



**Joint Committee on Child Welfare System Oversight
March 31, 2025, 2:00 p.m.**

Chair Gossage, Vice Chair Howerton, Ranking Minority Member Ousley, and Members of the Committee:

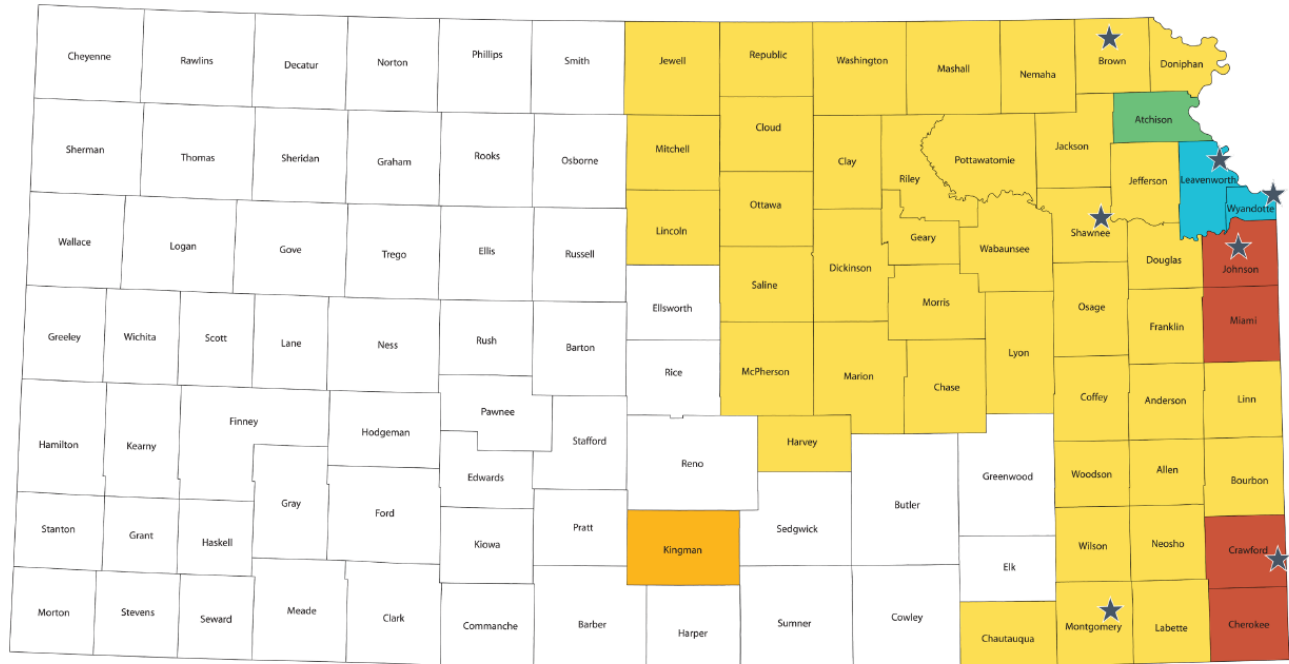
This submission was prepared by Cornerstones of Care Chief Programs and Innovation Officer, Justin Horton. On behalf of our organization, team members, and community of supporters- thank you for the opportunity to present today.

Who We Are

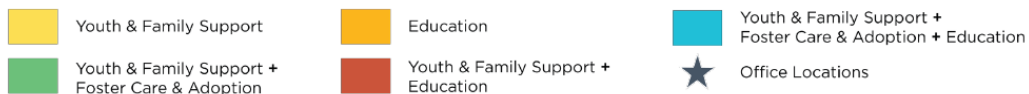
Cornerstones of Care is a behavioral health organization with a 155-year history of providing prevention, treatment, education, and support services to children and their families. The children that we serve have all experienced trauma. Trauma resulting from events, such as abuse or neglect, separation from/loss of a loved one, and witnessing or experiencing violence in their community, as well as trauma stemming from ongoing, cumulative experiences like poverty, addiction, and mental illness.

