

fast FACTS...

about Sedgwick County Government



June 2008

Addressing Challenging Behaviors & Building a Crisis Prevention and Response System

Sedgwick County
Developmental Disability
Organization

615 N. Main

Wichita, Kansas

67203

316-660-7630

www.sedgwickcounty.org

Creating a Task Force

Prompted by growing concerns from the community it serves, in March 2006, the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners created and made appointments to the Sedgwick County Task Force on Developmental Disabilities and Mental Illness. Their charge was to:

- Investigate and document the extent to which persons in Sedgwick County who have developmental disabilities (DD) and mental illness (MI) or who demonstrate extreme and dangerous behaviors without a mental health diagnosis (i.e. sexually inappropriate behaviors) are receiving appropriate services to meet their unique support needs
- Recommend to the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners actions the County can initiate or influence to improve services to the individuals mentioned above

The Task Force presented its final recommendations in December 2006. While some recommendations are outside our control locally, we do have the ability to build a crisis prevention and response system in Sedgwick County.

Direction

Following the presentation of Task Force recommendations, a group of local stakeholders has continued to meet to work on implementation. A site visit to the Community TIES program at the Waisman Center in Madison, Wisconsin helped create a vision of what can be created in Sedgwick County. The three key areas are:

- An approach to pre-crisis planning that includes all individuals involved with a person who demonstrates challenging behaviors
- Access to mental health professionals with expertise in working with the developmentally disabled

For More Information:

Sedgwick County
Developmental Disability Organization
at 660-7630
or visit the
Sedgwick County Web site at
www.sedgwickcounty.org.

- A crisis response system to assist when a person goes into crisis
- Access to a "safe house" when the safety of the person in crisis or others warrants

Partnerships

Building a crisis prevention and response system requires work across disciplines. The group of stakeholders continues to evolve and includes:

Arrowhead West
Bethesda Faith Village
Catholic Charities
COMCARE
Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
KETCH
Paradigm
Rainbows United
ResCare
Sedgwick County Developmental Disability Organization
Starkey
The Therapy Center
Via Christi Assessment Center
Wichita State University Center for Community Support and Research

Building Capacity

To successfully create a crisis prevention and response system there is a need to develop professional capacity through our universities. These untapped resources could provide both critical assistance in the current environment and assure the sustainability of the system we are striving to create.



Sedgwick County...
working for you