

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

March 5, 2003

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:00 A.M., on Wednesday, March 5, 2003 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Tim Norton; with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Thomas G. Winters; Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Carolyn McGinn; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Randy Duncan, Director, Emergency Management; Ms. Pam Martin, Director, Clinical Services, Health Department; Ms. Karen McNally, Director, Community Support Services, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, COMCARE; Ms. Kathy Sexton, Assistant County Manager and CIO, Division of Information and Operations; Ms. Caroline Hosford, Environmental Training Specialist Environmental Resources; Mr. Greg H. Thompson, Fire Marshal, Fire District #1; Ms. Stephanie Payton, Privacy Officer, Administration; Mr. Ron Holt, Director, Division of Culture, Entertainment and Recreation; Mr. Bob Lamkey, Director, Division of Public Safety; Ms. Lori Vanderford, Controller, Health Department; Ms. Stephanie Knebel, Director, Facility Projects; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Mr. Gary Parker, Member, Kansas Adult Mental Health Consumer Advisory Board.
Ms. Heidi Brandenberger, Member, Kansas Adult Mental Health Consumer Advisory Board.
Ms. Esther Fitzgerald, Member, Kansas Adult Mental Health Consumer Advisory Board.
Mr. Kevin Bomhoff, Self-Help Network, Center for Community Support and Research, Wichita State University.
Ms. Liz McGinness, Wichita Public Schools.
Ms. Gayle Ross, Farm Bureau.
Mr. Derek Bridges, Delta Dental Insurance.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Reverend Mike Bradshaw of Haysville Christian Church.

FLAG SALUTE

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ROLL CALL

The Clerk reported, after calling roll, that Commissioner Sciortino was absent.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, February 5, 2003
 Regular Meeting, February 12, 2003

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meetings of February 5 and 12, 2003.

Chairman Norton said, “You have the Minutes before you. What is the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of February 5th, 2003 and February 12th, 2003.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, “Next item.”

PROCLAMATION

A. PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH 10-14, 2003 AS “SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK.”

Chairman Norton said, “Commissioners, I would like to read this proclamation into the record.

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, it is estimated that at any given moment nearly 2,000 thunderstorms are in progress over the earth's surface; and

WHEREAS, tornadoes occur in many parts of the world and in all 50 states, but no area is more favorable to their formation than the Continental Plains of the United States, and no season free of tornadoes; and

WHEREAS, local government has the responsibility to inform the public and promote awareness in an effort to reduce the loss of life, property, and personal injury; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management will hold a statewide tornado drill Tuesday, March 11, 2003 designed to test the emergency warnings systems throughout Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the Sedgwick County Department of Emergency Management will participate in this drill to enhance the public's awareness in this vital area of personal safety;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Tim. R. Norton, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim March 10-14, 2003 as

“SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK”

in Sedgwick County, and urge all residents to participate in the scheduled activities. Sign to date this date.

And I see that Randy Duncan is here to accept the proclamation.”

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

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VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, “Randy.”

Mr. Randy Duncan, Director, Emergency Management, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Commissioners, thank you very much. I appreciate your helping us to draw the attention of the public to this extremely important event. We know, every springtime, that we face the hazard of severe weather in this area and we want to make sure people are prepared to protect themselves and their loved ones from the potential problems associated with that. And thank you for assisting us and thank you for supporting our program to make this possible.”

Chairman Norton said, “Well certainly this is an issue I know just a little something about and we want to make sure that we do keep people safe and that planning and organization and being sure that we warn people is so vitally important to mitigating parts of the problem. So I’m proud that we’re participating in this and, as always, your emergency management group does a fine job with that. I see no other questions, so thank you for being here.”

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to consider an Off Agenda Item.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

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VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

OFF AGENDA ITEM

Chairman Norton said, “At this time, I have a proclamation that I would like to read into the record.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, this Nation recognizes the contribution of men and women of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, we seek to promote an understanding of America’s agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, American agriculture helps feed the world, fuels our Nation’s economy, and is the largest positive contributor to our Nation’s net trade balance; and

WHEREAS, American farmers and ranchers uphold the rural character of the Nation as they provide the most abundant and most affordable food and fiber supply in the world; and

WHEREAS, American agriculture builds on centuries of progress by constantly seeking advances in science, research, technology, production, and marketing to meet the demands of changing consumer needs and complex world markets; and

WHEREAS, Sedgwick County Farm Bureau has been active in the lives of Kansas agriculture producers since 1917 and continues to be proactive in the community to educate and build on their foundation and affirm the best of farm tradition.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Tim R. Norton, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim March 8, 2003 as

“FARMERS AND RANCHERS APPRECIATION DAY”

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and call upon everyone in Sedgwick County, Kansas and America to recognize the important role that agriculture plays, the valuable contributions and the quality of food and life we enjoy and to join in the celebration of Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation Day. Signed this date.”

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, “And we have someone here to accept.”

Ms. Gayle Ross, Office Administrator, Sedgwick County Farm Bureau, said, “On behalf of Sedgwick County Farm Bureau of the board of directors, I want to thank the Commissioners for this proclamation and for their continued support of agriculture in Sedgwick County. Thank you.”

Chairman Norton said, “Commissioner McGinn.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Well, I thought you ought to at least introduce yourself.”

Ms. Ross said, “Excuse me. My name is Gayle Ross and I’m the Office Administrator for Sedgwick County Farm Bureau.”

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Commissioner McGinn said, “And I just want to add, Gayle has done an excellent job here in our county along with our board of trustees, the Sedgwick County Board of Trustees and the president of getting the word out about agriculture. We live in an urban county but yet we have the most farmers in the State of Kansas in Sedgwick County and I think that that’s a very interesting thing that people don’t often realize. And so, when we look at things in our economy and economic development, we also need to weigh the fact that we do have agriculture and their spending is very important to our county. We’re blessed that we have the diversity and I know we were just at a meeting listening to things going on nationwide, and the drought and those kinds of things are really hurting our small towns and so we appreciate all that you do and thank you for being here today.”

Ms. Ross said, “Thank you.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well, I just have one comment. I’ve got on my calendar that Saturday is Farmer Appreciation Day out at Cheney, at the fair grounds. Is that correct?”

Ms. Ross said, “That is correct, in the Farm Bureau building.”

Commissioner Winters said, “And so that time frame for when that’s going to be happening?”

Ms. Ross said, “Right, from 10 to 3 on Saturday.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right. Well I was out there last year. It was a good group of people and I think it is important to make sure that everybody really kind of realizes the things that we talked about in this proclamation today. This is certainly a very important industry for the entire country. So thanks Gayle and perhaps we’ll see you Saturday.”

Ms. Ross said, “Well I hope so. Thank you.”

Chairman Norton said, “Thank you. Clerk, call the next item.”

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

DONATIONS

B. DONATIONS TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

- 1. DONATION BY PROJECT ACCESS OF \$20,520, TO BE USED FOR SPECIFIC CLINIC SUPPLIES.**
- 2. DONATIONS TO BE USED FOR THE CHILDREN'S DENTAL CLINIC "MOLARDRAMA TOOTHFAIR."**
 - DELTA DENTAL OF KANSAS - 5,000 TOOTHBRUSHES, VALUED AT \$1,500**
 - DILLON'S STORES, INC. - 6,000 FREE APPLE CERTIFICATES, VALUED AT \$3,000**
 - EMPLOYEES COMMUNITY FUND OF BOEING WICHITA - \$2,500**

Ms. Pam Martin, Director, Clinical Services, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "My first item is to accept a donation from Project Access in the amount of \$20,520 designated for specific clinical needs. It allows us to provide services to the medically underinsured.

My second item is to acknowledge donations to the Sedgwick County Health Department's Children's Dental Clinic. The Children's Dental Clinic provides a 'Molardrama' tooth fair for 2nd grade students from Wichita and Sedgwick County schools. The donations were: 5,000 toothbrushes valued at \$1,500 by Delta Dental of Kansas, 6,000 free apple certificates valued at \$3,000 by Dillons Stores Incorporated and \$2,500 donated by the Employees Community Fund of Boeing Wichita.

The recommended action is to accept the donation by Project Access and accept the donation and acknowledge the donations of Delta Dental of Kansas, Dillons Stores Incorporated and the Employees Community Fund of Boeing Wichita. Commissioners, it is also good to inform you that Mr. Derek Bridges, President and CEO of Delta Dental is present in the audience today and if Mr. Bridges would please stand."

Chairman Norton said, "Please come forward, Derek, get you on camera here."

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Mr. Derek Bridges, President and CEO, Delta Dental of Kansas, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Good to see you and we certainly are proud to support Sedgwick County and proud to call Sedgwick County home for Delta Dental and the 60 employees that work there."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well I just want to say a comment or two. Derek is relatively a newcomer to our community, but let me tell you, he has pitched in and been involved in a number of different projects around Wichita/ Sedgwick County and we appreciate, Derek, your work in this community. This is one more example of the fact that the company you work for is interested in the health of particularly our young people here. But I know that you've got a real commitment to this community too and I certainly appreciate all the hard work that you've done for this community."

Mr. Bridges said, "Thank you very much."

Commissioner Winters said, "You're welcome."

Chairman Norton said, "Thanks, Derek. Well this is a good example of how our corporate citizens really help us with in-kind services and donations and we're very proud to have them corrected to Sedgwick County. And I think we find, more and more particularly in the dental area, that good dental health makes for good health in general. It's a good starting point. So we really applaud them for helping us out."

At this point . . ."

Commissioner Winters said, "Are any of the other folks here?"

Chairman Norton said, "Pam, is anybody else?"

Commissioner McGinn said, "I'd just like to make one comment. In watching the dental industry over the years, that's one of the main health professions that works so hard to put themselves out of business and that's in the area of prevention and so we thank you and you've been doing it for years. So thank you for all you're doing."

Chairman Norton said, "At this point, what is the will of the Board?"

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MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to accept the donations and authorize the Chairman to sign letters of appreciation.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, “Thank you, Pam. Clerk, call the next item.”

AWARD

C. PRESENTATION OF RECOGNITION AWARD TO COMCARE COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES.

Mr. Gary Parker, member, Kansas Adult Mental Health Consumer Advisory Board, greeted the Commissioners and said, “On my left is Heidi Brandenburger from the Self Help Network of Kansas and on my right is Esther Fitzgerald with the Kansas Consumer Advisory Council.

Every year we host a recovery conference for people with mental illnesses in Wichita at Century II and with the support of COMCARE through the Community Support Services, we would like to present a wall hanging to show our appreciation for the transportation that COMCARE provides. And there is a plaque on the bottom and it says ‘Our thanks to COMCARE for providing recovery conference transportation of Kansas Consumer Advisory Council, Self-Help Network Center for Community Support and Research, 2003’.

