

South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital Advisory Panel

Agenda

February 21, 2025 1:00-3:00 PM

Remote only

<https://www.youtube.com/@ksdept.foragingdisabilitys6122/streams>

I. Call to Order

Scott Brunner, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS)

II. Approval of Minutes from January 17, 2025

Scott Brunner

III. Construction Update

Adam Crocker, Facilities Director, KDADS

IV. Project Updates

Iryna Yeromenko, Acting Superintendent

- Citizens Advisory Committee updates

Scott Brunner, Deputy Secretary

- Legislative Updates for 2025 Session

V. KDADS Youth Services and Supports

Taylor Bremer, Assistant Commissioner, Behavioral Health Services, KDADS

VI. Adjourn

South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital Advisory Panel

Minutes

January 17, 2025, 1:00-3:00 PM

Remote

Panel Members Attending

Scott Brunner, Chairperson and Deputy Secretary of Hospitals and Facilities, KDADS
Claudio Ferraro, President, Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph
Mary Jones, President and CEO, Mental Health America of South Central Kansas
Sarah Lopez, Vice-Chairperson and Sedgwick County Commissioner, 2nd District
Joan Tammany, Director, COMCARE
Jason Gregory, Agent, InSite Real Estate Group
Tom Stolz, County Manager, Sedgwick County
Marc Bennett, District Attorney, Sedgwick County
LaTasha St. Arnault, Principal Advisor, Nonprofit Management L|S Nonprofit Solutions

Panel Members not in attendance:

Senator Usha Reddi, 22nd District
Representative KC Ohaebosim, 89th District
Representative Will Carpenter, 75th District
Representative Henry Helgerson, 83rd District
Jeffrey Easter, Sheriff, Sedgwick County

I. Call to Order

Brunner called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes from October 18, 2024 and December 20, 2024

Jones made the motion to approve both sets of minutes. Tammany seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

III. Construction Update

Tania Cole, Assistant County Manager, provided an overview of this week's contract kickoff meeting with the County, KDADS, Key Construction and Pulse Design Group. During the meeting, all key stakeholders reviewed the project's critical path, expanded list, and collapsed list details. Ms. Cole also presented a [color-coded, phased construction schedule](#), with work to commence next week and projected for completion by October 27, 2026.

Brunner announced that his team is working with the Governor's Office to finalize the hospital's name, mentioned that a groundbreaking ceremony is tentatively planned for March, contingent on the Governor's availability, and extended an invitation to all contributors to the project to attend.

IV. Project Updates

Brunner provided a legislative update, noting key progress and challenges for the hospital project. Recommendations include naming and establishing the hospital as a State agency to facilitate budget creation and operational structure, with the current draft of the bill designating it as the South Central Regional Mental Health Hospital. The bill will enter the legislative process next week through bill introduction in the House Health and Human Services Committee. The proposed legislation also addresses the five-county catchment area, allowing for flexibility based on data analysis of patient flow.

Brunner also indicated that the Governor's budget fully allocates funding for the hospital project. The Legislature is drafting a separate budget this session. Concerns include reallocating unspent funds from agency budgets and a legislative request for a 7.5% resource reduction proposal, which could impact future operations.

Brunner emphasized that construction funding remains secure, but ongoing advocacy will be needed to protect operational resources. Stakeholders are encouraged to support the project during legislative hearings, either through letters or testimony. Brunner reiterated the importance of collective efforts to secure the hospital's establishment and future sustainability.

V. Forming a Citizens Advisory Committee for the Hospital

Iryna Yeromenko, Acting Superintendent, proposed establishing a Citizen's Advisory Board to enhance community engagement and recommended creating a separate foundation with 501(c)(3) status to streamline charitable contributions to the hospital. Modeled after successful initiatives in Osawatomie and Larned, the Citizen's Advisory Board would provide strategic ideas, guidance, and feedback to hospital leadership while fostering collaboration among stakeholders to advance the hospital's mission.

Brunner outlined the goal of having the Citizen's Advisory Board and the foundation in place by March, with full operation by the facility's opening. Brunner also noted the support of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and highlighted the willingness of Joan Tammany, LaTasha St. Arnault, and Mary Jones to help with these efforts.

VI. Training options through the Behavioral Health Center of Excellence

Michelle Ponce from the Kansas Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (KBHCE) and the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas shared progress and long-term goals. Over the past 13 months, the organization has focused on addressing the behavioral health workforce shortage, particularly in preparation for staffing the new hospital in Wichita.

Key achievements and initiatives include:

1. Created an Advisory Council and Board with higher education and provider community representatives. The KBHCE wants to have a statewide and long-term impact in the state, beginning efforts in South Central Kansas. Workforce is the primary interest.
2. Secured \$5.8M in funding in the 2024 Legislative Session, allocated across three areas:
 - University of Kansas Wichita Campus: Funding to expand psychiatric residencies and establish an addiction and substance abuse fellowship.

- Wichita State University: Initiatives include a forensic psychology program, scholarships, paid practicums, and counseling programs.
 - Community and Technical Colleges: Allocated \$2.4M for nursing faculty retention.
3. Advocated for continued funding of \$5.8M in FY26 while pursuing strategies to reduce reliance on State funds by leveraging federal programs.

Ms. Ponce also detailed the Center's long-term goals of expanding psychiatrist residencies and retaining graduates within Kansas, Medicaid GME revisions to secure Federal matching funds for higher education programs, and researching policy changes, such as cross-discipline supervision, to reduce barriers for new graduates entering the workforce.

VII. Adjournment

Brunner discussed the upcoming February meeting. He indicated there will be a briefing on children's services, along with an update on justice-involved youth. If the Panel has other topics of interest, please let him know. Anticipated date is 3rd Friday of February, February 21st.

Brunner adjourned the meeting at 1:44 PM.