

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

March 29, 2006

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 29, 2006 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Ben Sciortino, with the following present: Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Jo Templin, Director, Division of Human Resources; Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Director, Health Department; Deputy Phillip R. Gleason, Sheriff's Department; Lieutenant Jim Huff, Sheriff's Office; Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager; Major Danny Bardezbain, Sheriff's Department; Mr. Dave Thompson, Executive Officer, Sheriff's Department; Ms. Annette Graham, Executive Director, Central Plains Area Agency on Aging; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); Mr. Bob Lamkey, Director, Division of Public Safety; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); Mr. Daryl Gardener, Business Systems Analyst, Enterprise Resource Planning; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Ms. Vicky McAurthur, Kansas Children's Service League.
Ms. Cathy Johnson, Service Learning Coordinator, Hope Street Youth Development.
Ms. Keenan Tucker, volunteer, Hope Street.
Ms. Beverly Baalman, Member, Suicide Prevention Task Force.
Mr. Kevin Bomhoff, Chair, Suicide Methodology Subcommittee.
Ms. Phyllis Jacobs, Chair, COMCARE Advisory Board.
Ms. Martha Sanchez, testimonial speaker, the Justice Collaborative.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Pastor Mark McMahon of West Side Christian Church, Wichita.

FLAG SALUTE

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Chairman Sciortino said, "Before we call the next item, I'd just like to re-remind the public that pursuant to a resolution that we adopted back in 1986, the public is allowed to address us on topics on anything that they wish to talk to us about, limiting their time to no more than five minutes and if any of you ever wish to address the County Commission we welcome that. We ask that you call the County Manager's Office ten days prior to the date that you'd like to address us, and give him an idea of basically what you're going to speak about and we'll try to accommodate you. By the way, could I say Hi Gina, good morning. Gina, my daughter, is recuperating at home. She's sitting in my chair and hopefully watching this. I just want to say hi and get well and get out of my chair. That's it. Thank you. Next item."

ROLL CALL

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item please."

PROCLAMATIONS

A. PROCLAMATIONS.

1. PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2006 AS "CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, I'd like to read this proclamation for the record. It states:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Child Abuse Prevention Month will be celebrated throughout the United States during April, 2006; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community problem that depends on involvement among people throughout the community; and

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WHEREAS, approximately 3,940 children were reported abused and neglected in Sedgwick County from July 2005 to December 2005 last year. The majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community. Child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure each family has the support they need to raise their children in a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and business community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Ben Sciortino, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 2006 as

‘Child Abuse Prevention Month’

in Sedgwick County, and call upon all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening the communities in which we live.

Commissioners, that’s the proclamation. What is your will?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, “And I believe Vicky McAurthur is here to accept the proclamation.”

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Ms. Vicky McAurthur, Kansas Children's Service League, Wichita Child Abuse Prevention Committee, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you. We are seeing a slight increase in the numbers reported for child abuse and neglect for Sedgwick County, although we think we're pretty flat between this time last year and now, but we've had several really visible cases happening. We've had a young child test positive to cocaine use. We've had a three-year-old who was brutally abused. We've had an 11-month-old baby who died. We've had a six-year-old who is being investigated for homicide.

I'd like to recognize the committee that's here, present. If you all will stand. The Wichita Child Abuse Prevention Committee is putting forth this proclamation and we're also hosting an event at the Wrangler's game on April 29th and we'd like to invite the public to attend, to recognize child abuse prevention efforts in this community. It's being sponsored by the Kansas Children's Service League, BACCA, DECCA, Youthville, Just About Kids, CASA, the Sedgwick County Early Childhood Coordinating Council, Delta Dental, the Wichita Children's Home, SRS, the Kansas Child's Cabinet Trust Fund, Communities in Schools and the Sedgwick County Permanency Coordinating Council, so thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Just wait, because I think there's a comment by Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I guess I'd like to have the committee stand back up and just introduce themselves, so we'll know who is on this committee."

Ms. Sarah Garrison, Kansas Children's Service League introduced herself.

Ms. Kalla Wasan, Representative, Sedgwick County Early Childhood Coordinating Council introduced herself.

Ms. Pamela Cole, Kansas Children's Service League introduced herself.

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, thank you very much. Well, I certainly appreciate, as do many others in the community, when you highlight something that we need to keep on the forefront, to try to do some preventative work on. So thank you very much for your work and we appreciate it very much and we're glad you came today. Thanks."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Not that easy. You get a proclamation, you're going to pay for it. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, it's good to have you here, Vicky. Back in 1982, I served on

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the original Child Abuse Prevention Council, who later realized that this was a demanding, large issue in our community and it folded over to the Kansas Children's Service League. I was lucky enough to serve with Judge Burgess and Sherry Buentenbach, and some others and I realized at that time that this is one of those issues, very similar to incarceration rates in our community, that you have to get at the source and create the kind of community that limits recidivism, because those that have been abused are more likely to abuse, because that's the model of the parenting skills and they understand from how they grew up.

And it is critical to our community to have a safe place for our children to grow up and be incubated and have their education and become great citizens in our community and the Child Abuse Prevention Coalition and the Kansas Children's Service League so advocates for children that can't advocate for themselves. It's a vital part of our community. I wish you well with this and I'm certainly supportive of the proclamation and the work you do. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well I just want to add my voice to the other commissioners, saying that we are appreciative of the effort that you put forth and for these folks who are working hard to try to change the conditions that exist. As the proclamation says, this is not something that we just have to put up with. It comes from conditions and situations that are preventable, and so we just need to continue to educate folks and we need to put people on the alert to look for those conditions and intervene when it's appropriate but we don't have to live with child abuse in our community, so we appreciate the fact that you're working to eradicate it, so thanks for your effort."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, well thank you very much and I agree with you, Commissioner. There should be zero tolerance on this, because they're the most vulnerable section of our society. Okay, next item please."

2. PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 3 – 7, 2006 AS "NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, I have another proclamation. It kind of dovetails into the first one somewhat. It states:

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, our youth should have the opportunity to play, learn and grow up in safe communities. The people of our county are concerned with the level of violence in our schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, the issue of school and community violence continues to be intimidating to all and inhibits the means for achieving academic and social success. Thirty-two percent of young people have been bullied at least once and twelve percent have been bullied at least five times or more in the past month; and

WHEREAS, the youth of our country are working to enhance the learning environment by helping to promote good citizenship and by making schools and communities safer and more secure; and

WHEREAS, youth all over Sedgwick County will participate in heightening awareness activities and will encourage the community to unite and support prevention efforts, to protect our most vital resources- our youth;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Ben Sciortino, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 3-7 as

‘National Youth Violence Prevention Week’

in Sedgwick County, and encourage schools and communities to unite in action to ‘Build Safer Communities . . . Peace By Peace’.

Commissioners, that is the proclamation. What is the will of the Board please?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

Chairman Sciortino said, “And I believe Kennan Tucker is here to accept. Oh, do you want to vote on it? Let’s vote on it.”

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VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you."

Mr. Keenan Tucker, Volunteer, Hope Street, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'd also like to say thank you. And basically, what that is, what we're doing this year, April 3rd through the 7th, is we're going to have weeklong activities promoting non-violence and Monday we're going to have a Release on Violence. It's going to be at McAdams Park. We're going to have motivational speakers, pastors, and that's free too. All the activities that we're doing are free and Tuesday we're doing a movie night. We're going to have refreshments. It's 7 to 8, I believe it is. Wednesday, we're going to have a Non-violent Olympics. It's at Murdock Park and that's free. We're going to have obstacle courses, three-on-three basketball, two-hand touch football and a hula hoop contest. That's free.

Thursday, we're going to have a kid ID project and that's where parents bring their kids to a local church, I believe it is and you basically give your information to one of the police officers helping you out and they'll put it on a disk. In case your child comes up missing, you'll have everything that you need to find them.

And then the last day, Friday, we're having a lock-in. We're going to have entertainment, refreshments and I think that's about it."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Now, does the refreshments mean food?"

Mr. Tucker said, "Yeah, food and drinks and it's free."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. If someone listening would like to know just a little bit more information or maybe even how they could get involved, is there a phone number they could call and get some additional information?"

Mr. Tucker said, "Yeah, you can contact me or Miss Cathy, Cathy Johnson at Hope Street Development, 263-7325."

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Chairman Sciortino said, "Great. Thank you. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Could this young man just introduce himself again and tell us where you go to school and what you do?"

Mr. Tucker said, "I'm Keenan Tucker. I go to school at Northwest High School. I'm in the 9th grade."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Now, this lady behind you, she's one of your students there too?"

Mr. Tucker said, "Yeah."

Ms. Cathy Johnson, Service Learning Coordinator, Hope Street Youth Development, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I just assist the young folks in whatever projects that they'd like to do that are positive, throughout the community."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Great. Well, good luck on your effort, because it has to start with one or two people caring enough, and having the courage to go forward and try to make people aware of what the problem is, because you look in the mirror, you see the problem, you flip the mirror over, you see the solution. Good luck to you. Madam Clerk, would you call the next item please."

3. PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 3-9, 2006 AS "NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK."

PROCLAMATION

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. I would like to read this proclamation for the record, commissioners."

WHEREAS, the theme of National Public Health Week 2006 is titled '*Designing Healthy Communities, Raising Healthy Kids*'; and

WHEREAS, the Sedgwick County Health Department provides various preventive health services for people of all ages- including infants, toddlers, and children; and

WHEREAS, the Sedgwick County Health Department's Children's Primary Care Clinic provides quality services, for thousands of infants/ children; and

WHEREAS, the Sedgwick County Health Department's Immunization Program is dedicated to

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improving children’s immunization rates through its *‘Immunize and Win a Prize’* campaign; and

WHEREAS, through the quality public services provided by Sedgwick County, a healthy community is indeed flourishing and enabling us to raise healthy kids.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Ben Sciortino, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 3-9, 2006 as

‘National Public Health’

in Sedgwick County and commend this observance to all our residents.

Commissioners, that’s the proclamation. What is the will of the board, please?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, “And I believe Ms. Blackburn is here to accept, on behalf of the Health Department.”

Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Director, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you for this proclamation to celebrate National Public Health Week. We are embracing the national theme, which is designing healthy communities, raising healthy kids through several outreach efforts next week.

First I’d like to call your attention to an insert that was in your newspaper this morning. It was in

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the ads section and this newspaper insert will help everyone set health goals, if they work through it. It will help them set health goals, in terms of eating more fruits and vegetables, exercising more, getting health screenings and encouraging smokers to quit.

One way we're encouraging physical activity is through a partnership with the Sedgwick County Zoo. The Zoo has a walking program and we've partnered with them to provide additional incentives to all who regularly use their walking program. We'll be kicking off National Public Health Week at the Zoo Pavilion Monday morning at 10:00 and the first 300 people that sign up for the walking program at the Zoo will receive a free water bottle holder, and after their tenth mile, and this is a real incentive for me, and I encourage you all to use the safety on this if you get one, this is a pedometer that you will get if you walk ten miles in the Zoo walking program, and the pedometer of course measures how many steps you take. It really gives you good feedback and encourages you to keep going.

We encourage people to join us at the zoo pavilion and take a walk at the zoo on Monday at 10:00 and regular admission will apply, but there will be brief remarks, healthy snacks and a healthy walk.

A second event that we'd like to call your attention to is on Friday of National Public Health Week, next Friday, we invite the community to come celebrate the remodeling and expanded services at the 1900 East 9th Street location. When clinical services moved to 2716 West Central, we had some additional room available at the East 9th location and were able to expand space for WIC, TB, health promotion and the dental clinic, so we invite you all to come over and see what we've done. We will also have a health fair and that will be from one to three, and at the health fair we will have blood pressure checks, blood sugar testing, health information and body fat percentage analysis.

And finally, at your desks, you will find our 2005 annual report for the Health Department, reporting on how we have protected the health of Sedgwick County citizens in the last year and these reports will also be available at the open house on Friday.

We believe that our health messages really do work and in fact I am truly gratified when I talk to commissioners who tell me how they're riding their bikes now and they're using their tread mills and I know that you all are setting an example for our citizens, so it tells me that the messages are being heard.

We also have several teams, through the County, that are participating in Walk Across Texas [sic]. We have a couple of teams at the Health Department, one that walks laps around the Health

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Department every lunch period. They get a mile for every 15 minutes they walk. I know that there's a team in HR that's walking all over downtown and we are also hearing that people are using the stairs more at the courthouse and I can assure you that after a few months, you will be less winded. I can attest to that, so we encourage that you continue with these small changes that really do improve your health.

So thank you again for all you do to make our community a healthier place for our children and for our adults to set an example for our children and we really appreciate your support."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well Claudia, I just want to say that I appreciate your leadership for our Health Department and the things that have been happening here recently, both in different programs and expanded services and in making the public aware of what Sedgwick County Health Department has to offer, in changing the health of our community and I'm especially supportive of this proclamation, in raising healthy kids. It seems like so much of our health problems and challenges have to do with behavior and if we can start making those changes in the young people, well then that's going to pay great dividends, as our community continues to age.

So thanks for our leadership and I'm glad that we're actively involved in trying to make this a healthier community. But you, in your presentation, you betrayed your Texas roots. Did you mean ...?"

Ms. Blackburn said, "It's 'Walk Across Kansas'."

Commissioner Unruh said, "There you go."

Chairman Sciortino said, "In order to get to Texas."

Commissioner Norton said, "That's a long walk."

Chairman Sciortino said, "We've got her blushing, look at that."