Ms. Heidi Brandenberger, member, The Kansas Adult Mental Health Consumer Advisory Board, “This conference is our fourth annual this year and it attracts 700 people to Wichita for the conference. And 400 people are provided services, lodging, transportation and meals at no cost for

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adults with mental illness. So we would like to present Karen McNally with this award.”

Ms. Karen McNally, Director, Community Support Services, COMCARE, said, “This is beautiful.

Thank you so much. I’ve really enjoyed working with everybody on the Recovery Conference project and we’ve been blessed really to have that in our community the last few years. The transportation of hundreds of people several times a day, really till late in the evening because there are wonderful evening activities involved with the conference, take the collaboration of COMCARE staff, Sedgwick County Fleet Management, the City of Wichita and their trolley services helped us out, and our affiliates that work in the Community Support System Network have also been collaborators and it has been a joy to watch all the consumers travel back and forth from their lodging and enjoy the conference.

So we thank you for this very much and it will be displayed proudly at COMCARE’s Community Support Services.”

Ms. Esther Fitzgerald, member, The Kansas Adult Mental Health Consumer Advisory Board, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Without COMCARE, most consumers wouldn’t get to go to all of the things that we have at the conference, because most consumers can’t afford vehicles.”

Ms. McNally said, “Thank you so much.”

Chairman Norton said, “Thank you very much, appreciate it. Clerk, call the next item.”

NEW BUSINESS

D. SEDGWICK COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE.

1. PRESENTATION OF APPOINTEES.

Mr. Kevin Bomhoff, Self-Help Network, Center for Community Support and Research, Wichita State University, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m the Chair of the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Task Force and I work at the Self-Help Network. It’s a center for community support and research at Wichita State University. I’d like to read into the record our appointees for the year 2003.

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We're very pleased to have a great cross-section representation of individuals throughout the community working on this very important public health and safety issues, that is reducing the number of suicides in our area. Those working on this cause, on the steering committee or on the task force itself are Bev Baalman, who is with COMCARE of Sedgwick County and Bev is here today, so Bev would you like to stand for a moment. I'll ask those who are here. Myself, as Chair, Jon Burghhart, who is also with COMCARE of Sedgwick County, Robert Burns who is our representative from the Sedgwick County's Sheriff's Department, Harold Casey, who is with the Substance Abuse Assessments Center of Kansas, Randy Class with Family Consultation Services, Chris Collins-Thoman, and Chris I believe you're here today. Great, Chris is here. She's with Via Christi Behavioral Health at Good Shepard campus. Deborah Donaldson, your own Division of Human Services Director here at Sedgwick County. Deborah is here today. Sally Frey with the Kansas Children's Service League. Gerald Frantz, who you know well as well. He's directing the Sedgwick County Public Health Department, Rick Kellerman, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Liz McGinness is here with us today. She'll be presenting with me today on another agenda item. She's the chair elect, so a special appreciation to her. She's with the Wichita Public Schools, USD 259. Rose Mary Mohr of the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas, Terri Moses with the Wichita Police Department. Mary Navarro is here today. She is also with the Wichita Public Schools, USD 259. Sheldon Preskorn with the Psychiatric Research Institute, Toni Pickard of the Wichita State University. She's with the Public Health Services. Carla Reed, Social and Rehabilitation Services here in Wichita, Bill Rush, who also sits on the COMCARE Mental Health Advisory Board, Elsie Steelberg of Prairie View, John Sullivan of the Social and Rehabilitation Services here in Wichita.

We would ask for your action to approve the appointees as presented.”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the appointees as presented.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

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VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Clerk, call the next item."

2. PRESENTATION OF YEAR TWO REPORT.

OVERHEAD PRESENTATION

Mr. Bomhoff said, "I have the year two report for you today. We're very pleased to present this information to you, although it's fairly exhaustive and we'll not be able to cover even a portion of the information that we have provided for you in a report that was delivered to your office yesterday. We do want to highlight just a few items. First of all, I think the report is a story that in a real sense is a good news/ bad news/ better news story.

The good news is this, despite difficult economic times, despite the stress of our global instability, despite what was reported actually in the media a couple of times during the year, and yes, despite what some of us on the committee actually expected, we are glad to report that suicide rates did not increase in Sedgwick County in this past year. The rate actually decreased, yet only by one incident. That's the good news that we have to offer.

The bad news of course is that there are any suicides at all to report. Our suicide rate, per 100,000 population, remains slightly higher than both the national and state rates and thus the tremendous effort that's being made in this community to correct this course. Suicide occurs twice as often as homicides throughout our nation and that's true here in Sedgwick County as well. There's a suicide, on average, every week in our community. This constitutes a serious health and safety issue and we must keep in mind that suicide is violence and it must be prevented, along with other forms of violence.

The better news is this, that we can report to you that Sedgwick County has a plan and that we have a small army of dedicated professional and community volunteers working to address this issue. We are mobilized now and on our way to becoming really an example of how communities can respond to this public health and safety need.

In past reports, we have concentrated on facts about suicide and suicide prevention. The report is a

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storehouse of information about national, state and local information regarding suicide, read and learn. We are going to concentrate today instead on what we're doing in this particular community as an effort of our task force and it's related subcommittees.

Acting upon your recommendation, in January of 2001 the original task force was formed and as you can see by the 2003 appointees that we just accepted, they represent a wide sector working in aging, criminal justice, education, mental health, social services and representatives from the general community. We set a very ambitious goal. We set the goal to reduce the number of suicides from a rate of 12.9 per 100,000 to a rate of 6 per 100,000 by the year 2010. We've now completed our second year of operation.

The task force itself is really made up of three subcommittees. The awareness subcommittee, which is composed of professionals from the field of aging, crisis intervention, education, criminal justice, social services, mental health, ministry and substance abuse. They're working to reduce the stigma associated with suicide. That is the stigma that keeps us from talking about suicide, from learning about what to look for, risk factors and what to do in the case of suicide. We want to increase public awareness.

Another committee is the intervention committee and it's largely comprised of crisis intervention and mental health professionals and they're focusing on those who are at most risk of committing suicide and educating professionals who work with persons who are at risk of suicidal activity.

The methodology committee is our third subcommittee and these are our cerebral folks. They're composed largely of health service researchers, clinical investigators, epidemiologists. They report some very interesting things to us, most of which we understand and they've designed a series of studies to better understand the risk and protective factors associated with suicidal behaviors. They also serve a very important function to everything else that we do. They make sure what we say is accurate, is based in research and it fits our community in terms of the statistics and the information that we use.

Our overall committee, our main function is to create strategies, the task force, to provide input, to give charges to these subcommittees and then to coordinate all of their activities. One of the other things that our overall task force did this year that we are very pleased about the results of, in September we hosted the first suicide prevention conference and community meeting. That was very nicely attended and we had a speaker, Dr. Shawn Shea, who gave us some great information about how to assess the risk of suicide.

We followed that meeting with a community meeting that gave us great new ideas for how to increase public awareness around issues related to suicide prevention and some of those ideas you'll

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see are already in our year three plans. So we were excited about the input.

It was also a gift to everyone who has been volunteering our time in this project. There was no cost associated with attending, so they got some great information and they were able to also get that at no cost and then, at the same time, kind of charge them up a little bit because this is hard work and they're doing it at no cost. COMCARE was a co-sponsor on that for us and we are very pleased at their cooperation and support.

Just to talk a little bit about our awareness committee, it has three sub-groups. It's got a work group and media work group, stigma work group and public awareness and resources. Some of the things that they did during this year . . . I think I'll jump ahead and move to this. One of the things that they did was, I'm going to highlight a few of them, they gave 18 media presentations, they gave 20 various formal and collateral presentations and they handed out 5,000 resource information guides. They formed a website group that's working with the Sedgwick County Public Health Department. We're going to have an independent website for the Suicide Prevention Task Force that we're real excited about. Right now, we're connected to the Sedgwick County general, under COMCARE's department, but we're going to set up a freestanding website that will link out then to several different initiatives that we're involved with. We're excited about that development.

They also organized a community poster contest. In fact, you might remember we were here with a woman who designed the aging poster and you accepted that poster and it was distributed with 200 of them to senior citizens, assisted living campuses, senior dining centers, nursing homes and other gathering places. They also distributed 5,000 stigma brochures to various presentation participants at community organizations, medical offices, police departments, funeral homes and social service agencies. So those are just some of the different things that they were involved in during this past year.

And what they plan to do in this next year is to continue some of those and build on that success. They are going to be involved in distributing prevention information via the Internet at our new website. We're going to raise public awareness of risk and prevention among youth specifically, and we've got a couple of projects we're excited about that we're going to get off the ground. One of them is a poster contest and a poster distribution to this target group.

Another is that we're working to have . . . every student in the high school receives a planner that they receive at the beginning of the school year to write their assignments down and has all the various dates that the school system has and we're going to have some prevention material printed

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inside of that planner so that what they carry with them every day will have the numbers to call and what to watch for and how to act if you feel you're at risk or a friend may be at risk of suicide. So we're excited about that and that's one of the ideas that came out of our community meeting. And then they will also host a media appreciation luncheon, which will provide a 2002 update on suicide prevention efforts and also get the media kind of on board with some of our public service announcements that we'll be doing. So we're excited about the efforts, the awareness activities that we'll be doing.

The intervention committee, it's comprised of the educational presentation work group and the postvention group. If you run the word postvention through your Spell Check you won't find it but the term postvention means support to those individuals who are left living their lives after someone dear to them have committed suicide, all right. This group of people, family and friends, are at an increased risk of suicide themselves. And so we've targeted this population for some of our intervention work.

The intervention committee has completed the development of an education slide presentation on suicide prevention. They've trained interested members of our task force and our subcommittees to make these presentations. They've trained representatives from the Department on Aging to take all of our information out to the various aging programs. And we will be coming back to you later this year, because our intervention committee is working on a official position statement that talks about appropriate length of stay and how services can be best integrated to address the problems related to those who go and seek services, how are they available and how well are those services integrated. One of the things that the intervention committee has made very clear to us, all the awareness in the world, if it works, will bring people into the service system. So let's make sure the service system is well integrated and working well together. And so we're having some discussions and some facilitated processes to try to come up with what we think could improve in our service system in the areas of integration and the length of stay for services that people have who do say, 'Yes, I need help'.

Representatives from USD 259 and COMCARE have attended a Colorado program called the Yellow Ribbon Program. In a few minutes, I'm going to ask Liz McGinness to come up and talk to you about that program. We're very excited about this, as a great intervention program that we can use throughout the public school systems.

We have met with representatives of the current support group in the county and we've decided that we need a new, an additional postvention support group for those people that's available immediately following the suicide. The current grief group that is available here, it's a great group, but they require a six month period of time before a person begins to attend and a release from their

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therapist and we think that we want to have a professionally facilitated support group that available the day after if necessary or if the person wants to utilize it when there's a situation where someone has lost a loved one. So we're going to add that resource to our community through our intervention group and develop a draft of a brochure to be distributed to the suicide survivors immediately, through the coroner's office, law enforcement, through EMS so that survivors can immediately receive some information that they may need.

