

Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards

Monday, April 25, 2022 at 4:30 pm

Taskforce Members In-Person

Marquetta Atkins
Pastor C. Kirkendoll
Jazmine Rogers
Valerie Leon
Rhonda Lewis
Monique Garcia
Debbie Kennedy
Steve House
Tracey Mason, Sr.
Yeni Telles
Larry Burks
Taben Azad
Lamont Anderson
Yusef Presley
Holly Osborne

Taskforce Members via Zoom

Nina Shaw-Woody
April Terry
Mike Fonkert
NaQuela Pack

Resource Members

- Kristin Peterman – Via Zoom
- Hope Cooper – Via Zoom
- Paul Duff
- Steven Stonehouse
- Shantel Westbrook
- Commissioner Lopez
- Councilman Johnson

Purpose of the Task Force: To review and recommend preferred system improvements after the incident and death of Cedric Lofton

Goal of the Task Force: Develop recommendations for improvements and changes to the existing system standards and performance of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), law enforcement, and youth corrections programs.

Motion: Motion by Lewis, 2nd Burks – Requiring the Child Placing Agency and/or Case Management Provider has a **local contact trained in mental health crisis response on call by phone 24/7** to guide foster families facing a mental health crisis toward mobile mental health responders and other local resources; and create consequences for any agency not following this requirement. Additionally, developing protocol that states if a Child Placing Agency worker is not available during a crisis, a **supervisor** will be called.

- As part of this requirement, DCF and local law enforcement officials need to determine which agency has jurisdiction over where and how a youth will receive services, ultimately following KSA 59-2953, which references not leaving someone with an identified mental crisis at a non-medical facility.

https://www.ksrevisor.org/statutes/chapters/ch59/059_029_0053.html

Today: Final Review and Prioritization 911 Recommendation

- Develop an uninterrupted, 24/7 mobile mental health response system that can be dispatched by 9-1-1 through a combination of the following –
- Increasing funding for COMCARE mobile response team to increase availability.
- Increasing funding for ICT One, so they can be available 24/7
- Developing and implementing a new crisis response model that does not include law enforcement, using findings from the Youth Mobile Response Services report, and model programs, such as the CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping out on the Streets) program in Eugene, Oregon.

Discussion with Commissioner Lopez and Councilman Johnson:

- Lopez – thank you for your recommendation’s, this is an important work. It can be difficult to have these conversations but it is conversation that needs to be had, we appreciate all the volunteers and staff that have helped move the taskforce forward.
- Johnson – thank you all for all the great work you have put in place policies that will prevent a similar incident like this from happening again.
- Lopez – next step include distribution recommendations to all members who are involved in this conversation. In 90 days the county will report back to the task force. The county will also update the task force at the end of the year for the 2023 platform. Please feel free to attend the public meetings and voice your concerns
- Johnson – at the 90 day update we will be prepared with options for local government and options that need to be addressed at the state level.
- Lopez – The county page for the taskforce will have a public dashboard to keep the public updated on the progress the taskforce has made. The dashboard will be specific to the county but will attach a link to the cities dashboard.
- Question – how much will the County and City be allocating to implementing the requests of the taskforce
 - Johnson – We don’t have that information yet after this meeting and over the next few months will discuss the issues and develop a plan of action to address recommendations.
 - Lopez – The County will do the same, however part of the concern is to address staffing issues to ensure that mental health services are available to individuals in crisis.

- Question – can we have a plan to have the taskforce meet again after the 90 day mark to have a discussion on the decisions of the City and County?
- Naquela – echoed the previous question about having accountability session for taskforce meetings after City and County make final decisions on recommendations?
 - Elected officials support all taskforce meeting to promote accountability between taskforce and elected bodies.
- Tracy – can we get an update on the DOJ report, in regards to accountability in CJ Lofton death?
 - Lopez – the DOJ doesn't report to the County Commission, the County is focused on what the County has control over.\
- Marquette – I want to reinstate why we are here, we want to uplift Cedric Lofton and make sure his voice is heard and that this won't happen again.
 - Johnson – the City Council supports the taskforce in making sure this doesn't happen again.
 - Lopez – the County Commission wants to support the taskforce as well and ensure that mental health resources are available to individuals in crisis.
- Lamont – addressed concern with County Commission not supporting and investigation
 - Lopez – The County Commission did support a review and a review lead to an investigation of the incident. Again the DOJ is not required to report their findings to the City or County. However, we are will support the taskforce recommendations.
- Taskforce – discussion continued with several members of the taskforce and elected officials over things that were said in the past in public meetings. The taskforce has been brought together to handle a difficult task and the discussions can be difficult. The conclusion of the discussion was the purpose of the taskforce and the ability of the task force to hold elected officials accountable for seeing the recommendations through to implementation.
- Johnson – the majority of the recommendations will need to be addressed at the state level. The City and County will take the recommendations to the legislative session. The taskforce should hold us accountable in 90 days and 180 days make sure your elected officials follow through.
- Marquette – suggested that on the recommendations any laws should be known as Cedric's law.
- Taskforce Member – how do we know the State Legislature will support this financially and not just provide lip service?
 - Lopez and Johnson – We cannot speak for the state but from the conversations we have had, they are in support of the taskforce recommendations.

Adjourn:

5:58 pm

Next Steps:

- Edits to the task force recommendation, based on the discussion today, will be updated after the meeting.
- Final report will be submitted to Sedgwick County, they will disseminate the information to all stakeholders.
- Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita will take recommendations to Topeka as a legislative issue.