



*Sedgwick County...
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District 4 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting
Agenda

Monday, July 13, 2020
6 p.m.

WebEx Online Meeting
Virtually

Board members in attendance: Nick Day, Nalini Fraser, Philip Fraser, Stephanie Kohlhoff, Madison Shriner

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Fraser called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Meeting Minutes from March 9

After reviewing the June minutes, Nalini Fraser made a motion to approve the minutes with an amendment that she was in attendance, the June minutes did not have her present. This motion was seconded by Philip Fraser, with the amendment that Nalini Fraser was in attendance. The motion passed unanimously.

3. CARES Funding

To preface the discussion about CARES Funding, Commissioner Cruse gave a brief introduction then introduced Lindsay Poe Rousseau, Sedgwick County CFO who communicated that the purpose of this discussion is to better understand what the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") is and how the CARES Act funding will be used and how it will be determined who receives the CARES Act funding.

Rousseau explains that back in April Sedgwick County received funds directly from the Federal Government from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") this is also the same bill that individuals received their economic stimulus funding from and federal unemployment insurance.

Rousseau states that the state of Kansas received \$1 billion dollars in funding from the Federal Government and three local governments, including Sedgwick County received money directly from the Federal Government. Sedgwick County received \$99.6 million dollars directly and Johnson County received \$117 million dollars. Initially the funding was intended to be used for propping up governments because they were bearing a lot of the costs for Emergency Management, Health Departments, and Community Mental Health Centers. Secondly, the funds from the federal government were also intended that Sedgwick County pass along that funding to other entities in Sedgwick County and surrounding cities to help subsidize their expenses as well.

Over time there has been seven different rounds of guidance that has come from the Federal Government that has changed the rules of how the CARES Act funding can be used. There are three basic requirements that Sedgwick County has to follow in order to spend the Federal CARES Act money. The first requirement is that the purchase must be a necessary COVID-19 related expense, the second requirement is that the funds must be incurred or spent between March 1st and December 30th of 2020, and lastly the CARES Act funds cannot be included in the 2020 Budget for Sedgwick County.

With the allocation of \$99.6 million dollars Sedgwick County had to figure out the best way to allocate the funding under the rules that has been given by the Federal Government. A month ago Sedgwick County put out a notice for funding opportunity, which would allow certain businesses to fill out a form explaining their needs for funding. In total there were 131 responses from the community totaling \$66 million dollars. Just within Sedgwick County alone we believe we have more than \$60 million dollars in expenses. Throughout this processes we have learned that there are more needs in the community than we have the capacity to fix. What that means is, the Commission has to prioritize the CARES Act dollars and explore places where there aren't many opportunities verses larger entities that have different access to funds like a hospital.

Sedgwick County has been engaging with a company called Witt O'Brien who has been helping make sure we are documenting all expenses, making sure businesses are eligible or not, and making sure that Sedgwick County and other recipients are in compliant with all rules and regulations of the Federal Government. Witt O'Brien has also been helping Sedgwick County develop a spending plan, which has been adopted by the Commission last week.

With the spending plan Sedgwick County has allocated \$99.6 million dollars and is expecting another \$9.3 million dollars from the state of Kansas and their allocation associated with the very high unemployment in Sedgwick County, called impact funding. In the spending plan \$60.5 million dollars is allocated to Sedgwick County Government of that the single largest portion is for testing and contract tracing because what we understand from businesses and school districts are that we need to know who is healthy and who is not in our community. Another big priority that Sedgwick County allocated funds for is the District Courts. Traffic court is currently being held in the front lawns of the main courthouse.

Commissioner Cruse wanted to point out the fact that although there is a plan for the funds, there is still time to shift those funds around. Commissioner Cruse would like to get Lindsay Poe Rousseau's feedback on funding for the court system – "is there any kind of tickets that we could get ride off? If \$6 million dollars is all we have, what can we allocate that money towards?" Commissioner Cruse asks for the Board's thoughts and feedback on where this extra money could go. Commissioner Cruse clarifies her question by asking if there is amnesty for certain low level crimes or tickets, should we advocate for that so there is less money going towards the courts. Nalini Fraser asks Commissioner Cruse, "By giving the amnesty, we're lowering the burden on the courts so that we're not having to allocate that money from the spending plan?" Commissioner Cruse states that is exactly what she is getting at, she is unsure if this is possible, but this something that we can consider in the middle of a pandemic and questions that we can ask those who are in charge of the courts. Stephanie Kohlhoff asked Commissioner Cruse if she knows of any other local governments who are practicing amnesty on low level crimes during this time. Commissioner Cruse and Poe Rousseau are unsure, Poe Rousseau states that there are a number of resources to go out and do a research project on to try and get that answer.

Zach Day asks Commissioner Cruse if she is "suggesting traffic fines or just low level crimes all across the board. Normally for a first offense you may a court appearance or pay a fine". Mr. Day believes fines versus court appearances would be best. Commissioner Cruse states that she would like to reduce the burden on our court system, whatever can be done.

