

# Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards 1 Year Update Meeting Summary

25, April, 2023

Sedgwick County Offices | The Ruffin Building

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## Taskforce Members In-Person

Lamond Anderson
Dr. Rhonda Lewis
Yeni tells
Yusef Presley
Jazmine Rogers
Valerie Leon

## Taskforce Members via Zoom

Debbie Kennedy
Marquetta Atikins-Woods
Naquela Pack

## Resource Members

- Steven Stonehouse, Sedgwick County Dept. of Corrections
- Kristin Peterman, Dept. of Children and Families
- Dee Nighswonger, Dept. of Children and Families
- Jennifer Wilson, COMCARE
- Captain Dan East, Wichita Police Department
- Elora Forshee, 911 Emergency Communications
- Russell Leeds, County Manager's Office

## Greeting and Welcome

*Commissioner Sarah Lopez*

- Commissioner Lopez welcomed everyone to the 1 year update for the community taskforce. She then went on to thank everyone for the time they have spent coming to these meetings, and offering their perspectives throughout this process.

## 911 Center/COMCARE Mental Health Update

*Elora Forshee, Emergency Communications*

- Elora discussed the plan to embed a qualified mental health professional within the 911 call center. The changes at the 911 Call Center have provided additional challenges to implement this recommendation. A new CAD system is currently being implemented, and all operations have been moved to a back-up site while the call center is undergoing renovation.
- She mentioned similar challenges when looking at the recommendation to add a continuing education coordinator to the 911 staffing table.
- A wage increase was given at the start of 2023. The starting wage for a call taker is now \$18.48/hour. An academy class is starting in May, and currently has 11 members.
- The creation of a Community Advisory Board is still in progress. The bylaws have been developed, and are currently being reviewed by Sedgwick County Legal staff.

## Questions from Taskforce Members about 911 Communications

- Yeni Telles asked how they plan to they were ensuring diversity amongst staff, and what languages services would be available in.

- Elora mentioned that the team is not as diverse as it should be, but they are working to develop options to diversify staff. The academy class to begin on May 1 has several Spanish Speaking staff, but they are looking to add a staff member for a few other languages common in Sedgwick County.
- Jazmine asked what the pay increase was for staff.
  - Elora stated that, based on length of tenure, was based on a percentage. For call takers, the increase was roughly 22%. For dispatchers, the increases ranged from 5% to 20%.
- Jazmine also asked when the renovations to the building would be complete.
  - They are planning to complete the updates in late July/early August.
- Rusty also mentioned that it is the intent of Sedgwick County HR to put forward an option for Bi-Lingual pay for the 2024 budget cycle. This will have to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners, but if approved, would likely assist Elora in her ability to hire bi-lingual staff.

*Jennifer Wilson, COMCARE*

- Mobile Crisis Response
  - COMCARE is collaborating with the Wichita Police Department on a proposal to expand the number of teams. They are working to achieve 24/7 accessibility for COMCARE Mobile Crisis Care Response, which is a matter of funding. This MOU for the WPD Contract is currently being worked on by City and County legal staff.
  - The Kansas Legislature have provided additional funding for 988. They have also received funding through the Kansas Dept. of Aging and SAMSA. Between these grants, they are looking at having 7 full-time teams.

**Questions from Taskforce Members about COMCARE**

- Jazmine asked if the funding sources were ongoing or single year grants.
  - Jennifer was unsure the duration of the SAMSA grant, but the Dept. of Aging has committed to a minimum of 2 years, with the intent to renew.
- It was also asked how the 911 call takers would determine when to send the call to the mental health professional.
  - Jennifer and Elora explained that all staff would be introduced to a flow chart which includes particular questions determined to identify the needs of the caller.

**DCF – Foster Care Update**

*Dee Nighswonger and Kristen Peterman, DCF*

- Dee shared that DCF has implemented the FOUR Questions model, which improves the services provided to families prior to a child being removed from their home.
- Kristen then spoke about how many of their “in-progress” items are going to be ongoing efforts, and may never be truly finished.

- DCF is working with many members of the community to develop a more Wichita-specific approach to providing services.
- DCF is also working on developing more in-home services to strengthen supports within the home.
- DCF provides a mobile-crisis unit to assist families, and are actively working on sharing that information with families.
- DCF has been working with the WSU Community Engagement Institute to facilitate community-based discussions around processes and protocols relating to crisis response.
- The Crossover Youth Model Oversight Committee has almost completed the process of outlining protocols for how we respond to crossover youth.
- The Foster Care Bill of Rights was officially signed by the governor.
- Ongoing work with the Capacity Building Center for States has resulted in additional data regarding children's entrance to foster care, and what efforts can be made to prevent that path.

### **Questions from Taskforce Members about DCF**

- It was asked how the Interagency and Community Advisory Board has incorporated grassroots organizations.
  - Kristen mentioned that several Wichita-based organizations have been contacted to provide feedback regarding policies, protocols, and data as it relates to the efforts of DCF.
- Marquette asked if the Regional Mental Health hospital located in Sedgwick County will include space for juveniles.
  - Rusty mentioned that this was likely going to be an adult facility, but that the available space in the new facility should provide for flexibility for existing programs.
- Jazmine asked what the timeline was for recommendation #4 regarding family access to mental health services.
  - The policy was officially announced in January, now they are working toward educating families regarding the available services.
- It was asked how DCF verifies the information is actually being learned by families.
  - Kristen mentioned that the assessment process will include information regarding knowledge of available services.

