

**ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, May 22, 2023**

The meeting of the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee was held on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 5:22 p.m. The following members were present: Commissioner Bynum, Acting Chairman; Commissioners Ramirez, Johnson, Kane. Commissioner Markley was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Monica L. Sparks, Deputy UG Clerk; Gunnar Hand, Director of Planning and Urban Design; Angel Ferrara, Director of Parks & Recreation; Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator; Deborah Jonscher, Interim Chief Financial Officer; Joe Monslow, Interim Director of Community Development; Stephanie Stauffer, Community Development Program Coordinator; and Ashley Hand, Director of Strategic Communications.

Acting Chairman Bynum said before I call this meeting to order, I'll announce that some committee members, staff, and public are attending remotely as well as on site. All joining remotely should mute phones and electronics when you're not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, we hope you'll make sure you announce yourself by name and title when you speak and speak directly into a microphone for good recording purposes. This is critical given the number of remote participants and also guidance from our Attorney General.

And of course, the public is allowed to participate by Zoom or could submit comments by email prior to the meeting. Those are included in the record of the meeting. Public can also indicate their intent to provide remote public comment by contacting our Clerk by 5:00 pm the Thursday prior and also have the opportunity to provide comments either by phone or Zoom or from our fifth floor conference room here.

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

Acting Chairman Bynum said we don't have revisions to tonight's agenda, and there are no minutes to approve.

COMMITTEE AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 212458...RESOLUTION: COMMUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

Synopsis: Adoption of a resolution supporting the Unified Government participation in the Communities for All Ages, submitted by Commissioner Bynum.

Acting Chairman Bynum said I thought I would make a brief remark about this. I had asked this to come forward and Commissioner Markley had agreed to bring it forward on the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee agenda and, hopefully, we will move it forward to Full Commission.

Communities for All Ages, I'll be brief because I think we've got some folks here that can speak to it better than me, but it's a recognition program that communities can adopt, municipalities can adopt basically identifying that we're making a commitment in our community development efforts, the ways that we build our community to be age friendly. There are different recognition levels that we can attain through Communities for All Ages, it's all administered through Mid-America Regional Council. It's something that I've been aware of for a good long while being that in my full time work I do work with the older adult population and just had never brought it forward to the Unified Government Commission. We had a couple of organizations bring it to us, it was an easy agreement on my part to champion it and bring it forward because it makes perfect sense. It is an actual application process.

I do want to also say that our Area Agency on Aging has been participating, as has the Shepherd Center of Kansas City, Kansas on a Communities for All Ages Committee at Mid-America Regional Council for a number of years now. So it's not a new concept, but adopting it as a resolution and having the Commission embrace it as goals that we want to attain are new here tonight.

I'm going to ask Gunnar Hand if you want to come either to the podium or to the front, because we met with Gunnar and, he's our Director of Urban Planning, and just speak to—yeah, come on all the way up. What I'm asking for, and I thank you for taking time to come, is the ways that you see that Communities for All Ages can intersect nicely and already does with the comprehensive planning that your department has undertaken.

Gunnar Hand, Director of Planning and Urban Design, said as the Commissioner mentioned, we are in the process of updating, technically creating, for the first time a comprehensive plan for the Unified Government. As part of that long-range vision document, we, true to the name, tried to be as comprehensive as possible to address all issue areas. As an example, the year before the Board of Commissioners adopted the goDotte countywide mobility strategy that's going to function as our transportation element, that was informed in a lot of ways based on the 2020 adoption of the Complete Streets ordinance. We had a Complete Streets resolution, unbinding resolution, for quite some time, but not an actual ordinance that made that policy of the UG, the law of the land, so to speak. Within Complete Streets, and I use that as an example because that speaks about creating transportation networks, corridors, and streets that are not just designed, operated, maintained for all users of all modes, but also of all abilities. It's a foundational principle basically about universal design in our public rights-of-way. So translating that into our built environment from a regulation standpoint I think is a logical continuum of the conversation. Clearly, one of the big parts and needs in the Unified Government is a housing element or housing chapter specifically. So, again, the plan is comprehensive in nature, the idea of building a universal city for all people, of all ages, of all types, ilks, and abilities is certainly relevant to try to be as inclusive as possible.

Acting Chairman Bynum said thank you very much. I would just say that in my full time work I do focus on the needs of older adults and so I tend to get caught up there, but we are talking about a community for all ages. With regard to older adults, we know that in our planning for housing, and you've seen in presentations, brought to us by DeWayne Bright, the FUSE fellow, that we know that older adult housing is—we don't have enough of that and we need to certainly make better plans for that, but also just include it as a way that you do make your community a place where someone can live from birth to death. We're lacking in that right now. So, for me and in general, I think it is kind of a highlight part of this work. But with Gunnar's help this program through Mid-America Regional Council has different levels of recognition and the first one is bronze and this is in your packet. We feel like we can attain this bronze recognition level fairly quickly because we have community members ready to step forward and help and we have done and are doing almost everything on the list to get us to that bronze level. So I feel like that's a really great way to start and embrace the program. If you'll stay put there for just a minute, I will open

this to the committee for any questions or comments. Then I think we've got some folks present with us in the audience that we've been working with that we want to hear from. Questions from any committee members? Okay, and Clerk, any comments received online or hands raised? **Monica L. Sparks, Deputy UG Clerk**, said no comments received, no hands raised.

Acting Chairman Bynum said we have several people here. I'm going to recognize Dr. Nozella Brown. If you don't know her, you should. She is the immediate Director Emeritus at K-State Research and Extension. Do I have that right? And these days, she just goes around doing really great stuff in the community. Why don't you go ahead and introduce yourself and give us your remarks on this program and thanks so much for coming. **Commissioner Johnson** said Commissioner Bynum. I can't hear anything.

Dr. Nozella Brown, Director Emeritus at K-State Research and Extension, said now you can hear me. Okay, want to start over? Okay, a longtime resident of Wyandotte County and a member of Salem Baptist Church, Reverend Tony Carter, Jr, pastor. And I am on the steering committee for Churches United. In the past year, we have held several listening sessions and we've heard lots of stories from our members in the community about the things that keep them up at night.

One of those stories, issues, that we saw, the three that we are addressing, has been elder care. People are really concerned about the ability to live, as Commissioner Bynum said, from birth to death comfortably in our community. We visited with several, not just community members, but also many of the organizations and nonprofits that are working with our elder population. Several of them mentioned this program with MARC, Community for All Ages, as a way of tying things together for our community. It really thrilled me that you're considering this here tonight as a resolution and that you're considering taking that forward to the General Commission, led by Commissioner Bynum.

Communities for All Ages addresses the call to really ensure that everyone can age in place and you've already talked about that a little bit. We just heard all kinds of stories from members who are really worried themselves that there will be a problem with housing as they age or working with their parents. But this also addresses other areas like transportation, social connectedness, and health services and we know that our senior population is set to double by 2030. As a county, we really aren't prepared for that right now. So we believe that this Community for All Ages will help

guide Wyandotte County in becoming that community where all ages can be loved and supported. It provides that template to help us move forward. As Commissioner Bynum said, we've already started many of the goals and we would just like to be able to continue with that. So thank you very much for your time and thank you for considering this.

Acting Chairman Bynum said thank you so much. Other individuals, anyone else here tonight that would want to speak to this? Please come to the podium and name and city of residence for the record. I forgot to say all this to Nozella Brown, but we know she lives in Kansas City, Kansas. So please proceed.

