

Sedgwick County

525 North Main Street 3rd Floor
Wichita, KS 67203



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Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

9:00 AM

BOCC Meeting Room

Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners

Pursuant to Resolution #131-2010, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on August 11, 2010, members of the public are allowed to address the County Commission for a period of time limited to not more than five minutes.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Sedgwick County, should contact the office of Lindsey Mahoney, Sedgwick County ADA Coordinator, 510 N. Main, Suite 306, Wichita, Kansas 67203

Phone: (316) 660-7052, TDD: Kansas Relay at 711 or 800-766-3777

Email: Lmahoney@sedgwick.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. Please include the name, location, date and time of the service or program, your contact information and the type of aid, service, or policy modification needed.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:04 a.m. on Wednesday, January 16, 2013, in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Tim R. Norton, with the following present: Chair Pro Tem James B. Skelton; Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Karl Peterjohn; Commissioner Richard Ranzau; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Jennifer Magana, Assistant County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Angela Lovelace, Deputy County Clerk; Ms. Dorsha Kirksey, Director, Housing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and Ms. Jill Bailey, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

*Dr. Julie Evans, Animal Care Advisory Board
Mr. Joe Yeager, Chief Executive Officer, REAP
Mr. Bob Knight, former Wichita Mayor
Dr. H. Edward Flentje, Ph.D., Professor, Hugo Wall School of Urban Studies*

INVOCATION: Moment of Silence.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

The Clerk reported, after calling roll, that all Commissioners were present.

Chairman Norton said, "Before we call the next item, we have a lot of guests here today, but we have two very special ones that Commissioner Skelton has pointed out to me, and that's Hugh and Evelyn Hendrickson, his grandparents. Welcome to the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners meeting today. Can you call the next item, Madam Clerk."

Present 3 - Commissioner Richard Ranzau, Chairman Jim Skelton and Vice Chair Dave Unruh

Present 0

APPOINTMENTS

A [12-1102](#) RESOLUTION APPOINTING DR. JULIE EVANS (COMMISSIONER RICHARD RANZAU'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ANIMAL CARE ADVISORY BOARD TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF STACIA MILES.

Presented by: Richard Euson, County Counselor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the resolution.

Ms. Jennifer Magana, Assistant County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This resolution appoints Dr. Evans to fill the unexpired term of Stacia Miles. This term is going to expire March 15th, 2015, and this is Commissioner Ranzau's appointment. I recommend you approve the resolution."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Ranzau."

MOTION

Commissioner Ranzau moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Skelton seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Peterjohn</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Skelton</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Chairman Norton</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Chairman Norton said, "Next item."

B [13-0003](#)

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING FRANCES E. KENTLING
(COMMISSIONER DAVE UNRUH'S REAPPOINTMENT) TO THE
SHERIFF'S CIVIL SERVICE BOARD.

Presented by: Richard Euson, County Counselor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the resolution.

Ms. Magana said, "Good morning, Commissioners. This reappoints Frances Kentling to the Civil Service Board for another three-year term. This is Commissioner Unruh's appointment, and this term will expire January 17th, 2016. We recommend you approve this resolution."

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Skelton seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Peterjohn</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Skelton</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Chairman Norton</i>	<i>Aye</i>

C [13-0004](#) RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JULIA CRAFT (COMMISSIONER JIM SKELTON'S REAPPOINTMENT) TO THE SHERIFF'S CIVIL SERVICE BOARD.

Presented by: Richard Euson, County Counselor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the resolution.

Ms. Magana said, "This resolution also is for the Sheriff's Civil Service Board. This reappoints Julia Craft to the board. This is Commissioner Skelton's appointment. It will run for three years, expiring January 17th, 2016. We recommend you adopt resolution."

MOTION

Commissioner Skelton moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Ranzau seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Peterjohn</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Skelton</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Chairman Norton</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. Are any of these folks here to be sworn in today? I don't see...we do have somebody from the Clerk's office. If you would step forward, we will get you sworn in."

Ms. Angela Lovelace, Deputy County Clerk, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States, the constitution of the State of Kansas, and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Sedgwick County Animal Care Advisory Board, so help me God."

Dr. Julie Evans, Animal Care Advisory Board, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I do."

Ms. Lovelace said, "Congratulations. "

Chairman Norton said, "And Stacia, if you have anything you'd like to say today while you're here we'll offer you a chance to step to the podium. Its Dr. Julie Evans, you're replacing Stacia. You are going to pass? Okay. Okay, we are on to the next item. I don't see all the folks that are going to be involved in the Chairman's award, so if we could hold onto that for just a minute and move on to Item E, I would appreciate that. Madam Clerk, would you call Item E."

NEW BUSINESS

- D [12-1100](#) PRESENTATION OF THE 2013 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD.
Presented by: Tim Norton, Chairman.
- RECOMMENDED ACTION: Present the award.

