

# Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards

Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 4:30 pm

---

## Taskforce Members In-Person

Larry Burks, Sr.
Lilliana Rivera
Jazmine Rogers
Lamont Anderson
Taben Azad
Monique Garcia
Steve House
Debbie Kennedy
Holly Osborne
Valerie Leon
Tracey Mason, Sr.
Naquela Pack
Yusef Pressley

## Taskforce Members via Zoom

Mike Fonkert
Dr. April Terry
Annmarie Arensberg
Yeni Telles
Natalie Zarate

## Resource Members

- Kristin Peterman – Via Zoom
- Hope Cooper – Via Zoom
- Steven Stonehouse
- Lemuel Moore
- Shantel Westbrook

Purpose of the Task Force: To review and recommend preferred system improvements after the incident and death of Cedric Lofton

The goal of the Task Force: Develop recommendations for improvements and changes to the existing system standards and performance of Department of Children and Families (DCF), law enforcement, and youth corrections programs

## Welcome/Introductions

- New taskforce members representing youth perspectives and voice introduced themselves: Yusef Pressley with Progeny - and Natalie Zarate with KS Appleseed.
- Yusef shared he wants to achieve a different result than what happened to Cedric. Natalie shared she wants to change perspective of workers at facilities through her work with the taskforce

## DOJ Letter

- Taskforce discussed letter draft and recommended final edits, which included changing mental health disabilities to mental health issues, adding new members' names and

removing name duplication from letter, included DCF, JIAC, and law enforcement in letter as well as adding the hope of the taskforce to conclude the letter.

- Revised final draft will be reviewed by taskforce Monday, Feb. 28th for distribution
- Copy of submitted letter to be sent to BoCC

## **Recommendations**

### **1**

- Clarify roles between CPA and Case Manager. Who is responsible for the child? (DCF)
- Who was advocating for the child during the crisis?
- How can we improve our foster care system from multiple transfers from home/family to home/family?
  - Placement Stability
  - Better Case Management
  - Look for good fit/compatibility
  - Need of care should not be only/main qualifier
  - Evaluation of what families are willing to work through relative to behavior, mental health
  - What is family willing to invest?

### **2**

- We must fully fund programs before kids get to foster care.
  - Behavior
  - Alcohol
  - Support of family in the home
  - IDD Services
- COMCARE needs additional funding
- How do we create/provide resources to the family (similar to foster family) to prevent child from going to Foster Care system. Also, before courts are involved (DCF, Law Enforcement)
- Create programs and ensure family has knowledge to respond in crisis.
- \*Ensure meeting with family happens with COMCARE before emergency, prior to accepting youth (e.g., like CPR)

### **3**

- \*Ensure COMCARE can keep staff, competitive compensation; reduce wait time for services for youth.
- \*Legislative Agenda
  - look at certification requirements that exist as a barrier to the workforce (social work)
- When do we raise the flag when a child is placed in foster care homes multiple times? 2nd, 3rd occurrence, etc.
- Are there standards/criteria for a child to be discharged from a home?

### **4**

- What is the process/criteria for placing youth?
  - Separating siblings
  - Moving to a home out of community
- Foster families are not equipped sometimes to handle behaviors so sometimes we have to place in other homes
- Team Decision Making Meetings
- Exit interviews when a child is moved from one home to another
- Does the child have access to someone to advocate for them when there are issues in the home?

5

- Look at licensing requirements to address barriers to number of siblings in at-home or ages of children requirements?
- Foster Care Training for family
- \*Legislative Agenda - State Mental Health Hospital (support for 2022 platform)
- \*KDAD provides oversight for plans for youth in crisis.
- How do we develop a roadmap for families to know where to start, go when in need of service?

6

- Identify services that are meaningful to youth to ensure they will engage.
- What other system recommendation have been developed to date?
  - City, County, State, Community
  - Transition Planning
  - Youth age out
  - What services are lost?
  - Response for runaways  
(ASK: DCF will send policies)
- \*How disconnect occurred during 911 call?

7

- \*Child Advocate in Topeka appointed by the Governor
- Invest in Mental Health/Mindfulness Coaches
- Mobile Crisis Support
  - Increase support, availability □ Mobile Crisis Unit (Crisis Center)
  - Expand hours, workforce
  - Additional support, competitive compensation, talent pipelines
- Offer scholarships to students to help grow workforce (social workers)
- ICT1 (4 days a week)
- Support for professionals in the field
- Creating an ecosystem that identifies community resources, advocates, champions, coaches, etc. - link them to DCF, COMCARE, Law Enforcement

8

- Cultural Competency a part of the programming design. Finding ways to align to grassroots programs/organizations
  - -DCF standards for placement
  - -DCF tracking, develop a baseline, set goals, define success/failure
  - -Increase money for employees, rapid response, early interventions
  - -Grant for students who are in their practicum
- Policy: What happens when a child/family contact made, when?
- Funeral expenses
  - Child's file (case file) - is it made available to family?

9

- Policy after a youth ages out?
  - Apartment
  - Jobs
  - College
  - Community support
 (DCF will provide policies)

**Next Meeting:** Monday, February 28th at 4:30 pm

- Discussion Taskforce Process Schedule and Flow

**Next Meeting Agenda Brief:**

-Final DOJ letter review  
 -911  
 -Wichita Police Department  
 Department of Corrections/JIAC