Cornerstones of Care is a certified trauma-informed organization by The Sanctuary Institute. This model recognizes trauma can be pervasive to the human experience. It acknowledges the vulnerability of clients, organizations, and systems to the adverse effects of trauma and guides the approach that our almost 715 team members across our organization take to recognize, understand and respond to trauma in a manner that mitigates its' negative effects. This model also fosters a restorative organizational culture and framework for creating trauma informed communities, and promotes healthy team member engagement, safety, self-awareness, and self-care.

Cornerstones of Care has been providing services to the children and families of Kansas since 1999. Today, we have more than 250 team members in Kansas within seven offices, supporting citizens in 49 counties.



Cornerstones of Care Program Service Area



The map depicts, with overlap:

- Family Preservation for families in twenty-five (25) counties
- Foster Care Case Management for children and families in three (3) counties
- Therapy Services for children, families, and adults in forty-eight (48) counties
- Behavior Intervention Support for schools in seven (7) counties
- Transitional Living for teens from around the state in one (1) county
- Therapeutic Foster Family Home support for families in eleven (11) counties



Prevention and Protective Services: Family Preservation

Cornerstones of Care is the Family Preservation provider in the Northeast and Southeast Regions for the Department for Children and Families (DCF). Our Family Preservation programs have offices in Brown County, Crawford County, Montgomery County, and Shawnee County.

Family Preservation Services

If you have questions about Cornerstones of Care's work in Kansas family preservation services, please contact us.

- KSfamilypres@cornerstonesofcare.org
- Hiawatha: (785) 742-2144
- Independence: (620) 714-5035
- Pittsburg: (620) 404-4647
- Topeka: (785) 329-6149



Cornerstones of Care Family Preservation Data

	Jan 2025		Feb 2025	
	NE	SE	NE	SE
New Referrals	15	17	21	10
Successful Case Closure: Goal is 85%	91%	88%	91%	88%
Families Served Who Did Not Have Children Placed in Foster Care: Goal is 90%	98%	100%	99%	100%
Client Satisfaction Survey Results <i>Measures whether families thought our service helped them meet the needs of their children and family</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%



Foster Care/Adoption Case Management

Cornerstones of Care is the Foster Care provider in Area 5. Our geographic area covers three counties in Kansas: Atchison, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte. Our program has offices in Leavenworth County and Wyandotte County.

Area 5 Client Population

As of March 18, 2025, Cornerstones of Care is providing services to 443 foster care clients, which is down from 842 or 47% from our initial grant inception (October 1, 2019). The new foster care contract started on July 1, 2024, with 506 foster care clients, so the population is down 12%, since then. We are thankful to the teams, agencies, and people that have helped to make this happen. We realize it is because of the work of many different entities.

Cornerstones of Care Foster Care Case Management: Area 5												
Calendar Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Out of Home youth 2019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	842	847	822
OOH youth 2020	825	809	815	788	781	775	761	756	734	745	745	743
OOH Youth 2021	746	750	733	715	683	661	691	681	676	652	651	650
OOH Youth 2022	631	613	617	615	634	606	616	632	645	630	618	600
OOH Youth 2023	600	579	579	569	581	575	564	567	573	562	554	545
OOH Youth 2024	534	518	519	524	528	519	506*	499	490	487	464	445
OOH Youth 2025	449	445	443**									

* New Contract Began, ** As of March 18, 2025



Caseload Carrying Staffing Vacancies and Caseload Sizes

As of March 24, 2025, Cornerstones of Care has four vacancies or a 91% occupancy rate. The average current caseload size for our Foster Care Case Management team is 10.05 youth per case carrying team member.

AWOL/Missing Youth Information

As of March 24, 2025, Cornerstones of Care has two of 443 youth or 0.004% AWOL/Missing from care.

One Night Placements

In 2025, Cornerstones of Care has had three instances of a one-night placement with three unique clients.

1. A youth was discharged from a PRTF on 1/20/25 and she was going to fly to Pennsylvania to be placed with a relative via Interstate Compact for Placement of Children (ICPC) on 1/21/25 and she needed a place to stay for one night.
2. An ICPC disruption occurred in Florida and the youth flew back to Kansas City on 1/1/25. The case team wanted to give him a day to process the situation to help prevent a disruption before going to a Pre Placement Visit, which then occurred and led to a stable placement.
3. A youth got into an argument with their placement provider and refused to go back to the home. While our Placement Finding team looked to locate a long-term placement, she spent one night in a foster home.