Poe Rousseau is now explaining the spending plan spreadsheet. Everything on the spreadsheet for Sedgwick County. Each category is something that Sedgwick County has identified as a need, and this form determines how much PPE needs to be purchased across Sedgwick County Government. We intend to go after the FEMA reimbursement to try and subsidize our cost as much as possible. Recently the treasury told us that we can use the CARES Act funds for reimbursement, which will alleviate a huge burden off of Sedgwick County's Budget because of the economic impact. The next category is payroll cost which is at 13.5 million, which is dedicated to three areas of budget and that is the Health Department, Emergency Management, and COMCARE Crisis.

The next big cost is in court programs, Commissioner Cruse has a lot of good ideas for this area of expense, but there is also the civil side of the court that has to be addressed. This also deals with the downstream effect of criminal cases, because if inmates aren't going through the system then they are sitting in the jails longer which cost money for medical, food, and cleaning/sanitizing services, not including sheriff and ambulance cleaning and sanitizing services.

Public health testing and contact tracing is the biggest bulk, testing is going to be a key in keeping our community safe and economy open. Commissioner Cruse states that

Sedgwick County are considering different options for testing (saliva and nose). There has been \$4 million dollars spent on EMS and Public Health response for additional essential health care equipment. As of now that is how the County plans to spend its money unless something else changes.

Poe Rousseau is now explaining the details of the individual programs, which includes 20 cities and out of the 20 cities 13 responded with the largest city being the city of Wichita. When assessing the needs of all 13 cities we came up with the grand total of \$10.1 million dollars of needs for those 13 cities. We are going to allocate those funds based on population, like the CARES funding was allocated on local government population.

Looking at the next category, public health: Sedgwick County has allocated \$6.5 million dollars for those needs. The biggest portion of that was the senior care. The nursing homes seem to have the biggest and most clusters in Sedgwick County. Also in this category is the public health care initiative and healthcare providers, which is currently what we are working through to refine now.

Moving forward to social services providers, something that Sedgwick County has seen a lot of during the notice of funding opportunity is the vulnerable population. Minority communities are having a dispersed impact through COVID-19 and that is something that we want to make sure we have good communication strategies, funding, good response efforts, and PPE for the vulnerable communities. Next in the social services population would be mental health outside of COMCARE. Mental health organizations are trying to provide services in a different way than they ever have before because of COVID-19.

Looking at educational institutions, which has been a challenge. Through the notice of funding opportunity we received more than 29 million dollars for educational institutions. Most of the funds were related to distance learning and then a third of those funds are tied to PPE. Commissioner Cruse asks Poe Rousseau if it is possible to see how much money the educational institutions has received? Was there anything that went directly to the schools from the Federal Government? Poe Rousseau states she does not know if any funds went directly to the schools, but funds did go to the State Department of Education per population. Commissioner Cruse states that it would be nice to know what schools got, Poe Rousseau states she could tell what USD259 – Wichita got. USD259 received \$17.9 million dollars and it is ESSER Funding, Poe Rousseau states she was going to have to research what that acronym stood for. Valley Center School district received \$235,000 dollars, Poe Rousseau states that she would research if they received a smaller amount based off of their smaller population.

Commissioner Cruse states that the schools in our communities are vastly underfunded and the last thing she wants is for the teachers in our communities to feel like they don't have everything they need in order to do their job. There will be a lot of exposure in the school system and we need to make sure that we are protecting the school system.

Nalini Fraser asks a question regarding educational institutions, “is this just looking at K-12 schools?” Poe Rousseau states that the way this is designed right now, yes. The reason for that is because post-secondary institutions are receiving separate funding also. The state of Kansas also said that it will be local government’s responsibility to pass along funding for grades K-12 and Sedgwick County is going to do that to some degree, but we also recognize that the state has a responsibility as a state institution that provides state funding. We think that there is a role for them to step in and play with that to make sure that it is equitable across all 105 counties.

Commissioner Cruse asks how many school district fall within Sedgwick County? Poe Rousseau answers by saying there are 20 school districts that cross into Sedgwick County lines, but only 10 of them we were able to go through and identify their physical address.

Zach Day has a question regarding funding, “with these applications for the cities, is this something that is pre-approved or is there a process that the application will go through in order to be approved?” Poe Rousseau answers by stating that initially a needs assessment was created in order to create the spending plan, so what we decided that we’re going to do based on commissioner approval is allocate funds based off of city population. After all audits come back, Sedgwick County for cities only is 50% of the allocation as a direct payment initially and then once documentation is provided that all those funds were spent, then we’ll go into a reimbursement basis were we will continue to take applications and reimburse.

Switching back to the spending plan – next we have the reserve section. What we know is that we don’t know a lot of information. We are hoping to have amount set aside for discretionary needs, but unfortunately after trying to address those needs we were left with \$2 million dollars. We also have set aside a reserve for \$10 million dollars that will continue to get smaller as we progress through the pandemic and we start realize we don’t need to hold that much back, but that will be the source where those funds come from. We do have to have commitment for expenses on the book by December 30th 2020. Originally guidance said that the money had to be gone by that date, but they have since changed guidance and now we just have to have the contract in place and service rendered by December 30th 2020, but then we still have 90 days after that before have to process the invoices.

