

**Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards
18-Month Update Meeting Summary**

October 24, 2023

The Ruffin Building, 6th Floor Conference Room

Taskforce Members In-Person	Taskforce Members on Zoom
Lamont Anderson	Larry Burks, Sr.
Marquetta Atkins	Valerie Leon
Debbie Kennedy	Dr. Rhonda K. Lewis
Yusef Presley	Coach Tracey Mason
Jazmine Rogers	NaQuela Pack

Resource Members

- Steven Stonehouse, Sedgwick County Department of Corrections
- Captain Jason Cooley, Wichita Police Department
- Deputy Chief Dan East, Wichita Police Department
- Sergeant Erik Guzman, Wichita Police Department
- Sergeant Kenneth Kimble, Wichita Police Department
- Elora Forshee, 911 Emergency Communications
- Jennifer Wilson, COMCARE
- Malachi Winters, COMCARE
- Dee Nighswonger, Kansas Department of Children and Families
- Kristin Peterman, Kansas Department of Children and Families
- Russell Leeds, County Manager’s Office

Greeting and Welcome

Commissioner Sarah Lopez

Commissioner Lopez thanked everyone for being here and shared that Sedgwick County has seen changes happening since last meeting that she is excited for people to hear about.

Department of Corrections Update

Steven Stonehouse, Sedgwick County Department of Corrections

- Individualized Justice Plans (IJPs)
 - Crisis intervention plans for youth with mental health concerns or developmental disabilities
 - Training to roll out in January 2024 with WSU
- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to add audio capabilities to camera system at Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF)
 - Building is a hard building; sound engineers not optimistic about sound quality
 - Supervisors and JIAC staff are now wearing Axon body cameras
 - Axon body cameras have better reception and provide audio of interactions to supplement building camera footage
- Implicit bias training

- Continue training for all new staff, line staff, supervisory staff through WSU
- Forming DEI committee
- House Bill 2021 (KS Legislature)
 - Every youth admitted to JDF must have assessment, case management, and services provided beginning in January 2024
 - Partnering with COMCARE and 7th Direction
 - Six-month grant to cover January 2024-June 2024
- Juvenile Community Services building
 - Approved by Board of County Commissioners as a part of 2024 budget process
 - All juvenile services located in same 2-story building
 - Planning will ensure that alternatives to detention are designed with kids in mind

Questions from Taskforce Members about Department of Corrections

- Larry Burks, Sr. asked about department policies and procedures for body cameras.
 - Steven said that the same policies and procedures used for the pilot program will be carried forward when the program becomes permanent.
 - Jazmine Rogers asked for clarification on what the trial period procedures are.
 - Steven explained that when responding to a Code Red or Code Yellow, a supervisor must turn on their camera. The camera shows 30 seconds prior to when it was turned on and remains on throughout the incident.
 - Steven shared that it is useful for training by allowing immediate debriefs.
- Coach Tracey Mason asked if there will be competent mental health evaluations in which no one can be overruled to prevent a situation similar to C.J. Lofton's.
 - Steven said that the hope is that the guardrails put in place would divert someone in a situation similar to CJ's from coming into JIAC at all.
 - Steven also noted that they are seeing many more people being taken to a hospital instead of detention and obtaining clearance before coming to JIAC.
- Jazmine asked if there is a timeline for the new Juvenile Community Services building and if there is any opportunity to include young people who are current or former residents at JIAC/JDF/JRF in the design process.
 - Steven said that the current timeline is planning in 2024 and demolition of the current building in 2025. He is supportive of including youth in the process.
- Jazmine asked about the battery life on Axon body cameras.
 - Steven said that the battery life is about 12 hours. JIAC shifts are 12 hours.
 - Administrators can watch live and do so at random intervals.
- Jazmine asked how the calming rooms are going and if they have been expanded.
 - The calming rooms are operational and now have speakers built in.
 - Most of the mental health evaluations take place in these rooms.
 - Jazmine asked if there have been any issues with scheduling use of rooms.
 - Steven said that has not been an issue because admission has been low.
 - Dr. Rhonda K. Lewis asked how staff and clients have reacted to the rooms.
 - Steven said that staff embrace it because clients are more comfortable.
- Lamont Anderson asked if there has been a noticeable decrease in negative interactions.

- Steven replied that improved staffing, increased wages, mental health providers, COMCARE programs have created a different feel in the building.
- Coach Tracey asked if these are band aid solutions or long-term change.
 - Steven believes that these are best practices and long-term changes.
 - The decisions have been made very publicly, so Steven is confident that they will stay. There is willingness among leadership to do what is best for people served.
- Marquetta Atkins asked what kind of mental health services and training staff involved in C.J.'s situation have received. She also asked about their interactions with youth.
 - Steven said that staff had a debrief process with the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and could access additional services with EAP. Staff, residents, and family members have not brought many concerns about working with these staff members.
 - Marquetta asked for clarification if the services were required.
 - Steven said that the debrief was semi-mandatory—they were invited to participate and all did. Further services are not mandatory.
 - Marquetta asked if employee policies are public.
 - Steven believes that they are, but if not, taskforce should have them.
 - Marquetta asked about policies for someone losing their job due to gross mishaps.
 - Steven said that termination would be on a case-by-case basis.