Youth Sleeping in Agency Offices/Failure to Place Data

Month	SFY25 (As of 3/16/25)	TFI	COC	SFM	KVC	EH
JUL 2024	26	1	0	0	1	24
AUG	22	0	0	0	0	22
SEP	15	0	0	0	1	14
OCT	37	0	0	1	0	36
NOV	78	0	0	0	0	78
DEC	30	0	0	0	0	30
JAN 2025	1	0	0	0	0	1
FEB	7	0	0	0	0	7
MARCH	13	0	0	0	0	13
Total Nights/Incident of Failure To Place for SFY by CMP	229	1	0	1	2	225
Percentage of Total Nights/Incidents of FTP SFY 2025		0.4%	0%	0.6%	1%	98%

State Fiscal Year Historical Failure to Place Data

YEARLY REPORT DATA								
Month	SFY18	SFY19	SFY20	SFY21	SFY22	SFY23	SFY24	SFY25
JUL		4	33	7	12	25	14	26
AUG		9	9	4	13	24	1	22
SEP		11	17	8	44	8	1	15
OCT		0	12	7	48	8	6	37
NOV		0	9	9	10	12	0	78
DEC		0	18	8	9	8	2	30
JAN		4	19	2	5	6	0	1
FEB		4	6	2	6	6	6	7
MAR		12	6	4	8	7	12	13
APR	85	35	1	3	38	8	54	
MAY	69	39	4	2	63	20	40	
JUN	6	21	17	5	43	8	7	
Total for SFY	160	139	151	61	299	140	143	229



DCF SFY24 Report Card (<https://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Pages/PPSreports.aspx>) *Data may not be final as reconciliation by DCF may still be occurring

● =Met or exceeds goal, ▲ =Within 10% of goal, ◆ =More than 10% from goal

Measure	Target	Performance SFY2025	State Average	Performance to Target
Timely Adoption in Less than 24 Months	26.8%	14.6%	15.6%	◆
Placement Stability Rate per 1,000 days in Foster Care	% of children 4.4 or fewer	8.5	7.2	◆
Placement in a Family Like Setting	90%	87.6%	91.5%	▲
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care less than 12 months	40.5%	24.3%	33%	▲
Permanency for children in foster care 12 to 23 months	43.6%	27.3%	34%	◆
Permanency for children in foster care 24 months or longer	30.3%	33.1%	30.4%	●
Re-entry into Foster Care within 12 months	8.3% (lower % is better)	7.1%	8.1%	●
Maltreatment in Foster Care	8.50 (lower is better)	1.76	3.57	●
Children Living with Relatives or Non-Related Kin (12-month average)	50%	53.1%	48.9%	●
Sibling Placement	78%	76.6%	73.8%	▲
Adults ending custody with the Secretary will have completed Grade 12	NA	76.2%	38.9%	●



March 2025 Settlement Agreement Report

(<https://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Documents/FY2025%20DataReports/Settlement%20Docs/March%20settlement%20report%202025.pdf>)

2.9.4: % one or fewer placement moves in 12 month.

