

Community Task Force RECOMMENDATIONS
Wichita Police Department (WPD)
4-18-2022

We recommend...

1. Creating an **eco-system** in Wichita and Sedgwick County that provides a tightly engaged network of collaborators between the systems that intersect with foster youth who might be facing a mental health crisis, and the grassroots agencies in the community that can fill in the gaps for these youth. The agencies include DCF, Law Enforcement, COMCARE, JIAC and JDF. Grassroots organizations include advocates, coaches, champions, and others. Organizations and individuals elected to be a part of the eco-system will be required to attend FREE training provided by the city/county that would cover topics such as: crisis intervention, de-escalation, mental health first aid and other training as identified by the organization.
 1. a. Creating a **centralized database** at the Wichita Police Department that fosters transparency in the collaborations that exist between WPD and the community. The database will provide easy access for law enforcement, as well as a mechanism for other grassroots organizations to be added to the resource list for future collaborations.
2. The Wichita Police Department will continually engage in **authentic dialogue** to eliminate barriers, address biases and build trust with marginalized groups throughout the community. This engagement will occur through attending/partnering in community events, attending neighborhood and community organization meetings, as well as hosting community forums.
3. Fostering a culture at WPD that allows **exceptions to police protocols** so an officer can escalate above the Supervisor's order when responding to calls involving foster youth in a mental health crisis. This is needed due to the complexities of multiple jurisdictions and custodies involved when a child is in the foster care system.
4. Creating a **culture** at the WPD that lives up to the expectations to "protect and serve" all people in Wichita's **diverse community**. Included in this recommendation is an annual review of employee expectations and policies to identify ineffective processes and unacceptable behaviors. This recommendation also should be considered along with support of the findings from the independent review currently being conducted because of racist text messages sent/received by several members of the police department.

5. Enhancing the **Axon policy** to include language that requires Officers to leave their body cameras on throughout an entire incident, including the completion of paperwork. Additionally, a process should be developed for random review of Axon footage and should be included as a part of the Officers periodic coaching and annual performance evaluation.
6. Developing and implementing an **MOU** between the Wichita Police Department and Juvenile Intake and Corrections (JIAC) that honors the 2016 US Attorney General Opinion and clearly outlines that arrest report must be completed before youth is released to JIAC. The arrest report should include all details from the original classification of the call from dispatch to final classification of the call when the youth arrives at JIAC, all expectations for youth brought to the facility, transfers, arrest reports, officer release form, etc. (See also in JIAC Recommendations)

Training

1. Developing and implementing **standardized training** for law enforcement, JIAC and JDF personnel, to include topics on mental health first aid, adolescent brain development and de-stigmatization of mental health, as well as when and under what circumstances a youth can and should be taken to Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph, as opposed to JIAC. *[Cross-reference same recommendation for Foster Care, JIAC]*
2. Requiring **CIT training for all law enforcement officers** between their third and fifth year in the field
3. Requiring CIT training for all law enforcement **supervisors**.
4. Requiring CIT training for **JIAC and JDF personnel**.
5. Requiring mandatory **trauma-informed training** for law enforcement to better understand and serve all members of the community – but especially those from minority, underserved and at-risk populations who are more likely to struggle with PTSD and other forms of trauma.
6. Ongoing **implicit bias training and testing** that includes, race, culture and gender diversity, for all law enforcement officers and supervisors.
7. Requiring all training related to mental health, trauma, cultural and gender diversity, and implicit bias be **required at regular intervals** for all law enforcement, JIAC and JDF personnel.

Mental health

1. **Increasing funding** for COMCARE mobile mental health unit and ICT One, so they can be available 24/7 and dispatched by 9-1-1 as a resource that serves the community.
2. Expanding the **Community Support Specialists** at WPD
3. Hiring a **full-time mental health professional** (psychiatrist or psychologist) to be on staff to support WPD employees. Supporting employees with their mental health has a direct impact on how employees show up and serve Wichita's diverse community.