E [13-0005](#)

CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$684,060 FOR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S SHELTER PLUS CARE PROGRAM . Presented by: Dorsha Kirksey, Director, Housing Department.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the application for the grant, and if awarded authorize acceptance of the grant, the establishment of budget authority as provided in the Financial Considerations section of this Request, and implementation of the Staffing Table changes identified in the Personnel Considerations section of this Request.

Ms. Dorsha Kirksey, Director, Housing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is a federal grant, it is for serving individuals who are homeless, and also have one of three conditions. Those three are that they have a severe and persistent mental illness, or they have a substance abuse disorder, or they have HIV or AIDS or related illness. These are folks who would normally and often fall through the cracks of other housing programs. This program is a part of the Wichita and Sedgwick County continuum of care to address homelessness in the area, and it is something that we've been doing now for a couple of years, and this is the renewal application for that grant. I would recommend that you approve the request, and all budget authority that goes with it."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioners, you heard the presentation. Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you. Let me ask a question. Will this come back to us if we're just making an application, will this also serve as our acceptance of the grant if it Washington decides to give it to us?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "It will."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Okay. Let me ask you a question. Normally we get an update on how we've been doing in terms of the homeless numbers in our community. I saw some news articles recently about it. I just don't see any information on the background in terms of the numbers going up, going down or staying about the same?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "That is actually, this is part of a superNOFA (Notice of Funding Authority) for which United Way is the lead agency, so that point in time count that addresses that as part of what they do, I don't have that specific number in front of me today. But I would be happy to get back to you with that. "

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Well, I would appreciate it, because part of what I want to understand is, I saw some news reports recently saying that we've got a growing poverty problem, a growing number of children, in particular, who are homeless. They gave figures that were much larger than the total homeless numbers I remember being brought before this Commission previously, so can you give me any data in terms of the number of children who are homeless that's tied in with this grant, obviously, most of the kids wouldn't be involved in these three categories, although I can imagine there are some cases where they certainly could be if their parents were. Is there any insight concerning children that you can provide for us this morning?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "I can just say that as part of this grant, we are approved for at least

102 units. We serve on average in the last year, we have served approximately 163 or so folks. So those extra individuals would be children of the head of household. And this grant, the people with those three, one or more of those three illnesses or disorders that refers to the head of household only. Not the children."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Okay. Well, I was wondering, my recollection is I was thinking there were more like 64 units that were part of this program and you are saying it is 102 at the moment."

Ms. Kirksey said, "No, it is 102, yes."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "One hundred two at the moment."

Ms. Kirksey said, "We are approved for at least 102. That is what we could afford to provide if we paid all of the rent for every person on the program. That's not the case, because many people have income. Their portion of rent is based on income; so many times our subsidy is less than the total amount of the rent, which allows us to then serve more individuals."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Let me ask, if you have 163 people, is it because some people are involved in the program at certain parts of the year, and then for one reason or another leave the program?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "We do have some turnover, yes. So part of it..."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "A significant part of that 163, or..."

Ms. Kirksey said, "It is not a significant portion, no. Much of that is because the program does serve individuals and families. We have to count everybody in the family as part of that number."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Can you give me out of that 163 how many households we are talking about?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "I can. Of those, about 65 of those units are one-bedroom units. All the rest of those would be families."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Would be two bedroom, are there..."

Ms. Kirksey said, "Two bedrooms and up."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Okay. So there would be 37 that were two bedroom or more."

Ms. Kirksey said, "That's correct. We don't have anybody in units larger than a four bedroom to date. They would be from two to four bedroom units."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "We had a discussion recently on homeless, and they were talking about a nine bedroom unit. You don't have any nine bedroom units, do you?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "We do not."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Wanting to just clarify some of this for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Ranzau."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dorsha, now, correct me if I am wrong, this is the program that we took over from the City of Wichita, is that right?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "That's correct."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Can you refresh my memory, why did we do that?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "They chose not to participate in this program any longer, and because this program is a part of the whole continuum of care which totals about \$2 million of funds to this area to address homelessness, if they would have left the program, just go by the wayside, it would have put that whole superNOFA in jeopardy, and it would have left over 100 people who were on the program suddenly with no assistance. "

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Why did they decide not to participate in that?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "That I can't speak to. I'm sorry. I don't know why they chose not to. They didn't..."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "You don't know why?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "I do not."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Now, what area does this serve? Can this serve anyone in the county?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "It can, but it is focused primarily in the City of Wichita, because that's where the supports are for these folks. Clients of this program are required, we provide the shelter portion and our partners, COMCARE of Sedgwick County, Miracles Inc. and Positive Directions provides the care portion.

"Folks in this program are required to participate in the care portion. Because all three of those agencies are located here in the City of Wichita, many of these folks don't have transportation or wouldn't be able to travel from outside the city. All of them at this time are concentrated within the city limits of Wichita. This is the only program that the Sedgwick County Housing Department operates within the city limits of Wichita."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Do you have a waiting list for this program?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "We do not maintain the waiting list for the program. People come to the program through one of the partner agencies. They are required to manage the waiting list for the program."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Okay, thank you."

