

**Wichita/Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board**  
**Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Envision Basement Conference Room, 610 N. Main**  
**10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Voting Members Present**

Raven Alexander	Michael Fowler	Shea Hanson	Gary Janzen
Dorsha Kirksey	Crissy Magee	Dee Nighswonger	Jayne Otis
David Pracht	Craig Perbeck	Rick Rader	Chris Rea
Clark Stevens	Lisa Vayda	Dr. David Waldie	Steven Walters

**Voting Members Absent**

Dr. Elvia Barraza	Sean Beebe	Dave Calvert	Nancy Duling
Brian Held	Ed Koon	Grady Landrum	Tiffany Nickle
Brian Powers	Randy Roebuck	Ronald Tracy	

**City/County Staff Present (Non-Voting Members)**

Taben Azad	Jay Hinkel	Migwi Karugu	Jane Link
------------	------------	--------------	-----------

I. Welcome, Announcements & Introductions – Craig Perbeck

Craig opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance. All in attendance introduced themselves and which organization, city council, or county commissioner they represent.

Craig Perbeck: National ADA Symposium will be in Kansas City. A little expensive, has a wealth of courses and sessions. Some of those courses can only be done at that event.

II. Meeting Minutes

A. January 2020 meeting minutes. Motion made by Dorsha Kirksey and seconded by Gary Janzen. Passed unanimously

III. Committee Updates

A. Transit

Dorsha Kirksey: Transit board had a presentation by TransLoc to do a 6-month pilot on their West side transit. It will be a micro-transit model; all rides will be in that feeder area, an Uber/Lyft model. Will also allow veterans to ride for free; a one year program.

Raven Alexander: The first round of electric buses is now on route. Micro-transit is similar to Uber, but replacing that West side feeder. Can use an app or call in. More information will be pushed out. Will also publicize the ID's that will be accepted for that.

Lisa Vayda: Is the micro program for anyone?

Raven Alexander: In that specific area. The vehicle is accessible, even if they are on para-transit, they are eligible to ride. Anyone is able to use that service

Craig Perbeck: In that region, if I normally ride para-transit, I can now do micro-transit and pay the fixed route cost?

Raven Alexander: That cost is \$2.50 I believe.

Jay Hinkel: Micro-transit is a shared ride system.

## B. Building

Gary Janzen: I didn't come with a date today, but I will get back to you on this. The original goal was March 15<sup>th</sup>, but I will get a date soon.

Craig Perbeck: Are there any new building updates with the City or County?

Gary Janzen: Trying to finalize the site for the new transit facility, west of stadium and west of Sycamore.

## IV. New Business

### A. SCDDO Transportation Study – Dr. Melissa Walker

Dee Nighswonger: In 2019, the SCDDO contracted with the Hugo Wall School to look at our transportation capacity for individuals with barriers. They are here to present some of those results.

Dr. Melissa Walker: I want to welcome Michelle DeHaven involved with this study. You have a short brochure and executive summary in front of you. Our concern is individuals who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Michelle DeHaven: Our first step with these gaps were to talk to people such as executive directors, transportation directors, case managers, people employed by transportation agencies. We spoke to people who experience those barriers. 14 agencies, 53 staff, and 22 persons served. We also looked at data provided by the SCDDO.

Dr. Melissa Walker: 8 out of every 10 served by the agencies needs some sort of cognitive support to use public transportation. That is one indicator for cognitive support. There are a lot of services already available, a para-transit service from the city. The federal transportation agency doesn't allow the city to increase the number of people served. The need outstrips the available services, including transportation services by agencies. The largest providers in the county are Starkey, KETCH, and also CPRF.

Michelle DeHaven: The first map here is taken by the agencies themselves for when they record their boundaries. The majority of destinations were to a medical facility of some sort to access medical care.

Dr. Melissa Walker: We want to begin a conversation to provide transportation for persons who experience IDD's.

Dorsha Kirksey: We're looking to expand to other regions by coordinating with other counties.

Lisa Vayda: What about children during off hours or after school?

Dee Nighswonger: What I think is missing is participating in community life outside of formal services. That's where we see the biggest issues, limits to access community life opportunities. We want to promote quality of life for people with IDD's.

Lisa Vayda: The map shows 67002, which is Butler County.

Dee Nighswonger: Some of those are people who live there, but because of the limitations, they choose to receive the resources in Sedgwick County.

Craig Perbeck: It's very limited in Butler County with the resources they provide.

Dee Nighswonger: 8 out of 10, cannot through limitations of their own capacity, cannot participate in fixed route transportation, they need additional support. A lot of people with disability related behavior or needs that cannot be met with a driver of a para-transit bus and can't meet the needs of people.

Dr. Melissa Walker: The agencies that serve this population are mostly reimbursed by Medicaid.

