

Commissioners and others – the times listed in the conference program book for the County Commissioners breakout session on Wednesday, October 17 are incorrect. The correct starting time is 9:30 a.m. and we will finish at 12:00 noon. Below is a description of the session and the agenda.

Working to Solve Long-Standing Community Problems Using Neuroscience

County commissioners care for their communities and for the persons who live in their communities. If they don't, it is time to resign and let others lead! At times, however, we all struggle with mounting social problems to the point that we do not know what to do other than throw up our hands! Today's program will challenge us to use emerging developments in neuroscience to address long standing community problems. So, first, what is neuroscience?

Neuroscience is the study of the brain, nervous system and brain development as well as the study of neuroplasticity – or the ability of the brain to repair itself.

Why this Matters

Increasingly, communities and organizations are paying more attention to brain development and the impact trauma has on brain development. Why? Because communities which have been intentional about addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) report reduced infant mortality, reduced numbers of children entering the juvenile justice system, fewer suspensions and expulsions from schools, fewer youth arrests for violent crimes and reduced high school dropout rates, and lower suicide rates.

So Why Does this matter to County Commissioners?

Outcomes like the ones described above have huge impact on community life and counties' bottom lines. When one or more in a community struggle, the entire community suffers. This is one way a county commissioner can be extremely helpful, because one of the principal roles of being a county commissioner is to seize the role of convener.

A **convener** is an individual or group responsible for bringing people together to address an issue, problem, or opportunity. In the context of collaborative leadership, it usually involves convening representatives from multiple parts of a community to tackle a complex issue or set of issues.

Commissioners don't have to solve the problem, but are in a unique position to assemble persons in a community who, together, with a little time, can work to solve the problem. Keep in mind that we aren't talking about simple, technical problems here. If these were simple, technical problems, they would have already been solved. Issues resulting from how a person's brain develops and

impacts his life as a child, youth, and adult require the best knowledge, the best thinkers, and the best doers.

Come join us to understand how our brains develop and why our “wiring” can have profound consequences. Listen to real stories from Kansans. Hear how putting the insights from neuroscience into action can result in positive outcomes. Help us imagine what we can do differently to make positive change in important outcomes for Kansans.

When: Wednesday, October 17, 2018; 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Where: Overland Park Convention Center, Courtyard Rooms 4-7

Presenters: Tim DeWeese, Director, JoCo Mental Health Center
Jennifer Brinkman, President, Alive & Well Communities
Kathleen Harnish McKune, CEO, TeamTech
Randall Allen, Executive Director, KAC

Agenda

9:30a	Call to Order, Welcoming Comments, Brief Introductions Commissioner C.J. Wettstein, Seward County, KCCA Vice President
9:40 – 10:45a	Program – Part 1 The Flow for Today (2 min) Kathleen Harnish McKune Contextual Framework (5 min) Randall Allen Why Mental Wellness Matters (20 min) Tim DeWeese Building Mental Wellness in our Communities (38 min) Jennifer Brinkman
10:45 – 11:00a	Refreshment Break
11:00 – 11:45a	Program – part 2 Call to Action Kathleen Harnish McKune, Randall Allen Table Reflection
11:45 – 12noon	KCCA Business Meeting
12:00 noon	Adjournment

It is our hope that the directors of the community mental health centers can join the county commissioners for this important conversation.