

**ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, September 25, 2023**

The meeting of the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee was held on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 5:20 p.m. The following members were present: Commissioner Markley, Chairman; Commissioners Ramirez, Johnson, Kane. Commissioner Davis attended on behalf of Commissioner Bynum, who was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Lindsey Hensley, Community Health Education Program Supervisor; Irene Claudillo, Mayor's Chief of Staff; Lavert Murray, Economic Development Advisor to the Mayor, Jeff Conway, Assistant Counsel; Angela Lawson, Interim Chief Counsel; JD Rios, Mayor's Government Affairs and Policy Liaison; SueZanne Bishop, Senior Attorney; Jennifer Stewart, Environmental Health Manager, Health Department; Anthony Lee Jr, Lead Hazard Control Program Supervisor, Health Department; Ashley Hand, Director of Strategic Communications; and Monica Sparks, Deputy UG Clerk.

Chairman Markley said before I call that meeting to order, I want to announce that some committee members, staff, and the public are attending remotely via Zoom as well as on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, please make sure that you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is observing knows who is speaking. When speaking be sure and speak directly into a microphone so all comments are heard and the record of the meeting is accurate. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is the current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

The public is allowed to participate by Zoom or submit comments by email prior to the meeting. Those comments will be included in the record of this meeting. The public may also indicate their intent to provide remote public comments by contacting the Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. the Thursday before the meeting. The public also will have an opportunity to provide brief comments either by telephone or via Zoom from the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Office building.

Chairman Markley called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

Chairman Markley said there are no revisions to the agenda this evening.

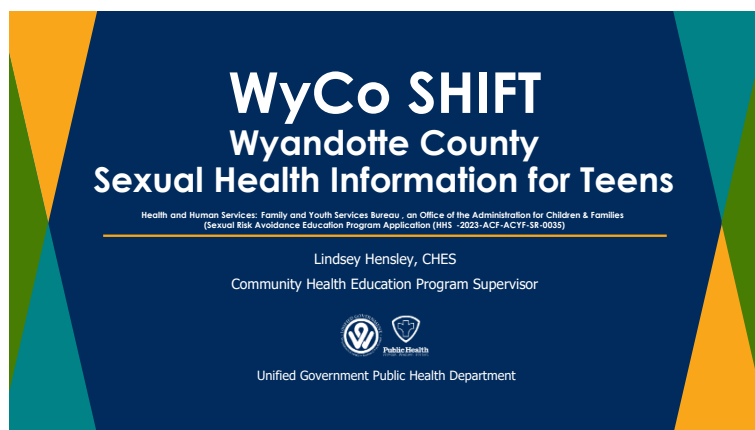
Approval of standing committee minutes from October 24, 2022. **On motion of Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, the minutes were approved.** Roll call was taken and there were five “Ayes,” Kane, Johnson, Ramirez, Davis, Markley.

COMMITTEE AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 212707...GRANT: WYCO SHIFT (WYANDOTTE COUNTY SEXUAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR TEENS)

Synopsis: Approval to submit a 3-year grant to provide sexual risk avoidance and mental health curriculum at middle schools within the Kansas City, Kansas public schools, submitted by Lindsey Hensley, Community Health Education Program Supervisor. No match funding is required.

Lindsey Hensley, Community Health Education Program (CHEP) Supervisor, Health Department, said today I'm just here to provide a short informational presentation regarding the CHEP team and the grant that we applied for through the Health and Human Services Family and Youth Services Bureau. The title of this project is called the WyCo SHIFT. And so, I just need approval for the grant as well.



Community Health Education Program (CHEP)



- Born out of COVID-19.
- Provide strategic health education and health promotion to the public with a focus on addressing social determinants of health to assist in community recovery of COVID-19
- Supervisor: Lindsey Hensley, CHES
- Health Educators: Elaina Sassine, CHES & Madison Bush, MPH



Some background, the CHEP team was born out of the needs of COVID-19. Our purpose is to provide strategic health education and health promotion to the public with a focus on addressing social determinants of health to assist in the community recovery of COVID-19.

CHEP Approaches



To accomplish this, we utilize Community-Based Upstream approaches to educate a variety of audiences on specific health topics within Wyandotte County. We have three main focus program areas which include COVID-19 disease vaccine recovery through addressing those Social Determinants of Health, Community Outreach, and School Based Health. The CHEP team works heavily within the CHEP priority areas to create health education for community members.



Some of those Health Education Topics are the COVID-19 Vaccine or Recovery, Careers in Public Health. We've also worked with the CHEP team on Tenant Rights and Responsibilities toolkits, among other projects. We actually currently have over 25 health topics in our portfolio and the list continues to grow as we identify gaps within the community.



As mentioned, the CHEP team provides health education throughout the county through community outreach. For instance, you may have seen us at the Wyandotte County Fair, Bonner Springs Night Market, La Placita, Third Friday's Art Walk, among other places. We also table and provide education upon request at churches, schools, and neighborhood events, as well as workplaces throughout the county.

One of our biggest impact spaces is within our school-based health arm, which is one of the reasons that I am here today. Currently we provide health education at a variety of grade levels within all the public schools within Wyandotte County. One of our most long-standing school-

based partnerships is with USD 500, where we are able to provide Love Notes, a healthy relationship and sexual health curriculum, to all ninth graders through their PE course. The grant opportunity that we applied for will deepen this partnership as well as create other positive effects for all Wyandotte County school-based health opportunities.