Commissioner Unruh said, "I wanted you to know mainly that I was listening. Anyway, thank you a lot. So, that's all I had, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioner Norton."

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Commissioner Norton said, “Well, you know county commissioners are encumbered in economic development, we’re encumbered in quality of life issues and public safety. But the truth is, if we have all those other things and people aren’t healthy, they don’t get to enjoy the quality of life and the safety of your community, so you know, we need to stay on our message that it’s important for our community to be healthy and robust and so many of the chronic illnesses and maladies of our society are focused on and taken care of and a lot of it’s through prevention, a lot of it is through education and we just need to continue to tell those stories to our community, very, very important. Thank you, Mr. Chair.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Well you know, we have two young ladies that work in our office that are into this walking up and down the steps. And one of them, I don’t want to mention her name, but her initials are Lisa, even puts weights in her hands and one day, one day I was full of machismo, and I said, ‘Oh I can join you with that’. Well, I sort of faded out on the tenth floor and waited until she went up to 11. Walking down was a lot easier, I will say that, but I did it once, but she does it every day. Anyway, okay, one more comment from Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “And then remind us again about Monday, at 10:00 at the Zoo. Is that right?”

Ms. Blackburn said, “Yes, Monday at 10:00 at the Zoo is the kickoff for National Public Health Week and there will be healthy snacks, brief remarks and a healthy walk at the zoo and the first 300 people to sign up for the Zoo walking program will get a Take Charge of Your Health water bottle holder.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Oh, you can just attach it to your belt it looks like.”

Ms. Blackburn said, “Yes.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right, thank you very much.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Good luck, Claudia. Next item. I believe the next items are going to be retirements, so I’m going to excuse myself and come down and Commissioner Winters said he will continue, so call the next item.”

RETIREMENTS

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B. PRESENTATION OF CLOCKS FOR RETIREMENTS EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2006.

1. PHILLIP R. GLEASON, SHERIFF DEPUTY, SHERIFF'S OFFICE, WILL RETIRE AFTER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE.

Ms. Jo Templin, Director, Division of Human Resources, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This morning this item celebrates and recognizes the contributions of two of our long-term public safety employees and just celebrates their decision to retire. They are joined today by many coworkers from the Sheriff's Office and also family and friends and we'd just like to thank you all for being here today.

The first retiree, Phillip R. Gleason, Sheriff Deputy with the Sheriff's Office, will retire April 1st, 2006 after 30 years of service.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Well Deputy, 30 years is a long, long time. I think there are some people here in the audience that weren't even born when you first started, not to make you feel older than you are. But this is a certificate recognizing your community service to all of the citizens of Sedgwick County and on behalf of the county commission and the citizens, we want to present you with this retirement clock to commemorate your 30 years and I would have to assume that you probably have some pretty interesting stories over a 30 years period and some maybe a little scary because people don't realize, these deputies don't just go out and ticket people for speeding, they sometimes have to put their life on the line to make us safe, and we're safe for just knowing that you're out there protecting us. So thank you very much and please feel free to say a few words."

Mr. Phillip R. Gleason, Sheriff's Deputy, Sheriff's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Just happy to be alive and say goodbye."

2. JIM HUFF, DETENTION LIEUTENANT, SHERIFF'S OFFICE, WILL RETIRE AFTER 21 YEARS OF SERVICE.

Ms. Templin said, "Our second retirement is Jim Huff, a detention lieutenant in the Sheriff's Office who will retire April 1st, after 21 years of service."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Lieutenant, 21 years, that's not as long as 30, but if you're in the detention office it's probably as interesting as being a road deputy, I would assume. And of behalf

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of the county commission, this is a certificate recognizing your 21 years of service, and from the citizens of Sedgwick County this clock, to commemorate all that you've done for us over the years. Please feel free to make a few comments."

Detention Lieutenant Jim Huff, Sheriff's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Hi, Tim. I'd just like to thank the Sedgwick County Commission and the Sheriff's Office for allowing me the opportunity to serve over 20 years with the public. I'm actually . . . I'm stepping down a little bit from this job. I'm still involved in public service, just a little slower pace. And I'd like to also thank my wife for allowing me to do this for those many years. Okay, thank you."

Commissioner Norton said, "Don't run off. Well, I won't tell any stories at all. Jim and I happen to have grown up in the same small town in Arkansas and he ended up living in Haysville and so did I, so it's pretty interesting how the world is really big, but it gets real small real quick and I promised myself that I wouldn't tell any stories."

Jim was a couple of years younger than I was. I have to tell you Jim, I'm pretty mad that you're getting to retire before I do. I don't know how that works, but congratulations, I wish you the best and you know, stay close. You know, every once in a while, we have to share Arkansas roots about growing up. Congratulations."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, Commissioners. Any further comments, commissioners? All right, thank you very much and good luck to both of you in your retirement. Clerk, call the next item please."

Commissioner Norton left the meeting room at 9:35 a.m.

APPOINTMENTS

C. APPOINTMENTS.

1. RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY GRIEVANCE BOARD.

- **DON BRACE, COUNTY CLERK, CHAIRMAN (ELECTED OFFICIAL)**
- **SUSAN ERLLENWEIN, DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES (DEPARTMENT HEAD)**
- **LARRY D. BROOKMAN, DEPARTMENT ON AGING (CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE)**

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2. RESOLUTION APPOINTING AND REAPPOINTING ALTERNATE MEMBERS TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY GRIEVANCE BOARD.

- **WILLIAM MEEK, REGISTER OF DEEDS, CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (ALTERNATE ELECTED OFFICIAL)**
- **BRAD SNAPP, HOUSING DIRECTOR (ALTERNATE DEPARTMENT HEAD)**
- **SHARON MARTINEZ, APPRAISER'S OFFICE (ALTERNATE CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE)**

Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, we've prepared resolutions that appoint members and alternate members to the County's Grievance Board. The elected official serving as regular member is Don Brace, County Clerk and the alternative elected official member is Register of Deeds Bill Meek.

The person serving as regular member of department head is Susan Erlenwein, who is Director of Environmental Resources with the alternate department head being Brad Snapp, who is our Director of Housing. And Larry Brookman will serve as a classified employee representative, from the Department of Aging, and Sharon Martinez, from the Appraiser's Office will serve as the alternate in that category. I would recommend that you adopt these resolutions."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Now, can we take both items, C-1 and C-2 collectively as one unit?"

Mr. Euson said, "Yes, sir."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And I believe legally, we'll have to wait till Commissioner Norton gets on the bench."

Mr. Euson said, "Yes."

Commissioner Winters said, "He stepped out to congratulate one of the retirees again, so maybe we can just pause for a moment."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Tell us about the new thing at the zoo."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well yeah, what's going to happen Friday is we're going to have a ground breaking for the new penguin exhibit. We're having the Humbolt Penguins coming and

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we're thinking that exhibit will be ready early next year, probably first of June we hope, or around Memorial Day weekend. And I might just take a moment to say we're really grateful to the folks out at Cessna Aircraft, to Jack Pelton and his leadership team for providing the resources to go ahead with this project. But I'm told that penguins are one of the main attractions at zoos. I mean, there are two or three that are ranked number one, and penguins are one of those. People just like to go out and see those little critters out there, swimming around and we've got great plans for a great exhibit and we're awfully excited about it. Groundbreaking is Friday at 10 and anyone is welcome to come out and join in the festivities of the groundbreaking ceremony."

Commissioner Norton returned to the meeting room at 9:37 a.m.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Great. Commissioner Norton, in your absence, Mr. Euson explained these appointments on Items C-1 and C-2 and we're going to be able to take that collectively. Did you have any questions before we . . .?"

Commissioner Norton said, "No."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, what is your will on Items C-1 and C-2 please?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Next item."

3. SEDGWICK COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE.

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Ms. Beverly Baalman, Suicide Prevention Task Force Member, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I ask that you accept the appointments, the new appointments that you have in front of you today, as well as those regular appointments and to approve the resolution."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Task Force as presented.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you and Commissioner Norton, you had something to say?"

Commissioner Norton said, "Just that we had new appointments, which might indicate that we had some people that had dropped off and we're replacing them. I think it would be appropriate to recognize those that maybe have served and will not serve again."

Ms. Baalman said, "We have Dr. Rick Kellerman step down because he became president of a national organization, as well as Jessie Tyson, who is with the school district and because of her increased responsibility, she has stepped down, but we added several other new appointments, in addition, to total the four, to create more of a diversity in our community, with aging and children's services, so that's why you see the new appointments there as well."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I just thought it was appropriate to recognize those that won't be reappointed for whatever reason."

Ms. Baalman said, "Exactly, and if I could just take one minute, commissioners, we do have some members of the task force in the audience today. If I could just ask them to stand."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Please, and identify them please."

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Ms. Baalman said, "I will let them identify themselves, to make sure we don't miss anyone."

Mr. Kevin Bomhoff introduced himself.

Mr. John Berkhart introduced himself.

Ms. Terri Moses introduced herself.

Ms. Annette Graham introduced herself.

Ms. Claudia Blackburn introduced herself.

Ms. Deborah Donaldson introduced herself.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Yes, okay. Thank you very much. Before we go on to the next one, I was remiss at the beginning. I need to explain that Commissioner Burtnett is part of that delegation that has gone to China to promote country western. I guess in China right now, cowboys are just the big rage and they're going to be performing three concerts over there, one on the Great Wall and Lucy has been armed with packets of Cowtown information to try to promote people to come here.

And I think it should be noted and very favorably for her, she's doing this on her own ticket. She hasn't opted not to spend any taxpayers' money on the trip. She paid for her way and her husband's way and she's over there promoting Sedgwick County and being a good representative of our community and that bodes well for her and I just think we should mention that she didn't accidentally just not show up for the meeting. Next item please."

PRESENTATION

D. PRESENTATION OF SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE 2005

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ANNUAL REPORT.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Kevin Bomhoff, Chair, Suicide Methodology Subcommittee, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm also a volunteer, appointed by you, to the Suicide Prevention Task Force and that task force is presenting to you today our 2005 annual report. And this report has been delivered to you and also members of our audience. If anyone has not received one, just raise your hand and we'll have one distributed to you. Thank you.

I'd like to thank the Sedgwick County Forensic Center for providing information that we need to track information regarding suicides and this year marks our fifth year of doing an intensive tracking of suicide information in our community. This information is not really available to many communities and it helps to direct our public education and intervention work.

I'd like to share with you just a little of that information, but before doing so, I'd like to recognize Dr. Joyce Webb of the Catholic Charities who did not stand up as a task force member, because she's one of our many volunteers who supports our efforts, but does not serve directly on the task force. She serves on the methodology committee and Dr. Webb is here to answer additional questions. She's with Catholic Charities, as I might have mentioned, and volunteers her time to work with the Forensic Center, along with Bev Baalman, to track this information so Joyce, thank you very much and you may be called up here, as soon as I get a question I can't answer. Thank you.

We'd like to present . . . some of this information here, you might notice, is in almost a brochure form, and this is an unusual approach for an annual report, but an annual report from our committee really doesn't do a lot of good unless it's educational, and so it's going to be used, once you accept it, we'll be distributing this in many points throughout the community to educate individuals not only about circumstances of suicide in our particular community, but what they can do to prevent that suicide and how they can get involved with our events.

Looking first at who commits suicides, on the slide that I'm presenting to you now, I think it's important to note that more people die from suicide in Sedgwick County each year than from homicides or from automobile accidents, so it's really a true public safety issue that we're addressing here, 64 suicides in 2005.

The average suicide victim is a white male in their mid-40s. People in their 40s have committed suicide more often over the past three years than in any other age range. You can look at the chart below. You can see that there's been a significant or a nice trend reduction for under 19 years of age, a stabilizing lower percentage of individuals in the 60-plus age, but you can see that this 40 to

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59 range continues to be a concern for us in this community and this bucks some national trends, where they see more suicides in the younger and older populations, whereas we have this population between 40 and 59.

In an effort to save money on marketing, I'm going to present myself as a poster child for this age group. I turn 50 this year and you may say, 'Well Kevin, you look like you're doing fine'. I would say that most of my cohorts in this segment probably do look like they're doing fine, but unless they're addressing issues in their lives and people are watching for those concerns, especially when they indicate issues around depression or substance abuse, and they have availability to the means, primarily guns are the primary tool used to commit suicide, we need to be watching out for that.

And the good news, of course, is that if you get help and you grow during this period of time, you enter the 60-plus age, where there is reduction in Sedgwick County among this population, so let's all survive to be part of the 60-plus and that's the challenge and the message that we have for you.

Again, as I mentioned earlier, that lethal combination continues to show up every year, depression or substance abuse or both and that availability of a firearm. At least half of all persons who commit suicide experience some sort of noticeable mental health distress: depression, alcohol abuse and anxiety. So again, those are things that we need to watch for and those are things that we definitely need to address.

I'd like to share with you some of the activities that we're doing as a task force, as your appointees in the community, and I have to say that . . . in the position I have in my work, I'm fortunate to serve on many coalitions and to work and facilitate many projects throughout the community. This is one very active coalition and you should be very proud of their work. I know that I'm very honored to be part of the individuals working on this.

Here are some of the events that we have coming up. We're going to hear a little bit more about this in just a few moments. The third annual Link For Life Run to prevent suicide. I don't really have to tell you about that, because you've all been out there helping us and probably will be out there again this year, helping us with that event, but we will give some information at the conclusion of this annual report, just for the public if you don't mind. Thanks.