### **Wichita Police Update**

*Captain Dan East, Wichita Police Dept.*

- Completed-

- An MOU between WPD and COMCARE is currently being worked on by City and County Legal Staff. Once this is signed, the City will provide funding to better support ICT One.
- 3 Officers were sent to Utah to attend a train the trainer program relating to CIT training. 2 additional officers are being sent to a similar program in May of this year. In July 2023, these 5 officer will begin to provide additional training to all WPD officers.
- The Jensen Hughes Operational Assessment Report was delivered to the City in March of 2023. WPD is in the process of implementing suggested trainings.
- The FBI provided “Color of Law” training in early 2023. Nearly all officers were in attendance at these trainings. Those who were unable to attend will receive the training at a later date.
- Police Protocols have been modified to allow an officer to deny the request of a supervisor if they believe it to unlawful. This is currently under review, but should be implemented soon.
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### **Questions from Taskforce Members about WPD**

- It was asked how the new protocol to allow an officer to deny a request, based on the words Lawful/Unlawful, would be used in practice.
  - Captain East mentioned that lawful/unlawful was primarily related to WPD Policy.
- What training was provided to officers regarding their ability to contact a mental health professional while on scene?
  - Captain East noted that officers were provided an updated list of available resources, and were encouraged to use those resources when needed.
  - He also mentioned the impact of the CIT training, and their ongoing efforts to provide that training to all staff.
- In relation to the CIT training, it was asked how the results of that training were going to be measured.
  - Captain East said that he would look into possible measurements, and tracking capabilities.

### **Dept. of Corrections Update**

*Steve Stonehouse, Dept. of Corrections*

- Department of Corrections has updated the JIAC policy 8.810 – Use of Force – to include the recommendations as listed in the April 2022 taskforce recommendations list. In January 2023 this policy was approved by the Kansas Dept. of corrections, and has officially been implemented.
- The recommendation to develop a Citizens Review Board was determined to be within the purview of the Judicial District, and will not be carried forward by the Dept. of Corrections at this time.

- CIT training has been completed for JIAC and JDF staff, as well as Adult Services staff. A new Mental Health provider has been contracted by the Dept. of Corrections, and many of their staff have worked closely with CIT at the state level.
- The Dept. of Corrections is currently working with sound engineers to improve audio recording capabilities within JIAC and JDF. Ongoing efforts with this project will be included in the Dept. of Corrections CIP for the next fiscal year.
- MOU's have been signed with City of Wichita Police, Haysville Police, and Derby Police. Other MOU's are currently being drafted for the various other cities within Sedgwick County.
- Crossover Youth Practice Model protocols have been adopted within the Dept. of Corrections. MDT's have been started to address crossover youth who present at JIAC. Graining Scheduled for systems stakeholders.

### **Questions from Taskforce Members about Dept. of Corrections**

- Do you have an estimate of when the audio project will be complete?
  - Steve mentioned that the Sound Engineer is going to be onsite the next week, and they are expecting a detailed report of next steps sometime in May.
- What model was used for the Implicit Bias Training, and what was included in the training?
  - Steve walked through his experience in the Supervisory Implicit Bias Training. Steve discussed the impacts of various life experiences, and how awareness of these impacts improve their ability to provide care.
- Jazmine requested additional information regarding the success of the calming rooms.
  - Steve mentioned that while formal data has not been collected, staff says that they use it nearly every day. Steve went on to discuss that JFS had recently moved buildings, and as a result lost the available space for the Calming Room.
- Rusty asked Steve to give a brief update on the reopening of the Juvenile Residential Facility.
  - As of May, Dept. of Corrections has attained a staffing level sufficient to reopen the facility. Seven juveniles have been determined to be fit for JRF and they will soon begin using the facility on a limited basis.
- It was then asked if a change in culture had been noticed, as a result of the changes made.
  - Steve said that no restraints were used at JIAC in 2022. The awareness of alternatives has significantly increased, and has created a change amongst staff.
- Marquetta asked if the culture had adjusted to more of a restorative justice mindset.
  - Steve discussed that while no formal changes have been made, there has been a shift to a more accountable atmosphere. With the implementation of an Honor Pod, which provides additional resources to juveniles who example positive behavior, the juveniles have a new sense of self-accountability. The population of the Honor Pod has seen an ongoing increase in participation.
- It was also asked if JRF would have something similar to the honor pod.

- Steve noted that due to the nature of the facility, some of these freedoms are already provided. The juveniles at JRF have the ability to work with staff regarding outings such as the movies.

### **Next Steps**

- Rusty asked where the Taskforce would like to go from this point, and what information the taskforce would like to receive moving forward.
  - The taskforce agreed that bi-annual meetings that are less formal would provide them with the necessary information.
  - Next Meeting will be in October 2023.