WyCo SHIFT Grant Purpose

- To address topics of teen pregnancy, teen STI rates, teen mental health, and additional health topics affecting youth, the WyCo SHIFT grant proposes to expand the CHEP team's health curriculum implementation to middle school students in USD 500.
- Love Notes 4.0, SRA to all 7th graders
- Mind Matters to all 6th graders



To really get to the meat of this, the proposed project for the WyCo SHIFT Grant is meant to address topics of teen pregnancy, STI rates, mental health, and additional health topics affecting youth. The SHIFT project proposes to expand the CHEP team's health curriculum implementation to middle school students in USD 500. This will be accomplished by implementing two new curriculums for students. The first one being Love Notes 4.0, which is sexual risk avoidance. It's evidence based and will be the adaptation of the curriculum that we currently deliver to the ninth graders. This would be delivered to all seventh graders. Love Notes is intended to integrate healthy relationship skills with pregnancy prevention and workforce readiness while utilizing practical strategies for motivating change.

The second curriculum is a mental health curriculum designed to help youth better regulate their emotions, increase hopefulness, and build resilience, and that will be implemented to all sixth graders. Both curriculums help to address STI rates and youth violence prevention, which are other initiatives the Health Department is very invested in. Both curriculums have been supported by USD 500 for our implementation. With this grant funding, USD 500 would then be connected to the Health Department from the fifth grade through the ninth grade. The CHEP team will be able to provide them with the fifth grade Puberty Talk, sixth grade Mind Matters, seventh grade Middle School Love Notes, eighth grade Sexual Health and Personal Safety, and in ninth grade the Love

Notes High School version. This continued exposure can help to foster a trusting relationship with the Health Department for youth, as well as for us to become more recognizable within the community. One of my favorite things when going out to table is when students recognize me from when I came to their school. With this expansion, student's health literacy and access will improve from a young age and positive community impacts can take place.

WyCo SHIFT Grant Details

- Administered through Health and Human Services: Family and Youth Services Bureau, an Office of the Administration for Children & Families
- Approx. 400k per year for 3 years, begins October 2023
 - Renewal application each year



Here I have provided some details regarding this grant opportunity. It is administered through the Health and Human Services. It is approximately \$400,000 per year for three years, beginning in October 2023, and there is a renewal application each year.

WyCo SHIFT Grant Considerations

- Expand and sustain the CHEP team and programming goals
- A subaward will be awarded to Tri-State Research and Evaluation Services (TRES)
- No match funding requirements
- No policy considerations
- No legal considerations



Our CHEP team is also currently funded through ARPA. Through this funding we would be able to sustain our program. With this funding we'll be able to hire two additional Health Educators, expanding our team, which will also allow us more capacity to engage in additional health

education work within the community and other school districts. There will be a sub-award for tri-state research evaluation services. They will help us with the first progress report as well as the renewal application, among other duties. There is no match funding requirement, there is no policy consideration, and there are no legal considerations.



That is all I have. Do you guys have any questions?

Commissioner Davis said I don't have a question, but y'all are doing phenomenal work. You all said \$400,000 per year, no matching funds. I work in philanthropy. Anytime there's no matching funds, that's a big deal. So, thank you all so much and educating our students, our youth, with very, very important information. I would make a motion, but I'll wait until we have finished.

Chairman Markley said anything else from the committee? Clerk, did we receive any comments or is there anyone online? **Monica L. Sparks, Deputy UG Clerk**, said no comments received, no hands raised. **Chairman Markley** said anyone here in the room who wishes to address this item? I will entertain a motion.

Action: **Commissioner Davis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were five “Ayes,” Kane, Johnson, Ramirez, Davis, Markley.

Item No. 2 – 212708...ORDINANCE: BPU PILOT RELIEF

Synopsis: Approving adoption of Ordinances and Charter Ordinances to allow for PILOT relief for older adults and individuals with disabilities and allowing different percentages for residential and commercial rates, submitted by Jeff Conway, Assistant Counsel.

Jeff Conway, Assistant Counsel, said on behalf of Commissioner Bynum, I thought I'd just present the draft as it stands and I'd be happy to answer any questions. I do not have slide deck that can make this—

Chairman Markley said go ahead, Commissioner. **Commissioner Kane** said this is what Melissa and everyone's been working on for the past—move for approval.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve.**

Chairman Markley said I have a motion and a second. Is there an interest in hearing comments by Mr. Conway or has everyone read the packet and—**Commissioner Johnson** said I'm ready to move, this was actually my idea, but go ahead. **Chairman Markley** said Mr. Conway, is there anything you felt that we should know that changed? Anything that changed in the packet or anything that's particularly of note?

Mr. Conway said I don't want her to lose any votes if I keep talking, but I did want to point out that this is trying to dovetail with the Rebate Program that was already passed. One way to look at this is that Rebate Program is you become eligible and then you reach back and get a rebate for what you paid the previous year. This one would use the eligibility list that was developed from the Rebate Program, they just hand that over to BPU. BPU would use that list to work prospectively. It would be an exemption for your payment of the PILOT from that day forward with annual reapplication. So sometimes people are eligible and then sometimes they're not eligible for various reasons. So that's the idea.

Then, there was some talk of possible amendments to clarify because it didn't talk about a cap of any kind. So, the County Administrator had mentioned something about some extra

language to clarify that it would be capped at \$1 million per year and that's from, I think, the \$250,000 was talked about and then this piece was \$750,000, and that added together would be the total of a million per year. I don't think we're ever going to get close to that, but that's the idea. Then because of the problem of trying to go from the retroactive rebate and have it mesh with the prospective exemption, unfortunately, there's going to probably be a gap there. So by the time that they come in and prove that they were eligible for last year around tax time of the following year, which could be March, April, something like that, then that eligibility is checked and then that's passed on to BPU. There may be a few months there that it takes time for BPU to get the system up and running and everybody included that would be exempt from paying the BPU PILOT. So that first time around there might be a gap, but then from there on I tried to write it so it's seamless. The cycle would be a yearly cycle, but basically go from June 1st to June 1st as long as they were continuing to be eligible. And that's that, so I did have that prepared. That'll be, those two concepts I could easily—it's in another draft, so you don't have that in front of you, but I can easily make those two changes. That's all I wanted to say. Any questions?

