



COMMUNITY EFFORTS IN SEDGWICK COUNTY

February 2024



BioMedical School

Lead: Wichita State University, WSU Tech, and University of Kansas

A new state-of-the-art facility in downtown Wichita to house Wichita State and WSU Tech's health professions programs as well as KU School of Medicine-Wichita and KU Pharmacy that will expand programs, improve patient outcomes, and engage new clinical trials.

Update

1. The City of Wichita has transferred the land to WSU/KUMC to develop the project in Fall 2023. Design began during Fall 2023 and will be completed in Q1 of 2024 with ground breaking occurring late Q1 or Q2 of 2024.
2. Per Federal ARPA regulations, the funds need to be spent by December 2026. There is a possibility an extension could be asked for, however, the goal is to continue with the timeline.
3. When the construction is complete, Phase 1 will be to move all academic programs and Wichita State University's speech language clinic into the first facility.
4. New staff will be identified as programs are created and expanded.
5. There will be more staffing needs in Phase 2 and as a result of private development.
6. The operating agreement with KUMC is currently in progress that will develop a nonprofit entity to help manage the facility.

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Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Coalition



COMCARE Crisis Center

Lead: Sedgwick County

Sedgwick County purchased a location in close proximity to the Bio-Medical School, anticipating engaging an architect to begin design work with the building to resemble the design of the Bio-Medical school. The funding for the expansion is supported by Sedgwick County. The expansion will include 10 Medical Detox beds in addition to the existing detox and sobering beds.

Update

1. Helix and CO Architects were awarded the design contract.
2. Design is estimated to be complete October 2024.
3. Estimated renovation is to be completed March 2026.



South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital

Lead: Kansas Dept. of Aging & Disability Services & Sedgwick County

Developing programming and design of a regional state hospital, and working with partners to develop strategies for workforce development and talent recruitment.

Update from State of Kansas, Department of Aging & Disability Services, and Sedgwick County

1. The Board of County Commissioners voted on Friday, January 24 to authorize the Sedgwick County staff to begin negotiations to acquire a site at the northwest corner of MacArthur and Meridian as the site for the Regional Psychiatric Hospital. This was one of the 4 sites shortlisted based on the county's request for proposals for construction sites or locations.
2. The 11-acre property is being donated by the Lange Community Foundation.
3. KDADS and Sedgwick County staff have met with the architectural firm selected to complete the design and engineering documents for the project. The design phase of the building will take approximately 12 weeks with the hope of going to bid for a general contractor and construction firm by the fall 2024.
4. The Governor's Advisory Panel issued an interim report in January to the Governor and Legislature. The Panel included in that report recommendations to seek funding during the 2024 Legislative Session for 50 additional beds for this project to build a total of 100 beds. The report described the work of the Panel and public engagement efforts about the project that occurred through 2023.
5. There is a State Psychiatric Hospital Town Hall meeting on 2/26/24 from 6:30-8:30pm at Wichita South High School in Auditorium, Door #1.



Multi-Agency Center (MAC)

Lead: City of Wichita

Contracted with a developer team and national consultant to work with the community and providers to identify site options for an effective service area for a navigation center, non-congregate housing and affordable housing, to be co-located with a 24/7/365 emergency shelter representing national best practices.

Update

1. December 1, 2023, the MAC Development Team presented the MAC concept to a group of State Legislators, County Commissioners, City Council members, and stakeholders at a follow-up meeting convened by Sedgwick County related to winter shelter and homelessness.
2. Following that meeting, a letter was drafted to the Governor requesting a set aside of \$50 million of State surplus funds to assist Kansas communities with capital projects to address homelessness. Many communities and organizations from across the State signed the letter. Subsequently, the Governor's budget did include a \$40 million fund. The potential fund has been assigned to the House Welfare Reform Committee and Representative Howell is leading the effort in drafting a bill.
3. December 14, 2023, the MAC Development Team presented a project update to the Homelessness Task Force. The update included presentation of the site scoring matrix and the top four potential sites which included property at West River Plaza, the Humankind Campus, One Rise, and the Faith Christian Center. The presentation also included a breakdown of secured and identified funding including:

Secured:

- \$13 million in Public Housing Sales Proceeds which may only be used for affordable housing units on which Section 8 Project Based Voucher are attached. The funds are accumulating as Public Housing properties are sold and have no expenditure deadline.
- \$5 million in City HOME-ARP funds which may only be used for affordable housing units, non-congregate shelter, and supportive services. The funds must be obligated by 12/31/26 and expended by 12/31/30.
- \$2 million in City ARPA funds which may be used for affordable housing units, non-congregate shelter, multi-agency supportive services office space, and congregate shelter. The funds must be obligated by 12/31/24 and expended by 12/31/26.

