March 29, 2022
Reno County Annex
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held a special agenda session at 9:00 a.m. for Reno County ARPA requests at the Annex Conference Room with Chairman Daniel Friesen, Commissioner Ron Hirst, Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

Presenters: Interfaith Housing Clint Nelson on housing, South Central Kansas Economic Development District (SCKEDD) Julia Westfahl, SCKEDD Mark Howell on housing, K-State University Dr. Bradford Wiles on childcare, KCCTO-KITS-ITSN Ashley M. Webster on childcare, Abundant Life Childcare Heather Faulkner on childcare, United Way, and Chair for OK Ready Denice Gilliland on childcare.

Audience in attendance: The Hutchinson News John Green, Salvation Army Pathway of Hope Megan Niemeyer, Hutchinson Regional Health Care System Penny Stoss, United Way Lisa Gleason, Hutchinson Community Foundation Kari Mailloux and Aubrey Abbott Patterson, Hutchinson Chamber Chelsey Dawson, Interfaith Housing Lacy Stauffacher, Pastor Darryl Peterson.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Darryl Peterson, Grace Christian Church.

The Board outlined how the meeting would go to discuss the allocation of funds in three different buckets: childcare, economic development, and housing.

Mr. Friesen started with housing.

Mr. Clint Nelson did a quick follow-up on proposal. In smaller communities there is a volume of work to do, they liked our proposals for helping with housing. We volunteered our time, funds, and resources to assist those communities. He spoke about State Allocation Plan (grant) money, and they could partner with other agencies like SCKEDD, small rural development funds were also available to assist with cost. While speaking to the communities we learned that each has their own list of needs. He requested keeping the rural piece of the project for consideration.

Mr. Howell briefly explained their housing plan for middle income housing by taking houses in bad need of repair and making them up to standards for homeowners. He said they were giving an incentive of $5,000 for a down payment on sustainable owning of these houses for the next 20-years. He explained the funding plan and investments for complete financial assistance to potential homeowners.

Ms. Westfahl spoke about a great model with experts in their fields and certifications for inspectors and testing completing a project in a timely manner.

Ms. Gilliland read her presentation stating local partner had been making investments in childcare since 2015. She introduced three core partners:

Dr. Bradford Wiles speaking on outcomes and economic development regarding childcare. The study will help to create an action plan to create and build systems of care for children.

Ashley M. Webster speaking on impact for childcare of infant/toddler ages 0 to 3-years old and their brain development with socialization.

Heather Faulkner spoke at length on several challenges as a childcare provider.

Ms. Gilliland concluded with a joint request to the City of Hutchinson and Reno County for $9.8 million, one-time investments, breaking it down to $5 million for facilities, $3.8 million for workers compensation, $1 million for ALICE services.

The Board had a large discussion on the childcare issue. They spoke about the three buckets with potential numbers of $4 to $4.5 million total housing, $4.6 to $4.8 childcare, Reno County needs. The county had committed some of the ARPA funds to other projects. Mr. Friesen proposed the City of Hutchinson put in matching funds of a reasonable amount out of their $6 million.

The Board requested Mr. Partington to make recommendations on last bucket for county needs and schedule SCKEDD and Interfaith Housing study session after April 26th agenda meeting.

At 10:45 a.m. the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk   Date
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