First Annual Housing Provider Conference

Friday, March 25, 2022
8am – 4:30pm
Sedgwick County Extension Education Center
7101 W. 21st St. N.
Wichita, KS 67205
The City of Wichita Housing & Community Services Department and The REALTORS® of South Central Kansas welcome you to the First Annual Housing Provider Conference

The Housing Provider Conference will bring together elected officials, community providers, housing and policy experts, area landlords, and other stakeholders to advance positive outcomes and affordable housing in Wichita and surrounding areas.

This year’s event will feature distinguished speakers and presenters who will highlight local, state and national laws, industry best practices, mental health awareness, assisting the unhoused, and access to affordable housing.

These critical areas of focus will help guide the ongoing advancement of safe, decent, sanitary and affordable housing opportunities in the community.

Registration is Now Open:

https://forms.office.com/g/NJPvVFn59S

Contact s8special@wichita.gov or 316.462.3700 with any questions.
Housing Provider Conference Agenda

Registration opens at 7:30am

8-8:30am Welcome
  Opening Speakers
  • Dr. Brandon Whipple, Mayor of the City of Wichita
  • Gentry Thiesen, Government Affairs Director REALTORS® of South Central Kansas

Morning Session

8:30-9:45am Affordable Housing Fund / Sally Stang, City of Wichita Housing & Community Services Director

9:45-10am Break

10-10:50am Breakout Sessions
  • Wichita Emergency Rental Assistance Program (WERAP) / Na’shell Williams, Program Manager of Wichita Sedgwick County Community Action Partnership (WSCCAP) Program
  • Rapid Rehousing Providers Panel Discussion
    Panelist: Jami Scott, The Salvation Army; Jen McGill, Catholic Charities Wichita; Joe Seitz, SSVF Catholic Charities; Shelly Haupt, City of Wichita; Zabrina Romero, SSVF The Salvation Army
  • Fair Housing – What Does it Mean? / Kitty Amaya, Housing and Urban Development, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO)

10:50-11:05am Break
11:05-11:50am  Breakout Sessions
• Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department (MABCD) Overview — Panel Discussion / Chris Labrum, Director; Kortney Capella, Assistant Director; KaLyn Nethercot, Neighborhood Inspection Administrator; Wanda Robertson, Field Inspection Supervisor; Daniel Johnson, Field Inspection Supervisor
• COMCARE of Sedgwick County and Mental Health: An Overview / Jennifer Parker, LPC and Anita Martinez, LMSW
• Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Overview / Matt Mercer, HCV Program Manager, and HCV Staff

11:50am-1pm  Lunch — Lunch will be provided

Afternoon Session

1-2:15pm  The Fundamentals of Kansas Landlord-Tenant Law / Nate Johnson, Assistant City Attorney

2:15-2:30pm  Break

2:30-3:20pm  Breakout Session
• Substance Abuse — What Landlords Need to Know / Chad Harmon, Med LMAC and Jennifer Brady LAC
• Wichita Police Department / Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.)
• Fair Housing — What Does it Mean? / Kitty Amaya, Housing and Urban Development, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO)

3:20-3:35pm  Break

3:35-4:20pm  Breakout Sessions
• Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Overview / Matt Mercer, HCV Program Manager, and HCV Staff
• The Ins but Not Always the Outs of Hoarding Disorder / Jessica Huber, LSCSW and Nancy Trout, LSCSW

Thank you for attending!
Session Overviews

Affordable Housing Fund

Overview of the Affordable Housing Fund. The City of Wichita received $72.4 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to support the response to and recovery from COVID-19.

Investment in affordable housing was identified as a high priority activity for ARPA funds following public engagement.

In August 2021 the City Council approved allocating $5 million in ARPA funds for an Affordable Housing Fund.

**Goal of the AHF program as currently proposed:** To improve the quality of the existing affordable housing stock (rental and for-sale), while expanding quality affordable housing options and promoting neighborhood stability in Wichita’s core areas.

Fair Housing – What Does It Mean?

HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) works to eliminate housing discrimination and promote civil rights and economic opportunity through housing. FHEO enforces fair housing laws. One of its roles is to investigate complaints of housing discrimination.

The presentation will cover the do’s and don’ts to stay compliant with the Fair Housing Act. Additionally, a candid conversation about reasonable accommodations and examples of discrimination.
The Fundamentals of Kansas Landlord-Tenant Law

This presentation will provide a fundamental review of landlord-tenant legal issues in Kansas. It will explain the rights of landlords and tenants before, during and after the tenancy, with special attention paid to the eviction process. The basics of “fair housing” will be covered as well.

Metropolitan Area Building & Construction Department (MABCD) Overview – Panel Discussion

This informative session will provide an overview of Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department’s essential services related to the building and construction industry and housing/nuisance residential code enforcement. A 15-20 minute departmental overview will be provided followed by a Q&A session with a panel of MABCD representatives. Participants are encouraged to bring specific questions to this session.

Wichita Emergency Rental Assistance Program (WERAP)

This presentation will provide information on The City of Wichita’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program. WERAP assists residents who have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic by helping to pay for rent or utility bills.

This program provides:

- Help paying rent
- Help paying utilities
Substance Abuse – What Landlords Need To Know

Participants will begin by learning about the common substance of abuse. We will talk about signs and symptoms associated with them as well as signs that landlords should be aware of. We will also talk about some of the common trends that we are seeing currently in substance abuse. We will finish the discussion by talking about how landlords to work with case managers to address potential concerns and issues raised by tenants who are abusing substances.

Housing Choice Voucher Program Overview

Session will provide an overview of the voucher program and its benefits to landlords and the community. The housing choice voucher program is the federal government’s major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Since housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments.

Rapid Rehousing Providers Panel Discussion

Rapid re-housing is an intervention, informed by a Housing First approach that is a critical part of a community’s effective homeless crisis response system. Rapid re-housing rapidly connects families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services.
COMCARE of Sedgwick County and Mental Health: An Overview

This presentation will introduce COMCARE and its services provided to our community while also providing a brief overview of mental health and how to respond when you believe you may be encountering someone who is struggling with a mental health concern.

COMCARE of Sedgwick County helps people with mental health and substance abuse needs improve the quality of their lives.

COMCARE provides a wide array of mental health and substance abuse services to residents of Sedgwick County. COMCARE is the largest of the 27 Community Mental Health Centers in the State of Kansas and is committed to helping individuals served lead more productive lives.

Good mental health is as critical as sound physical health.

Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.)

The Wichita Police Department’s Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.) works in partnership with service providers and businesses to refer those who are homeless to resources and programs. The H.O.T. team is responsible for responding to all 911 calls regarding homeless individuals or calls for service. H.O.T. focuses on trying to keep homeless out of jail if possible and divert them to services or shelters.

The Ins but Not Always the Outs of Hoarding Disorder

According to the Mayo Clinic, hoarding disorder is a persistent difficulty discarding or parting with possessions because of a perceived need to save them. A person with hoarding disorder experiences distress at the thought of getting rid of the items. Excessive accumulation of items, regardless of actual value, occurs.

Session will discuss:

• What is hoarding
• How to support individuals struggling with hoarding
Speakers and Presenters

Dr. Brandon Wipple
Mayor of Wichita

Dr. Brandon Whipple was elected as the Mayor of Wichita in the Nov. 5, 2019, election and was sworn in to office on Jan. 13, 2020. Prior to being elected Mayor, Dr. Whipple served District 96 in the Kansas House of Representatives for 7 years and was a professor at Wichita State University.

In December 2019, Mayor Whipple was honored to attend the biennial Seminar on Transition for Newly Elected Mayors at The Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School. Mayor Whipple participated in sessions on various topics including leading in times of crisis, supporting youth civic engagement, and effective policing. The seminar was developed in collaboration with the U.S. Conference of Mayors and led by current and former mayors, prominent scholars and policy experts.