Wichita Police Department Update

Deputy Chief Dan East

- Grassroots organizations: link on public-facing website modified to make it easier to find
- Department is working on Kansas Law Enforcement Accreditation Program
- Axon body cameras: will hopefully enter new contract in January 2024
- Integrated Care Teams

Captain Jason Cooley, WPD

- Joint venture with COMCARE expanding from one team to five
- All equipment has been purchased and is being programmed
- Case managers: all have been hired and are beginning work/in training
- Clinicians: three hired; one offer extended; one vacancy
- COMCARE Mobile Crisis Response

Jennifer Wilson, COMCARE

 - COMCARE has expanded Mobile Crisis Response from two teams to eight
 - Working to fill six clinician positions; all eight case manager positions are filled
 - Anyone can call 988 or 316-660-7500 to request mobile crisis response
 - Working to be 24/7
- Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE)

Sergeant Kenneth Kimble, WPD

 - CIT
 - Five instructors; completed first week-long class on Friday—48 people from across the state, 13 from WPD, several from Sheriff's department
 - Training includes mental healthcare professionals
 - Helps officers understand how to serve people in crisis

- ABLE
 - Seven certified instructors; week-long course
 - Designed to train officers to put a stop to bad behavior by other officers
 - ABLE trains officers to recognize signs and step in before it occurs
 - Will be rolled out department-wide in the first quarter
- Integrated Communications Assessment and Tactics training (ICAT)

Sergeant Erik Guzman, WPD

 - 10-hour program including scenario-based training
 - Focus on de-escalation in incidents in which a firearm is not being used
 - All supervisors will complete training starting on Monday

Questions about Wichita Police Department Updates

- Jazmine asked if ICT teams must be called by law enforcement.
 - Captain Cooley responded that they can be requested by anyone: community members, police, 911, 988, COMCARE, etc.
- Valerie Leon asked if the ICT program is 24 hours.
 - Captain Cooley explained that the program goes until 2:00 AM. There is a rotating schedule to cover weekends. An example schedule will be provided to the taskforce.
- Dr. Lewis asked how WPD will communicate about ICT to the community and officers.
 - Officers are aware; flowchart helps them know when to reach out to ICT for help.
 - WPD is holding off on a public announcement until the program is operational.
- Coach Tracey asked if it is possible for ICT to cover overnight or until 3:00 or 4:00 AM.
 - Captain Cooley said that the Mobile Crisis Response provides service during these times. As funding and call evaluations come in, coverage may expand.
- Jazmine asked what is hindering expansion of ICT and Mobile Crisis Response.
 - Jennifer said the biggest struggle is hiring clinicians for after-hours shifts.
- Coach Tracey asked if the City/County needs help finding funding for programs.
 - Russell Leeds said that the County is exploring shift differential pay and other options.
- Dr. Lewis asked what other cities have done to address similar issues.
 - Jennifer said that in in Kansas, extra pay is anywhere from \$3-\$6 to time-and-a-half.
- Jazmine asked about the difference between CIT and CNT.
 - Sergeant Kimble explained that CNT stands for Crisis Negotiation Team. Deputy Chief East said that CNT is taught to all recruits.
 - Sergeant Kimble said that close to 30% of the force has CIT training.
- Coach Tracey asked how officers are receiving CIT training and how it affects morale.
 - Sergeant Kimble said they have to cut off the sign-up because so many people are interested. There has been tremendous feedback from officers after the training.
- Jazmine asked how officers are reminded of ABLE and how it is measured.
 - Policy has already been created, including documentation of when ABLE is used.
 - Jazmine asked how ABLE will help in a situation in which a person needs to go to a mental health facility but officers are in disagreement about where to take them.

