

## **ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY PANEL FOR A REGIONAL PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL IN SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS**

On August 25, 2023, Governor Laura Kelly signed Executive Order 23-05<sup>1</sup> to establish an Advisory Panel for Planning, Design, and Construction of a Regional Psychiatric Hospital in South Central Kansas (specifically Sedgwick County). The Advisory Panel was tasked with gathering public input on the needs and location of a regional psychiatric hospital. A final report from the Advisory Panel, due to the Governor and the Sedgwick County Commission on June 30, 2024, will include recommendations on the workforce development needed to staff a regional psychiatric hospital, recommendations about the operating model for the hospital, and statutory changes needed to operate a new state hospital including changes in catchment areas, scope of practice, and cooperation with other service providers.



This interim report provides essential background information, summarizes the Advisory Panel’s work to date, and lays out the next steps for the panel’s work.

### **BACKGROUND**

The State of Kansas operates state psychiatric hospitals in Osawatomie and Larned, under K.S.A. 39-1601, *et seq.* From January 1-October 31, 2023, Osawatomie admitted 148 patients, with 21.8% of those from Sedgwick County (14.2% at Osawatomie State Hospital and 7.6% at Adair Acute Care). Osawatomie serves adults with severe and persistent mental illness. At Larned, 14.0% of those admitted were from Sedgwick County for the State Security Program (court-referred males who cannot be managed in a less restrictive environment, defendants from jail on a hold order with a high-level crime, and/or are a threat of harm toward patients or staff)—in January 2022, 29 inmates in the Sedgwick County jail waited an average of 130 days for treatment at Larned with the most extended wait being 329 days.

**2022 HB 2510** established the Special Committee on Mental Health Beds, which met for five days during the 2022 interim. In January 2023, the Special Committee for the Kansas Legislature delivered its final report<sup>2</sup> on Kansas's mental health bed crisis. The Special Committee was directed to:

- Review the need for inpatient psychiatric hospital beds and develop a long-term plan to address mental health needs;

<sup>1</sup> Executive Order 23-05 can be accessed [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> The full Final Report can be accessed [here](#).

- Review the regional bed expansion plan and how the beds would be constructed;
- Review best practices for providing the operation and oversight of the expanded beds;
- Review the long-term fiscal impact of the additional beds; and
- Study and develop a plan for providing a 50-bed facility with acute inpatient psychiatric beds and adult forensic beds in the Sedgwick County regional area.

The Special Committee recognized there is a current shortage of appropriate services for patients with mental illness, with stress placed on the staff and budgets of other community institutions, such as hospitals, jails, and community mental health systems. The Special Committee recommended:

- The State Finance Council should release the \$15 million appropriated to the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) for the purpose of opening a new state hospital. The funds should be utilized to develop a specific plan for the construction and operation of a new state hospital, including the issuance of a request for proposal.
- KDADS should work with Sedgwick County to open a facility in the Sedgwick County regional area with a capacity of up to 50 state institution beds. The facility should be located in an area with room for expansion to ensure additional beds can be added if needed. The project should begin within the calendar year 2023. In addition, KDADS and Sedgwick County should consider whether the facility should be publicly or privately operated.
- The State Finance Council should allocate \$40 million from federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to open the 50-bed facility, as requested by Sedgwick County through the Strengthening People and Revitalizing (SPARK) Kansas Task Force.
- The Legislature should appropriate up to \$5 million to KDADS for each fiscal year to begin a two-year pilot program to reimburse hospitals for the supervision and transfer of individuals waiting for a state hospital bed. KDADS should then provide the Legislature with an annual report on how the funds are being used.
- The Legislature, KDADS, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment should investigate available waiver and reimbursement options that can be used to pull down additional federal funds to reimburse providers of mental health services.
- The Legislature and KDADS should research how technology, such as apps, can be used to reach those facing mental health challenges and investigate current practices being used to reach individuals in crisis via technology.

- The Committee met with the Board of Nursing, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, State Board of Regents, universities, community and technical colleges, state agencies, private colleges, and other stakeholders to discuss the following topics:
  - Increasing the accessibility and transferability of certifications, such as the Licensed Mental Health Technician, Mental Health Developmental Disability Technician, and other mental health certificates applicable to workers in the state hospital settings;
  - Creating outreach and incentive programs to expand the mental health workforce pipeline, such as the creation of scholarships and public-private partnerships;
  - Reducing barriers that prevent workers from rejoining the workforce once they have retired;
  - Developing a method to track the use of programs designed to promote the mental health workforce and continually evaluate their effectiveness and
  - Addressing wage disparities among mental health providers and other similar jobs.

