

# Sedgwick County

525 North Main Street 3rd Floor  
Wichita, KS 67203



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, January 15, 2014**

**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 Roberta Berry, Sedgwick County Interim ADA Coordinator, 510 N. Main, Suite 306, Wichita, Kansas 67203*

*Phone: (316) 660-7058, TDD: Kansas Relay at 711 or 800-766-3777*

*Email: [rberry@sedgwick.gov](mailto:rberry@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 January 15, 2014 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman James B. Skelton, with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Karl Peterjohn; Commissioner Richard Ranzau; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Mr. Bill Meek, Register of Deeds; Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Director, Health Department; Ms. Susan Wilson, Director, Healthy Babies Program; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and Ms. Jill Bailey, Deputy County Clerk.*

### **GUESTS**

*Mr. Dion Avello, Mayor, City of Derby  
Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department  
Ms. Anne Nelson Associate Executive Director, Central Plains Regional Healthcare Foundation*

### **INVOCATION: Pastor Rick Cline, RiverWalk Church of Christ.**

### **FLAG SALUTE**

### **ROLL CALL**

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

*Chairman Skelton said, "Madam Clerk, can you please call Items A, B and C."*

### **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

#### **A      [13-0997](#)      REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2013.**

**All Commissioners were present.**

*Chairman Skelton said, "All Commissioners were present during all of these meetings. Are there corrections?"*

#### **MOTION**

*Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2013; December 11, 2013 and December 18, 2013.*

*Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion.*

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	Aye
Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Chairman Skelton	Aye

Chairman Skelton said, "Thank you."

Commissioner Unruh said, "You might call the next item."

**Approved**

- B**      [13-1002](#)      REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2013.  
All Commissioners were present.  
*Action on Item B was taken with Item A.*

- C**      [13-1000](#)      REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2013.  
All Commissioners were present.  
*Action on Item C was taken with Item A.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

- D**      [14-1023](#)      PRESENTATION OF THE 2014 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD.  
Presented by: James B. Skelton, Chairman.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Present the award.

*Chairman Skelton said, "Hi, everybody, I'm over here now. Well, I would like everybody to know as I conclude my term as Chairman, I'd like to continue a tradition that's been going on since 1988 in this building, and that is the Chairman's Award. So it's my pleasure to award the Chairman's Award this year to the City of Derby, and that means the city council, everything in Derby, the citizens, the way their city hall operates, and the way they meet the needs of their constituents.*

*"I mean, for example, they extended their office hours to meet customer needs at no additional cost to the taxpayer. That's outstanding. You built trust and confidence with your citizens during a decision making process to authorize a half cent sales tax. You know, the citizens understood that it was going to fund part of the fire department and your public library. And again, I hear this over and over, that how the airmen and officers at the McConnell Air Force Base are proud to have your community to their south. It's a very popular community. Those people, I want to congratulate you for providing that high standard of living that can be achieved down there in Derby.*

*"And Derby, again, it was also integral in the support for the new tanker coming to McConnell, because I don't know if it wasn't for this city right here we would have that. So that's how important Derby is to me. You know, you guys have an awesome curbside recycling program, something I really am proud of. That's something I support. I support curbside recycling. The recycling rate in your city is 80 percent, 80 percent of people in Derby recycle.*

*"Okay, and that's compared with a 30 percent national average in other cities, above and beyond, again above and beyond. You boast a clean air ordinance, and you recently completed a 15 year effort to connect the public library and rec[reation] center to schools.*

*"And I also want to congratulate you on your referendum initiative for the half cent sales tax to fund the fire department, the park and the library. So I'm really impressed with your city. You offer excellent city services. You have very professional staff, and so those are my reasons I want to give you and the citizens of Derby this 2000, is it 2013 or [20]14 Chairman's award? 2013, okay. Help me out here. Okay. I'll tell you what, I'd like to present each one of you a little symbol of your hard work and congratulations. And I actually like to see you guys.*

*"So again, I am proud to represent your community. I have built a lot of great relationships down there. The people of Derby are very friendly. You know, my brother left me. He used to live across the street from me. He lives on Valley Stream Drive now. So he's going to call his commission when he has flooding problems, no, just kidding. Well, thank you very much, and Mayor, would you like to have a few comments, please?"*

*Mr. Dion Avello, Mayor, City of Derby, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you very much."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Absolutely."*

*Mr. Avello said, "Thank you Commissioner Skelton, for this award. I have with me today, I'll go down the line this way here, Councilman Randy White, Councilman Mark Staats, he's also the head of our chamber, Commissioner Vaughn Nun and Commissioner Chuck Warren who is also president of the council, and none other than a familiar face to you, the person who really deserves all the credit is our own City Manager Kathy Sexton. Without her, I don't know if we would have done half of what we have done here in the past few years.*

*"Commissioner Skelton those are kind words, we do care about McConnell Air Force Base, we do care about the rest of Sedgwick County, and we hope whatever we do in the City of Derby will carry through the rest of the cities in Sedgwick County and make us not only the best city in the country but the best county in the country. So we thank you very much for this award."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "As the Chairman is seeking his way back up here, I'd like to make a comment. I'm pretty proud that we have three alumni from Sedgwick County that have landed in Derby and made a difference, Kathy Sexton, Allison Moeding has just moved on, and Stephanie Knebel, and all of them have been integral to building the bridge between Sedgwick County and Derby, but also adding to the value of public service in the Derby area. As Commissioners, we're pretty proud that we helped grow the folks that are in public service and send them out to help other communities and make our county the best it can possibly be. So congratulations, Mayor. You know, as a south sider, I occasionally cross the river to be part of Derby. My wife's office is there, and has been on the chamber for years, so we're very proud of Derby, too, and congratulations today."*

*Mr. Avello said, "Thank you very much."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Any other comments? I occasionally cross the river, too, Tim. So you're not the only one."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "I haven't seen you in my location recently."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "I have camouflage. Okay, any other comments? All right. Thank you. Madam Clerk, next item."*

**E**      [14-1011](#)

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RETAINING THE MORTGAGE  
REGISTRATION FEE, AS PROVIDED IN K.S.A. 79-3102.**

**Presented by: Kristi Zukovich, Director, Sedgwick County  
Communications and Community Initiatives.**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the resolution.**

**Attachments:**      [Mortgage Registration Fee Resolution](#)

*Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Sedgwick County Communications and Community Initiatives, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I would like to talk to you a little bit this morning about an item that we have, that may be an issue to be addressed during the legislative session, and as you know, you adopted the legislative platform for Sedgwick County in October, but we know that we have issues that will pop up early and even late through the legislative session that you may need to address or have a position. And we have an issue this morning that's being discussed by counties all across Kansas, including the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) and the Register of Deeds Association as well, and it is regarding a mortgage registration fee and an attempt to discontinue this fee.*

*"We have had some discussions and some meetings previously on this topic. We've met with legislators about this topic previously. And this morning, I have a draft resolution for your consideration, and it is in support of retaining the mortgage registration fee, and I will read the resolution in for your information and for the record, and then Bill Meek, our Registrar of Deeds is here and is available to answer any questions or if you need additional information. The resolution states:*

