



District 2 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 11, 2023 | 5:30 p.m.
Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center
1109 N Minneapolis St, Wichita, KS 67214

Board Members in Attendance: Spencer Dean, Martha Pint, Tabitha Lehman, Ashlie Brockleman, Jessica Atherton, Tony Martinez, Gage Hunt, Lupe Montes

County Representatives: Commissioner Sarah Lopez, Regional Forensic Science Center Director, Dr. Shelly Steadman

1. Call to Order:
 - a. Martha Pints called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.
2. Roll Call Vote:
 - a. Board members identified themselves by saying, "Here."
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Tabitha Lehman made a motion to approve the June 13 meeting minutes. Gage Hunt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Public Agenda:
 - a. No public comment here.
5. New Business:
 - a. Gage Hunt nominated Tony Martinez to be Vice Chair of the District 2 Citizens Advisory Board. Tabitha Lehman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
6. Discussion of Future Agenda Items by Stephanie Birmingham, Strategic Communications
 - a. The Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) is conducting three separate surveys for its Metropolitan Transportation Plan and asked CAB members to participate. Stephanie passed out handouts with details on how to access the surveys.
 - b. Next month's scheduled tour of Sedgwick County Fire District 1 station #32 was postponed until October so we can have a review of the 2024 Recommended Budget by Sedgwick County's Chief Financial Officer, Lindsay Poe Rousseau. The Aug. 8 meeting will be held at the Haysville Community Library.
 - c. The Sept. 12 CAB meeting will feature COMCARE Director of Crisis Services, Jennifer Wilson. We will meet at Ark Valley Lodge, 615 N. Main, for a brief meeting and then tour COMCARE's Community Crisis Center, 635 N. Main.
 - d. For the Nov. 14 meeting, Stephanie is working to set up a possible tour of the Sedgwick County Zoo or the non-profit, Giving the Basics.
 - e. For the Dec. 12 meeting, Stephanie plans to invite Sedgwick County Election Commissioner, Laura Rainwater, to speak about the 2023 Primary and General Elections.
7. Other Business
 - a. Commissioner Sarah Lopez gave an update on the Salem Township Trustee position and said candidate interviews will begin soon.
 - b. Commissioner Lopez announced the appointment of new CAB member, Cheryln Hill, was approved, and she will attend the next meeting.
8. Tour of Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center by Director, Dr. Shelly Steadman
 - a. SCRFSC was built in 1995 under the leadership of Dr. Corrie May.

- b. It's unusual to have a crime lab and coroner's office under one roof.
- c. A medical examiner is available 24/7 to aid in the identification of a body and to determine the cause of death.
- d. Autopsies are usually done within a day after a body is brought in. 1,200 are done each year for cases in Sedgwick County and contiguous counties.
- e. As a regional forensic science center, work done for other counties generates \$500,000 to \$1 million each year.
- f. The coroner's staff has six medical investigators and one temporary investigator through December 2023.
- g. The crime lab has six forensic scientists who handle DNA testing, drug testing, sexual assault tests and ballistics.
- h. SCRFSC is building a new DNA addition in the near future.
- i. The ballistics lab has the largest firearm collection in Kansas.
- j. Spencer Dean asked, how long do you keep weapons? Dr. Steadman said forever. And when police seize guns, they check if there are any models the ballistics lab doesn't have yet.
- k. Lupe Montes asked, where are firearm examiners trained? Dr. Steadman said they are trained here in Wichita, but they are also sent to ammunition and gun manufacturing sites for more training. The entire process takes two years.
- l. There is a special room for TB, COVID and other infectious disease testing.
- m. More than 1,200 drug cases are backlogged, waiting for testing.
- n. Lupe Montes asked why Sedgwick County has trouble retaining employees? Dr. Steadman said the pay is not competitive. A chemist recently left to become a manager at Sam's Club. SCRFSC has had a vacancy for a pathologist for two years.
- o. Lupe Montes asked why Sedgwick County doesn't pay better? Dr. Steadman said past commissioners wanted lower taxes at the expense of staff. The current BoCC has raised salaries, but it takes time to catch up to competitive levels.
- p. Spencer Dean asked if SCRFSC provides counseling to employees exposed to death, grief and a high stress job? Dr. Steadman said yes, group therapy is offered, but many workers do not participate.

9. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.