

Information provided in response to Task force Inquiry for 2/24/22

## 1. DCF Child Protection Specialist Salary information

There are two child protection specialist classification positions in regional offices responding to presenting situations of alleged child abuse neglect or need for service. The statewide average annually salary of current staff in these positions is \$19.09/hour or \$39,707.20/year. The starting salary for these two positions is below.

- A. Child Protection Specialist without license starting salary: \$38,000
- B. Child Protection Specialist with license starting salary: \$40,000

Governor Kelly recommended an increase in the DCF budget to increase the salary of the DCF position group of protection specialists and supervisors up to 12.5% for the employee not to exceed the market rate salary for protective services work. Depending on the current salary of the protection specialist (position group) employee, their increase might be anywhere from 2.5% to 12.5% to get them closer to the market rate.

## 2. Standards and Quality Assurance for DCF foster care case management agencies

Focus: **work alongside families whose children are in the custody of the Secretary and who are placed outside of the home.** Services provided include, but are not limited to, the following:

- collaborate, assess, access and evaluate services to address the needs of the children and families.
- case planning coordination and support to the child's family.
- placement related tasks.
- life skills engagement for youth.
- ongoing formal and informal assessments to determine safety and risk, and family reintegration services.

- a. Foster Care Case Management Agencies are awarded grants through a competitive applications process. Current awards begin October 2019 and are in effect until June 2023 with an option for 2 additional 2-year renewals.
- b. Quality Assurance
  - i. Foster Care has 15 data child and family outcomes (many federal) monitored for performance and we report those on the DCF website. [Foster Care\Adoption Case Management Contract Performance Outcomes - Prevention and Protection Services \(ks.gov\)](#)
  - ii. Case read reviews conducted for quality performance. Performance improvement plans are developed and monitored as needed.
  - iii. Standards of service are contained in our grant documents, policy and procedure manual [Policies - Prevention and Protection Services \(ks.gov\)](#) and

Placement Services standards manual [Placement Standards July 2021.pdf \(ks.gov\)](#)

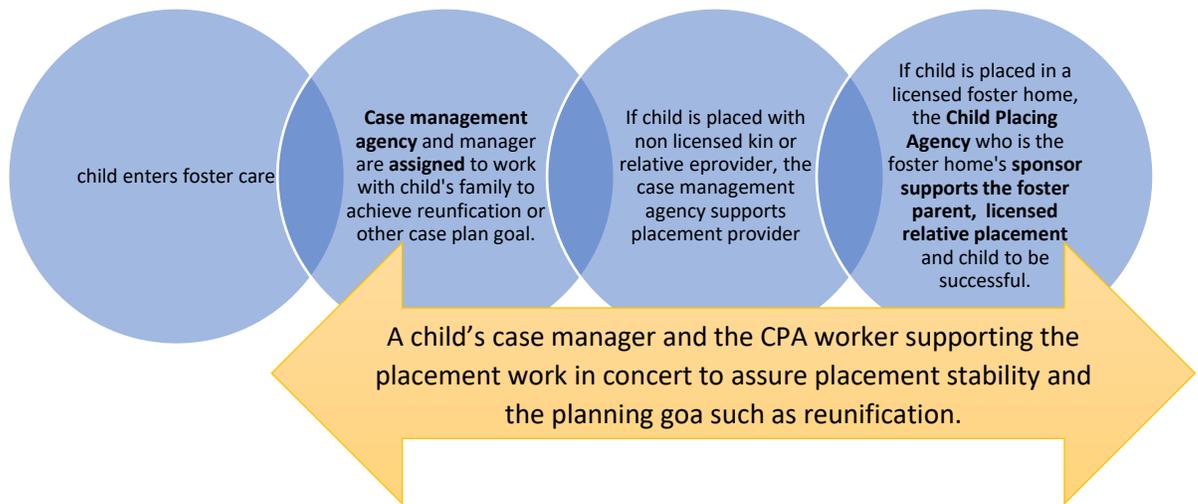
- iv. The grants have provisions of penalties and incentives related to progress with grant outcomes.
- v. More information on DCF quality assurance procedures is located at in Section 8000, Continuous Performance Improvement [CFS PPM2 \(ks.gov\)](#)

