

Meeting Summary Final:

Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections System Standards

Date: Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022

Location: Sedgwick County Ronald Reagan Building – 3rd Floor Conference Room

Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Attendees: *Taskforce members in-person:* Larry Burks, Sr., Lilliana Rivera, Holly Osborne, Valerie Leon, Marquette Atkins, Jazmine Rogers, Steve House, Lamont Anderson, Rhonda Lewis, Poncho Bustos, Monique Garcia, Debbie Kennedy, Taben Azad, Haley Kottler* [*Kansas Appleseed designee]

Via phone: Mike Fonkert, Annmarie Arensberg, April Terry

Resource Members: Steven Stonehouse, Kristine Peterman, Hope Cooper

Purpose: The Community Taskforce was established to review and recommend preferred system improvements after the incident and death of Cedric Lofton

Goal: Develop recommendations for improvements and changes to the existing system standards and performance of

- Department of Children & Families (DCF)
- Law enforcement
- Youth corrections programs

Ground Rules of Taskforce:

All voices matter	Be respectful
Active listening	Bring unique background/experiences - welcome
Stay on task	Give grace to each other

Introductions:

Who you are, what organization you represent, and why you chose to serve on the task force. And what you believe is critically important for this task force to achieve/accomplish, to make progress in our community?

Who & Why?	Achieve/Accomplish
Young person w/ perspective of mental health experiences	Something happens constructively in our community
Thriving, just communities; fair and effective systems	Doesn't happen again
Perspectives of those charged with crime, mental health	Never happens again to any child
Advocate policies, juvenile justice system	Reform criminal justice system for youth, all
Partner with others in child care services, programs	Serious, intentional recommendations; leader for transformative changes
	Solutions for families in distress

Part of education, address myths	Reduce juveniles entering the system/never lose another young person in care
Lost a young person in government care, incarceration problems	Together, strengthen systems
Voice of children	Solutions/Change the systems in our community “when spider webs unite they can tie up a lion” Never happens again
Good task to be a part of this/this child is our child	Expertise to see the kinds of change that is needed happens
Something wrong happened and ensure never happens again	Prevent for future young people
Reform at local, statewide level	Speak up
Nothing about us, without us	Prevent/Be better
All avenues	Support of other communities
Asian Association - show support for others	Exchange of ideas, meaningful decisions
Public service = see demo of changes/cultural, language	Tell everyone it takes a village - come together for change
Bring perspective to forefront	

Question to Taskforce: What voices are missing from this conversation that will not allow you to make the progress and get to the recommendations that you desire to see from this task force or their voices that are missing? That can be from perspective of an organization, and or an individual that we should be having. Who should we engage with to ensure that they are part of this process?

Other Voices:

Mental Health Impacted Youth - teenagers in mental health crisis in foster care with lived experience
Wichita Ministerial League
Tracey Mason - conflict resolution strategies
Access to staff members - history?
Identify who needs to be in room
-JIAC, JDF - truth in reality for recommendations
Foster parent with foster child with mental health
Ashley Thorne
NaQuela Pack

Organizations to hear from

-Child Advocacy (the office)
-Judicial
-Family Court, Juvenile Court
-District Attorney or designee

- Financials/Funding for Mental Health
- St. Joe (hospitals)
- ICT1 (may be able to strengthen, limited funding)

Facilitators will provide working list of other voices to County for them to reach out to see what we get in terms of commitments from the individuals/entities listed.

Question to Taskforce: How do you want to receive community input?

Community Input

- Online comments compile - community email box
- Meeting dedicated to public input before end of process/recommendations
- Before recommendations, ask others to review, offer perspectives
- Need to set up what we want to ask the community for: Intentional structure of taskforce questions for community input
- Meetings will be open to public and live-streamed when appropriate

Taskforce Meeting Frequency/Logistics/Operations:

- Weekly meetings – Mondays for the next three months
- Time: 4:30pm starting February 7th at county designated space: Ronald Reagan Building
- Zoom/Hybrid option
- Open to public and livestreamed
- Decision making: Taskforce will use majority vote when consensus not clear
- Consider purpose/duality of meaning-holding those accountable

Taskforce Information Received (Booklets):

- Investigation Booklet (contains autopsy)
- Juvenile Intake and Assessment System (JIAS) Standards
- Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC) Policies

Additional Information

- How do we communicate our asks/requests between meetings
- JIAC Incident Report -Staff members involved
- Racial breakdown at facilities
- Child in need of care cases
- 911 Mental Health protocol
- Hospital - can they deny a child?
- Who makes decision on St. Joe/JIAC?
- WPD training required/frequency

Questions/Requests from Taskforce:

- Training Requirements
 - Foster Parents (DCCCA) - what are their policies?
- Requirements for positions through system
- Process flow leading up to event
- *tour JIAC + JDF, speak to staff
- Definitions of physical force, physical restraint
- Sheriff's Dept. Training
- Stand Your Ground Law

-DCF Contractor Policies

To-Dos

-Video (send to Taskforce), ensure it is accessible

-Meeting Minutes

-Look @ mental health systems

-Letter to Dept. of Justice from Taskforce

-Legal (Mr. House) help draft

Taskforce agreed it may be helpful to have a lawyer or somebody that can give [Taskforce] the proper legal language that can help group draft a letter or help us make sure that all of the elements that we want are included for an investigation request.

A letter to the Department of Justice, asking them to do a separate investigation of Cedric Lofton case.

-List of changes/policies/processes that are being made by city, county, and state

-From Harm to Health (Blueprint)*

Monday, February 7th Agenda Brief:

-Progeny: The Blueprint (Harm to Health)

-Foster Care System

-Case Review

Future Agenda Topics: Sectoral Focus

DCF - Foster

JIAC

WPD

Mental Health

Funders of this work

Follow-up

Timeline - Governor's request for review

Run parallel

Full history at JIAC/incident report