

# Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards

Monday, April 11, 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

## Taskforce Members via Zoom

Kristin Peterman
Nina Shaw-Woody
Annmarie Arensberg
April Terry
Holly Osborne

## Resource Members

- James Johnson – Via Zoom
- Steven Stonehouse
- Paul Duff
- Elora Forshee
- Hope Cooper

**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 Department of Children and Families (DCF), law enforcement, and youth corrections programs

**Today:** Complete recommendations for Youth Corrections/JIAC, including mental health and training recommendations

## 1. Next Steps

- We are going to focus on the group's recommendations for the next 3 meetings
- Making sure that the recommendations are focused on preventing future deaths
- The Task Force has identified the recommendations and now we are going to clarify them making sure intent behind them and language are what group wants

- Next week will be prioritizing top 5 items of WPD and JIAC, recommendations from 9-1-1- and a review of recommendations to date

## 2. Questions from last week

- Heard back that the legal team is not sharing the draft MOU between WPD and JIAC
  - When it is signed it will become a public document
  - Keeping it on recommendations
- Confirmed with Peterman that it is in process to have a WPD representative on the local crossover youth program
  - Keeping it on recommendations because in process
- House has received a form letter reply from the DOJ which he read to group

## 3. Recommendation Discussion

- **JIAC Recommendations**
- The Taskforce reviewed their JIAC recommendations
- Recommendation #6: Updating JIAC Policy 8.810- Use of Force [by specified date], so that it states: One youth is secured in a cell, instead of holding him/her down in the prone position, close the cell and allow the youth to calm down. Do not use any position that covers the youth's chest. Only allow the prone position to be used to cuff and sit, cuff and stand. One staff person be responsible for recording any incidents of restraint, keeping time to ensure a youth is not held down for longer than 3-5 minutes, and who will check to ensure youth is breathing. This person should never assist in restraining the youth. [KJCC has a program that could be used as a model]
  - Stonehouse recommended that the date for completion should take into account the steps to implement this policy change
  - Rogers wanted clarification on the process
    - JIAC would write the changes
    - County legal would review
    - JCAB would review
    - Then it would go to BoCC
    - Then it goes to Kansas DOC
  - Burks asked if other recommendations would have this process
    - Some would not and could be done at the local level; Because this one is use of force, it has to go through all steps
  - Mason wanted to know if there were federal laws touching on this
    - Cooper and Stonehouse were not aware of any specific federal guidelines on this issue
  - Garcia wanted clarification where these recommendations came from

- Some came from the experts
- Most came directly from task force members
- Lewis suggested July 1 as the date for completion
- Mason wanted clarification about why anyone was held down for any period of time
  - Duff answered that the prone position is only used to control the situation, it is a control thing
  - Stonehouse answered that prone is used only to cuff
  - Stonehouse noted that the elimination of the prone position would be unsafe
- Anderson wanted to make a change about youth needing to be cuffed for transportation
  - Rogers noted that there was a prior recommendation about handcuffing
  - Stonehouse said that other law enforcement entities do not require and now policy has been updated and that JIAC/JDF will not cuff for any entity
- Mason had more questions about the process of holding someone down
  - Stonehouse agreed that when cuffs are applied the person being held down should be stood up/sat up immediately
- Anderson wanted to know the staffing ratio
  - 7:1 resident to staff ratio
- Terry wanted to know if the observer would make note of well-being in addition to whether they are breathing
  - There was concern that this could be subjective and should be clearer
- Atkins wanted to know if there was the opportunity available for staff to step out of a stressful situation
  - Stonehouse noted that this is a practice, but not a policy
- Modifications based on group discussion will come back to the group
- Recommendation #7: Requiring a medical staff person to be available 24/7
  - Rogers wanted to know if there needed to be a nurse for JIAC and JDF?
    - Stonehouse answered that it would be a recommendation for them to consider
- Recommendation #8: Update the Medical and Mental Health State Medical Intake form 8.804 so it requires [needs to be defined] to be current and accurate before the transfer.
  - Burks wanted clarification about the recommendation
  - Nobody was clear about the intent of the recommendation