National Suicide Prevention Week, we do a lot of distribution in September around that. You'll see a proclamation at that time, but we give out 30,000 bookmarks, information. Last year, we had the opportunity to be outside of Quik Trips, and we had some very interesting interactions with folks out there, to provide support, people taking brochures and even then returning later to talk to us about concerns that they might have, so this is a very important project and one that we'll continue

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to be involved in.

One that I was involved in personally this last year is the National Survivors of Suicide Day. This is a day that we gather together and we had the opportunity to do that at Via Christi, where they donated their facilities. And we link into a national web-cast for survivors, and we do this right before the holidays and you can guess why. This is a tough time for people. We miss our loved ones during this time and I was able to give a presentation about my own personal loss, related to suicide that I've experienced and we were able to reach out to many people who, for the first time, were talking about surviving suicide, and when we say 'surviving' we mean those people that are left to deal with the loss, the confusion and the feelings that definitely they carry forward throughout their lives and we were able to offer them hope and resources and an opportunity to bond together around their loss and to commemorate their lost, as they headed into the holidays.

Survivors of Suicide support group is there for them all year long and one of the resources we tell folks about and one that's sponsored by the task force and happens the first and third Monday of each month over at the Crisis Intervention Services here for Sedgwick County and we're encouraging people to, if you have experienced this loss, to call the number on the report, 660-7500, and make arrangements to be involved with that group.

The Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program continues to be extremely important to us. We're out in junior and senior high schools giving information about what to watch for and providing students with a card. This card has the information that they need if they feel that they themselves are needing to reach out to someone for help or if they know of someone that is needing to reach out for help, and they can hand that card to any responsible adult, and it gives them instructions on how to pursue help. So that's a very important program. One that we continue to do throughout the community, reaching out not only to USD 259, but the other high school areas in our county.

Again, we want to mention that it's very important to listen, to not promise to keep any commitments secret when you're hearing someone tell something about a suicide. You have to convey that need for you to get them help, your concern rises above the confidentiality. Your concern means that you will get the help that they need.

You can get the help that they need through a family doctor, counselor, clergy or by calling the Suicide Prevention Hotline, which that number again is displayed, but is 660-7500 and it is open 24 hours, seven days a week and has a person there to visit with you.

We also have some warning signs in this particular report that you can see there, that you can pay attention to as you're living your life and being around other people, and the connections, the link

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for life, really are the relationships that a person has in their lives. We're not a community that monitors people. We're a community that is relationship based, and you reach out for help or you have someone approach you for help, based on those relationships. That would be me pushing the wrong button.

And finally, we'd like to recognize these individuals who served on the task force this year, but I also want to recognize that there are many, 50 or more people not listed here that serve on public awareness, intervention and methodology task forces, so it's very important for us . . . we cannot go forward without their involvement and their support.

We want to talk a little bit more about Link For Life and we're going to have Bev Baalman with COMCARE come up and give you some information, for yourself and for the public, related to that."

Ms. Bev Baalman, Member, Suicide Prevention Task Force, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm with COMCARE of Sedgwick County and also a member of the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Task Force. Thank you for the opportunity to talk about the third annual Link For Life run that will be held Saturday, April 8th at the Sedgwick County Zoo.

We promise that this is going to be a bigger and better event than the first two that we have promoted. We will start out at 7:45 with a 5K run and then following that, we will have special distance runs for youth, age 18 on down to a run, walk and crawl for 3 to 4 year olds. And Commissioner Sciortino, for those of us who like to leisurely walk, there will be a one-mile zoo tour walk following those events as well.

Now, once you finish the events and come through the finish line, there's going to be a huge celebration going on. There will be clowns and there will be a band, playing our favorite hits at all times. There will be team mascots from the City of Wichita and believe it or not commissioners, pizza does taste good at 8:30 in the morning. Papa John's will be there, one of our biggest sponsors and supporters of this run since it's started. They will start serving up pizza, hot pizza for you at 8:30.

So, once you finish your pizza, you just move right next to the Krispy Kreme table, and they're bringing their dunking station and we'll be dunking and glazing our own Krispy Kreme donuts. We'll have popcorn, cotton candy and lots of drinks, lots of water, lots of pop, lots of milk out there for the youth and runners, but it's going to be great.

Now you're probably asking yourself how do I register for this great event. Well, you can go to First Gear, if you want to register in person, at 111 North Mosley, and they are in Old Town. You

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can pick up your registration there and also, while you're there, pick up your pair of running shoes or walking shoes from them.

Also, you can go on-line at Active.com if you want to learn more about the run, after today, you can go to sedgwickcounty.org and pull a registration off there and mail it in. We will be accepting registrations up till the day of the run, starting at 7 a.m.

We also want to thank our sponsors, that we've had from the very beginning of our runs two years ago: Papa John's Pizza, Krispy Kreme and actually Krispy Kreme has stepped it up for us this year. For any school that sends in the highest number of students to our run, they're going to host an all-school Krispy Kreme party at that school. Not very healthy, Claudia."

Chairman Sciortino said, "No, but I assume Claudia, you're endorsing the quality of food here, the Health Department is here, Claudia, and this is appropriate? No comment is fine."

Ms. Baalman said, "Well, we promote the run for fun. It's great family activity. It's healthy and it's also our opportunity to promote awareness and education of suicide in our community. Also, we want to thank Via Christi, COMCARE of Sedgwick County, the Substance Abuse Assessment Center, Doug and Liz McGinness, who have always been there for us, the Mental Health Association, Wheaton Printing and we have many more sponsors than that.

The fee is adults are \$15 and youth 18 and younger are \$10 and that comes with a race t-shirt, it comes with a participation medal and that wonderful celebration party. We do want to thank the over 100 volunteers that worked from December on in the year to get this race ready to go and there is and we use about 120 to 150 volunteers that make this race go very well.

To you the commissioners, who have been there since the beginning, we want to thank you as well. You're always there, at the start of each of the races, promoting suicide [sic] and keeping things calmed down, especially the youngsters, so that we can get the race started, so today we'd like to present you with our Link For Life t-shirt.

Also Manager, before you leave, County Manager Bill Buchanan has also supported us in this run, has actually registered and run and finished the 5K run, so we have a t-shirt for you as well. If there's any questions, you can call me, Bev Baalman, at 660-7652. Hope to see you out there."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, any comments? Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, I just want to add my two cents worth, that this is truly an enjoyable Saturday morning. It's a great family activity, it's a great community activity. The last

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few years, the weather has just been terrific and it seems as though the participation and attendance has continued to grow, because it's a great way to start the weekend and I would certainly encourage everyone to make an effort to participate, because it's a fun time. And the manager did make that run and I thought he was still crippled when he made that run, but he's kind of a gutsy guy I guess. He was recovering from the automobile accident, but at any rate, on a little different note, I do want to express appreciation to the members of the task force for their efforts in trying to heighten awareness to suicide and that this is something that can be prevented and it's another problem in our society that I think is probably brought on by the pressures of the age that we live in, but we can do something about it.

I was thinking about something to say that would indicate I understood the nuances of all this, and frankly, I don't really understand it, so my responsibility I guess is to do what you suggest and that is to listen and when I see some of these signs that indicate a problem, be willing to suggest that these folks see clergy or a counselors or someone that will help them through this time in their lives. But I think you've established good goals and I think each member of our community can be helpful in trying to reach the goal, if we just listen and if we just care and if we just try to be helpful, so I appreciate what you all are doing."

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

Commissioner Norton said, "Well I mean, suicide prevention is something that our community needs to wrap their arms around. The truth is, we work real hard to take the roadblocks away from our community. When you think social economics, we try to make sure people have jobs so that they don't get into financial woes that cause depression. We're working hard on our incarcerated population, to understand their mental illnesses, to make sure that we're taking care of that. You know, we're putting together drug programs, if you look at suicide is linked to drug problems and alcohol abuse.

We're trying to figure that out, but the truth is with all of that hard work, there still needs to be a mechanism for the public to understand that the first responder to that is not going to be the government. It's going to be loved ones and friends and neighbors that stay connected with maybe an elderly person in the neighborhood that doesn't have family and is depressed, to understand that kids are under extreme peer pressure in high schools and kids that go off to college and work at jobs 30 hours a week and trying to put themselves through college are under a lot of pressure and certainly economically, that guy 30 to 59 years old who has worked hard and played by the rules and may have lost their job for whatever reason has some mental health problems, that causes depression, that moves us then to the thoughts of suicide and the first person to see that is the

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friends and neighbors and public and they're the first responders, when it comes to suicide prevention and this kind of education, this kind of broad based program that gets the word out to the community that we're all in this together is so powerful and I applaud you for the help and the ideas that you're giving us, because I agree with Commissioner Unruh.

We don't have any of the answers. We try to understand it. We try to create a community that doesn't have these kind of problems and problems we've already had described on child abuse today and violence in the schools, all of those are part of what we work on, but truthfully, we have to have experts and other people dedicated to getting the word out in our community and I applaud you for that. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. And Kevin, just to take a slight umbrage of something. When you were lamenting that you're just now turning 50, let me remind you, you still have a full head of hair, you don't have anything to complain about."

Mr. Bomhoff said, "I'm feeling fine, thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Congratulations on bringing this to the forefront of the public and for making it a fun activity, but it's also going to be very educational and learning about a problem that we can resolve, because suicide is a permanent solution to maybe just a temporary problem and I think by just letting people know that there is hope, that there is somebody just to talk to and relieve some of that pressure, just by venting out what some of their concerns and problems are can go a long way to reducing the amount of suicides that happen and occur tragically in our community, so good luck to you all. Clerk, call the next item please. Excuse me."

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Now next item, Madam Clerk."

NEW BUSINESS

E. FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH OLD COWTOWN MUSEUM.

Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Last fall, the county commissioners, the county provided 195,000 over and above the budgeted amount of \$602,451 to Cowtown for 2005. This was to provide for a shortfall in Cowtown's operating revenues through the end of last year. Also, using a \$100,000 grant from the county, in August 2005, Old Cowtown contracted with Museum Consultants to identify entrepreneurial opportunities for Cowtown and that report was due by the end of the year.

The expectation was for the report to identify ideas and strategies to help Cowtown flourish in our community and we decided, you decided at that time that the county wanted to address just the financial situation for 2005 and then we see the consultant's report before identifying any funding changes, if any, for 2006.

We also know that Cowtown is a public/ private entity, with the two public partners being the county and the city and then with its own private board as well so that in any discussions about further funding, it would need to occur with all of those parties.

A report on the findings from the consultant's report were due by the end of 2005. You indicated at that time then you would want to get that report, take a review of that report, and then decide on the county's role in the future funding of Old Cowtown.

The findings of the consultant were not available until March 20, 2006 and as such, Cowtown has continued to experience a shortfall in operating revenues and is requesting the county to commit to cover a shortfall in operating revenues and is requesting the county to commit \$66,000 to provide operating expense shortages through the end of April, 2006. We're recommending allocation of these funds and meantime, we do have the consultant's report. We will be analyzing that report in a couple of weeks have an opportunity then to talk with you in more detail about what the report says, implications for our community, as well as for the county's continued support.

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So we would ask that you would consider and approve the recommendation of \$66,000 supplemental funding if you will to Cowtown through April of this year. Be happy to answer any questions.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “I think there are some questions or comments, Ron. Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Ron, when does Cowtown reopen? It’s been closed and obviously when you’re closed, you’re not bringing in revenues which has brought together some of that shortfall and now that we’re ramp up, there’s a new season, hopefully some changes that we’ll be making in the programming and marketing will maybe increase revenues, at least folks coming to Cowtown. When do we reopen and when do revenues kind of pick back up?”

Mr. Holt said, “The opening for this spring is April 1st, so it’s this weekend and will be the first for this season and yes, that means through April would just be one year into the new operating season . . . one month, I’m sorry in the new operating season.”

Commissioner Norton said, “We talked about this yesterday at staff meeting and we had a pretty good dialogue about Cowtown and where we’re going, now that we’ve got the report and you know citizens, because of the article that was in the paper, starting to e-mail us pro and con and wondering what’s going on. Kind of walk us through the next steps that we’re going to take. You talked about the report, but is there a timetable so that the citizens understand kind of what we’re doing with Cowtown. I mean, as we’ve looked at entities in our communities over the last few years, from the ice rink to the Indian Center to Exploration Place to Cowtown that have had some difficulties, I think the public is very interested in how we’re preserving these entities, but how the taxpayers’ dollars are going to be used, so kind of walk us through the next few steps.”

Mr. Holt said, “Certainly, the first thing from a county staff point of view want to do is to really take an in depth look at the consultant’s report, so that we make sure that we understand what’s being recommended there, what the opportunities are, what the challenges are and we hope to do that, will do that over the next couple of weeks and I think out of that then, we will need to come back to you and have a pretty open and frank discussion, providing you with our best analysis of this report so that you can talk amongst yourselves and also get more information, if you need it, about what’s being presented here. I think we need to have some additional conversations with the private side of the Cowtown, the Cowtown Board, about what their thoughts and plans are. We’d have those kind of initial discussions anyway within the next couple or three weeks so that we would be prepared to have that as a part of a report back to you, an analysis we would be doing.

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So I think our plans would be to be back to you in a couple of weeks to have you have a full and open discussion about thoughts, concerns, challenges, opportunities for Cowtown as we begin to think about what the county's continued financial role should be in supporting Cowtown."

Commissioner Norton said, "As we go through this process, how will we communicate some of the findings of that report of that report to the public? I mean, it's important that we understand it and dissect it and try to make decisions but have we put the executive summary maybe on-line, where the average public can look at it and kind of see what the report says? It's one thing to read an article in the paper that kind of gleans out one or two thoughts. It's a whole different process to understand, you know, all the dynamics of what we're going to have to work with."

