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District 4 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
6 p.m.

Maize Career Academy
11700 W. 45th St. North

Board members in attendance: Maggie Ballard, Paul Davis III, Philip Fraser, Stephanie Kohlhoff, Hugh Nicks, Denise Romero

Chairwoman Kohlhoff called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Before agenda items began, Commissioner Cruse handed her new informational brochure out to board members, and asked for any additions or edits. She explained the document would be placed in coffee shops and other businesses to let residents know about County services. She went on to say she would be touring the Kansas Humane Society on October 4, if any board members would like to join her, and reminded everyone tours of County facilities could be scheduled for them. Paul Davis asked to tour the Extension Center.

1. An Update on EMS Operations

Commissioner Cruse introduced Dr. John Gallagher, the Sedgwick County Medical Director and the new Director of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Dr. Gallagher delved into the recent merging of EMS and the Office of the Medical Director (OMD), highlighting the process of consolidation, and the reasons behind it.

Dr. Gallagher explained that EMS and OMD share many of the same goals-- and challenges-- including delivery models. Merging the two departments presented opportunities to reduce redundant work, improve communication and enhance partnerships in the system. Since becoming Director of OMD, he has provided clinical oversight for nearly 1,000 EMS providers.

County leadership conducted months of analytical work before making the decision to integrate and incorporated a full review of EMS operations. The EMS operational review was driven by changing community needs related to the delivery of emergency and nonemergency healthcare. Currently, many local EMS systems focus on a reactive response to critical emergencies, but data has shown residents increasingly call 911 for less serious or chronic health problems.

By bringing the two departments together, Dr. Gallagher said they could remain patient-focused, but also integrate more sound business practices. He went on to say that any successful emergency services operation has to have good clinical medicine, effective operation policies, and efficient business strategies. “You have to have all three or they all fail.”

Though it was politically challenging, Cruse said she was a vocal advocate for the consolidation. “Some people in the organization were adamant we stick with the old system,” she said.

Chairwoman Kohlhoff asked Gallagher if there were other physician-led models around the country. He said that Wade County, North Carolina and the city of Indianapolis, Indiana have successful physician-led EMS departments and both were consulted heavily during the analysis process.

Hugh Nicks asked about the average response time for an emergency call. Gallagher explained that calls are prioritized as they come in and that some calls are more urgent than others. He compared a call for a sprained ankle to a call for a drowning child.

Gallagher was asked by Philip Frazer how the EMS employees benefit from the new model. He explained that the paramedics are granted certification and admittance privileges when working directly under an MD. Gallagher then went into his background, noting he is dual-board certified in Emergency Medicine and EMS Medicine. He spends about 20% of his work time in local emergency rooms, which not only keeps his clinical skills up-to-date, but also allows him to build relationships with hospitals. Gallagher also relies on content experts to keep the department operational. “I don’t know the ins-and-outs of billing but I have some very good people who do.”

Chairwoman Kohlhoff asked Commissioner Cruse why she supported the EMS and OMD merger. “I listened to EMS and I listened to leadership,” she said. Cruse also said she tried to act as a mediator for the departments and resolve any conflicts that came up. Maggie Ballard asked Gallagher to build on that and describe how he is handling conflict. He said he is managing expectations by focusing on the future instead of the past and he is making efforts to engage more with frontline staff. Commissioner Cruse commended Dr. Gallagher for reaching out to people who are not “fans” of his ideas.

Dr. Gallagher ended his presentation by saying he’s excited to be trying something different and residents will not experience any loss of service.

2. Review of Maize Career Academy and tour of facility

Dr. Shelia Rathbun, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education at Maize Career Academy, led board members on a tour of the facility. Since opening in January

of 2018, the program has seen substantial student enrollment, and currently has 850 students across the different programs. Classes are taught by in-house faculty, along with instructors from Wichita State University TECH and Butler Community College.

Highlights of the tour included:

- The Health Science Labs
 - Health Science is the most popular pathway, with 125 current students.
 - Sixty students will have certified nursing certificates when they graduate.
 - The program offers five college credit hours in Anatomy and Physiology.
 - Students must apply for the Health Science program and must have completed several science and biology courses.

- The Broadcasting Studio
 - The Broadcasting pathway has grown to capacity.
 - Students create a daily news program.

- The Robotics Lab
 - The Robotics pathway has also grown to capacity.
 - Due to material costs, this is the most expensive pathway.
 - Students compete in state and national contests.

- The Engineering Labs
 - Students are mentored by local engineers from Spirit.
 - The Aerospace Engineering students are currently building an airplane.
 - College credit offered through Wichita State and WSU TECH.

- The Culinary Art Kitchens
 - The facility offers a specialized baking kitchen.
 - State laws prevent the school from selling any of the food that's made.

- The Graphic Design Lab
 - Students work on hardware and use software that would be found in professional art studios.
 - Packaging for mock products is created by students.

Dr. Rathbun said she hopes to further invest in the Agricultural program by starting a community garden. An IT and Computer Science program is also planned for the future.

3. Meeting Minutes from August 12

Philip Fraser made a motion to approve the August 12 minutes without any amendments and was seconded by Paul Davis.

The vote passed unanimously.

4. Other

Commissioner Cruse announced the October Advisory Board meeting will include a presentation about the Wichita Riverbank Mastery Plan and an overview of the County's new Strategic Plan. She will also review her economic development trip with the Board of County Commissioners and members of the Greater Wichita Partnership to San Antonio.

Chairwoman Kohlhoff adjourned the meeting at 7:23.

Next Meetings

- October 14 – McAdams Recreation Center – Club Room – 1329 E. 13th St. N.
- November 12 – McAdams Recreation Center – Club Room – 1329 E. 13th St. N.