



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY



# ANNUAL REPORT FY 2022

**PUBLIC POLICY & MANAGEMENT CENTER**

# FROM THE DIRECTOR



**MISTY BRUCKNER**  
Director

Clients, partners, and friends:

On a shockingly warm January evening, three PPMC staff members, a graduate assistant, and a partner from the Department of Commerce drove to Medicine Lodge to meet folks from Barber County to discuss a strategic agenda for economic development. More than 30 people gathered that evening, including elected officials, Barber County staff members, school district representatives, business owners, concerned residents, and local entrepreneurs. Our research team provided economic information, comparisons, and trend insights. Questions and clarifications followed from the audience as they thought about the implications for the future. Then our team facilitated conversations about take-aways from the data and how to utilize the information with future goals and plans. After three hours, we had provided new information, participated in heartfelt conversations, ate good food, shared, laughed, and built a blueprint for the community's next steps.

This is public service.

While others might spend time on creating divisions, or lamenting on wrongs, there are committed community members in every corner of the State doing the hard, very not-so-glamorous work of trying to make communities better to improve the lives of fellow residents.

This is what the PPMC does.

Whether for the State of Kansas, large communities, or small organizations, we provide research, engage diverse perspectives, and work with communities and organizations to develop a plan to move forward so decision makers can best use their resources. Public service, whether as elected officials, government employees, nonprofit leaders, or volunteers, is hard work. The PPMC is committed to supporting them all.

This year, the PPMC was fortunate to grow our crew of professional staff members, graduate assistants, content experts, and community partners. The following pages provide highlights from our year. At the core of each one are our public service partners who work diligently to serve our communities. Thank you for allowing the PPMC to be part of your team.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Misty Bruckner".





The PPMC at Wichita State University is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works with the public, nonprofit, and private sectors to conduct research, evaluation, training, and community development.

Every community and organization is unique, and the PPMC is dedicated to understanding the needs and nuances of each. Clients of the PPMC can expect to gain data-driven insight that makes their community better.

**OUR COMMITMENT**



Provide Unbiased  
Information



Use Resources  
Wisely



Ensure Diverse  
Perspectives



Elevate Community  
Service



Create  
Value



# COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

## NEW STAFF

We are all so excited to welcome our new Community Initiatives Manager, Monique Garcia! After two years of having a vacant position during the pandemic, Monique joined Team PPMC in June 2022!

During FY22, two new staff members joined the Community Initiatives crew: Larry Daniels and Corinthian Kelly, both Program Managers.

## FROM THE WISHING WELL

*"I want to go to school to learn how to be a chef"*

*"I wish to be the first woman President of the United States"*

*"I wish for good times and to see my grandkids grow up"*

*"My wish is to be a good person to my community"*

*"For the children in this community to always know they are worthy of love and belonging"*

## OAKLAWN ACTIVITIES CENTER STRATEGIC PLAN

The PPMC developed a strategic action plan for the Oaklawn Activity Center (OAC) to best utilize resources, meet community needs, and increase community participation at the facility and in services offered to the community.

Like many organizations, the OAC saw a decrease in usage after the COVID pandemic. This project used program and usage data, financial information, and community input to create a plan for the future.

The research portion of this project included intercept interviews at the OAC Family Fest and a "wishing well" activity that allowed community members to express their current needs and future dreams.



Recovery Connect is a Sedgwick County economic recovery program that connects individuals, businesses, and nonprofits with resources to help them recover from the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[www.recovery-connect.org](http://www.recovery-connect.org)

PROGRESS  
THROUGH  
PARTNERSHIP

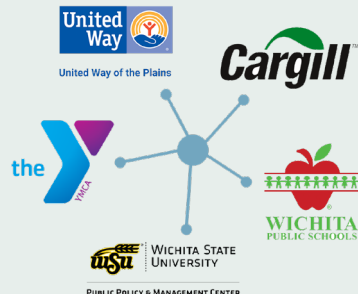


The MHSA Coalition's mission is to develop a sustainable, accessible, and integrated system of care that serves people with mental health and substance abuse disorders who are in crisis, in order to efficiently and effectively deliver services that create positive outcomes.