Commissioner Davis said question about the program because I know all of this, we've kind of lumped it together, the senior sales tax rebate, utility tax rebate, and then now the BPU PILOT relief. What is the scheduled timeline for when this program will roll out? **Mr. Conway** said for this, the exemption, that would be basically set up for 2024. So we'd have to wait to see who would determine eligibility for tax time next year for 2023 and that would determine the rebate. Then, with that list we would move on to the exemption for 2024, and prospectively. **Commissioner Davis** said gotcha.

Mr. Conway said I wanted to say one thing too. I know this is a little bit confusing, but the intent was to try to strip away some of the confusion because I think some people came in and said, I qualified for the Homestead exemption with the state and then I came in here and I may or may not qualify here. We're trying to get those to align a little bit better. I think we made some great strides in doing that. It's never going to be exactly meshing up, but at least that eliminates some of the confusion, we're referring back to the state program. Then also we're trying to make this so that it's seamless as well from the rebate over on the sales and utility side to the BPU PILOT side. That's the intent, we're trying to eliminate confusion.

Chairman Markley said Madam Clerk, do we have somebody online?

Ms. Sparks said no, I was going to offer a comment in response to Commissioner Davis. We've already started working on communication for the new changes to the utility program. We're waiting, of course, for full approval on the BPU PILOT, we will incorporate all that together. Our intent is to have communication out to the public beginning, we hope late October, realistically November, so the public is aware. Our season starts January 2, it runs through the middle of April, which is why then to get all the information gathered, verified, and to BPU, the BPU exemption would start June 1.

Chairman Markley said perfect. Thank you. Anything else from the committee?

Mr. Conway said I'm sorry, I neglected to mention that there was another idea that was originally in there and that's been carried through. It was the idea to allow BPU to have the option of creating a two tier, so you'd have residential and other. Whether they do it or not, they may, but we create that option that they could. **Commissioner Ramirez** said it's not a requirement? **Mr. Conway** said correct. **Commissioner Ramirez** said but they have the option. **Mr. Conway** said that's right.

Chairman Markley said alright. Clerk, did we receive any comments or is there anyone online wishing to comment? **Ms. Sparks** said no comments received, no hands raised. **Chairman Markley** said anyone here in the room with us who would like to comment on this item? We do have a motion and a second. I want to make sure that motion and second still stands and that it is based on what is in our packet, without any of the potential pieces that Mr. Conway addressed. **Commissioner Johnson** said yes. **Chairman Markley** said okay. Roll call on the motion.

Roll call was taken and there were five "Ayes," Kane, Johnson, Ramirez, Davis, Markley.

Item No. 3 – 212711...ORDINANCES: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Synopsis: Ordinance and Charter Ordinance changes requiring in-district residency and background checks for members of UG Boards and Commissions, submitted by Jeff Conway, Assistant Counsel.

Jeff Conway, Assistant Counsel, said again, this was at the request of the Mayor. The basic idea is to impose some residency requirements for Boards and Commission members. In some places it does say that, other places it doesn't, other places it's implied. I think that's what he's trying to do, is have that imposed throughout all the Boards and Commissions. Then, the other piece was to have a background check. It'd be a name-based background check to be done basically on the same grounds as we do with UG employee applicants. They come in and a background check is run routinely. The UG pays for that and we eat the cost for that, but the number of people on Boards and Commissions is far fewer than the UG employee applicants. I'm not sure what the budget implication would be, but it'd be much less than for UG employees. That was the idea.

Then he had another—he wanted to go a little bit farther for the boards, where it would do a background check to see if they were violent offenders for everybody, but these four would be, you check for violent offenders, sexual offenders, and drug offenders. Those four boards are the Corrections Advisory Board, the Law Enforcement Advisory Board, the Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board, and the Housing Authority. Then, the way the ordinance is structured, it looks a little bit odd, but I just wanted to point out that the first section amending Section 2-381, that's the one like two or three years ago, we decided to try to make the Boards and Commissions a little bit more uniform. We tried to pull them together and cluster them a little bit. So that's in 2-381 is where that is. There's more general references to the cluster. Those are the Commission on Human Relations and Disabilities, Alcohol and Drug Fund Advisory Committee, the Area Wide Advisory Council on Aging, Golf Advisory Board, the Housing Authority was already addressed, Landmarks Commission, Law Enforcement Advisory Board, Planning Commission and Zoning Appeals, and the Downtown SSMID. Those kind of have their own section of ordinances that apply to them as a group. So that's taken care of in the first section.

Then I know the rest of it, they're sprinkled throughout. I tried to go in and make that same language apply to them wherever they reside. It's not exact. There's some that got left out, some that were interesting ones where it might be, say, all the UG employees, well, they already have

background checks by virtue of the fact that they would be applicants, so why do it again? So that would be superfluous. There are a few others that, well, I did pick up the Tree Board because, you know, you can't forget the Tree Board, and there's a few others that were kind of in nooks and crannies. So by and large, those concepts are applied to the Boards and Commissions. I do want to say, though, that the residency requirement does apply to the cluster, the nine, but I didn't go in and drop that in because this draft was kind of evolving as it went along. I can easily do that if your wishes are to add the residency to all the rest of those that weren't picked up, I can easily do that. But that's where this draft stands. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Markley said I will just start out speaking for myself on this item, many of our boards—well, first of all, as Mr. Conway addressed, a few years ago we went through this whole process where we looked at all the Boards and Commissions we were appointing to. We identified those that were required by state statute, those are the ones that are sprinkled throughout. The ones that are UG created, which are the ones that are all addressed under that single ordinance. Tried to figure out if we could combine any and if that would work within state statute and just generally, tried to clean things up, tried to align the rollover dates of the different committee members, all those sorts of things. I might have actually chaired that committee. Maybe, I think I did. I was certainly on it, so we went through this whole process.