**RESOLUTION**

*WHEREAS, in 1925, the Kansas legislature enacted a law (K.S.A. 9-3102), providing that before any mortgage of real property is filed with the county Register of Deeds, the individual or entity filing the mortgage pay a mortgage registration fee; and*

*WHEREAS, the process of recording mortgages with the Register of Deeds is an important county function to insure free and clear transactions involving land deals, giving potential landowners assurance that a property is unencumbered by liens; and*

*WHEREAS, a mortgage is enforceable only upon payment of the mortgage registration fee; and*

*WHEREAS, the current fee is a one-time payment of 0.26 percent of the principal debt secure the mortgage; and*

*WHEREAS, 25/26th of the fee is distributed to the county to fund basic operations of county government and 1/26th is remitted to the State Treasurer to finance the Heritage Trust Fund to preserve historic structures; and*

*WHEREAS, in 2012, Sedgwick County received more than \$7.4 million from the mortgage registration fee, which helps to support the tax system, including the Register of Deeds, Clerk, Appraiser and Treasurer and related tax system expenses, and that absent such fees, Sedgwick County would either have to reduce county services or increase the mill levy to cover the cost of basic services.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SEDGWICK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that the mortgage registration fee is an important revenue source for counties and is a one-time user fee to those who secure mortgages rather than all taxpayers carrying the burden; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it would be profoundly unfair to counties, and most of all, county property taxpayers, for counties to lose the revenue generated by the mortgage registration fee without the Legislature identifying and authorizing an ongoing revenue measure of equal or greater significance; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the absence of an identified authorized substitute revenue source that we urge the Kansas Legislature to retain the current mortgage registration fee as provided in K.S.A. 79-3102 and reject any or all legislative proposals to abolish such fee.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to members of the Kansas Senate and House of Representatives representing this county and to the Kansas Association of Counties.*

*"Commissioners, you have heard the resolution that's been drafted as a proposal. Again, I have Bill Meek who is also here to address any questions or answer any information."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Commissioner Norton. "*

*Commissioner Norton said, "I'm going to be supportive of the resolution and will be glad to make that motion at some point, but there's a little history here. As we look at the mortgage registration fee, it only layers on to some other decisions that have come along over the last few years. LAVTR, which is Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction plan, still on the states statutes, that has gone away over the years, its sunset. That was millions of dollars to Sedgwick County and other counties, and municipalities around the state.*

*"The Machining and Equipment Bill that changed how machining and equipment is a revenue source was changed a view years ago. That was millions of dollars to counties and local jurisdictions. There is a fixture bill that it changes machine and equipment once again that's floating through the legislature that will affect counties in a very dramatic way, and now the mortgage registration fee issue that could be millions of dollars. Over the years, that can add up to over \$20 million that has fallen out of the county coffers. We've been able to find ways to continue services and run our business at a very high level, but eventually, the old idea that the Manager brought up that you do more with less, but in the last couple years, we've had to do less with less, is going to be layered on.*

*"And it is going to affect the Registrar of Deeds, Clerks, Treasurers, Appraisers, the basic bones of much of what we do.*

*"So I'm going to be supportive of this. I sit on the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) legislative committee last year, I was president a couple years ago, and this issue rose to the top of one of the number one issues of counties around the whole state, because it will have profound effect on how many counties run their business. It's not near as much money as Sedgwick County, but on a relative basis, it will hurt a lot of counties and their courthouses around the state."*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Norton moved to approve the resolution.*

*Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Commissioner Peterjohn, discussion of the motion."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we're talking a little bit about history and some other events related to county financing and county government and taxes, I remember back maybe about 15 years ago there used to be a statutory property tax lid, and there was an effort to try and get Sedgwick County out from under it. The voters overwhelmingly said no, we want to keep this local unit under the property tax lid that was in place. I mention that this morning, because I believe the history of the mortgage registration fee was that it was originally put in place because of problems with other property taxes and other local taxes that were in place prior to its enactment almost 100 years ago. And I'd like to get Mr. Meek to comment on that, if he would, please."*

*Mr. Bill Meek, Register of Deeds, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Yes, in the early portion of this legislation, there were some cities in Kansas that were charging anywhere up to 37.5 percent personal property tax on the individuals. They also had a tax for males between the ages of 20 and 44, everyone had to pay 50 cents. So the legislature decided, because of that reason and because out of five liens on property, only one was showing up on public record, that they would pass this requirement. They started it in 1905 and [19]07, changed the constitution in 1925, amended it, and it became in law in 1925, at 25 cents per \$100. And that's the same price that the county collects now.*

*"It was originally designed to finance county government. That's what it says. In one amendment to the law, it stated half of the funds collected by the Register of Deeds would go to the county general fund. The other half would go to city schools, or to school districts. That was amended later on to where schools went another way. So the intent from the very beginning was to help fund county government. If this goes away, it will be a \$47 million hit on the State of Kansas, county governments."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Mr. Meek, would you talk about the fact that our background information indicates that this amount fluctuates year by year, at least in the five or ten years on an annual basis. Could you talk about that and the fact that also the rate is currently, I believe, 26 cents as opposed the 25 cents enacted per \$100 when it was originally enacted roughly 90 years ago."*

*Mr. Meek said, "You're correct. It is 26 cents. But in 1990, the state legislature felt that the Heritage Trust Fund through the Kansas Historical Society would get one cent to do modernization of old buildings. So that one penny goes directly to the Heritage Trust Fund. I forgot your first part of your question."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "The fluctuation in the amounts received in the last five or ten years. "*

*Mr. Meek said, "Mortgage markets have changed since 1995. 1995 was a very large boom of refinancing and mortgages. We had, probably our most mortgages back then, it would have been somewhere around the neighborhood of \$9 million. But as properties have changed and the mortgages have got tighter and tighter and tighter, we're seeing less and less revenue coming in. Now, some people said it was caused by the 80/20 mortgages that caused this problem or the interest loans that shouldn't have been made. Whether that's the case or not, I don't know. But this revenue is extremely important to Sedgwick County and for the growth of Sedgwick County."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Mr. Chairman, I plan to be supportive of this resolution this morning."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Thank you, sir. Manager and, okay, so if the state does that, what are some alternatives? Have you thought about what would happen? Bill, have you thought about what would happen? What would we do if this indeed were to go through? What are the possible scenarios?"*

*Mr. Meek said, "The way the mortgage registration fee is set up now, it's not touched by the state. It doesn't go through our state coffers, it doesn't come out of our state coffers. It comes directly into the county and is paid directly in the county. It's a pretty efficient manner. Anything that you're getting from the state as far as revenue or revenue sharing can be taken away from the state as far as revenue or revenue sharing, and that's my opinion."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "What we do operationally here, what would your office do operationally if that were to pass?"*

*Mr. Meek said, "I think countywide, that would be a decision you and the Manager would have to make of exactly what you're going to have to do to make up that difference. Either do less with less, or raise the mill levy. Those are about the only two choices."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Manager, you suggested we leave the Registrar of Deeds open one day a month. Is that still on the table?"*

*Mr. Meek said, "Okeydokey"*

*Chairman Skelton said, "I was being candid. That's not going to happen, I hope not."*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "It might happen."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Mr. Chairman, I hope you meant it facetious as opposed to candid."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay, Commissioner Unruh"*