Other activities they have planned for next year include continuing to update the slide presentation. They're going to coordinate with the teachers in the area to work on information about suicide risks, prevention and referral, especially implemented now through the Yellow Ribbon campaign. They're going to establish a survivors of suicide facilitated support group that I mentioned already and they're providing necessary support to USD 259 to implement the Yellow Ribbon program that we'll tell you about in just a minute.

Our methodology group is working and busy as well. Some of the efforts that they've had have stalled a little bit, quite honestly, because they require some funding and so we've made some applications and not received funding but we're looking at additional areas where they might be funded. They have refined the initial research design to incorporate both the examination trajectory of suicide recovery, as well as a rich portrait of suicide victims. So what we want to do is understand better what goes on in the world of a person who is contemplating suicide so that we can prevent those things.

They've also identified several training workshops that could really enhance our ability to do our jobs and they're looking for funding to help us get to those training types of options. And they've submitted a proposal to work for a pre and postvention study, which is very exciting but has not been funded, as indicated. So we're working on finding some additional funding to do that. We think we need to study things locally and see what we can find out.

Some things that they're doing the next year is they're finalizing their pilot instruments and the series of data collection tools. They're continuing to search for external funding for crucial training that we've talked about. They're expanding our literature archive and this is really exciting too, because some of this information is now going to be put on our website so that when someone goes to our website they can pull up articles that are pertinent to suicide prevention and understanding of

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suicide and they're going to continue to provide technical assistance to our other subcommittees.

I'd like to ask Liz McGinness to come forward, just for a moment, talk with us a little bit about the Yellow Ribbon campaign and if you show an additional interest, we will come back and tell you more about that at another time. Liz."

Ms. Liz McGinness, Wichita Public Schools, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you. Good morning. I am Liz McGinness and I work with the Wichita Public Schools and I'd like to tell you briefly about the Yellow Ribbon program.

The Yellow Ribbon program was developed in Denver, Colorado six years ago, following the death of a very popular seventeen year old boy by the name of Mike Emmy. Mike completed a suicide in his driveway. Following his death, his parents of course were grief struck and friends and everyone who knew him were also very concerned. They kept coming to the home of the Emmy's and saying, 'What could we have done differently? How did we miss this? Mike was such a great kid, he had everything going for him.' The students and friends of Mike are the ones who actually put this program together. They developed, at his funeral service, a small yellow ribbon card that says on one side of it what to do if you are with someone who you feel is in a suicidal crisis and then, also on the other side it talks about handing this yellow ribbon card to someone if you need to talk about concerns that you are having.

At this point in time, we have adopted the Yellow Ribbon program also within the Wichita Public Schools. We are currently implementing at the secondary level and have had the opportunity to implement at a middle school already this year. Each time that we present on the Yellow Ribbon program, it is enormously satisfying in that we always get response from the audience. One of the responses we got from the middle school presentation that we did in November, a young girl came up following the presentation and said that her mother, that very morning, had attempted suicide and she was very worried and didn't know what to do. We were able to hook up with COMCARE, Emergency Services, get the mother into appropriate treatment. The following week, we had a parent presentation at the same middle school. That parent was there, came up, talked with the group about the services she was now receiving and how helpful that had been. That is one example of how the Yellow Ribbon program has such power in our community.

We also did a presentation in Derby for a youth group and following that presentation we had a set of parents come up and talk about the fact that their seventeen year old daughter had attempted suicide in December and that they so much appreciated the information that was shared because every single thing that we talked about, in terms of education of suicide risk, they said was there for their daughter but they had not known what to do.

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So it's a program that really has a great deal of appeal to it. It's very simple, it's very elegant and very powerful. It does provide long term educational information so that students and staff and parents know what are the symptoms of suicide. But then, even more importantly, what can we do when we experience that type of a situation and it hooks people into very effective emergency services. We hook right into COMCARE, with their Crisis number and there's also an 800 suicide phone number on the card as well. We are extremely excited about Yellow Ribbon and we think that, at this point in time, it is one of the best tools that we have, in terms of dealing with suicide in our schools and in our community."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you."

Mr. Bomhoff said, "That completes our report to you today. I would like to place up on the . . . some information about where you can find the report once you have accepted the report. And then also, as always, we need to keep in mind that there are services and resources and we've posted a phone number here for anyone who might be dealing with someone they are concerned with maybe considering a suicide or they themselves are thinking of that. So we wanted to make sure that information was up there as well. If you have any questions, we can entertain those at this time."

Chairman Norton said, "We do have some. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. I guess probably it's more of a comment than a question right now, but I certainly want to thank all the committee members for the obviously hard work that you've been going through and working on."

I remember the day we had the report here, I think it was in 2000, the year 2000, and were given the information that Kansas does have a higher rate of suicide than on the high side of the national averages and the state and I can assure you that the Board of County Commissioners was concerned about that. And one of the . . . You know, I don't know that I know all the details, but at the time got the sensation that there might be those in the community going in kind of different directions. I know the Health Department was thinking and saying something. COMCARE we knew was doing something and so I'm pleased now to see that we've got everybody hopefully back on the same page and working in the same area.

You've set some ambitious goals but you know, it strikes you know when you think about preparing for 2010. On one hand, you think that's a long ways away, but on the other hand that it's not very far at all. And I think your report has just laid out a two year work plan that I think is, again, very ambitious but I mean, it . . . I haven't had time to look at it in depth, but it appears to be very well thought out and well planned and looks like a very good road map for the committee to work on.

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And I guess just the last thing is Liz, as you begin to take over some more leadership roles, and Kevin, I want you to both know that I'm sure that there's several Commissioners that if you need help or assistance or you need that reaffirmation that 'Why am I doing all this hard work?' I think we are very supportive and very encouraged by your leadership with the group and by all the committee members. I mean, this is going to be hard work and so we appreciate it very much and I think you're on a great track. Mr. Chairman, that's my comments."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just, essentially, am going to echo what Commissioner Winters has said. For you all to go through extensive work to define the problem and develop a program and then implement it is encouraging and I wasn't on the Commission when this was first established but I'm very proud now to be associated with it and would also like to offer any encouragement and help that I might be able to give.

I think it's one point of your program to just make people aware of the problem is very important. I think a majority of our citizens are just not aware how pervasive this problem is and the one statistic that suicide outnumbers homicide 5 to 3 is a staggering statistic and so I'm just happy to be made aware of it and I want to congratulate you on your work."

Mr. Bomhoff said, "I do want to show you that we do feel your support. Some of the ways that you've supported us have included making city/ county mill dollars available to the university to produce this report and some of the research that we've been able to do. You've also made, through your funding of COMCARE, some of the base funding for some of our publications, our printing costs. You've also made staff available to us and I can take this moment to say, I don't know how we would operate without Bev Bauman of COMCARE sort of pulling all of our strings and getting us to walk in the right direction and in proper order.

And so, she's just been a key person keeping us on track. If I don't get the agenda out, there's an e-mail saying 'Where's the agenda?' and she, of course is the one that actually sends those things out, that kind of thing. That's great support, so we do know that you are supporting us in many ways and want to recognize that. There is a budget connected to the report, you probably noticed, of unfunded things and so those are just things for you to consider, as you talk . . . next time you talk budget issues. You can always support us more, but we do recognize what you do at this time already."

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Chairman Norton said, "We have other questions. Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a question for Liz McGinness. The Yellow Ribbon program, what is it that's unique and different about that compared to what we'd done in the past and it seems like, you know . . . or you would think that we had been talking about suicide prevention in our schools in the past, but maybe not to the extent we are today. So I guess my question kind of is what makes this program more engaging to our parents and students, over what you've done in the past?"

Ms. McGinness said, "I think one of the primary things that makes Yellow Ribbon so acceptable and received so well is the fact, number one, it was developed by students and number two, it is very simple and yet, again, I say very elegant. Each student in the building would receive two of the Yellow Ribbon cards and it's literally just a business-sized card. We give them two in case one gets washed in the jeans but then we also have additional cards in the building and it's also unique in that every student in the building is trained. No one student is singled out or no one group of students are singled out for the training. So everyone hears the same message about suicide.

It's also unique in that are, as adults, openly talking about suicide with a large group of students. That, so many times, has not happened in the past and what we have tended to do, in the schools in particular, is do postvention after a terrible tragedy has occurred. This model says that, at the first of the school year, get in there, train kids, talk about suicide, let them know we are aware and that they need to be aware and then it gives them the tools also that they can very readily access. So those are the kinds of things that I think are very helpful with Yellow Ribbon. It is truly a student oriented program, and yet it is also a community program. It is not just a school program. The idea is that everyone in our community, if they were handed a card by a young person would know 'Okay, this is what I need to be doing with this student, I need to stay with them, I need to listen to them and I need to get help for them'. Those are the three components."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay, and how many years? Is this your first year, did you say, on the Yellow Ribbon program?"

Ms. McGinness said, "Yes, this is the first year of implementation in the Wichita Public Schools."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay, all right, thank you."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well that sparks another question."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Winters."

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Commissioner Winters said, “Does this . . . does someone need to carry this message to the suburban and outlying schools in Sedgwick County? We’ve got some pretty big districts and we’ve got some pretty small districts but I don’t think this necessarily runs any lines of boundaries. So, does someone need to carry this message to other school districts?”

Ms. McGinness said, “And that is part of why we have adopted it as a part of the intervention subcommittee because we do want to share this message with others. Also when we had our training in Denver, there were representatives from COMCARE, one of whom works in another district outlying the Wichita schools and it is being implemented there as well. So, absolutely, we want to get this message to as many people as we possibly can and that’s why, also when we got a call from Derby asking for some presentation information. We just jumped at the gun. We were very excited to get those kinds of calls because we know that this is a message that works but we want to make sure everyone hears it.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right. Well I would be interested in maybe just an update e-mail from your intervention committee or whoever if other school districts do come on board and adopt it, I would be interested in knowing that. Thank you.”

Chairman Norton said, “Commissioner McGinn.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “It sparked another question. If you go out into some of these outlying schools, what’s the manpower to make presentations? How many staff people or whatever do you need to make these presentations to the schools?”

Ms. McGinness said, “Right now, in the Wichita schools we have four people who are trained. Our goal this spring is to have a day where we will train additional people to do that. To do a presentation you really could do it with just a few as two. We’ve been doing it with four, just because it kind of lightens the load but our goal within the schools is to get more people trained and the same with COMCARE. They want to have more people who are trained as well so that we can get more people out there sharing the message and that, again, is a nice thing about the program. It’s not greatly complicated and it is not about making other people mental health professionals. It

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is about making people a link in the community for students so that they have someone they can go to.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Okay, thank you.”