### **ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERSHIP**

- Chairperson Scott Brunner, Deputy Secretary of Hospitals and Facilities, KDADS
- Vice-Chairperson Sarah Lopez, Sedgwick County Commissioner, District 2
- Marc Bennett, District Attorney, Sedgwick County
- Representative Will Carpenter, District 75
- Jeff Easter, Sheriff, Sedgwick County
- Claudio Ferraro, President, Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph
- Jason Gregory, Executive Vice President, Downtown Wichita
- Representative Henry Helgerson, District 83
- Mary Jones, President/CEO, Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas
- Representative KC Ohaebosim, District 89
- Senator Usha Reddi, District 22
- LaTasha St. Arnault, President and CEO, Humankind Ministries
- Tom Stolz, County Manager, Sedgwick County
- Joan Tammany, Director, COMCARE

### **PROCESS AND WORK TO DATE**

KDADS entered into an agreement in March 2023 with Sedgwick County to provide funding for planning, designing, and other services for constructing a regional psychiatric hospital in South Central Kansas.

In May 2023, Governor Kelly announced that KDADS awarded \$25 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Sedgwick County to create a new regional hospital to address statewide health and behavioral health services shortages. In addition, the State Finance Council released an appropriation of \$15 million from the State General Fund in December 2022 for the planning and initial design work.

On August 28, 2023, Governor Kelly announced the South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital Advisory Panel membership. This 14-member panel gathers public input and recommends the operation, location, and workforce development needs of the proposed 50-bed psychiatric hospital in South Central Kansas.

KDADS issued a Statement of Work for Facilitating and Support for Regional State Hospital Advisory Council on August 21, 2023, through the Statewide Master Consulting Services Contracts award process. Responses to the statement of work were due September 20, 2023. A task order selection committee reviewed the submitted responses and selected the Learning Tree Institute at Greenbush (LTI) on October 4, 2023, to facilitate and support the Advisory Panel. The subsequent task order was executed between KDADS and LTI on October 6, 2023.

**MEETING ONE – October 9, 2023**

The Sedgwick County Commission Chair, Pete Meitzner, and Secretary of KDADS, Laura Howard, welcomed the Advisory Panel members to the meeting. Secretary Howard named Scott Brunner as her representative and Chair of the Panel. Commissioner Meitzner announced Commissioner Sarah Lopez as Vice Chair of the Panel.

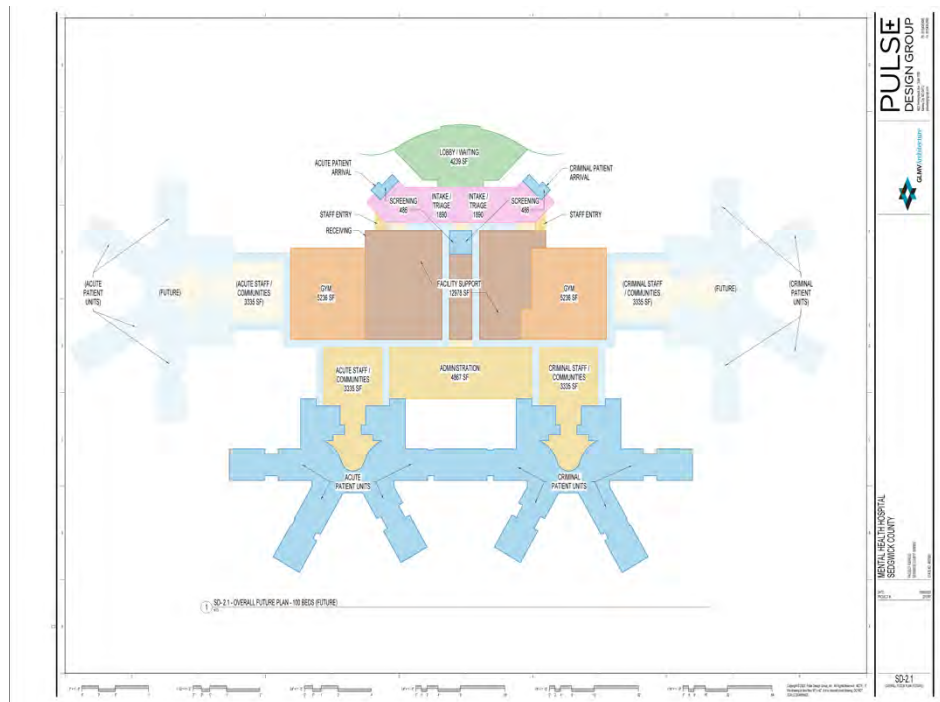
A review of the Executive Order 23-05 was conducted. Chair Brunner indicated an interim report would be provided to the Sedgwick County Commission and the Governor by January 14, 2024, with a final report by June 30, 2024.

The Advisory Panel’s charge includes four key tasks.

- 1) Gathering public input on the needs and location of a regional psychiatric hospital;
- 2) Making recommendations on workforce development needed to staff a regional psychiatric hospital;
- 3) Making recommendations on the operating model for the hospital and
- 4) Recommending statutory changes if needed.