*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Meek, I appreciate your leadership on this issue, giving us the education and background we need, and I know that you also were helpful in crafting some of the language in the resolution. I'm going to be supportive of this, but my position is, I don't desire to be adversarial with folks in the banking community or the folks in the real estate, or Association of Realtors here locally or statewide, but the key part of the resolution that I think we need to emphasize is the line that says in the absence of identified authorized substitute revenue source, we urge the legislature to retain this current fee. And so that's the reason why I can be supportive with a very clear conscious, is that the revenue is going to put a real burden on our local taxpayers to fund county government unless there is an alternative source of revenue. I appreciate your leadership, and I'm going to be supportive. Thank you, Mr. Chair."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Is there a motion."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Yes, there is."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay, has it been seconded?"*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Yes."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay, it's been moved and seconded to take staff's recommended action here and approve the resolution. Any other discussion? Madam Clerk, call the vote."*

**VOTE**

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

*Chairman Skelton said, "Thank you, next item."*

*Ms. Jill Bailey, Deputy County Clerk, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Item F consideration of a grant application in the amount ..."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Madam Clerk, I do apologize."*

**MOTION**

*Chairman Skelton moved to take an off agenda item relating to the Kansas Trapshooters Association.*

*Commissioner Ranzau seconded the motion.*

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	Aye
Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Chairman Skelton	Aye

Chairman Skelton said, "Thank you, Commissioner."

OFF AGENDA ITEM

MOTION

Commissioner Ranzau moved that the Board of County Commissioners liberally construe the Kansas Sport Shooting Range Act, and in connection with the remodeling of the bathroom facility on the property of the Kansas Trapshooters Association located at the northeast corner of Hillside and 117th Street North, we instruct County staff: (1) to not enforce the platting and conditional use permit requirements under the Uniform Building Code and Uniform Zoning Code and allow the MABCD to issue a building permit without the requirement of platting or conditional use permit and (2) discontinue proceedings styled as county case CON2013-39 and Plat Case No. SUB2013- 0050 with respect to conditional use and plat on such property.

Chairman Skelton seconded the motion.

Chairman Skelton said, "Commissioner, before we vote on this, can you give us just a little narrative here publicly so people know why we're doing this."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "There is a range that is doing some remodeling of their bathroom facilities, and there is a statute that we believe applies that would prohibit us, we're construing this liberally to prohibit us from making them get a platting and conditional use in order to do this."

Chairman Skelton said, "To do the bathroom remodel."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "To do the bathroom remodel. They're on about 80 acres out in the middle of the country, been there since the 1970's. It's only going to expand their square footage by six and a square foot. And we want to interpret this in a way that can be business friendly and reduce the regulatory and cost burden for people in our community."

Chairman Skelton said, "What is the approximate location of the range, sir?"

Commissioner Ranzau said, "117th Street North between Hillside and Oliver."

Chairman Skelton said, "So there is nothing, around there?"

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Farm fields."

Chairman Skelton said, "Yes, okay. The motion has been moved and seconded for the recommendation of Commissioner Ranzau, is there any discussion? Okay, Madam Clerk, call the vote."

*Ms. Bailey said, "Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Well, actually I did have some discussion, if I could."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay, flip your switch."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "I'm sorry, I didn't get my switch on quick enough."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Commissioner Norton, please."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "I'm going to be supportive of this today, but I worry about, first of all, the protocols that we've always had that we go through MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Commission), our code folks, that we've set a protocol and we're kind of switching that, so I want to be sure that we don't go too far afield from what we normally do, because that starts creating all kinds of exceptions in how we deal with individual things and we want to make sure that we have programs and processes in place that continue to be fair to everybody and not just a case that bubbles up to us that we may have a thought about.*

*"It also sets a precedent. We talked about that yesterday in our staff meeting. I want to be sure that we don't start dealing with everything as an exception, as an individual exception. I'd like to hear a little bit from Tom and John and Rich as to whether this will be workable if we take this action. What would be the pitfalls if we move forward? I tend to be supportive, but I want to be sure we have a little dialogue on it. So, John, Tom, Rich, a comment or two?"*

*Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I think you touched on it a little bit. I mean, we're glad to carry out whatever the direction is that comes from the Board, but it does create, I think, for staff, some confusion about when to apply the rules that this Board has adopted and when not to apply them. And I think you touched on that a little bit. When do we act to administer the codes we've been charged to administer, and when should we not do that."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay, I understand that. I mean, I just, Commissioner Norton, do you want to finish? Go ahead, please."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "No. I just want to be sure that on the record we're talking about that, because it does create an exception, and when you do, when we have rules that we have codified and put in place, we're obligated to try to follow them, and we have to take these cases as conditional uses, make decisions. I'm okay with that. That's what we're doing today. But I want to be sure that we put it in the context that we do have rules and statutes and resolutions that we charge our staff to follow. And they know their code books, and they know what the laws and the rules are, and that's what they try to do in this case. They've interpreted it. They have sought legal counsel and then they moved forward. We may take a different action, and that's on us, but I want to be sure that we give pretty succinct thought process to staff so they know in the future where we're going with this."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Commissioner, I understand your point. It's a very, very good point. My opinion is that there is an exception to all rules. There is. And when you have a range out there in the middle of proverbially nowhere, and all they're wanting to do is add a few square feet to their bathroom, and it's going to cost them hundreds of dollars to make a cu (conditional use), it's going to cost them a lot of money to go through all of these additional public processes that I would consider as red tape. Now, if we need to review some of the ordinances to avoid some of this unnecessary red tape, because all of this is an expense for the applicant with no real change in the operations of the facility, maybe we should look and review that."*

*Mr. Schlegel said, "Well, and staff would be glad to do that if you give us direction on what you would like to have reviewed. We would be glad to do that."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay, okay. Because there are exceptions to rules. Do you agree with that, sir?"*

*Mr. Schlegel said, "Yes, and your codes provide for exceptions to rules, and when appropriate, then we apply those exceptions. In this particular case, you know, for example, with the platting requirement, there's a list of exemptions to platting requirements in the subdivision regulations, but they didn't apply in this particular situation. So we felt we had to move forward with the platting requirement."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Well, I've explained my vote. I'd like to maybe take a look at those. It just seems like an unnecessary financial burden for these people when it's really not going to make any real difference here. Okay, those are my comments. Commissioner Ranzau, or Commissioner Peterjohn. "*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the dialogue and the comments here, because I also plan to be supportive. But, Sedgwick County operates under state law. We have our authority as a county under the state, and if the state has passed a uniformed statute that is not ,where we don't have the opportunity and have exercised our powers under the statutory home rule provisions, I assume we've got to follow state law now. If we have a problem in the sense that this Commission hasn't set up an exemption to properly follow state law on this, I think it's maybe something we need to take up, following up and make more clarity into these rules.*

*"But in terms of the regulations, I would disagree with the Chairman on one point. I mean, as far as I'm concerned, there is nowhere that exists, all 1,008 square miles of Sedgwick County are important. And whether its agriculture land, whether it's city, or anywhere else in between, what goes on in this county is vitally important as far as I'm concerned. I think that if we have a state law that we need to be in compliance with, nothing aggravates me more on a personal level if one level of government basically says, well, we're above and beyond the law. The law is for the little people out there, and that aggravates me to no end.*