Chairman Norton said, “I have just a couple of questions. You said it was in one school here. What school is that?”

Ms. McGinness said, “It’s at Mayberry Middle School.”

Chairman Norton said, “Okay. You started in middle schools and will move towards high schools.”

Ms. McGinness said, “Right, exactly.”

Chairman Norton said, “Okay. It interesting, I know in a lot of schools they have groups like Natural Helpers and those kind of groups that would be potential peer groups to join with automatically because they’re working on peer mediation and conflict resolution and those kinds of things that connect students with students and understand problems. So, I would urge you to try to connect with those groups.

Just a few questions. Has there been a rise in potential individuals that are making phone calls, that are using help lines, that are doing those kinds of things in the community in general? I mean, we had a decrease of one suicide but have we seen a more potential pool there that we’re dealing with?”

Ms. McGinness said, “I’ll let someone else answer that.”

Mr. Bomhoff said, “We just happen to have Marilyn Cook, who is directing mental health services here and clinical services as well and works directly in that area.”

Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, COMCARE, said, “Actually Jon Burkhart, the director of our crisis program is seeing an increase in the number of phone calls. They are contributing a lot of that, however, to individuals who are laid off and out of benefits and experience a lot of stress. So it’s hard to know, but we are experiencing an increase and an increase in requests for services in our addiction programs and our out-patient service programs.”

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Chairman Norton said, “That kind of leads me to . . . it almost answers one of my other questions. What are the economic implications? I mean, we know 12,000 workers out of work. That has to put extreme stress. Are we seeing a change in the kinds of phone calls? Has it moved from seniors that are in the twilight of their lives that are wanting to move on and moving into middle class America? Has there been a change in that?”

Ms. Cook said, “I don’t know if we can honestly say we have tracked that. I just hear anecdotal things that come. Our homeless program has more and more people that are approaching them for services. We all read in the Eagle the number of people that we are feeding each night at Lord’s Diner and how that has increased and the statistics on that really surprise me in terms of how many of those people are disabled and unemployed. There is a 45% increase, I believe it was, in the laid-off workers that are approaching our addiction program. So we’re trying to track that. We don’t have a baseline, in terms of the specific population that came to us before all of this happened but I’m very proud that we’re there for the folks that approach us.”

Chairman Norton said, “Well, I guess what I would urge is just to continue to work on demographics. I think I talked about this about a year and a half ago. We need to understand who that pool of people is that’s coming to us. It seems to me we’ve always focused on teenagers and people at risk that are confused and seniors that are having health problems that are sad and lonely and those two polarized groups. But now we’ve got a whole new economic situation that throws a lot of new people into the pool. So I guess we just need to keep working on that. I would urge you to try to have that data on the table so we can understand it a little bit because I think it guides us in some of the budget decisions we make when it comes to mental health and suicide prevention too.

You’re putting another slide up there.”

Mr. Bomhoff said, “Commissioners, there is a charting and report that relates to this somewhat and you can see the movement of a number of suicides from ’99, 2000, 2001 in terms of age groups and you can see that there is a decrease. What spurred this thinking was your question about the aging population. We saw a peak in 2002 but a considerable drop off in 2001, although in looking in that 45 to 64 range, look at that increase. So a small drop off in the 25 to 44. So you know, I think our methodology committee would warn me not to make any statements about causality but at the same time, we are seeing a lot of fluctuation here in terms of your don’t just see . . . you see steady trends

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in terms of how many individuals commit suicide, but look at the fluctuation in where their age groups fall. So, over time, we may be able to learn a little bit more about some of the causality related to that.”

Chairman Norton said, “Excellent. I see no other questions from the bench. What is the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, “Kevin, Liz, thank you very, very much for coming today. Carry on the good work. I know it’s not easy. Clerk, call the next item.”

E. PRESENTATION OF THE WASTE MINIMIZATION TEAM 2002 ANNUAL REPORT.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Ms. Kathy Sexton, Assistant County Manager and CIO, Division of Information and Operations, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Today we have the report of the Waste Minimization Team

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for Sedgwick County. I am the chair of that committee and you may remember that the team was formed four years ago, to help the county organization, our own departments and our own 2,700 employees watch the waste that we produce, try to reduce that amount of waste, try to increase our recycling efforts, etcetera. We have a really good team of folks from all departments or I should say a cross section of departments. The team changes a little bit each year. With me today is Carolyn Hosford, our Environmental Training Specialist for Sedgwick County and she is the person in charge of the performance measures in our annual report. So I'll have her present the report. Caroline."

Ms. Caroline Hosford, Environmental Training Specialist, Environmental Resources, said, "Thank you. I'm happy to be here this morning to share the 2002 Waste Minimization Performance Measures report for you. County employees participated in these different programs regarding recycling and reduction efforts over the past year. And as you might guess, office paper and cardboard and newspaper were the items that comprised the largest amount that was collected for recycling here in Sedgwick County offices. A new program, however, was added towards the end of the year and that was magazines and catalogs and that was very well received and we had lots of good participation in that and I expect that that will probably continue into this year and the next. In addition to paper items, employees also recycled printer cartridges, aluminum cans, plastic beverage bottles and even greeting cards. We had another program called a mail reduction program that I'll talk to you about just a bit later.

Now, our Waste Minimization Team was formed in 1999 and we recycled certain items and began keeping track of them in that year. And in 1999, we collected 82,374 pounds of materials for recycling. Last year, in 2002, the number increased to 153,807 pounds. That's an 87% increase in just four years. And I might add a whopping 87% increase I think. And I guess I'd sort of like to interject that I think that this is due to a lot of reasons but one of the reasons is because we've had good leadership from our chair, from Kathy Sexton. She has given the team members ownership and they've run with it and we've had really good things that have happened because of that.

I thought we might look in detail about how we did in 2002 and you can see from this chart the actual numbers that we collected in office paper, cardboard, etcetera and our goal, so you can see that the bottom line is that we exceeded our goal by well over 10,000 pounds.

I'd like to give you some specific examples of how departments have reduced their waste by just changing processes. Fleet Management has been able to reduce the amount of hazardous waste that they generate. This would be things like waste paint and waste cleaning fluids. That number has gone down considerably. The Appraiser's Office is using technology to reduce the amount of waste that they make. One of the things that they particularly use is document imaging and they're not the only department. The Treasurer's Office, the Clerk's Office and some areas of COMCARE in addition are using that technology.

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The Kansas Coliseum is using e-mail now to deal with contracts, promoters, correspondence, reports, audits, all those kinds of things that they used to do with paper. So it's saving in that area. Emergency Management is using CDs, distributing CDs for large items that they need to distribute which obviously saves on paper and printing but it also saves on postage and that's one of the things I think we sometimes don't think about. They also refer people to our website, Sedgwick County website, instead of producing so many hard copies of brochures. So people can actually get the information via website.

The District Court is also participating. They print transcripts of things they need to proofread on the back of other papers that have already been printed on. They do some of their training and test programs the same way and information that they get from Topeka comes via e-mail and they transmit it that way, rather than sending interoffice memos like they used to.

Now I spoke earlier about a mail reduction project. This was the second year that we have participated in a mail reduction project in our county offices. What we were trying to do is see if we could actually reduce the amount of unsolicited mail that comes into the courthouse complex and other department offices. So in 2001, we asked people during one week in November to actually count the number of pieces of mail they got that they didn't ask for and that number was 2,077 pieces. Then we asked them to send a pre-printed postcard to the vendors, to these people that were sending this stuff saying, 'Quit it, we don't want this stuff anymore' and we asked departments to continue doing that throughout the year. We measured again in 2002, during the same one week period, and our result was 1,415 pieces. So we're still getting mail but it's not quite as much. It was a 32% reduction. So this is an ongoing thing. We're still working at it. Just yesterday I had someone call me and said, 'Send me some more postcards' so we're still trying to reduce the amount of unsolicited mail that's coming in.

Progress is continuing. We're still working at it. We've got a lot of good people on this team and I think we can actually say that now reducing waste is beginning to become part of our culture around here. People are thinking about it. They're doing it, they're asking for more ways. Our recycling is increasing. Our reduction efforts are increasing and I think really the good news is that employees are becoming creative. They're looking in their own departments and seeing what will work for them and they're making suggestions and implementing those things. So I think the Waste Minimization Team, it certainly has made good progress and we're going to continue to work in that regard. So if you have any questions, I'd be glad to answer."

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Chairman Norton said, "I see none at this time. Well I think this is one of those efforts we just . . . You know, every year I'm amazed at how we can continue to make the kinds of improvement we make and it shows the will of the 2,700 people that work for the county to continue to do that. Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We started this, I think, about four years ago and I think this is just a small portion of all the work and different things that you've done over those four years and the amount of waste that we've reduced and as we continue to talk about changes in solid waste or whatever, to me this is one thing that does not change. It doesn't matter what your final disposal is, we need to reduce the amount of waste that we produce in our community, in our organizations, in our households and those kinds of things.

We all know that a lot of it has to do with mail solicitation but it also has to do with packaging and marketing and those kinds of things. And so, I think it's very important as a community that we do the things that decrease that flow of trash or whatever into our community. And so, I want to thank Kathy, in particular and Caroline I know you've worked very hard on this, but continuing this effort with this team and the fact that you guys change that team every year and bring in new people and so that helps, I think, spread the news to our many departments and employees in our community, in our organization. Thank you."

Ms. Sexton said, "Commissioner, thank you very much and I would be remiss if I did not recognize the role of the County Commission in the Waste Minimization Team. You all may not realize it, but your support of this effort since the beginning, four years ago, has been critical. I am sure that as good as our team is, some of our departments would not have participated had they not understood this is a priority of the County Commission and each of you has taken their turn, watch out, Mr. Unruh, has taken their turn serving on the Waste Minimization Team and our Chairman, Tim Norton has been our recent commissioner serving on the team. And every year we get a different commissioner and I think it helps, I know it helps. All the employees understand this is a priority of the County Commission and we appreciate that."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, thank you. I . . . just again, to follow up on Commissioner McGinn's comments, as we developed our countywide Solid Waste Plan, minimization of the waste stream was a key component and again, no matter how we get there or where we're going to end up, in re-looking at that plan and reviewing that plan, it's important for organizations such as Sedgwick County to encourage employees to proceed in any kind of waste minimization that they can possibly do. So I appreciate the committee's work.

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I appreciate the way too that you've handled the unsolicited mail situation because, I'll tell you, there are times when I do get unsolicited mail and I want to get it. I mean, it's a way of doing business that a number of companies and businesses are engaged in, so I dislike that other term that it's often referred to as 'junk' because I don't think it is. I think . . . but it can be unsolicited and it can be going to the wrong place and there's no reason for me to receive information about health care or a county hospital, but there is information that I receive unsolicited that I find very valuable. But it is important to get off of those lists that you don't need to be on. So I think you've done a good job. I appreciate the committee's work a lot."