**3. Standards for Child Placing Agencies: regulations are located at [CPA regulations](#)**

*Child Placing Agencies (CPA)* are those associations, organizations, or corporations **receiving, caring for, or finding foster homes for children in the custody of the Secretary of DCF.** Those foster homes are family homes where twenty-four (24) hour care is provided to children/youth in need of out-of-home placement. Services provided by the CPAs include but are not limited to the following:

- recruitment of families targeted to serve the need of children in care
- assessment and preparation of families prior to receiving placements
- ensure sponsored families receive support services and ongoing training
- maintaining current information on sponsored family foster homes in the State of Kansas Placement Matching System.

4. Requested Asset Map. The final page describes the DCF service track for prevention services. When the safety decision for a child is to enter foster care, the illustration below reflects relationships of professional partner agency roles alongside children and families. Foster Care Case Management / CPA Map:



Prevention Service Track (previously provided 2/14 to the Taskforce)

# KANSAS PREVENTION SERVICES TRACK



A report is made to Kansas Protection Report Center (KPRC). An intake protection specialist uses Structured Decision Making (SDM) to determine the assignment of the report.



The report is sent to a DCF Regional Service Center if it meets any criteria of abuse/neglect or family in need of assessment (FINA).



The report is assigned to a Child Protection Specialist (CPS) to visit and assess family.



The CPS and family work together to find services that promote family well-being and/or child safety to keep families together.

## SERVICE TRACK

RISK LEVEL: NOT REQUIRED

### COMMUNITY-BASED PROVIDERS

Any family can be connected to community-based providers and there is no risk level requirement. Unique to each community and offering a range of services, these providers share the common vision of helping families facing challenges achieve positive outcomes.

To locate community-based providers and services in your area, contact your local DCF service center or visit <https://1800childrenks.org>.

RISK LEVEL: AT-RISK OF REMOVAL

### FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES

Child is at risk of removal. Evidence-based services are unique to counties and can be selected to best suit a family's individual needs in mental health, substance use disorder, parent skill building and kinship navigator programs. DCF CPS must fill out a Prevention Plan and make referral to the Family First provider.

#### Mental Health

West	4 providers
Wichita	4 providers
East	2 providers
Kansas City	2 providers

#### Substance Use Disorder

West	1 provider
Wichita	1 provider
East	2 providers
Kansas City	X

#### Kinship Navigator

West	1 provider
Wichita	1 provider
East	1 provider
Kansas City	1 provider

#### Parent Skill Building

West	4 providers
Wichita	2 providers
East	3 providers
Kansas City	4 providers

See regional service menus for provider info at <http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Pages/FFPSA.aspx>

RISK LEVEL: AT-RISK OF REMOVAL

### FAMILY PRESERVATION

Child is at risk of removal. Services provided to protect child and strengthen family. 24/7 access to staff. Family Preservation providers perform case management for families. Available statewide.

See more info on Family Preservation at: <http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/pps/Pages/ServicestoPreserveFamilies.aspx>

**Tier 1**  
Intensive services provided by master's level practitioners to mitigate immediate child safety concerns and stabilize family crisis. Services up to 6 weeks, 1 additional referral may occur.

**Tier 2**  
Case Manager and Family Support Worker provide case management and will assess family. A Tier 1 family may transition up to Tier 2. Services are 3-6 months.

RISK LEVEL: HIGH-RISK OF REMOVAL TEAM DECISION MAKING



Team Decision Making (TDM) is a facilitated meeting in which child welfare agencies invite families and their supporters and other community organizations to work together to make informed decisions about a child's safety.