We continue, as a Commission, to have difficulty getting people to serve on these boards and committees, and many of them are not meeting quorum on a regular basis. Even our Planning and Zoning Board has struggled to meet quorum on several occasions. That's our most powerful entity, aside from the full commission as a whole. All of these smaller boards are struggling every single month to meet quorum. I have a concern that we are trying to make it even more difficult to get on to these boards when we can't get people to serve on these boards, as it is today. Every month they're not meeting quorum. I'll say, I think for the majority of the Commission, I think I can say it's not for lack of trying. We're trying to find people to serve in these seats. They're not necessarily convenient for a lot of people and they're just difficult. They're thankless jobs to provide this service. I'm concerned that we're putting more requirements on something where we already can't get people to serve in these capacities. So that's my concern. I will open it up to comments from the other commissioners.

Commissioner Ramirez said that's my concern as well because I believe I currently still have a vacancy on the Area Agency on Aging. I cannot find anybody. I've asked community members. I've put on my commission Facebook page that I have an opening. No one has said something or came to me asking to apply. I agree, I think it's creating more restriction for us because when I did my appointments I made sure I looked in-district first, asked community members first and if no one wanted it, then I went outside my district, but my district was always first. I don't want my hands tied more than I feel like they already are, even without the residency requirement that we currently have. Are there any other municipalities within the region that require their appointees to be background checked? **Mr. Conway** said I did not do that research. I wish I could give you an answer one way or the other. I do not know. **Commissioner Ramirez** said for me, I also see that as—I don't want to say—I don't want my word to be taken elsewhere, not saying that it's not necessary. Have we had any complaints, anything of possible board members or commission members being offenders of any type? **Mr. Conway** said I couldn't speak to that. I don't know if this issue was raised and presented to the Mayor's Office. I don't know, I'm sorry.

Commissioner Ramirez said if you wouldn't mind, Commissioner Markley, if the Mayor's Chief of Staff could come up and speak on this? **Irene Claudillo, Mayor's Chief of Staff**, said speak on that question? **Commissioner Ramirez** said oh no, just on the ordinance itself.

Chairman Markley said you don't have to, but I see a couple people from the Mayor's Office. If any of you worked with him on this and you have any comments, I think we would welcome some background on how this came to us.

Lavert Murray, Economic Development Advisor to the Mayor, said I have spoken with Jeff about some of the concerns that caused the Mayor to seek these changes to the appointment procedures. Of course, yes, there have been some concerns coming in and yes, there has been some questions about appointed members creating controversy through either arrest records or maybe DUIs and things like that. I think the Mayor is wanting to make sure that if the public comes forward with a concern about an appointment, that we've given it due diligence, have considered the quality of the applicants, and so forth, but that's why the concerns came about.

Commissioner Ramirez said okay and thank you. Have any of those respective commissioners been notified of these complaints or been given any notification that there are complaints or accusations against their appointee? **Mr. Murray** said I'm trying to remember who

the appointing commissioner was on this, I believe so. I don't know for certain, but I do believe so.

Commissioner Ramirez said again, in my opinion, if there are concerns and accusations being made against a commissioner's appointee, whoever's making that a complaint or hears it should go directly to the commissioner. I don't think we need to go and start changing code to get in compliance with it. It's just a communication to have with whoever that respective commissioner is who appointed that board member. That's my opinion, that's how I feel. Because if I have an appointee who is, quote unquote, causing problems or who has a record that I was not aware of, I would want them to come to—either someone who's making the accusation or staff to come to me so that I can have that discussion with my appointee. Because at the end of the day, we are the ones that are making these appointments to these boards, each and every one of us, and so—

Mr. Murray said if I could Commissioner, I think that the Mayor's recommended changes are designed to be proactive, even though there have been a few complaints that the concern was if in the future an appointee either violates a law or something like that, that you've given due consideration before the fact and so the UG should not be embarrassed by that action because you did all that you could do to vet that that appointee.

Commissioner Ramirez said I agree with that, or I see where you're coming from, but we as Commissioners and as the Mayor, we don't have to get background checked to be in these positions. So people—our residents who we're putting on these boards, as Commissioner Markley said, are thankless jobs, why are we requiring them to be background checked when we can run for this position and have all the records we want. That's my thought. I see the disconnect of why we're requiring our appointees to make this hurdle when we don't have to as elected. So that's why I don't—I see the proactive, I do. I do see the intent, but I think we can come at it a different way without having to change code. Maybe we change processes, procedures, of how we acquire our appointees, do what we need, but I just think at the end of the day I don't think we need ordinance changes for that. That's conversation we can have amongst ourselves and say, how are we going to make this process or this procedure better so that we can avoid those board members who may be, as you said, quote unquote, causing issues or have had accusations against them based off a record that they may have. Which, like I said, I would like to know if any of my appointees are those ones and who they are so I can have that conversation with them because at the end of the day that's the person I chose and so that's a person representing me and my district on that board.

I would like to know if they're causing problems, or they have a record, or whatnot because it is a concern, but again it goes back to everybody's human, things happen. I agree, if it's a severe crime, then that needs to be looked at. Those are all the comments I have for that.

Mr. Murray said I will share your concerns with the Mayor, Commissioner. Although I was just sitting here thinking, well, maybe Commissioner Ramirez would prefer all of the commissioners go through background checks. No, I didn't say that. **Chairman Markley** said thank you, Mr. Murray, I appreciate you letting us put you on the spot there.

Commissioner Johnson said initially when I heard about this, I actually thought it was a good idea. I do share some of the challenges myself with some of my appointees in terms of not having a representative on a few of those boards, so I can see both sides of it. I wanted to clarify that was not for commissioners that were running, but rather for our appointees. The question then for me becomes, if in fact they don't clear the hurdle, then what? Are they told that they cannot serve on that committee, or commission, or whatever, what happens? **Mr. Conway** said I did write the language—It's pretty broad. I did write the language to talk about eligibility, so you wouldn't be eligible to serve if you have one of these offenses. As a result, it should catch them on the front end. Let's say they get appointed and then they offend in some way, then that would mean that they would be ineligible to serve. That's the idea, I don't know if this language gets it done, but it's both the front end and during the time that they're on the board and commission.