Ms. Sexton said, "Thank you, Commissioner. I would just point one other thing out is that . . . That is that at the beginning of our work we were focusing on setting up recycling programs. As the work progressed, we focused on minimizing waste, such as that program on the mail reduction. This past year, we also did a buy recycled effort where we figured out that we could save money and buy recycled printer cartridges. Instead of just recycling the ones we use, let's forget about the recycling aspect and buy recycled ones and help that whole flow occur better."

I think this is the first report you've received that also emphasizes the use of technology to reduce paper and reduce effort. And as you know, many times that use of technology also brings with it a productivity or a staff time reduction aspect and key to that is our website and our E-line intranet site. And two weeks from today, we'll be back at the podium presenting to you an annual report for 2002 on the status of our e-government efforts and our website and just to give you a little preview of that, just this morning I got an e-mail from Mary Blay, she a librarian at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., who was looking at our website and says, 'I'm a librarian at the Library of Congress and I just wanted to let you know that I think your website is one of the best that I have ever seen, very impressive'. That just came in this morning and I just had to share that with you. Thank you, Commissioners."

Chairman Norton said, "Awesome. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well I just want to say thank you for the warning, Kathy, but I'm eager to become involved. This is an outstanding program where we have a two pronged approach of recycling on the one hand, reduction on the other and where we have developed a culture here that has accepted the importance of this. And so we develop an example and a model that hopefully the rest of business and industry in our community can adopt and see how we do it, how valuable it is and how agreeable it is to everyone to help solve this issue. So you all are doing a great job and I'll look forward to your knock on my door."

Ms. Sexton said, "Thank you, sir."

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Chairman Norton said, "I see nothing else. I have a couple of things. Waste minimization is the way to go. I mean, my years at Target we continued to look at ways, particularly because of productivity. You know, when you've got ladies clothing in and it had pins and plastic and hangers and paper in it and it took all the time to take all of that out, we finally figured out that maybe we wanted it shipped without that so we could just hang it out. And I think getting upstream and making those things happen is very important.

And sometimes it's very simple things. I know one thing that I made a determination on is I read the paper at about six o'clock every morning at my house, yet I was getting a paper here and there was plenty available so I took that out of the waste stream. It's very simple little decisions that make all the difference in the world. So keep up the good work. We're right behind you and we look forward to hearing about the web page now."

Ms. Sexton said, "Thank you, sir."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you."

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "And I've had a request to take a five minute recess here and I'll honor that."

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The Board of County Commissioners meeting was recessed from 10:11a.m. until 10:22 a.m.

Chairman Norton said, "I'll call the meeting back to order. Clerk, call the next item."

F. PRESENTATION REGARDING PYROTECHNICS USE IN SEDGWICK COUNTY.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Greg H. Thompson, Fire Marshal, Fire Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here before you this morning at your request to discuss some of the pyrotechnic events that occur in Sedgwick County regarding indoor facilities. I have a short Powerpoint presentation I'd like to show you here.

Basically, the Fire District, we've not had any documented injuries, deaths recorded in the district as of because of these permitted indoor displays. All fireworks displays in the fire district do require a permit from our office. Any of the indoor pyrotechnics are covered under the current 1994 Uniform Fire Code Article 78. We also have several other guidelines that we use and the NFPA, or the National Fire Protection Association guidelines are two of those. NFPA 1123 is for outdoor displays only and NFPA 1126 is for a proximal or what we call the indoor displays, and that's what we'll use for any of the indoor displays that we permit.

It's very difficult to get a permit for an indoor display here in Sedgwick County. Approximately 99% of the buildings would not be allowed to shoot fireworks indoors. We have quite a few requirements that they have to meet.

The Sedgwick County . . . We do allow fireworks indoors in very few buildings and the Kansas Coliseum being one of those few. One of the things that we do require, it has to have a large open area with high ceilings required for an indoor display. It needs to be of a fire resistive or non-combustible construction and the shooter has to have extensive experience with indoor displays.

The Kansas Coliseum is constructed primarily of non-combustible and fire resistive materials. The ceiling height of the Coliseum is approximately 70 feet. I believe it's 48 to 50 feet to the bottom steel and almost 70 feet to the top steel. So we do have very high clearance there.

The operators at these concerts are highly professional and experienced. We require certification and we check those credentials prior to issuing any permits. The process that they have to go through is they'll apply for a permit through our office and then they're also required to submit a

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pyro-informational handbook to our office as well as the Coliseum. This handbook includes several items. One of those is a liability insurance that will protect the fire department, the County Commission and the Coliseum. So we will require a liability insurance certificate. We require that they provide copies of their current pyrotechnic licenses and once all the paperwork is in place, we'll actually go out to the facility prior to the concert, or prior to the event, after the pyro is set up, usually the afternoon prior to the show. We'll inspect the set and often times will require a demonstration of any of the items that either we're not familiar with or that we want to see how close it comes to the audience to any of the combustible materials that may be on the set. We require fire protection be in place in the form of water extinguishers. They have to have assistants that are located around the stage in place with extinguishers and, again, we'll check for their license.

If all of these requirements have been met, then we will issue a permit but . . . and we'll probably have someone there. Usually we have somebody there at the night of the event watching the show and if something's not quite right, we do have the authority to revoke that permit and stop that process.

The upcoming show, I know here March the 13th, Toby Keith, we just recently received the pyro booklet for them. Strickly FX is the company as an example that's going to be used in that show. They've done numerous shows, like for 'N Sync, the NFL, the Super Bowl. So these guys are very well qualified that are doing these type of events.

And to the best of our knowledge, we have not had any indoor or non-permitted shoots have ever occurred in the fire district. It's something we keep a pretty close eye on. I'd entertain any questions that you might have. I have my good friend John Nath, Director of the Coliseum here with me today. They do a lot of other things along with the things that we do and that we take a look at at the Coliseum. They have other procedures in place and quite a few things that they do. So, John can certainly explain any of those things."

Chairman Norton said, "I'm not sure who was first. We do have some questions. Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if I understand that correctly, the people that are doing the pyrotechnics, they're in the business of doing that."

Mr. Thompson said, "They're in the business, yes ma'am."

Commissioner McGinn said, "You don't have like Styx coming and so some of their staffers are putting it together. So you have people that actually that's their business."

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Mr. Thompson said, “These larger shows that normally occur at the Coliseum, when we have those type of things, they have people that they hire and they travel with them and that’s the only thing that they do is they do the set up for the pyro and for the effects.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “What do we charge for a permit?”

Mr. Thompson said, “The permit fee is \$50.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Thank you.”

Chairman Norton said, “Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Thank you. Well I’d like John maybe to come up just for a moment too. We had a brief discussion about this at our staff meeting and so I certainly appreciate Greg and John being here today and I think that we’ve got a lot of confidence in the staff out at the Coliseum and in our fire marshal’s office particularly but in light of these just two horrendous tragedies in night clubs, and one around pyrotechnics, you know I really want us to make sure that we’ve got a good system in place and it sounds like Greg described a good system. John, are you confident in what’s happening at the Coliseum? And if you’re not satisfied with somebody, can pull the plug on them and say ‘No, you’re not going to do this’? And I guess I certainly want you to be ready to act and react when you see something that’s not right. Are you going to be pretty confident with our system that we’ve got in place?”

Mr. John Nath, Director, Kansas Coliseum, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m very confident. One of our best resources and tools that we use in our business is our relationship with the Sedgwick County Fire Department. We not only rely on them to help us through the pyro issues, but also with trade show floor plans, with looking at hospitality tents to insure that they are fire retardant and all these other issues, exit ways and those kinds of things. So it’s a really good relationship.

At our level, in the concert type business, it’s real different than the club level. These bands not only hire lighting technicians and sound technicians, they hire the pyro-technicians and these people are from national companies that they are in the business to be hired to go on the road with these tours. We have noticed a large decrease, a significant decrease in the amount of pyro in the last

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couple of years. It's very expensive and the insurance is very expensive and there's a lot more things that you can do with computer controlled lighting where you don't have to go into the pyro area. So we see that trend going with the bands. But I'm very comfortable with our safety level. We look at a lot of things. We rely on the fire department to help us keep our aisles clear and to keep those kinds of issues from happening.

There was actually three incidents, one that did not make the national news. There was a pyro incident in Minneapolis where they set off a charge in one of the smaller clubs and ceiling caught on fire. The club had a very good emergency plan. Everybody was evacuated. There was no injuries but that's the third incident that did not make the national news."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, I just think it was important that we take a little bit of self check here in light of these two tragedies in clubs and just make sure that we're confident with what we're doing and that we've got procedures and rules in place to make anybody that comes to one of our facilities know that they're in a safe environment and they're not going to be exposed undangerously [sic].

So I was a little interested in that very first slide, Greg. It appeared to be at a wedding, the use of some pyrotechnics and boy, that was the first time I've seen that. So I hope that anybody that wants to do that thinks twice."

Mr. Thompson said, "That was one we just got off the Internet for effect. I don't think that occurred here."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay."

Chairman Norton said, "I'm glad my sons aren't watching this. They're both getting married this year and they'd think that was pretty cool."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, thank you Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you. John, I think you partially answered one question. I was going to ask how many requests for permits do we get a year and is it trending up or down. It's apparently trending down."

Mr. Nath said, "It's trending down. We get maybe three or four requests a year and it's not only for concerts. We had a little bit of pyro this year for the rodeo on a special effect on one of the

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contract acts. If they have something where they have a fire effect, the pyro permit is required. We've had pyro for sports events. The Wichita Wings used to set off charges in the steel whenever they scored a goal and a pyro permit was required for that."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, the second question I had, is this permitting and licensing that we have in effect, is it just for Fire District 1? I mean, this does not impose itself on the City of Wichita and their events."

Mr. Thompson said, "The City of Wichita has basically the same process. I've talked with Fire Marshal Ed Bricknell. They had four events last year that they had indoor pyro fireworks and they issued permits on those and their process is essentially the same as what we do."

Commissioner Unruh said, "All right, thank you. That's all I have."

Chairman Norton said, "I guess I'm taking a different tact and this is more for Greg than for John. You know, the Coliseum I think we've got great management, we understand our role. We have to have liability. You're tied in with them all the time. I worry about the clubs out in the county that are doing illegal stuff that don't even ask for a permit. I mean, the more and more I read about what happened is the band said 'We talked to the owners' and the owners said, 'They did it'. They never even talked to the fire marshal or saw if their building was okay to do that. I guess so I'm worried about what's happening out there. Is there any incidents that we see of clubs or venues that we inspect that maybe do these kinds of things without any kind of permission?"

Mr. Thompson said, "No. We have been out, in fact, last Friday night. We go out on a quarterly basis and we check all of our what we call our night establishments, basically the dining/ drinking establishments that are open at night. We inspect those on a quarterly basis. We were out last Friday night. We did 18 inspections last week. We have a pretty good rapport with the owners. We talked with them and those are things that we discuss with them, that there's not to be any pyro effects in the building unless they've talked with us. We check for exciting, we check for lighting, a lot of the other things that we'll check on those club checks. So we're in the clubs fairly frequently."