Ms. Kirksey said, "You are welcome."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Let me ask you another question relating to it. Are any of these folks in transition between this program and say, like, section 8 housing, whether it is City of Wichita or any other entities providing Section 8 housing in the area?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "These folks would not come from a Section 8 program. Most of them would not qualify for a Section 8 program, because of their rental history and sometimes criminal history, based on their illness. However, we do get folks from some of our transitional housing programs in the area where they are only allowed to be on the program for a certain number of years, usually two years. Many of those folks transition from that transitional housing program to the shelter plus care program because this is a permanent housing program."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Okay, well then let me ask you, if it is a permanent housing program, do we have people that have been on the program since 2011, or before then?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "We do."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "How long is the longest person been involved, do you have any idea?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "I do not. That's something I would have to check on."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Two, three, five years?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "At least."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "At least?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "Yes."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Could it be even longer?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "It could be. The program has been in existence for 16 years. However, many of the people who are on this program for three to five years are then in a position to transition off of this program and onto a Section 8 program. Some do and some don't, they are not required to do so."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "If we've got, the total sources that we are talking about for this grant are \$684,060, that isn't all the resources that we're putting into this program, what would the total dollar amount be? Are there resources beyond this grant too that are part of it?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "There are no monetary resources beyond this grant that are part of it. The partners are required to provide at least as much service as we provide in housing assistance. They have a required match. But that match is in kind, it is not in cash."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Do you have an idea of how much of this money is actually going towards housing per se, as opposed to other costs? If I divide \$684,000

by 102 units, we are talking a little over \$6,700 per unit per year."

Ms. Kirksey said, "I will say that we are able, 102 is the minimum amount of folks that we can serve. Again, if we were providing 100 percent of the rent amount for every participant, which is not the case. So it is more than 102 folks, that number fluctuates throughout the year."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "You have got 102 units."

Ms. Kirksey said, "At least 102. Yes."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "You mean it can be more then..."

Ms. Kirksey said, "We are funded for at least 102. It can be more, and many times is."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "How much more than 102?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "It has been up to, between 120 and 130, depending on how much subsidy we have to provide for each participant, which is based on their income."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I would like to get an idea in terms of the total maximum would be served and how much is spent on a per unit basis. It is not information I see in the backup I've got here."

Ms. Kirksey said, "Okay. I can tell you that all of that \$684,060 is spent on rental assistance."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Commissioner Unruh."

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the application for the grant, authorize acceptance of the grant, the establishment of budget authority as provided in the Financial Consideration section of the request, and implementation of the Staffing Table changes identified in the Personal Considerations section of the request.

Commissioner Skelton seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Peterjohn</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Commissioner Skelton</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Chairman Norton

Aye

Chairman Norton said, "I think we'll go ahead and do Item F and G and come back to Item D while Dorsha is up there. So, let's call Item F."

F [13-0006](#) CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,340 FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S SHELTER PLUS CARE BONUS #1 PROGRAM.

Presented by: Dorsha Kirksey, Director, Housing Department.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the application for the grant, and if awarded authorize acceptance of the grant, the establishment of budget authority as provided in the Financial Considerations section of this Request, and implementation of the Staffing Table changes identified in the Personnel Considerations section of this Request.

Ms. Kirksey said, "Commissioners, Dorsha Kirksey again. This program is another arm of the Shelter Plus Care main program, the difference in this one is that, of course, the amount is much less, it's for \$29,340. It is for a total of five units. This program addresses just folks who are homeless and also have a severe and persistent mental illness. We only have one partner for this program, and that is Sedgwick County COMCARE. I would recommend you approve the application, and the acceptance of the grant if awarded, and all budget requirements that would go with that."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My backup information says it promotes residential stability for those with persistent mental illness, substance abuse disorders and/or HIV/AIDS. Help me understand the difference between this grant and the prior grant."

Ms. Kirksey said, "I have to apologize, that must be a mistake in the text for this one. This one is just for folks with a severe and persistent mental illness, and who are chronically homeless."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Okay. That's why this one is separate, and it's not combined."

Ms. Kirksey said, "That's correct. It is also separate because it was applied for at a later date. The original application for this one came after the Shelter Plus Care main grant."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Looking through it, walk me through why we've got a grant starting period of June 11th, 2013, and ending June 10th of next year. That's even odd by the unusual standards that we have for a lot of the other grants that come up here. An explanation would be much appreciated. "

Ms. Kirksey said, "That's correct. The grant terms for each of these grants is based on the time that it was originally applied for, and it was originally a five-year grant and then we renew for one-year increments, so we have to take it from the time of the original grant award, and that's when the original grant started, so that's how we have to continue."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "So that was back when the City was running the

program, before Sedgwick County took it over. “

Ms. Kirksey said, “That's correct.”

Commissioner Peterjohn said, “Do you have any idea if there are people out of the City of Wichita who are participating in this program, or the previous program. Because you mentioned it was focused on folks who live in Wichita.”