Mr. Holt said, "That's correct, and then part of all of that is talking with the Cowtown Board, the private side, and making sure that we have, again, the communications lines open there and their understanding of what the implications of the report says for the private side of the operation as well."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay, thanks Ron. That's all I had, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And that was a very good idea. If it's okay with the board, I think that's a good idea. I mean, it's public record now, the executive summary, why don't we do put that on-line, so if somebody wants to read what we read and then if they're calling us, they'll have more information and maybe can discuss with us more accurately what their concerns are. I think that's an excellent idea, commissioner."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I think Cowtown is a public entity. It's held in trust by the government, but the public too and I think maybe some of our best ideas are going to come from the public and certainly it's their money, at the end of the day, that might fund it and I want to be sure that they're totally connected with the thought process. I mean, ultimately it's going to be our tough decision to make. But as we do everything else, from the arena to Exploration Place to public health, we're out there trying to find out what the public's thoughts are to help us and I think maybe that's a good way to engage them, so just a thought."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Oh, and one thing commissioner, and not to take . . . a little bit of umbrage . . . but it's very confusing whose responsibility. Now we have stepped up and just voluntarily, de facto, became the major provider of funds, but it's actually a Wichita museum. The

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board is a totally autonomous board and they can go whatever direction, they don't have to ask permission for anything, so that's a little confusing as to whose ultimate responsibility is it to maintain status quo or to go to the next level of where Cowtown's potential might be and I think that's some of the things we have to analyze and maybe even discussions with the city and what have you on that.

But one thing that I did see in our backup that I'm a little confused at and I'm going to probably be embarrassed over this, but it stated that last year our base line commitment was 602,000 and to that we added the 195,000 and the 100,000? Because it shows our 2006 baseline as 498. I'm assuming the 602 included the 100,000, which was a one time only, so it was still around 500,000."

Mr. Holt said, "That's correct, yes."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, I didn't want the public to read that and say 'Well, why are you cutting the budget \$200,000.'"

Mr. Holt said, "That's correct."

Chairman Sciortino said, "All right, great. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. Ron, so we would expect then to have some more, continued discussion within the next couple of weeks?"

Mr. Holt said, "Yes, sir. That would be the intent."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right. Well, I'm going to be supportive of this requested action today. But I think I'm going to need to see something that I haven't seen yet, going forward from there. You know I've looked at the report that we had done. I think it's got some . . . has an obvious track to proceed forward on. It looks to me like it would be quite expensive. I think that we have stepped up to assume a role at Exploration Place, which I think most of us are pretty proud of that commitment. I think to take on another one though, for me, is going to be a stretch. One of the things that I've continued to think about and I'm certainly not the one to say that it will work or won't work, is to somehow more to go through some kind of event, to privatize the operation of that whole facility. And by that I mean to take this theme of historic and old west and have an entrepreneur develop a way to make a going business and concern out of that, and we've got a couple of examples of the western theme that has worked very well in this region and so I don't

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know that government does that work very well.

Now whether that would mean a Ferris wheel or an amusement park at the front of the historic museum, I don't know. Whether that means a good restaurant, dining facility at the front of that amusement park, I don't know but I would be willing to work on trying to move it forward to some point where someone could do that, but for us to continue to be the major backstop funder in a big way, the same as we're going to do Exploration Place, that's going to be a real stretch for me. So, I just make those comments as we go into these next two weeks, that this is not going to be an easy task. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, commissioner. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan is then, Mr. Holt, that we will have some resolution, within the next month or two that says 'This is what our plan is, this is what we're going to do'. My question really is, or my statement is that I don't want to be faced with another stopgap 66,000 or whatever it is in another 90 days. I'm going to be supportive of this now. I think we should do this to give us some time to digest the report and go forward, but we need to either fish or quit cutting bait, one or the other, whatever the expression is. I mean it's time that we have to make a very difficult decision. So, that's my comment, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Well, we'll be anxious to receive staff's recommendations on what you think is prudent for the county's further involvement with Cowtown and right now I think what's before us now is can we help them out of this temporary crisis and keep them open until they officially are open. And I think it would be incumbent upon us to approve this.

Right now, it isn't a case of who owns what or what have you. They're in a crisis and they've asked us to help and I'm proud of the fact that, at least in the past, we've been willing to help them, but I am very anxious to see what, if any, we should be doing in the future and as far as I'm concerned, nothing of what you've suggested, Commissioner Winters or Commissioner Unruh, is off the table as we have to look at this as the county has limited resources and there's unlimited needs and unfortunately, I think because of our past willingness to show the public that we're willing to be a partner, it's getting too easy, 'Well, let the county do it, let the county do it, let the county do it' and we're going to have to give a hard look at this, especially in light of some of the major things that we are going to have to deal with, the jail concerns, we're going to have another item pertaining to that later on here. Well, we're having the courage to think out of the box and develop alternative programs to just pure incarcerate, incarcerate, incarcerate. I think all of us are very willing to try to make this Jabara Aviation and Manufacturing Technical Campus a reality.

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That's major dollars. The commitment that's already been approved by this board for ongoing commitment to Exploration Place, after a while, as painful as it is, we have to say 'We're sorry, there just isn't any more money at this particular time' but I am anxious to see what you suggest. Thank you very much. What's the will of the board on this item, please?"

MOTION

Chairman Sciortino moved to approve the Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you very much, Ron. Next item."

F. SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

1. GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL PAGE, INC. MEMORIAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR FUNDING FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL.

Major Daniel Bardezbain, Sheriff's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here to ask that you approve the grant application and agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign those accompanying documents.

A little background on this grant is in January of 2002, Sheriff Steed along with Chief Williams met with various members of their departments and established a committee to discuss the vision and

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concept of a law enforcement memorial here in Sedgwick County. There were immediately a number of considerations that were apparent, such as the design, the location, procuring an artist, even the funding for the memorial itself.

The committee has been working since 2002, and in that time we've procured an artist, a local artist, Constance Ernatt to come up with a design in which she has for the memorial. We've petitioned the city and have obtained the southwest corner of Central and Main or the northeast corner of the City Building. There is a location for the memorial and the committee even incorporated itself in 2003 and proceeded on fundraising.

Today, I'm here asking that you approve this application agreement, so that these funds from the Officer Down Memorial Page Incorporated, their program, their memorial grant program, will allow funds to come to Sedgwick County for the construction of the memorial and if you have any further questions, I'll be glad to answer those at this time."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, I don't see . . ."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Grant Application and authorize the Chairman or his designee to submit the on-line application; accept a grant award containing substantially the same terms and conditions as this application; and approve establishment of budget authority at the time the grant award documents are executed.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item please."

2. GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

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Mr. Dave Thompson, Executive Officer, Sheriff's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This will be the eighth year that Sedgwick County has participated in the Bureau of Justice Assistance Program to reimburse local law enforcement agencies for the purchase of bulletproof vests. Last year, jurisdictions such as ours, over 100,000, were reimbursed at about 14.4%. The way this works is if it's approved, we will go ahead and purchase the vests out of our donation funds that we already have and then submit them to the program for reimbursement, whatever they determine is appropriate for that year.

Jurisdictions under 100,000 are considered first. We're planning this year to purchase about 31 vests, at a cost of about \$615 a vest and currently, with this program, our donations of the vests for the Sheriff's Deputies have been paid by contributions or reimbursement. I would ask that you approve the jurisdiction registration and authorize the Chairman or his designee, Marty Hughes, our Revenue Manager, to complete the registration and any other action required to complete the grant process. If you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer them."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. I don't see that there's any questions."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to Approve the Grant Application and jurisdiction registration and authorize the Chairman or his designee to submit the on-line application; accept a grant award containing substantially the same terms and conditions as this application; and approve establishment of budget authority at the time the grant award documents are executed.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you very much and continued success. Now we have one more item that the Sheriff has to talk to us about.”

3. ADJUSTMENT TO THE SHERIFF’S STAFFING TABLE TO INCLUDE TWO DETENTION CORPORALS, RANGE 19.

Mr. Thompson said, “With your approval, along with the CJCC, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and working with the County Manager, we developed a plan in 2005 to increase the number of inmates housed in other counties during this year. This plan included hiring four commissioned deputies to provide transport, two detention corporals to help identify and classify inmates, as well as addition of two vans for the transportation.

The four commissioned deputies have already been approve and hired, so that they could be placed through the academy in time for implementation this fall. The next detention recruit class is scheduled for May of 2006, so it is time for the addition of the two corporal positions, to allow for the promotion of the corporals, as these four new deputies complete their field training. If you have any questions, I’d be happy to answer them.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “I don’t see that there’s any questions. Commissioners, what’s the will of the Board on this item?”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the adjustment to the Sheriff’s Staffing Table.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item please, Madam Clerk."

4. ADDITION OF TWO VANS TO THE FLEET, TO BE USED BY THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO TRANSPORT INMATES HOUSED IN OUT OF COUNTY JAILS.

Mr. Thompson said, "This is the final part of that plan that we developed last year. The reason we're asking for it at this time is Fleet Management has alerted us that the two vans need to be ordered by April 3rd to be included in the current fleet purchase of vehicles. Otherwise, it will go into the fall of this year. And adding the two vehicles at this time will allow for the mileage being placed on the existing transport vans to be reduced, thus extending their service. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I don't see that there's any questions. So commissioners, what's the will of the board on Item F-4?"

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the addition to the Fleet inventory.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye

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Commissioner Burtnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you very much. Next item please."

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- AGING

G. AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT ON AGING FOR THE SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING FOR KANSAS PROGRAM.

Ms. Annette Graham, Executive Director, Central Plains Area Agency on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas, SHICK, is a program that offers free services to older Kansans, providing them an opportunity to talk to trained volunteers and our staff to get answers about Medicare and health insurance issues. SHICK offers free counseling and it's confidential and it's an opportunity to provide information on Medicare, supplemental rate comparisons and assistance with the new Medicare prescription drug program.

As you know, this has been a big issue, both locally, statewide and nationally and this is the first time that we are now becoming, as an Area Agency on Aging, one of the only Triple As that did not have the SHICK program. We are now having the opportunity. This contract you have before you is for January 26th of this year through March 31st but then beginning April 1st, we will become an ongoing SHICK provider.

Now this provides only \$5,000 for this first short time period, but basically what it does is provide us the supplementation to do what we've already been doing. We've been in the business of providing information to older, local Kansans around Medicare and the prescription drug program all along. This just gives us some additional funding to be able to maximize and to give us the opportunity to now be a SHICK organization and to recruit volunteers to go out and do this on a fulltime basis.

And certainly May 15th is the deadline date for individuals currently 65 and older to sign up for Medicare Part D without a penalty being placed on them. But as we know, people turn 65 every day. This problem is not going to go away and it's not going to change. It's going to continue to impact the aging network and there will be continuing to be people that have not signed up and who need to sign up to know about not only Medicare Part D but all of the Medicare programs and what they do.

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So I would be happy to answer any questions. Oh, I did also want to give you the number that if anybody has questions on Medicare Part D, our staff person that is our SHICK coordinator is Davalyne Osbourn and she can be reached at 660-5120.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Annette, talk to us again briefly about the penalty thing. There was a time period where you had to apply. Who does that penalty apply to? I mean, . . .”

Ms. Graham said, “Anybody that is on Medicare now, if . . .the Medicare Part D is a new program that became effective. The first deadline was that they needed to sign up by the end of December to start with the benefit that started January 1st, but the program was implemented in such a way that everybody has up until May 15th to make application and sign up for the program.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “So that pertains to people that are presently on Medicare.”

Ms. Graham said, “Yes.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “But if say someone is 65 and still gainfully employed, etcetera, it’s only when they decide it’s time to apply for Medicare. If they keep working until they’re 70, they probably don’t have to apply, if they have benefits, don’t have to apply until . . . but then, once they apply, that will then all be taken care of at the initial application process. This was to catch everybody up. Is that . . .?”

Ms. Graham said, “Right. If a person is over 65 but already has an existing health care insurance program, say for employed people who have health care coverage through their business or if they already have another retiree plan that is as good or better than Medicare Part D, then they don’t have to make the decision about Medicare Part D and can continue with their current coverage. And then if they terminate that coverage, or that employment ends, then they have 30 days, I think it is within which they have to sign up for Medicare Part D to avoid the penalty.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, understand that. Now, Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Thank you. Annette, how does . . . does this fit in with or . . . I was under the impression that out at the Extension, Sedgwick County Extension Office, do they have a SHICK program out there or what is it that they do?”

Ms. Graham said, “Yes, they do have a SHICK program and they also do the toll free hotline

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number for the entire state, so they will continue on in that role, and this just allows us an opportunity as the Area Agency on Aging, to also provide that service. It will be probably on a smaller basis than what they do, but there are certainly enough consumers out there for us to share in our area. And as the Area Agency on Aging, we're in Butler and Harvey County also.

We probably come into contact with some different people than they do, so we will just be a supplement and in some areas of the state they already have Triple As that do it and then other organizations that also do it and some of our case managers and other staff are already signed up as SHICK volunteers.”

Commissioner Winters said, “So this has nothing to do with any kind of competitive basis or taking resources from one group to give to another, but is really broadening the whole spectrum of services to seniors. It's not a take-away out there.”