*"So if the state has passed a uniform law, whether it's good, bad, or indifferent, we have to follow it, and if they pass a bad law, we've got to try and see what we can do to change it, which we've got a rather extensive and I think fairly lengthy legislative wish list that does include a number of items that this Commission has taken up. So, I do plan to be supportive of this.*

*"I am very much concerned, in terms of the amount of red tape that government applies to the private sector in this day and age, and if the county is involved in it, we've got a situation here where we've got a state statute, I think maybe as a follow-up to staff going forward, we might look at seeing what we can do to make sure we're in compliance with the uniformed statutes. If they're not uniform, we can have a discussion about whether we should exercise our statutory home rule powers if that's permissible under state law. So I plan to be supportive, Mr. Chairman, and I do appreciate the dialogue from everyone so far this morning."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "I didn't hear the disagreement. He sounded just like me. What did...?"*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "You said nowhere, I believe, a comment, in terms of...every place in Sedgwick County is important, Commissioner."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "It is. Absolutely, I agree with that. I didn't mean to imply that 5903 Skinner is the only important place in Sedgwick County, all right. Commissioner Ranzau."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "You're welcome."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "I just want to address some issues. Feel free to come talk to me, and I'll make sure you understand the intent of the Commission here. I don't think this will cause a problem in the future, because this statute only applies to very specific types of situations, and it has to do with shooting ranges. So it just applies to those situations, and while we can, this has been going on since September or before. My understanding is that nobody in legal or staff or planning was aware of this particular statute. Now that we have become aware of it, we have it within our authority to make the decision to stop the proceedings to allow them to proceed and build their building without spending any more time or money, and I think that's important to do. If we want to reexamine our code for some additional changes in the future, that's, I'm happy to do that. I have some ideas out of this."*

*"But we don't have to do that in order to help these people out now. We're just saying we're going to follow our interpretation of this law. We're going to end their particular process right now, and I'll help clarify and answer any questions that you or Tom may have in the future, because I don't think this is going to cause any problems with anybody else as far as exceptions. That's just a few comments I have."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay. Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "I'd like to address Rich Euson. Rich, in your opinion, are we liberally, more than liberally interpreting the state statute?"*

*Mr. Richard Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, I've commented on this privately, and unless three of you direct me to comment on it publicly, I'd rather not."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Okay. I'm just one."*

Chairman Skelton said, "I think, in my opinion, we've made our case up here, and I'm ready to call for the vote if there's no other discussion. Okay? All right. Madam Clerk, call the vote."

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	Aye
Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Chairman Skelton	Aye

Chairman Skelton said, "Thank you. Okay. Next item, please."

**Approved**

F [13-0966](#)

CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$744,598 TO THE HEALTH RESOURCES & SERVICE ADMINISTRATION (HRSA) FOR HEALTHY START INITIATIVE FUNDING TO PROVIDE HEALTHY BABIES PROGRAM SERVICES AT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Presented by: Claudia Blackburn, Health Director, Sedgwick County Health Department.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the electronic submission of the application for the grant; and if awarded, authorize the Chairman to accept the award and authorize the establishment of budget authority as provided in the financial considerations section of this request.

**Attachments:**     [HRSA Healthy Start Grant Info.pdf](#)  
                              [HRSA Healthy Start Grant Budget Form.pdf](#)

*Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Health Director, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Before you is a request for approval of a grant application to the Health Services Resource Administration for \$744,598 for the Healthy Start Initiative Funding for the Healthy Babies program. I'm going to give you a brief overview as I did when I briefed you, and Susan Wilson, the Program Director for Healthy Babies is here, and she will answer any questions that you have.*

*"So what is the purpose of the Healthy Start Grant? This grant is to improve and reduce racial and ethnic disparities in birth-related health outcomes by using community based approaches to service delivery and to facilitate access to comprehensive health and social services for women, infants and their families. We have had this federal grant since 1997 in Sedgwick County, and the intervention area that we have been focused on has been three zip codes: 67208, 67214, and 67219. Our proposed area is a little bit different. It's eight zip codes throughout the county, and still includes two of the original zip codes but does not include 67219. To be eligible for this grant, the zip code areas have to have an infant mortality rate of 9.9 [percent] or greater, and one of the zip codes that we had been serving no longer qualifies, which is good news. The infant mortality rate in 67219 decreased from 24 [percent] to 7.5 [percent] in the last 19 years. So it no longer qualifies, and that's a good thing. But the new criteria allows us to serve a number of other zip codes throughout the county. And that's what we would like to do.*

*"Also noted, in those three zip codes that have been serving, there was a decrease in the black infant mortality rate from 28.7 per thousand live births to 18.8 deaths per thousand live births. So that was also a pretty significant decrease. So the planned intervention for this Healthy Start Grant request is to implement the evidence based healthy steps for young children home visitation model in collaboration with our community partners, especially our community health clinics and the residency clinics. We'll also work with private providers, but we will be very tight with those community partners that I just mentioned. This model bridges the gap between the client and the medical team and research shows that this model improves client satisfaction with medical care resulting in better follow through for prenatal and well child visits, helps the client understand the importance of having a medical home and improves trust with the medical team, increases immunization rates, improves safe sleep practices, decreasing related infant deaths. That is sudden unexplained infant death and SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) is the number three cause of infant death in Sedgwick County.*

*"It also improves physician satisfaction with the care because the home visitor helps to keep the client involved with the care and to follow through and also to involve the whole family. So that is what we're proposing. We will, our community partners have agreed to use a prenatal risk assessment tool so that all the pregnant women that they serve, regardless of where they live, because we'll use other funds to cover those folks, will be screened for risk, and then we will intervene based on their risk score. Our case loads will increase from about 50 per nurse to about 95 by 2016. So we'll be able to see more than twice, about twice as many clients as we're seeing now in the program. So we feel that we'll really be able to have a larger reach and have better outcomes. At this point, I would recommend that you allow us to apply for this grant and authorize the Chair to sign any contract associated with this grant if we are so awarded. And if you have any questions, I'm going to call Susan up to address those."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay. Commissioner Ranzau."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Yes, I have some questions, Claudia. So we're going to apply for \$744,598, which is an increase from \$516,906; is that correct?"*

*Ms. Blackburn said, "I think it's an increase from \$550,000, yes, and I apologize. This is a five year grant. It runs from June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2019. So this is per year what we're asking for. Whether we actually get that amount remains to be seen."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Okay. So on the \$516,000 I calculated a 44 percent increase, but it's probably closer to 40. Nevertheless, it's a sizable increase. Tell me how people get selected to participate in this."*

*Ms. Susan Wilson, Director, Healthy Babies Program, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Like Claudia mentioned, we have a number of programs in the community that really focus on maternal and child health in early childhood, and we know that there are certain levels of risk for a medical side and for the social side for if you're going to have a good birth outcome. So we're going to pull the community partners together, and we're going to talk about having a prenatal risk assessment process in our community, and we're pulling that from community care of North Carolina. They have an incredible program set up, and we'll be able to them determine if this mom is at very high risk.*