Ms. Kirksey said, “We are allowed to serve folks anywhere in Sedgwick County, but we currently do not have anyone outside of the city limits of Wichita who is participating.”

Commissioner Peterjohn said, “Thank you.”

Chairman Norton said, “Commissioner Skelton.”

MOTION

Commissioner Skelton moved to approve the application for the grant, authorize acceptance of the grant, the establishment of budget authority as provided in the Financial Consideration section of the request, and implementation of the Staffing Table changes identified in the Personal Considerations section of the request.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Peterjohn</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Commissioner Skelton</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Chairman Norton</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Chairman Norton said, “Next item.”

G [13-0007](#)

CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,340 FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S SHELTER PLUS CARE BONUS #2 PROGRAM .

Presented by: Dorsha Kirksey, Director, Housing Department.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the application for the grant, and if awarded authorize acceptance of the grant, the establishment of budget authority as provided in the Financial Considerations section of this Request, and implementation of the Staffing Table changes identified in the Personnel Considerations section of this Request.

Ms. Kirksey said, "Commissioners, Dorsha Kirksey again, last time. Again, this is another bonus grant for the Shelter Plus Care program, again, it addresses folks who are chronically homeless and who have a severe, persistent mental illness. We approved for five units again for this grant. I would recommend that you approve the application and the acceptance of the award, if granted, and all budget authority that goes through that."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask a different question since all three of these are closely related in my line of questions. There's been, I have an intent with the direction I'm planning to go here. Do we have any idea in terms of how many folks who are participating in this program? The backgrounds they've got have either been, have arrest or conviction records with Sedgwick County Jail and Detention and facilities?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "I can tell you we're approved for at least five, at this time I believe, on this program we have three individuals. This is individuals only, no families on this one. So we're serving at least three. As far as how many of them have any criminal history, I'm sure some do, based on the target population that we are serving. I wouldn't be able to speak to that without getting the exact number. So that is something that I can get back to you."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I would appreciate if you would. I want to share this with my colleagues. The reasons why I voted for the two previous grants and I will vote for this one, albeit somewhat reluctantly, the challenge we have faced with people who are in the jail, whether they have just been arrested, or they are convicted, is a concern, and the fact that we have folks who have had problems for a variety of reasons, whether it's mental illness or other problems, we have got an alternative here that keeps them out of the Detention in the jail. I think that this may be a better way to go. I think we will continue to work the issues and continue to work with folks who have substance abuse problems, as well as obviously the other criteria that's included here. But I wanted to provide that explanation, Mr. Chairman, so that in understanding of why I am voting the way I am today can be provided to the public. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Ranzau."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Dorsha, can you tell me what's the difference between this one and the previous one?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "The only difference is that they were applied for separately originally, so we have to continue to apply for them separately. "

Commissioner Ranzau said, "This one says the grant period starts in September 5, of 2014 and goes to 2015; is that correct?"

Ms. Kirksey said, "That's correct. They were applied for at different times, and, again, they are renewed based on their original date that they began."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Okay. So if we get this, are we assured that we will get that money? I mean, that's a ways down the road."

Ms. Kirksey said, "We are not assured at this time. The only thing that we are assured of is if that we get this, we will not get more than \$29,340."

MOTION

Commissioner Skelton moved to approve the application for the grant, authorize acceptance of the grant, the establishment of budget authority as provided in the Financial Consideration section of the request, and implementation of the Staffing Table changes identified in the Personal Considerations section of the request.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	No
Commissioner Skelton	Aye
Chairman Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "I would like to move back to Item D now. Thank you, Dorsha."

PRESENTATION OF THE 2013 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioners, as always, we have the Chairman's Award, as I finish up my Chairmanship for the year. I am going to move to the podium and I think Commissioner Unruh is going to tag along with me because of the award that I am going to give, and it will take just a pause until we get there, and then I'll present the award.

"It is my pleasure today as I finish up my chairmanship for 2013 to present the Chairman's Award. It was started several years ago by the Board of County Commissioners to recognize individuals and organizations in the community that have done good work, moved the community along and been progressive in the ideas and thoughts that make us a better community. This year I've selected the REAP, the Regional Economic Area Partnership, and I have asked some colleagues over the years to come and talk about the movement of that thought process and organization in our community over the years, and I am going to start off with Joe Yeager, who is the present Executive Director, to give us just a quick glimpse of where REAP came from, how it was founded and who participates, and then I am going to ask some special guests to step forward and talk about the history of REAP as it's progressed to what it is today, Joe?"

VISUAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Joe Yeager, Chief Executive Officer, REAP, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Great honor to be here. Joe Yeager. I serve as the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director for the Regional Economic Area Partnership. And just to give you a really quick, and I apologize for the frog in my throat, I'm going to take heed to Commissioner Unruh's advice and if I need to cough, cough into my sleeve. But just to give you a really brief understanding of the Regional Economic Area Partnership, prepared a couple slides for you to go through. REAP's mission is to guide state and national actions that affect economic development in the region and adopt joint actions among member governments that enhance the regional economy.