Lauren Schaumburg, Program Manager for the Communities for All Ages Program at Mid-America Regional Council, said I am a resident of Kansas City, Missouri. I thought I would maybe just share some impact that we've documented from other cities and then we had one additional county that has gone through this process. It's really an internal assessment process for the county to really look at your planning culture, your processes, your programs and assess them for age friendliness.

The impact that we've documented so far, first is we've seen kind of a shift in process. Cities have reported that the process of holding community meetings, focus groups, and surveys, has served as awareness building for the needs of older residents. Many city staff and residents became aware of the needs and perhaps lack of services of their older neighbors. Younger residents also saw themselves in this process, wanting to plan ahead and make considerations for the needs of the future population. As Dr. Brown mentioned, the concept of aging in place was discussed at length. Further, we saw a shift in planning culture where cities are making age and ability related decisions in their city plans and embracing design strategies that make considerations for all ages and abilities. Then lastly, we have seen improved services and built environment as a result of this process, including updated transportation, land use, and communications policies, Age friendly principles are used in the design of built spaces like parks, public buildings, and housing. If Wyandotte County Unified Government joins this program, it will be the second county and the 23rd local jurisdiction in the nine county Kansas City Metro Area to participate.

Acting Chairman Bynum said thank you, that's fantastic. Any comments from our committee? Okay, I would just note that there's a sample resolution that we're asking you to vote to adopt in your packet tonight. We've sort of modeled it off of Westwood, Kansas just as an example, but we have a sample, well, we have the resolution that we would be asking you to adopt. Mr. Hand, with support, has agreed to sort of, like I said, take the lead with his team and other employees and departments to bring this forward. So with that, if there are no comments or questions, I would—

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

Acting Chairman Bynum said thank you to our guests and friends who came to support that. That’s awesome. Never has anything been so easy ever.

Item No. 2 – 212459...RESOLUTION: PROCESSING ACCESS TO METRO 24 FUNDS

Synopsis: Resolution for the process of accessing Metro 24 Funds, submitted by Angel Ferrara, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Angel Ferrera, Director of Parks and Recreation, said I have before you a short presentation, I'll try to keep it on brand with the other presentations tonight to discuss the Argentine Rosedale Youth Activity Fund. Just as a refresher, this fund was created through the renewal process with Metro 24 Fitness Agreement through the approved amendment. I have a few slides to walk through where I will just go over at a high level that renewal agreement. Then, also at the end a resolution for consideration on how those funds can be accessed.

2020 Agreement Renewal Recap

- On August 24th, 2020, staff brought item “Metro 24 Fitness Management Agreement” to Public Works & Safety Committee Standing Committee and presented a proposed renewal of the Agreement
- On September 17, 2020, during Full Commission a motion was made and seconded to approve the amendment to Metro 24 Management Agreement to include utilities to be paid to BPU and money to be placed in a special fund dedicated for Argentine and Rosedale youth participation
 - Roll call taken on the motion, 8 “ayes” and one “No”
- The amendment was intended to help address the concerns of the community who were worried that youth who were not able to fully participate in the fitness center, would still have activities and not be displaced from the center
- At this time, the amendment **did not identify** a process for the expenditure of the dollars in the special fund

Just to recap the 2020 Agreement. In August of 2020, staff brought before the standing committee a proposed renewal of the Metro 24 Fitness Agreement. At that time, we were tasked to work with BPU and Metro 24 fitness to work through some items that the Commission would like to see in the renewal moving forward. In September of 2020, during the full commission, a motion was made and seconded to approve the amendment to Metro 24 Management Agreement to include utilities to be paid to BPU and money to be placed in a special fund dedicated for Argentine and Rosedale youth participation. The intent of that amendment was to help address the concerns of the community who are worried that youth who are not able to fully participate in the fitness center will still have activities and opportunities and not just be displaced from the center. At that time in the amendment, it did not identify a process for the way those funds can be accessed or a process for the expenditure of the dollars in that special fund.

2020 Agreement Renewal Recap

- Effective January 1st, 2021, Metro 24's Management Agreement was renewed through and including December 31st, 2023 with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year terms until December 31, 2025 based on mutual consent to renew
- Metro 24 agreed to pay monthly management fees of \$1,375.00 (\$16,500 yearly)
- Per the current agreement, Metro 24 pays \$467.25 per month for electricity service and \$55.88 per month for water service to the BPU
 - Once the facility was re-metered, BPU began charging Metro 24 for their actual electrical usage
- As of May 2023, the current balance in the "Argentine/Rosedale Youth Activity" line is **\$35,750** (includes May payment)

A little bit more information about that renewal, starting effective January 1, 2021, Metro 24 Management Agreement was renewed, through and including December 31, 2023, which is this year, with an option to renew for two additional one year terms until December 31, 2025 based on the mutual consent to renew. Metro 24 agreed to pay monthly management fees of \$1,375 or \$16,500 yearly to the Unified Government. Per the current agreement, Metro 24 pays \$467.25 per month for electricity service and \$55.88 per month for water services to the BPU. Since this renewal was in place, the facility was re-metered and BPU began charging Metro 24 for their actual electrical usage. As of today, May 2023, the current balance in this fund, the Argentine Rosedale Youth Activity line is \$35,750. That does include the May payment. As previously stated, when this amendment was approved, at that time, the Amendment did not identify a process for the expenditure of dollars in this fund.

Resolution for consideration

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO AWARD GRANTS FROM THE METRO 24 MANAGEMENT FEE

Section 1. The County Administrator shall make recommendations for specific expenditures to be made from the Fund to the Board of Commissioners of the Unified Government.

Section 2. The Board of Commissioners of the Unified Government shall approve all expenditures from the Fund as recommended by the County Administrator.

Section 3. Fund balances shall not be expended without express resolution from the Board of Commissioners.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force from and after its adoption by the Board of Commissioners of the Unified Government.

So tonight, we have proposed a resolution for consideration authorizing the County Administrator to award grants from the Metro 24 Management Fee. Section one, the County Administrator shall make recommendations for specific expenditures to be made from the fund to the Board of Commissioners of the Unified Government. Section two, the Board of Commissioners of the Unified Government shall approve all expenditures from the fund as recommended by the County Administrator. Section three, fund balances shall not be expended without express resolution from the Board of Commissioners. Section four, effective date, this resolution shall take place effect and be in full force from and after its adoption by the Board of Commissioners of the Unified Government.



Are there questions or comments?

Commissioner Ramirez said thank you, Angel. And he, unfortunately is no longer with us, James. I thank James for his work on helping with this resolution. I brought this forward because an organization in Argentina had asked about how to access those funds and this was an amendment that I had introduced in 2020 back on the agreement. As I was speaking with the organization, it came to me and I was reading back that we had no—I was just in the moment of the amendment that I just wanted to get it in there and passed. I didn't ask for there to be any process to access. So that's why I came to Angel and James and thank you for all of the work and the conversations we had. It was what would be the best and expedient way to get these funds out to those community members and those community organizations who want to provide those youth programs and activities. So I do thank you for everything that you've done. I hope that—I am going to ask that—I'm going to move for approval, but also that it'd be fast-tracked to this Thursday's commission meeting so that those community organizations can start to reach out to the County Administrator's office and access those funds.

Action: **Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to approve and fast track to 5/25 Full Commission.**

Acting Chairman Bynum said Administrator Cobbins, did you make note of the fast-track requests? So that'll be a blue sheet then, won't it?

Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator, said the Clerk's Office hasn't sent out a blue sheet—hasn't sent out the agenda so it wouldn't constitute a blue sheet, but we would need to make the Mayor's Office aware of the request so that we could add it on the agenda for Thursday.