Have/Will Apply For:

- \$29 million in Federal and State Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC). Funds may only be used for affordable housing units. The application was due 2/8/24.
- \$5 million in New Market Tax Credits. Funds can be used for non-congregate shelter, multi-agency supportive services office space, and congregate shelter. Application has been submitted – expect to hear if awarded by late Spring.
- \$3.5 million in State HOME-ARP funds which may only be used for affordable housing units, non-congregate shelter, and supportive services. The funds must be obligated by 12/31/26 and expended by 12/31/30. Preliminary application was submitted in 2023 and the project was invited to submit a full application due 2/21/24.



Update Continued

Ask:

- \$22 million in State Homelessness Infrastructure funding. Although the Governor's budget included a \$40 million statewide fund, it must get through the legislature to get into the State budget, program design is unknown including eligible activities, project limits, match requirements, and expenditure deadlines.
4. January 17, 2024, the MAC Development Team invited the Homelessness Task Force members to a project design charrette to evaluate the two top scoring sites of West River Plaza and the Humankind campus.
 5. The participants were unanimous in feedback that a blended approach with housing units at West River Plaza and the congregate shelter, non-congregate shelter, multi-agency supportive service center, and permanent supportive housing on the Humankind campus property.
 6. This feedback was given from a utopian lens without consideration of construction costs, operations costs, funding limitations and timelines, availability of property, commitments from collaborating agencies, or regulatory restrictions.
 7. Since the meeting, the MAC Development Team has been working to try and structure the project as envisioned as well as meet LIHTC and State HOME-ARP application deadlines.



Homelessness Task Force

Lead: Public Policy and Management Center, Wichita State University

Between July and September of 2023, the Taskforce identified 5 areas of focus that required subgroup planning: Housing, Provider Coordination/Gap Analysis, Emergency Services, Community Engagement, and Funding. More than 55 individuals across sectors participated in the subgroup work. All subgroups apart from Funding, were tasked with developing a future vision for the area of focus and identify a six month plan to include action steps necessary to move the goals forward.

Update

1. Community Wide Plan overview summary was drafted and circulated to the Task Force on December 14th - this will serve as the guiding document for the Task Force as it develops short and long term planning in 2024.
2. Task Force support for the MAC continued, with a site selection presentation in December, and the Task Force organizations circulating and supporting the request for State funding for the project through a one-time grant program designed to support infrastructure needs dedicated to homelessness and housing efforts.
3. Task Force Subgroups met in January
 - The emphasis was meeting the timeline set for 6-month action steps.
 - Beginning to look at future planning and visioning the new system that aligns with our community wide plan.
4. There are a number of components of the community wide plan in motion - from increased provider coordination to the development of the MAC.
5. What comes next will be a process of implementing the initial action steps in practice, and developing goals, strategies, and metrics for long-term planning.
6. The next Task Force meeting: February 21st, 3:30-5pm at the Advanced Learning Library.

COMMUNITY EFFORTS IN SEDGWICK COUNTY TIMELINE

EFFORTS TIMELINE	EFFORTS	PROJECTED TIMELINE												LEAD, PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS		
		2023			2024				2025				2026			
		Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
STATE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOSPITAL	Oversight committee appointed through Governor's Executive Order															(KDADS & Sedgwick County) Regional CMHCs, community hospitals, law enforcement, and education.
	Design work															
	Site selection: construction vendor selection															
	Construction (Completion 2025)															
PROJECT HOPE	Create 2 Care Coordination Teams															(City of Wichita) Law enforcement, Continuum of Care, Workforce Alliance, Goodwill, Healthcare, IACP, SafeNite, US State's Attorney's Office - District of Kansas, Breakthrough Club
	Site selection															
CITY OF WICHITA HOME ARP 24/7 HOMELESSNESS CENTER	Begin construction (completion TBD)											*				(City of Wichita)
	Environmental review process															
	Response from application for Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)															
BIOMED SCHOOL	Construction (Completion Fall 2026)															(Wichita State & University of Kansas) Sedgwick County, City of Wichita
COMCARE COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTER	Expanded Community Crisis Center															

* MAC and congregate shelter activity is dependent upon securing additional funding