



## District 4 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2024 | 5:30 p.m.  
Sedgwick County 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conference Room  
100 N. Broadway, Ste. 630, Wichita

---

**Board Members in Attendance:** Alison Despard, Susanne Haynes, Krister Johnson

**County Representatives:** Commissioner Ryan Baty; Shelly Steadman, Director, Regional Forensic Science Center

---

### **1. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. Call to Order – Commissioner Ryan Baty
  - i. Commissioner Ryan Baty called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
- b. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Ryan Baty
  - i. Minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum

### **2. PUBLIC AGENDA**

- a. The public agenda allows members of the public to address the District 4 Citizens Advisory Board.
  - i. None

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Tour of Regional Forensic Science Center (RFSC)
  - i. Dr. Shelly Steadman gave a tour of RFSC explaining each area and the many services they provide
  - ii. Unique combination of a Coroner's Office and a Crime Lab
    1. Provide services for jurisdictions in and around Sedgwick County
  - iii. Dr. Steadman introduced the District Coroner, Dr. Timothy Gorrill. Dr. Gorrill is a board certified Forensic Pathologist. Forensic Autopsies are different than Clinical Autopsies.
  - iv. There are 2 very different functions, 1) Pathology Division and the Medical Legal Death Investigation, 2) Forensic Science Laboratories
  - v. The Coroner's Service receives about 4,000 reports of death a year, 1 Chief Medical Investigator and 6 Medical Investigators that take calls 24/7/365
    1. If the death falls under the jurisdiction of the Coroner, defined by legal statute, it is assigned a case number for a medical legal death investigation Dr. Gorrill deems appropriate.
    2. About 1,100 of the reported deaths result in an autopsy
    3. There is an in-house toxicology laboratory, testing is only sent to other labs for unusual tests not done in-house. Also try to only send out samples for cases not likely to go to court to save on testimony costs.
  - vi. Crime Laboratory, help law enforcement by looking at evidence
    1. Toxicology Lab also does human performance testing, ex: drugs, alcohol
    2. 7 Employees in the Toxicology Lab
  - vii. Criminalistics, covers fire arms testing, fire debris testing, illicit drug testing
  - viii. Commissioner Baty asked Dr. Gorrill to expand on what he does.
    1. Dr. Gorrill responded, most of what we do are post-mortem examinations. Review the information gathered by the Medical Investigators, review the

toxicology reports, make a determination on cause of death and sign the death certificates.

- ix. Dr. Steadman introduced Morgan Snead, Senior Level Medical Investigator.
  - 1. Morgan Snead was instrumental in identifying carfentanil in our community.
  - 2. Medical Investigators have to be able to deal with people, understand the law, have a medical background, collect evidence and identify drugs
- x. Drug chemists work to identify different drugs
  - 1. Can test to tell the difference between crack and cocaine and test to tell the difference between hemp and marijuana
- xi. Commissioner Baty asked Dr. Steadman, are there any trends happening in the community that you feel the citizens need to know about?
  - 1. Dr. Steadman responded, there is a growing belief in the community that Sedgwick County has a program to deal with unclaimed bodies and it does not. And that is a problem. It is the County's responsibility to provide final disposition to unclaimed remains. There are offerings to assist with that, but the issue is, making that a palatable process will cause the County an extreme cost that will be unrecoverable. Is a growing problem finding ways to handle these cases.

#### **4. BOARD AGENDA**

- a. No Board Agenda

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

*The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be **Tuesday, January 28, 2025,**  
at Sedgwick County 6th Floor Large Conference Room - 100 N. Broadway, Ste. 630, Wichita.*