*"Maybe she's had a previous infant death, or miscarriages, or she's had her previous births that were all preterm or low birth weight, just various things. We're also going to look at the social factors, and then based on that we will assign the mom, every one of them will have a home visitors assigned to them, but then the dosage of services they will receive will be based on their level of need. And so we'll have the home visitation. All moms will have monthly prenatal visits. That's a critical time. And then based on that assessment, it will determine how many home visits that mom will receive during that postpartum period."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "How does that differ from what we're doing now?"*

*Ms. Wilson said, "Well, right now, this is a very similar program to what we're doing now, and why we're choosing to move this way is because we really want to be able to say that we are using evidence-based programs, because that's what everyone, you know, the feds want everything to be evidence based right now. So we wanted to move in that direction. We also knew that we have great partnerships with our providers, but we wanted to really tighten those to make sure there are not moms that are falling through the cracks, and that's what we feel is happening now. So this allows us to have this, there will be a medical team really wrapped around each mom, and we'll be able to insure that they are getting the services they need and that they're following through and that the resources in the community are wrapped around them better."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Okay, what if someone doesn't want to participate?"*

*Ms. Wilson said, "It's not going to be a required program. Now, if..."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Is that the same case now?"*

*Ms. Wilson said, "It's the same case now."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "We can't make them participate?"*

*Ms. Wilson said, "Right, so just like they come into the program now, we have referrals coming from all different places, including self-referrals, you know, it's up to them what services they wish to receive. We hope that with this intervention they will develop more of a trust, they'll develop relationships with not only the home visit provider, but also with their medical provider, and it will make them feel like they have more of a support system. So we feel that that is going to be something that, a lot of our families just, they need help. They need to know that somebody is out there fighting for them."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Okay. Okay. And you don't think there is anyone out there, their family or anything like that, their church group?"*

*Ms. Wilson said, "If I may, I'm just going to refer to something personal really quick. As many of you know, the last couple of years, I've had some very serious medical conditions, and it's been really rough, and if I didn't have, first, the family that I do, and second, the job that I have with supervisors and directors and folks like you in an organization that supports me, when I needed to take off for FML (Family Medical Leave), when I needed to be off for a doctor's appointment, various things, I don't know what I would have done."*



*"So I have survived by grace and by hope, and many of the families in our community, they don't have that same level of hope. They may have family, but if those folks are all in a situation where they're worrying about how that next paycheck is going to come in, if they're not in a salaried position and if they don't work for an organization like Sedgwick County to know that somebody always has their back, it's not the same scenario. So I knew that when I had to be off, I knew that somebody was taking care of my job, and I knew that it was going to be here when I came back, and I didn't have to worry. When you're working an hourly position, it's not that same situation. You don't have bosses that are always going to let you off for a prenatal appointment or for a well child visit. And when your child is sick and you can't take that child to the daycare provider, what are you going to do?"*

*"And so folks just need hope, and I feel like that's what we're here to do. We're here to give them hope and connect the dots in our community. Because if you take time and really sit down and look at the resources we have in Sedgwick County, it is phenomenal. What we want to do with this grant is we want to take the opportunity for the new, they're offering new funding levels, so if they're offering \$750,000 for Level 1, I really don't want another community to take the money. I want us to have it, and I want us to improve birth outcomes, and I want us to have a system where we can kind of be a hub, and we are connecting these families to the incredible resources that we have."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Okay. So what if we don't get this money and it goes away, are you saying their hope goes away? This is the problem that I have, Susan, or concern. This model requires, because we have government workers going into their houses, right, visiting them, going to doctor's appointments with them."*

*Ms. Wilson said, "Correct."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Okay, evidently, that gives them hope. What if those government workers go away? At some point we need to have a transition to where the community can sustain itself. And we need to be going out into churches and community groups. I know a group of women that want to empower women; they're a small group right now. It needs to be passed on by generation by generation. Otherwise, we're not really addressing the issue. Okay? And it's not scalable, and you can't force people to participate. So I would suspect there is a little bit of self-selection going on. Those people who are inclined to participate in your program are inclined, they are more interested in taking care of themselves and their children. Those people who are not inclined to participate might be the actual people who need it the most."*

*"But in the end, this model, I don't think, is sustainable or scalable. You can't have a government bureaucrat in everybody's home telling them what to do. So we need, I think we need a paradigm shift or at least, you know, I went to the FIMR (Fetal and Infant Mortality Review) meetings. One of my concerns is a physician questioned whether the data was exactly accurate. I've asked about that before, I've gotten no answers. I'm also concerned this is not sustainable, scalable and that it doesn't really empower the community to take care of itself. We're going to require this funding in perpetuity unless we have a model that transitions and empowers people and community to pass this on themselves."*

*"But, beyond that, one of the questions I've asked, and those are some issues, but here's some other issues, we have limited money at all levels of government. You want to decrease infant mortality."*

*"I've asked for infant mortality rates from the beginning of this program until now. I've got some data. I've also asked for any evidence to demonstrate that this program actually does decrease infant mortality. Because if it's not, wouldn't you agree that we, I mean, we don't want to spend money hoping that we're doing something. But if it's not working, should we continue to spend money on it even though our intentions are, we have good intentions, but should we judge a policy by its intentions or by its results? So is there any evidence to suggest that, we've been doing this since 1997, do these programs actually make a difference?"*

*Ms. Wilson said, "I'm going to try to answer all of these questions, you catch me if I forget. So..."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "I got an e-mail from Claudia, and it has a chart in there with some data and some graphs. "*

*Ms. Wilson said, "Yes. Were you able to look at the graph last night?"*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Yes. Well, this morning."*

*Ms. Wilson said, "This morning. Okay."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "So you've got it right there."*

*Ms. Wilson said, "Yes, and I'm sorry I don't have it on the screen, but this graph right here, and you can certainly pass it around if you would like, what this shows is that we have back here, I mean, I think you could probably certainly see we have a nice big downward trend."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Yes, you do."*

*Ms. Wilson said, "Okay, this graph is showing three year rolling averages. We don't like to look at infant mortality based on a year because it does this. Three year rolling averages. Back to 2000 is when this starts. I was not able to go back to [19]91, I can certainly do that for you. This right here, the top line, and this right here we go up to 2006 to 2008, and I've added the 2007 and [200]9 numbers at the end. But it's not part of the graph. What you can see is the bottom three lines here. This is Healthy Babies."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Right, I know."*

*Ms. Wilson said, "Three infant deaths in the program since 2000, in the Healthy Start program. In the next three lines here, Kansas, the county, and U.S. (United States), you can see that they stayed pretty stable. These numbers up here, or these lines up here, the blue line is our black babies in 67214. The yellow line is all races in 67214, and that's always been our really highest need area. The orange line, which is this one, is black in all three of those zip codes, and then the green line is all races in all three of those zip codes. You can see the big downward turn that they took in 2005 and 2007. That is continuing even though the U.S. Rate and the Kansas rate are staying fairly stable."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Okay."*

*Ms. Wilson said, "To me, that shows that we are making a difference. There's other things to look at. You know what? At the same time we were doing the big downward trend, we weren't seeing that at the national level, and we weren't seeing that at the state level. Additionally..."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Susan."*

