several layers of approval, including the Governor and the Legislature. Scott Brunner did indicate the $15 million might not be enough given the scale of increase from 50 to 100 beds.
	+ Tests will be conducted on potential land before purchasing to ensure no contamination.
* The group then discussed the potential for a Town Hall meeting. December 12th, 13th, 14th, or 18th were the proposed dates for the Town Hall meeting, given the tight timeline.
	+ Concerns about sharing potential locations with the public during the Town Hall meeting were shared. Lindsay Poe-Rousseau, Sedgwick County CFO, shared that locations will need to be discussed in general terms due to potential interference with the bid process.
	+ Marc Bennett suggested that a subcommittee be developed to discuss the details of the Town Hall meeting.

**v. Background on the current state of psychiatric hospitals**

* Dr. Lindsey Dinkel, Superintendent of Larned State Hospital, and Ashley Bryam, Superintendent of Osawatomie State Hospital, provided an extensive update on their operations to help the panel better understand their work. PowerPoint presentations were provided to panel members with the presentation outline.

**vi. Updates on Sedgwick County Mental Health Programs**

* Tim Kaufman, Deputy County Manager, Sedgwick County, updated the panel on the county's current state of behavioral health care. A PowerPoint presentation was provided to panel members with the presentation outline.

**The panel further discussed the following:**

* Scott Brunner mentioned that the Town Hall would have to be during the week of December 11th due to timing. Marc Bennett proposed a Zoom meeting on November 17th at noon to approve the plan for the Town Hall meeting. He suggested the 4H building or the Metroplex for the location of the meeting. Scott Brunner will create a Zoom meeting for November 17th at noon.
* During the December 11th meeting, a draft report will be developed based on survey results and presented to the panel.

**vii. Input from the public**

**Adjourn**