- Will look more into the origin of the recommendation
- Recommendation #9: Establishing a room at JIAC that could be safe for teens in a mental health crisis, where they can be safely left alone and not restrained. Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) made funds available last year and may have additional funding
  - Mason asked if there was a room available
  - Cooper confirmed that funds were available
  - Stonehouse noted that a calming room is different than a mental health crisis room and is in process with plans to be complete by May
  - Rogers wanted to be sure to include calming room language
  - Presley was uncertain that a calming room would do any good
    - When asked for further clarification said it was about having it at both JIAC and JDF rather than just JIAC
- Recommendation #10: Updating the video recording system at JIAC to cover more areas of the lobby and holding rooms and ensure that the recording system includes audio capacity [in process]
  - Rogers wanted to know about the funding of the cameras
  - Stonehouse noted that it is already included in the Sedgwick County's CIP budget which the BoCC will vote on during this budget process
- Recommendation #11: Not allow a juvenile in a WRAP be brought into the JIAC facility
  - Policy already changed
- Recommendation #12: Not allow a single JIAC worker to handle someone described as "a combative juvenile"
- Recommendation #13: Require law enforcement officers who bring an allegedly combative, noncompliant youth into the JIAC to stay on scene, or at least nearby, at the JIAC until the juvenile is processed
- Recommendation #14: Ensure all juveniles at JIAC are separated from each other so they are not exposed to potentially traumatic events
  - Stonehouse said if youth waiting to go into JDF or for family to pick up or next step hard to keep separated without locking that youth in a room
  - Terry noted how traumatic it is for youth to see
  - Presley noted hard for youth to keep from seeing what is happening
  - Mason noted that this is almost impossible to safely restrain someone while keeping others from witnessing while keeping safe
  - Rogers asked about if an effort can be made to move youth into another area like recreation room before another youth brought in
    - Stonehouse said yes

- Recommendation #15: Creating and staffing a Citizens Review Board, to operate much like the same board for the Wichita Police Department
  - Rogers wanted to make this Board a quasi-judicial board and said there is a Child In Need of Care (CINC) board in Newton that has quasi-judicial powers
    - Asked questions about other cities or states that had examples
  - Burke said the concept is a good idea and asked about timeline to stand up
  - Mason had a concern with the lack of power that review boards have
  - Lewis wanted to make sure that the meetings occurred when citizens were able to meet
  - Peterman clarified that the Newton example is a different situation where they follow a child through the system rather than incidents
    - Will provide some input based on the example
- Recommendation #16: Change the JIAC investigation booklet (from April Terry)
  - Pg. 34 it was noted that the JIAC did not have a defibrillator; perhaps the detention side did, but the intake side did not. I think this needs addressed.
    - Stonehouse noted that this has already been done
  - Pg. 49 there are clear signs of lack of training—comments included observing no “physical” distress but no mention or awareness of mental distress. To also state that physical restraints are okay “until a juvenile relaxes” is traumatic and problematic. I’d like to visit this language
    - This will be included in a coming training recommendation
- Recommendation #17: Implementing Individual Justice Plan (IJP) in Sedgwick County
  - Stonehouse noted that in Kansas an IJP comes from a case manager and in Sedgwick County the practice has waxed and waned
  - The recommendation will be updated to to how to connect and strengthen the practice throughout the community
- Recommendation #18: Using Team Justice as a vehicle to gain community volunteers for Crossover Youth Practice Model
  - Stonehouse noted good recommendation and that Sedgwick County now has a staff member dedicated to working with Crossover Youth Practice Model
- Recommendation #19: Expanding the Kansas Department of Corrections Crossover Youth Model pilot program
  - Cooper noted that Georgetown University is now working directly with Sedgwick County, and KDOC has long-term plans for expanding the model in all Kansas judicial districts