Acting Chairman Bynum said so will you please keep Commissioner Ramirez and myself posted that that will be approved through the Mayor to be on the agenda? That would be appreciated, assuming we have an affirmative vote here in just a minute. Any comments from the public, Madam Clerk? **Ms. Sparks** said no comments received, no hands raised. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said anyone in person that would like to address the item? Okay. I think we have a motion and a second, is that right? Roll Call.

Roll call was taken and there were four “Ayes,” Kane, Johnson, Ramirez, Bynum.

Item No. 3 – 212463...GRANT: CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

Synopsis: Approval Centers for Disease Control (CDC) grant to enhance sexual health clinic infrastructure in Wyandotte County. Annual funding is \$300,000-\$500,000. There is no cost sharing or match required, submitted by Wesley McKain, Policy & Development Manager, Public Health.

Acting Chairman Bynum said this is a substantial grant and it's exciting, so why don't you tell us about the grant request you're going to make?

Wesley McKain, Policy & Development Manager at the Public Health Department, said I have three grants actually to bring to you tonight. I'll just stay here after this one and talk about the other two as well. Yeah, this is exciting, we are going to submit a grant to the CDC to increase the capacity of our sexual health clinic. Sexually transmitted infections have been rising in the region and are elevated in our county. We actually hit an all-time high in 2019 for sexually transmitted infections, it dipped a little bit in 2020, and then in 2021 we hit another all-time high. So we really need to increase our ability to get on top of this. So, this is coming at a good time.

It's a five-year grant, it would run from September 30th of this year until September 30th of 2028. Annual funding would be between \$300,000-500,000, which would fund an outreach plan for us to specially target high-risk populations. Then it would fund clinical and non-clinical staff to be able to reach out, bring those people into our clinic, and treat them. I'll say what we're looking at is, of course, HIV, also syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, and congenital syphilis as well. Left untreated, I mean, most people know about HIV and the impacts of that. Those other ones can cause infertility, neurological disorders, they can get in your bloodstream and cause a lot of issues. If you are pregnant when you get one, they can cause problems to the fetus and to the child. They're very important for us to get on top of and not something that people talk about a lot and share about. It's one of those things that it's even more important that we're out there reaching people, going into communities that, you know, where people don't necessarily want to bring it up. This grant is going to give us some funding to do that and I'm very excited to—and there is no match, as well.

Acting Chairman Bynum said I really like that part. I was going to point out, no match. Any other questions or comments?

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

Acting Chairman Bynum said we have a motion and a second. Are there any comments online or hands raised? **Ms. Sparks** said no comments received, no hands raised. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said anyone here in person to discuss? Alright, roll call on the motion, please.

Roll call was taken and there were four “Ayes,” Kane, Johnson, Ramirez, Bynum.

Acting Chairman Bynum said I knew what I wanted to ask, when do you think you'll know of an award? **Mr. McKain** said that's a good question. I'm not sure on this one, I haven't looked that up. It's usually if it's going to start in the first of October, it'll be probably August or something like that. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said so soon? **Mr. McKain** said pretty soon. Yeah.

Item No. 4 – 212465...GRANT: SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Synopsis: Approval of Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) \$750,000, 1-year federal grant. No match is required, submitted by Wesley McKain, Policy & Development Manager, Public Health.

Wesley McKain, Policy & Development Manager, said the next item, and I'll just say, one thing I didn't mention when I was introing this is, you know, we're going into budget season and the Health Department, we work really hard to raise external funding for our department. We have about a \$9-10 million annual budget, and we support that on \$3 million of tax funding. The rest of that we raise externally. I'm really proud of the work that our Health Department does to do that because we understand and try to keep the tax burden on residents low and that's a big reason why we try and raise grants.

This one is really exciting and probably one of the more interesting grants I've ever written and worked on before. It's a Mental Health, Behavioral Health Grant from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration or SAMHSA. \$750,000, one year, there's no match on this.

This one was actually earmarked for us by Congresswoman Sharice Davids who called, I think, Julianne or the Health Department last year and said, hey, I've got an earmark for you. I've got \$750,000 for mental health support in Wyandotte County and I need a project concept within two days. So, we had to come up with what that would look like. At the time, the Health Department, Wyandotte Behavioral Health Network, Sheriff Community Corrections, and the Police Department were talking about what it would look like to provide more mental health supports for individuals coming through our criminal justice system. So that was the topic we were talking about, so we put together on the double a project concept, sent that over, and then didn't hear anything about it. Then, about a month ago, once again, did not have a lot of time to put together an application for getting this \$750,000, but we did. I found that we had to turn this in to bring this money in. And so, you know, worked really well with the Sheriff Community Corrections, Phil Lockman, Jenny Myers, Judge Myers in the court, and Wyandotte Behavioral Health Network.

This grant is almost entirely going to be pass-through funding to the Behavioral Health Network to support ten full or part time staff over there. It's going to support their co-responder program because they have agreements with the Sheriff's Office, the jail, and PD for people who like—mental health responders who go out if there's someone who is having a mental health episode, they can go out, they're trained in de-escalation, it's work—they are saying it's working really well. Then it also supports folks who work with the jail, people who are on parole.

Then one of the things I'm really excited about is, so, we talk a lot about violence prevention and how important that is. One of the things this funds is family supports and therapists who work with what are called crossover youth, which I didn't know what that was until I went to this grant. It's youth who have an interaction with law enforcement and they are being threatened with leaving their home environment because of the environment. We've had conversations with the District Attorney and others, and a really significant number of people who are in our jail have been through the child-in-need-of-care and foster system, a really significant number of them. It's really important to catch and prevent kids that are in really difficult situations before it escalates and they have to leave the home and then that sort of starts a cycle of more issues that can lead them to lots

of bad things in the future, including violence. It's not only a mental health thing, but it's also a violence prevention thing, working with these youth at this moment, which is really important. I think it's a really great project. About \$700,000 is going to be sub-awarded to Wyandotte Behavioral Health. They are going to staff positions to work in other departments. We're going to retain about 50 for grant administration. And yeah, there's also no match on this grant, and happy to stand for any questions on it.

Acting Chairman Bynum said that's a really good explanation. I was hoping to hear there might be a dollar for inpatient substance abuse treatment, but it doesn't sound like that's covered in this. **Mr. McKain** said no, that is a big need. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said can you go out and find us a grant for that? **Mr. McKain** said yes. I really want to and it's something that we've been talking about a lot. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said I only say that because I know that we're mentioning drug court in our Community Corrections and I know that that is a roadblock that we now face here, to try to help folks through the drug court program. Alright, any other questions, comments, Commissioner Johnson online? Anything from you? **Commissioner Johnson** said no comments for me. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said questions or let's, let's roll through our—is there, Clerk, anyone online or comments received? **Ms. Sparks** said no comments received, no hands raised.

Acting Chairman Bynum said anyone in person? Alright. Excellent. Don't let our lack of questions make you think we aren't enthused because we totally are. I know we had the Health Department update not too long ago as the Board of Health, but I think it's really interesting and important to remind us that the return on our local tax dollar is at least three to one, as you say, if not more. I think anytime you want to make sure you're sharing that I think that's really good information for us and the public to have. So, with that, Roll call, please.

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

Item No. 5 – 212466...GRANT: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK

Synopsis: Approval of the Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, \$197,000 grant. This allocation did not require a budget or application, submitted by Wesley McKain, Police & Development Manager, Public Health.