"Now, who REAP is. Reap was formed in 1997 by 27 cities, and later in 1998, added the counties to the membership. It was an identification of, that some issues reach across traditional boundaries that brought this group together. It is a voluntary council of city and county governments that promote regional cooperation and innovative solutions. REAP basically provides governmental leaders an opportunity to come together for support, ideas, collaboration, and for a common purpose, which is to strengthen our individual communities and our region's economy.

"The REAP accomplishes this through various methods. Mainly REAPs role is to provide collaboration to enhance South Central Kansas regional economy through leadership, partnership and advocacy. REAP does this through a couple activities, mainly through regional forums, such as monthly board meetings that are meant to develop relationships, facilitate dialogue, promote regional connectedness and identify opportunities to work together. Through committees, task forces, conferences, workshops and summits, REAP helps to develop action steps to identify regional needs and share valuable information and research on key state and national policy issues, best practices and training opportunities.

"Another opportunity is water resources. Through the creation of water resources committee, that identifies and coordinates collaborative efforts on regional issues of water quality and supply, REAP has recognized water as an important issue and a vital issue in the economic development of our region.

"Economic partnerships. We always use the phrase of economic development for a lot of things. Economic development can mean a lot of different things. We're very clear that REAP does not do economic development. We have a lot of agencies, and people, governments that do economic development. Our role is really connections, and economic partnership. Identifying and coordinating collaborative efforts on the regional economic development issues that can help bolster and help with our regional economy.

"Work force development is another section, through the serving as the chief elected official's board, which is granted to the Regional Economic Area Partnership since 2003, REAP has ensured that regional representation and conduction of oversight and evaluation of activity for all work force investment act programs to ensure a strong locally and regionally based business-led work force investment system. The goal of this is promotion of a long-term economic growth through education and training initiatives. Monitoring activities of federal, state and local agencies affecting workforce development.

"And finally, legislative policy and promotion. REAP has a legislative committee that identifies and coordinates collaborative efforts on policy issues of regional concern, state and federal levels. We have annual legislative priorities, have Topeka-based legislative liaison that represents REAP through advocacy with our legislators, officials and other related agencies and interest groups, and we host an annual South Central legislative delegation policy summit meant to educate and promote our region and our initiatives.

"To give you some information on our executive committee, for 2012 and 2013, you can see the wide variety of our different communities that are represented. Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, is currently sitting as the REAP Chair; with Commissioner Brad Dillon of Reno County as the REAP Vice-Chair; Councilmember Jeff Longwell, of Wichita, is the Economic Development Chair; Commissioner [George] Chip Westfall of Harvey County is our Legislative Chair; Mayor Marcie Gregory of Goddard, Water Resources Chair; Treasurer, Mayor Terry Somers, of Mount Hope; and our immediate past Chair is Mayor Kristey Williams of Augusta.

"The membership today is 34 member communities throughout the nine-county region of South Central Kansas with 28 cities and 6 counties. We've listed those here for you. I would be remiss if I didn't mention also the many partners who we coordinate with, work with, we have co-sponsorships of events with, we are involved with. I cannot capture all of them. I tried to capture a majority of them, ranging from different economic development agencies to State of Kansas, Wichita State University (WSU), different workforce groups, and different transportation-based groups as well. That's really who REAP is, and what it's about. With that, I turn it back over to you."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Joe. In 1997, there was a group of us, and I happened to be Mayor of Haysville at the time, that was invited by then Mayor Bob Knight of Wichita to sit around a table and start to talk about our common interests and how we moved forward on a regional thought process to bring local elected officials together to do the better work of working together and collaborating.

"I'm proud to say former Mayor Knight is here today, and I would like to have him come forward and give us just his thoughts about those early days of why REAP seemed to be so important. Welcome, Bob."

Mr. Bob Knight, former Wichita Mayor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commission members, I was told to keep this one or two minutes, but what I think I'll do at the urging of the County Manager, is talk about my ideas on drainage. It will take a while. I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing a really significant organization in South Central Kansas. Probably six months or so before REAP was organized, former Commissioner Tom Winters and I were talking, and they had had some really significant layoffs in Winfield, Kansas. I think it was the Crayola Company or something like that; but it had a real effect on Winfield. And we decided that there wasn't a whole lot we could do other than to express our sympathy for some very bad news for quite a few people, and to make a long story short, there were a tremendous outpouring of expressions on appreciation for that, and it occurred to me that, and others, that we had been treating a lot of our neighbors as unrelated strangers, not really recognizing the inner relationship of all of us living in South Central Kansas.

"It was obvious by some of the legislation occurring in Topeka, we weren't, I don't think, on the same level as Johnson County in northeast Kansas in the minds of the legislative body, but that was kind of the outgrowth, and we talked about it, and as the Chairman said, we had quite a few cities in South Central Kansas come together and through the support of former City Manager Chris Churches attending to a lot of the logistical concerns, we started REAP. And we found out in a pretty short order that we had a very important partner that wasn't sitting in on the discussion, and those were the county commissions of various counties.

