

Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards

Meeting Summary

Monday, February 7, 2022 at 4:30 pm
Ronald Reagan Building 3rd Floor Conference Room and Zoom

Taskforce Members In-Person

Larry Burks, Sr.
Lilliana Rivera
Marquetta Atkins
Jazmine Rogers
Lamont Anderson
Dr. Rhonda Lewis
Taben Azad
Monique Garcia
Steve House
Ann Marie Arensberg
Debbie Kennedy
Holly Osborne
Valerie Leon
Poncho Bustos
Tracey Mason
Yeni Telles

Taskforce Members via Zoom

Mike Fonkert
Dr. April Terry

Resource Members

- Kristin Peterman
- Shantel Westbrook
- Megan Milner for Hope Cooper
- Steven Stonehouse

Welcome/Introductions

- Resource members in attendance were introduced: Steven Stonehouse with Sedgwick County Department of Corrections, Kristin Peterman with the Kansas Department of Children and Families, Shantel Westbrook with COMCARE, and Megan Milner for Hope Cooper with KDOC.

Recap from First Meeting

- Recap of ground rules: All voices matter, be respectful, active listening, all experiences/backgrounds are welcome, stay on task, and give grace to each other.
- Recap of what the Taskforce wants to achieve: work together to achieve transformational systems change, make sure what happens to Cedric Lofton never happens to another child, advocate for and with each other, and hold each other and the systems accountable for the change that comes up in these meetings.

- There is a webpage for the Taskforce at <https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/community-taskforce/>. Public can provide input via email to communitytaskforce@sedgwick.gov.

Discussion of New Members

- Taskforce members agreed that votes will be accomplished through ballot. Votes will not be anonymous and how each member voted will be recorded in the minutes.
- Taskforce members agreed that the group can grow to 21 members max. A vote was held to select 6 new members (see attached ballots after minutes). The new members are Yeni Telles, Naquela Pack, Nina Shaw-Woody, Tracey Mason, a foster parent of a child with mental health experience, and a young person age 18-25 with foster care lived experiences.

DOJ Letter

- Steve House will provide a draft at the next meeting. This draft can be modified by the Taskforce.
- Members would like to know what Commissioners know about the DOJ investigation.
- Steve House has spoken with Sedgwick County Counselor Mike Pepoon.

Presentation from Progeny – “From Harm to Healing: The Blueprint to Healthier Outcomes for Kansas Youth”

- Section 1 of the report takes a look at the current system in terms of fiscal costs and social costs. This section is a good background for those not familiar with the youth justice system in Kansas.
- Section 2 of the report takes a look at alternatives done by other states.
- Section 3 of the report is policy recommendations. These recommendations are rooted in feedback generated from young people.

Roles and responsibilities of Kansas Department of Children and Families (DCF)

- Documents were provided by Kristin Peterman with DCF. These documents include: Children in Out of Home Placement by Race and County; Racial Equity Impact: Seeds of Change; Kansas family Crisis response Services; and Family Crisis Response & Support FAQ.
- Kansas has a privatized child welfare system. DCF has grants with agencies to provide support and services. Some grants allow them to work with providers of in-home support and some grants allow them to work with providers of foster care services.
- DCF’s services are driven by family needs. There is no one solution to every family so DCF works with connecting families to community and national support systems.
- The Mobile Crisis Unit has been running since October. The program supports any youth in the state under the age of 20. It is not related to the national 988 crisis line. DCF’s mobile crisis line was not in place at the time of Cedric Lofton’s case. Kristin Peterman

will work on providing answers for the Taskforce's questions on Mobile Crisis Unit staffing.

- DCF works with substance abuse providers in the community to assess youth who may have substance abuse issues. Outpatient treatment is provided based on results of the assessment. Other assessments can be done to see if therapy or psycho-social groups may help.
- Kristin Peterman will work on providing caseload information to the Taskforce.

Agenda for Next Meeting

- Kansas Department of Children and Families discussion will continue at the next meeting.
- Next meeting will take place Monday at 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm.
- Steve House will provide a draft of the DOJ letter.

Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards Ballots

Monday, February 7, 2022 at 4:30 pm

Ballots for additional Community Task Force members

Steve House

Yeni Telles
Naquela Pack
Nina Shaw-Woody
Council of Elders
Ashley Thorne

Taben Azad

Naquela Pack
Tracey Mason
Ashley Thorne
Foster Care Parent
Young People
Yeni Telles

Lilliana Rivera

Council of Elders
Tracey Mason
Foster Care Parent
Young Person (18-25)
Yeni Telles
Naquela Pack

Monique Garcia

Yeni Telles
Naquela Pack
Wichita Ministerial League
Foster Care Parent

Larry Burks, Sr.

Wichita Ministerial League
Council of Elders
Naquela Pack
Foster Care Parent
Yeni Telles
Young Person (18-25)

Valerie Leon

Nina Shaw-Woody
Wichita Ministerial League
Young Person (18-25)
Yeni Telles
Tracey Mason
Naquela Pack

Holly Osborne

Nina Shaw-Woody
Council of Elders
Wichita Ministerial League
Young Person w/ Lived Experience
Tracey Mason
Foster Care Parent

Poncho Bustos

Ashley Thorne
Nina Shaw-Woody
Council of Elders
Wichita Ministerial League

Ann Marie Arensberg

Nina Shaw-Woody
Ashley Thorne
Tracey Mason
Naquela Pack
Wichita Ministerial League
Young Person

Marquetta Atkins

Tracey Mason
Impact Youth (Yusef Presley)
Foster Care Parent
Council of Elders
Naquela Pack
Yeni Telles

Dr. Rhonda K. Lewis

Foster Care Parent
Nina Shaw-Woody
Young Person 25 Years Old
Council of Elders
Another Young Person 18+
Yeni Telles

Mike Fonkert

Nina Shaw-Woody
Foster Parent
Ashley Thorne
Young Person
Tracey Mason
Naquela Pack

Debbie Kennedy

Naquela Pack
Wichita Ministerial League
Lived Experience Older Youth
Council of Elders
Yeni Telles
Foster Parent

Lamont Anderson

Naquela Pack
Foster Care Parent
Young Person w/ Lived Experience
Ashley Thorne
Wichita Ministerial League
Tracey Mason

Dr. April Terry

Young Person w/ Lived Experience
Foster Parent
Ashley Thorne
Naquela Pack
Minister Nina Shaw-Woody
Yeni Telles

Jazmine Rogers

Tracey Mason
Ashley Thorne
Naquela Pack
Young Person w/ Lived Experience
Yeni Telles
Nina Shaw-Woody

Tally

Yeni Telles – 11
Naquela Pack - 13
Nina Shaw-Woody – 9
Council of Elders – 8
Ashley Thorne – 8
Foster Parent – 10
Young Person (18-25) – 14
Wichita Ministerial League–8
Tracey Mason - 9

Final

Young Person (18-25)
Naquela Pack
Yeni Telles
Foster Parent
Tracey Mason
Nina Shaw-Woody

Tie-breaker was collected but not needed, as one ballot was submitted late and - once included - resulted in the Final 6 above.

Tie-breaker ballot results:

- Council of Elders – Dr. Rhonda K. Lewis, Larry Burks Sr., Lilliana Rivera, Holly Osborne, Monique Garcia, Debbie Kennedy, Poncho Bustos, Steve House
- Tracey Mason – Jazmine Rogers, Valerie Leon, Taben Azad, Marquetta Atkins, Ann Marie Arensberg, Dr. April Terry, Mike Fonkert