

Community Task Force

DRAFT List of Proposed Changes to System-Level Policies, Procedures

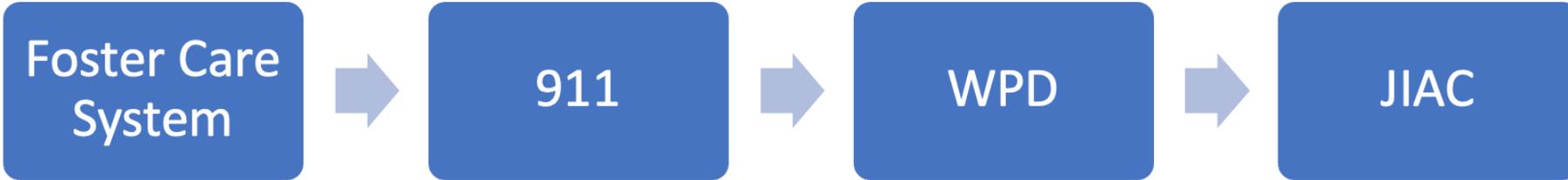
Purpose of the Task Force: To review and recommend preferred system improvements after the incident and death of Cedric Lofton

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

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Timeline

March 28	Foster Care and 911 Recommendations
April 4	WPD and JIAC Recommendations
April 11	WPD, JIAC and Legislative Agenda Items
April 18	Review of DRAFT Recommendations
April 25	Final review of report



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Foster Care System – NEW ADDITIONS

1. That the language from DCF clearly states that both the Child Placing Agency and the Case Management Provider are responsible for the foster children in their care. I do not agree that the Child Placing Agency is only responsible for the family. I believe that this created a gap in service concerning Cedric Lofton.
2. DCF – Assess satisfaction of past and current families in Family First and Family preservation programs.
3. Assess top causes for high risk of removal - What is the need? Fund that.

Foster Care and Mental Health Systems Recommendations

4. Ensure foster families have knowledge and training on how to respond to a mental health crisis/Provide specialized training for foster parents
5. Ask DCF to develop a roadmap for families to guide parents/caregivers on how to access services and support
6. Develop programs and services that are culturally relevant and meaningful to youth
 - a. I believe in addition to being culturally-sensitive/aware, we should also suggest being gender-responsive and trauma-informed. We say “culture” in many places—I would encourage the addition of the gender and trauma/developmental training be added in all places.

Foster Care and Mental Health Systems Recommendations

7. Ask DCF and child placement agencies to invest in mental health and mindfulness coaches
8. Require DCF to track cases, establish a baseline, set goals and metrics to measure success/failures

2022 Legislative Update from Mike Fonkert

9. On the child welfare front, **SB 12** (requiring the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) to develop an implementation plan for a set of performance-based contracts to provide an array of evidence-based prevention and early intervention services) received a hearing on March 8 in the House Committee on Children and Seniors. SB 12 passed the Senate unanimously on February 17. We support this bill for both its content and for the conversation it continues about accountability for entities that contract with DCF.
10. This week, **HB 2468** and **HB 2469**, respectively establishing the foster youth and foster parent bill of rights, will also receive a hearing in the House Committee on Children and Seniors. The hearing will be at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16.

Foster Care System Recommendations

11. Support changes to foster care system that prevents a youth from experiencing multiple transfers from one foster home to another
12. Evaluate licensing requirements for foster care homes and address barriers for number of siblings in a home, ages of children, etc.
13. Fully fund programs before youth are placed in the foster care system, including IDD, support for families in the home, behavior programs, substance abuse programs

Foster Care System Recommendations

14. Support an eco-system that connects community resources, grassroots organizations, advocates, coaches, champions and others with DCF, Law Enforcement, COMCARE, etc.
 - a. If we use non-professionals to respond to a Mental Health Crisis they would need to be vetted, and trained in trauma-informed techniques.

Foster Care System Recommendations

15. Support for family services that prevent youth from entering the foster care system

9-1-1 System – NEW ADDITIONS

1. If we use non-professionals to respond to a Mental Health Crisis they would need to be vetted, and trained in trauma-informed techniques.

9-1-1 Recommendations

2. Embed social workers at 9-1-1
 - Austin, TX model
 - Colorado model
3. Support changes that allow a more robust response to calls
 - If ICT One was expanded, could be deployed by 9-1-1 (see mental health recommendations)

9-1-1 Recommendations

4. Ensure 911 has training to better screen callers, then pass to COMCARE
 - Will take more funding so there are resources to diffuse/de-escalate and gather information
5. Establish a community advisory board to represent the communities 911 serves
6. Address the high turnover rates at 911 by continuing to improve pay; improve diversity in recruitment for 911 staff

Mental Health

1. Support additional funding for COMCARE to attract and retain talent, offer competitive wages, reduce wait times for youth services, increase mobile crisis support
2. Increase funding for ICT1 to allow for more service hours
3. Provide support for more mental health professionals (workforce), such as scholarships and grants for social workers
 - I would suggest not limiting this to social workers, only. I assume this is due to required state licensure but master's level psychologists (and above), also holds licenses. I know we aren't supposed to critique the wording/language but I want to suggest thinking outside of social work on this bullet (and others).
4. Support the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition legislative agenda, including Workforce and a Regional Mental Health Hospital
5. Expand Mobile Mental Health response teams
 - ICT One
 - COMCARE's Mobile Crisis Team
 - Community Support Specialists at WPD (2 of 4 requested were funded)