

RESOLUTION NO R-22-__

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A STATE-OWNED AND OPERATED MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITAL IN THE SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS, REGION

WHEREAS, the Sedgwick County region is experiencing a mental health, substance abuse and homelessness crisis; and

WHEREAS, mental illness and substance-use disorders are treatable health conditions; but too often people in crisis end up at an emergency room or in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Osawatomie State Hospital and Larned State Hospital are at capacity, with a long waiting list for access to care; and

WHEREAS, the transient population has behavioral issues associated with nuisance behaviors, violence, and predatory activities that lead to crime; and

WHEREAS, the Sedgwick County Jail is over capacity and approximately 75% of the inmates are experiencing a mental health and/or a substance abuse crises; and

WHEREAS, the number of inmates on psychological medications increased by over 35% between 2019 and 2021; and

WHEREAS organizations that deal with this issue strongly recommend that the State of Kansas provide funding for 200 additional in-patient hospital beds state-wide, including at least 50 in-patient hospital beds in the Sedgwick County region; and

WHEREAS, the Sedgwick County region would benefit from additional services that could provide a continuum of care for people in need of mental health and substance abuse services that would be less costly than jails, emergency rooms, or traveling outside of the county for services; and

WHEREAS, a state mental health hospital located in the Sedgwick County region would fill significant gaps in care, location, resources, and services available for the safety and appropriate treatment for persons suffering from mental health and/or substance abuse issues.

WHEREAS, a state mental health hospital located in the Sedgwick County region will accomplish the goal of developing a sustainable, accessible and integrated system of care that serves people with mental health and substance abuse disorders who are in crisis, in order to efficiently and effectively deliver services that create positive outcomes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Bel Aire supports the efforts to establish and operate a state mental health hospital in the Sedgwick County region.

Dated this 15th day of March, 2022.

Jim Benage, Mayor
City of Bel Aire

ATTEST:

Melissa Krehbiel, City Clerk

(seal)