*Ms. Wilson said, "Yes, go ahead."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Yes, this shows a downward trend, what I'm asking, for any evidence that shows this program causes that. Because if you look at the chart, your numbers went down for a period of time while the overall numbers were going up, even in the black community. And in the time since 2006 and downward, when they're is going down, yours will pop back up. So there's actually an inverse relationship. Now I'm not saying its causal, but you can't say, when the numbers started going down, yours went up in your group, okay. It's a small group, but nevertheless it went up. Everyone else's went down. You can't say their downward trend is caused by your program if your rate actually went up."*

*Ms. Wilson said, "I will differ with you on that one, and the reason is, and I'd certainly like to meet and talk to you about this graph if you'd like. But you have to remember, and I really contemplated whether I was going to put our program data on this graph because you're right, we deal with very small numbers compared to the overall picture. When you have just three infant deaths in a program over that time period, you know that any incident is going to cause a spike, which is why we tried to smooth out those lines and do three-year rolling averages. That is still where the issue is here. So I'd love to that that off, but it is part of the picture. So when you have one year where you have one infant death in a program that serves, you know, we have a 733 women in the program, and 208 births in a particular year, you know that you're going to see that spike. And that is why we like to look at things over a trend time."*

*"Do I feel like we're seeing a change in the atmosphere in the environment and we're seeing the rates start to move? I do. Do I think it's all attributed to Healthy Babies? Absolutely not. I think it's the definition of collective impact, and we are seeing that in our community and how we are pulling together and we have pulled a Fetal Infant Mortality Review process in, and it is a very, very tiny piece of what we're doing. We're also looking at doing the prenatal risk assessment, and we started over the last few years looking at the risk of these moms and these dads and seeing the stressors, the toxic stress that they're dealing with in the community. And then the next part, and we haven't started this yet, is we'll be partnering with Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) over this year to do a PRAMS process, and that's a Prenatal Risk Assessment Monitoring Survey. Now that is a very large CDC (Center for Disease Control) project. We applied for it, the state did a few years ago and we weren't funded, but what it does is it sends surveys out during about the fourth month after delivery to every mom who has a baby."*

*"We hope that she turns that survey back in, and it's really going to help us get answers about all of those babies, all of those births and not just looking at, what worries you is that we're looking at fetal infant mortality and we're only looking at the data for the babies that died. The PRAMS process will allow us to look in depth and have the maternal perspective on all of those other babies. So we're going to have a whole rich new data set."*

*"So I feel very excited about that, and I also feel like we did what you asked us to last year. Is we looked at our funding sources and we with also looked at if we could place ourselves better in the community. And so with these partnerships we're having with community clinics, I do feel like we're on that trend."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "We need to talk more about the data question. I don't want to get in detail, because that's not what I'm talking about. Nevertheless, I understand the small data set. Even with that, I don't have any evidence that shows that this is doing what it says. We have a lot of hope and wishful thinking, and we continue to change, I notice here we've changed the types of programs we're going to do, and the stuff went up, and then it goes down."*

*"I think, we don't know why it's going down. I'm telling you there's more, because we know in general there is a higher risk in infant mortality related to socio-economic status. Okay, and I suspect that is a bigger driver, and I would like to see some investigation into that. Because, otherwise, we go throughout this whole process, we change programs every now and then, and go with the flow and we hope that it's related to what we're doing, but we don't really know. We don't really know. So those are my concerns."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Thank you, sir. Commissioner Peterjohn, please."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two quick questions, I think. First one is, since this is a request and it's a competitive grant, and I understand predicting what the federal government and their bureaucracy there will do, do we have any sort of an idea when we'll find out if this grant will be awarded or not and will it fit in to the county's, where we are for budget purposes for the 2015 budget going out. Do we have any idea when we'll find out whether we get it or not?"*

*Ms. Wilson said, "We're supposed to find out June 1."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "By June 1."*

*Ms. Wilson said, "Which is troubling, because that is the first day of our new grant cycle."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Okay. Well, because I want to, sometimes we've had grant, we have grant discussions after the grant period has already started, so that's always a question. Let me try this second question, because we've talked about scalability a little bit. The background information we have up here indicates this program has been in place for three zip code areas. We're talking about an increase of about 40 percent, but if you increase it to eight zip codes, which is the proposal in this grant application before us, I assume that's going to be somewhere between two to three times more people, and so we're going to be spreading whatever resources we're doing with this grant significantly thinner. I'd appreciate any comments you might have, in terms of how workable that is if this grant is awarded."*

*Ms. Wilson said, "Let me see if I can answer this in a very simple way. Currently and what will happen when we get the money, is all the money that we receive, we have various funding streams, and it all goes into one pot, and all of our providers serve the entire county."*

*"When we're talking about the zip codes that we're focusing on for this grant, that means that we are looking at, we'll report this data and the changes in this intervention area for the grant reporting, and we are going to make a focus on making sure that those families are receiving the services, but it also means that we still are serving, we're still serving all of Sedgwick County. The eight zips that we chose, we based it on infant mortality rates, and I think you have all of that data, but we also looked at the clients that are being served by those clinics, by the community clinics and where those zip codes, where most of those clients are coming from. So, I can see your point, and that's something we have definitely thought about. If we have money to hire more staff, you know, I would be thrilled. But, right now, this is the money that we have and staff that we have, and we'll have to make do."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "This is something that needs to be continued to be monitored and depending on how it proceeds and whether the grant is awarded or not, if the data is available going forward then certainly this information is very important, I think for decision makers, and I would certainly like to have this if we're in a position to have this updated. Because the challenge of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or any other event that would take lives is obviously a concern, and I appreciate the additional information, because I want to make sure if we do go forward with this that we've got a program in place that can cover the increased target area that you're outlining here. Thank you, Mr. Chair."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Yes, sir. Thank you. Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "I'm going to be supportive today of the resolution. I've studied this issue and been involved in it for quite a few years, and it's really a continuum. This is just part of what, as a society, we need to be working on. We talk about prenatal care and getting, making sure moms are healthy, which adds on to the children being born healthy, and have a legitimate birth weight and not have the problems that come with low birth weight or infant mortality, obviously. You know, we've talked about Healthy Start. Then we start talking about early childhood education. We're having a conversation at the state level on that now. We move on to all-day kindergarten. We talk about reading levels at third grade. We talk about child abuse and neglect. That's all about our society making sure that we understand that we want our children to get a healthy start and a good start to being part of our society."*

*"And I agree that churches, nonprofits, women's groups need to be part of this, but government adds the structure, the person that wakes up every day thinking about this. As much as I love my church, there is no way they're going to understand everything about this, nor will be able to capture the data that tells us we're making a difference. They may make a difference in their congregation, but they'll never know if that has outreach in the rest of the world. Same thing with nonprofits, and women's groups. Government adds the baseline structure, can do the evidence based data collection and make sure we're really doing what we want to do. It is just a part of it. The medical community helps. Society helps in general. But I'm going to be supportive, because it's part of a continuum of making our society better, and children starting out healthy with adequate birth weights, with a family that can wrap around them and keep them healthy, get them into school, make sure they learn and be part of our society is very important."*