[www.mhsacoalition.org](http://www.mhsacoalition.org)



The PPMC is a key partner in bringing together the Wichita Literacy Coalition, comprised of various stakeholders, to create and implement a collective plan to increase kindergarten readiness for children and families experiencing the greatest need.



Funded through a \$2 million gift from Cargill Protein, this 3-year initiative is led by the Greater Wichita YMCA, United Way of the Plains, the PPMC, and Wichita Public Schools. The purpose of the program is to increase education success and workforce readiness in Wichita.





# RESEARCH & PROGRAM EVALUATION

*"It was interesting to learn over the course of the year what the research benefits are to something like a secret shopper – what it does, what it allows for, what kind of information you get that is unique in that setting."*

**James Roberts**  
Graduate Assistant

## SECRET SHOPPERS

The PPMC recruited 17 Secret Shoppers representing the following demographics:

- At-risk youth (3)
- Dislocated worker (1)
- English Language Learner (3)
- General (4)
- Person experiencing homelessness (1)
- Person of color (2)
- Person with a disability (2)
- Veteran (1)

## SALINE COUNTY SALARY STUDY

This study included reviewing individual position descriptions and matching them to salary ranges compared to similar cities/counties and the market at-large. We then recommended which positions could increase or stay the same. We also reviewed benefits and recommended changes or possible additions, such as time off for volunteering.

## OMAHA 360 EVALUATION

We completed a 360 evaluation of Heartland Workforce Solutions, the American Job Center located in Omaha, NE. We sought feedback from staff, partners, and customers, and completed a secret shopper evaluation. All of the information was reviewed in order to provide a set of recommendations for how the center can improve the customer service it is providing to both job seekers and employers.

## KANSAS KIDS @ GEAR UP PROGRAM EVALUATION

We completed a 6-year program evaluation for Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP. This is a unique program that serves youth who are in, or who have been in, foster care. KKGU helps youth prepare to enroll in four-year institutions after high school. We reviewed data collected by the program, interviewed staff and stakeholders, and analyzed the impact of the program.



# ***TALENT INITIATIVES***

## **ASSESSMENTS & EDUCATION**

- Sedgwick County Fire Dept. Promotion Assessment
- City of Wichita Fire Dept. Promotion Assessment
- KS Department of Commerce DEI Conversations and Training Sessions
- NexStep Alliance Training Series
- Sedgwick County Supervisor Series and Virtual Education Program
- City of Wichita - City University
- CCMFOA Institute/Academy, Athenian Dialogue, Virtual Education Series
- KCCEOA Institute/Academy, Virtual Education Series

## **CONFERENCES & CONVENINGS**

- NetWorked for Change Spring Convening Conference
- KSGFOA Annual Conference and Spring Convening
- KACM Winter Seminar
- Workforce Innovation Conference (KS Dept. of Commerce & KS Board of Regents)
- CCMFOA Annual Conference
- KMA Annual Conference
- WPS Annual Conference

### **KS DEPT OF COMMERCE DEI CONVERSATIONS**

The PPMC provided diversity, equity, and inclusion training and facilitated conversations. Discussion leaders received training that included materials and discussion questions. Topics included LGBTQIA+, Disability Awareness, Mental Health, and Socioeconomics. The purpose was to expand knowledge and allow for open and honest dialogue.

## **ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBER-BASED ORGANIZATIONS**

City Clerk & Municipal Finance Officers Association (CCMFOA)  
Kansas Association of City/County Management (KACM)  
Kansas County Clerks & Election Officials Association (KCCEOA)  
Kansas Government Finance Officers Association (KSGFOA)  
Kansas Museums Association (KMA)  
Local Government Network (LGN)  
Women in Public Service (WPS)



## RECOVERY CONNECT COMMUNICATIONS

Part of Recovery Connect includes a comprehensive marketing campaign. With the help of Project Associate Monica Shuey (Harmony Marketing), we've implemented social media and digital ads, radio ads, direct mail campaigns, and more in order to reach all residents of Sedgwick County, with a special focus on those living in Qualified Census Tracts. Abigail and Recovery Connect client Lois Emberson were featured on KSN and KAKE, telling the story of how Recovery Connect can help Sedgwick County residents to connect to resources.