Ms. Graham said, “No, it should not be a take away. This initial grant was some additional funding. I think it was a half a million dollars that the State of Kansas came up with to help fund the onslaught of older adults that were just desperately seeking information on Medicare Part D, so this was some additional increased funding, and there is anticipation that there will be some increased funding coming through, CMS, Centers for Medicare Services and some other sources and some increased funding for SHICK to enlarge that pot of money, ongoing, so that when they divvy up the money, it's not taking away from current providers.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well, I'm sure we all would support cooperating and building together, as opposed to doing anything in some kind of a vacuum, so thank you very much.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “And I think this is just complimentary to the other things that are out there to try to just educate the public, is basically what we're doing, because I heard there's some kind of bus in town that's going to be by one of the hospitals or something, in a different area, trying to have people come in and if they don't have any medicine coverage, they have computers and they can hook them up to links all over to see if any of the pharmaceuticals can help them. So I think in general, this is just going to add to and be complimentary of all the other programs that are out there to try to help us seniors out.”

Ms. Graham said, “Yes, certainly.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Commissioner Unruh.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make the observation that the Chairman's question and your response indicates the complexity of this thing and how much

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that some sort of service to help people understand it is needed, so I'll be supportive of it and anything we can do to expand this service, I think, is going to be beneficial to our citizens."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I agree. Okay, commissioners, if there's no more questions or comments, I would entertain a Motion."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you very much, Annette. Next item please."

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- COMCARE

H. COMCARE.

1. AGREEMENT WITH HORIZONS MENTAL HEALTH CENTER TO PROVIDE AFTER HOURS MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY SERVICES.

Ms. Marilyn Cook, LSCSW, Executive Director, COMCARE, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is a renewal of a contract that we have with Horizons Mental Health Center for after-hours emergency services. Horizons Community Mental Health Center provides services to five counties and they are: Reno, Kingman, Harper, Barber and Pratt. The contract with COMARE's Crisis Program enables us to handle their after-hours calls and I've told you before, with other contracts, that we are, as a mental health center, all obligated to provide those.

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And these services include phone, crisis counseling as well as face-to-face counseling to those who present themselves, consultation to professional staff at Horizons and law enforcement and other professionals that might be involved in a situation and they also provide information referral to those individuals residing in those five counties that happen to call. Our crisis program handled 1,571 calls for the Horizons Center in 2005, or an average of 131 calls each month, so it's been substantial.

One of the calls involved a woman who was suicidal and a fairly recent acquaintance of hers called on behalf of the woman, who was struggling. She didn't identify herself and she didn't identify the woman that she was calling about, who was suicidal. Crisis staff spent the first couple of minutes trying to help that friend find words, in a way, to engage with the woman that was there in her home and finally the woman still being in distress agreed to speak directly to the crisis worker on the phone.

She had a very significant history of alcoholism, had been drinking and was very, very depressed and suicidal. But after expressing this, she fairly quickly laid the phone down and the crisis worker then spent her time trying to connect with law enforcement to do a welfare check and keep connected. In the meantime, the friend came on the line and said, 'Got to tell you, she's left and I don't know where she lives, but here's the car she drives, here's the color of it and the make and here's what her personalized tag says' and our crisis staff notified law enforcement in that particular county and they were able to contact her while she was on the road and help her.

So these situations can be simple, but sometimes it can be like this one, as you can see, and be more complex and our staff, after-hours, do an excellent job of handling those. We are recommending that you approve the agreement and authorize the Chair to sign."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Next item."

- 2. ADDITION OF ONE PROJECT MANAGER POSITION, BAND 324; TWO QUALIFIED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL (QMHP) POSITIONS, SENIOR SOCIAL WORKER, BAND 322; SIX PART-TIME QMHP POSITIONS, BAND \$19.98/HR; ONE PART-TIME MEDICAL DOCTOR/ADVANCED REGISTERED NURSE PRACTITIONER POSITION (MD/ARNP) AT 60% OF FULL-TIME ARNP; 12 CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST POSITIONS, BAND 217; 12 PART-TIME CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST POSITIONS, BAND \$12.75/HR; AND ONE OFFICE SPECIALIST POSITION, BAND 115, TO THE COMCARE STAFFING TABLE FOR THE JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM (MENTAL HEALTH INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES.)**

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I wanted to do a preface to this agenda item, in an attempt to make things a little more smooth . . . run a little more smoothly internally. We may have complicated the matter, rather than simplified it and I wanted to explain that.

This item has to do with the mental health intake and assessment center, that's part of the recommendation of the CJCC. But today's process is a bureaucratic process. Through your efforts and policies, we control the budget by controlling how many positions we can fill, how many positions there are in this organization. Today, we're asking you to create some positions so that we can begin the paperwork and the process to begin that system.

Next week, we'll come back to you and talk to you about how this program fits in with all the CJCC, all the monies and we'll talk a little bit about how much money is involved today, but get your approval to approve the program next week. Today, we're only approving the positions so that we can start . . . proceed with the bureaucratic stuff that we need to do.

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That's a presumption on our part, that you will approve the program next week. We've been wrong in the past. We may be wrong again. This does not . . . this action today does not commit you to any money. It just helps us begin the process that we're beginning. I'd like Marilyn to explain the program and we will again talk about it next week."

Ms. Cook said, "Thank you. As the manager's said, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council has been working for 18 months to look at the situation in the jail, the census there and the crowding there and to look at alternatives and solutions. One of those is an alternative program that is known elsewhere in the United States as jail diversion. Because Kansas has a very legal connotation to the word 'diversion' we will not be using that name in our title. So the purpose, the four purposes of this discussion today, so we can call it something, we are calling it the Justice Collaborative. When and if this program gets up and running, we will come up with a name that everyone can understand and one that won't be confusing.

We certainly will be doing assessments in this program, but there is already an assessment center at Via Christi and I don't want to confuse the community any more with where to take someone when someone is in crisis, so for purposes of today, the Justice Collaborative, or TJC, will be the name of this program that I'm referring to.

What is a jail diversion program? It's a way to better assure that individuals who have a mental illness and who are arrested get linked to the treatment they need, rather than going deeper and deeper into the criminal justice system. The goals of such a program, here and elsewhere, have to do with minimizing the risk that these individuals can pose to themselves and others in the community to encourage individuals to seek treatment and medications that they need to help them, obviously, deal with the symptoms that they're experiencing that sometimes leads them into criminal activity and to minimize . . . big word, trans-institutionalization or that phenomenon that happens when individuals are shifted from jails to prisons to state hospitals to mental health centers, that kind of constant flow of activity that happens between institutions and obviously to reduce recidivism of these individuals in the criminal justice system.

The advantages of a program such as this is to better assure that individuals that have a serious mental illness don't end up in the criminal justice, when where they really need to be is in a treatment process, where their behaviors can be addressed and changed. It's a more quick and effective process to move individuals into treatment in many communities, rather than waiting for them to get deeper and deeper into the criminal justice system. It's certainly less traumatic for

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individuals who have a mental illness and there is a great potential, in these programs throughout the United States, that they're reporting outcomes where there is less police and judicial resources being pumped into these individuals that get involved in this cycle.

And for us and others in other communities, the hope is to free jail beds for more serious offenders who need to be in those facilities. What this kind of facility is not is it's not a program that's intended for individuals that have antisocial personalities, big term for that is crimeogenic, kinds of thoughts and behavior patterns. It's also not a 'Get Out of Jail Free' pass for individuals. Individuals who will be involved in these programs will be closely assessed and decisions and recommendations will be made, decision will be made still by the judges involved.

There are three ways, eventually, that individuals will get into this system. The CJCC has been studying this. It's new to us, so we are kind of looking at what is the best approach to this in our community and we have had some very intense meetings, both with the CJCC and the alternative programs subcommittee meetings to talk about what is the best way to do this.

We have decided on several phases, which I'll go into in a minute, but throughout the nation, people get involved in these programs often after they're booked. In some communities, that's the only way they get into these programs, but other communities have pre-booking kinds of opportunities and we're hoping to do that here at some point and then eventually, post-adjudication entry into this program, for individuals who maybe at first were not eager to accept this kind of intervention, but when this community looks and hopefully approves in the future of mental health court, much like we have the drug court now for the City of Wichita, there would be another entity that could kind of help contain and develop a relationship with these individuals to make sure that they progressed in treatment.

Some general characteristics of diversion programs, nationally, so you'll get a sense of what these do, is that the ones that are successful have rapid response, they have specialized responders who are familiar with both the judicial system and the mental health and social services, resources in the community. There is a centralized place where law enforcement can bring these individuals with a no refusal policy and there are good collaborative, community partnerships and linkages.

In other parts of the country and certainly what we're considering here is, you know, it's up to the

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community to decide what charges will be acceptable for individuals involved in this program. Many of them start, as we want to do, with crimes that are typically known as nuisance crimes and those are crimes like trespassing, loitering and disorderly conduct and those will be the kind of crimes and charges that we will be dealing with initially. That may change, over time, as well.

There are three situations here and elsewhere in the country that commonly lead to the arrest of individuals with mental illness. One of those is those behaviors continue, and they end up falling between the cracks in different systems, because there's not good linkages often in communities. The behaviors that these individuals experience often exceed the community's tolerance level for those behaviors. Here, a common behavior would be someone during a psychotic episode, standing on the steps of the public library and approaching people, or just talking in general to someone who is not there. That's distressing for individuals and another common reason that these individuals get arrested is that law enforcement has limited resources and time, and when law enforcement sees that unless they remove the individual from the situation, there will be continued involvement and calls on their part. It's common for an arrest to happen at that point, here and elsewhere.

We have had a legal subcommittee now look at this program and say how would this play out here and the questions they had and are struggling with are should we always arrest these people or not, should it be voluntary and had concerns about identifying the capability of being able to identify the individuals. A number of mentally ill individuals don't always identification on them. Some of them, in a psychotic episode, are not able to communicate clearly and say who they are and so there would be concern, obviously, about a false arrest at that point.

The conclusions of the legal subcommittee were very positive. They did not see any significant legal barriers here in Sedgwick County. They did decide, and I think it's wise, to initially not drop any charges in arrests that are made. All of these programs, nationally, are successful only if participation is voluntary on the part of the individual and there are some legal considerations there as well, in terms of are they participating voluntarily or not, and this program will need to have the capability to identify the individuals that are assessed.

All of the people in the legal subcommittee, as well as the people we have talked to in the community have concluded that they see a lot of value in having a new, centralized entry point for those with mental health issues, into the system. They all agree that good communication is going to be critical in this and in the legal subcommittee also said that for individuals currently in the jail that this would be, legally, a very viable bonding out condition. So let's say if someone is arrested and they're in booking and they're there waiting, that if an assessment is done and recommendations are made, a judge could say, as a condition of bonding out, 'if you participate in treatment we will bond you out' and not hold those individuals in jail. And that's also true for, the legal committee decided, for individuals who are in the jail who are serving time there, whose behavior has really calmed, who may be able to be released early from the jail, on a probation condition, based on follow through with this program.

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How will it work? We spent a lot of time and energy looking at that as well and we decided to be cautious and proceed with caution and learn as we go but to really do this in a planned manner, so we had agreed that we would start with implementation of the program, if approved, with post-booking. So these would be people that had been arrested, who are in the jail either a short period of time, who have maybe got arrested last night for instance or someone that's been in the jail for a while waiting on his disposition, that we would start the program there and have the staff connect each day with individuals who are in the jail and with the con-med staff and say 'Who came in last night who you think that we could help through this program'.

We eventually want to move to a pre-booking situation, where law enforcement, both the police officers and the sheriffs will understand under what conditions they can successfully bring individuals to this location, and not necessarily book them then, which would also save some resources and capacity in the jail.

So we have looked at three phases. Phase one, which would be the post-booking, so people already residing in the jail, either in the booking area or in a pod, we would receive referrals from judges and the court and from prosecutors.

In phase two, we would start with one of the four substations in the pre-booking process, educate them in the process, work out the kinks in that and then phase three would be full implementation of the program throughout the city and county.

Where will the program be housed? We have looked at the Juvenile Intake and Assessment building on Morris. The juvenile folks are vacating that building and are going to be housed soon in the juvenile detention facility, so that facility on Morris is available. It's actually very well suited, on a number of levels, to accept these people, partly because it was always a place where law enforcement came, so law enforcement is very familiar with the facility. There are restraints. There, if needed, there is sufficient space to interview and assess and help individuals and there is also an added plus of space in the back of this facility that KCSL was using for case management that can very easily turned into a four-bed crisis resolution unit, which this community has needed for a very long time.

How many jail beds will this free up? Dr. Craig Moreland looked at this, actually did some snapshots and studied this along with CJCC and our subcommittee and in the short term, we're anticipating a ten-bed average daily population reduction from the start."

Chairman Sciortino said, "What is the average length of time for short-term? Is that the first six

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months, a day? What is short-term?"

Ms. Cook said, "Up to a year, I would think, but there would six months to a year, because it's going to take a while to implement this program. I think once we get going and have relationships built and linkages built, that will speed up, but in the long term, in the next four years we believe if this program unfolds as others have in the nation, that we could actualize 100 bed average daily population reduction by 2010. But regardless of the number, it is the right thing to do for individuals with mental illness.

This program will report, in our structure, under our crisis program. We're doing that for a couple of reasons. One of those reasons is that law enforcement already has become familiar with our crisis program. It's already a 24/ 7 program. To staff this sufficiently, 24/ 7, we would need 16 full-time positions: a project manager, two . . . that stands for Qualified Mental Health Professionals or therapist-level type people, masters level trained people, 12 case manager specialists and this is where the bulk of the work, by the way, is going to be done in this program, the case managers and I explain that in a minute what their role will be and then one support staff or office specialist. To cover evenings, holidays and weekend, in a 24/ 7 program, we also then would need part-time qualified mental health professionals and case managers and we did budget in and figure in one part-time or part time hours, 32 hours a week of medical provider.