Mayor Whipple graduated from Dover High School in Dover, New Hampshire, and also earned his Associate of Arts in liberal studies from Hesser College. He moved to Wichita in 2003 at age 21 in a year-long education-service mission with AmeriCorps. In that program he worked with at-risk youth at Wichita South High School, and ultimately made a decision to call Wichita home.

He graduated from Wichita State University where he earned a Bachelor of General Studies and a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies with an emphasis on cross-cultural studies and public administration. Whipple also earned a Doctor of Arts in Leadership Studies from Franklin Pierce University.

Mayor Whipple is married to his wife, Chelsea, and they have three young children, Adrian, Tristan and Julian.

When not working, Mayor Whipple enjoys studying history, teaching martial arts and spending time with his family exploring all that Wichita has to offer. He is also a member of Vestry at St. James Episcopal Church.
Sally Stang
City of Wichita Housing & Community Services Director

Sally Stang joined the Housing and Community Services Department (HCSD) for the City of Wichita, Kansas in July 2019. She formerly served Director of Housing and Community Development for the City of Tucson, AZ. Prior to serving in Tucson, Ms. Stang held multiple positions over 18 years with the Lake County Housing Authority in Illinois. Sally has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and she served as Vice President of Professional Development for the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO).

As Director of Housing & Community Services in Wichita, Kansas, Sally leads efforts to stabilize neighborhoods by administering various affordable housing programs and provide well-being services to help residents break the cycle of poverty. She manages a budget of $26 million with 58 staff members. As part of the HCSD, the Wichita Housing Authority (WHA) administers the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program providing rent subsidies in the private market for 3,112 households including 208 vouchers specifically for homeless veterans. In addition, the Wichita Housing Authority owns, maintains, and administers Public Housing which it is currently working to rehabilitate and reposition through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program and other repositioning strategies.

The HUD Community Development programs are also administered in the Community Investments Division of the (HCSD). These programs include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that provides public services and infrastructure projects for low to moderate income individuals and neighborhoods; HOME Investment Partnership Program which creates affordable housing units; and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) which provides shelter, outreach, and prevention services for those experiencing homelessness. Additionally, HCSD applied for and

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received a competitive Lead Hazard Control Grant to abate lead paint in homes built prior to 1978. The Community Investments Division leverages ESG activities administering the nationally recognized Housing First Program funded by the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County.

Also embedded in the Housing & Community Services Department is the Wichita Sedgwick County Community Action Program (WSCCAP) which is focused on assisting low income families in Wichita and Sedgwick County achieve economic security. Funding is provided through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) allocated by the State of Kansas. WSCCAP activities include the Individual Development Program, Employment and Training, Project Access medical care for the uninsured, Youth Summer Employment, Combating Child Hunger through After School and Summer Meal Program (CHAMPs) and Summer Camps.

Gentry Thiesen
Government Affairs Director REALTORS® of South Central Kansas

The REALTORS® of South Central Kansas (RSCK) is a local affiliate of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) and is the largest REALTOR Association in the state of Kansas with more than 2400 members. Our membership is composed of residential and commercial REALTORS®, brokers, salespeople, property managers, appraisers, counselors, and others who are engaged in all aspects of the real estate industry. Our members have met state requirements to sell real estate, but, most importantly, each member has also pledged to adhere to a strict Code of Ethics, promising to conduct their day-to-day business with the foremost concern for their clients. As a benchmark for excellence in the ever-changing real estate industry in our region, RSCK advocates for fair housing and affordable homeownership. As a cornerstone of the American dream, these priorities deserve a preferred place in our system of values as they contribute to quality of life; family security and generational wealth; community responsibility; and business, civic and economic stability.
**Kitty A. Amaya**  
Housing and Urban Development Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO)

*Kitty A. Amaya* joined HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) in November 2002. Currently, Kitty is the Region VII Chief of Programs and Compliance at HUD’s Regional Office in Kansas City, Kansas covering the states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. Kitty oversees compliance of HUD’s federally funded programs such as Community Development Block Grants and Public Housing Authorities regarding all civil rights requirements, including the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights; Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act. Kitty manages the monitoring of Federally funded grant work produced for HUD’s Fair Housing Initiative Program (FHIP) and Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP). Kitty is a veteran of the United States Army.