Commissioner Johnson said so it's on the front end. How long would something like that typically take? **Mr. Conway** said we don't have anybody from HR here, but I think it's pretty quick. Probably within a day or couple days that they run the names and they should be able to get some results pretty quickly. **Commissioner Johnson** said are we going to run them every year or are we just going to run them on the front end as they are coming onto a commission or to a board? **Mr. Conway** said well, I framed it in terms of eligibility, so I guess we could add some language that says that their names are run every year, or however, whatever the frequency you'd like. **Commissioner Johnson** said I think every year would be a little onerous myself. I can see the rationale for doing it on the front end. At the same time, I understand the challenges that we face overall, but you know, things are happening in in our society right underneath our noses. I think I still support it, the request.

Commissioner Kane said I think each commissioner is responsible for the people he puts on their committee. One of my folks went rogue for a little while and was removed from the committee. I've only removed one person in 18/19 years and I was blessed with having that particular person until they got a little sideways. I accept having the background check. I've passed three KBI background checks to sit on the Human Rights Commission, so anytime someone wants to check my record out, you can do it.

Commissioner Davis said I'm kind of torn here on kind of what the purpose of having a background check would be and how applicable it is considering how common it is in our society to have folks in our family or folks that we know or friends that do have a record. This kind of reminds me of the current issue that we have where if you are a felon, you cannot vote. The idea of after somebody has done something continuing to punish them, and then saying that punishment is going to be you cannot serve in civic society. I, just morally speaking, struggle with that. We have a lot of organizations that do work with returning citizens. If they were to refer someone they thought was really, really good for a position, but we knew that they had a past record, and let's say that record has nothing to do with being on the Parks Board, just because they had that record, we're now saying here's an additional burden and all they're wanting to do is contribute to their community. I have an issue with that, just morally and philosophically.

I think if you do your due diligence and you made a mistake, we as the UG need to find ways to remove burdens as opposed to placing more burdens on folks that have records. I love the fact that, for example, we have found some creative ways to not make those that have been found with marijuana to make it burdensome. We found other ways for accountability. I don't see Boards and Commissions, which are volunteer positions, as a vehicle by which we hold folks accountable. If anything, I think we should be talking about how we can expand access to these Boards and Commissions so more people can sign up and so no commissioner is short of having folks ready, willing to contribute and meaningfully contribute at that. It's for that reason I'm not in favor of this as it is written right now. I would certainly entertain a grievance process by which that appointee could be brought in and their appointer, that Commissioner, the Mayor, or whoever can be a part of that. But I agree with my colleague, if I don't have to do it and I'm the one making the appointment, why would I put that burden on that person who wants to volunteer their service and

why would I want to spend taxpayer money, which we are already strapped for, on that particular service? It just doesn't—it's not making sense to me.

Commissioner Johnson said I hear exactly what Commissioner Davis is saying. In fact, several years ago, I was part of the push to Ban the Box on our applications of persons that want to have a job and they may have some type of criminal history. I do agree with that sentiment. Mr. Conway, in light of the Ban the Box initiative that we currently have, I think, how does this reconcile with ban of box which is for our employees or potential employees? **Mr. Conway** said yeah, just for my and the public's edification, so the Ban the Box would be, you eliminate the provision that says—does it go to convictions or arrests? I can't remember. **Commissioner Johnson** said it looks like you got some help coming. **Mr. Conway** said yeah, I do.

Angela Lawson, Interim Chief Counsel, said so it is a pre—the Ban the Box was that when you applied for a job, as part of the application you would have to disclose your prior crimes. That was taken away so that applications were looked at without that knowledge ahead of time. I don't know that this really reconciled because one's an appointment and one's an employee. If it were enacted, it would be before they were able to take the position.

I do need to clarify one thing that was said earlier. Unrelated, I should have—the BPU PILOT, splitting out the two classes, the BPU does not set that. That would be for you to set. So just rewinding, sorry. **Chairman Markley** said you should have jumped up and down back there. **Ms. Lawson** said I did, quietly. So did I answer your question?

Commissioner Johnson said okay, yeah. So that doesn't really reconcile with that. **Ms. Lawson** said it really doesn't and doesn't have to. **Commissioner Johnson** said yeah, now Commissioner Davis, I'm torn too. Are we going to vote on this tonight?

Chairman Markley said this is up for an action item. Are there additional comments?

Commissioner Ramirez said Commissioner Davis did bring up a very good idea that we don't have a grievance process. Commissioner Kane gave an example of a board member he took off. Our appointees can come directly to the commissioner, but we have no formal process of—yes, we have forfeiture rules within the code, but no grievance if there's arguments between two board

members or one board member may be causing an issue. There's nothing set out that's saying, these are the steps of procedures, mediation, and what have you. I think that would be something we should look into because I didn't think of that until Commissioner Davis mentioned it. **Ms. Lawson** said in some ways, that falls back to the elected officials to police because they are your appointments and so then you're the ones to remove them since you appointed them.

Commissioner Ramirez said okay and yeah, I get that. I figured that's what happens. I'm of the mind, I think it needs to be uniform amongst all commissioners because then I'm not saying to any of my colleagues that they're going to have an appointee who's causing problems, but then that appointing commissioner could do nothing. He could do something—he or she could do something, he or she could not do something. That's why I think it would be good if we can look at having a uniform grievance procedure process for commissioners and I think that's a conversation we can all have amongst ourselves as commissioners, including the Mayor. I think that would be a good thing to look at, just having uniformity with that. Because, like I said, there could be, I'm not saying any of my colleagues would do that, but it's a situation you have to think about. That a certain commissioner or a certain elected as a board member that has a severe record or has caused problems, they could sit on their hands and do nothing, and the problems still continue. So, I think it's looking and trying to figure out the uniformity around that.

