



Division of Community Engagement  
Cyrus K. Holliday Bldg.  
Holliday Conference Rm.  
620 SE Madison

**City of Topeka**  
**CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, July 7, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER & CAC UPDATES**

The Citizen Advisory Council met remotely via Zoom and in person at 6:45 p.m. Attendees present included: 12 members, 2 non-members and 5 City of Topeka staff including City Manager Brent Trout (see Citizen Advisory Council 2021 Attendance ledger link).

Susan McClacherty, Citizen Advisory Council Chair called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Neighborhood Health Map Update**

Dan Warner, Planning Division Director, presented the updated 2020 Topeka Neighborhood Health Map. Dan stated that the neighborhood health map is a planning tool that helps to guide investment decisions and prioritize resources. Neighborhood health is composed of five vital signs: 1) poverty (most recent five year estimates information gathered from the Census Bureau) 2) part one crimes (information from the Police Department), 3) residential property values and 4) home ownership (information from county parcel records) and 5) unsafe structures (boarded and unsafe structures information from property maintenance). The neighborhood health ratings are determined by averaging the scores of vital signs. The four neighborhood health ratings are: 1) healthy, 2) outpatient, 3) at risk and 4) intensive care. The most recent update is from data collected from 2017 to 2020. There are 117 block groups and the health scores are based on block group census. 11 block groups improved their health rating, one fell to outpatient, three fell to at risk and three fell into intensive care. Citywide health has been trending up since 2000. Intensive care and at risk block groups have been cut from 37% to 27%. Healthy and outpatient block groups have improved since 2000 from 63% to 73% and a little improvement in 2017 from 72 to 73. Healthy and Outpatient block groups in NIAs have increased since 2000 from 23% to 44% and intensive care and at risk block groups have decreased from 77% to 56% since 2000. A few highlighted neighborhoods that have improved health ratings are: 1) Highland Acres ( first time receiving a healthy health rating - significant reduction in the crimes per 100 people and a reduction in the number of secured unsafe structures) 2) College Hill (returned to outpatient health category - very large drop in the poverty percentage) 3) East Topeka North ( first ever outpatient health rating - reduction in poverty, crime, and unsafe structures) and 4) Hi-Crest West (best ever score and first ever at risk health rating - reduction in the number of part one crimes per 100 people). Neighborhoods that have seen a decrease in health rating: Downtown (first time falling into intensive care since 2007 - increase in the number of secured unsafe structures). Block group 4:1, shared by Historic holiday Park, Tennessee Town and Central Park, dropped to intensive care health rating for the first time since 2000 - a big increase in poverty and secured and unsafe structures, and also a slight uptick in crime. Last Historic North Topeka East which is 8:3

dropped to intensive care health rating for the first time since 2007 (increase in the number of secured unsafe structures and a slight decrease in owner occupancy rates) The biggest improvement was poverty. There were 31 block groups in which the property score improved versus eight that declined.

#### B. 2021 Shawnee County Health Map – Kansas Health Institute

Dr. Gianfranco Pezzino, Senior Fellow from the Kansas Health Institute (also served as Shawnee County Health Officer from 2006-2020), presented the Annual Shawnee County Health Rankings 2021 report. The report provides information on Health Policies and Programs, various health factors, and community health outcomes. Health Outcomes have five measures that determine the health outcome rating pertaining to length of life and quality of life. Health outcomes are affected by a variety of health factors in our community. There are 30 health factors that are measured and distributed over 4 domains: 1) health behaviors, 2) clinical care, 3) social and economic factors, and 5) physical environment. Clinical care only accounts for 20% of the overall score for the health factors and 80% is dependent on the rest. Health factors can predict our community health outcomes over the next few years. Lowering the rate of homelessness and poverty and improving education and housing over the next few years we have an impact on improving our community health outcomes; how long people live and how healthy they are. Policies and programs impact all 35 measures (health factors and outcomes combined). Johnson County traditionally historically ranks #1(best) while Wyandotte County ranks number 105 (worst). Shawnee County ranks 64 in health outcomes and 47 in health factors. Health outcomes are primarily driven by things that happen outside the doctor's office.

#### **CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN FEEDBACK REPORT (55 minutes)**

Corrie Wright, Housing Services Division Director, presented the Citizen Advisory Council recommendations for the 2022 Consolidated Action Plan. 8 CAC members responded to the request for comments. Recommendations include: a reduction in funding for parks (1 response), tenant based rental assistance (2 responses), NIA support (2 responses), Weatherization (3 responses); increased funding for Anti-blight ( 3 responses), Rehabilitation (6 responses), Homeownership Training (1 response), increase admin line item for a grant writer (1 response). Based on these recommendations, Housing Services proposes the following options for the CAC to consider: 1) reducing the funding for weatherization by \$17,890 (remaining total - \$60,000), 2) reducing Tenant Based Rental Assistance by \$40,000 and moving it to somewhere that's needed, 3) increase funding for the major rehab by \$48,890 (total \$287,730) and increase anti-blight by \$9,000 (total \$69,000 + \$120,500 for inmate services).

Susan McClacherty, CAC Chair, called for a motion to move forward with the recommendations of reducing funding for weatherization and tenant based rental assistance programs by the amounts proposed by Housing Services. David Bawden made the motion and Debby Dubois seconded the motion. The motion carried with two opposed.