Wesley McKain, Policy & Development Manager, said this one, we basically had to raise our hand to get. It's an allocation from the Department of Energy. One of the federal pieces of legislation that was passed had an allocation for energy efficiency and conservation. It's an allocation grant so is non-competitive. We haven't seen the application for this yet. I know there's going to be a small one, but we just had to send a letter in to say we wanted those funds. \$197,000 and I don't think the Health Department is going to be keeping these funds. We're just the ones who submitted the letter to get it and so Alan asked me to come and present it to the standing committee. We have an interdepartmental group that's kind of looking at seeing what that money is going to be used for. The two ideas right now are fleet electrification and weatherization, two things that have kind of been bubbling around that people are interested in. That is all that I know about that grant. I don't know anything else about it. Yeah, I know, but I'm happy to look it up. If anybody would want any more information, I'd be happy to look that up for you.

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

Acting Chairman Bynum said I'll back up again to the Clerk. Are there questions online or anyone with their hand raised? **Ms. Sparks** said no comments received, no hands raised. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said and anyone here in person? Okay. Roll call on this item.

Roll call was taken and there were four "Ayes," Kane, Johnson, Ramirez, Bynum.

Item No. 6 – 212461...UPDATE: ARPA FOLLOW UP

Synopsis: An update on the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) allocations, submitted by Deborah Jonscher, Interim Chief Financial Officer.

Acting Chairman Bynum said you can be very satisfied when you leave here tonight. We have, I was going to say, I was certain we had two more items. One of which is—we see our Interim CFO, Debbie Jonscher, coming forward. She's going to give us an update on the ARPA grants and allocations that have been made. Thank you, Debbie, for coming to the committee. Since it's a lot of money and we spent a great deal of time on those grant applications, not only for funding government departments, but nonprofit entities. Since they are still working in those areas of American Rescue Plan, and it was important to both Commissioner Markley and I that we kind of receive some regular updating on how this process is going. So, with that, I'll turn it to you.

Debbie Jonscher, Interim CFO, said tonight I am here to give an update on the ARPA funding. You'll recall last month I was here and I talked specifically about the subrecipient payments in that process. I have a couple of slides from that presentation still in here, but they're more just for information since we're talking about the full plan. Just wanted to start with kind of our allocations to date.

[illegible]

You've seen similar information when we presented at the commission meeting, but just wanted to remind everyone where we are. I'll start with—and I'm just going to talk about the totals column. I do have this on the slides broken out for KCK and Wyandotte County since we did receive two separate allocations, but I'm just going to talk about the totals right now. We received a total ARPA allocation of \$87.5 million. We had immediate needs of about \$9.8 million. There was some housing assistance that went to United Way for the \$1,850,000. Revenue Replacement totaled \$31.1 million, that was split out between all the various funds that lost revenue. The employee vaccine incentive was a million. Those were all allocations that were done in 2021, when we received the first half of the funding.

Then in 2022, we had additional public health needs and I'll go into more detail on kind of what was included here. Then we had ARPA Capital Needs in 2022, totaling about \$23.8 million. Then last November, we did the final allocation where we awarded about \$14.3 million in projects, as well as the remaining funding on the county side to the cities of Bonner Springs and Edwardsville. One thing I did want to note there, I think when we had that presentation, we were thinking there was \$2.6 million that was presented for the count—that was remaining in the county, but we hadn't taken into account that some of the allocations in there were county allocations. So, that reduced the amount. I'm also kind of checking some final amounts, but I feel comfortable

saying that this amount right now is a little over \$2 million dollars, which would be split 50/50 between the two cities.

Remaining Processes:

iParametrics is working with all funding groups

Quarterly Project Reports due to Treasury
(Jan, April, July, Oct)

Continue to work on documentation for expenditure reimbursements in accordance with Treasury requirements

All final allocations must be made by December 2024

All funds must be spent by December 2026

I just wanted to talk a little bit about the kind of the remaining process on what we're doing now that we've allocated the funding. iParametrics is our consultant that we're working on, they are meeting with a lot of the funding groups. They've met with the subrecipient groups. I don't believe we've had interactions with all of the internal groups which we are working on to make sure that we're following all the requirements that were set out by the Treasury. iParametrics is helping with that. They've helped with all the requirements for the subrecipients, which were a little bit more stringent because when you're giving the money out to an outside organization, if the spending doesn't occur, you have to give that funding back. Whereas internally, we have the funding, so there weren't quite as many requirements for the inside.

But, for the reporting piece and the documentation, the reporting is all the same. We've been doing quarterly reports—project reports to the Treasury. Those are due in January, April, July and October of each year until the funding is completed, completely spent. Right now, we continue to work on documentation for the expenditures in accordance with those Treasury requirements. On the subrecipients, once they turn their contracts in, as I reported, they got their 20% funding. Then once they start spending that, they submit their reimbursements to

iParametrics. They're reviewing them and then we reimburse that until they reach their full allocation. The 20% was to get them started if they didn't have startup funds for their projects.

Just a note, that all final allocations must be made by December 2024. That means that after December of 2024, if we determine that someone is not going to spend money on their project, we don't have the ability after that date to reallocate. So we're going to be looking at that throughout this year and even early into next year to determine is someone not going to be able to spend their money by the 2026 deadline. If so, we need to reallocate it before December 2024. Then, as I said, all funds have to be spent by December 2026, according to the Treasury.

Award Allocations:

American Rescue Plan Act	Revenue Received	Revenue Allocated	Remaining	
ARPA Revenue	87,516,516	87,516,516	0	All Funding Received
ARPA Spending Allocations	Allocation Amount	Spent/Encumbered	Remaining	
Revenue Replacement Funds 2021 & 2022 Budget	31,156,398	27,656,398	3,500,000	Grant Match
Immediate Needs/Public Health	14,250,910	5,167,057	9,083,853	
Housing Assistance	1,850,000	1,850,000	-	
Capital Needs Allocations 2022	25,079,133	-	25,079,133	
Sub-recipient Allocations - November 2022	12,178,638	1,922,733	10,255,905	Reviewed at April Meeting
Allocation: ARPA Coordinator/Consultants	965,387	85,046	880,341	Additional funding through 2026
Other Wyandotte County City Allocations - November 2022	2,036,050	-	2,036,050	Working on eligible projects
Total	87,516,516	36,681,234	50,835,282	

This next slide just shows the award allocations and kind of where we are with spending. We received \$87.5 million, which we have allocated all of it. As I said, the Revenue Replacement Funds, the only amount that we still have not allocated to any specific project is the \$3.5 million that we set aside for grant match. That is still sitting, that is in a hold fund, so that as projects come up we have the ability to use that funding. The Immediate Needs, there was a total of \$14.2 million. We've spent or encumbered about \$5.1 million. I'll just note, there were several categories that fell under the Immediate Needs. I started to type them all out and then I must have stopped with Public Health. There was Public Health which included the vaccinations, testing, the contract tracing, the mobile units, things like that. Negative Economic Impact category, which was there was some

education, direct assistance, which included legal assistance, job training, nonprofit and small business assistance. Another category was Disproportionate Impacted Communities, which included housing support, healthy childhood centers, and community services. Then ARPA Grant Support which was to be used for grant software, as well as paying for the ARPA consultants and staffing. Just kind of want to note, you can see on here we have allocated—we have \$87.5 million. To date, we've spent about \$36.8 million and that does include the Revenue Replacement Funds that were put into all the certified funds. That leaves us a remaining about \$50.8 million to spend by 2026, if it doesn't get reallocated to another place.