Dee Nighswonger: That is only a value to members that chose that plan and it's limited to a certain number of outings. They do not have to have the waiver. The waiver does cover

non-emergency medical transportation but no other type of transportation. While we can talk about the possibility of advocating transportation, it's still a limited number of dollars for waiver services. It's how the MCO authorizes you to use that benefit.

David Pracht: Being able to get out on the weekends, I find it hard to ride the city bus. I've actually been told I can't ride the city bus.

Dee Nighswonger: I've had a good conversation with Mike Tann on what we can potentially do to be more creative. We just need folks to be aware of the problem and lean into the problem to figure out a solution.

Lisa Vayda: What about using private businesses and churches, giving them a small amount of funding?

Dee Nighswonger: Funding is a huge issue, what we've seen is that available funding has changed. When you have a limited income, it's even difficult to pay \$2.50 each way for a ride.

Dr. Melissa Walker: There needs to be a task force of people to generate ideas like this and how different entities can coordinate services.

Michelle DeHaven: Some of regional systems have a patchwork approach, a combination of agencies, volunteers, and etc. to come together to find out where those gaps are.

Dee Nighswonger: I think it's important to think of people and their potential to work.

Dr. Melissa Walker: We looked at other states, in Texas for example, they use a brokerage model to arrange rides and connects individuals who need those rides.

Dee Nighswonger: What unique contribution can the Access Advisory Board make to this conversation? Would this be a subject for an ad-hoc committee?

Steven Walters: I have some teammates that I play with in Special Olympics, I know that if they have to go to Andover, they are charged extra for a sporting event. These kids are on a fixed income.

Craig Perbeck: We can do a letter of support. This group was set up originally as a result of a settlement from the City of Wichita, over the years has changed its focus.

Dee Nighswonger: Perhaps there would be a representative willing to engage and continue the conversation.

Lisa Vayda: Dr. Golden at WSU has put out a proposal on the convergence of departments. I'm at the economic department and am willing.

Craig Perbeck: Depending on the meeting times, I would be interested in being involved.

Dr. David Waldie: Most of us would think that fixed transit should be improved dramatically. But where's the money?

Dee Nighswonger: I would agree. We're trying to get a different coalition of concerned stakeholders to look at this in a different way that we have before.

Craig Perbeck: It's really about who is that champion with that pull in the community.

Michelle DeHaven: Some of the caregivers have said that they are happy to advocate, but would like to know what to advocate for specifically rather than a vague idea.

## B. AIRA – Jane Link

Jane Link: AIRA is supported by a nonprofit foundation. It is to help empower individuals with low vision. The city and county are possibly looking at coordinating a joint effort to bring AIRA to the area. We have a few videos that demonstrate how AIRA works that we want to show the group. Andrew brought a representative from AIRA to show a demonstration to us and Commissioner David Dennis a few months ago.

Andrew Crane: I demonstrated how I call up an AIRA agent who described the room to me. Michael demonstrated AIRA access that the agent can help with in several areas.

Jane Link: The agent had extensive training and was able to help Andrew with the room. The City of Wichita has it at the airport, which was paid for and provided for by Envision. We were exploring covering the Courthouse, Munger, and other buildings.

Clark Stevens: We have AIRA here as well.

Jane Link: What we hope is that blind and low vision individuals can come and conduct their business here at City Hall and the County Courthouse. Being able to register to vote particularly would be great. We wanted to get input from you all and we'll go back and visit our leadership.

Dee Nighswonger: Is it contracted by building or geographical location? SCDDO is right across the street for example. We can include that building and the parking garage for example.

Gary Janzen: It's a geo-fenced area; you can technically geo-fence the entire city. More area is more cost of course.

Jay Hinkel: What is the cost?

Jane Link: The original contract with just the Reagan building, Munger, Main Courthouse, and Historic Courthouse, will be \$5000 for a year with unlimited minutes. We were going to see if we can each pay \$4000 and include more. They're trying to shift the costs more to the businesses themselves.

Jay Hinkel: I've received the report from the airport, and it's essentially no usage.

Jane Link: I see the ability to use the website a huge benefit.

Dee Nighswonger: Is the utilization connected at all to the availability of the public's knowledge that it exists, a public awareness campaign?

Clark Stevens: Do most folks who need it, know about it?

Andrew Crane: It is up at Wichita State. A lot of the blind community does know about it. They have it up on their website and it is in their program screen.

Clark Stevens: We'd love to be a part of the conversation as well.

Jay Hinkel: Once someone enters a geo-fence, you will get a notification on your phone that lets you know that you have entered such zone. I would attribute the lack of usage is the specific functionality of the airport.

Jane Link: I just think for people who come for jury duty and etc., it might be worth exploring. We'll explore more and see what we can come up with.

## V. Old Business

## VI. Adjourn

The next meeting of the Wichita/Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Envision basement conference room, 610 N. Main.