

**South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital Advisory Panel**  
**Minutes**  
**January 8, 2024, 12:30-1:30 PM**  
**Held Via Zoom**

**Panel Members Attending**

Scott Brunner, Deputy Secretary of Hospitals and Facilities, KDADS  
Sarah Lopez, Sedgwick County Commissioner, 2nd District  
Claudio Ferraro, Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph  
Jason Gregory, Downtown Wichita  
Jeffrey Easter, Sheriff, Sedgwick County  
Joan Tammany, Director, COMCARE  
Mary Jones, Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas  
Tom Stolz, County Manager, Sedgwick County  
Senator Usha Reddi, 22nd District  
Representative Will Carpenter, 75th District

**Panel Member(s) not in attendance:**

Representative KC Ohaebosim, 89th District  
Representative Henry Helgerson, 83rd District  
LaTasha St. Arnault, President and CEO, HumanKind Ministries  
Marc Bennett, District Attorney, Sedgwick County

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Brunner called the meeting to order at 12:32 PM.

**II. Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2023, and December 18, 2023**

The motion to adopt the minutes was moved by Representative Carpenter and seconded by Mr. Easter.

**III. Review of Recommendations and Approval of Interim Report for Sedgwick County and Governor**

Monica Murnan from Learning Tree Institute at Greenbush presented updated recommendations for the Interim Report for consideration. Each recommendation was reviewed and discussed. The following recommendations were adopted via consensus.

*Recommendation: Expand the number of psychiatric beds from 50 to 100.*

Chairperson Brunner will provide estimates for the additional costs to the Legislature and Governor's Office. The panel approved the recommendation without changes.

*Recommendation: Update Executive Order 23-05 to move the final report due date from June 30, 2024, to December 30, 2024.*

After some discussion and confirmation that the change to the report date would not affect the construction timeline, the panel agreed to keep the recommendation as is.

*Recommendation:* *Create subpanel, to provide a focused study on workforce development, coordination across service providers, and coordination across law enforcement.*

Ms. Tammany requested that judges and Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC)/Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) representation be added to the list of subpanel members. Mr. Ferrero suggested adding community healthcare providers to the subpanel as well. These groups were added to the recommendation.

*Recommendation:* *Establishing a catchment area for the South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital.*

Ms. Tammany recommended adding CCBHC to the list of potential subpanel members, and this change was accepted..

*Recommendation:* *On the operating model for the South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital, including proposed changes in statute which limit the ability to privatize operations of a state hospital.*

After some discussion about privatization, the panel agreed to keep the recommendation as is.

*Recommendation:* *Panel recommendations for statutory changes to the 2025 Legislature needed to open the South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital, enact changes needed to expand the behavioral health workforce, create a catchment area for the proposed state hospital, and update criteria for admission to a state hospital.*

Chairperson Brunner recommended adding recommendations to be presented to the 2024 Legislature along with the current legislature should any arise this session. After some discussion about the timing of the project, the panel accepted this addition be added to the report..

Mr. Ferraro had a question about the recommendation to move the final report date from June to December. Ms. Murnan indicated she felt that the report would not hold up progress and Chairperson Brunner added the additional time would likely help with the recommendations.

Representative Carpenter raised a concern about the timing of the Governor's recommendation regarding the location, asked when the Governor's Office would provide their recommendation, and made a motion that the Governor provide a response regarding the location of the hospital. Mr. Easter asked additional questions about the decision on the location and effect on timeline. Tania Cole provided an overview of the process and indicated that 30-45 days will be needed to finalize the contract. Mr. Stolz indicated that having an answer from the Governor on location was important to move forward. Chairperson Brunner recommended that the panel make a formal recommendation. Following discussion about the timing and notification of a decision on

location along with considerations of ARPA deadlines, Representative Carpenter amended his motion.

Representative Carpenter amended his initial motion to add that the Board of County Commissioners also be notified. The amended motion set forth was the Advisory Panel recommending that the Governor's Office make a recommendation on site location and make notification to the Board of County Commissioners and the Advisory Panel by January 18th, 2024. Mr. Stolz seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

Ms. Murnan asked if a motion was needed to accept the report, and Chairperson Brunner indicated that it was needed. Mr. Ferraro made a motion to accept the interim report with proposed edits. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

#### **IV. Subpanel Framework and Workplan**

Ms. Murnan requested members of the advisory panel to complete the subpanel survey. The link was sent again via email and placed in the Zoom chat. Chairperson Brunner asked the panel to provide their thoughts on the proposed work plan that was previously emailed and emphasized that all panel members respond to the survey.

#### **V. Adjourn**

Mr. Easter moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Gregory at 1:29 PM.