Now whether that's better off being a nurse or an Advanced Nurse Practitioner or a physician, that will unfold as the program unfolds as well, but we did put some time in there, so that if someone really does need to be seen, that can happen and also, if someone . . . that they would have good access to our medical staff, who are on-call 24/ 7, so they can tie into that service as well."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Marilyn, before you get off of that, just for a moment, what is your estimation of the caseload, per case management specialist?"

Ms. Cook said, "The case manager specialist, where this has worked successfully, they have had 10 to 12 clients in their caseload, so this means that between 120 and 144 individuals at any given time would be served and they would be in the program only a certain amount of time, so people will always be going in and out of the program.

For individuals who are arrested and that maybe need to be evaluated here that are already open clients elsewhere, we would automatically shift those folks to the providers that they're currently seeing."

Chairman Sciortino said, "We assess somebody and we think that this person needs some treatment. What happens now?"

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Ms. Cook said, “We make the referrals. We would decide where that person agrees to go. We would facilitate that referral. We would follow up with them and in fact, if you’d let me proceed a little bit, I’ll show you the role and how that would work out with case managers and some of the roles that they will have.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, because I’m really confused over this simplistic presentation. I’m so snowed now. Go ahead.”

Ms. Cook said, “Okay. It’s big. The services offered is that individuals come in and a mental health assessment would be done by those qualified mental health professionals who can diagnose, who can assess situations, similar to what we do in other components of COMCARE and they would make treatment recommendations. They would also assist with referrals to mental health services, whether that would be at COMCARE or one of our affiliate agencies or somewhere else in town. Some of these individuals will already be involved in a treatment process.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Now, we’re still in post-booking right? They’ve already been booked into the jail. Do you make this . . . who permits them to go through this assessment? Does the judge have to . . .?”

Ms. Cook said, “The judge would have to order it.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, and then the judge would have to approve the recommendations of . . .”

Ms. Cook said, “Right, the recommendations would be made to the judge and the judge will say, ‘Okay, here’s how we’re going to proceed’, and they will also help access those crisis beds short term, and short term means, in this case, 48 to 72 hours. Short term places needed to stay, to stabilize a psychiatric patient.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “I’ve got to keep asking them as I get them, or I’m going to forget. Who goes in and assesses, ‘Okay, today we’ve got a population of 1,500 inmates, I think that one would be a good one that we could ask the judge to allow us to assess’. Who makes those decisions?”

Ms. Cook said, “The qualified mental health professionals on the first shift, along with the project manager, would touch base every day with the Con Med staff and say, in the case of the phase one program, whose been here who you really think is struggling, who is primarily concerned . . .”

Chairman Sciortino said, “So it will be the Sheriff’s Department that says ‘I think these four I think you might want to see if you can get assessed.’”

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Ms. Cook said, “And all of those individuals are triaged at the jail. That’s when they are assigned to a case manager. The case manager would have contact. The expectation would be three to five times a week, or whatever it takes. The case management staff, for up to three months, would follow these clients into the community. These are clients and individuals who have trouble getting to services, mental health services, so they would be taking them to mental health service appointments, they would be making sure they made their court appearances. Many additional charges are added often to our population in jail because of failure to appear charges, that kind of ring up after the original charges are there, because they’re just not organized sometimes enough to get where they need to go, so we would provide the transportation to appointments, they would assist them in requiring documents, if they needed that.

They would assist them with basic needs, whether that be a shelter or some kind of supervised living. They would help with food, clothing, the kind of things that people sometimes need in a crisis and then they would eventually collaborate and this piece needs clearly to be worked out more carefully, but with community corrections and other department of correction supervisors to see what judicial supervision would need to be there that’s already in place in the system, so we are providing a link to the community.

Our proposed timeline for this is that today, starting today, we were going to talk to you in detail about this program and our ideas, to date, on what we feel that would be, and ask for the positions. We do need, in March, if we want to follow through with this, to extend the lease at the JIAC building and the county’s Legal Department is working on a memorandum agreement with all of the parties involved that would need to happen for this to take place.

In April, we would ask for implementation.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Again . . . March is almost over. How do we approve a lease extension in March? Is it on our agenda to approve it?”

Mr. Bob Lamkey, Director, Public Safety, greeted the Commissioners and said, “What we’ve done, a couple of things, the Department of Corrections is still in that JIAC center and will be leaving in April, so the lease payment through April is being handled by the Department of Corrections, so we have some time to work on that process, so that’s not an issue for us.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, thank you.”

Ms. Cook said, “Then in April we would ask for funding and approval to be able to implement the program. Part of the reason we have tried to hurry this process a little bit is that law enforcement

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supervisors and judges and command officers have a mandatory training in April, and we thought it would be very important, before implementing a program of this scope, to make sure that supervisors in law enforcement understood the process and had an overview of the process and where we were headed.

We would also need to hire a project manager and some of the staff to start putting these pieces in place and hopefully get that memorandum of agreement signed. Then in May, we would continue hiring, continue to implement phase one of the program, which is people already in the jail and seeing if we could get them out a little bit earlier and promote a lot of communication on this process.

Then we said in June we would like to meet with the 125 officers that are working through the south substation and provide some training to them on the pre-booking piece of this, so we would hope to implement phase two, the pre-booking then, July through August, so where we would continue to try to take people out of the jail, but then we would add to that in phase two an ability to be able to not send individuals who were appropriate for this program to booking at all, and save that resource as well, so we would start at the south and practice that, develop the protocols and perfect that, so that by the time the mandatory training for all of law enforcement is presented, September through October and they do that once a year, everyone then would know about the program, they'd understand the role. We would have had experience, post-booking. We would have had some experience with phase one . . . or phase two, pre-booking, and that is folks before they go into booking."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, now let me interrupt you again. Pre-booking, they haven't seen a judge. Right?"

Ms. Cook said, "Right."

Chairman Sciortino said, "A policeman has picked them up for something."

Ms. Cook said, "And they're going to arrest them."

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Chairman Sciortino said, "Yeah, now have they arrested them?"

Ms. Cook said, "Yes, they will arrest them."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, they're arrested then, so it will be the beat officer that is going to be trained to say 'Well, you know maybe we shouldn't book them, let me call the assessment center and get an assessment'. He has that authority to do that on his own?"

Ms. Cook said, "They would have discretion to take them, as they do now, commissioner, to our crisis program sometime, when someone's behavior is such that they're saying 'Boy I think there's really something going on'."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, okay. You can be as succinct as possible, when I ask a question, trust me. I arrest him, it's midnight and he's displaying some mental problems, does he drive it over to the assessment center? How does he get assessed?"

Ms. Cook said, "That's how it would happen."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, it's now 1:30 in the morning, and we have an assessment but we can't . . . now what do we do with this individual? Just trust that he's going to agree to something or what happens to that individual, until the next day, till we can get going with them?"

Ms. Cook said, "Well, the individual does have to agree, by the way. If they agreed, we would look at the situation much like we do in our crisis program now, and if someone needs some immediate services, we will have case managers on duty at night, to sit with them, to connect with them. We would have the crisis resolution unit if someone needs to sleep a little bit before whatever activities need to happen the next day to connect them to services."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, and that doesn't involve a judge. That's just at the discretion of the officer that has arrested this officer."

Ms. Cook said, "Right."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, go ahead."

Ms. Cook said, "And then, after everyone has been trained, by the end of October, all of law enforcement in this community will have been trained in this, we would implement phase three, which is full implementation of the program, so the other three substations, pre and post-booking would be eligible to participate in this program and then, when that is done, we have 19

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municipalities in Sedgwick County to also educate and include in the process.

That . . . it's a very big step for this community to take and it's one that we take very seriously and we're very committed to its succeeding. We are recommending that you approve the additions to our staffing table. Before I address any other questions you might have, I do have two individuals with me, Phyllis Jacobs, who is the Chair of the COMCARE Advisory Board and Martha Sanchez, who would like to speak briefly to you. They've been listening to our ideas on this for a while and they wanted to make some comments and I'll be happy to answer any questions you have."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, just a second, real quick. Is there any questions of Marilyn at this point that you would ask her? Yes, commissioner."

Commissioner Norton said, "I guess I can wait."

Commissioner Winters said, "I've got some questions, but I'd rather hear the whole presentation, I think."

Ms. Phyllis Jacobs, Chair, COMCARE Advisory Board, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I want to let you know that this proposal has the strong support of the Advisory Board. This is something that we have been talking about for a long time, and dialoguing with the management team at COMCARE. We feel it is a very well thought out proposal. That it's a realistic proposal and it is a proposal that should benefit, with a strong community partnership, the needs of the citizens of Sedgwick County.

Certainly, some of the benefits, as Marilyn has talked about is to get people with a mental illness into treatment quickly or to get them back into treatment. The longer a person with a mental illness goes without their medication, does not have services, this proposal would help in preventing total de-compensation of that person. And the longer that person goes with an untreated mental illness, the chances for their recovery certainly declines. We do have some board members who have had some very active involvement in this situation and Martha Sanchez would like to briefly tell her story. She is the Wichita State University Campus Minister and she does have a family member with a mental illness."

Ms. Martha Sanchez, Campus Minister, Wichita State University, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This morning I come to you as a mother of a son who is living with a mental illness. And it brings me back to 1993, when he was first diagnosed and he was already two years out of high school and a third-year university student, majoring in graphic design. He started at the university as a senior from Maize High School. And it was right a month before he turned 21 that we began to

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see some changes in him and couldn't understand what these changes were, because he was talking and not making any sense and went to our family physician with this and she told us, he needs to see a psychologist or someone who can diagnosis him better than I can.

We were sent to Prairie View and he was there for 10 days for a diagnosis and I heard words like Post Traumatic Stress, Manic Depression, Bi-polar, words that I wasn't really accustomed to and became very familiar later on. He was there those 10 days, was given Lithium and was overdosed, over-medicated. And from that experience, it is very difficult to get him to take medication, so he is one individual who will take it and not take it and very often is very non-compliant when it comes to the service that he needs.

The latest experience we had was last October and he was telling me that there was someone out there ready to get him and that's part of the illness of Paranoid Schizophrenic when you either see things, hear things and then you begin to display some very dangerous behavior. And because I was the one there, I was his enemy, and he pushed me against the wall. And I knew right then I needed to call 9-1-1.

And certainly officers were there before long and the first thing they asked me was are there any weapons in the house? Well, of course I said no. Well, he doesn't have a gun? I said, definitely no, he is in his bedroom. And so the officers came in, began to talk to him and they were saying 'We need to take you, you need to come with us' and he was very slow in responding, which is part of the illness and the officers kept repeating, in his bedroom, 'You need to come with us'. Well the next thing I realized is they were pepper spraying him to take him and they handcuffed him and then he was set out on the curb of the street, as they wait for their supervisor to come in to see if he needed to be charged with a misdemeanor or a felony.

And of course, all during that time I'm talking to them and I'm saying 'He is mentally ill'. He doesn't need to go to jail, he needs treatment, because he's not compliant right now. He is very sick. 'Well, we can't do anything but wait for our supervisor'. And so I asked them, I said 'Well, what kind of training have you had so that you're able to know how to handle individuals in a crisis situation' and one of the officers said, 'We had five hours' and I knew that they needed more training, because I told them that I'm very much involved with those who are mentally ill and wanted to know more and willing to do more for the community.

Well, their supervisor showed up and they said 'Well, we'll have misdemeanor charges against him' and they took him. The next day, I called the jail and said, 'Yes, we booked him' and I said he's mentally ill, he really needs to be in touch with someone that can help him with his illness. Well, several hours later, someone does call me and they say 'Well, we're checking on him, we're trying to see what we can do here'. Well, in the meantime, the shift changes and then someone else calls

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me the following day and they say 'Well, we're still trying to make contact with him'. In the meantime, later that day, the second day he's been released and now I'm told that he cannot make contact with me for the next three days. I have no clue, no idea where he's at.

He's somewhere in the community and I'm wondering, I'm thinking without medication, how much more is he in danger, not only for himself or for others because of the psychotic experience that he's going through. And I thought to myself, he needed to have some intervention right then, when this all happened. If there was a crisis team that would have come in right then, this could have been all avoided.

Well, he later comes and gets his car and next thing I know I'm getting the letter from the domestic violence advocate office, and they're saying I needed to appear in court, because there's now charges against him. Well, I figured he was going to have a public defender, but because we've gone through this before, he got his own attorney, and he did that by selling his car because he's afraid. He doesn't want to spend time in jail, so he got his own attorney.

But if it wasn't for his attorney, I wouldn't have ever known when he was going to have these court hearings, because she was the one calling and saying 'He needs to be there, can you let him know?' Of course he never liked the idea that she would call at the house, and he would forget that he would be there, and I thought 'My goodness, he would be arrested again and back in jail again'.

During this time, waiting for the court hearing, I called the prosecutor, explained to him and said 'My son does not need to be in jail, he needs treatment, what can we do?' Well, when he finally, in fact that was last Thursday when we were before . . . well, let me go back one month. In February he did appear before the judge and at that time I had a copy of a letter from my daughter, who also happens to be a doctor, a psychologist, and because she knows how difficult it is to navigate the system, wrote a letter on behalf of her brother saying that he is ill and he needs to be in treatment and the judge saw the prosecutor and they said to my son, 'Come back next month', which was last month, and show us that you are under a doctor's care.