Chairman Markley said I will say just for me, I think it is the appointing commissioner's job to know the background of the person they're appointing and I think it is the appointing commissioner's job to remove someone if they are a problem. Commissioner Johnson, did you put your hand up again?

Commissioner Johnson said this is my last time. I'm sorry, madam Chair, please forgive me. I don't know why, usually I'm not as long winded as I am today. Is there anyone from the Mayor's staff that can speak to the question I'm getting ready to ask, and that question is, is the Mayor or anyone on his staff aware of any problems with appointees as they stand right now? Because what I'm wondering is, are we creating a problem that doesn't need to be solved, I guess, for lack of a better attempt? **Chairman Markley** said Mr. Murray is approaching the podium.

Mr. Murray said as I said before, there have been some complaints coming into the Mayor's Office about a couple of appointees. One recently, very recently, but again I think the Mayor is trying to be proactive. For example, and I think one of you spoke of a Park Board appointee or appointment. Let's say if, and this is again hypothetical and it's designed to consider proactive actions, but let's say you've got a prospective Park Board member that is a child sex offender and you don't know that, and so you made the appointment that person went on to the Park Board. You know, and the Park Board interacts with children and later the press finds out, it could prove embarrassing, but again, that's just a hypothetical that I think the Mayor is trying to guard against by being proactive. **Commissioner Johnson** said okay, thank you. I'm still caught intention right now, but thank you for that answer, Lavert.

Chairman Markley said any comments received or anyone online to make comment? Trying to give you all some leeway to think this over while we make the rounds here. **Ms. Sparks** said no comments received, no hands raised. **Chairman Markley** said alright, anyone here in the room with us who would like to make comment on this item?

JD Rios, Mayor's Government Affairs and Policy Liaison, said I just want to remind the commissioners of the law enforcement background of the Mayor. His law enforcement experience is what motivated his asking for this. Sometimes his law and military experience is misinterpreted, I would say, but that is his background for over 30 years and so it guides him and how he is thinking. Prevention is stronger than reacting in his mind. I just wanted to kind of frame it for you, so you say, well how did this come up, and that's what led to this. I just wanted that—so hopefully there's some understanding, not necessarily agreement, but at least understanding. So, thank you.

Chairman Markley said anyone else here in the room who would like to make comment? Alright, team, I've heard Commissioner Johnson say he's kind of torn, not hearing anyone coming out in favor of passing it at least as is. Is there a motion to move this forward tonight? **Commissioner Johnson** said I'm going to step forward and make a motion to move it forward.

Action: **Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, to approve.**

Commissioner Ramirez said I'll second so that we can go to the full commission for discussion. But I would—maybe a request for the Mayor's Office if we can look at, as I mentioned, as I know, Commissioner Markley, setting it on the appointing commissioner. But I think again, going back to that uniformity just to make sure no elected sits on their hands with an appointee who may be causing issues. At that point, there's not much that can be done. I think if we can have that conversation and come up with a way, come up with a procedure or process that the Mayor and commissioners can work together to come up with a grievance process of some type, that everyone follows the same rules, the same grievance process, I think would be a good idea to do

Commissioner Markley said we have a motion and a second, roll call.

Roll call was taken and there were two “Ayes,” Johnson, Ramirez, and three “No’s,” Kane, Davis, and Markley.

SueZanne Bishop, Senior Attorney, said I apologize before we move on to the next item. I was hoping we could circle back to item number two, just very briefly. The language of the motion was a little unclear and I wanted to make sure that the intention of Commissioner Kane's motion and of the second was in fact to fast track that item as was requested.

Chairman Markley said that was the BPU item. Commissioner Kane, I believe you were the motion. Do you want us to just say it and revote, would that make it clearest? Can we get a new motion on the BPU PILOT Relief with the fast track?

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion to approve and fast-track to the September 28 full commission meeting.**

Chairman Markley said I don't remember who the second was. Commissioner Johnson, we needed to revote on the BPU PILOT Relief with the fast-track included, and Commissioner Kane has made the motion to that effect, you were the second. Are you willing to give your second to the fast-tracking. **Commissioner Johnson** said yeah, absolutely yes. Thank you.

Action: **Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion.**

Chairman Markley said alright, we have a motion and a second to vote on the BPU PILOT Relief this time with the fast track.

Roll call was taken and there were five “Ayes,” Kane, Johnson, Ramirez, Davis, Markley.

Item No. 4 – 212709...PRESENTATION: KNOW LEAD KCK

Synopsis: Presentation regarding HUD kNOw Lead grants received by the Wyandotte County Public Health Department, submitted by Jennifer Stewart, Wyandotte County Health Department.

Chairman Markley said for those who are watching it is kNOw, as in, K, N, O, W, which is why I was like, am I doing it, am I doing it?

Jennifer Stewart, Environmental Health Manager, Health Department, said it is kNOw Lead, but it has a N, O in it, so it has a double meaning, no and know lead. So that's the program name we're going with. This is Anthony Lee. He is our Lead Hazard Control Program Supervisor, and he's just going to give you a quick presentation on our grant that we just recently received, and what we're going to do with that money that we got.



Anthony Lee Jr, Lead Hazard Control Program Supervisor, Health Department, said I'm just going to give you guys a quick overview on lead, some data on Wyandotte County, and last but not least, information on our Lead Poisoning Program that we have funded by HUD.

What is Lead?

- Lead is a heavy metal that has been used for thousands of years to make many products and is part of our world today. Being exposed to too much lead can cause serious health problems. Young children and the developing fetus are most at risk.
- Lead has been used in numerous products including paint, ceramics, pipes, plumbing, solders, gasoline, batteries, ammunition, and cosmetics.
- Most Lead exposure come from homes that were built before 1978 because of the use of Lead based paint in those homes.