Due to the high visibility and significance of the Advisory Panel, the KDADS Chief Counsel and the Sedgwick County Counselor provided an overview of the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA). All meetings of the Advisory Panel are subject to KOMA.

A schematic design of the hospital floor plan and project timeline was provided to the Advisory Panel. Preliminary designs and a construction team comprised of staff from KDADS, Sedgwick County, and architects from GLMV and Pulse Design Group collaborated on the proposed floor plan. The agenda and video for this meeting can be found [here](#).







**MEETING TWO – November 6, 2023**

Chair Brunner introduced the facilitation team from the Learning Tree Institute at Greenbush (LTI) to the members of the Advisory Panel. The LTI team and KDADS members developed a one-page summary for the project, a timeline for public input opportunities, and an online survey. Representatives from LTI, Monica Murnan and Dr. Lisa Pelkey, presented the timeline and survey information.

Dr. Lindsey Dinkel, Superintendent of Larned State Hospital, and Ashley Byram, Superintendent of Osawatomie State Hospital, presented the current state of their respective psychiatric hospitals. Both expressed severe staffing shortages and individuals requiring private rooms (versus two persons to a room). The average length of stay for Larned is 11 days at acute treatment and 90 days for competency evaluation. At Osawatomie, the average stay is 7-11 days at Adair Acute Care and 90-180 days for competency evaluation. Other significant trends are the increase of younger individuals with mental health crises, consistent medication compliance, and the lack of transition programs such as group homes and nursing facilities.

A presentation was provided by Tim Kaufman, Deputy County Manager, on the Behavioral Health Landscape in Sedgwick County. Services come primarily from COMCARE. COMCARE provides Community-Based, Crisis, Substance Abuse, and School-Based Behavioral Health Services. COMCARE is currently transitioning to become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic. Other community providers include Ascension Via Christi, Physical Health Safety Net clinics, the Substance Abuse Center of Kansas, private practice and primary care providers, and housing and homeless service providers who also provide mental health services for individuals in Sedgwick County. There was a discussion about holding a town hall meeting to garner additional community input. The agenda and video for this meeting can be found [here](#).





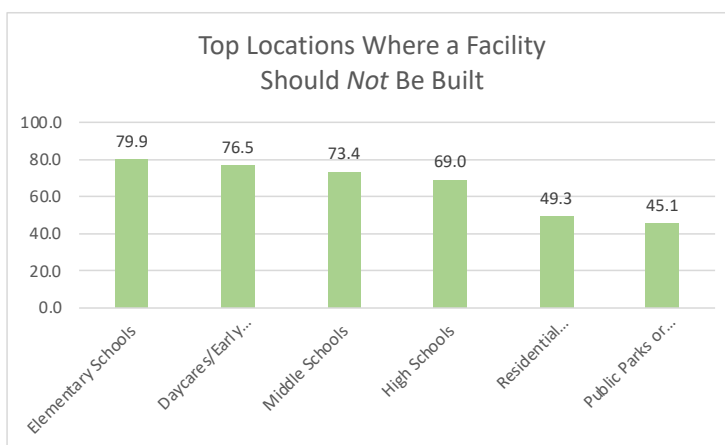
**MEETING THREE – November 17, 2023**

The Advisory Panel met for a special meeting to solidify plans for a proposed town hall meeting. A town hall open forum was proposed for December 12, 2023, from 5:00-7:00 PM at the Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex at Wichita State University. A sub-panel of volunteers work with LTI to determine the town hall meeting agenda and format. Data was collected from community members during the town hall meeting to be shared with the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners on December 20, 2023.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS – November 2023**

KDADS and LTI staff developed a two-page document to solicit community input for the project. This document summarized the purpose behind constructing a psychiatric hospital with a preliminary rendition of the facility’s layout. A timeline was also provided for the project (see the previous page of this report).

KDADS and LTI collaborated on an English and Spanish survey of nine questions. The survey was written at an appropriate reading level (general public), low vision was enabled, and multiple modes of access were available: Computer, tablet, mobile device, phone/verbal, and paper/mail (upon request). Personally identifiable information was only collected if the individual volunteered for a future project, such as a focus group. Utilizing a purchased distribution email list, the survey was administered between November 1 and November 30 to a random sample of individuals residing in Sedgwick County. A total of 882 responses to the survey were returned and validated. Findings indicate more females (81.8%) than males (17.9%) completed the survey. Nine percent (9.2%) self-identified as Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin. Most respondents self-identified as White (95.2%). Full findings are available [here](#).



