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District 4 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting  
Minutes

Monday, May 13, 2019  
6 p.m.

Valley Center Community Building  
314 E. Clay

**Board members in attendance:** Stephanie Kohlhoff, Melody McCray Miller, Nigel Morton, Hugh Nicks, Denise Romero

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The meeting began with comments from Commissioner Lacey Cruse. She stated that she wanted to add a representative from Valley Center to the advisory board. Her goal for the board is to have dialogue of what's going on in the community; the good things and things that can be done differently.

**1. Swearing in new board members**

Karen Bailey, Deputy County Clerk, swore in Hugh Nicks and Nigel Morton.

**2. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair**

Commissioner Cruse nominated Stephanie Kohlhoff to serve as Board Chair. She accepted and the board voted to unanimously approve the selection.

Hugh Nicks was nominated to serve as Vice Chair. He accepted and the board voted to unanimously approve the selection.

**3. Review of Advisory Board Bylaws**

Karen Powell, Deputy County Counselor, stated that the bylaws were patterned after the Resolution creating the advisory board. They are necessary to give the board structure. The board will follow the Kansas Open Meetings Act and have public notice of meetings; County staff will manage this. A quorum of the board will be four members.

Nicks clarified that the purpose of the board was to advise Commissioner Cruse. Correct.

Commissioner Cruse added that each commissioner has a stipend for his or her advisory board.

Lonny Wright asked why the board was subject to KOMA. Powell replied that the board was created by the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners and, therefore, subject to

the law. Even if there is no quorum, members may convene but there will be no official minutes since it is not an official meeting.

Charlie Peaster asked who was taking minutes or notes of the meeting. County PIO Kate Flavin recorded minutes and County staff will take notes for all meetings.

Melody Miller noted that under item six of the bylaws, there was a limit on the speaker's time. Commissioner Cruse confirmed that she wanted to bring in speakers for the board and that was why Joan Tammany, COMCARE Executive Director, attended.

Nicks added that it may be nice to have a brief 10-minute update from the host location. Amy Renee Sellers from the Valley Center Chamber of Commerce attended for that purpose. Valley Center Council members Paul Davis and Ron Colbert attended.

Bill Ramsey asked about membership terms. It was in the Resolution, perhaps two years or until a member resigned or a Commissioner no longer held office.

Miller wanted to confirm the number of meetings a board member could miss and remain in good standing. It was not in the bylaws.

Nigel Morton moved to amend item five to include a two-year term limit; seconded by Nicks. The board approved the motion.

Before the bylaws are formally approved, Powell will provide follow-up information for the board.

Morton moved to rescind the motion; seconded by Nicks. The board approved the motion to rescind the action.

The board will formally approve the bylaws at the next meeting.

#### **4. Conversation with Joan Tammany**

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month; one in five individuals will experience a mental health issue in his or her lifetime. There is help and it's important to talk about it, Tammany said. She stressed that it's important to be aware, alert, and active about people who need help or talk about suicide. Sedgwick County is seeing an increase of death by suicide at all ages. In 2018, Sedgwick County lost 99 people to suicide.

Commissioner Cruse added that she would like to see a youth-led group or something for peer support. Tammany replied that she had read of a suicide of a five-year-old child due to stress in the family.

Brandon Findley asked if there was a phone number like 2-1-1 or 3-1-1 that could be utilized and more easily remembered. Tammany said she will review that request.

Kent Rowe thought that school massacres influence suicides since there was no long-term support.

Miller commented about recent suicides at Southeast High School (SEHS) and the Adult Detention (ADF) and asked what services were available. Tammany replied that ADF contracts with Well Path for services. Schools focus on academic and individual plans. The Legislature created a partnership pilot program in various areas across the state. Wichita Public Schools and COMCARE were selected to participate. She hoped the State would have expanded the program, but it will stay status quo for this year.

She said for every death there is a potential ripple effect of 115 people impacted. Forums and actively talking about mental health issues do change communities. Talking and reaching out to help people does make a difference, she said.

Recently there was a public showing of a documentary about Kevin Hines' suicide attempt on the Golden Gate Bridge. It highlighted the importance to connect on a human level. When other youth are affected by a youth suicide death it can compel them to act.

COMCARE Community Partners recently held a yard sale to support the organization, and on May 18 there will be an art show by youth at Old Cowtown Museum.

Morton asked if there was any support for LGBT youth. Tammany confirmed that there is not yet a group-based therapy but staff provides support at an individual level. Friends of the youth at SEHS have stepped up and they want to support LGBT youth.

Commissioner Cruse asked Tammany to discuss her decision package for the 2020 budget. She wants to develop a mobile unit to reach clients who are not willing or able to come in for services. Jennifer Connelly asked how information can get back to Commissioners. Tammany replied that residents can comment in an online public forum or in person at a public hearing.

Peaster asked how many people took advantage of a pre-cancer screening test. Tammany clarified that Sedgwick County was not involved in that event.

## **5. Board topics**

Commissioner Cruse asked what other topics board members are interested in related to Sedgwick County. She added that the District Attorney recently stated that at any given time, 25 percent of his office's cases were drug-related; of those, 11 percent were meth-related. This year, however, 14 percent of cases were related to meth.

Kent Rowe installed solar panels at Coleman Middle School recently. He and Jennifer Connelly were very interested in solar energy. Commissioner Cruse added that perhaps the advisory board could tour Maize High School in September to review its solar operations. The group might hold a conversation about Environmental Resources.

Wright added that the board may be interested in property appraisals.

**6. Other**

Council member Paul Davis stated he would be willing to serve on the board as a Valley Center resident.

Commissioner Cruse emphasized wanting to share positive stories and flood social media with positive content. She planned to share more at her Main Street Coffee on Friday, May 17.

Sellers shared upcoming events in Valley Center: a race for a local youth fighting cancer, the pie auction will happen this fall for the community foundation, and 66 new businesses joined the Chamber of Commerce over the past year and a half.

Nicks added that volunteers planted pots and baskets along Douglas in Wichita.

Nicks moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Morton. It was unanimously approved.

**Next Meetings**

- June 10 – Fairmount Coffee – 3815 E. 17<sup>th</sup> St. North
- July 8 – Park City Senior Center – 6100 N. Hydraulic