



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

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## County Manager's Office

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Russell Leeds, Assistant County Manager

November 28, 2022

To: Chair Baumgardner, Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight

Re: Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards

From: Russell Leeds, Assistant County Manager, Sedgwick County

Committee Chair Baumgardner and members of the joint committee, my name is Rusty Leeds and I am here to provide an overview of the work done and the recommendations set forth by the Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards.

The Community Taskforce was established to review and recommend preferred system improvements after the arrest of Cedric Lofton on September 24, 2021 and his subsequent death on September 26, 2021. The Taskforce has twenty-two members representing a diverse range of backgrounds, interests and community perspectives, to include but not limited to child welfare, foster care, civil rights, social justice, education, culture, mental health, faith-based services, juvenile justice, and youth development.

The goal of the Taskforce was to develop recommendations for improvements and changes to the existing system standards and the performance of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), law enforcement, and youth corrections programs. The first meeting of the Taskforce was on February 3, 2022.

The Work of the Taskforce was to:

- Review the circumstances and details of the Cedric Lofton case, relative to existing system standards and performance.
- Review law enforcement and foster care policies, and review mental and behavior health training and resources.
- Review Juvenile Intake and Assessment System (JIAS/State) and Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC/County) standards and use of force.

Representatives from the Department of Children and Families, DCCCA, St. Francis Ministries, Kansas Department of Corrections, Sedgwick County Department of Corrections, COMCARE, Beacon Health Options, Ascension Via Christi, Wichita Police Department, Sedgwick County Emergency Communications (911), and the District Attorney for the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District appeared before the Taskforce to provide information and answer questions to aid the work of the Taskforce.

After 13 meeting sessions from February 2 – April 25, the Taskforce gave final approval on recommendations developed by the Taskforce on April 25, 2022. The Taskforce set forth fifty-eight (58)

recommendations for system changes and improvements. The classifications and counts for recommendations are:

- Foster Care (14)
- Sedgwick County 911 Emergency Communications (5)
- Wichita Police Department (14)
- Youth Corrections (25)

The Taskforce's final Recommendations Report was published on April 26, 2022.

The Taskforce met again on August 29, 2022 for the 90-day progress update. The Taskforce is scheduled to meet again December 6, 2022 for the 180-day progress update.

In the interest of transparency and accountability, all materials related to the work of the Taskforce is published on the Sedgwick County web site on the Community Taskforce page. Additionally, a dashboard was developed and published which provides the real time status of each recommendation and supplemental information on recommendations which are designated as Implemented, or In-Progress.

Status to date:

- 26 recommendations have been implemented
- 26 recommendations are in-progress, actively being worked
- 6 are pending

Sedgwick County is committed to addressing all recommendations within its purview, and working continually with system partners on constructive system changes. The Wichita Police Department and the City of Wichita have been continuously engaged since the beginning of the Taskforce's work.

While we want to ensure members of the Joint Committee have the opportunity to review all recommendations, we want to emphasize those recommendations which are specific to the Legislature, and those that are applicable to State of Kansas Departments.

Legislative recommendations from the Taskforce are:

1. Supporting the passage of HB 2468 and HB 2469 (*2022 session*), 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.5, item 9)
2. Supporting the enactment of SB 12 (*2022 session*), 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. 5, item 12)
3. Requesting a Legislative post-audit be conducted to examine the implications of the "Stand Your Ground" laws, particularly as it relates to incidents involving law enforcement. (p. 10, item 6)

The Secretaries of DCF and KDOC and their designated staff members have been continuously engaged since the beginning of the Taskforce's work.

Recommendations being managed primarily by the Department of Children and Families are located on pages 4 and 5 of the Recommendations Report under the heading of Foster Care.

Recommendations being managed primarily by the Kansas Department of Corrections are located on page 10 (item 4 Restorative Justice System) and page 11 (item 12 Crossover Youth Practice model) of the Recommendations Report under the heading of Youth Corrections.