A postcard was developed in conjunction with the survey, which provided a QR code and link to the survey. The postcard was distributed to a random sample of addresses within Sedgwick County utilizing a [random address selector](#). Zip codes were selected based on their location outside of Wichita proper and targeted low broadband areas, business owners, community members, and individuals who may not have an Internet subscription as identified by the Department of Commerce. A heat map of zip distribution is included as Appendix A. Postcards were mailed on November 6, 2023. Through a partnership with the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition, postcards were distributed at a November 16, 2023, meeting.

A two-minute video was prepared for distribution on websites and through social media. A link to the video can be found [here](#) under Project Information.

A request for proposal (RFP) for submitting either an existing building or land which met the established criteria was issued on October 25, 2023 by Sedgwick County. The deadline for submission was November 30, 2023. A total of 14 potential sites were received. A review panel has been convened to vet the existing buildings and/or potential site locations. As a part of the bid process the review panel worked with an on-call realtor to look at properties and existing buildings.

A request for proposal for architectural and engineering services was issued on November 6, 2023. The deadline for submission was November 21, 2023. A total of six bids were received. A review panel made up of Sedgwick County and KDADS staff recommended an architectural firm to the Board of County Commissioners.

A town hall meeting was held on December 12, 2023, to provide additional public input on the proposed sites solicited through the bid process. An additional survey was provided to attendees to indicate their selection for the best site for the psychiatric hospital based on information provided about the project and four short listed sites. That survey was reissued after the town hall meeting to gather additional feedback from people in Sedgwick County based on the short listed sites. The results of those surveys were shared with the Advisory Panel at a special meeting held December 18, 2023. The results from those surveys are included in Appendix B.

### NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of this Interim Report by the Advisory Panel, the report will be distributed to the Governor and Sedgwick County by the deadline of January 15, 2024, as established in Executive Order 23-05.

After an architectural firm has been selected, the architectural firm and the Advisory Panel will research state psychiatric hospitals in other states to garner ideas on the facility's layout and overall design for possible adoption for the proposed facility.

Individuals who indicated on the survey their willingness to be contacted for future sessions may be invited to participate in focus groups in January and February 2024.

The Advisory Panel will continue to meet monthly, while the KDADS and LTI team will continue facilitating the process through weekly meetings.

The Advisory Panel will receive a draft of the final report in May 2024 to review and approve to meet the June 30, 2024, deadline, as established in Executive Order 23-05. Upon delivery of the final report and any additional draft legislation, Governor Kelly will determine how her



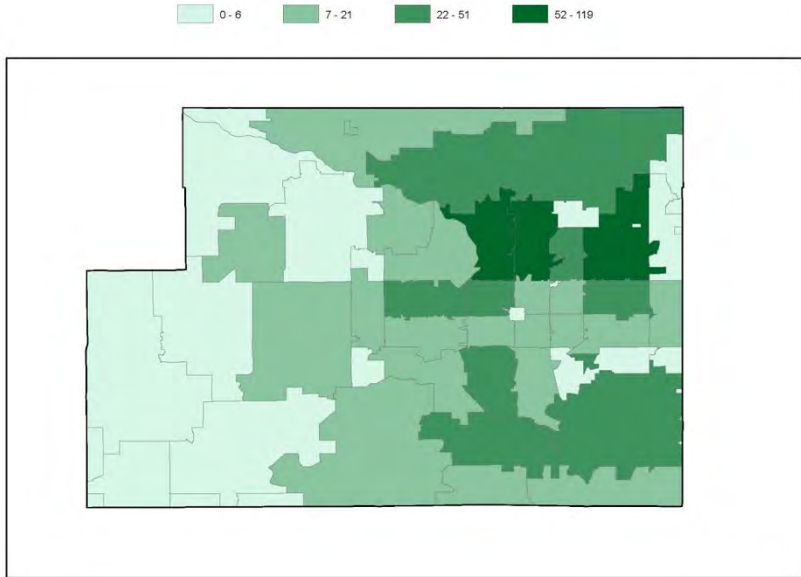


administration will proceed and utilize the Advisory Panel’s recommendations for the building, staffing, and administration of the South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital in Sedgwick County.

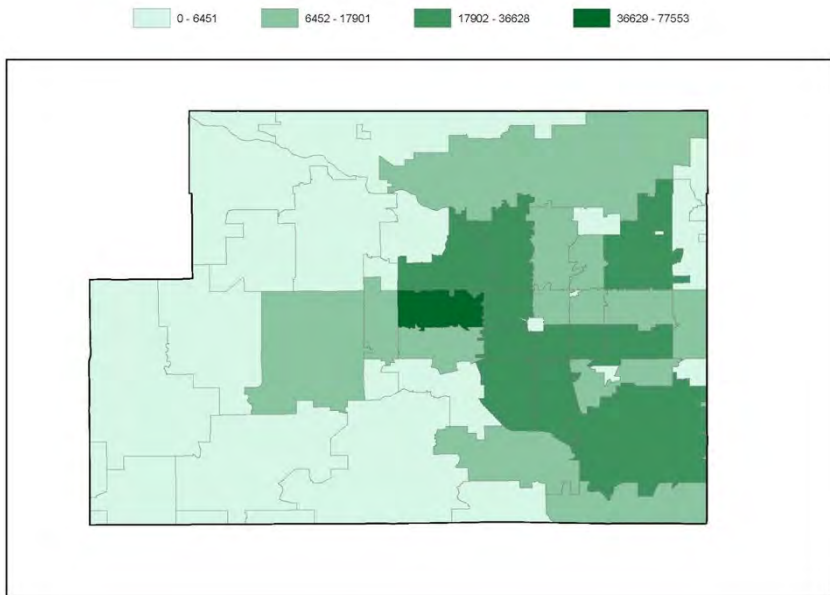
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

