



COMMUNITY TASKFORCE To Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards

Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight

November 28, 2022

Cedric Lofton and The Community Taskforce

- Cedric Lofton was placed in foster care by way of a child in need of care petition; Junction City, Geary County, Kansas
- At age 17, was placed in Wichita December 2020
- Law enforcement delivered Cedric Lofton to the Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center on September 24, 2021 at 2:44 AM as an arrestee for several counts of Battery of LEOs
- At 5:12 AM, after an extended struggle and restraint, JIAC staff checked Cedric's breathing and pulse, didn't detect either and initiated CPR
- Cedric Lofton was transported to the hospital and subsequently died on September 26, 2021
- The Sheriff and Kansas Bureau of Investigation initiated an investigation on the morning of September 24.
- January 18, 2022, District Attorney, 18th Judicial District released a report on the investigation and review of Cedric Lofton's death
- January 18, Sedgwick County announced the intent to form a Community Taskforce to review and recommend preferred system improvements
- Taskforce's first meeting occurred February 3, 2022

Taskforce members:

1. Larry Burks, Sr., NAACP – Wichita Branch
2. Lilliana Rivera, NAACP – Wichita Branch
3. Mike Fonkert, Kansas Appleseed
4. Holly Osborne/Valerie Leon, St. Francis Ministries
5. Marquette Atkins, Destination Innovation
6. Jazmine Rogers, Progeny
7. Dr. April Terry, Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
8. Steve House, Juvenile Defense Counsel
9. Poncho Bustos, USD 259
10. Annmarie Arensberg, KVC Hospital Wichita
11. Debbie Kennedy, Wichita Children’s Home
12. Taben Azad, Wichita Asian Association
13. Pastor C. Richard Kirkendoll, Greater Wichita Ministerial League
14. Nina Shaw-Woody, Kansas Family Advisory Network
15. Yeni Telles, Sunflower Community Action
16. Lamont Anderson, Community Partner
17. Dr. Rhonda Lewis, Community Partner
18. Monique Garcia, Community Partner
19. Tracey Mason, Community Partner
20. Naquela Pack, Community Partner
21. Yusef Presley, Community Partner
22. Natalie Zarate, Community Partner

Work of the Taskforce

- The Taskforce met thirteen times (90 minutes); Feb 3 – Apr 25
 - Purpose: The Community Taskforce was established to review and recommend preferred system improvements after the death of Cedric Lofton
 - Goal: Develop recommendations for improvements and changes to the existing system standards and performance of -Department of Children & Families (DCF) -Law enforcement - Youth corrections programs
- All meetings are open to public and media
- All meetings are audio/video recorded
- Minutes were taken and summary reports issued
- Community email box set up to receive on-line community input
- Web page established to post all documentation: [Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards | Sedgwick County, Kansas](#)

Work of the Taskforce

- Taskforce voted to add members
 - Tracey Mason, Sr. as a community partner
 - Nina Shaw-Woody with Kansas Family Advisory Network
 - Asked Nina Shaw-Woody to represent Foster parent perspective on the TF
 - C. Richard Kirkendoll with the Greater Wichita Ministerial League
 - Yeni Telles with International Rescue Committee
 - NaQuela Pack as a community partner
 - Added 18-25 year old with lived experience: young voices and perspectives.
 - Male: Yusef Pressley with Progeny
 - Female: Natalie Zarate with KS Appleseed
- Taskforce voted to submit letter to Department of Justice
 - Request for pattern and practice investigation
 - Forwarded to DoJ March 2, 2022

Sessions

- Feb 7 Progeny report presentation: “From Harm to Healing: The Blueprint to Healthier Outcomes for Kansas Youth”
- Feb 7 Roles and responsibilities of Kansas Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- Feb 14 Moderated Panel Discussion
 - Foster Care and Mental Health
 - DCF, DCCCA, St. Francis Ministries, Beacon Health Options and COMCARE
- Feb 24 Discussed recommendations for
 - Foster Care
 - Mental Health
- Feb 28 Moderated discussion with Wichita Police Department
- Feb 28 Moderated discussion with Sedgwick County Emergency Communications (911)

Sessions

- Mar 7 Review of WPD and 911 questions
- Mar 7 Moderated discussion with Sedgwick County Department of Correction and Kansas Department of Corrections
- Mar 14 Continued moderated discussion with SCDoC and KDOC
- Mar 21 Moderated discussion with Robyn Chadwick, President, Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph Hospital
 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition member, also
- Mar 21 Moderated discussion with District Attorney Marc Bennett
- Mar 28 Discussion on
 - Foster Care Recommendations
 - Mental Health Systems Recommendations

Sessions

- Apr 4 Discussion on
 - Foster Care and Mental Health Systems Recommendations
 - Wichita Police Department Recommendations
 - JIAC Recommendations
- Apr 11 Discussion on
 - JIAC Recommendations
 - Mental Health Recommendations
 - Training Recommendations
- Apr 18 Review and Prioritization of
 - Emergency Communications (911) recommendations
 - Wichita Police Department Recommendations
 - JIAC Recommendations
- Apr 25 Review, Adjust Final Recommendations
 - Final recommendation approved by Taskforce vote
- Apr 26 Final Recommendation Report published

Sessions

- Aug 29 Taskforce first progress report meeting
 - Department of Children and Families
 - COMCARE
 - Emergency Communications
 - Wichita Police Department
 - Sedgwick County Department of Corrections
 - Kansas Department of Corrections
- Dec 6 Next Taskforce progress report meeting

Task Force Recommendations

- 58 Recommendations for system changes and improvements
 - 14 Foster Care
 - 5 Emergency Communications 911
 - 14 Wichita Police Department
 - 25 Youth Corrections
- Status
 - 26 Implemented
 - 26 In-progress
 - 6 Pending
- Dashboard: [Community Taskforce Dashboard \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

Emphasis

- Early Intervention, Prevention, Family Support (in lieu of foster care)
- Community Involvement / Grassroots Inclusion
- Legislation: 2022 Session HB2468, HB2469, SB12, & Post Audit of Stand Your Ground Law
- Standardization
 - Training
 - Cultural relevance, gender and trauma informed programming
 - Mental health first aid, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)
 - Implicit Bias
 - Policy and Procedures
 - Multi-discipline collaboration/commonalities
- Workforce / Wellness
 - Adequate funding and staffing – caseload quality, resource availability, resource utilization...
- Mental Health resources
 - Mobile crisis response
 - 911 embedded Qualified Mental Health Worker
 - Community Support Specialists expanded
 - 24/7 on-call mental health support for foster families
 - In-house medical and mental health care at JDF/JIAC
- Crossover Youth Practice model expansion, Restorative Justice system implementation, Strengthen Individual Justice Plan (IJP) process

Thank You to the Community Taskforce
Members, and for community input!