"I think REAP, some of its successes speaks for itself. We've had a tremendous involvement by elected officials throughout this area, not just elected officials, but staff people, and as a result I think we have representation that is on a much higher level than what it would be otherwise, and one of the keys to me is that we were treating people like strangers, Wichita was the 800-pound gorilla in the room, and former Mayor Norton correctly summarized, and even if we were, we shouldn't be acting like it, and I think that there was far more harmony subsequent to that. Some elected officials have shown very little interest in it, but I think those who participated, Commissioner Unruh and others, see the benefit to the region as a whole.

"Again, what I would stress, we are not strangers to each other, we are neighbors and friends, and some of these very intractable challenges we face can only be addressed, I think, in a collective manner. The competition is key. I am sure it's increased since I left office, nationally and even globally. If we are going to be able to provide quality leadership for our constituents, I think we can do a lot more by pulling together rather than pulling apart.

"This never would have advanced to the level that it has without the Center for Urban Studies at Wichita State University. It is an amazing resource. I think the university is one of the most important institutions in the state, certainly to this area, and under the guidance of their Dr. Ed Flentje, giving us a very truthful analysis of some of the directions we were heading, I think REAP has achieved everything that I had hoped for, and I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and you, Commissioners, for recognizing the effort that literally hundreds of men and women who give their time to public service in South Central Kansas, I think it's made a real difference in our lives. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Bob."

Commissioner Skelton said, "Mr. Chairman, could I make some comments, please? Mr. Chairman?"

Chairman Norton said, "Absolutely."

Commissioner Skelton said, "Make some comments from the bench? Former Mayor Knight, I've got some words for you. You want to go back to the podium or sit down, it doesn't matter. You may want to respond to something I say. You know, we got this drainage problem down south. Okay. Well, I want to thank you for your many years of serving as an advocate for the citizens of City of Wichita and the region. I really respect that. I've spent some time as Chairman of Sedgwick County Association of Cities, and I think some of the same concerns were on the table there, as well as REAP. You know, this couldn't have resulted without a true visionary like yourself, working with others, and organizing this, and you said the word teamwork, and pulling together, and those are exactly right. That's what we need to do as a region, to work cooperatively and to maximize our resources at minimal cost to the taxpayer."

"One other comment I'd like to make, you mentioned [Dr.] Flentje made truthful analysis. You know, I know no different because he spent time over at the City of Wichita as City Manager. I think he is very truthful. He is one of the most truthful men in the world. And boy, we were glad when he was gone."

Mr. Knight said, "He's indicated, Jim, that he doesn't care much for you."

Commissioner Skelton said, "I am not here to make friends man, okay? Mr. Mayor, thank you very much for coming out."

Mr. Knight said, "Thank you, Jim."

Commissioner Skelton said, "Congratulations. Those are my comments."

Chairman Norton said, "Well, this just goes to show that old mayors don't go away, they just can cram a lot of stuff into two minutes. It was two minutes. You know, we referred to Dr. Flentje, and I would like to have Ed come up for just a minute. He was there for a lot of years with a hand on the throttle helping through the Hugo Wall Center for Urban Affairs, and Dr. Flentje, if you would come forward."

Dr. H. Edward Flentje, Ph.D, Professor, Hugo Wall School of Urban Studies, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I don't really have much to add. I think Bob gave you a good overview, as did Joe Yeager. I would say a couple things. Number one, this organization could not have survived over 15 years without elected officials stepping forward. And REAP has had leadership, I think, in almost every jurisdiction that you see you there on the board, and it is elected leadership, and I think what many of the REAP members know, and certainly Commissioner Norton, is when Bob Knight and Chris Churches first invited folks to the table, the main motivation for being there is what was Bob Knight up to. And it was a very compelling motivation for almost all of these smaller jurisdictions in the region."

"I particularly remember Mayor Norton just keeping an eye constantly on Bob, and what kind of hand movements he had and all those things. Chris Churches, I mean, REAP was coordinated for that first year or two out of the City Manager's office and City of Wichita, and I mean, they essentially staffed it. After, I can't remember exactly, a year or two, other REAP members wanted the organization to do some other things, and they asked the Center for Urban Studies at that time to kind of be a staff assistant, and members agreed to assess themselves to provide pretty modest support.

"It is still a lean organization. It was very lean at that time. And we agreed to do that on a one-year basis, and the truth is, it's been a one-year basis ever since. But it is now 15 one-year kind of agreements going forward and, I think it's been good for the [Wichita State] University to have a very direct understanding of elected officials and issues they are facing. I think it's been an educational effort for the University faculty, students and staff to learn from these elected officials and the region over time, and I think it's been a good partnership and certainly would recommend it. So I think except for acknowledging the leadership of Jim Skelton while I was City Manager at the City of Wichita, I really think I could bring my comments to a close. Thank you."