APPENDIX A – ZIP CODE HEAT MAPS

This graphic displays the survey respondents (n=882) of Sedgwick County according to zip code. The survey does appear to visually represent the population density areas accurately.



This graphic displays the estimated population density of Sedgwick County according to zip code using the 2020 decennial census.



January 8, 2024

**INTERIM REPORT OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL  
PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL ADVISORY PANEL**



APPENDIX B – TOWN HALL DATA REPORT

# Town Hall Data Report



Published December 2023



GRANTS, RESEARCH  
AND EVALUATION

Town Hall Data Report

Prepared by  
*The Learning Tree Institute at Greenbush  
Research & Evaluation Department*

## Town Hall Data Report

Learning Tree Institute at Greenbush  
December 2023



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## Introduction

On behalf of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), the Learning Tree Institute at Greenbush (LTI) gathered qualitative data during a Town Hall in Wichita, Kansas, on December 12, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. In addition to in-person, the Town Hall was live streamed for individuals unable to attend. The purpose of the Town Hall issued in the December 11, 2023 press release indicated “that the agency [KDADS] and Sedgwick County will host a public town hall meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, to answer questions regarding the South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital project in Sedgwick County and gather input on potential sites from the community.”

To that end, the community heard three presentations, which provided the most recent updates on the project; the presentations were from KDADS, Sedgwick County, and LTI. Each presentation was between 5-10 minutes in length. In addition to the presentations, the community examined five aerial maps which pinpointed the short-list of potential sites for the hospital. One aerial map provided an overview of all four sites (Appendix A). The sites examined were presented in an arbitrary manner. In this report, the sites will be presented in the same order as the press release:

- 2622 West Central Avenue
- A parcel on the corner of Macarthur and Meridian
- A parcel at 53<sup>rd</sup> and Greenwich
- A parcel at 85<sup>th</sup> and I-135

LTI gathered feedback in two ways: a question-and-answer session and a two question survey.

Data was collected by Lisa Pelkey, Ph.D., Statistical Analyst, Monica Murnan, Director of Community Support Services, Dawn Flores, Project Manager, Ryan Vaughn, Ed.D., Project Manager, and Jenn DeLee, Program Evaluator I, from the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush (SEKESC). This team has relative experience and expertise in qualitative and mixed methods research.

## Community Participants



The Town Hall attendance was approximately 75 in person and 23 on live stream. Attendance was taken at the beginning of the Town Hall at approximately 5:20 p.m. It was noted that approximately 12 additional community members arrived after the start time and approximately six left prior to the scheduled Best Fit Survey time. The approximate attendance total is set at n=100. No demographic information was gathered on the attendees.

To allow residents not attending to participate, an additional survey, *Citizen Feedback Extended Town Hall Survey*, was available for residents to provide feedback. The data collected can be viewed in Appendix B.

## Town Hall Agenda

The following agenda was used during the Town Hall to ensure a smooth flow to the meeting and an opportunity for every individual to provide the level of input desired. From 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., attendees could talk with the panel representatives or each other in one-on-one or small group conversations.

<b>AGENDA</b>	
<u>12.12.2023</u>	
<b>5:00-5:15</b>	View Sample Location Maps
<b>5:15-5:20</b>	Welcome & Town Hall Format <i>Monica Murnan, Greenbush</i>
<b>5:20-5:40</b>	Project Overview <i>Scott Brunner, KDADS</i>
<b>5:40-6:00</b>	Bidding Process Status <i>Tania Cole, Sedgwick County</i>
<b>6:00-6:20</b>	Moderated Q&A
<b>6:20-6:30</b>	Best Fit Survey
<b>6:30-7:00</b>	Adjourn

## Questions Presented to KDADS and Sedgwick County Representatives by Attendees

Attendees wrote questions on notecards for the moderated Q&A session from 6:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m. After reviewing and synthesizing the attendees' questions, the following fourteen questions were developed for the Q&A session. This review and synthesis ensured the moderator could move smoothly through the questions and avoid repetition. No attendee questions were omitted for content or other.