- Recommendation #20: A long-term goal for the Department of Corrections to develop and implement a strategy that moves juvenile systems to restorative justice
  - Cooper noted KDOC uses that language in the standards but don't have specific standards related to it
- Recommendation #21: The state Legislature review opportunities to modify the Stand your Ground Law while being mindful in how those modifications will impact those who are covered by the law in other circumstances
  - Atkins agreed and asked how do you protect victims and ensure that they are not abused
  - Stonehouse said legislative post-audits are used to evaluate how a law or policy is working
  
- **Mental Health Recommendations**
- Recommendation #1: Develop and implement a crisis response model that does not include law enforcement, using findings from the Youth Mobile Response Services Report, as well as the CAHOOTS program in Eugene, Oregon. CAHOOTS stands for Crisis Assistance Helping out on the Streets
  - This is one of several models to ensure there are more options for mental health issues
  - Rogers said a stand-alone emergency response agency rather than a separate unit
    - Coming recommendation on that and also to make sure dispatchers have options
  - Lewis asked how this fits with 988 line which is not yet funded
  - Will ask 9-1-1 next week Will work to clear up how #1 and #3 relate to each other
- Recommendation #2: Support Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition legislative agenda to increase the number of mental health professionals in Sedgwick County
- Recommendation #3: Increased funding for COMCARE, ICT One, 911 resources
  - Kennedy brought up the need for youth medical detox
- Recommendation #4: An agreement between DCF, its contractual agencies and foster families that outlines how to take a child in their care to a mental health facility if the child is in crisis
- Recommendation #5: Remote/virtual access to mental health consults at JIAC
  - Stonehouse said 95% of kids are released to parents and COMCARE will do virtual consults right now

- Noted that there also needs to be a place for youth to go after being screened because no beds at state hospital
- Rogers wanted to know if there was still a recommendation to have a full-time mental health professional at JIAC
  - Stonehouse noted have funding to do two shifts and the barrier is finding the workforce
- Kirkendoll asked about mental health help for post-traumatic stress disorder for youth in the foster home
  - Peterman said it is a standard procedure to provide that
- **Training Recommendations**
- Recommendation #1: Develop and implement 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. (*repeat from foster care system*)
  - Duff noted that recruits get a fair amount of the mental health training in academy
- Recommendation #2: Increase the number of police officers, including supervisors, who have Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training
  - Require CIT training for new recruits at the Law Enforcement Training Center (expand resources)
  - Require CIT training for law enforcement supervisors
  - Require CIT training for JIAC and JDF personnel
    - Duff noted that CIT training is a full week course that is more advanced and would be better suited for more experienced officers
    - Duff noted that the information would be better retained for an officer with three to five-year experience
    - Recruits will be in the car with an officer who is CIT trained
    - Rogers asked about restructuring recommendation to prioritize training current police officers
    - Harris said training should be ongoing because mental health changes
    - Atkins asked if other officer on call will have CIT training
    - Discussion about how long on job before CIT and timeframe and strengthening language on supervisors
    - Shaw-Woody suggested recommending more funding so all officers can have CIT training so funding is not an issue
- Recommendation #3: Establish ongoing culture training—in response to cultural diversity in the community police officers are serving and the PTSD many people of color experience when interacting with law enforcement

- Lewis suggested rewording to include the historical trauma of all the groups
- Duff agreed and noted that Chief Moore is implementing that as mandatory training for all this year and in addition is bringing the FBI to review best practices to include hate crimes and bias and more
- Recommendation #4: Require implicit bias training and testing for Wichita Police Department officers, supervisors
  - Duff noted officers receive every year
  - Terry asked who does the training – internal or external
    - Duff said WSU and KU

#### **4. Next Steps and Adjourn**

- Language will be worked on for the recommendations that have been reviewed
- Task Force will establish priorities for WPD and JIAC
- Taskforce members should look at 911 recommendations draft for the next meeting
- There is a tour of the COMCARE Crisis Center next Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. and also can schedule any other time through County