*"So I'm going to be supportive to it. I agree that government shouldn't do everything. But government is the basis for the continuum to make sure this conversation goes on in our community, because if we're not talking about it, I guarantee you individually families are suffering, but nobody else even knows about the problem, and we're the people that have to keep talking about it, make sure that good things happen in our community."*

MOTION

*Commissioner Norton moved to approve the electronic submission of the application for the grant; and if awarded, authorize the Chairman to accept the award and authorize the establishment of budget authority as provided in the financial considerations of the request.*

*Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Skelton said, "It's been moved and seconded to take staff's recommended action and apply for the grant. Discussion of the motion? Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will be supportive of the motion, and I just want to commend Susan and Claudia for their efforts in trying to provide these services to our community. It's clear that we have in our backup, it's clear that the benefits of the model to our community. It shows what the results are. And you've clearly explained to us your measurable outcomes. I think it's something that we've been doing for quite some time. It's proven to benefit to our community, and I think that we need to continue until there is another solution. So that's all I have, Mr. Chair."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Commissioner Ranzau."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, Susan, I can't support asking for an increase of 40 percent in a program that I don't have any data to support that it's actually being effective. I must disagree with Commissioner Unruh. We have no data here that says this is having an effect. Commissioner Norton is right, there is a role for government here. I'm concerned that we've just in this mode of what we've always been doing, we're just going to be keep getting the money and we never really sit down and examine if we're really having that effect. We hope that we are, and in the times when it goes up, I mean, the infant mortality rate went up for a period of time while we were doing this. I mean, did we ever stop to question why it's going up despite all this stuff?"*

*"And now it's going down, and we have no idea what's going on. One of the problems I have is the only time I see stuff like this is three days before we have to apply, and it's not really conducive for actually having a dialogue about improving the process and challenges. We either have to rubber stamp it and approve it or not approve it. So you're changing some things. I don't know how. We keep talking about this every time this or the other grant comes up from the state. I want to be, have some dialogue throughout the year about this. Okay?"*

*Ms. Wilson said, "That would be wonderful."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "I have lots of questions and data. We've just got to do it."*

*Ms. Wilson said, "I think you received information, too, in the evaluation, a portion of that, to see that we are, there is significant difference in the population that we are serving. We are reaching more of those teen and first-time moms than that targeted, that whole targeted area, and we also have had a significant impact on the prematurity rates. When you look at the local evaluations."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Are you looking at the report from KU (Kansas University)? Is that the report you're talking about?"*

*Ms. Wilson said, "Yes."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "I just received that this morning. I haven't had a chance to read it. But I will read it. I still think there's going to be an issue of self-selection in a lot of regards. I think that's a problem with a lot of programs. Nevertheless, I want to kind of explain that, and I want to have some more dialogue between you and I and Claudia and just understand more of what's going on. I'll give you some ideas and challenge, you know, the way we're looking at things."*

*Ms. Wilson said, "Thank you."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Thank you for all that you do, though. I know you're passionate and you're a wonderful asset to the county, and I appreciate everything that you do."*

*Ms. Wilson said, "Thank you."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Commissioner Peterjohn, did you have another comment?"*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree that I'd like to have the information earlier, and if there is extended dialogue coming from here, I'd like to have it, because this chart is very interesting for what it shows, but for instance, it doesn't break out, it's got some aggregate data for zip code 67219, but if the program is actually working, that's the reason why the 67219 zip code area is excluded from this going forward, so the data is not here, and I just saw this chart this morning. Obviously, if it is working to the extent, and I understand the problems that you have with a small data sample, and if we have dialogs on this going forward, and I'd like to see it, in terms of it working."*

*"Having said that my vote today is going to be reflective of the fact that we did manage to at least get one zip code moving into the right direction. My concern, as a community going forward, is we've got six other zip codes that have been added in as part of this going forward, and we're looking at an expansion of it. Correlation isn't necessarily causation, so trying to work with the numbers can be quite challenging and quite tricky going forward, but my vote today is going to reflect the fact that we have managed to at least improve enough in one area that we can go beyond it, and hopefully that's not just a statistical fluke, it's some results of what we have going here, and my vote today is going to reflect that fact. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "You're welcome, sir. Any other discussion? Gentlemen, it's been moved and seconded to take staff's recommended action and apply for the grant. Madam Clerk, call the vote, please."*

VOTE

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

Chairman Skelton said, "Thank you, next item."

**G**      [13-0983](#)

AGREEMENT WITH CENTRAL PLAINS REGIONAL HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION (CPRHCF), SEDGWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE CITY OF WICHITA TO PARTNER WITH THE SEDGWICK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT UNDER THE PROJECT ACCESS PROGRAM.

Presented by: Claudia Blackburn, Health Director, Sedgwick County Health Department.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

**Attachments:**      [2014 Project Access Agmt.pdf](#)

*Ms. Blackburn said, "I am here to present the agreement with Central Plains Regional Healthcare Foundation for Project Access. This is a renewal grant. We have a renewal contract. We have had a contract with Project Access since 1999, and the amount this year is \$208,940, which is the same as it was last year. And Project Access is a partnership program that facilitates accessibility to medical care, including prescription medications and medical equipment for uninsured low income residents of Sedgwick County who fall below 200 percent of poverty. Project Access does an extremely good job of leveraging community resources for the funding from the foundational partners, which is the United Way, City of Wichita and Sedgwick County, which amounts to about \$750,000. They garner about \$10 million a year in donated resources for our clients.*

*"They also are working with their clients now to see if they qualify for any of the health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. And if they do get on an insurance plan, they are disenrolled right away from Project Access. So they are not serving anybody that is eligible or is able to get health insurance. They serve 1,653 clients last year, and Anne Nelson, the Associate Executive Director for Central Plains Regional Healthcare Foundation, is here if you have any questions about the program. Otherwise, I remember that you authorize the contract."*

Chairman Skelton said, "Thank you. Commissioner Ranzau."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I'll just say, Anne already knows that in the past I've voted against this. This is a program that I support and I think is good, but I don't believe the government should be paying this. I think the money should come from the private sector. I think the best thing we could do is stop funding this. I believe private entities would step up and fund it.