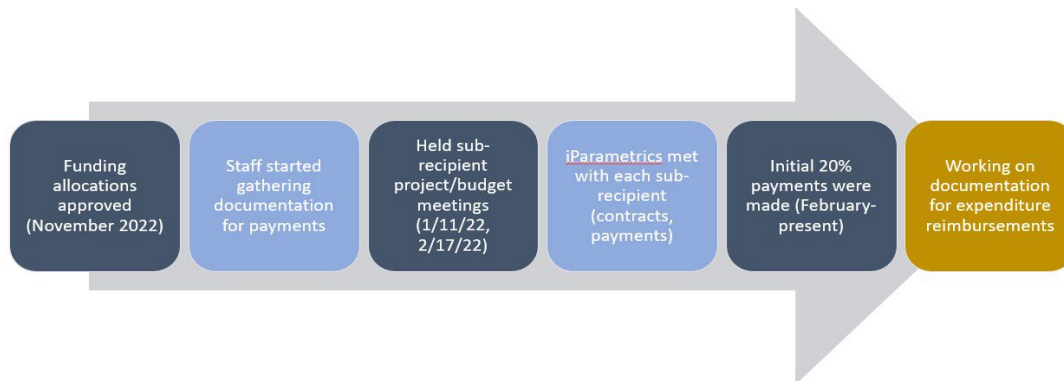
I just wanted to also comment that the—just to remind everyone that ARPA funding is one-time spending, so once that funding is gone or it's spent, then we don't have that. That's not a recurring funding. So once that is gone, any departments that received this extra funding will not have that in the future unless it's allocated to be paid from our budget.

ARPA Allocations (excluding Sub-Recipient Awards)		Capital:	25,079,133
		City Hall - Air Handling Systems	4,733,563
		Armourdale Recreation Facility-Air Handling	219,916
		B. Lee Recreation Facility-Air Handling	18,165
		Kensington Recreation Facility-Air Handling	731,994
		Parkwood Facility Recreation Facility-Air Handling	203,491
		Courthouse - Air Handling Systems	2,500,000
		Public Health Center - Air Handling Systems	154,834
		Jail - Air Handling Systems	2,323,474
		Combined Sewer Separation 15 & 18, Jersey Creek Basin	2,000,000
		Wyandotte High Lombardy Drive Area (Storm)	3,365,907
		Green Infrastructure - 8th Street Park (Storm)	6,201,492
		Wyandotte County Parks Trail	700,000
		Pierson Park Trail	700,000
		DA Digitization	105,933
		UG Parks and Recreation-Parkwood Pool	150,000
		UG Parks and Recreation - Klammer & Quindaro Parks	160,000
		UG Transit - Bus Shelter Improvements	100,000
		UG Transit - NE Microtransit Pilot	318,417
		UG KCKPD - Real-Time Crime Center	157,333
		UG Knowledge Dept - Parks facility public safety	194,114
		UG Wyandotte County Sheriff-Air Quality Filtration	40,500
		Immediate Needs: ARPA Support	965,387
		Grant/ARPA Admin&WritingConsult	725,000
		ARPA Coordntr @ UG-Grants Mgmt	240,387
		Immediate Needs: Housing Assistance	1,850,000
		Allocation to NPA	1,850,000
		Immediate Needs: Public Health, Negative Economic Impact, Disproportionate	14,250,910

This just shows a couple of the categories. I split out the Capital one, in case there were any questions about what's been allocated as far as Capital and it just kind of list out all the projects there. I also did the ARPA support, and the housing was just United Way. I did not break out for the Immediate Needs—there were so many categories that we're tracking that it filled up the entire

page all by itself and it was very small, so I didn't want to include that. If anyone wants that detail, I can provide it, but that just shows all the categories I just went through.

Process for allocation Payments: April Meeting



Then the next two slides, these came from the April meeting, just talking about the subrecipients and the process that was followed there, that we're working with them getting their contract signed. I think we still had four that have not returned their contracts, so they have not received their initial payments yet, but all of the others have started. We've even started getting some of the reimbursement information. So working on that documentation with iParametrics now going forward.

Sub-recipient payments (April Meeting)

Sub-Receipt Awards	Allocation Amount	Initial 20% Payment
Contract/Agreement Received		
Avenue of Life	1,225,438.22	\$ 245,087.64
Catholic Charities	41,000.00	\$ 8,200.00
Local workforce Investment Area III Inc	1,191,284.50	\$ 238,256.90
El Centro Ice	500,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Mission Adelante	35,635.00	\$ 7,127.00
Friends of Yates	390,449.50	\$ 78,089.90
Our Spot KC	1,000,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
Mt Carmel Redevelopment	1,000,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
KC Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry	200,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Cross Lines Community Outreach (Community Market)	250,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Cross Lines Community Outreach (Housing Stabilization)	387,500.00	\$ 77,500.00
The Toolbox Small Business resource Center	22,360.00	\$ 4,472.00
The family Conservancy	2,000,000.00	\$ 400,000.00
Community Housing of WYCO (CHWC)	400,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
Hillcrest Ministries of MidAmerica (Hillcrest Trans Housing)	645,000.00	\$ 129,000.00
The Village Initiative	325,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
Contract/Agreement NOT Received		
Argentine Betterment Corporation	110,000.00	\$ -
Salvation Army	336,071.00	\$ -
KUMC Project Eagle	1,500,000.00	\$ -
Young Women on the Move	618,900.00	\$ -
Unified Government Allocations		
UG Parks and Recreation-Parkwood Pool	150,000.00	
UG Parks and Recreations - Klam & Quindaro Parks	160,000.00	
UG Transit - Bus Shelter Improvements	100,000.00	
UG Transit - NE Microtransit Pilot	318,417.00	
UG KCKPD - Real-Time Crime Center	157,333.09	
UG Knowledge Dept - Parks facility public safety	194,114.00	
UG Wyandotte County Sheriff-Air Quality Filtration	40,500.00	
ARPA Coordinator	240,386.59	
ARPA Consultants	725,000.00	
Other Wyandotte County City Allocations		
City of Bonner Springs	1,018,025.00	
City of Edwardsville	1,018,025.00	

Then on this final slide, this was the same information I presented last month on the subrecipient work. Some of this is duplicated. The UG allocations were also included for Capital, but I just reinserted the slide and updated the amounts for the cities of Bonner Springs and Edwardsville.

ARPA
Update

Questions?

So, that's kind of my update for the ARPA funding, so if there's any questions I can answer, if there's any additional detail, I can provide that if needed.

Acting Chairman Bynum said I really appreciate the update and I have to appreciate you and your staff, and this whole ARPA team because taking it on is huge and you're doing that with fewer people than you had before. So I just want to express how much we appreciate the extra effort tracking these Treasury funds. It cannot be a small thing, so I'm glad you're doing it and not me.

Commissioner Ramirez said to reiterate everything that Commissioner Bynum said, thank you for everything that you've done and continue to do. This has been a long road for us to get through

this, the ARPA funding. I do have a question and you kind of touched on it. Let's say there's an organization, it's past the December 24 deadline of reallocating and we're getting close to the December 26 deadline, and they see that they're not going to spend the money that they're given. What happens then?

Ms. Jonscher said according to the current guidelines, that money, if they didn't spend it by December 2026, it would have to be returned to us because we would be required to return it to the Treasury if it's not spent. But we're planning to—iParametrics is going to be watching that. So we will probably, maybe later this year and maybe even into next year, we'll be going through a lot of their projects. Seeing how—we should be able to tell if somebody's not submitting for reimbursement if they haven't started their project or something. Unless the guidelines change, that would be the plan that any unspent funding would have to be returned to the Treasury.

