

# Community Task Force

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

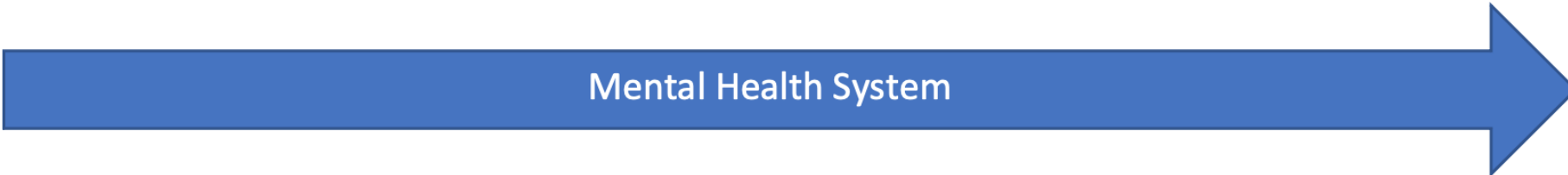
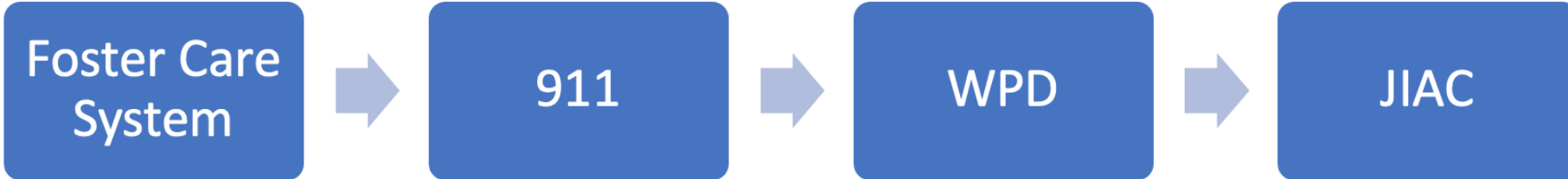
***Purpose of the Task Force:*** To review and recommend preferred system improvements after the incident and death of Cedric Lofton

***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 – Part 1  |
| April 11 | JIAC Recommendations – Part 2  |
| April 18 | 9-1-1 Recommendations; Review of comprehensive list of recommendations for WPD and KDOC/JIAC/JDF |
| April 25 | Final review of recommendations  |



# 9-1-1 System

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.

# 9-1-1 System

2. Embed social workers at 9-1-1
  - Austin, TX model
  - Colorado model
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
4. Establish a community advisory board to represent the communities 911 serves
5. Address the high turnover rates at 911 by continuing to improve pay; improve diversity in recruitment for 911 staff

Overall Mental Health

Support Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition [recommendations](#) as reported to an enbanc meeting of the Wichita City Council and Sedgwick County Commission on February 16, 2022.

Following are examples from those recommendations that relate to short-term priorities similar to those discussed by the Community Task Force.

- **Workforce:** Develop and implement a collective, innovative, and forceful initiative to address the significant staffing shortages
- Provide funding to hire **two additional licensed counselors** for The Substance Abuse Center of Kansas.
- **Jail Re-entry Specialists:** Hire a civilian case worker who would oversee the re-entry program and perform case management duties as well as enlisting other service providers who would provide services and develop post release plans including case management services, identification acquisition, housing, job training, anger management, AA/NA, parenting training, employment, etc.
- Determine an effective way to expand the **co-responder model** with the Wichita Police Department, Sedgwick County EMS, COMCARE
- Fund **community navigator positions** to help provide personal guidance for those in need. These navigators should be familiar with a variety of service providers in the Wichita/Sedgwick County area and provide guidance for those seeking help by getting them to the best provider as quickly as possible. A pilot effort should be tested and then expanded as evaluated.
- Support a **Social Service Hub/Campus** - Work with local nonprofits, residents, community partners and the business community to develop a master plan that would provide a campus or hub where mental health and substance abuse services – and supportive resources – would be available to those in need.
- **Suggestion from Task Force:** Develop and implement a MOU between St. Joe and WPD to ensure that there is clear understanding of St. Joe's policy when it comes to treating youth who are experiencing a mental health crisis.



In addition, the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition identified the following statewide policy recommendations for the 2022 Legislature.

- To support **the MHSA Coalition legislative agenda for 2022**. These eight policy requests support a critical upstream approach to addressing the needs in this community in the most proactive and cost-effective way.
  - **Workforce**
    - Expand the use of SPARK money to retain behavioral health professionals
    - Develop a loan repayment program for BH professionals
    - Develop a tax credit program for BH professionals
    - Institute in state tuition for students who study behavioral health and practice in Kansas
  - **Medicaid rate**
    - Increase the Medicaid rate for all in-patient and out-patient behavioral health services by 10%
  - **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**
    - Fully Fund 988 – Support HB2281
  - **Crisis Stabilization Centers**
    - Fully fund established crisis stabilization centers
  - **Ease wait times for state hospital beds**
    - Long Term
      - Build a regional hospital in the Wichita area to include:
        - 25 Involuntary Beds
        - 10 Competency Beds
        - 15 Restoration Beds
    - Build a Resource Center
    - Short Term
      - Provide solutions to ease the wait times for state hospital beds.
      - Fund state mobile units
      - Provide state staffing that would complete competency evaluations inside of the Sedgwick County jail. (Office space would be provided.)
  - **Expand Medicaid**
    - Approve Medicaid expansion or fund the gap
  - **Telemedicine**
    - Continue telemedicine reimbursement rate at the in-person rate post-Pandemic
  - **Consider recommendations from the State of Kansas Mental Health Taskforce and the Kansas Criminal Justice Reform Commission**