Catchment	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Statewide
CMP Provider	SFM	SFM	KVC	TFI	COC	KVC	SFM/EHC	TFI	
% of youth with 1 or fewer placement moves in 12 months March 2023 - March 2024source FACTS	<div><div></div></div> 84%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 79%	<div><div></div></div> 79%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 78%	<div><div></div></div> 80%
% of youth with 1 or fewer placement moves in 12 months April 2023 - April 2024source FACTS	<div><div></div></div> 84%	<div><div></div></div> 79%	<div><div></div></div> 79%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 80%
% of youth with 1 or fewer placement moves in 12 months May 2023 - May 2024source FACTS	<div><div></div></div> 84%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 79%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 81%
% of youth with 1 or fewer placement moves in 12 months June 2023 - June 2024source FACTS	<div><div></div></div> 84%	<div><div></div></div> 79%	<div><div></div></div> 79%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 78%	<div><div></div></div> 82%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 80%
% of youth with 1 or fewer placement moves in 12 months July 2023 - July 2024source FACTS	<div><div></div></div> 85%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 82%	<div><div></div></div> 78%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 81%
% of youth with 1 or fewer placement moves in 12 months August 2023 - August 2024source FACTS	<div><div></div></div> 85%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 82%	<div><div></div></div> 78%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 82%	<div><div></div></div> 81%
% of youth with 1 or fewer placement moves in 12 months September 2023 - September 2024source FACTS	<div><div></div></div> 85%	<div><div></div></div> 79%	<div><div></div></div> 90%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 76%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 81%
% of youth with 1 or fewer placement moves in 12 months October 2023 - October 2024source FACTS	<div><div></div></div> 84%	<div><div></div></div> 79%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 83%	<div><div></div></div> 77%	<div><div></div></div> 79%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 81%
% of youth with 1 or fewer placement moves in 12 months November 2023 - November 2024source FACTS	<div><div></div></div> 84%	<div><div></div></div> 78%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 82%	<div><div></div></div> 77%	<div><div></div></div> 77%	<div><div></div></div> 81%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	<div><div></div></div> 80%
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Key: <div><div></div></div> green is goal met	<div><div></div></div> yellow is within 10% of meeting goal					<div><div></div></div> red is over 10% to meet goal			
goal is 90%									



2.9.5: Provide Mental Health and trauma screen within 30 days of entry to care.

Monthly performance on completing mental health and trauma screen within 30 days by a trained and qualified individual									
Month/Year	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Statewide
# applicable January entries	27	24	15	20	15	10	45	11	167
January 2025	27	23	15	20	13	10	45	11	164
% within 30 days	100%	96%	100%	100%	87%	100%	100%	100%	98%
January 2025	27	24	15	20	13	10	45	11	165
% trained	100%	100%	100%	100%	87%	100%	100%	100%	99%
January 2025	27	24	15	20	13	10	45	11	165
% qualified	100%	100%	100%	100%	87%	100%	100%	100%	99%
January 2025 total performance									
	100%	96%	100%	100%	87%	100%	100%	100%	98%
% on time by a trained and qualified professional									
Key:	green is goal met	yellow is within 10% of meeting goal	red is over 10% to meet goal						

2.9.5: Provide Mental Health and trauma screen within 30 days of entry to care.

Month/Year	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Statewide
January 2024 total performance % on time by a trained and qualified professional; 90% is goal									
	97%	97%	93%	95%	71%	100%	88%	88%	93%
February 2024 total performance % on time by a trained and qualified professional; 90% is goal									
	100%	98%	100%	100%	90%	100%	77%	100%	96%
March 2024 total performance % on time by a trained and qualified professional; 90% is goal									
	100%	100%	100%	94%	100%	96%	95%	82%	96%
April 2024 total performance % on time by a trained and qualified professional; 90% is goal									
	95%	100%	100%	94%	86%	100%	84%	100%	95%
May 2024 total performance % on time by a trained and qualified professional; 90% is goal									
	89%	92%	100%	92%	95%	100%	85%	100%	93%
June 2024 total performance % on time by a trained and qualified professional; 90% is goal									
	93%	96%	100%	97%	100%	100%	81%	100%	94%
July 2024 total performance % on time by a trained and qualified professional; 90% is goal									
	95%	91%	100%	100%	100%	100%	86%	100%	95%
August 2024 total performance % on time by a trained and qualified professional; 90% is goal									
	100%	91%	97%	96%	100%	95%	95%	100%	95%
September 2024 total performance % on time by a trained and qualified professional; 90% is goal									
	100%	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%
October 2024 total performance % on time by a trained and qualified professional; 90% is goal									
	100%	88%	100%	92%	92%	97%	100%	100%	95%
November 2024 total performance % on time by a trained and qualified professional; 90% is goal									
	96%	84%	100%	100%	100%	100%	96%	100%	95%
December 2024 total performance % on time by a trained and qualified professional; 90% is goal									
	100%	96%	100%	100%	100%	94%	98%	95%	98%
Key:	green is goal met	yellow is within 10% of meeting goal	red is over 10% to meet goal						



SOUL Family Permanency Option

Cornerstones of Care achieved its first SOUL Family Permanency on March 6, 2025!