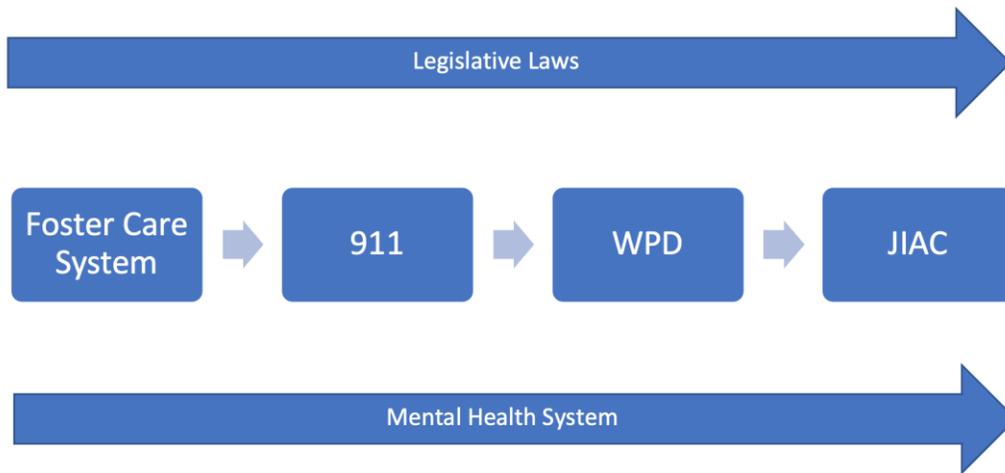
Respectfully,

RLL

**Sedgwick County Department of Corrections  
Community Task Force Recommendations  
April 25, 2022**

**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



The Task Force met 13 times from February 3 through April 25, 2022. Task Force meetings are available for viewing on Sedgwick County’s Facebook page. Meeting summaries and materials shared are available at <https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/community-taskforce/>.

**Community Task Force members invited by Sedgwick County who agreed to serve:**

- Lamont Anderson, Community Partner
- Annmarie Arensberg, KVC Hospital Wichita
- Marquetta Atkins, Destination Innovation
- Taben Azad, Wichita Asian Association
- Larry Burks, Sr., NAACP – Wichita Branch
- Poncho Bustos, USD 259
- Mike Fonkert, Kansas Appleseed
- Monique Garcia, Community Partner
- Steve House, Juvenile Defense Counsel
- Debbie Kennedy, Wichita Children’s Home
- Pastor C. Richard Kirkendoll, Greater Wichita Ministerial League
- Dr. Rhonda Lewis, Community Partner
- Holly Osborne/Valerie Leon, St. Francis Ministries
- Lilliana Rivera, NAACP – Wichita Branch
- Jazmine Rogers, Progeny
- Dr. April Terry, Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

**Members added by the Task Force:**

- Tracey Mason, Community Partner
- NaQuela Pack, Community Partner
- Yusef Presley, Community Partner
- Nina Shaw-Woody, Kansas Family Advisory Network
- Yeni Telles, Sunflower Community Action
- Natalie Zarate, Community Partner

Please see addendum at end of recommendations for list of resource members and those who spoke before the Task Force.

## Task Force Actions

### Letter to Department of Justice (DOJ)

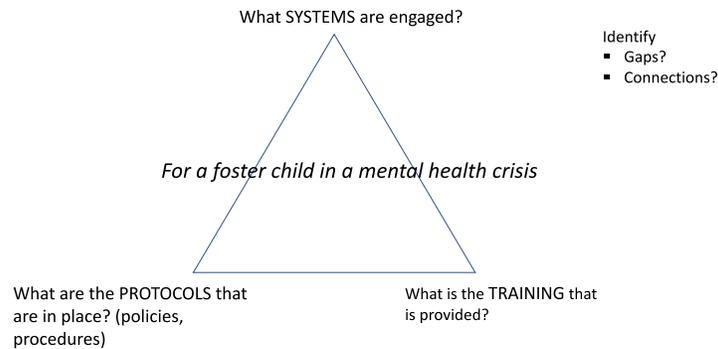
The Task Force discussed sending a letter to the Department of Justice and asked Task Force member Steve House for assistance. The Task Force reviewed sample letters, provided feedback to Steve House who then drafted a letter for the Task Force to review and edit. After feedback from the Task Force the letter was finalized, approved and sent to the DOJ on February 28.

[Task Force Letter to Department of Justice](#)

### Systems Recommendations

The Task Force developed the following recommendations for systems changes and improvements through discussions related to the systems reviewed in meetings. The Task Force reviewed and revised the recommendations for intent and clarity and used a consensus model to put forth these agreed-upon recommendations.

## Framework for Task Force discussion



To provide some direction to policy makers and systems staff on priority, Task Force members voted for their top five priorities. Some recommendations that were already in process may have had fewer votes because they were close to finalized. The Task Force deems all recommendations critically important to make to achieve needed change.

## FOSTER CARE

### We recommend:

1. **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.
2. 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.
  - 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.

