

Emergency Communications Community Advisory Board

October 16, 2025

Members present: David Thorne (ZOOM-30mins), Hunter Hill, Kevin McWhorter, and Melissa Webb.

Also, present: Director Elora Forshee, Deputy Director Alayna Moreno, and Lieutenant Jackie Blackwell.

1. **Call to Order** **David Thorne**
2. **Approval of 06-26-2025 Meeting minutes** **No Quorum to approve the minutes – will discuss at next meeting**
3. **David Thorne appointed Hunter Hill to chair the rest of this meeting**
4. **911 Updates – Director Forshee**
 - a. **2025-2026 Updates** - We have a Dispatcher who will be organizing a continued education structured assessment plan assessment plan for fire and EMS dispatchers, with skills assessment within that. Also, someone to coordinate this same type of plan for Law Enforcement. We have two employees that will be going over to the Real Time information Center to help coordinate training between those two areas. Training is in the process for Fire Emergency Dispatch protocols. We have moved a supervisor in place as the Employee Development Team Supervisor who will be in charge of that team. We will begin a Leadership Development Plan created for those employees who are interested in improving upon or working on their leadership skills. Next year we are looking at bringing in Dr. Joe Serio, a soft skills trainer, that discusses leadership skills, how to deal with conflict resolution, and/or combat negativity. This would be for the current supervisors to attend.
5. **Workforce and Public Interaction Update – Lt. Blackwell**
 - a. The department hired eight call takers that began on October 14. Those positions are double fills. The seven call takers currently in training will begin the OJT at the end of the week, to be released November 9. That adds an additional three weeks to their initial training providing extra support once out on the floor. After that they will meet with our Employee Development Team for an additional six weeks. This is all part of the Phase II process recently implemented.
 - b. We are also working with Communication to go over and update Public Education.
 - c. Upcoming community events will include: The ICT Open Streets, and two Career Fairs. One at The Kansas Star usually with an attendance of about 2000 students, and one at ESDACK in Hutchinson and the attendance for that fair is about 5000 Students.
6. **Board Discussion – Hunter Hill for David Thorne**
 - a. **2025 Goals**
 - i. Community Engagement – At the last meeting David was to be working on recruitment of new board members. Hunter will go over this topic with David along with the rest of the items.
 - ii. Kevin – Meeting attendance is getting smaller and smaller; are new members being recruited? Cities of the Third Class and Large Youth have been vacant from the beginning, and one resignation from District 2. Looking for feedback from David on meetings with other community boards.

- iii. Melissa – For the members who are MIA is it the board's responsibility to find out why or is that left to the Commissioner or designating body? Is there a way for an RSVP to be sent for the meetings in the future?
- iv. Kevin – With a Quorum being six, and if the board knows there will not be a quorum, then the County Manager need to be aware of the situation and the board members. Numerous members left other meetings to attend this meeting for no quorum. SUGGESTION: Maybe change the frequency of the meetings. Continue with 2025 meeting schedule but look into next year.

7. Off Agenda Item – None

8. Next Meeting – December 18, 2025 at 4:00pm – 6:00pm

9. Adjournment at 4:46pm