Commissioner Ramirez said for those organizations that have not turned in their contract agreement, is there reasoning as to why they haven't yet? **Ms. Jonscher** said you know, I'm not sure. I don't know specifically, I had not—and I don't have Erika from iParametrics here to tell me. I can find out if there's a reason why. I know the KU one was a larger project and I know they were working with them. So it could be that maybe they're trying to make sure that all of what they're trying to do is eligible.

Acting Chairman Bynum said just on that same note, the four—you may not know this, the four that haven't received their initial 20%, is this current as of right now or is it possible that maybe in the last week or so some of what they needed to submit has been submitted? **Ms. Jonscher** said if they submitted it, it hasn't been submitted to us. They could have submitted their agreements to iParametrics to review. Once they review and sign off on it, then it comes to us. Then once we look at it and we get it approved, then we immediately initiate payment. So, we've been making sure those don't get held up.

Acting Chairman Bynum said do you have any notion of the timeframe involved in that? I mean, once iParametrics is satisfied, what's the lag time between them agreeing that all the documents are in place and you knowing that? **Ms. Jonscher** said I think on some of them we were getting paid within two weeks. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said it just concerns me because it's the end of May. I mean, if there's anything we can do by reaching out to contacts at these, I don't want to get in the way, but if we have communication, contact with these organizations,

maybe that's helpful. Maybe it's not, I don't know. **Ms. Jonscher** said I'll find out what the reason is that we haven't completed those yet because I believe it's the same four from the last meeting, so I'll follow up and make sure. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said I think so too, that's why I'm wondering.

Commissioner Ramirez said yes, from what I remember those are the original four. I don't know if it's allowed and it would probably be a question for iParameters. It's like ABC, Constant Contact, so I don't know if I would be allowed to have that conversation with them and see if there's anything I can do. This would probably have to be a legal question because with Project Eagle I serve on their governance committee as a committee member on that organization. So I don't know if I'd be allowed to based on legal parameters I'd be allowed to reach out to our program manager and ask what—you know, is there a reasoning? But I want to make sure that that's okay if I can or cannot, just in general of asking these organizations.

Ms. Jonscher said right. I don't know if there's any issue with—I don't know about that one, that particular one. But I think the others, I don't know if there's an issue with reaching out to them. I think they've had contact with commissioners before, but I don't know about the other one.

SueZanne Bishop, Legal Department Senior Attorney, I think the thing that we need to be careful of is just conflicts of interest if you sit on a board of an organization and then intercede in your capacity as a commissioner. I would be happy to look at that more deeply with you, if you wanted to. But, I think, as **Ms. Jonscher** said, certainly for any organization where you don't have a conflicting relationship like sitting on the board, I don't necessarily see any problem, but I do think that that would be a question for iParameters just to make sure that it's proper in their eyes.

Commissioner Ramirez said okay. I think I'll leave the Project Eagle one alone. I'll leave that up to you guys, but I don't want to get into the weeds of that. So, I'll leave Project Eagle for you guys to work with them, but if it's okay with iParameters, I would have no problem calling ABC and asking if there's anything I can do to help or whatever, but I just would like to see these four organizations to move forward so that they can also receive their initial 20%. **Ms. Jonscher** said I'll follow up with iParameters. I probably should have done that before the meeting, but I didn't, so, but yeah, I know they've had contact with all of them. I don't know if it's just maybe the project brought forward that they wanted to do may not have fit all the eligibility requirements. Not quite sure, but I'll follow up and I can send that out to the committee.

Acting Chairman Bynum said other questions or comments? It's an information item, and again, I really appreciate it. Commissioner Johnson anything in virtual land from you? **Commissioner Johnson** said no questions. I appreciate, Debbie, the work that you're doing and the committee and I have no questions at this time.

Action: For information only.

Item No. 7 – 212442...PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DRAFT 2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Synopsis: Presentation of the draft 2023 Annual Action Plan, prior to publication and beginning of public comment period on May 25, 2023, submitted by Stehanie Stauffer, Community Development Program Coordinator.

Stephanie Stauffer, Community Development Program Coordinator, said tonight we have our draft Annual Action Plan for 2023, which serves as our annual application to HUD for the three entitlement grants, which are CDBG, HOME, and ESG.

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The things that you'll find if you look through the Annual Action Plan are a summary of our stakeholder engagement, our review of data and plans that we looked at when we were developing our grant budgets for this year, our priorities and goals, and then the real exciting part is our funding allocations and how we plan to use that funding to carry out activities.

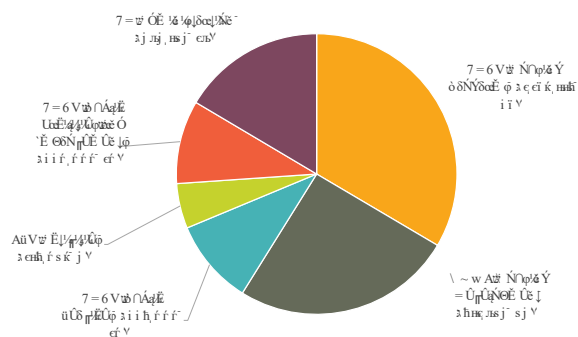
homelessness, and we only can keep 7.5% for administration of that grant. Then our HOME Program is—all but 10% of that is submitted to nonprofit developers who do housing development in our community and developing affordable housing.

Acting Chairman Bynum said Stephanie on that one, three different categories CHDO set aside for homeowner housing and that's identified at three units. Then HOME Rehab or new construction, and that's identified as three units. Is that right?

Ms. Stauffer said so the HOME Program, you were required to set aside a certain amount of your funding every year for CHDOs, which is Community Housing Development Organizations. So the CHDO set aside, they're doing the same activities, they just had a special designation under HUD. The other category, just the HOME Rehab and new construction is for other subrecipients who don't necessarily meet the CHDO definition.

Acting Chairman Bynum said those other subrecipients, are they necessarily nonprofits, or no? **Ms. Stauffer** said we usually only work with nonprofits. I don't know if they have to be or not. **Joe Monslow, Interim Director of Community Development**, said typically, we only deal with nonprofits. That is a very clouded HUD regulation. I don't think they need to be a nonprofit, though. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said I mean, I think we probably have plenty of nonprofits to work with and I'm assuming this is to provide affordable housing. And it's—I mean, I'm glad we have it. How we don't have more, I will never understand, which isn't a question I'm asking you to answer, but it's not even a dent. It's not even a scratch in the surface of what we need. So anyway, go ahead.

2023 Cumulative Grant Budgets



Ms. Stauffer said this is really the last slide. This is just our department grants kind of put in a pie slide so you can see in just a different way for the visual learners out there. You can see the great majority of our funding really goes to housing programs, development and rehab.

Acting Chairman Bynum said going back to the Rehab Program, I'm grateful for that program as well. I don't think you identified it here, or did you, as far as how many houses that might support with the repair program? **Ms. Stauffer** said we usually do 80 to 100 households a year, but it just kind of depends on what kind of projects come through. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said again, those are very specific through HUD guidelines, right? **Ms. Stauffer** said yes, they have to meet the HUD income definitions and all that stuff, and we can only start like certain activities. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said electrical, heating, roof, plumbing—**Mr. Monslow** said and ADA accessibility. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said and ADA accessibility and that's it. Okay.

Thank you, I think we keep talking to you and that's great. You had that grant application for the non-congregate shelter and I won't ask about it, unless you know the answer yet. **Ms. Stauffer** said we just very, very, recently as of, I think, last week we actually got approval finally for that grant. So that's an update right now. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said maybe we can hear more about—as you know, I'm intensely interested in this. So maybe we can hear more about that next month or you can even just have a meeting with me. **Ms. Stauffer** said okay. We'll be in touch for sure.

