

Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards

Monday, April 18, 2022 at 4:30 pm

Taskforce Members In-Person

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| Marquetta Atkins |
| Pastor C. Kirkendoll |
| NaQuela Pack |
| Valerie Leon |
| Rhonda Lewis |
| Monique Garcia |
| Debbie Kennedy |
| Steve House |
| Tracey Mason, Sr. |
| Yeni Telles |
| Larry Burks |
| Taben Azad |
| Yusef Presley |
| Liliana Rivera |

Taskforce Members via Zoom

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| Nina Shaw-Woody |
| April Terry |
| Holly Osborne |
| Lamont Anderson |
| Mike Fonkert |
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Resource Members

- Kristin Peterman – Via Zoom
- Hope Cooper – Via Zoom
- Steven Stonehouse
- Paul Duff
- Elora Forshee
- Shantel Westbrook

Purpose of the Taskforce: 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

Today: Complete recommendations for Youth Corrections/JIAC, including mental health and training recommendations

Review and Prioritization 911 Recommendation

1. Develop an uninterrupted, 24/7 mobile mental health response system that can be dispatched by 9-1-1 through a combination of the following –
 - 1 a. Increasing funding for COMCARE mobile response team to increase availability
 - 1.b. Increasing funding for ICT One, so they can be available 24/7
 - 1.c. Developing and implementing a new crisis response model that does not include law enforcement, using findings from the Youth Mobile Response Services report, and model programs, such as the CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) program in Eugene, Oregon.
 - Telles asks, what is the difference between 1A and 1C
 - 1A is to increase funding for COMCARE mobile response team
 - 1C is actually developing a completely new model/mobile response team that does not include law enforcement.
 - Fonkert suggests clarifying that 1C does not exclude interfacing with law enforcement and developing program as a specific Sedgwick County asset
2. Embed social workers at 9-1-1
 - Austin, TX model
 - Colorado model
 - Telles raises concern about shortage of social workers
 - Terry suggests using the term “qualified mental health provider”
3. Identify and implement additional training for 911 employees to better screen callers, then pass to COMCARE or appropriate resource to address needs of emergency
 - Pack suggests having 1-2 trained 911 employees per shift
 - Elora Forshee states she has asked for, in the 2023 budget request, a comprehensive continuing education trainer
 - We have already started the communication with COMCARE of how do we better screen people that don't need law enforcement, that can go over to a crisis worker because they are 24/7
 - 2023 is reasonable deadline considering budget
4. Establish a community advisory board to represent the communities 911 serves
 - Pack recommends conflicts of interest should be disclosed
 - Forshee states, the community advisory board was added to the 911 strategic plan after meeting with Taskforce. They are currently working on the bylaws and conflicts of interest. Will be added end of year/December 2022
 - Taskforce members to be of very diverse makeup
5. Address the high turnover rates at 911 by continuing to improve pay; improve diversity in recruitment for 911 staff

Taskforce will submit all five 911 recommendations.

- Attention called to list of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition's legislative recommendations
- Clarified that all Taskforce recommendations will remain on list, but Taskforce will prioritize top five to provide some direction

Recommendation Prioritization WPD and JIAC

- Mason requested clarity on requiring CIT for all law enforcement officers between their third and fifth year in the field
 - Duff states, WPD has callout status for CIT officers if officer is available
 - WPD tries to disburse the CIT-trained officers
 - Every officer coming out of academy receives mental health training of sort; they do not go into the street without any mental health training
 - Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), is a more extensive training that requires 40 hours - a whole week of the streets to get that additional training
- Mason would like to see a higher percentage of WPD with CIT
- Lewis asks, is there a middle ground? Not necessarily requiring CIT, but some training by working with community-based organizations like NAMI
 - Duff states, CIT is not a magic bullet. In addition to mental health training WPD is exploring other resources too
 - Duff likes the idea of mini trainings in 3-4 hour blocks and partnering with the community
- Mason asked, how much training is received in de-escalation
 - Duff states, de-escalation is a part of entire police philosophy
 - Ingrained in not just the academy, but also moving forward in continuous mandatory training
 - WPD increased hostage negotiators from three to 14-15
- Shaw-Woody suggests language be updated to say hiring three full time and three part time mental health professionals to be available every shift, every day
- Telles recommends language be more inclusive for qualified mental health professionals
- **Top 5 recommendations for WPD**
 - Increasing funding for COMCARE mobile mental health unit and ICT One, so they can be available 24/7 and dispatched by 9-1-1 as a resource that serves the community and developing new crisis mental health model. - 12 votes
 - Developing and implementing **standardized training** for law enforcement, JIAC and JDF personnel, to include topics on mental health first aid, adolescent brain development and de-stigmatization of mental health, as well as when and under what circumstances a youth can and should be taken to Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph, as opposed to JIAC. [*Cross-reference same recommendation for Foster Care, JIAC*] - 11 votes
 - Creating an **eco-system** in Wichita and Sedgwick County that provides a tightly engaged network of collaborators between the systems that intersect with foster youth who might be facing a mental health crisis, and the grassroots agencies in

the community that can fill in the gaps for these youth. The agencies include DCF, Law Enforcement, COMCARE, JIAC and JDF. Grassroots organizations include advocates, coaches, champions, and others. Organizations and individuals elected to be a part of the eco-system will be required to attend FREE training provided by the city/county that would cover topics such as: crisis intervention, de-escalation, mental health first aid and other training as identified by the organization.

