

Sedgwick County Task Force Final Recommendations for Foster Care- April 2022

Task Force Recommendation	DCF Efforts as of December 2022
<p>Fully funding evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs for youth and families before youth are placed in the foster care system, including intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) services, support for families in the home, behavioral programs, and substance abuse programs, among others. Doing so will build stronger families and alleviate stress on the foster care system – allowing for improved levels of care.</p>	<p>DCF has nothing new to report.</p>
<p>Requiring the Child Placing Agency and/or Case Management Provider has a local contact trained in mental health crisis response on call by phone 24/7 to guide foster families facing a mental health crisis toward mobile mental health responders and other local resources; and create consequences for any agency not following this requirement. Additionally, developing protocol that states if a Child Placing Agency worker is not available during a crisis, a supervisor will be called.</p> <p>As part of this requirement, DCF and local law enforcement officials need to determine which agency has jurisdiction over where and how a youth will receive services, ultimately following KSA 59-2953, which references not leaving someone with an identified mental crisis at a non-medical facility.</p> <p>https://www.ksrevisor.org/statutes/chapters/ch59/059_029_0053.html</p>	<p>Foster Care Case Management Providers and Child Placing Agencies have protocols in place regarding having an on-call crisis staff available to families. DCF, the Child Placing Agencies and Case Management Providers are engaged in ongoing policy workgroups to continue to address timely access to mental health services.</p> <p>DCF completed a number of community conversations during the Summer of 2022, as required by HB2510 omnibus to gather information on performance-based contracts. The Wichita Region hosted a meeting at the Wichita Service Center on Aug.24, 2022 as reported to the members of the taskforce on Aug. 29 at the Ninety-Day Task Force Follow-up meeting, At the request of taskforce members in attendance during the follow-up meeting, DCF hosted a special virtual session specifically for members of the taskforce to have the opportunity to offer additional input. This meeting occurred on Aug. 30 over the lunch hour. All information gleaned from both Wichita meetings was forwarded to Central Office and is being put into a report to the Kansas State Legislature to be shared during the 2023 Legislative Session.</p>
<p>Creating an eco-system that connects community resources, grassroots organizations, advocates, coaches, champions, and others with the Kansas Department of Children and Families (DCF), Law Enforcement, Sedgwick County COMCARE, Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC) and Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) and other systems that serve foster care children in a mental health crisis.</p>	<p>DCF continues to engage with the Sedgwick County Department of Corrections and other community stakeholders to evaluate the use of an Individual Justice Plan (IJP) to create better cross-system support for youth diagnosed with mental health and/or developmental disability. Wichita State University’s Community Engagement Institute (CEI) was recently brought on board to help facilitate this process, with the first meeting facilitated by CEI to be held on 12/9/2022.</p>

<p>Formalizing standard procedures so both the Child Placing Agency and Case Management providers are legally responsible for the foster children in their care.</p>	<p>DCF has nothing new to report.</p>
<p>Developing and implementing standardized training for foster care, law enforcement, 911, JIAC and JDF personnel, to include topics on de-escalation, mental health first aid, adolescent brain development and destigmatization 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. [See also in Recommendations for 911, WPD, Juvenile Corrections]</p>	
<p>Requiring foster families to complete a standardized program in adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and trauma-informed care that are culturally relevant, and gender-responsive. If they don't participate, they are disqualified from participating in the foster care program.</p>	<p>DCF has nothing new to report.</p>
<p>Requiring DCF and its contracting foster care agencies to ensure employees, foster families and foster children receive benefits that include mental health and mindfulness coaches; additionally, ensure staffing to cover employee caseloads so that employees can utilize benefits such as mental health/mindfulness, vacations, etc., and not return to a backload that prevents them from providing the best care to youth and families.</p>	<p>DCF has nothing new to report.</p>
<p>Expanding the Crossover Youth Practice Model for sharing data and system protocols between DCF, school districts, and the juvenile justice system, to allow those agencies to effectively serve the foster youth in their care.</p>	<p>Currently in Sedgwick County, we are outlining protocols for how all system agencies respond when a cross-systems youth is identified or comes to an agency for services. We will use that information to identify areas for improvement in the system to target to better serve youth who are dually involved in the CINC and JO systems.</p>
<p>Supporting the passage of HB 2468 and HB 2469, which establishes the foster youth and foster parent bill of rights and requires distribution to each foster youth and foster family; ask Sedgwick County to add HB 2468 and HB 2469 to its 2023 Legislative Agenda.</p>	<p>DCF has nothing new to report.</p>

<p>Administering an assessment (using disaggregated data) of the youth in the foster care system that allows root cause issues to be identified and a strategic plan developed that will address barriers and systemic issues.</p>	<p>Current efforts are underway with the Capacity Building Center for States in examining root causes related to placement instability for youth in foster care. Through that, data and information around reasons for entry into foster care are being reviewed. DCF and Case Management Providers are bringing this data and information to stakeholders across jurisdictions across Kansas to help those who impact entry into foster care better understand the root causes of entry into care, limitations of the foster care system, and how they can support prevention efforts for families.</p>
<p>DCF design and disseminate a roadmap to assist foster families in accessing local community services and support to aid in the care of youth in the foster care system.</p>	<p>DCF has nothing new to report.</p>
<p>Supporting the enactment of SB 12 (approved in 2022), which requires 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.</p>	<p>DCF completed a number of community conversations during the Summer of 2022, as required by HB2510 omnibus to gather information on performance-based contracts. The Wichita Region hosted a meeting at the Wichita Service Center on Aug.24, 2022 as reported to the members of the taskforce on Aug. 29 at the Ninety-Day Task Force Follow-up meeting, At the request of taskforce members in attendance during the follow-up meeting, DCF hosted a special virtual session specifically for members of the taskforce to have the opportunity to offer additional input. This meeting occurred on Aug. 30 over the lunch hour. All information gleaned from both Wichita meetings was forwarded to Central Office and is being put into a report to the Kansas State Legislature to be shared during the 2023 Legislative Session.</p>
<p>Extending a thank-you to foster families for the support and sacrifice they make in providing homes for children in need of care.</p>	<p>DCF has nothing new to report.</p>
<p>Developing and implementing a pre/post survey to evaluate satisfaction of families who participate in Family First and Family Preservation programs. Utilize feedback to enhance program and service delivery.</p>	<p>DCF has nothing new to report.</p>