Chairman Norton said, "One of the other things that, in reading about some of the incidents is the materials they've used. They thought they were sound proofing materials. It turns out they were

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some kind of foam stuff that was highly flammable. As you do inspections of clubs, obviously your looking for those kinds of things. Have you stepped that up or started to look outside the boundaries of what you've limited or not limited recently?"

Mr. Thompson said, "We check those on a regular basis. And again, like I say, we were in the clubs the other night and we did take a special look to look around any of the stage areas, the dance floors, areas like that and took a look at what those type of materials were and we've advised the owners that any time they make a change that we're to be notified and we'll do a re-inspection to verify what the material . . . that it's noncombustible in those areas."

Chairman Norton said, "And then finally, just the capacities of clubs, to have exits and lighting and sound equipment that gets people to the exits. That was the other thing that I read about, that everybody tried to make it to the front door, where there was four other exits and you constantly monitor that, do you not?"

Mr. Thompson said, "Right. The exit requirements and that's what we really look at. If we can get the people out of the building. That fire was certainly a fast fire, due to the effects of the material that was involved. If you don't have those type of materials, you're not going to have that type of a fast fire and generally you'll have a little bit more time to get people out. But we want people to understand where there's exiting and that there's no obstructions, that the doors aren't locked, that there's enough emergency lighting in the event that the lights do go off, there is enough light to light the way out and let people find the way. So, those are the things that we'll look for."

Chairman Norton said, "Good. Well thank you for being here today, Greg and John, and I applaud Commissioner Winters for bringing that up in a staff meeting to move us to get some information out to the public and I would urge you to continue to push the letter of the law and venues where people meet and make sure that you urge owners and constituents to stay safe in these kinds of events, because you only have to read the paper to see that 100 people perished instantly, almost, that it moves you to action. So thank you very much for what you do."

Mr. Thompson said, "Thank you very much for your support and we'll continue to do that."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you."

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MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Clerk, call the next item."

G. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PRIVACY OFFICER TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING BUSINESS ASSOCIATES CONTRACTS IN ORDER TO BRING SEDGWICK COUNTY INTO COMPLIANCE WITH THE HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT PRIVACY RULE REQUIREMENTS.

Ms. Stephanie Payton, Privacy Officer, Division of Human Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Before you this morning, you have a resolution delegating authority to the Sedgwick County Privacy Officer to sign business associate agreement amendments and a form business associate agreement amendment contract. The privacy provisions of HIPAA will become effective April 14th, 2003. HIPAA protects the privacy and security of protected health information for

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clients of Sedgwick County. Under HIPAA, protected health information is defined as individually identifiable information relating to the physical, mental health or condition of the client.

Sedgwick County, by virtue of the quality public services we provide and the protected health information that is shared between clients and business associates is considered a covered entity under HIPAA. For example, the Health Department, COMCARE, CDDO, EMS and Aging collect, maintain and transmit protected health information in their daily provision of care to the public.

Over the last year, Sedgwick County has invested considerable financial and human resources to insure that our organization will be in compliance with this federal mandate. Some of these efforts have included securing a contract with Professional Consultation Services to assist the Sedgwick County HIPAA Committee in their remediation efforts.

Effective April 14, 2003, HIPAA will require Sedgwick County and all health care providers who qualify as covered entities under HIPAA to have signed business associate agreements with all business associates with whom we share and disclose protected health information.

Commissioners, referring to the handout that I had provided, business associates are defined as persons or entities who perform a function for or on behalf of a covered entity or an organized health care arrangement that involves the use or disclosure of protected health information for purposes other than treatment, payment and health care operations. I realize that's a mouthful. It's perhaps the shortest definition in the entire federal register in regard to HIPAA, but I'll give you some practical examples of what that means.

In terms of business associate functions, that would be claims processing, administration, utilization review, quality assurances, billing and benefits management. In terms of business associate services, that might be legal services, accounting services, data aggregation services and financial services that we engage with covered entities where protected health information is disclosed for the purposes of those services.

Further, HIPAA privacy requires that each business associate of Sedgwick County furnish in writing satisfactory assurances that they will protect information pertaining to the protected health information of our clients. Therefore, our affiliates, contractees and vendors with whom we share and disclose protected health information fall under the same provisions and must comply by April 14th, 2003.

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Some of the satisfactory assurances include not transmitting or disclosing protected health information if it's outside of the parameters of the contract. If protected health information is inadvertently transmitted, to let Sedgwick County know as the covered entity immediately and to take remediation efforts as required.

To assure that Sedgwick County is in compliance with HIPAA privacy regulations, we are obtaining business associate agreements from our partners who meet the requirements that I just noted. The Sedgwick County Privacy Officer and the business associate will sign the agreements as amendments to preexisting contracts. All agreements must be signed and returned back to Sedgwick County by April 14th, 2003.

Following April 14th, 2003, any contract that has been identified as appropriate for HIPAA will have a standard business agreement included in the standard contract appendix. In conclusion, Sedgwick County already has exemplary privacy and confidentiality practices. HIPAA provides additional safeguards to protect the client information that we hold in Sedgwick County. In effect, it makes us better stewards of public health and the public trust. I would recommend that the Commissioners approve the resolution delegating the authority to the Sedgwick County Privacy Officer to sign the business associate agreement amendments and approve the form business associate agreement contract. I would entertain any questions that the Commissioners might have with regard to this process.”

Chairman Norton said, “Okay. Commissioner McGinn.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And this is something that I think we, as Commissioners, need to know more about. It's very important and whether we do that at staff meeting or another update here, either way I think is fine. I just started reading a little bit about this, just trying to understand it myself. And I guess, Stephanie, when did you start on this? Because it seems like it's almost been two years now.”

Ms. Payton said, “Well, it's been about a year and a half when this process really began.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Okay. And when I . . . I guess the more I read about it the more, on one hand, I think this is a no-brainer, simple, easy stuff and then on the other hand it's very complicated and difficult. But when it really comes down to it, I mean, when I first started reading about it and reading some of the examples, I thought ‘This is a no-brainer, we should have been doing this all along’. I mean, protecting people's records and those kinds of things. And I guess

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the lead in this is the mental health industry, because they have been doing some of that and so, we have some models in which we can use and have a very good mental health system here in Sedgwick County. But I guess the others out there, there's really no good examples and those kinds of things for people, but they've got lots of websites I guess to go to."

Ms. Payton said, "Commissioner McGinn, if I may address the comment that you just made, we are in an excellent position in Sedgwick County with regard to how we safeguard protected health information of our clients. The mandate attempted to formalize it for organizations all throughout the country. We just happened to be in an advanced position, where we already do many of the practices and have been doing it for quite some time that HIPAA now requires us to do in a formalized manner."

Commissioner McGinn said, "And it sounds like some things will need to be tweaked over time, but other things are just a matter of understanding whether you're a business associate and where do you classify that person and those kinds of things to make your life easier."

One of the things I thought was interesting in this article I was reading was, just to give you an example of this, is like you used to call . . . If you called the doctor's office and said 'How did Mary Smith's test come out?' we know we wouldn't get that answer. Now if you call and you say something about 'Is Mary Smith even there?', they can't even tell you she's at the doctor's office. And so there's lots of just little things I guess we don't . . . or haven't really thought about and it's basically putting it down on paper and documenting it."

Ms. Payton said, "Exactly. And, as I said before, we have really thought about a lot of those things in advance of this becoming a federal mandate. Those are just our normal good business practices."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Well, I certainly want to know more about this, as we continue. And then also I think, just what little I understand, it sounds like Sedgwick County has already taken the lead in other things such as our website and Ready to Respond and those kinds of things. It's my hope that we can share our information and help other counties in the State of Kansas as well. So thank you, that's all I had."

Chairman Norton said, "We've got some other comments. I have one, just to dovetail on what Carolyn said. I think she's right. You would think this would be common sense, but in today's environment where all of our information is being spread out and bought and packaged and used by other folks, and you think that it's only going to a financial institute or to a school system or

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whatever and the next thing you know you're on a mailing list for some reason. It's powerful that your medical information at least stays very, very private because that's about as personal of information as you're going to have.

Commissioner Unruh.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Thank you. I think this is sensitive information and something that we should implement and I'm in favor of implementing the mandate. My question though is, and you partially answered it, we have not had grievances or complaints or difficult issues relating to this subject previous to our efforts here?”

Ms. Payton said, “No, we have not. We have really great business practices. I have looked at COMCARE, CDDO, EMS, the areas that are most critically affected by the provisions of HIPAA and have not found that to be a routine occurrence. The Health Department is new to us, so the legacy that comes from the City of Wichita I'm not privy to but now that they're part of us, we have not had those occurrences.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Good. Thank you.”

Chairman Norton said, “I see no other questions or discussion. What's the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye

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Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, “Thank you, Stephanie, appreciate it. Clerk, call the next item.”

H. AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS HEALTH FOUNDATION PROVIDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF A \$60,000 GRANT AWARD TO FUND AN “EVALUATION OF SEDGWICK COUNTY CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT COALITION” PROJECT.

Mr. Ron Holt, Director, Division of Culture, Entertainment and Recreation, greeted the Commissioners and said, “You have heard me here before talk about the Character Development Coalition of Sedgwick County, that we are working as a total coalition across the community. Been in development since over a year ago and it’s an initiative of the Business Education Success Team, as a part of the Chamber.

From the very beginning, we kept asking ourselves, in that development effort, how would we measure, how would we know whether or not we were making a difference. Last October, we submitted a grant proposal to the Kansas Health Foundation requesting funding for a three-year project to help us do just that. This funding will be passed through to the Self-help Network out of Wichita State, whose staff will coordinate with the Coalition members in determining specific evaluation criteria and conduct the evaluation and report findings that will be used in making future decisions.

The Coalition, the Kansas Health Foundation, as well as the Self-help Network asked if Sedgwick County would be the pass through agent for that grant. You informally agreed to do that, if the grant was awarded. We now have the grant award and so we’re here today asking if you would accept the grant award, authorize the Chairman to sign all the necessary documents, including the grant award agreement, and approve establishment of budget authority at the time the grant award documents are executed. We would so recommend that. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.”

Chairman Norton said, “I see no questions at this time. What is the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

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Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

Chairman Norton said, “I have a motion and a second. I have just one comment. Obviously, I’m very attached to this issue and I think, as we move forward, it’s going to be imperative that Sedgwick County stays attached. I know, Ron, you sit on that committee, chair that committee and it upholds the highest values that I think the County Commission does and our whole 2,700 employee staff does that respect and integrity and those things that we stand for as a county should be modeled to our young people and that’s what this whole Character Connects will try to do. And I’m proud that the County can be very much a part of helping sponsor this and be part of the formation of this unit. I have a motion and a second. Clerk, call the roll.”