What is lead? Lead is a heavy metal that has been used for thousands of years to make many products and is part of our world today. Being exposed to too much lead can lead to serious health problems. Young children and the developing fetus are most at risk. We also do surveillance through KDHE for lead poisoning, so we see a lot of children come through our system who have lead poisoning. As you may know, you would think lead shouldn't exist anymore, but it is very prevalent especially in our community. Lead has been used in numerous products, including paint, ceramics, pipes, plumbing, solders, gasoline, batteries, ammunition, and cosmetics. As you all probably know, we still have battery plants here in Wyandotte County. Adults are being exposed daily in these working environments and so we want to make sure that they are safe and that they're not bringing that home to their children. Most lead can come from homes that were built before 1978 because of the use of lead-based paint in those homes. Lead-based paint lasted a really long time, but now we're seeing the effects of it. It is coming off on the interior and exterior of homes. We want to make sure we fix that issue.

Why Are Children At High Risk?

- Children 6 years old and under have nervous systems that are still developing.
- Children 6 years old and under absorb lead more easily. A child's quickly growing body can be harmed by even small amounts of Lead.
- If there is Lead where your child lives or plays, it can get onto their hands and toys very easily. When that happens children can swallow tiny bits of Lead from their toys and hands which exposes them to this toxic substance.



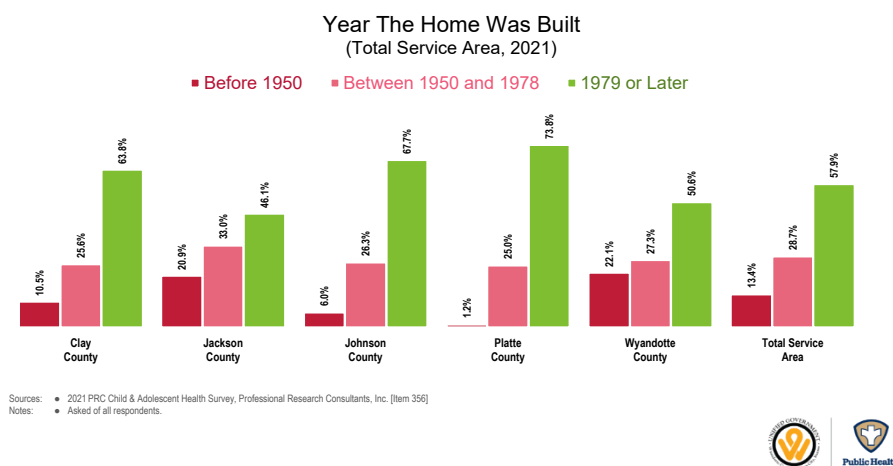
Why are children most at risk? Children six years old and under have nervous systems that are still developing. When we get lead poisoning in children, it can cause behavioral issues, learning disabilities, it can lower their IQ. It is so important that we reach all of these children. Lead can be absorbed more easily in a child and their body is growing so quickly it can be harmed with even the smallest amount of lead. If there is lead where your child lives or plays, it can get onto their hands and toys very easily. When that happens, children can swallow tiny bits of lead from their toys and hands which exposes them to this toxic substance.

How Are Children Exposed to Lead?

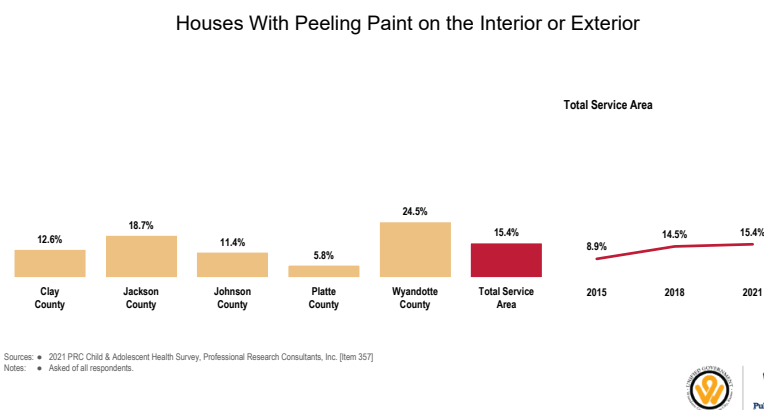
- If you see peeling and chipping paint on the inside or outside of your home keep your child **AWAY** from those areas. Children tend to pick up paint chips and put them in their mouth.
- Opening and closing windows and doors can cause the paint to crumble into dust because it is a friction surface.
- Lead can also be in soil on the outside of your home.



How are children exposed to lead? Children are exposed to lead by ingesting it. They go back to these spots because lead tastes sweet to a child. They will continue to go there, eat those paint chips, put those toys in their mouth, put their hands in their mouth and continue to expose themselves until the level gets high enough where we are truly concerned. We always say there is no safe level of lead and when a child has a lead level of 3.5 and above, that's when we are called into action. Opening and closing windows and doors can cause paint to crumble into dust because it's a friction surface. A lot of families are opening and closing their windows during the summer. It's hot, they want to let some air flow. Little do they know they're exposing their children and their families to lead. Lead can also be on the soil on the outside of their home. When those exterior paint chips fall into your soil, let's say for example, you have a garden and when it rains, that can flow right into your garden, so now you're contaminating your food. We want to make sure that people are aware of these issues and make sure that they're able to address them.

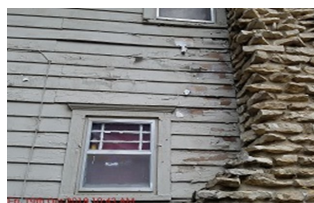


I have a little graph here. You can see where Wyandotte County is at. Between 1950 and 1978 these are the years homes were built in Wyandotte County. You see, we have one of the highest among the metro area, only falling to Jackson County, and before 1950 we have the highest. You see, we have a lot of old houses here.