1. Other than tonight, when will the community be able to provide input?
2. With the federal government recovery funding, what constraints or barriers does that impose (e.g., schedule)?
3. Can we see the other properties not shortlisted, and can we see the prices of the properties?
4. What is the staffing plan to address the new facility when we already have unfilled roles across the state?
5. How will you ensure the future work is at the table for design and other discussions?

6. Will the design partner be able to help assess the site before the final site decision is made?
7. What happens if we miss the scheduled deadlines?
8. Do you have data from other states regarding escapees?
9. Will a private contractor for operating the facility be considered?
10. Where can I see the data from the *Considerations for Potential Locations of the South Central Regional State Psychiatric Hospital* survey?
11. This facility is likely not large enough. Will you expand this facility?
12. When will the final site be decided, and how will the public be notified?
13. Will the community be able to provide input this evening?
14. What are the pros and cons of a new building vs. a renovation?

Representatives responded to every question with a thorough response. The responses were not collected.

## Best Fit Survey

From 6:20 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., attendees were provided an opportunity to express their opinions about the sites. This opportunity was provided electronically or on paper. Eight attendees used paper, and fifty-eight used an electronic survey (QR Code) for a total of sixty-six responses. Attendees could mark more than one location as the best fit.

The best fit survey consisted of a two-part question with the aid of an aerial overview map, which displayed all four sites. Both questions were optional.

1. Thinking about the following locations, which do you think is the best fit for the 50-bed mental health psychiatric hospital?  
(Select all that apply.)
  - 2622 West Central Avenue
  - A parcel on the corner of Macarthur and Meridian
  - A parcel at 53<sup>rd</sup> and Greenwich
  - A parcel at 85<sup>th</sup> and I-135
2. Why did you select that location(s) as the best fit?

At the conclusion of the survey, attendees could indicate if they desired to participate in future focus groups, interviews, or panels. Nineteen of the sixty-six indicated they would like to be

contacted for future opportunities to provide feedback. These nineteen individuals were added to the contact list from the previous survey *Considerations for Potential Locations of the South Central Regional State Psychiatric Hospital*.

## **Best Fit Analysis by Location**

Themes in qualitative research are recurring patterns, ideas, or concepts that emerge from the data collected during the analysis process. These themes provide a way to organize and understand the richness of qualitative data. It is important to note themes in qualitative research are derived from an inductive process, allowing the data to guide the identification of patterns and meaning. Researchers at LTI used various methods, such as coding and thematic analysis, to systematically analyze and interpret this qualitative data.

### **2622 West Central Avenue (n=20)**

Of the twenty attendees who selected 2622 West Central Avenue as the best fit, two also selected a parcel on the corner of MacArthur and Meridian, two selected a parcel at 53rd and Greenwich, and two selected a parcel at 85th and I-135. Of these six individuals, one selected all four locations, and this individual identified himself as a law enforcement officer providing the following feedback: “As a law enforcement officer, I'm very appreciative of the area getting these services. Oftentimes, it gets frustrating not having the resources for someone in crisis outside of Comcare. I'm good with any location.”

Themes from attendees who only selected 2622 West Central Avenue emphasized the benefits of proximity, with considerations such as being close to their organization, existing services, and community resources. Cost savings emerge as a significant factor, both in terms of potential financial advantages associated with utilizing an already existing building and the likelihood of completing the project sooner when avoiding the need for construction from scratch. Centralized locations within the city are valued for easier access to essential services, shorter transportation from local hospitals, and the ability to build stronger community relationships. Additionally, repurposing the existing structure is positively viewed for its potential to reduce overall costs and contribute to the revitalization of the surrounding area. Safety concerns also play a role, with the importance of a secure environment highlighted in relation to nearby hospitals and community residents.

#### *Attendee anonymous quotes regarding best fit at 2622 West Central Avenue:*

“Centrally located around community resources. Shorter transportation from local hospitals. Build relationships in our community. Closer for families to commute for family-centered support and patient follow up.”

“Close to the core of the city. This will allow for quicker transfers from St. Joe, Francis and Wesley, among other resources (COMCARE, etc.). It's imperative that safety is a priority surrounding the hospital. There will be a significant security threat to citizens who live nearby if



these individuals are released or walk AMA from the hospital. Just look at St. Joe for an example.”

“I like the idea of repurposing an existing structure.”

### **A parcel on the corner of MacArthur and Meridian (n=32)**

Of the thirty-two attendees who selected a parcel on the corner of MacArthur and Meridian as the best fit, two also selected 2622 West Central Avenue, two selected a parcel at 53rd and Greenwich, and two selected a parcel at 85th and I-135. Of these six individuals, one selected all four locations and identified himself as a law enforcement officer.

