

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

November 20, 2025

Board Members or Designated Attendees Present

- Dr. Shelly Steadman, Director, Regional Forensic Science Center
- Darrell Atteberry, Chief of Police, Bel Aire
- Aaron Breitenbach, District Attorney's Office
- Brad Crisp, Deputy Fire Chief, Sedgwick County Fire District #1
- Russell Leeds, Assistant County Manager
- Jennifer Magana, City Attorney and Director of Law, City of Wichita
- Aaron Moses, Captain, Wichita Police Department
- Dr. Ron Varner, Coroner, 13th Judicial District

Board Members Absent

- Chris Dugan, Fire Marshal, Wichita Fire Department
- Jeffrey Easter, Sedgwick County Sheriff
- Dr. Timothy Gorrill, Sedgwick County Coroner
- Kevin Lanterman, Chief, Sedgwick County EMS
- Dr. Garold Minns, Dean, KU School of Medicine-Wichita
- Dr. Stephanie Newbold, Director, WSU Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs
- 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 9:02 AM.

II. Introductions and Roll Call

Dr. Steadman introduced members present and welcomed them as they joined throughout the meeting. Members re-appointed by the Board of County Commissioners were introduced (Chief Atteberry and Dr. Varner).

III. File Minutes from May 15, 2025 Meeting

IV. RFSC Performance Metrics and Center Updates - OD2A

Dr. Shelly Steadman

Performance Metrics and Trends

- Medical Investigations
 - o 4,110 reported deaths for 2024
 - o 3,508 reported deaths to date for 2025
 - o 561 death scenes for 2024
 - o 388 death scenes to date for 2025
 - o Monthly averages for reported deaths are similar to last year, monthly average for scenes attended is down slightly
- Pathology
 - o 10% of work in 2024 was out-of-county (15% in 2023)
 - o Out-of-county cases have trended downward since 2021, but are working on an MOU to add Riley County cases
 - o Suicides cases have stabilized (11%)
 - o Overdose cases have trended downward since 2022
 - Overdoses accounted for 19% of the caseload (2024)
 - So far in 2025, it is estimated that 61% of overdose cases involve detection of fentanyl (down from 66% in 2022)
- Toxicology
 - o Backlog (> 60 days)
 - Post-mortem Toxicology backlog (30 cases) is now more manageable (vs. 146 cases in November 2022)
 - Ante-mortem Toxicology backlog (39 cases) is now more manageable (vs. 119 cases in November 2022)
 - o Newly submitted Tox cases remain stable
- Drug Identification
 - o Backlog (453) is directly related to staffing challenges and training
 - Grant-funded position (drug chemist) left for a more stable position – new hire scheduled to start 12/29
 - o Number of cases submitted has increased slightly from 2024
 - Cases are being transitioned back from the KBI
 - Recent undercover buys and raids have resulted in submissions
 - o 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 year
- Fire Debris
 - o Training was completed in 2024 and testing is currently underway
 - o 23 cases received to date in 2025 - no significant backlog
 - o This unit has cross-trained scientists from Toxicology and Drug ID

- Firearms
 - o Have 2 fully-trained Firearms Examiners in-house
 - o Firearms backlog (5) is a function of submission volume and in-house reviews
 - o 118 firearms cases submitted to date in 2025
 - o Assisting Johnson County while they are requiring verification assistance
- Biology/DNA
 - o Biology/DNA is able to work cases as submitted with no significant backlog
 - o Biology/DNA case submissions have remained stable

Quarterly Summary

- Number of deaths reported and coroner cases remaining stable
- Tox LC-MS/MS instrument validations continuing; have renewed OD2A State funding through KDHE for outsourcing
- Starting a small renovation project to accommodate new QToF instrumentation (scheduled for delivery in April 2026)
- New building project design approved to move forward in 2026
- Replaced a Pathology Assistant and are hiring a Forensic Scientist for the Drug ID grant-funding position

OD2A Update

- 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 196 scenes since starting the project December 1, 2023
- Drug paraphernalia testing is caught up (1,032 items)
- In Year 2, we confirmed results on 663 items from 119 scenes
- All participants are sharing data with CDC now
- Starting to track results by matrix and co-occurrence

2025 Grants

- Coverdell Formula (\$53,999) – award pending
- CEBR 2025 (\$184,627) – award pending
- JAG – waiting for solicitation (\$39,721 in 2024)
- OD2A Local (\$250,000) – Year 3 program underway
- KDHE OD2A (\$66,000) – award underway

2024 Grants

- Coverdell Formula was \$78,619
- CEBR was \$294,461

2025 Budget

- No decision packages presented this year
- CIP approved

New Initiatives

- Launched a Medical Examiner Report Search Tool online – provided demonstration
- Are now able to determine number of visits and hits on the various website pages
- Are now able to view co-occurrences of drugs from the OD2A data

V. Agency Reports - Questions and Discussion

- Brad Crisp reported that Sedgwick County Fire District 1 just added a new ATF Accelerant Detection K-9 and has seen an uptick in call-outs due to that

VI. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 AM.

Next Meeting: May 21, 2026 at 9:00 AM

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

Next Quarterly Update: February 2026