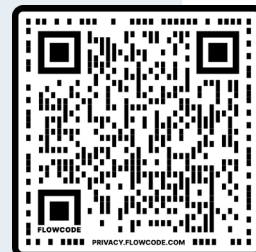
## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

FY 2022 seems like the year of partnerships. Beyond Recovery Connect, the PPMC has also partnered with Wichita Collective Impact Initiative, Opportunity Wichita, the Wichita State Foundation, the Kansas Health Foundation, the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Coalition, and others to work together to increase outreach efforts, communicate data and resources, and notify the public.

## SHARING DEI RESOURCES

In addition to educating ourselves on diversity, equity, and inclusion topics, the PPMC is committed to sharing out our experiences and the resources we learn from.

Scan the QR code with your smart phone to visit our DEI resource page and let us know what we're missing!





***“PPMC staff skillfully provided guidance when needed and pointed us in the right direction to work on our own. I appreciated their gentle honesty and candor.”***

**Andi Andres**  
President, Kansas Museums Association



**Morgan had the honor to help dedicate a sundial to the late Dr. Platt.**



# PPMC HIGHLIGHTS

## COMMITTED TO APPLIED LEARNING

Since the Center's inception, the PPMC has worked to uphold Wichita State's commitment to applied learning. In FY 2022, we employed five graduate assistants (GAs). Those who graduated all garnered full-time employment; 100% of PPMC student employees have left the Center with a full-time job. GAs get experiences working on almost every client project. Examples include shared service models, facilitation, primary and secondary research, and more. Our student worker program continues to be a massive benefit not only for our students, but also, our staff and clients who learn and benefit from their work daily. Pictured above are GAs currently employed at the PPMC.

*"Becoming a graduate assistant at the PPMC has given me invaluable experience working on projects and initiatives that support the public good while also preparing me for my future as a public servant."*

**Elizabeth Ewers**  
Graduate Assistant

## QUICK FACTS

**72**

Projects

**42**

Clients

**20**

New Clients

**+95%**

Website Visits

**+68%**

Followers

**+361%**

Reach





# TEAM PPMC

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF



**MORGAN BARNES**  
Professional Services  
Manager



**CORINTHIAN KELLY**  
Program Manager



**MISTY BRUCKNER**  
Director



**ANDREW MYERS**  
Program Manager



**KATHY SEXTON**  
Senior Management  
Consultant  
*(Effective September 2022)*



**LARRY DANIELS**  
Program Manager



**DULCINEA RAKESTRAW**  
Research & Program  
Evaluation Manager



**PAULA DOWNS**  
Talent Initiatives  
Manager



**SARAH SHAFFER**  
Operations Manager



**ISABEL EBERSOLE**  
Research Assistant



**DAWN SHEPLER**  
Program Manager  
*(Executive Director of Mental Health &  
Substance Abuse Coalition)*



**MONIQUE GARCIA**  
Community Initiatives  
Manager



**NIGEL SORIA**  
Research Economist



**ABIGAIL HAMMACK**  
Strategic Communications  
Manager



**KATE YOUNG**  
Project Associate

## PROJECT ASSOCIATES

- Cindy Berner
- Brenda Dietzman
- Lisa Dodson
- LaShonda Garnes
- Christy Harmon
- Kathleen Harris
- Tom Jenkins
- Jarett Metheny
- Monica Shuey

## GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

- James Cox
- Elizabeth Ewers
- James Roberts
- Zoe Sisco
- Emily Thon



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***Our greatest asset  
has always been our  
clients. The PPMC is  
proud to help decision  
makers get the most  
out of their resources  
to improve public  
service and impact  
communities.***