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, “Thank you, Ron. Clerk, call the next item.”

I. AMENDMENT TO THE 2003 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) TO INCLUDE THE HEARTLAND PREPAREDNESS CENTER, PHASE I.

Mr. Bob Lamkey, Director, Division of Public Safety, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I will try to go through this without getting too convoluted in the process. In 2000, the Board of County Commissioners provided a letter of intent to the Kansas National Guard committing to no more than 1.7 million dollars, in partnership with the City of Wichita for the initial design and to supplement the construction of a consolidated National Guard readiness center. The 1.7 million dollars was to cover half the cost of 35% design of the facility, completion of a site master plan to include proposed future fire/ law enforcement training facilities and a share of our local match required to construct the National Guard facilities and, in that letter, \$250,000 was specifically allocated by the BoCC for design and master planning.

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Since you made that initial commitment, a number of things changed fairly late in the process. The National Guard has been joined by the Marine Reserves in the military component and that has a plus and a minus. The fusion of the DOD components has resulted in a project eligible, for that military portion, for 100% federal funding for the design and construction. So the 25% match for that component is no longer required.

However, since that came fairly late, the front money for the design has already essentially been obligated and expanded and because it was an expanded process, that amount has increased, the requirement has increased our share from \$250,000 to \$261,480. If the military project is approved, the city and the county will eventually receive the lion's share of those dollars back, about \$211,000. There won't be any reimbursement for master planning, because that was our requirement to look at the fire and law enforcement training center.

Although local government will not have to provide a match for construction, the project will not proceed unless infrastructure, roads, water, sewer, electricity to the site is useable and in place at local expense. The estimated cost to design and provide that necessary infrastructure as envisioned in total is \$2,174,000. Now the county was not planning to cover infrastructure costs as the project was originally scoped. However, we can support 50% of these costs, \$1,087,000, in partnership with Wichita and remain well within our initial 1.7 million dollar commitment. In fact, if all of these things happen, our commitment will be something just over 1.1 million dollars of the 1.7 that we allocated for this phase.

So the proposed CIP amendment does several things. One, it places this project from a letter of intent into our current CIP. It formalizes our commitment to cover the increased design costs and our intent to share the infrastructure costs with the City of Wichita. The CIP Committee has reviewed this item and supports its inclusion in the current CIP and I'm happy to answer any questions and it is my recommendation, on behalf of the CIP Committee, that you approve the CIP amendment."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. At this point, I see no questions from the bench. I do have just one statement. As I've said many times, I really believe in the environment we find ourselves in in the United States and the State of Kansas and Sedgwick County, public safety is a critical need and as we move forward on the Heartland Preparedness Center and we know that we're going to try to put together a first responder center with that, staying attached to this project, participating in it, and since we've earmarked some funding, helping out with the infrastructure, now that we don't have to help with the building is probably very prudent to make sure that this project moves forward.

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I mean, I think we're going to make some decisions in the next few years that will profoundly effect public safety and the ability to be prepared in Sedgwick County for our citizens and I would urge my colleagues to move forward on this and approve the CIP amendment to make sure that we are engaged in what I consider very important public safety needs for our area.

So with that I would entertain a motion.”

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the CIP amendment.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, “Thank you, Bob. Clerk, call the next item.”

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

J. AGREEMENT WITH FIRSTGUARD HEALTH PLAN, INC. FOR PROVISION OF THE KANSAS MANAGED MEDICAID-HEALTHWAVE INSURANCE PROGRAM.

Ms. Lori Vanderford, Controller, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I am with you this morning to ask that you renew the existing contract between the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners, the Health Department and First Guard Health Plan, which is the managed care division of Kansas Medicaid.

We currently serve primarily children and pregnant women under this First Guard plan. Approximately \$185,000 were collected in fees through this program in 2002. There's about 88,000 women and children, primarily women and children, in Kansas that are covered under the

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First Guard Health Plan and we're just asking that you would approve this contract so that we can continue to serve those low income individuals in Sedgwick County."

Chairman Norton said, "At this point, I see no questions or lights flashing from the Commissioners. What is the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Thanks, Lori. Clerk, call the next item."

K. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT.

- 1. RECONSIDERATION OF ITEM 2 OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2003 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS: BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS – PUBLIC WORKS.**

Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I would like to defer this item for one week please."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to defer Item K for one week.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Next item."

2. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 27, 2003.

Ms. Baker said, "This meeting resulted in five items for consideration today.

**1) LOCK RETROFIT- SHERIFF
FUNDING: LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

The first item is a lock retrofit for the Sheriff. Recommendation is to accept the proposal received from Integrity Steelworks Incorporated in the amount of \$25,500.

**2) MAINTENANCE & SUPPORT AGREEMENT- DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS
FUNDING: DATA CENTER**

Item two, maintenance and support agreement with the Division of Information and Operations. Recommendation is to accept the quotes from Computer Associates International Incorporated for a total of \$105,390 and amend the contract to include the Unicenter/ VM Products.

**3) CHANGE ORDER- DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE/ 1ST FLOOR ANNEX RENOVATION- FACILITY PROJECT
FUNDING: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Item three, change order for the District Attorney's Office first floor annex renovation for Facility Projects. Recommend the acknowledgement of the change order with Descon Incorporated in the

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amount of \$3,452.33.

4) **ON-CALL ARCHITECTURAL/ ENGINEERING- FACILITY PROJECTS** **FUNDING: FACILITY PROJECTS**

Item four, on-call architectural and engineering services for Facility Projects. Recommend the low proposal from Law Kingdon to execute a three-year contract with a guarantee of not to exceed an average hourly rate of \$59 per hour for in-house services with two one-year options to renew.

5) **SOFTWARE LICENSE & EQUIPMENT SERVICE AGREEMENT- FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER** **FUNDING: FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER/ TOXICOLOGY**

And the fifth item today, software license and equipment service agreement for Forensic Science Center. Recommendation is to accept the quote from Agilent Technologies in the amount of \$44,504.28.

Be happy to answer any questions and recommend approval of these items today.”

Chairman Norton said, “I see no questions right now. I do have a couple though. On item number four, who presently does our in-house facility projects as architect?”

Ms. Baker said, “Wilson, Darnell, Mann.”

Chairman Norton said, “Okay. And how often do we access that service? Is that something we use quite often? Most projects, we go out and get an RFP and get a new architect to take the project. So how often do they use . . .?”

Ms. Baker said, “I’ll let Stephanie Knebel address that.”

Chairman Norton said, “Thank you. Hi, Stephanie.”

Ms. Stephanie Knebel, Director, Facility Projects, greeted the Commissioners and said, “We access any number of team members of the team that’s been put together probably several times a week, different levels of questions. It’s a quick code interpretation type question or ‘how would you do this’ type question to, ‘We need an estimate for this type project’. So we access them quite a bit.”

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Chairman Norton said, "I guess my next question, which would lead to that, could I get a dollar amount of how much we spent last year on that particular contract with on-call engineering? Is that available?"

Ms. Knebel said, "It is available. I didn't bring it with me to this morning's meeting though, but I can get that back to you. Over the term, over the five-year contract, it was close to a million dollars and you break that down between five years and, you know, come up with a quick average of, you know, \$200,000."

Chairman Norton said, "So we have been, for five years, we've been with Wilson, Darnell and Mann with that present contract."

Ms. Knebel said, "That's correct."

Chairman Norton said, "And now we're entering a contract that's one-year, but renewable up to three."

Ms. Knebel said, "No, it's a three-year base contract."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay, three-year base."

Ms. Knebel said, "With two one-year options, for another total of five."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. That answers all my questions. Any other questions? At this point I would entertain a motion on the recommendations of the Bid Board."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts.

Chairman Norton seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye

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Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Iris. Clerk, call the next item."

CONSENT AGENDA

L. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. Revised Agreement with Union Pacific Railroad for the Grand Avenue and Kay Street railroad grade separation in Haysville. CIP# I-78. District #2.**
- 2. Letter of submission and Annual Report for the Sedgwick County Foreign-Trade Zone Project for the 2001-2002 Federal Fiscal Year.**
- 3. Funding increase for 2003 CIP Projects B-223, bridge on 13th Street North; and B-373, bridge on 55th Street South.**
- 4. Waiver of policy to hire a Controller, Division of Finance, at step 10.**
- 5. Ratification and confirmation of the February 28, 2003 actions and proceedings of the Sedgwick County Board of Canvassers.**
- 6. Plats.**

Approved by Public Works. The County Treasurer has certified that taxes for the year 2002 and prior years have been paid for the following plats:

Laverne Roy Addition
St. Mark Parish Addition

- 7. Order dated February 26, 2003 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 8. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of February 26 – March 4, 2003.**

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You have

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before you the Consent Agenda and I would recommend your approval, with the exception of item number three.”

Chairman Norton said, “Item number three ties to the CIP on the two bridges, so we’ll pull those off.”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Consent Agenda, except item L-3.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Absent
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, “Commissioners, is there anything else to come before us today? Commissioner McGinn.”

M. OTHER

Commissioner McGinn said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought it was interesting some of the different things we had on the agenda today, in fact, tied in with some of the things that when we were back at NACo at Washington D.C. we’re there already, basically. But I wanted to give just a few highlights of some of the things that I picked up on and I’m sure the other Commissioners would like to share some of that as well.

The first meeting I attended, I sit on the Environment and Land Use Committee for NACo and one of the things that seemed to be the focus this year had to do with the clean air act and those kinds of things and they talked about alternative fuels and policies that counties may want to look at in that area. We are not a non-compliance community here in Wichita, but we are very close, and so we do have a committee. Irene Hart, I believe, sits on that and watches that and works with some of the City of Wichita people on that.

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The other thing that we talked about today was HIPAA, which is the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and I didn't have that written down. I just want you guys to know that I actually have that memorized now. But, you know, we had presentation today, and that is something that's very important. They had a presentation there in Washington D.C. I think there's going to be a learning curve for everybody, clear across the nation, and again, I want to share that it does appear to me that Sedgwick County is ahead of the curve. And I want to thank Manager Bill Buchanan, because I remember a year and a half, two years ago, you started talking about this and we were like, 'HIPAA, what's that?' You know, nobody wanted to listen to him. Nobody wanted to talk about it and it's here and he started work on that, put somebody, assigned somebody to that task a long time ago. And so I think we're going to be in pretty good shape.

One committee, workshop session that I had an opportunity to attend I thought was very interesting, and even kind of ties to a little bit of some of the things that we talked about here today in the mental health area. But they looked at jails across the nation and we have a lot of people, at an increasing rate, that are going into the jail system who actually have a mental health issue and problem. And they had a couple of communities that talked about a jail diversion program and what they're doing is screening and finding out who these individuals are and diverting them to get some mental health help and therapy. One of the things you do, when you take those individuals and throw them in jail, you just lost their insurance, you just lost Medicaid and we, as a county, end up picking up the bill.