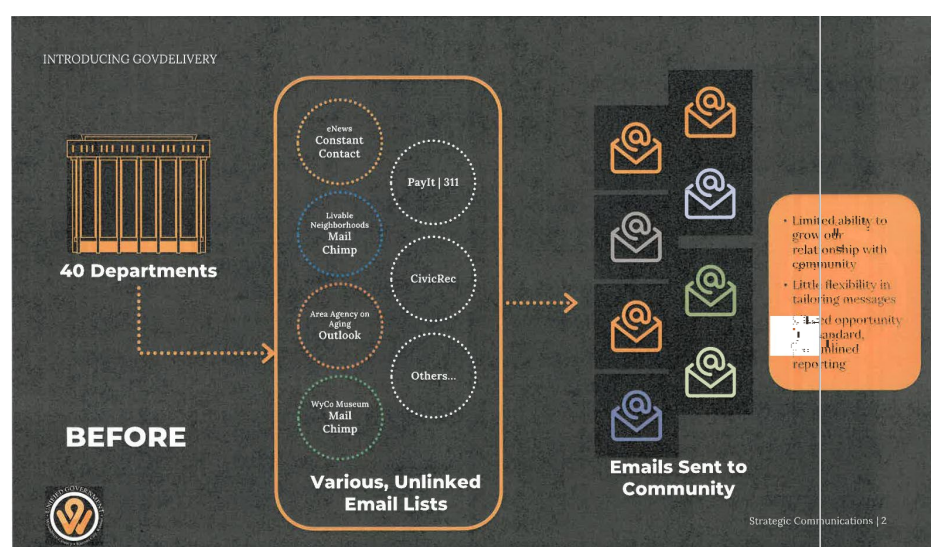
Acting Chairman Bynum said thank you so much. This is information only. Or is it? Okay, thank you. I'm doing a great job. **Ms. Sparks** said Commissioner Bynum, Commissioner Johnson just raised his hand. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said Commissioner Johnson. **Commissioner Johnson** said no comment, I hit the wrong button. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said oh, okay. Thank you.

Action: **For information only.**

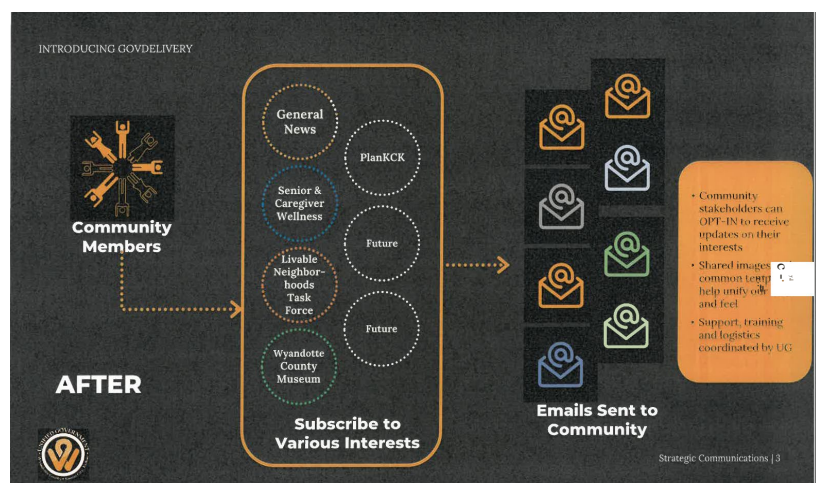
Item No. 8 – 212462...PRESENTATION: GOV DELIVERY UPDATES

Synopsis: Presentation of GovDelivery email service, submitted by Ashley Hand, Director of Strategic Communication.

Ashley Hand, Director of Strategic Communications, said I'm here tonight to actually provide you with a very short update on a project that was funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. Strategic Communications received about \$100,000 to help us in our pandemic response and our recovery. We know that access to information is a big challenge. We know communications is one of our core issues when it comes to things our community would like to see us improve. So, we have invested in a platform called GovDelivery. The goal of that is to really start to forge a different kind of relationship with our community, a community that can opt in to the type of information they want to receive from us because it's relevant to them, matters to them, and they care about it. Instead of sending them everything, we are truly trying to right-size communications, so that you can access the type of information that you want, based on the services you need.

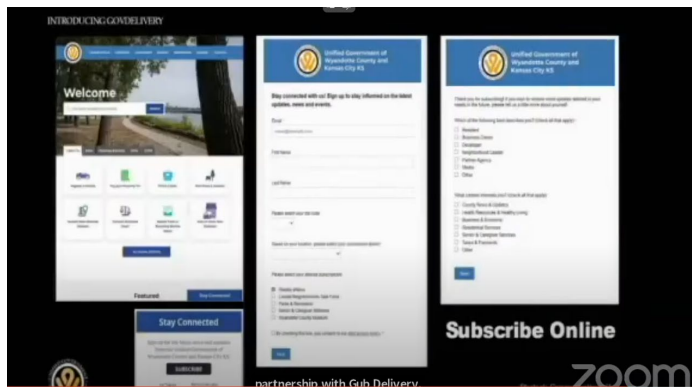


Our original model for email communications was basically we have 40 departments and about as many separate ways of contacting our community. There was no way of organizing our contact lists, there was no way for you as a community member to say I don't want to receive all of these different emails from the Unified Government without going around and individually unsubscribing to each of those emails. We also paid for services out of different budgets across departments for the exact same function. So, this really essentially limits our ability to grow our relationship with the community, it limits our ability to be flexible in the messages that we want to send you, and it's obviously a huge opportunity to understand what the impact of this type of outreach actually is because there's no centralized way of measuring our impact.

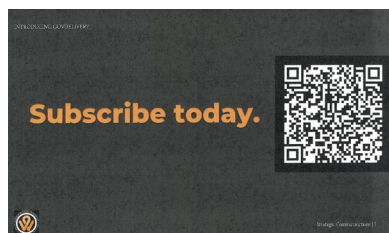


So GovDelivery introduces the ability for our community members to now say, these are the types of things that I want to hear about. We are already up and running on moving our E-News over to this platform. We also have supported the Area Agency on Aging by sending out a PDF and a fully machine-readable version of their newsletter to people who have opted in just through our website. That database has been maintained traditionally as an Outlook Database, where one staff member sends out this bi-monthly newsletter. So this gives us the ability to grow that list organically by asking people when they come to our website if they're interested in these types of updates. Livable Neighborhoods and the Wyandotte County Museum are also on board and we're working with some of the specific initiatives across the organization to also think about campaigns. So whether it's our Budget engagement or Planning engagement, there are a lot of opportunities for us to build a narrative through a series of emails to help people understand these very complex processes.

The benefits of this are, obviously, now we're allowing people to opt into the type of information that they want to receive, which is a best practice. We respect the minimum data that is needed by asking only for email, but allowing people to provide their name, their zip code, and their commission district. We look forward to being able to drill down into neighborhoods, but we as an organization need to come to a consensus on all the actual neighborhoods because there's a lot of different ways that people define where they live. We also have the ability to unify our look by using templates that are supported by GovDelivery. Part of our contract has stipulated that we created a rigorous training platform to allow us to onboard departments to help them understand and leverage best practices and ultimately take advantage of the industry knowledge that comes through this partnership with GovDelivery.



