

**ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center**  
**1109 North Minneapolis Street, Wichita, Kansas 67214**

**May 15, 2025**

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**Board Members or Designated Attendees Present**

- Dr. Shelly Steadman, Director, Regional Forensic Science Center
- Aaron Breitenbach, District Attorney's Office
- Brad Crisp, Deputy Fire Chief, Sedgwick County Fire District #1
- Chris Dugan, Fire Marshal, Wichita Fire Department
- Ben Fisher, Assistant City Attorney, City of Wichita
- Dr. Stephanie Newbold, Director, WSU Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs
- Dr. Ron Varner, Coroner, 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

**Board Members Absent**

- Darrell Atterberry, Chief of Police, Bel Aire
- Jeffrey Easter, Sedgwick County Sheriff
- Dr. Timothy Gorrill, Sedgwick County Coroner
- Kevin Lanterman, Chief, Sedgwick County EMS
- Russell Leeds, Assistant County Manager
- Dr. Garold Minns, Dean, KU School of Medicine-Wichita
- Joe Sullivan, Chief, Wichita Police Department

**Attendees Present**

- Katie Asbury, Forensic Administrator, Regional Forensic Science Center

**AGENDA**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

**II. Introductions and Roll Call**

Moved introductions to after discussion of performance trends (section IV) to allow all participants to log in.

**III. File Minutes from the November 21, 2024 Meeting**

#### IV. RFSC Performance Metrics and Center Updates - OD2A

*Dr. Shelly Steadman*

##### Performance Metrics and Trends

- Medical Investigations
  - 4,110 reported deaths for 2024
  - 1,481 reported deaths to date for 2025
  - Number of autopsies have decreased slightly from 2023 to 2024
    - Trending downward for 2025 based on the monthly averages
  - 561 death scenes for 2024
  - 155 death scenes to date for 2025
- Pathology
  - 10% of work is out-of-county (15% in 2023)
  - Out-of-county cases have also trended downward, but we expect to add Riley County cases sometime this year
  - Suicides cases have stabilized (11%)
  - Overdose cases have decreased slightly from 2022
    - Overdoses accounted for 19% of the caseload (2024)
    - 64% of overdose cases involve detection of fentanyl
- Toxicology
  - Backlog
    - Toxicology backlog (15) is now more manageable (vs. 109 in April 2024)
  - HPT/DUI backlog cases have decreased from 2024, and the number of submissions remain stable from 2024
- Drug Identification
  - Backlog (495) is directly related to staffing challenges and training
  - Number of cases submitted has decreased; some cases still going to KBI
  - Drug ID fentanyl positive exhibits
    - Monthly averages are comparable, if not slightly higher, than 2024 but more cases are being processed this year vs. last
- Fire Debris
  - Training was completed in 2024 and testing is currently underway
  - 2 cases received to date in 2025 - no significant backlog
- Firearms
  - Have 2 fully-trained Firearms Examiners in-house
  - Firearms backlog (5) is a function of submission volume and in-house reviews
  - 174 firearms cases submitted in 2024 (twice as many cases per month as compared to 2022)
  - 62 firearms cases submitted to date in 2025
- Biology/DNA
  - Biology/DNA backlog (2) has decreased significantly
  - Biology/DNA case submissions have remained stable - 66 so far in 2025
  - Engaging with WPD about lower burglary submissions and could discuss

accepting more SAEKs here.

#### Quarterly Summary

- Number of deaths reported remaining stable, number of Coroner cases down slightly
- Both LC-MS/MS instrument validations continuing and we have exhausted Coverdell funded outsourcing for Tox
- Completed an RFP for QTOF instrument (Tox), expect installation in approximately 1 year
- CIP space study and cost estimate complete - legacy renovations for the Central Building have been submitted to facilities
- Staffing has remained fairly stable – attribute to compensation

#### OD2A Grant

- OD2A funded position is testing drugs and paraphernalia from scenes, as well as other illicit drug casework
- Medical Investigations have collected drugs and/or paraphernalia at 138 scenes since starting the project December 1, 2023
- Drug paraphernalia testing is caught up (822 items)
- Began data sharing with CDC as pilot for developing data coding processes - now all participants are sharing data
- Starting to track results by matrix
- Hoping to report drugs with co-occurrence

#### 2024 Grants Submitted

- 2024 Coverdell Formula (\$99,900) - award ending
- 2025 Coverdell Formula (\$78,619) - award notice received
- CEBR (\$294,461) - program underway
- JAG (\$39,721) - program underway
- OD2A Local (\$250,000) - carry-over spending underway

#### New or Renewed in 2025

- OD2A Local Year 2 (\$250,000) - program underway
- KDHE OD2A (\$64,158) - renewed agreement executed

#### 2025 Budget

- No decision packages presented this year
- Asked for some additional funding for chemistry instrument maintenance

#### CIP Requests

- DNA Addition - proposed moving additional disciplines to a second sit in close proximity to central building - renovation of central building for pathology and toxicology

#### Questions and Discussion

- There were no questions or additional discussion.

#### V. Agency Reports

Participants introductions were added here. There were no agency reports presented.

#### VI. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

#### VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 AM.

Next Meeting: November 20, 2025 at 9:00 AM

1109 N. Minneapolis Street, Wichita Kansas, 67214 or via Zoom (TBD)

Next Quarterly Update: August 2025