The youth entered foster care on 5/20/20. Due to various circumstances during the case, placement with family was not an option. While in care, she had over 50 placements. She was placed in a long-term stable foster home and was intending to remain in that home until she aged out of care on her 18th birthday in October 2026. However, after learning she was pregnant in October 2024, the foster home was unable to maintain as her placement. At that point in time, she was able to reconnect with her uncle and her older sister who were residing six hours away in Missouri.

Background checks were completed, and the youth began visiting and rebuilding her relationship with them. Cornerstones of Care informed the youth and her family about the SOUL Permanency option in December 2024, and they were all immediately on board. The youth's case team sought to obtain permanency prior to her due date in April 2025 to prevent any complications with travel as well as to give her and her baby the best possible start. Our team was able to complete all SOUL paperwork by the end of February 2025. Simultaneous to all of this, Cornerstones of Care kept regular contact with the court and was able to schedule a hearing for March 6, 2025, where she reached permanency through SOUL after 1,751 days in foster care.

The youth and her family celebrated at our Leavenworth office with food and a gift basket with baby gifts.





Therapeutic Family Foster Home Capacity Building Grant March 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Specific to Therapeutic Family Foster Home (TFFH) Capacity Building, Cornerstones of Care was awarded \$689,889 to apply a therapeutic foster care model as a prevention tool in 11 counties in Northeast Kansas. The counties are Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Marshall, Nemaha, Pottawatomie, Shawnee, and Wabaunsee.

If our model is effective, the work would: 1) reduce the number of children entering foster care, 2) reduce the number of children entering foster care due to reasons not related to abuse or neglect otherwise known as Family In Need of Assessment, 3) increase the capacity of TFFH for youth in foster care as beds are not being occupied by children we have prevented coming into care.

Our model focuses on supports to open Family Preservation cases. When a Family Preservation case is opened, our team works with the family to identify two to three respite/safety plan families. These are safe families, usually relatives or family friends, where children can go stay. The stays are usually short term but are helpful in allowing the biological parents to address what they need to all while knowing their children are in a safe place.

Typically, respite families opening their home to Family Preservation case children would receive no financial support. In an effort to further prevent the need for a child to enter foster care, Cornerstones of Care provides the following additional supports to these respite families identified as part of the TFFH work, in addition to the already assigned Case Manager:

- Access to training in a virtual resource library focused on successful behavioral intervention.
- A one-time \$100 incentive payment, per youth, for taking child(ren) into their home
- A \$50 daily reimbursement rate, per youth, to offset the cost of caring for child(ren) for things like food, gas, additional utility usage, etc.
- A \$200 incentive payment, per youth, for the children safely returning to their biological home and a successful case closure



- Functional Family Therapist Provider Support
 - Cornerstones of Care will provide therapeutic support to the respite home for any clinical support needs that arise.
- An In-Home Support Specialist
 - Sometimes families just need practical day-to-day support. Therefore, aside from training, financial reimbursement, and therapeutic intervention, families get help with day-to-day activities and an extra set of eyes and ears between after school and bedtime hours. With these TFFH funds, Cornerstones of Care stood up two In Home Support Specialist positions. The Specialists are working with Family Preservation team members, but alongside the respite caregivers to help navigate the challenges of caring for youth who are a bonus to their home. Supports can be in the home with household support, babysitting, acting as another safe adult in the home, homework assistance, etc. Also, supports can be in the community via daily routine assistance like helping with transportation, helping with shopping, errands, etc. Each family's needs will be uniquely assessed and supported, and the In-Home Specialist Support work could look different from home to home.

TFFH Data since July 1, 2024

<i>Data Element</i>	<i>Data</i>
Respite Families Served	22
Children Served	47
Respite Nights Paid	822
Cases Closed	23
Cases Closed Successfully	22

The contract has been renewed for July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.