Commissioner Skelton said, "You did a really good job, by the way."

Chairman Norton said, "Well, I think we know that great communities have great universities at the center of research and the academic endeavors and the thought process to move your community forward. We are very blessed to have WSU as a critical piece of our thought process as we try to govern. I would like to recognize some past chairmen of REAP here today. Mayor Bob Knight, obviously has already spoken. Mayor Willis Heck of Newton is here today. Commissioner Tom Winters of Sedgwick County, one of our colleagues a few years ago, was Chairman of REAP. Mayor John Waltner of Hesston is here today also. And at this point I would like to address the current chair to accept the award, and that's our own colleague, Commissioner Dave Unruh.

"I am very proud that Sedgwick County has been very involved in REAP, I am also proud that I did have a chance to sit in those early meetings to help structure and change the dynamic of how our region, guided by the 800-pound gorilla in the room. But all the small cities and other jurisdictions that have to hitch up to the wagon, pull it together, have come to this point and its incarnation to make a difference in the region and in the state. So, with that I would like to present to the Chairman of REAP, Commissioner Dave Unruh, the Chairman's Award for 2013. Congratulations."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for this award. I am pleased to accept it on behalf of all our past chairmen. Mayor Jeffrey Roberts is also here today, I think, we want to also recognize him. Glad you are here also. It would be improper for me not to acknowledge, as the current chair, that great pioneering work that Bob Knight did in trying to get REAP initiated. We very much appreciate your vision and what this means to South Central Kansas.

"Dr. Flentje has already been recognized, we want to thank him for his work. But as we go forward, we also want to recognize, we think we have a great team of people to help us. Dr. Nancy McCarthy Snyder from the Hugo Wall School, Joe Yeager and his job, Dane Baxa for his leadership on the Water Resources Committee, and now with the sustainable communities planning grant.

"We have good folks who are working hard to advance issues in South Central Kansas, and I'm just pleased to accept this award on behalf of all these folks.

"We are a group of separate entities in South Central Kansas, but we recognize that economic and political challenges and issues do not confine themselves to new jurisdictional boundaries. So, we have to work together with the understanding that we will take the effort necessary to address issues with a mutual understanding that brings mutual benefit to all the constituent government that make up REAP. So we'll work together to continue to do that. We think we can be a positive force in South Central Kansas. We are very pleased to have this award. So, Mr. Chairman left, but we want to once again thank Chairman Norton for the award and also want to thank all you folks here who have celebrated with us in this recognition. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "I appreciate the Commissioners for indulging me for a little longer of a Chairman's Award. I wanted to make sure that elected officials and folks that worked hard in the early days to create the kind of regional thought process that we have today were recognized. If you travel the country at all, you know there are organizations like Mark in Kansas City, which is the Mid-America Regional Council that pull together, have common interests, they are local governments, they are cross jurisdictional and they made a huge difference in their community. Organizations like REAP are so critical for us to look at our catchment area, our resource area, our relationship area, and be sure that we all have a focus on things that can make a difference in our community. So thanks for indulging me today, Madam Clerk, please call the next item."

CONSENT

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| H | 12-1090 | Approval to fill a supervisory/administrative specialist position held vacant after a retirement. Position #2000090. |
| I | 12-1096 | Contract renewal for Community Based Services with the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas. |
| J | 12-1015 | General Bill Check Register. |
| K | 12-1106 | Order dated 1/2/2013 to correct tax roll for change of assessment. |

L 12-1107 Order dated 1/3/2013 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, you have the Consent Agenda before you. I would recommend you approve it."

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Skelton seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Peterjohn</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Skelton</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Chairman Norton</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Chairman Norton said, "At this point, Commissioners, we have a Fire Agenda [No. 1]. So we're going to recess the Board of County Commissioners meeting."

RECESS THE BOARD OF SEDGWICK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of County Commissioners recessed into the Fire District No. 1 Meeting at 9:57 a.m. and returned at 10:01 a.m.

Chairman Norton said, "We will bring back to order the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners meeting of January 16th. Madam Clerk, call the next item."

NEW BUSINESS

M [12-1111](#)

SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN THROUGH JANUARY 8, 2014.

Presented by: Tim Norton, Chairman.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: List slate of nominees, and vote on each in the order listed.

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Unruh."

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to nominate Commissioner Jim Skelton for Chairman for the Board of County Commissioners.

Chairman Norton seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Peterjohn</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Skelton</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Chairman Norton</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. Jim Skelton, congratulations."

Commissioner Skelton said, "Thank you very much. I appreciate the confidence the Commission has in me, and I look forward to the challenge of running this meeting every week, it is something I have been looked forward to. This is a culmination of all my efforts and all my education in parliamentary procedure. So I am going to put it to the test. So thank you for the unanimous vote, Commissioners. Those are my comments."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. We have one more item before we end the day. That's Item N, would you call that, Madam Clerk? I'm sorry, Commissioner Peterjohn, do you have something? Okay. Call the next item."