Susan McClacherty, CAC Chair, called for a motion to move forward with the recommendations of increasing funding for Anti-blight and major rehab programs by the amounts proposed by Housing Services. Debby Dubois made the motion and David Bawden seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **STAFF UPDATES (5 minutes)**

- A. Susan McClaherty asked Monique Glaudé, Community Engagement Division Director, if Community Engagement staff were being asked to assist residents in non-NIA neighborhoods and if so how staff time was accounted for. Monique stated that CDBG funding is used for two Community Engagement staff to assist only LMI residents or those in LMI neighborhoods.
- B. Monique Glaudé, stated that Community Engagement has partnered with the Public Works department to secure additional funding and support for the Inmate Services Program. Currently there are two crews that will continue to be paid for out of CDBG funds and now also public works funds. These crews are only going to work in NIAs and LMI neighborhoods with anti-blight.
- C. Monique Glaudé, stated that Community Engagement Division in partnership with the Digital Equity and Inclusion Partnership has been applied for a grant through the Kansas Health Foundation to provide digital equity and inclusion services in Topeka and Shawnee County. \$250,000 was applied for, for a three year grant program (\$83,333.97 annually). Partners for the Digital Equity and Inclusion Partnership include: Topeka Public Schools 501, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, Topeka Housing Authority, ISBA, Greater Topeka Partnership and Housing & Credit Counseling, Inc. Grant award will be announced on Monday July the 12<sup>th</sup>. This effort will be administered by Community Engagement and will provide digital literacy education and access to technology. Joining the Community Engagement Team will be a part time Digital Community Navigator and a part time Technical Navigator.
- D. Monique Glaudé, stated that 194 FHA borrowers in the city limits of Topeka will potentially go into foreclosure on August 1, 2021. HUD has requested that the City make contact with these borrowers. Since we cannot get addresses for privacy reasons, the City of Topeka will continue its marketing campaign to get the word out resources that can assist these households.
- E. Monique Glaudé, stated that the Division of Community Engagement has distributed over 17,000 resource bags in the last nine months. These bags have been distributed to families and households in the community that and they provide information on various social service provided by the City and other community outreach agencies. Let us know if you need any for your neighborhood meetings or events.
- F. Glaudé, stated that since several NIA and CAC members have requested that we stop sending out daily information, Community Engagement has updated their website to include weekly community resource information. Community Engagement will be moving to City Hall to be closer to the City Manager's office sometime within the next 30 days. Brent Trout stated that Community Engagement Staff would be moving as soon as their office renovations are complete.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Logo Status**

Laura Pederazani provided an update on the response from local artists regarding the CAC logo. The artists provided some feedback on the current proposed designed. Most artists stated that there would be a fee for logo design work if their services were to be contracted.

### **B. Enhancement Program Committee**

Michael Bell stated that the committee is trying to find help agencies that would want to participate in the point process so that points can be earned through community volunteerism and trying to find vendors who would be willing to participate with providing materials and minor home improvement repairs. The committee will be contacting area help agencies, such as, Community Action, Doorstep, Let's Help, Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, Housing and Credit Counseling, Topeka Rescue Mission, Keep America Beautiful, and Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library to see if there's interest in participating.

Donald Fortin stated that most vendors would like more information on the program and confirmation of community and City of Topeka support. Vendors have also expressed funding concerns and benefits for participating in the program.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Ordinance**

Susan McClacherty stated that the CAC provided recommendations to the ordinance that establishes the CAC in January 2021. The CAC ordinance workgroup met yesterday afternoon to review the ordinance that had previously gone before the City Council after it was approved by the CAC. The CAC ordinance workgroup is recommending that the CAC body approve the modifications to section 2.25.040 to submit to the City Manager for the City Council's consideration.

Susan McClacherty called for a motion to approve the CAC ordinance workgroups recommendation and including the two changes that were discussed in this meeting or approve the section as it was presented to the CAC or approve the section that was presented to the City Council. Donald Fortin made a motion to approve modifications made to the City ordinance for section 2.25.040 including the two items on line 48 add the "I" to chair and line 61 to remove the extra "the". David Bawden seconded the motion has been seconded. Motion carried.

Susan McClacherty stated that the CAC ordinance workgroup concluded section 2.25.050 of the ordinance does not fall within the mission or vision of the CAC body and therefore recommends that the CAC body not speak on behalf of all NIA leaders regarding section 2.25.050 of the ordinance that encompasses establishment of NIA operations, responsibilities, and annual requirements for NIA certification; however, there were strong concerns that the workgroup felt it was important to provide some initial thoughts as a courtesy to the city and the CAC executive body is willing to have representation to serve in our interest as a CAC at any community action taken by the City Council or City Manager to further work on that section. Donald Fortin made a motion to approve the recommendations of the CAC workgroup with regard to section 2.25.050 that we will not be providing any formal consideration, but we did provide some information that hopefully will be helpful. David Bawden seconded. Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **A. Clean-Up Committee**

Free Yard Waste Day for residents, not businesses, to dispose of their yard waste at Forestry Products Recycle on July 17 from 8 AM-5 PM. Forestry Products Recycle is located at 3431 SE 21st. All loads of trees, limbs, leaves, and grass are to be covered and secured.

B. Next Meeting

The next regular CAC meeting is August 4, 2021, at 6:45 p.m.

C. Susan McClacherty called for a motion to adjourn. Donald Fortin moved to adjourn. David Bawden seconded. Motion carried.

**D. CAC MEMBERS NETWORKING DISCUSSIONS (*until 8:30 P.M.*)**