Well, when he showed up last week all he had was a piece of paper that said 'Doctor's name, blank; address, blank. He comes back with this letter with nothing. And so the prosecutor spoke to me and said, 'apparently, he doesn't really understand what he's supposed to do' and I said that is correct, he doesn't know. And he said, 'Well, I don't know what to do'. I know the jail isn't a place for him. This is municipal court. If we were district court, perhaps we could mandate it, but my hands are tied. And I said to the prosecutor, 'Well, you know I have gone through the involuntary petition before, I had to do that and when that happened he was sent to Osawatomie' but I said to him, just if he can be back in my hands, I will see that he gets the care.

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So the prosecutor agreed that he would drop the charges. So when we left the city building last week, we were in my car and we went straight to the crisis center. Of course, he wasn't happy about that because he didn't want to see anyone. He said, 'I'll take care of it myself' and I said 'No you're not, we're going right to the crisis center'. Luckily, he did see someone for a few minutes and they made an appointment with him and that was yesterday and a phone call came and said, 'You have an appointment with us this morning'. Well, guess what, 'I'm not going' and I'm thinking, here we go again. This whole cycle of not wanting to be responsible, how is it that we can mandate persons that cannot think, rationalize like a normal person does.

So anyway, he is to see someone today, because he told me he would see someone today, but yes, it is so important that they get immediate treatment, that there is a line of persons that care and services that can be provided to those who can't make decisions for themselves, because he's not competent. And even the prosecutor said to me, 'He's not competent to hold a trial for him' and so he left it in my hands and now I'm asking you also and the whole community, that we do need to work together to help those that are mentally ill. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Martha, let me ask you a question, and I appreciate . . . what happens if he won't agree to go through the assessment center? He won't agree to make the appointment? What are we doing here today that will help that?"

Ms. Sanchez said, "Can we make it mandated, court mandated somehow?"

Ms. Cook said, "The participation would have to be voluntary but we would spend some time, trying to connect with him and engage him and in the case that Martha just described, assign a case manager to him to get him to the appointment."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, so maybe a professional, maybe a little bit more detached than a loving mother, could get him to agree. Okay, I understand that part. Thank you. Anybody else that you want to have us listen to now?"

Ms. Cook said, "No, but thank you for that."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Well, we have some questions and comments. Commissioner Winters, your light was on first sir."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you very much. Marilyn, I want you to know that my comments are basically I'm going to be supportive of this Justice Collaborative program and I realize diversion has some kind of a legal connotation that we're not using, but to me again this looks like the foundation and the beginnings of a mental health court system, that at least in my

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mind that's what it feels like, whether that's the technically right term or not.

The question I'd like to ask has to do with the number of new people that we're going to need, and be required to do this project. In the past, I think this commission has been supportive of and I think COMCARE has worked very much in collaboration with the other agencies out in the community. But in looking at it from our financial commitment, did you analyze the possibility of using some contract work and some partnering with our affiliates to provide, whether it be part of this assessment quotient and either whether it would be using them for that or taking your 30 or 35 best people out of your system now and moving them here, and using some collaborative efforts with other agencies to backfill taking current COMCARE staff. So, can you just comment on this collaboration that we either do or don't have with our other agencies on this particular project."

Ms. Cook said, "Certainly. We have looked at that and in fact, we have a meeting once a month with our affiliates and I presented this to them on Tuesday. We've been talking about it for a couple of months. There is clearly a place, especially for the Mental Health Association, who provides attendant care for us, to have them be a part of this collaboration at the crisis resolution unit and for individuals that we are referring to treatment in the community, a place for them to be part of that.

One of the concerns that we have about hiring case managers from someone other than the county, is that for the most part, for the individuals who are eligible to be designated as having a severe and persistent mental illness, they are hooked up in services already and need to be reestablished and re-linked with those services. There will be times when someone has a severe and persistent mental illness that doesn't have those services that our affiliates can also help us with that and there is a clear, apparent source for that and that is medicate.

But for many of these individuals who need the community support, will not be eligible for case management support, will not be eligible for case management services. This is not a fee for service problem. It's why we come to you for the help, because these are individuals that no one will be paying for, so to give affiliates more business that is non-paying business, we have a shared arrangement right now. That was not the way we wanted to start it.

Clearly, there may be an opportunity in the future to expand this and to even replace at times individuals with those, from our partner agencies, but there's a lot of collaboration that needs to happen and it's a new program unfolding, so they're very excited about it and I know they want to be a part of it, and they will be, but not for the uncompensated care part of it."

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Commissioner Winters said, "All right, well I think I would just like to think that there is not a widening of the gap or collaborative effort between COMCARE and our partnering agencies. I think we've had a very good system, and so I guess as you move forward and think about how we're putting this together, you know, I'm at least one commissioner that wants us to make sure that we try to collaborate with our partner agencies, if at all possible, and when appropriate."

Ms. Cook said, "I understand."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And Marilyn, are you agreeing with Commissioner Winters' assumption that this is the beginning of the formation of a mental health court?"

Ms. Cook said, "A mental health court would be a wonderful connection to this, because it would give even a little bit more clout to this process, because in a mental health court, you have assigned judges that form a relationship with these individuals and through that relationship and a good understanding of mental health, and relapse and all the things that go with that.

Much like the drug court that we have now, encourage them to come back and say 'Are you sticking with your treatment process? What else do we need to do to change it?' so it will eventually be a great . . . it would be greatly enhanced by having a mental health court."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And you feel perhaps by already having an assessment program in place, Judge Ballinger might be more inclined then to the establishment of a mental health court?"

Ms. Cook said, "He's been very supportive."

Chairman Sciortino said, "No I mean that to see that we already have something in place that if the judge says 'you need to be assessed' it's already there and that might help us get to a mental health court?"

Ms. Cook said, "Absolutely."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Oh, absolutely, I understand Bob. I don't need clarification."

Mr. Lamkey said, "Absolutely is good, but you need to understand that this process was the

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elemental process in beginning that evolution for a full spectrum of mental health courts and services in this community for those persons, so this is part one.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Good, and that was the assumption Commissioner Winters had, and I just wanted to make sure that that assumption was correct. Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “I guess I’d start with a statement that it seems to me that almost anybody that finds themselves ready to be incarcerated has some kind of a mental illness. It may not be severe, persistent, but anybody that makes really bad judgments and gets themselves into that, in having a lapse in some kind of mental capability and judgment to get them into that position, so I think you’re almost going to have to look at assessing everyone that’s a potential to go into the jail, because for some reason they have had some sort of lapse in judgment or may not have the mental capability of making good judgments and that’s why they’re in the position they’re in.

Having said that, I think it’s important to understand and ask the question, how many of the folks that we currently see going into jail do we believe have mental health problems and drug related problems? Do we have an assessment yet?”

Ms. Cook said, “We did that, it’s about 16% have a severe and persistent mental illness. A larger percent, 30 to 40% have some diagnosable condition, so it’s large.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Okay. With that, how many of them have what is it, coexistent drug and mental health issues? Don’t those tie together a lot of times?”

Ms. Cook said, “Yes, co-occurring disorders certainly complicate things, yes.”

Commissioner Norton said, “What is that percentage?”

Ms. Cook said, “Of the people in that category, about 60% of them have co-occurring disorders.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Where does homelessness, chronic homelessness fit into this, folks that don’t have jobs, have mental illness problems, have drug problems, are homeless and continue to fall in and out of the homeless system and the incarceration system? Where does that fit into this? We’re worried about homelessness and we’re trying to fix that but we obviously know they’re linked to this whole problem too.”

Ms. Cook said, “It certainly fits in. I don’t know the extent and that depends how the program

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unfolds, but clearly for individuals who are appropriate for our homeless program, we would connect them to those services. For others that have primarily drug and alcohol problems, we would work with that community to get them the treatment they need. It will factor in. It's not clear to me, at this point, how much."

Commissioner Norton said, "As we move towards funding this and we know it's going to cost money and could be expensive in some cases, is there state funding or mechanisms for grants that will help with this kind of a program, because a lot of the mental health reform at the state level pushed these kinds of problems down to the locals to solve and they're pretty complicated and it seems like they have some liability in trying to take care of that and funding, particularly if we go into mental health courts, which is an adjunct of maybe district court, which is a state kind of judicial system. Where do they fit into that, because it seems like they should fund part of that?"

Ms. Cook said, "And they are funding. SAMSA, through the Department of Health and Human Services at the federal level has been funding a number of these programs, at least to get them up and running and we have gotten . . . had a contact with the Council on State Government, who is willing to provide us some free technical assistance on how to obtain some further funding. They've been very successful in Ohio and in Florida in getting some of this funding.

So we would hope to get us some funding so this does not become only a program that's funded through the coffers of the county."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well certainly, when you talk about somebody got to the point where you had to send them to Osawatimie, that moves them into a state organization, and they should want us to try to solve it at a local level, and not have to go to that extreme.

The program is evidence-based. We've talked about that. There's been other programs around. What are the . . . are there succinct measurements that you're going to educate us on, that we'll be looking for. On all the prevention programs, particularly in like Juvenile Justice, we understand, you know, getting upstream and trying to look at the measurements and the evidence base to give you the outcomes that you want. Are we going to be trying that?"

Ms. Cook said, "I think we need to be, I think we all need to be familiar. The Council on State Government has a huge document that outlines outcome measures and data that we need to be tracking in order to know whether or not we're being successful, so yes, at some point we will get all of those together, when we get the full protocols in place and say 'Here are the things that we know make a difference'."

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Commissioner Norton said, “Well, and the reason I asked that is having observed juvenile justice prevention for years and we had a lot of programs that were kind of feel good programs, but when we really got to analyzing the end results, we moved the money to other programs because they weren’t evidence based. We weren’t getting the right conclusions and I want to be sure that we understand where we’re going on this. It’s a lot of new money that’s being spent, and at the end of the day, I want to be sure it’s being spent with something that the output is going to be really what we want.

Talk about the task force that now we’re putting together, that’s on disabilities and mental health. Will they understand this and integrate this into their thought process, because this is a big population that kind of gets us in trouble all the time.”

Ms. Cook said, “I think they need to be educated as well. That task force has not even been named yet, but when this program unfolds, we will certainly make a presentation of that task force and say here is a program or new resource in this community and here is how it would work, with your population. We certainly have those co-occurring disorders as well, the DD and mental illness.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Do you think this is a program that’s been well studied enough that it doesn’t need to go through the filter of the task force? Obviously we’ve been talking about it, that the coordinating council has looked at it, we’ve had experts give us feedback. Are we ready for this or does it need to go through that filter first, before we put this kind of money into it?”

Ms. Cook said, “That is up to you, but the task force will be focusing on that just specific population and where these programs have worked, including in communities where that dually diagnosed population has been arrested, it’s worked in those communities as well, so the evidence-based practices here have been already demonstrated to be successful and certainly they can look at some of the outcomes that other communities have. There are about five communities that have published outcomes in reduced recidivism and for those who do get re-arrested and who are jailed, shorter length of stay in the jail. In many cases, less in-patient and psychiatric hospitalizations, because they are staying on their meds and are better connected to meds. So those are some of the outcomes of other communities and they certainly . . . I can make that available to that task force.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Okay. Well, certainly I believe that if you keep doing the same thing you have always done, you’ll keep getting the same results and we know that we’re building more jails and a lot of that population is there because of drug related or mental health issues, so I’m going to be supportive that we take bold action. I just think there’s a lot of questions that need to be

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answers, to be sure that the money that we put into this program gives us the kind of outcomes that we are demanding in this.

As we move towards mental health court and we kind of talked about that, it just seems to me that, you know, you have special judges to deal with juveniles, so that they really understand, you know, all of the nuances of that population and they're just different than adults. And it seems like, as we move towards this, that mental health court needs a special judge that's trained and really understands the nuances of mental health and severe and persistent kinds of problems and co-occurrences and all of that, because I don't think to just water that down with 18 or 20 judges that know it just at skin deep is going to make this program work like I think it probably should work.

And I guess my final thought is much like juvenile justice prevention, we found out that we didn't get far enough upstream. That we were starting to work on kids that are 17 and 18 years old and try to keep them in high school and work on truancy and it wasn't about that. It was about five-year-olds and their anger management and their conflict resolution and their parents doing parenting skills and keeping them in school at first grade and even earlier than that, making sure that they eat properly and then are nurtured and you know the brain is developed properly.

I'm just wondering if we're getting far enough upstream. By the time they're booked in there, they already are pretty far along in their mental health or their judgment deficiencies and somehow, do we need to figure out how to put money into programs that start understanding this before they get to that point where they are needing to be incarcerated. I don't know the answer to that, but we've already figured that out in the juvenile justice. Is there some way, in the mental health part of this, and certainly in the drug rehabilitation part, how do we figure that out? And that's just a rhetorical question, I guess. I don't think there's an answer to it, but I just wonder if we're far enough upstream."

Mr. Buchanan said, "And I think . . . that's a great question, commissioner, and I think part of the answer is that we spend millions of dollars in programs for case managers and treatment of those people in our community with mental illnesses, so the foundation is there. This program is specifically for those people that we haven't served well or chose not to take our services or for whatever reason are not part of the system and now find themselves in jail. And the sole purpose of this program . . . not sole, there are two purposes. There is one, to reduce the folks in the jail and number two, to make sure this population has the proper services before them."

Commissioner Norton said, "That's all I have, Mr. Chair."