N [12-1101](#)

SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIR PRO TEM THROUGH JANUARY 8, 2014.

Presented by: Tim Norton, Chairman.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: List slate of nominees, and vote on each in the order listed.

MOTION

Chairman Norton moved to nominate Commissioner David M. Unruh for Chair Pro Tem for the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Skelton seconded the motion.

Chairman Norton said, "And we have another light on. Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to mention the fact that I had the privilege and honor in 2010 of getting to chair the County Commission for that year, and since that time every member up here, with the exception of Commissioner Ranzau, has either been able to serve as Chairman or Chairman Pro Tem. And four years ago when I became a Commissioner I made the comment that we were often going to disagree on issues and we have done so, but I want to compliment my colleagues, and my intent at that time, and I think we've been able to follow through with the seven people I've had the privilege of serving with on the County Commission, we have been able to disagree without being disagreeable, and we have heartfelt feelings and we have often expressed our differences from here at the bench and other venues, and that's why this morning I really want to, I'm privileged to nominate my colleague, Commissioner Ranzau as Chair Pro Tem, because I think we've talked about rotation and leadership here, distribution, and I've heard comments made that all Commissioners equal, but in words of [George] Orwell, sometimes that makes me feel like sometimes 'All animals are equal, but some [animals] are more equal than others'. So, this morning I would like to nominate the one person who has never had the privilege so far of serving as either chair or chair pro tem, and that's Commissioner Ranzau."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "I'll second."

Chairman Norton said, "At this point, Commissioner Skelton."

Commissioner Skelton said, "I'm just curious, on a matter of procedure, would we do this by ballot?"

Chairman Norton said, "We will do this by voice vote."

Commissioner Skelton said, "Okay. Okay."

Chairman Norton said, "I will take them in order of nomination. So at this point, I will ask that we call the roll on Chairman Unruh."

Ms. Jill Bailey, Deputy County Clerk, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Aye."

Ms. Bailey said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Please clarify, I'm planning to vote for Commissioner Ranzau."

Ms. Bailey said, "We will be voting for Dave Unruh's nomination first."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Procedurally, I'm casting my vote for Commissioner Ranzau this morning. Like I said, nice warm fuzzy feelings about my colleagues and my colleagues have had the privilege of being Chairman. I believe Commissioner Unruh was Chairman in 2011. So I'll continue with my vote for Commissioner Ranzau."

Commissioner Skelton said, "So I would take that as a no vote."

Ms. Bailey said, "Okay. Commissioner Ranzau."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "I will vote for myself as well."

Ms. Bailey said, "Commissioner Skelton."

Commissioner Skelton said, "Aye."

Ms. Bailey said, "Chairman Norton."

Chairman Norton said, "I will vote for Commissioner Unruh. What are the results?"

Ms. Bailey said, "It is..."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "I think its close."

Chairman Norton said, "The tally I have is 3-2 for Commissioner Unruh, is that correct?"

Ms. Bailey said, "That is what I have as well, yes."

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	No
Commissioner Ranzau	No
Commissioner Skelton	Aye
Chairman Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Congratulations."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

OTHER

Chairman Norton said, "We are now to the last item, that's 'Other' before we move on to the reception that we have. And is there anything else to come before us today. Commissioner Skelton."

Commissioner Skelton said, "Mr. Chairman, you know, you sat here for a year to my left, and have done an outstanding job. I've particularly enjoyed your thoughts of the day. You said one last week, is that an empty mind was the devil's den. And that would have made a good thought for the day, because that is true. I really can relate to that one. But it is my pleasure at this time to present the Chairman for his services the past year with this Chairman's Award in recognition for Commissioner Tim Norton, Chairman, Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners 2012. Congratulations."

Chairman Norton said, "Well, I do have just a couple of comments. I take very seriously the charge the citizens have given me as a County Commissioner, and I also the charge of being Chairman for a year as an important part of running county government. It adds not a lot of authority, but a lot of extra things to do to your work schedule. There are a lot of things to sign, a lot of places to be, a lot of speeches to make, a lot of babies to kiss, to make sure that you represent the county government at that level. And I'm honored to have a year to do that."

"I am proud that we moved some things along and this year, you know, we consolidated some government agencies, we made sure that the budget came in as it should, and was balanced and dealt with the deficit we had. I think it was a good year. There are other years ahead of us that are going to be tough, and we are all as a community going to have to hitch up to the wagon and make sure that we do the best work as county government with our partners, regionally and across the street to make sure that Sedgwick County continues to be one of those counties around the nation that get it right. I am very proud to pass the gavel on to my colleague, Jim Skelton, and with that, we are adjourned."

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

*JAMES B. SKELTON, Chairman
Fifth District*

*DAVID M. UNRUH, Chair Pro Tem
First District*

*TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District*

*KARL PETERJOHN, Commissioner
Third District*

*RICHARD RANZAU, Commissioner
Fourth District*

ATTEST:

Kelly B. Arnold, County Clerk

APPROVED:

