

Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards

Meeting Summary

Monday, February 14, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

Ronald Reagan Building 3rd Floor Conference Room and Zoom

Taskforce Members In-Person

Larry Burks, Sr.
Lilliana Rivera
Holly Osborne
Valerie Leon
Marquetta Atkins
Jazmine Rogers
Steve House
Lamont Anderson
Dr. Rhonda Lewis
Monique Garcia
Debbie Kennedy
Taben Azad
Tracey Mason, Sr.
Yeni Telles
NaQuela Pack
Nina Shaw-Woody
C. Richard Kirkendoll

Taskforce Members via Zoom

Mike Fonkert
Annmarie Arensberg
Dr. April Terry

Resource Members

- Steven Stonehouse, Kristin Peterman, Hope Cooper, Shantel Westbrook, Lemuel Moore

Welcome/Introductions

- New taskforce members: Tracey Mason, Sr. as a community partner, Nina Shaw-Woody with Kansas Family Advisory Network, C. Richard Kirkendoll with the Greater Wichita Ministerial League, Yeni Telles with International Rescue Committee, NaQuela Pack as a community partner
- Asked Taskforce member Nina Shaw-Woody to represent Foster parent perspective as well on the TF.
- Discussion around adding 18-25 year old with lived experience: young voices and perspectives. Male: Yusef Pressley - Female: Natalie Zarate
- Tested New Electronic Voting Software. The consensus was to add the two new young members with lived experience (See attached ballots at end of document).

Recap from Second Meeting

- Last meeting taskforce heard a presentation from DCF. There were direct questions posed regarding the mental health system and where there are gaps and opportunities as we

move forward. Plan to carve out time and have conversations as a task force to start brainstorming and dumping out ideas/recommendations.

- Discussed letter development
- Minutes from the last meeting are posted on the SC website
- Received a public comment from Dr. Cate Coleman on how to conduct a successful taskforce

DOJ Letter

- Draft of DOJ letter provided by Steve House to taskforce members
- The taskforce is requesting a pattern and practice investigation of all the agencies involved: DCF, WPD, and JIAC
- Questions: Raise the question to the Board of County Commissioners to clarify if the case is being reviewed or if it is an investigation. Can BoCC provide taskforce an update on the status of where all of the groups (DOJ, FBI) are in the process?
- All members will review the draft DOJ letter and bring any final edits to the next meeting for discussion amongst the group. Goal to vote to approve and send the letter at next meeting.

Moderated Panel Discussion – Foster Care and Mental Health

- Panelists: Kristin Peterman with the Kansas Department of Children and Families, Shantel Westbrook and Jennifer Wilson with COMCARE, Mary Ann Smith with DCCCA, Frances Breyne Avery, of Beacon Health Options
- DCCCA provided taskforce with handout information about Family Preservation, Child Placing Agencies, and the regions they serve state-wide.
- DCF provided the taskforce with handouts including the Kansas Prevention Services Track infographic and maps of the Family Preservation in DCF regions and services state-wide, in addition to their Mission statement and what DCF believes/core values document.
- DCF – Kristin P. shared on a wish list of things she would like to see DCF and other entities like our courts, schools, mental health center, and substance abuse agencies collaborate and work to meet and take care of families where they are. A big believer that you have to take care of staff to take care of families.
- Question: The caseload for each of the foster care agencies?
 - Holly Osborne with St. Francis shared that for foster care workers the average caseload is 19 homes with an average of 32 children placed.
 - Valerie Leon with St. Francis shared the average caseload for a case manager is between 25- 31. After 5 week onboarding, a worker gets 5 cases and the caseload builds from there.

- For clarity, case management is children and child-placing agencies are about supporting families. Teams work in dyads – or 2-person teams. Parents have weekly visits with children, worker parent is required to meet monthly.
 - The family can choose sponsoring agency and DCF tries to identify if the home fits that child's needs.
- Recommendation: Suggestion to create a System Map process/workflow map of how DCF works in conjunction with other agencies
- Question: Do we know how many caseworkers, social workers from different agencies are in one home on average? Do families have to deal with several workers from different agencies?
 - Yes – speaks to a robust safety net can have challenges
- Question: What training is available and provided for foster parents and then on the Foster parent side for placements, who are in crisis mental health crisis, especially?
 - Children's Alliance provides ongoing training opportunities and DCCCA also provides training to foster parents
 - Request made for a copy of Trauma-Informed – Deciding Together training – St. Francis will provide information
- Request to breakdown what level of care was Cedric Lofton and what trainings are provided at the level of care for foster parents and what are the policies and protocols currently for a family in crisis.
- COMCARE provides community mental health services and has crisis services that are available to anyone in the community, and has ongoing treatment services for youth
- COMCARE'S local crisis hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and that's 316-660 7500.
- COMCARE also answers calls to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline which will be 988 in July of 2022 right now it's the 1-800-273TALK line.
- The point of the hotline is to provide telephone-based mental health intervention and everybody calling will get a screening and assessed its call takers that are trained to handle crisis specific needs so they're screened and assessed and if there's a level of risk that's pretty significant as far as safety, we have a therapist. The case manager that answers and assesses is Bachelors level. Therapists are there 24 hours a day and are Master's level qualified mental health practitioners to assist and assess as needed.
- Idea is to manage the crisis in the least restrictive setting if possible and avoid arrest and/or hospitalization.
- Question: On average how many phone calls do you get? What is the success rate?
 - 50-65,000 calls per year to COMCARE Crisis – success rate nationally is 80%. Last year COMCARE Crisis did 530 Mobile Crisis responses.
- Question: Are foster families given your {Crisis} contact information and understand how your system works?
 - Mobile Crisis Unit is different from ICT-1 which is a co-responder unit with EMS/LEO that just focuses on mobile crisis only

- Question: What is the average salary of a case manager?
 - 17.82/hr – COMCARE

Agenda for Next Meeting

- The majority voted to move the next meeting from Monday, Feb. 21st in observance of Presidents Day/County Closed to Next Thursday, February 24th at 4:30 pm
- Discussion about adding an extra 30 minutes to the meeting
- Resource members requested to know what questions or materials taskforce members wanted to be prepared in advance for the subsequent meetings to be more efficient with time/no delay gathering materials between meetings
- Next Meeting Agenda Brief: Wrap up DOJ letter, Foster Care/Mental Health Sector Analysis, Recommendations
- Suggestion: Write and/or email the kinds of questions you have for Resource Members to be able to provide that information and prepare in advance

Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards Ballots

Monday, February 14, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

Should the Taskforce Add Two More Members? (Test of Software)

Yeni Telles

Yes

Taben Azad

No

Tracey Mason

Yes

C. Richard Kirkendoll

Yes

Larry Burks, Sr.

Yes

NaQuela Pack

Yes

Holly Osborne

Yes

Nina Shaw-Woody

Yes

Annmarie Arensberg

Yes

Jazmine Rogers

Yes

Dr. Rhonda K. Lewis

Yes

Mike Fonkert

Yes

Dr. April Terry

Yes

Lamont Anderson

Yes

Tally

Yes - 13

No - 1

Final

Yes