The qualitative responses to the survey reveal a theme in favor of a new build for the proposed project, with an emphasis on specific considerations for this location and features of this chosen site. Respondents highlight the importance of proximity to Wichita (ICT), advocating for a new facility that would be conveniently accessible to residents and facilitate successful reintegration into the community. The potential for leveraging other projects at the chosen site is noted, suggesting a strategic approach to maximize resources. Criteria set by the county in the Request for Proposal (RFP) are recognized, and the availability of additional land for scalability is deemed advantageous. The shovel-ready nature of the site is repeatedly emphasized as beneficial for meeting budgetary guidelines. Security and access to modern healthcare needs and technology are also emphasized, with respondents favoring locations close to hospitals, resources, jails, and police forces. Integrating larger health campuses, such as the OneRise Campus, is seen as a holistic approach that aligns with the goal of mental health and wellness programming. Proximity to highways and the potential for job creation contribute to the appeal of this specific location, with an emphasis on a careful balance between accessibility and avoiding densely populated areas. Overall, the responses consistently underscore the need for a thoughtfully chosen site that aligns with practical considerations and the broader goal of fostering healing, reintegration, and community support.

#### *Attendee anonymous quotes regarding best fit at the corner of MacArthur and Meridian:*

“This on the OneRise Campus which has been designed as a total solution for mental illness and addiction across 70 acres. This has close access to the interstate system for great accessibility. And has ideal security designed into the campus.”

“This space meets all stated criteria presented by the county on the RFP. They have additional land that is available to make sure space is scalable for the needs of our region. The site is shovel-ready and can help meet the strict guideline for the dollars used. This site is also being devoted for other behavioral/health-related needs that can help elevate the success of the state hospital.”

“Close enough for resources, transit, infrastructure, public safety but not in the urban core.”

### **A parcel at 53<sup>rd</sup> and Greenwich (n=8)**

Of the eight attendees who selected a parcel at 53rd and Greenwich as the best fit, two also selected 2622 West Central Avenue, two selected a parcel on the corner of MacArthur and Meridian, and two selected a parcel at 85th and I-135. Of these six individuals, one selected all four locations and identified himself as a law enforcement officer.

The qualitative responses to the survey reveal a few common themes regarding a parcel at 53rd and Greenwich as the preferred location for the proposed project. Respondents expressed a desire for a site that is not near existing residential neighborhoods in other areas, indicating a concern for minimizing potential disruptions to established communities. Additionally, the emphasis on choosing an area not over-saturated with services suggests a preference for strategic placement where the proposed facility can effectively meet needs without contributing to an excess of similar services in a given locale. The simple statement "Nice area" encapsulates a broader sentiment suggesting a preference for an aesthetically pleasing location, perhaps reflecting consideration for the overall environment and quality of the chosen site. Overall, these responses highlight a focus on careful site selection to minimize impact on residential areas, avoid service saturation, and ensure the overall appeal of the chosen location.

*Attendee anonymous quotes regarding best fit at 53rd and Greenwich:*

“It's not near residential neighborhoods that are already existing in the other areas.”

“An area not over-saturated with services currently.”

“Nice area.”

### **A parcel at 85<sup>th</sup> and I-135 (n=13)**

Of the thirteen attendees who selected a parcel at 85th and I-135 as the best fit, two also selected 2622 West Central Avenue, two selected a parcel at 53rd and Greenwich, and two selected a parcel on the corner of MacArthur and Meridian. Of these six individuals, one selected all four locations and identified himself as a law enforcement officer.

The qualitative responses to the survey highlight a theme of prioritizing good highway access and appropriate size for the proposed project. Respondents emphasized the importance of proximity to highways, with considerations for accessibility and available acreage. The preference for a site away from residential areas is evident in the recurring mention of isolation from neighborhoods and the desire for less residential development in the chosen location. The choice of this location near major corridors, away from population centers, and with relatively quiet surroundings underscores the emphasis on a site that minimizes disruption to existing communities. The linkage to specific highways, such as I-135 connecting with I-70, is repeatedly mentioned as a crucial factor, suggesting a focus on efficient transportation networks. These

responses collectively reflect a desire for a well-connected, appropriately sized site that is strategically located away from areas of concern and residential development.

*Attendee anonymous quotes regarding best fit at 85th and I-135:*

“It is the most isolated/away from neighborhoods.”

“Good highway access. Appropriate size. Not near any of the areas of concern identified in the survey.”

“Less residential area.”

## **Special Considerations**

Qualitative research offers valuable insights into the complexities of human behavior and experiences, but it also has its limitations. The following four limitations apply to this data analysis.

