



District 3 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

March 4, 2024 | 7 p.m.
Goddard District Conference Center
315 S. Main, Goddard

Board Members in Attendance: Joe Brown, Peter Cook, Cameron Dawson, Patrick Gaughan, Janice Manlove, Kevin McWhorter, Michael Mitchell, David Wright

County Representatives: Commissioner David Dennis, Elora Forshee, Emergency Communications

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Call to Order – Chair Kevin McWhorter
 - i. Chair Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC AGENDA

- a. The public agenda allows members of the public to address the District 3 Citizens Advisory Board.
 - i. None

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Emergency Communications – Elora Forshee, Director
 - i. Elora Forshee, Director of Emergency Communications, gave an overview of Emergency Communications that also touched on history, call taking vs. dispatching and training.
 1. Patrick Gaughan asked about medical and EMS responses.
 - a. Elora Forshee explained the different responses for medical regarding fire and EMS.
 2. Kevin McWhorter asked about the call type numbers increase for 2020-2021.
 - a. Elora Forshee shared they reviewed numbers and saw more domestic disturbance and other domestic types of calls during that time.
 3. Kevin McWhorter asked what screening process was in place to verify people applying would be a good fit.
 - a. Elora Forshee shared there isn't a great process for this. They've explored multiple avenues but nothing has consistently proven to work.
 4. Kevin McWhorter asked what percentage of hires stay on after being hired.
 - a. Elora Forshee shared that Emergency Communications has tenure up to 30+ years in the department, but has found that year 2 is when people tend to leave.
 5. Peter Cook asked if counseling was offered to employees.
 - a. Elora Forshee shared that county insurance offers counseling through EMPAC and peer support. She also shared that Emergency Communications offers one mental health day a year.
 6. Kevin McWhorter asked when will the Emergency Communications Citizen Advisory Board start and how often will the meetings take place.
 - a. Elora Forshee responded that the plan is to have the board established and start in the 2nd quarter of the year. They will be evening meetings.

7. Joe Brown asked how many mental health workers are in Emergency Communications.
 - a. Elora Forshee shared there are currently two COMCARE mental health workers integrated into Emergency Communications. They are on duty Monday-Friday. They are still collecting data on this endeavor and hoping to expand in the future.
8. Joe Brown asked what the hiring qualifications for mental health workers were.
 - a. Elora Forshee explained they had to be a Licensed Social Worker (LSW). COMCARE manages the hiring process for these positions.
9. Joe Brown asked if they recruited from Wichita State University.
 - a. Commissioner David Dennis shared about the incoming BioMedical Campus and how COMCARE Crisis Center will be moving onto the campus to give students experience but also build a hiring pipeline. There is a great need for social workers.
10. Janice Manlove asked if Emergency Communications employees developed an “ear” for the work.
 - a. Elora Forshee responded that they absolutely do and shared it’s acquired through development and training.
11. Kevin McWhorter if Emergency Communications employees ever had to testify in court.
 - a. Elora Forshee shared that it is common and they typically do it in person.
12. Patrick Gaughan asked if the Emergency Communications technology tracks information, including emergency responder locations.
 - a. Elora Forshee explained yes, but staff also tracks where they are and are needed to think behind the computer system. The stakes are too high to not think beyond their technology.
 - b. Commissioner David Dennis also commented that 911 employees are the first of the first responders and their jobs are tough.
13. Kevin McWhorter asked how Emergency Communication staff make the “wins”/accolades work for them.
 - a. Elora Forshee explained that 911 may not have the “cool” stuff that other first responders have, but the people who have a knack for the work like being involved and part of the service. There is also pride that when anyone has something go wrong, the first thing they think of is 911.
14. Patrick Gaughan asked if Emergency Communications sends many calls to 888.
 - a. Elora Forshee shared that they have hired mental health workers on staff to help with these types of situations and also have connections with COMCARE.

4. BOARD AGENDA

- a. Commissioner Dennis updated the board on the following topics:
 - i. The upcoming BoCC Meeting (March 6) will have the Solar Moratorium on the agenda.
 - ii. Regional Mental Health Hospital Update

5. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

*The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be **Monday, April 1, 2024, 7 p.m.**, at Goddard School Conference Center, 315 S. Main, Goddard, KS.*