You may have seen the change on our front page, you will notice on the bottom, the top left image, there is a stay connected bar that now pops up at the front of our homepage, you can click on that and then tell us a little bit about yourself to subscribe to the type of information and updates that you would like to receive. These things will likely change and improve as we continue to learn about what type of information people want to receive from us via email, but ultimately, I think we're really excited and the growth that we've seen in the first month has been very exciting. We have very high open rates from 50% to 74% on several emails, which is something that is well beyond the industry kind of norm of clapping at 25% to 30% open.



It's very simple, you can subscribe today. Go to our website. Yep, exactly. You have all been subscribed. I'm sorry, there's no opting into our updates as a Commission, but thank you very much.

Commissioner Kane said is this a one person show? **Ms. Hand** said no, sir, we have two new team members, a Digital Content Coordinator and a Community Storyteller. If you have not seen some of the incredible YouTube videos that we have been putting out in the last month, that is a credit to our growing team.

Commissioner Ramirez said thank you, Ashley, thank you for everything that you do because if we don't have the proper communication, then it doesn't matter what we do at this table or what we do in chambers unless our community knows what we're doing. Thank you for you and your team, your growing team, I hope we can grow it more so we can be more innovative and more up to date on our communication with our community. I'm looking here, because I tried and it said I was already subscribed. On one of the subscriptions, and I'm just curious what this is because I didn't know if this is something that we have or something new, said Commission Weekly Updates.

Ms. Hand said so you may have been a recipient of an email through our Outlook service in the past by the various Administrative Assistants that have supported our County Administrator, we have moved that into GovDelivery. The reason for that is that it creates a shared asset, so when we load an image and create a file that we send to you, we can eventually repurpose it and push it out to the broader community or our own staff, as we will probably use that for staff newsletters as well. Your last two weeks of Commission updates from your County Administrator have been through GovDelivery. We're very excited because the Commission's administrative team is on board for using this tool and is very excited about getting set up.

Commissioner Ramirez said I've noticed that. The last couple of weeks, I was like, that looks different than the past. But I like it, it looks good and it has all the necessary information that I like to see and to keep up-to-date. So again, thank you for everything that you and your department do and you guys continue to do.

Acting Chairman Bynum said question, Ashley, with the storytelling, you're saying those are YouTube videos? Are they linked sometimes into the newsletter?

Ms. Hand said yes. We have been doing kind of a slow release, trying to determine kind of how releasing all this video content works for us. This is a brand-new thing to have someone who is able to create high quality, timely content. We just launched on Sunday, a brand-new series called Historic Preservation Tours with Randy Greeves. If you've met our Historic Preservationist, you know he is the most eager human being when it comes to the history of our built environment. We have featured a session on downtown KCK. The next one which we will release on Thursday is on Sauer Castle, which is a very rare look inside this incredible building, which is perfectly timed with the fact that we have new owners who are really invested in making a difference in this facility. We are very excited to be able to kind of tell the stories of our incredible community both

in City Hall and beyond because we know that one of the things that we have to catch up on is our digital presence. People need to be able to Google Kansas City and come up with KCK, they need to be able to Google Wyandotte County and find all of the incredible things that we have to offer. By building this online presence, I think we will be putting our best foot forward for many generations to come.

Acting Chairman Bynum said it's interesting because somewhere in my radar in the last few days I saw this announcement about Mr. Greeves and the historic preservation, but now I have no idea where it came from. At the time, I thought it was inviting me to view it at a certain time. **Ms. Hand** said we timed it so it went off on—we released it at noon on Sunday. It was a premiere via YouTube, which if they're subscribers to our channel, basically they get a notice that something's coming. It's a little hokey, they do a countdown clock and everything, but I sat there this weekend and waited for it to go live so we could watch it as a family. These are the types of things where I'm hoping that people will start to look forward to the content we have to offer.

I think I previously mentioned that we've made a lot of discoveries with our UGTV, which is our public access channel. We had previously thought that we were only available via Spectrum channel two, which is a very limited audience. We know that people have been cutting the cord, that has been something. We also know that people tend to access information through their mobile phones first instead of home. We really wanted to make sure that we're going to be more accessible. So we are re-looking UGTV because we've discovered that in addition to having a free app that you can download and use to access any of our recordings or live streams, but you can also stream UGTV through Apple TV and Roku, which opens up in an audience that we did not know we had before. We're very excited with all of this video content to be able to completely reimagine how people will access UGTV. We want it to be a source of entertainment as well as information and we know there's a lot of content creators both at our schools, our community college, and in the community at large that we hope to be able to bring some attention to because focusing on that and the arts in this day and age is another way to drive economic development and growth. So we think that there's a lot of really great things that we can tie into these platforms.

Acting Chairman Bynum said if we've been subscribed to everything, then did we get that email that says, this YouTube video is going to kick—**Ms. Hand** said where we pushed that—as a test, I did it just via social this weekend. It went out on Facebook, is probably where you saw

it. In your Commissioner recap this week, you will see at the end, we will have this week in videos and we will have links to those videos so that you can easily share them to your networks.

Acting Chairman Bynum said it's excellent, it's wonderful. I think when I first met you and we sat down, I was describing for you my little mini-meltdown that I had experienced about Strategic Communications. You've touched on a lot of the things that I was distressed about when you first arrived. One of them was not enough staff, obviously, it's not fair to ask for the things that we ask for when there's not enough people to produce that. Then it's nice that the ARPA funding can be a component of what it is you're trying to do to enhance communication with the public. Then just real quickly, to me, it seems like Planning, UG Public Health and Public Works are all really good fits for the departments that you continue to roll out. Are those in the works soon?

Ms. Hand said yeah, so we will likely work with Parks first because they have an email service through Civic Rec, which is their program behind all shelter reservations, camps, and things like that. They have a baked in group. We will likely work with Parks next. We're also talking to Treasury because through PayIt and the ability for people to pay and provide their email for a receipt, we can start asking people to opt in to these email services. I've worked with Granicus this morning, which is the company behind GovDelivery, we've been talking about automating interfaces between the tool that we're using in GovDelivery and other sources of information like Accela, Workday, other tools that collect email addresses so that we can streamline that, so there's always a constant feed into our email databases. I want to err on the side of best practices, which is you must opt in to receive emails from us and we need to do some work to make sure that our privacy policy is current and reflects some of the best practices today. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said then with Planning, I know we have email groups that we've used through our various Area Master Plan. Then with Public Health, we have the entire cadre of organizations helping us on the Community Health Improvement Plan, so it just I don't know—

Ms. Hand said absolutely. There's a couple of things that are going to come sequentially out of this implementation. One of the next things is our schedule of when we send out emails. E-News had, before I arrived, kind of came out when it was available, we moved it to being Thursdays at 10 a.m. since I've been here and have continued that for about the last two years. We will likely move out to Tuesdays to give people more time to respond and hear the information about our Commission meetings, which are very important events for people to participate in. We

want to give them more than a day's notice or the day of notice for those meetings, so we're thinking of realigning that schedule. With that, we then start to work with departments because not every department necessarily needs to own an email relationship with all of their customers. They can do that through the UG. I think whenever we can be under one umbrella as Unified Government and not as 40 separate departments that helps our community navigate us as an organization a lot more. We will kind of balance that of the need to have a very special relationship with your customer versus can we fit it into larger notifications at a kind of more global level.

Action: For information only.

Acting Chairman Bynum said well, thank you. Anything else? Commissioner Johnson, anything from you tonight? **Commissioner Johnson** said no, ma'am, thank you so much. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said thank you. Alright. Is there anything else on our agenda? That does conclude our meeting and I would accept a motion to adjourn.

Public Agenda

No items of business.

Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

rm