Then, houses with peeling paint on the interior and exterior, you can see Wyandotte County has the highest. This is why this grant and this opportunity that we have is so important for us to capture all of these families.

Examples Of Lead-Based Paint



Here I just put some examples of lead-based paint. We call the first picture alligatoring. You see it looks like an alligator's back. You notice these things in your communities, please reach out to us to see if families will qualify for this program because it is important. We want to reach as many families as possible. I mean, you can just see the flaking and chipping paint on the other two photos. These are a couple of the houses that we went to before and we wanted to make sure we captured this to be able to show people and know what they're looking for.

**KNOW
LEAD
KCK**

- In December of 2022, the Unified Government Public Health Department received 3.9-million dollars from the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes. Our goal for this grant is to remediate 85 homes built before 1978 in 4 years, with prioritization going to families with children under the age of 6 years old and pregnant women. Grandparents can also apply for this grant if a child under the age of 6 years old visits more than 6 hours a week.
- The **kNOw** Lead KCK Program plans to work with Homeowners and Renters.
- Please contact The Unified Government Public Health Department at 913-573-5848 for any questions regarding Lead Poisoning or qualifications for the program.



In December of 2022 the Unified Government—or the Wyandotte County Public Health Department received \$3.9 million from the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes. Our goal for this grant is to remediate 85 homes built before 1978 in four years with prioritization going to families with children under the age of six years old and pregnant women. Grandparents can also apply for this grant if their child is under the age of six and in the home and visits the

home six hours or more per week. I know we've had this grant before with Community Development and we targeted only homeowners, but we wanted to make sure we opened this up. We didn't want to miss any families who are renters. When I was in my previous position, we saw a lot of renters and there's nothing we could do for them. We want to make sure we target and reach everyone and don't limit ourselves. I think that is it.

Oh, we are targeting homes east of 635 so we're excluding Bonner Springs and Edwardsville, unfortunately. Hopefully, if we—when we get this grant again, we will hopefully, maybe expand out to those areas as well because there are obviously older homes out there as well. That is it for my presentation. Oh, why we're not reaching out to Edwardsville and Bonner? They're their own separate entities. They would have to do their own environmental Tier 1 for them to be a part of this grant and so they weren't brought into the conversation. Maybe we can reach out to them next time and see if this is something that they want to be a part of.

Chairman Markley said briefly to what remediation entails. Just give people an idea. We say remediation, and I know not everybody knows what that means. **Mr. Lee** said of course. We can do interim control, so that's kind of mostly like painting. If there is chipping, peeling paint, we can use encapsulation paint to help with that. Then we want to do abatement, I want to do abatement. I don't want to have to go into a home 10 years later and have to do the same thing over again. I want to make sure we take care of the issue, that way our families don't have to worry about it anymore at all.

Chairman Markley said I live in one of those older houses. I say that because I think some people think if the paint has been painted over that that makes it all okay and that's not necessarily the case. So be aware, if your house is old like mine, just because the walls have been painted since 1978 does not mean that it's taking care of the lead problem.

Commissioner Kane said is this the first time that we've ever included rental properties? **Mr. Lee** said from my knowledge, yes. **Commissioner Kane** said as long as I've been here, we never included rental properties. The reason I asked that is I think that needs to go out on our website. That somebody, if they feel like they're in a house that they're renting and there's lead exposure

and there's a kid six years and younger, I think that's fantastic. I think that's what this is for, is to take care as many people that are exposed to lead as possible, whether they own the house or not.

Chairman Markley said any other comments from the committee?

Mr. Lee said I do have a comment. I just wanted to clarify. So homeowners, they do have to have a child in the home that's six years old and younger, but for renters they do not have to have a child in the home. So yeah, that's even better. We want to make sure we reach everyone. Also, landlords don't have to provide any match. I want to make sure our landlords apply for this, it's free. Or residents apply for it, it's free, please apply for this program.

Commissioner Davis said I may have missed this in the presentation, so forgive me, but just as a reminder, what's the timeline for this program? Then, if folks are watching this and they hear about it, what are the steps for them to start engaging? **Mr. Lee** said this is a four-year grant from HUD. If you are interested in our program, please call us at the Health Department at our main line and be asked to transfer to the Lead Poisoning Department. They will transfer you there and our application intake specialist will get them squared away with all the information that they need.

Commissioner Kane said this needs to go out in the next Citizen that we put out because everybody gets that. Then they can read it and have, you know, you don't have to be the owner of the property, but here's the requirements to do this. Put the name, the contact number, who's in charge, and let's roll.

Chairman Markley said it looks like Ashley Hand online may have commentary on the marketing aspects.

Ashley Hand, Director of Strategic Communications, said I appreciate the opportunity. As you've seen with our Program Lead, we have a very capable speaker. We are working on a video and we also have the UG Spotlight, which is going out to all of Wyandotte County, 66,000 plus households, in the next week and a half with information about this program. We're very excited and really appreciate the great work of the Health Department.

Chairman Markley said we really appreciate getting a glimpse of Ms. Hand's children, who are adorable. **Ms. Hand** said my apologies. **Chairman Markley** said no, we love it. It's perfect. Anyone else have comments? Clerk, is there anyone else online or anything received? **Ms. Sparks** said no hands are raised, no one online. **Chairman Markley** said anyone else here in the room? I will entertain a motion. Oh, wait. Do I need a motion? This was just for information. We're good to go team, even better. Thank you guys, I very much appreciate it.

Action: For information only

Public Agenda

No items of business.

Adjourn

Chairman Markley said alright, what I do need is a motion to adjourn because that is it.

Action: Commissioner Davis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, to adjourn. Roll call was taken and there were five "Ayes," Kane, Johnson, Ramirez, Davis, Markley.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

RM