The final section, is the economic revitalization which is the \$9.3 million dollars in state funding. We have not yet recommended to the commission on how to spend these funds, but do intend to put out a survey this week to try and understand through the businesses community what their needs are. What is going to be the most meaningful way to spend these funds? Unfortunately we are not allowed to use these funds for revenue replacement.

Poe Rousseau asks if there are any additional questions. Nalini Fraser asks “where can the draft for the allocation be found?” Poe Rousseau states that there is a banner being made to go on the front of the Sedgwick County website and that’s where those documents can be found. She also states that we are doing everything we can to make this process user friendly.

Commissioner Cruse thanks Poe Rousseau for all the hard work that she and her team has done putting this spreadsheet together. No one else at this time has anything else for Poe Rousseau which concludes the discussion of CARES Funding.

4. Other

Madison Shriner states that she has been noticing the signs and was wondering how the process was going. Commissioner Cruse asks for clarification about whether Madison is referring to the advertising that Sedgwick County has been doing or the “You Matter” signs. Madison states that she is referring to the “You Matter” signs. Commissioner Cruse states that she has a lot left, and has raised money for a second batch and asked the board if they wanted more to give away. Nalini asks Commissioner Cruse if she is still fundraising for the signs, and Commissioner Cruse states that if she raises more money, then she will get more signs if not then she will give the remainder of the signs away.

Commissioner Cruse states that another thing she wanted to discuss was there district advisory board fund. They have been saving money since they have not been renting spaces for meetings, but there are some good causes that their advisory board can donate to. Commissioner Cruse mentions that Dunbar Theater has asked for a donation and there are several other organizations that they can contribute to.

Madison Shriner asks if the board does not spend the money this year will it roll over to their account for next year? Commissioner Cruse states that she is unsure if those funds will roll over or if they go back into the general fund.

Nalini Fraser asks that if the board did want to entertain the idea of donating to a cause in their district how they would go about doing that. Commissioner Cruse states that, that would be something the board could talk about amongst themselves, whatever the board wants to do.

Stephanie Kohlhoff asks Nalini if that could be something that the two of them email about and bring a couple of options back to the group? Nalini agreed to the suggestion from Stephanie.

Philip Fraser asked if that is something that needs to be on next meeting’s agenda or if it was too soon?

Commissioner Cruse again states that if it is something that the board is interested in than the board can bring it to the table and vote on it. Nalini asks if that is something that needs to go to Kate. Commissioner Cruse suggested that we could also send agenda ideas to Aneesa, since she is in charge of everything tonight. Aneesa agrees to accepting agenda items.

Nalini asks Commissioner Cruse if there is anything that she would like to have the boards input on. Commissioner Cruse states that “the budget is coming up and a couple of public hearings are coming up and in light of the Black Lives Matter protest and in light of discussion about defunding the police one thing that we are doing in our community is the ICT-1 program. The ICT-1 program consists of a paramedic, a social worker, and a police officer and they triage calls that come through our 911 service and our program is causing us to spend money because we’re not taking people to the emergency rooms or having them arrested. This program is helping our community in a way that is new, fresh, and innovative. The program is currently only running its program four days a week for 10 hours a day. A crisis can happen anytime throughout the day – so we need a 24/7 group. In order to do that we would need additional funding with the City of Wichita for a 24/7 team. It is not about defunding the police, it’s about finding innovative programs that help the people in need that are normally in contact with the police. The police force wear a lot of hats and if we can help them with this then why don’t we do that kind of thing? Given the budget shortfall with both the City and County there just is not a lot of money to support this full time. Understanding the program, being an advocate for helping people get the help they need, instead of going to jail or to the emergency room. ICT-1 is a really good starting point to help with this issue.”

Commissioner Cruse also states that Sedgwick County is doing an environmental study, so we are buying into a windfarm in Oklahoma. The County is responsible for public health, public safety, and public works and that what we need to focus on. Innovative ways to do those three things is what I’m looking for to three things. Looking at different states to see what they’re doing.

Zach Day states that Commissioner Cruse opened his eyes in a whole new light when she spoke about defunding the police and ICT-1.

Nalini asks if there are any additional questions. Commissioner Cruse states that she would like to thank Aneesa for starting the meeting and sharing items. Commissioner Cruse also states that this meeting has been recorded and will be sent out and shared on social media for the public to get a better understanding on CARES Act funding. Commissioner Cruse tells the board to share the video, talk about masks, and she shares that it is alarming the number of patients in the hospital with Coronavirus. Commissioner Cruse states she is not okay with one person dying from COVID-19 and we need to do whatever we can to stop the spread.

Nalini states that she agrees with Commissioner Cruse's comments about COVID-19 and we need to do everything possible to promote awareness and stop the spread.

Commissioner Cruse states that Denise Romero and Maggie Billard will no longer be attending meetings and if the board has any suggestions for new members to reach out.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m. after a roll call. Madison Shriner moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Zach Day.

Next Meeting

- August 10- Details to be determined