- Qualitative research is inherently subjective, as it involves the interpretation of data by researchers. Researchers' personal biases and perspectives may influence the analysis and interpretation of findings. (subjectivity and bias)
- One of the main criticisms of qualitative research is the challenge of generalizing findings to larger populations. Qualitative studies often involve small, non-random samples, making it difficult to apply results beyond the study's specific context. (generalizability)
- Qualitative studies may lack the detail needed for other researchers to replicate the study exactly. The context-specific nature of qualitative research can make it challenging for others to reproduce the same conditions and obtain similar results. (lack of replicability)
- Participants in qualitative studies may provide responses that they perceive as socially desirable or acceptable, leading to a bias in the data, which is especially true when participants feel pressure to conform to societal norms. (potential for social desirability bias)

## Summary

While each site has unique considerations, common themes include proximity, cost savings, safety concerns, and the desire for a site away from residential areas.

Key themes emerged in the survey responses for 2622 West Central Avenue, with a sample size of 20. Participants emphasized the importance of proximity and a centralized location, valuing the site's proximity to their organization, existing services, and community resources. There was a notable recognition of potential cost savings by utilizing an existing building rather than constructing a new facility from scratch. Safety considerations played a crucial role, with concerns raised about creating a secure environment, especially in relation to nearby hospitals and community residents. The positive view on repurposing the existing structure reflected a desire for potential cost reduction and revitalization. Additionally, respondents highlighted the importance of building stronger community relationships and support for families.

For the parcel on the corner of MacArthur and Meridian, involving 32 respondents, a preference for a new facility was evident, emphasizing accessibility and successful community reintegration. Participants recognized the potential for leveraging other projects and scalability at this location. Acknowledgment of meeting county-stated criteria in the Request for Proposal (RFP) indicated a commitment to compliance, and the site's shovel-ready status was emphasized for prompt project initiation and budgetary adherence. Security and access were critical, with an emphasis on the integration into larger health campuses, such as the OneRise Campus, seen as a holistic solution for mental health and addiction. Proximity to highways was stressed for accessibility, job creation, and maintaining a balance between accessibility and avoiding densely populated areas.

Regarding the parcel at 53rd and Greenwich, with eight respondents, the desire for a site away from existing residential neighborhoods was evident, reflecting a preference for avoiding disruptions to established communities. Respondents expressed concerns about service saturation, indicating a need for strategic placement to prevent an excess of similar services in the area. Additionally, there was an emphasis on aesthetic considerations, with respondents highlighting a preference for a "nice area," indicating a desire for a visually pleasing environment.

For the 85th and I-135 parcel involving 13 respondents, themes centered around the prioritization of good highway access, appropriate size, and proximity to major corridors. Respondents desired a location away from residential areas, reflecting a preference for isolation. Quiet surroundings were also emphasized, indicating a preference for a serene environment. Recognition of the crucial factor of connecting I-135 with I-70 for efficient transportation underscored the importance of an effective transportation network at this location.

## Next Steps

It is recommended to use this data as one piece to triangulate data from other surveys, guidelines, and criteria in the decision-making process. The triangulation process provides a more robust and reliable foundation for making data-based decisions, as it reduces the risk of drawing conclusions or making decisions based on isolated or biased perspectives.

The *Town Hall Data Report* data can cross-reference data with the *Considerations for Potential Locations of the South Central Regional State Psychiatric Hospital* report to validate and contextualize findings. The findings from both reports do align.



# Appendix A

## Overview map of locations



## Appendix B

Data was collected from a *Citizen Feedback Extended Town Hall Survey* from residents not in attendance at the Town Hall on December 12, 2023. This data was collected from December 13, 2023, through December 15, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Respondents (n=245) expressed the same types of concerns as those expressed in-person at the Town Hall. Similarly, the survey did not ask respondents to rate the potential sites. The survey did collect a zip code from each respondent. Many respondents did express an opposition to building the hospital near their residence. The comments from the survey can not be generalized to the population of Sedgwick.

### **2622 West Central Avenue (n=109)**

“Riverside hospital is empty currently and needs a tenant. It makes more sense to put it in there. Don't put it in South Wichita where we continue to get dumped on every single day.”

### **A parcel on the corner of Macarthur and Meridian (n=68)**

“Quick highway access, which aids staff and anyone coming and going from the facility. Not in an area super-heavy with neighborhoods yet still an area that could benefit from growth. The other areas shouldn't have as much trouble with growth, on their own. Meridian does have a strip of established gas stations, restaurants, etc.”

### **A parcel at 53<sup>rd</sup> and Greenwich (n=44)**

“Because I live at Meridian and McArthur along with hundreds of other families. We don't need a facility with hold over for Larned literally in our yard.”

### **A parcel at 85<sup>th</sup> and I-135 (n=66)**

“It's close to the highway for easy access and it's not right in the middle of other areas that are frequented by large numbers of people or that have a large number of residents close by.”

For questions about this survey or report, please contact Dr. Lisa Pelkey at [centerofcommunitysupports@greenbush.org](mailto:centerofcommunitysupports@greenbush.org).