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Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I'm going to be supportive of the request on our agenda. I mean, we had a very poignant personal testimony about a family situation that I think is very compelling and that can be repeated, probably, through many families in our community, so the need is there.

It's been studied by the Mental Health Advisory Board and they've spent a lot of time trying to figure this out and decide whether or not this is a good process. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council has spent some time through subcommittees and general discussion on how this fits in our comprehensive plan and we've approved a criminal justice comprehensive master plan that included this particular vehicle, so I'm glad to see that we've moved to this point where we're starting to take positive action.

I do have a couple of questions, I guess. Thirty-five people addition to our staffing table, that is 24/7 staffing and it will take a while to get to that full capacity and the location we've established, so in the master plan it is said we were going to have an assessment team, alternative intake location, that's satisfied, and a crisis stabilization facility. Is that what you refer to . . .?"

Ms. Cook said, "For the four-bed unit."

Commissioner Unruh said, "So . . . and we have space and capability for all that. All right. One of the phrases in your presentation, it talked about 'no refusal', I'm a little confused by 'no refusal' there but we have to have their permission. I mean, the two different things we're talking about are. . .?"

Ms. Cook said, "They're two different things. The no-refusal that often happens is on the provider side, whether that be in an emergency room or a hospital, they'll say 'I'm not going to take these folks', so we need to be open to anyone that approaches us."

Commissioner Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Well, that clears that up. The success of this depends not so much on our judges, but it depends on the training that we give to our police officers."

Ms. Cook said, "I think it depends on a number of things, but among those, police officers do need to understand the role they play and know what advances it would be to bringing someone there, know the criteria. Judges will need to be informed. Right now, they have very few alternatives, other than placing someone in jail, so they'll need to understand anticipated outcomes and what we hope to achieve with this and the goals in general, and the general public would need to know and

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family members need to know.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “And we have had sufficient conversation and agreements with the police department and the Sheriff’s Department that they say ‘We think this is necessary’ and they’re fully buying into it.”

Ms. Cook said, “They have participated in the CJCC, they have participated in the Legal Subcommittee and in our subcommittee on alternative programs, so they’ve been there with us the entire way.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Well okay, it’s a big step, and expensive step but I think it’s something that, as you indicated in your presentation, number one it’s the right thing to do and number two, it’s a step to help relieve our overcrowding, so that’s part of our goal so I will be very supportive and that’s all I had.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. Marilyn, I have just a couple of things. Presently, you know we don’t have a mental health court.”

Ms. Cook said, “Right.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Once we get this assessment program up and running, that doesn’t preclude a judge determining maybe this person needs to be assessed for mental health-ness and sends him to you, right? They don’t have to wait for a mental health court. We just think that a judge that is more intune with mental health problems would be more readily available there, but you’re not going to refuse a judge that wants, because of his history of what have you, wants to send someone through the assessment program, instead of automatically booking them or sentencing them to jail, we could start that right from day one.”

Ms. Cook said, “Correct. In fact, Judge Ballinger has already met with a number of judges on the county side and on the city side and they are anxious to have an alternative.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “The other things that I’m sure most of you are starting to understand, we’re not going to be able to justify this program and some of the other programs just on a dollars and cents thing that said ‘Oh, well gee, it’s going to pay for itself’ because we’ve reduced our jail populations by ‘x’ and look at that, the savings is ‘y’. This is going to be a program like Marilyn

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has pointed out, it needs to be done, because there is a need to help people that have mental problems, and the secondary byproduct of that is we hope to also reduce recidivism in jail and reduce our population and also maybe because of the action we take, stop them from committing a crime so serious that there isn't anything else but jail and it could be murder, mayhem, I mean it could really go past the point of there being any alternative, other than they have to stay in jail.

And I took to heart, Martha, your example and I'm sure it's just one example of many that if we had something like this available, that might have helped earlier. There's no guarantee, but I applaud this commission for having the courage to think out of the box.

It was prompted by another jail expansion and we just knew if we kept doing the same thing, we're going to get the same results and about every five or six years, we may not still be here but there would be another major 30 or 40 or \$50,000,000 jail expansion, but it wasn't dealing with the core problem, so I also am going to be supportive of this, but understand that we're not going to be able to go back to our constituents and just a real quick fix, 'Oh, look how much I saved you'. I don't know if the dollars and cents would work out, mathematically.

Okay, well that's all I had. Is there anything else that anyone else wants to say? You have one other question?"

Commissioner Unruh said, "I just want to make one comment that once again appreciate comments and then openness that Martha was able to share with us in her personal story and I want to thank Phyllis for taking time away from her duties at the university to come here and help us have some understanding of the advisory board's involvement in this decision, so thank you both for being here. That's all I have."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Commissioners, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the additions to the COMCARE Staffing Table.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

Chairman Sciortino said, "I have a Motion and a second. Any further comments? The only

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other comment I want to say, Commissioner Norton, I did understand where you were going with it would be great if we could do something to get to these people before they even begin to get into the system, to identify 'here's a child one-year-old' that maybe . . . the sooner you can get to people, the better your chances of success. Example, my daughter with her back operation, if we could have had her diagnosed three years ago, it would have been a much simpler operation than what she went through. But again, here we are, limited resources, unlimited needs. This is a tremendous first step. I know it's only one element of that total NCJG comprehensive plan that we're looking at. So okay, enough of that, call the roll."

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you very much, Marilyn. Next item please."

DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS- HEALTH DEPARTMENT

I. CONTRACT WITH UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE – WICHITA MEDICAL PRACTICE ASSOCIATION FOR PHYSICIAN SERVICES.

Ms. Blackburn said, "This agenda item is a request to modify and renew the contract with K.U. Med School, Wichita Medical Practice Association for our health officer. Last year, we contracted with K.U. for a health officer for 16 hours a week, for a cost of \$62,500. And for 2006, the price of the health officer went from \$75 an hour to \$125 an hour. When asked what was the reason for the increase, we were told that they really didn't have a good basis for the \$75 an hour charge and they finally did an analysis and decided that 125 was the right price.

So in light of that, we reevaluated our needs and based on what we feel is essential, we believe that we will be okay with eight hours a week, at \$50,000 a year. And we have built into the contract the ability for us to contract for an additional \$10,000 worth of services at \$125 an hour, so the contract would be up to 60,000, if we need it. That means, if there's a public health emergency, like we had with Katrina, where we had to call the health officer in, you know we'd have the flexibility to be

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able to do so.

We will be closely watching how things work with this reduced time, but we really do feel like it will be fine. The health officer was needed quite a bit when the Health Department originally transitioned from the City of Wichita and when there wasn't a permanent director. The health officer helped with a lot of administrative functions and represented the Health Department in a lot of venues, and that need has been reduced.

Our priority now is for the health officer to supervise our mid-level practitioners, Physician's Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, also the nurses review the protocols, make sure that everything that needs to be medically delegated is done properly.

He also will assist with representing us at various functions and in the media, especially when we're really busy and the press is calling several times a day. And I will continue to meet with him regularly and he'll participate in things that are really important for him to be present for. So that is our recommendation at this time, is that you approve the contract."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. We have a question here. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Claudia, the Health Officer and the K.U. Medical Center are also in agreement with this reduction in hours per week, because it still seems to be, from my viewpoint, that that association with the K.U. Med Center and Dr. Frederickson is a good, great working relationship and I just wanted to make sure that everybody was still on that same page."

Ms. Blackburn said, "Absolutely, very collegial relationship."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, thank you. That's the only question I had, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, and Krispy Kremes are still supreme, right?"

Ms. Blackburn said, "Everything in moderation."

Commissioner Winters said, "You need to get on the food committee for that event next year."

Ms. Blackburn said, "They didn't ask."

Chairman Sciortino said, "That's like potato chips. I can't have just one. My only chance is to resist the first one. Once I have the first one down, I want three more real quick. Any other questions or comments? I'm ready for a Motion on this item please."

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MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Contract and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you very much, Claudia. Next item please."

Commissioner Norton left the meeting room at 11:43 a.m.

J. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2006.

Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The meeting of March 23rd results in three items for consideration today.

**1) BRIDGE TIMBERS- PUBLIC WORKS
FUNDING: IMPROVE DRAINAGE- ROW**

The first item, bridge timbers for Public Works. The recommendation is the low bid meeting specifications from Bayou Forest Products Incorporated in the amount of \$153,056.80.

**2) CM-E CHAT- PUBLIC WORKS
FUNDING: AGGREGATE MATERIAL**

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Item two, CM-E chat for Public Works. Recommendation is accept the low bid meeting specifications from A-Plus Incorporated in the amount of \$54,780.

3) **CONSULTING SERVICES FOR EVALUATION OF SAP'S BW & SEM MODULES PROJECT PLAN- ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING FUNDING: ERP- POST SAP IMPLEMENTATION**

And item three, consulting services for the evaluation of SAP's Business Warehouse and Strategic Enterprise Management modules project plan. The recommendation is to accept the proposal from myITgroup to establish consulting rate fees and execute a contract for a not to exceed project cost of \$125,000. We'd be happy to answer any questions and I recommend approval of these items."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I don't see that there's any, but we might as well visit on a little bit of something. How was your weekend last weekend? Everything . . .we have to wait for Commissioner Norton before we can take any action."

Ms. Baker said, "It was a great weekend, thank you."

Commissioner Winters said, "Mr. Chairman, I guess I'd have a question, just about the consulting services and evaluation of SAP. I'll say, it seems like we hire a lot of consultants. Can someone explain what this particular group might be going to do for us?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes, we have an expert."

Ms. Baker said, "Daryl Gardner would be more than happy to explain this project to you."

Mr. Daryl Gardner, Business Systems Analyst, Enterprise Resource Planning Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This project is, the Sedgwick County staff is going to be doing an implementation of the business warehouse and strategic Enterprise Management modules and SAP. The consultants are being hired to watch our work, basically, approve or review our plan to make sure we're doing things in the best interest of SAP standards and best business practices. So they will be reviewing our plans. There will be like an on-call service, so that if we have questions during this implementation, they'll be available to help us with any questions we might have."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Daryl, talk about what the business warehouse will do for users."

Mr. Gardner said, "The business warehouse is a big data base that will house all the county's data, both some of the external and some of the SAP data, where then we can do reporting on it through a lot more easier queries. The SEM project will access that data to report KPIs and balance

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scorecards and management cockpits.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Commissioners, this is the foundation. You’ve seen those department’s key performance indicators, you’ve seen the words but this is the programs that we’ll get that information from Animal Control, Code Enforcement, Mental Health to your desks.”

Commissioner Winters said, “And so this will eventually be, even if we just talk about the process that we had with the collaborative health court, eventually we will just be able to, just every morning, get in and see what had happened in this particular function of COMCARE.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Yes.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Thank you very much.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Any further questions? I see none. What is the will of the Board?”

Commissioner Norton returned to the meeting room at 11:45 a.m.

MOTION

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

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you very much. Next item please.”

CONSENT AGENDA

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K. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. Amendment to the 2006 Capital Improvement Program to increase CIP# R-264, improve drainage in the County-owned Right-of-Way.**
- 2. Amendment to Agreement with Sedgwick County Zoological Society, Inc. to provide increased funding levels.**
- 3. Agreement with Individual Advocacy LLC to provide targeted case management services to individuals with developmental disabilities.**
- 4. Schedule post annexation hearing for May 31, 2006.**
- 5. Orders dated March 14 and March 21, 2006 to correct tax role for change of assessment.**
- 6. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of March 22-28, 2006.**
- 7. Payrole Check Register of March 24, 2006.**

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, you have the consent agenda before you and I would recommend you approve it."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

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Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Commissioners, we are going to have to have a fire meeting today, but before we go to that, is there under the heading of 'Other' anything that you wish to mention or bring out that's going on, exciting? Yes, Commissioner Unruh."

L. OTHER

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you. Well, I've already talked about the zoo's groundbreaking is Friday, so just once again remind folks it's a major event at the zoo and appreciate everybody's attention to that. If you can make it out there, it will be a good thing to be there."

I can't resist saying though, in our meeting today that I was . . . as the manager was explaining the procedure on this new Justice Collaborative that we're talking about and he talked about why we were doing things in that order, it became very clear and I appreciate his explanation when he characterized it as 'bureaucratic stuff'. I thought that was good."

Chairman Sciortino said, "It was a very succinct, . . . we were going to do it very simply."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, I just couldn't resist that. So, that's all I had."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Anything else, commissioners? Yes, Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Last night I had the chance to go to the NCCJ annual meeting and several individuals were honored there, Bill Moore from Westar, Fran Jabara from WSU, Mary Navarro, counselor at North High and Susie Alstrandt, our Vice President at the Chamber that's handling Visioneering and the corporate honoree was Preferred Health Systems for their diversity programs and it was a wonderful evening to celebrate diversity and their NCCJ's fight against prejudice and bigotry in our community and I thought it was a pretty wonderful evening. Commissioner Unruh and his wife were there and I think Ron Holt was there and some Sheriff's Department folks were there, so we had a pretty good turnout from Sedgwick County."

The other thing, this Saturday night the Kansas African American Museum will be having their gala and it should be a wonderful evening to celebrate even more diversity in our community and Melma Moore, a Toney winning actress is going to be the entertainment there, so it should be a wonderful evening to celebrate. That's all I have."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Commissioner Winters, anything? All right, at this time I'll close the regular meeting of March 29th Board of County Commissioners."

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M. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

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

BEN SCIORTINO, Chairman
Fifth District

LUCY BURTNETT, Chair Pro Tem
Fourth District

DAVID M. UNRUH, Commissioner,
First District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2006