**Nate Johnson**  
Assistant City Attorney, Civil Division of the Wichita City Attorney’s Office

Prior to working for the City, *Nate Johnson* was a staff attorney with the Wichita office of Kansas Legal Services, with a focus on landlord-tenant legal issues. He also has extensive experience as an environmental and land use attorney in California after graduating from the UC-Berkeley School of Law.
Brad Snapp
City of Wichita Housing & Community Services — Assistant Director

Brad Snapp is Assistant Director of the City of Wichita Housing and Community Services Department. He has been in the Housing Department since 2008. Prior to that, he served as Sedgwick County Housing Director (1998-2008.) Brad got his start in affordable housing at Mennonite Housing Rehabilitation Services, serving as asset manager (1991-1998).

Brad earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1989 and a Master of Arts degree in Gerontology in 1991, both from Wichita State University.

As Assistant Director, Brad works with the Director in the oversight of all the programs administered in the department. He is responsible for HUD Part 58 environmental reviews, Davis-Bacon Act labor enforcement, Section 3 business recruiting and compliance, and the Wichita Sedgwick County Community Action Partnership. Brad develops the Wichita Housing Authority’s annual and five-year plans, as well as the Capital Fund Program annual budgets and five-year action plans. He works with the Community Investments division in the development and submittal of the Consolidated Plan and subsequent annual action plans.

Chris W Labrum
Director, Metro Area Building & Construction Department

Chris W. Labrum serves as Director of the Metropolitan Area Building & Construction Department (MABCD). As a joint Sedgwick County-City of Wichita Department, MABCD is directly responsible for building and trade code adoption and enforcement, building plan review, building permitting and inspection, floodplain administration and management, wastewater and domestic well inspection, neighborhood code and nuisance enforcement, zoning enforcement, sign code development and enforcement, contractor licensing, and trade professional certification within the City of Wichita and Unincorporated Sedgwick County.

Chris leads 85 County and City professionals performing these various responsibilities and functions. He has been employed by Sedgwick County since June of 2017. Prior to joining MABCD, he served as an aircraft maintenance and logistics officer for the US Air Force, retiring after more than 24 years of commissioned service.
KaLyn Nethercot
Neighborhood Inspection Administrator

KaLyn Nethercot serves as the Neighborhood Inspection Administrator for the Neighborhood Inspection Division of the Metropolitan Area Building & Construction Department (MABCD), and has been employed with the City since October, 2018. The division is charged with enforcement of all housing and nuisance codes within the City of Wichita including actions to combat neighborhood nuisance conditions (including residential bulky waste and tall grass and weeds complaints); housing concerns, including condemnation; illegal dumping activities; residential zoning infractions and inoperable vehicles located on private property.

KaLyn has a diverse professional background in small-city municipal administration, higher education administration, training/development and sales/marketing. Her educational background includes an MBA from Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas and a BS in Economics from Lyon College (formerly Arkansas College), Batesville, AR.
Mr. Kortney Capello
Assistant Director and Building Official for the Metropolitan Area Building & Construction Department

Kortney Capello serves as the Assistant Director and Building Official for the Metropolitan Area Building & Construction Department (MABCD). Kortney has been an employee of the City of Wichita since September 1995.

As the Assistant Director, he supervises all field activities and assists in resolving issues which occur in the field while helping to interpret building and trade codes. He oversees Field Inspectors and Inspection Chiefs in the areas of building, mechanical, plumbing and the electrical code. He performs multiple site inspections and is able to review architectural, structural, and schematic drawings directly and indirectly involved with building construction in the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County in all stages of development. He also oversees the work of the MABCD Plans Examiners and Sedgwick County Water and Sewer staff. As part of a joint City and County department, Kortney has the task of overseeing the review and adoption of all codes applicable to both City and County, to include existing buildings. He is often the liaison between staff and elected officials, health and fire officials, property owners, contractors, engineers, architects and the general public throughout the jurisdiction. He also Co-Chairs a Variance Committee each week that makes decisions concerning variances to the codes that allow workable solutions to unusual code situations, while still meeting the safety intent of the code. He also interprets zoning and subdivision regulations, plans and specifications.

