



## **Wichita-Sedgwick County Addiction Intervention Coalition Minutes**

July 18, 2025 | 12:00 – 1:30p.m.  
100 N. Broadway, Ste. 629

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**Members in Attendance:** Dave Dahl, Claire Gregory (online), Heath Bechler (online), Tonya LeBrun, Matt Lynch (online), Randy Ecker, Steven Kamau, Rena Cole, Phillip Brownlee (online), Jeff Blubaugh, Mike Hoheisel

**City/County Representatives:** Russell Leeds, Tim Hallacy, Nate Johnson, Armand Shukaev, Tim Kaufman, Donte Martin (online),

**Guests:** Sheriff Jeff Easter, Dr. Katherine Grimsley, Burke Fishburn (online), Chad Childs, Susana Hernandez, Dr. Shelly Steadman

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1. Members were pre-provided with the draft minutes from the previous two meetings, a copy of the agenda, a copy of updated by-laws, and a summation of panel speakers for the meeting.

Russel Leeds directed members and staff introduction. Acknowledgement was made of remote participants (identified above). The meeting opened with remarks on the purpose of today's agenda: to engage with subject matter experts and panelists for a deeper understanding of the strategic plan, local needs, and to refine spending priorities.

- a. Identified hallmarks of by-laws.
- b. Introduced officer election – time permitting.
- c. Segway for panel to begin presentation and Q and A.

### **2. Action Item - Panel Discussion:**

- a. Burke Fishburne of the Steadman Group presented the methodology and findings of the Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan. He emphasized the use

of Exhibit E and the Kansas MOU for allowable spending. He advised against supplanting existing funds and discussed the administrative cap (~10%).

- b. Sheriff Jeff Easter shared real-time jail data: ~32% of inmates have mental health issues, and ~70-75% have substance use issues. He emphasized lack of treatment beds and long delays (3-6 months) for uninsured inmates seeking care after release. He affirmed that his Office would not request these funds, as his history in law enforcement has substantiated that arrest and enforcement do not curtail addiction issues.
- c. Dr. Katherine Grimsley, Psychiatrist/COMCRE, emphasized financial barriers in treatment initiation. Buprenorphine (Suboxone) for MAT costs \$100–\$200/month, with labs and drug screens pushing the total to \$300–\$400 for the first month. These costs, combined with SACK's \$75 intake fee, often prevent access. She highlighted the success of MAT when patients are stabilized and supported to reenter the workforce. Noted that probation/supervision seemed to motivate sobriety.
- d. Dr. Shelly Steadman, Regional Forensic Science Center, reviewed the overdose surveillance data gathered through the Regional Forensic Science Center. She outlined types of data collected: seized drugs, autopsy toxicology, DUI toxicology, and real-time paraphernalia testing. She also referenced the CDC's Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant and the delay in reporting due to lab backlogs.
- e. Susanna Hernandez, Overdose Prevention/Sedgwick County Health Department, described frontline engagement with unhoused populations and those in recovery. She stressed that lack of transportation, stable housing, and how intake capacity is currently limiting recovery success. She noted sober living costs range from \$125–\$150/week and emphasized the importance of immediate funding and navigation support.
- f. Chad Childs, from WSU's Community Engagement Institute, emphasized prevention and community-driven planning. He referenced national models with care navigators, community treatment hubs, and housing vouchers. He advocated diversifying care and funding allocations. He urged the coalition to focus on evidence-based strategies tailored to local data, avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach. Acknowledged a poly-substance abuse issue nation-wide and cited a need for balanced prevention, treatment and recovery plan.

### **Presentation Key Notes and Barriers Identified**

- a. Immediate access to MAT and detox for uninsured/underinsured individuals.
- b. Waiver of SACK intake fees and access to free initial lab testing.