- Sergeant Kimble said that supervisors will be trained first; training takes 25 days.
- Lamont asked how ABLE works in the moment rather than just after the fact in the review process, especially in a situation like C.J. Lofton's.
 - Sergeant Kimble said that officers who are not trained should fall back on those who are, regardless of rank.
- Lamont asked if WPD will be monitoring these situations to gauge how decisions are made.
 - Sergeant Kimble said that Axon reports will be available. Any situation using force will be reviewed.
- Marquette asked if the culture is shifting beyond just the policy.
 - Sergeant Kimble said that the department is made up more of younger people than older people—it is shifting and will continue to.
 - Deputy Chief East said that the new police chief has brought a lot of these changes and is focused on building upon them.
- Jazmine asked how these changes would have played out in C.J. Lofton's case. She referenced the fact that officers used aggressive language and assaulted C.J.
 - Sergeant Kimble said that policy has been created for lower ranking officers to intervene with superiors. No officer will be punished for intervening.
 - Policy 906 covers this information.
- Sarah Myers (community member, ICT Tree Huggers) asked what the department is doing to support officers' mental health while on duty responding to mental health crises.
 - Sergeant Kimble said there is a plan to pull officers away with the CSM team when there is a concern for their mental health. The academy focuses on giving officers the tools that they need to serve admirably and care for mental health needs.
- Marquette asked about kids in schools who are having issues/getting in fights/etc.—is this viewed as a mental health crisis or criminal activity by WPD?
 - Sergeant Guzman said if a child is causing destruction or threatening staff/children there may be a criminal aspect, but they look at why a child might be acting this way.
- Dr. Lewis asked if WPD can develop a training scenario similar to C.J. Lofton's.
 - Sergeant Guzman said that there are already scenarios similar to the situation.
- Coach Tracey pointed out that C.J. Lofton was murdered based on the policies and procedures that were in place. C.J. was not treated like a child or a human—and they had time to respond. What does it look like when there's not time?
 - Sergeant Guzman said that they address this by asking officers to plan for these scenarios. When talking to a child, it's to try to figure out what's going on rather than viewing it immediately as criminal activity. Sergeant Guzman also shared that the motto of ICAT training is that everybody goes home—not just officers.
 - Coach Tracey asked if this idea of everyone going home will be culturally embedded throughout the department.
 - Sergeant Guzman that this is the goal and they are pushing this cultural change.
- Jazmine asked about updates in Axon body camera contract

- Deputy Chief East said that there are five randomized videos for supervisors to review each day, virtual reality training, and improved functionality.
- Jazmine asked if there were solutions that would ensure that body camera batteries could stay on through the completion of paperwork.
 - Deputy Chief East said that batteries degrade over time. There is no concrete solution yet for shifts that go beyond 12 hours

Updates on Emergency Communications and Mental Health Services

Elora Forshee, Emergency Communications; Jennifer Wilson, COMCARE; Malachi Winters, COMCARE

- Uninterrupted 24/7 mobile mental health response dispatched from 911: still determining how ICT/COMCARE mobile response team works within 911 system
- Embedded qualified mental health provider within the 911 system
 - Integrated care specialist in 911 went live in the beginning of October
 - Staff is trained; flow chart in use
 - If someone is not actively in danger of harming themselves or others, police are not dispatched and call is transferred to mental health provider
 - Currently available 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 - In the off-hours, other staff is trained to go through the same call questioning
- Continuing education coordinator: not budgeted; found a way to morph existing positions
- Staffing
 - At the end of October will be at 91% staff
 - 32% increase in pay helping with recruitment and retention
 - 16% Black/African American staff
 - 13% Latino/Hispanic staff
 - 8 bilingual staff members
 - Hoping to increase recruitment within the Asian community
- Community advisory board
 - Started to draft policy and bylaws at end of 2022
 - Elora is getting back to working on this, but it is not moving as quickly as hoped

Questions about Emergency Communications and Mental Health Services

- Dr. Lewis asked how the taskforce can help with the community advisory board
 - Elora said that the taskforce can help recruit applicants who reflect the diversity of the community and bring different perspectives.

Updates on the Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Kristin Peterman, DCF

- Last few months have been focused safely reducing the need for foster care; efforts to create Continuum of Care program for at-risk families
- Access to mental health services
 - More opportunities to elevate requests for services for a child
 - Steps to allow others to consent to treatment in case of barriers to parental consent

- Working on Crossover Youth Practice Model
 - For children involved in both foster care system and juvenile system
 - Dedicated position in Sedgwick County to develop model/improve services
- Multidisciplinary team staffing process: when youth hit certain risk factors, will bring people together to determine what should be done differently
- Representatives from St. Francis, DCF, WPD, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department, JIAC meeting regularly to discuss collaboration, response to crisis situations, etc.
- Dialogue with DCF on January 19, 2024 at Wichita Service Center office

Questions about DCF

- Lamont if the meetings with local partners have included any real-life scenarios.
 - Kristin answered that the group looks at actual situations that have happened.

General questions

- Jazmine asked about taskforce meetings moving forward
 - Several taskforce members agreed that the group should meet in April
 - Coach Tracey said that he would like to see it through until every recommendation is completed to 100% implementation.
 - Marquette said that the community has not healed from what happened to C.J. Lofton and that while progress has been made, there is a lot of work left to do.
 - Dr. Lewis said she would like to see more outcomes and progress on implementation, especially from the police force.
 - Jazmine said that it comes down to culture change and funding. She would like to learn about the budget process and how these initiatives are being funded.
- Rusty shared that more financial information will be provided at the meeting in April.
- Next taskforce meeting will be April 25th at 4:30 PM
- Lamont and Valerie each thanked all of the community partners for their work over the past several months and requested tangible metrics of how the recommendations are working at the meeting in April.