1.a. Creating a **centralized database** at the Wichita Police Department that fosters transparency in the collaborations that exist between WPD and the community. The database will provide easy access for law enforcement, as well as a mechanism for other grassroot organizations to be added to the resource list for future collaborations. – 10 votes

- Pack recommends by 2023 as a reasonable timeline for progress on database
- The Wichita Police Department will continually engage in **authentic dialogue** to eliminate barriers, address biases and build trust with marginalized groups throughout the community. This engagement will occur through attending/partnering in community events, attending neighborhood and community organization meetings, as well as hosting community forums.
- Hiring a **full-time mental health professional** (psychiatrist or psychologist) to be on staff to support WPD employees. Supporting employees with their mental health has a direct impact on how employees show up and serve Wichita’s diverse community.

Recommendation Prioritization JIAC

- Item number one can be stricken from the list of items to prioritize because it is the exact same recommendation from WPD.

• Top 5 recommendations for JIAC

1. By July 1, 2022, updating JIAC Policy 8.810 – **Use of Force**, so that it states:
 - Once youth is secured in a cell, instead of holding him/her down in the prone position, close the cell and allow the youth to calm down *[Need to check federal regulations to see if this is already in place]*
 - Do not use any position that covers the youth’s chest
 - Only allow the prone position to be used to cuff and sit, cuff and stand
 - One staff person is responsible for video/audio recording any incidents of restraint, keeping time to ensure a youth is sitting or standing immediately after cuffing/restraining, and the youth is in overall good health and wellbeing. This person would also be observing employees and in charge of “tapping out” anyone who appears to have reached his or her physical, mental, or emotional limit when working with a youth. This person should never assist in restraining the youth. *[KJCC has a program that could be used as a model.]*

2. The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) revise its budget requirements to allow for mental health to be a core service for KDOC, so that it is not dependent on grant funds for mental health programs at the local level.
 3. Requiring a nursing staff person to be present at JIAC/Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) 24/7.
 4. Establishing a long-term goal for the Kansas Department of Corrections to develop and implement a strategy that moves juvenile justice systems to a restorative justice system. [Hope Cooper can provide clarifying language.]
 5. Supporting the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition legislative agenda to increase the number of mental health professionals in Sedgwick County.
- Cooper states KDOC provides grants to the local counties and we provide grants to community providers, but do not fund mental health. There is a state agency that funds mental health. If an entity has a program that meets that serves the juvenile justice population and they partner with local mental health, that's something, KDOC funds, but do not have a line item. The Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee has a line item that is generically called mental health, which they fund and it would be through grants and or providing money for services for mental health that KDOC would not oversee.
 - Anderson asks what your budget looks like for mental health in the JIAC facility.
 - Stonehouse responds for JIAC this year the budget is zero. Next year it is \$175,000 and JDF is about \$300,000.
 - Anderson recommends asking Sedgwick County to enhance the budget by adding or increasing the funding for mental health as core services to cover both JIAC and JDF.
 - With this consistent funding JIAC/JDF would be able to use the fund dollars in a way that makes the most sense for how kids are entering in and out of either one of the systems

Next steps

- Get all recommendations into one document that will show all the recommendations for all the systems. Will put the five that the taskforce identified as the top five recommendations for each system at the top and the rest following
- The goal and the intent behind prioritizing each one of the systems is to provide some direction and have as much impact and change on the system Task Force trying to make
- Will have a final report to review before next Monday's final session.
- The final report will come from Taskforce to Sedgwick County and Sedgwick County will have the responsibility of disseminating this to all of the other organizations that we have been talking about through this process so that's what next week looks like.
- Mason asks for the number of police officers that are over three to five years

- Duff states WPD has around 650 commissioned police officers and about 400 - 450 are in the field and can be anywhere from 10 to 20% less than that, due to staffing issues
- Mason states that there needs to be more police officers in the WPD that have gone through CIT training
 - Call to verify the total number of police officers, regardless of where they are in, whether they are an officer a supervisor, to understand how many officers are CIT trained
 - Duff states the numbers are 131 CIT trained officers in WPD total – 24 are ranked sergeants and above
- **Next week**
 - April 25 – Final review of recommendations