And then the other thing that they taught that was tied to that was the fact that a lot of these individuals that get in the system are not a threat to society. In fact, I think it was like 70% of those individuals. And that gets back to one of the areas that I hope our task force comes up with some solutions and that has to do with minimum security. And some of these people may not even need to be there. They need to be in a more therapeutic program. Others may need to be in a minimum security. I look at our bid board. We had to retrofit some locks in the jail, \$1,700 a piece. You know, do we need that for everybody? And so, I'm excited about this task force and where we might go with that. But the one thing that I just never had thought about, you know, we know we have people who have mental health or addiction problems. What I didn't realize was how great that was and how it ties into so many other things.

Another item I thought was interesting, I just had to stick my head in there for a little bit out of curiosity. They had a session on the new farm bill and I was like, 'What do county commissioners have anything to do with that'. And it's so important that the farm economy sustains itself for the smaller counties, because that's their livelihood, that's all about their economies and those kinds of

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things. And so, they had a session on there and that session, much of the bill was also looking at conservation and alternative fuels and the environment and those kind of things. And so, in an indirect way, it does tie back to us as well.

Had an opportunity to visit with Jeff Cars on some of our road projects and those kinds of things. And then the final day was a luncheon that Laura Bush was at and she unfolded her Preserve America agenda. And what I thought was very interesting about that, it had to do with preservation of our national monuments, parks, those kinds of things, but also preservation of our old Main Streets in communities, large and small. And I think about what Sedgwick County is doing here. We are doing some preservation in the inner-city here in Sedgwick County and I think about that too, because Commissioner Winters, when we had a ceremony over across the street at the old courthouse, he made the comment about talking to other commissioners and how they tore down their old courthouse and wished they hadn't later. And I look across the street and somebody had the vision and insight to preserve ours and I think we're doing a lot of those kinds of things too.

And then Tom Ridge, we weren't expecting him to be there, gave an excellent report. And then even the guy from the sniper incident in Montgomery County. And what I thought was very interesting about that was what they were doing was recognizing local and when something happens, they recognize the host of people that came together to figure out how to solve that problem. And it was just their ability to work together, talk together is how they were able to actually capture that person.

So, I thought it was a very good session there at NACo and tied to many of the things that we're doing here in Sedgwick County. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Awesome. Thank you, Carolyn. And remind everybody who Jeff Cars is, because you mentioned . . ."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Oh, Jeff Cars, I'm sorry, thank you. He was representative from Tiahrt's office Representative Tiahrt's office. Tiahrt was not able to . . . his schedule did not allow him to see us, but we saw him at a luncheon a week before. So, we just kind of reiterated some of the things that we talked to with Representative Tiahrt."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay, excellent. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Commissioner McGinn stated, there was several of us at the NACo conference. It was very helpful to me to be exposed to contacts, to commissioners from all across the United States, and to see how we are already engaged in some of the issues that were brought forth and how we have . . . we're actually on the cutting edge of them. And it helped me to understand that and it's proud of the work that our staff and the commissioners

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before me have been doing to keep us on the leading edge.

I attended a conference on growth in housing, which tied in with First Lady Bush's remarks and with some of the efforts we're doing in trying to preserve neighborhoods and develop communities where there is more of a sense of a community and kind of a retrofit, almost, in some respects.

And the issue about diverting the mentally ill from jail not only has an economic component that I think is important and especially timely for us, when we're faced with the issue of overcrowding and we're going to have to do something about our jail space. But over 16% of the people who are jailed have mental health issues. And the real problem is that to take them out of the system, it exacerbates their problem. It makes it worse for them. So, rather than protecting society, in a sense, by not recognizing that as an issue and dealing with it properly, we're adding to the problem.

Because these people then leave incarceration and they've interrupted treatment and so we need to deal with it in a constructive way that looks to the future and trying to help people.

And then went into a session on the Internet sales tax, which I won't say a whole lot about. That seemed to be a real hot spot for Commissioner Winters. I'll let him talk about it, but it's something that I think that whatever we can do to get our congressional delegation to help us make this a reality, I mean we are losing millions of dollars in taxation and this thing has just exploded in recent months. There was a time when all we had to deal with in these remote sales was catalog sales. But it jumped from four and a half million a year to 140 billion dollars a year, and that tax number all the sudden becomes real important to us. So that's an issue that needs to be corrected."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, well thank you. It has been a busy past weekend and I was with the group that was in Washington to the NACo group. I won't try to repeat what these two have reported on. I did go a bit early and spent half a day in a workshop strategy session on how to deal with budget strategies in tough times and it was presented by a public strategies group out of both Minneapolis/ St. Paul and Washington D.C. Had a very, very good facilitator with that group and did a good job. Certainly did participate with the energy, environment and land use committee. At the committee level, that's where the beginning level of the shaping of national

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policies for counties begins in those committee and subcommittee meetings. So, I think they are really very important.

I did attend the 'Where are we growing?' meeting about growth issues. I thought it was interesting that the National Association of Builders were represented there and there is a policy statement now on things that the counties and this group can agree on and I'm going to make sure that you all get a copy of that.

Was there at the 'Diverting the Mentally Ill From Jails', which both commissioners spoke about, but I think probably now we have just enough information to be dangerous, but I think we're going to be asking some questions about helping us understand if there's some things that we can do to solve part of that problem here.

Did attend a workshop specifically on homeland security and I thought . . . and I know people that are in this group and work in this part of the business understand this, but I thought one of the things that one of the presenters said was the value of doing exercises and meeting before hand is in a crisis is no time to get acquainted. If you can be acquainted with the folks that are going to be there before the crisis happens. It's just not a good time to be passing out business cards and learning who the players are during a crisis. Several very good points were made at that meeting.

I did attend one on early childhood development. Which again, people say why are counties involved with that? Well, it's directly connected to our prevention funds and how we look at prevention of juvenile crime. So really got some very good ideas there.

Yesterday morning, along with Tiaht's Chief of Staff, yesterday morning then we did have an opportunity to have direct contact with Senator Brownback, Congressman Jerry Moran and Congressman Jim Ryan and had informal conversation with them and did talk about Internet sales tax on Internet sales and some continued to believe that that's a new tax, but that's not a new tax. People who buy products today at our local front street retail stores are going to pay sales tax, so this is not a sales tax. And it was one of the issues that, nationally, that NACo is very involved in, along with funds for homeland security.

So, overall, it was kind of non-stop and I thought it was a very good conference and we appreciate being able to share with you. We talked about some of those things when we told you all we were going before hand and now that we've been there, that stuff certainly took place.

I would like to just, as we fast forward, tomorrow David Spears, Bureau of Public Works, are hosting the township boards from around the county for the annual meeting with the township

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officials. We'll meet out at the zoo and have some presentations that I'm sure will be very stimulating and then we'll be off to lunch with that group.

Saturday is A.L.A.R.M. meeting out at Viola this week and Saturday is Farmer/ Rancher Appreciation Day at the Sedgwick County fairgrounds hosted by Farm Bureau. So, it's going to be another couple of busy days here."

Chairman Norton said, "Well I really appreciate the three commissioners giving us an update. I think it's very important that other commissioners know. I didn't go. It's important that I know and that the constituents out there know that these meetings are important and there's some very viable information that gets brought back to us and there's some highly sensitive kinds of programs that we're going to have to deal with. When you talk about jails and mental health, when you talk about homeland defense and security, we've got to access the best thinking, the best intellectual capital to bring back to our county and that's how we attach to it is to go and talk to people around the country and I really applaud my colleagues for coming back with lists of things that we can talk about and process. I would urge them to use those at our staff meetings, over the next few weeks, as our big topics that we need to really dig down into and start developing solutions for, not only today, but that will effect our community five, ten, fifteen, twenty years from now and I think these will.

When you talk about early childhood development, if we can get the kids three and four years old and they never get into the juvenile justice system, if they're healthy and in a great environment, we're solving some issues for other generations. So, I applaud my colleagues for going and taking great notes and being attached to this at a national level.

Just a few things, I did mark off some of the things I had down because Tom touched on them. Today, Tom and I will be meeting with the K.T.T.I. Board of Directors and they're starting to roll out the rapid response and this is a consortium of aircraft and government to try to develop a program to train airframe and power plant mechanics to get people trained and ready to go when the jobs come back and I think it's admirable we're attached to that. Tom and I have worked very hard on it, but we're ready to roll this out and when you talk about putting government money into things during this economic crisis, job creation and job training is one of those places I think we need to be very attached to and we'll be meeting on that today and trying to understand more about that.

March 12th, at the Youth Complex, there'll be an uninsured constituent forum and I think this is going to start the dialogue that I understood we need to have about how do we engage in people that have fallen through the cracks and are not insured and don't have primary health care and pharmaceutical care and what does that look like and I would urge the public, if they would like to

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know more about that to find out about that uninsured forum.

Last night, I was at the N.C.C.J. Annual Meeting and the Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Steed and his group, won the workplace diversity award from N.C.C.J. for all their efforts on workplace diversity with the committees they've put together. That originally came out of some issues that came up during the building bridges project and the Sheriff attached to that, felt that he had some issues that maybe would enhance his whole workforce. If they talked about diversity and the differences they have and try to work through it and they actually won a recognition award last night for workplace diversity and I applaud the Sheriff for that. I'm sure he'll be very humble and probably not shout the praises, but I would like to hold him up in high recognition for what they have done.

The final thing is tonight the Home and Garden Show will start and I think Commissioner Sciortino and I will be there decorating flower arrangements. They're having a celebrity flower arranging thing at the Home and Garden Show. So, if you want to battle the cold weather and come out and have a fun time and see two very non-professionals put some flowers together, then I would invite you to join in great cold weather activity, as we look forward to spring in our area.

And that's all I have. Commissioner Unruh, I'm sorry."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, just one more comment. In the excitement of the NACo dialogue, I forgot to mention that last Friday I did attend a seminar on county government and law and my impression is I'm very thankful that we have Mr. Euson and his department to help us wade our way through that. It was a helpful seminar. Thank you, Rich, for being our counselor."

Chairman Norton said, "Well, and I've got to applaud you for hitting those kinds of things. You've been to the one of legal authorities in a crisis and now you've understood this. So, you may become our legal expert, as far as an elected official, is that correct?"

Commissioner Unruh said, "I doubt that."

Chairman Norton said, "I see no other lights flashing, so at this point I'm going to adjourn the meeting of the County Commissioners."

N. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS**

TIM NORTON, Chairman
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Chair Pro Tem
Third District

DAVID M. UNRUH, Commissioner
First District

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CAROLYN McGINN, Commissioner
Fourth District

BEN SCIORTINO, Commissioner
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2003