- c. Increased funding for housing support and transportation (e.g., bus passes).
- d. Investment in sober living to bridge inpatient treatment and independence.
- e. Recruitment and retention of MAT prescribers to expand access.
- f. Public awareness campaigns and cultural competence in outreach.
- g. Sustainable models of care: care navigators, peer support, integrated hubs.
- h. Data-driven funding priorities using overdose and treatment utilization trends.

**ROI and Evidence-Based Strategy Overview (Exhibit E)-** Burke Fishburne reviewed slides comparing evidence-based strategies by return on investment. Top-tier strategies included contingency management (\$12 return per \$1 spent), peer support, MOUD (methadone/buprenorphine) vs. more generalized medications, and prevention education programs like Life Skills Training and SBIRT. Naloxone distribution showed lifesaving potential with favorable cost-benefit outcomes. Syringe exchange programs, while not currently supported in Wichita, also showed strong ROI. In the field of harm reduction, Narcan does not reduce usage of opioids, but creates financial and community windfalls by saving lives.

### **Points of Consideration Moving Forward**

- a. Coalition members were asked to consider immediate needs, costs per service, expected number served, and success metrics to guide RFP development for subsequent meetings.
- b. Emphasis was placed on avoiding supplanting funds and maintaining equitable distribution for current and future standards

### **Clarity on Sedgwick County Forensic Science Center Stats on Fentanyl Fatalities**

- a. 2024 – 122 Fentanyl deaths in Sedgwick County
- b. June 2025 – 40 Fentanyl deaths in Sedgwick County
  - Per Dr. Steadman potentially hundreds of pending cases – postmortem follow up takes time, and some cases are outsourced to other labs.

- Although the trend is going down nationally - percentages can be skewed based on total deaths for trends (look at rate of overdose).

### 3. Action Item – By-laws review/ adoption:

**Discussion of next meeting time and date** – Monday August 18<sup>th</sup> 12-1:30pm

#### **Ratification of By-Laws**

- A motion was made by David Dahl to RATIFY the by-laws, seconded by Randy Belcher. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
- Nate Johnson will file with the clerk.

**Determination and Vote for Officers of the Coalition** – President/ Vice-President/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President

- President Matt Lynch – uncontested – unanimous oral vote
- Vice President David Dahl - uncontested – unanimous oral vote
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Randy Ecker - uncontested – unanimous oral vote

#### **Administrative Discussion**

- The Sedgwick County government will be covering the minutes and the agenda, as well as basic research or data collection.
- The City of Wichita government may be utilized as a resource for data collection and legal review as needed.
- Administrative focus of outside group
  - Similar to the City of Wichita Liquor Tax Coalition
  - Sunflower group is the group used by the State of Kansas for guidance
  - The group can also do academic research
  - Fee charged with outside sourcing of administrative duties now believed to be at 5% per Armand Shukaev – review and clarification to follow. (Does monitoring only equate to administration or are there other features that may overlap into other allowable expenditures.)

- Public Policy and Management Center, PPMC, who manages the administrative duties for the Liquor Tax Coalition as detailed by Donte Martin. Future meeting with Donte Martin and Rusty Leeds to facilitate what needs may be required.
- A Request for Proposal will need to be submitted by entities interested in bidding for administrative duties.
- A Request for Proposal to be completed by Wichita/Sedgwick County for review and potential adoption as early as next meeting.
- Request for presentation on purchasing process from Wichita/Sedgwick County

**Minutes for all previous meetings to be approved at the next meeting.**

**4. Other/Future Business:**

- Coalition members were reminded to review the strategic plan, Exhibit E, and local data sources.
- Additional input will be collected to refine scopes for funding proposals. The next meeting will revisit third-party oversight for fund distribution. (Liquor Tax Coalition, Sunflower Group, PPMC)
- Reflection and discussion of immediate needs, cost per service, and success metrics
- Review of administrative fee percentage and allocation parameters.
- Purchasing presentation
- Request for Proposal review

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm

*The next Wichita-Sedgwick County Addiction Intervention Coalition Meeting will be on **August 18, 2025.***