*"That being said, of all the programs that government is involved in related to healthcare, this is probably one of the best ones and most effective ones. I also, you're not asking for more, and I know that you are actually taking steps to do some things to get more private funding. You're heading in the right direction, which I have advocated for and fully support, because you are moving in the right direction, I'll be supportive of this today."*

*Ms Blackburn said, "Thank you."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "But I make no guarantees next year. Thank you."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just, as background, to get the numbers, 1,653 people served last year, I mean, it's important to have an idea, whether it's a metric of number of people served or the number of times people came in for service, that type of information is important for decision makers. I frankly would have much preferred to have had that information before we came into the meeting today, and I really like to have, that would have been data that would have been helpful. But having said that, I will be supportive of this motion today, and I agree with the comments, in terms of there's tremendous useful work being done here, but we do need to monitor the metrics on all of these things, and it's important for us to have this information in advance so if there are questions and more detail we can have it, because I know dental programs have been separate from medical. I don't know if this number of 1,653 is just medical, medical and dental, you know, either/or."*

*Ms. Anne Nelson, Associate Executive Director, Central Plains Regional Healthcare Foundation, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We do have about 15 dentists that participate along with about 650 physicians, all of whom donate their care. So when we do enroll that roughly 1,600 to 1,800 people a year, they are able to access physician care as well as dental care based on their personal health needs. So they have access to the full continuum of our volunteer network."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Do you have any, 1,653 that was mentioned, do you have any idea, in terms of how many of those are dental as opposed to medical or do they overlap somewhat?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "Pardon me for interrupting, they would all be receiving donated medical care, but some of that, a smaller number of those patients would also be accessing dental care as well. We don't have them separated. So the whole 1,600 plus that came into our program last year received donated physician care, hospital care perhaps some, but some of those needed dental care as well, so they saw a dentist free of charge."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay, Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Mr. Chairman, I'll make the motion. I want to congratulate Ann for several years of outstanding service. What is the number of leveraged dollars over the course of our participation with Project Access, Anne? I ask that every year."*

*Ms. Nelson said, "Since 1999, we've enrolled 11,860 people in the program and leveraged \$156 million in donated medical care."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Project Access, what we participate in is the platform that makes sure somebody wakes up every day with a system that garners \$156 million of care for our community, and I agree that we would like for the private side to take on all that. I don't know that they could administer the platform to be sure that somebody is coordinating all of this and making it work, so I'm proud that Sedgwick County, in parcel with United Way and the City of Wichita, is at least a small partner in making this happen in our community."*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Norton moved to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.*

*Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.*

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

**VOTE**

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	Aye
Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Chairman Skelton	Aye

**CONSENT**

- |   |                         |   |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| H | <a href="#">13-0996</a> | Agreement with Sedgwick County and the Child Advocacy Center.<br><br><b><u>Attachments:</u></b> <a href="#">CAC to BOCC.pdf</a>   |
| I | <a href="#">13-1005</a> | Authority to Award Contract, Commitment of Funds for Sedgwick County Bridge Rail Removal Project at Various Locations. CIP# R-329.<br><br><b><u>Attachments:</u></b> <a href="#">Authority to Award Contract</a><br><a href="#">S50C-114010614330.pdf</a> |
| J | <a href="#">13-1004</a> | Approval of an estimate from The Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Association to relocate electric facilities in private easement for CIP Project B-465. District 2.<br><br><b><u>Attachments:</u></b> <a href="#">Bridge B-465</a>                   |
| K | 14-1009                 | Order dated 12/31/13 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.  |
| L | 14-1008                 | Order dated 1/6/14 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.  |

**M**      [13-0990](#)      General Bill Check Register from January 8, 2014-January 14, 2014.

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, you have the Consent Agenda before you, and I recommend you approve it."*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Consent Agenda.*

*Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.*

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

**VOTE**

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

*Chairman Skelton said, "Thank you, next item."*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**N**      [13-0968](#)      SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN THROUGH JANUARY 14, 2015.

Presented by: James B. Skelton, Chairman

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

**MOTION**

*Chairman Skelton moved to nominate David M. Unruh for Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.*

*Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.*

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

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay. Are there any other nominations? I move that the nominations cease."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Mr. Chairman, do we have to vote if there is no other nominations? I'm not sure."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Well, it's proper to close the nominations."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Right."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "So I will just say nominations are here hereby closed barring any objection. Is there any discussion? Okay. Madam Clerk, call the vote."*

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

*Chairman Skelton said, "Thank you, next item."*

**O**      [13-0969](#)

SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIR PRO TEM THROUGH JANUARY 14, 2015.

Presented by: James B. Skelton, Chairman.

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

*MOTION*

*Chairman Skelton moved to nominate Tim R. Norton for Chair Pro Tem on the Board of County Commissioners.*

*Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay, it's been moved and seconded to have Tim Norton be the 2014 Vice Chair. Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Mr. Chairman, I'd like to nominate Commissioner Ranzau. He has not had the opportunity to serve as either chair or pro-tem, and he's the only member of this Commission at this point who has had neither of the two leadership positions in this county since I've been on the Commission. This is not to disparage anyone else, but I do want to, I do think that Richard would be an excellent choice, and I'd like to put his name in nomination at this point."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "I guess I'll second that motion."*

*MOTION*

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to nominate Commissioner Ranzau.*

*Commissioner Ranzau seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay. All right..."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "I had to think about that."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay, it's been moved and seconded to appoint Commissioner Ranzau to serve as Chair Pro Tem for 2014. Do you have a comment? Please."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Mr. Chairman, I'd recommend with your approval that we just respond to the Clerk's roll call by saying the name of the person we want to vote for, and that way we can not have people voting no on somebody."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay, all right, is there any other discussion on the selection of Chair Pro Tem? Madam Clerk, would you call the vote in accordance of, we'll take Richard's procedure here on this one, that's fine."*

VOTE

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

*Chairman Skelton said, "Sorry buddy."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "You ran a good race, Tim, it was close. Congratulations."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "It's not how you start, it's how you finish."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "You're right."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "No need for a recount."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay. Well, the high pressure part of the meeting is now over. All right. I hope. Is there any other 'Other' business to come before the board today? Commissioner Unruh."*

**OTHER**

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to take the opportunity, Mr. Chair, to present you with a plaque on behalf of the Commission that recognizes your service to the Board of County Commissioners this last year, and tell you that we appreciate your leadership. Each year brings its own set of circumstances and challenges, and you've done a great job of moderating our discussion and getting us through that time. You have very distinctive and unique style, but we appreciate the leadership that you've brought to us and want to thank you for your service."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "I really appreciate that. I want to thank the entire Commission for this. Well, I can make some comments about the Chair. It's certainly something that's kept me on my toes for the last 365 days. I'm glad that the County Commission is in the practice of rotating chairs, because it does, again, I don't want this to be misconstrued, but you do have to literally keep your eye on every little single aspect of business and what your staff is doing, because as the Chair, you're quasi-mayor of the county, so it's important that you get out and talk to the community. I've done a lot of that. So I'm very pleased to conclude my service today, and again thank my colleagues."*

*"One other statement I would like to make to the incoming Chairman, and this is up to you, as we have discussed, I will always honor my word, and if you wanted to repeal the rules of procedure, we can. However, it's been my opinion over the course of the last year, these rules have been to do nothing but serve to provide additional order to the meetings, and I'd like to discuss with you and maybe revise or try to keep these rules in effect, but if you want to discharge them, we will do so, and I will support you in that per the word that I gave you."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "All right, thank you."*

*Chairman Skelton said, "Okay, those are my comments. Are there any other comments? Is there any objection to this meeting, there's no Fire [District No. 1] Agenda. There is no Executive Session. So is there any objection for adjournment? Hearing none, the meeting stands adjourned."*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.*

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

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DAVID M. UNRUH, Chairman  
First District

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TIM R. NORTON, Chair Pro Tem  
Second District

---

KARL PETERJOHN, Commissioner  
Third District

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RICHARD RANZAU, Commissioner  
Fourth District

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JAMES B. SKELTON, Commissioner  
Fifth District

ATTEST:

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Kelly B. Arnold, County Clerk

APPROVED:

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