Matt Mercer
Wichita Housing Authority Housing Choice Voucher Program Manager

Matt Mercer is the Housing Choice Voucher Program Manager for the Wichita Housing Authority, overseeing the management of over 3,000 vouchers, a $16 million annual budget, and a dedicated team of housing professionals that positively impact individuals and communities through their work. Previously, Mercer has served as the Housing Manager for the Ford County (KS) Housing Authority and as the Chief Operating Officer at Larned State Hospital. He holds a M.A. in Management from the University of Phoenix, a B.S. in Agriculture from Kansas State University, and is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Ecuador ’96-’98).
Chad Harmon, Med LMAC

Chad Harmon has worked at SACK for 13 years serving in many different capacities from case manager to a counselor. Throughout his time at SACK he has worked to develop case management programs to address the barriers many chronically homeless individuals have. Currently he is a program director overseeing SACK’s residential treatment center in Hutchinson.

Jennifer Brady, LAC

Jennifer Brady began her work at SACK as a peer mentor. As soon as she became a licensed addiction counselor she began the transition into working in case management. She has served in several different case management programs including intensive case management (working with dual diagnosis clients) as well as SRCC (working with clients that are currently receiving benefits through the department of Children and Family Services. She currently works as a CARES act case manager helping to house chronically homeless individuals in Wichita.

Nancy Trout, LSCSW

Nancy Trout, LSCSW, is a clinical social worker who has provided mental health services since earning her MSW from the University of Kansas in 1968. She is an Older Adult Specialist at Prairie View, Inc., in Wichita, KS providing services to adults, older adults and to people who hoard and clutter. Ms. Trout has volunteered with and provided board leadership for a number of local and state organizations. Ms. Trout is experienced at presenting workshops at a local, state, and national level.

Jessica Huber, LSCSW

Jessica Huber, LSCSW, is a clinical social worker who has provided mental health services to adults for over 10 years. She earned her MSW from Newman University. She is a therapist for older adults and care givers through Sedgwick County Department on Aging and Central Plains Area Agency on Aging. Mrs. Huber is currently connected with a support group for people who hoard and clutter, the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Coalition, and Wichita LGBT Health Coalition.
Na’Shell Williams
Program Manager of Wichita Sedgwick County
Community Action Partnership (WSCCAP) Program

Na’Shell Williams joined the City of Wichita Housing Department in 2019, as the Program Manager of Wichita Sedgwick County Community Action Partnership (WSCCAP) Program. Na’shell was born in Kansas City, Kansas which is one of the poorest cities in the state. She attended college at Wichita State University, where she studied Criminal Justice and Sociology. She later attended Baker University where she obtained her Master of Arts in Conflict Management Dispute and Resolution in 2011. Na’shell is committed to developing services and opportunities for citizens and youth that will impact their lives for a lifetime. She focuses on building and collaborating with community partners, to address and reduce homelessness in Sedgwick County.

Jennifer Parker, LPC

Jennifer Parker is from Enterprise, Alabama and moved to Wichita in 2019. Jennifer is a graduate of Troy University with a Masters degree in Counseling and Psychology. Jennifer began working at Comcare in 2019 as a Field-based case manager and then transitioned to a Case Management Team Supervisor in 2021 after securing her licensure for Professional Counseling. Jennifer has worked in the field of substance abuse and mental health since 2008 and is passionate about helping people overcome addiction and being the best version of themselves they can be.

Anita Martinez, LMSW

Anita Martinez is a recent graduate of Wichita State University. She has a loving husband and a large family with whom she spends her free time. Anita is passionate about social justice, diversity, racial equity and economic equality.
Special Thanks to:

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