[https://www.ksrevisor.org/statutes/chapters/ch59/059\\_029\\_0053.html](https://www.ksrevisor.org/statutes/chapters/ch59/059_029_0053.html)

3. Creating an **eco-system** that connects community resources, grassroot 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.
4. Formalizing **standard procedures** so both the Child Placing Agency and Case Management providers are legally responsible for the foster children in their care.
5. 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 de-stigmatization 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]*

**Additionally,**

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Extending a thank-you to foster families for the support and sacrifice they make in providing homes for children in need of care.
14. 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.

## SEDGWICK COUNTY 911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

### We recommend...

1. Develop an uninterrupted, 24/7 **mobile mental health response system** that can be dispatched by 911 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 focuses on having a mental health and medical responder available for crisis calls, with a process in place to engage with law enforcement as appropriate for each call.
2. Embed **qualified mental health providers** within the 911 system.
  - Austin, TX, model
  - Colorado model
3. Add an additional position, “**Continuing Education Coordinator,**” to the 911 budget to enrich continuing education and training for 911 employees to better screen callers, develop tools to evaluate mental health needs and then transfer to COMCARE or another agency as appropriate.
4. By December 2022, establish a **community advisory board** that is reflective of the diverse communities 911 services. This advisory board should create plans for transparency and acknowledgement of board members conflict of interest.
5. Address the high turnover rates at 911 by continuing to **improve pay; improve diversity in recruitment and hiring** for 911 staff; and add **benefits** that focus on the wellness of 911 personnel.

## WICHITA POLICE DEPARTMENT (WPD)

### We recommend...

1. Increasing **funding for COMCARE mobile mental health unit and ICT One**, so they can be available 24/7 and dispatched by 911 as a resource that serves the community.
2. 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 de-stigmatization 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. *[Cross-reference same recommendation for Foster Care, JIAC]*
3. Creating an **eco-system** in Wichita and Sedgwick County that provides a tightly engaged network of collaborators between the systems that intersect with foster youth who might be facing a mental health crisis, and the grassroots agencies in the community that can fill in the gaps for these youth. The agencies include DCF, Law Enforcement, COMCARE, JIAC and JDF. Grassroots organizations include advocates, coaches, champions, and others. Organizations and individuals elected to be a part of the eco-system will be required to attend FREE training provided by the city/county that would cover topics such as: crisis intervention, de-escalation, mental health first aid and other training as identified by the organization.
4. By 2023, create a **centralized database** at the Wichita Police Department that fosters transparency in the collaborations that exist between WPD and the community. The database will provide easy access for law enforcement, as well as a mechanism for other grassroots organizations to be added to the resource list for future collaborations.
  - 4a. Additionally, the Wichita Police Department will include in the database information about how it is continually engaging in **authentic dialogue** to eliminate barriers, address biases and build trust with marginalized groups throughout the community. This engagement will occur through attending/partnering in community events, attending neighborhood and community organization meetings, as well as hosting community forums.
5. Hiring (3) full-time and (3) part-time **qualified mental health professionals** to be on staff to support WPD employees. Supporting employees with their mental health has a direct impact on how employees show up and serve Wichita's diverse community.

**Additionally,**

6. Requiring mandatory **trauma-informed training** for law enforcement to better understand and serve all members of the community – but especially those from minority, underserved and at-risk populations who are more likely to struggle with PTSD and other forms of trauma.
7. Requiring **CIT training for all law enforcement supervisors** and for **all law enforcement officers** between their third and fifth year in the field. Officers who are between 1-2 years of service should be **required to attend continuing mental health education** to ensure officers remain up to date on mental health practices and changes.
8. Creating a **culture** at WPD that lives up to the expectations to “protect and serve” all people in Wichita’s **diverse community**. Included in this recommendation is an annual review of employee expectations and policies to identify ineffective processes and unacceptable behaviors. This recommendation also should be considered along with support of the findings from the independent review currently being conducted because of racist text messages sent/received by several members of the police department.
9. Enhancing the **Axon policy** to include language that requires Officers to leave their body cameras on throughout an entire incident, including the completion of paperwork. Additionally, a process should be developed for random review of Axon footage and should be included as a part of the Officers periodic coaching and annual performance evaluation.
10. Requiring all training related to mental health, trauma, cultural and gender diversity, and implicit bias be **required at regular intervals** for all law enforcement, JIAC and JDF personnel. (See also in Youth Corrections.)
11. Fostering a culture at WPD that allows **exceptions to police protocols** so an officer can escalate above the Supervisor’s order when responding to calls involving foster youth in a mental health crisis. This is needed due to the complexities of multiple jurisdictions and custodies involved when a child is in the foster care system.
12. Developing and implementing a **MOU** between the Wichita Police Department and Juvenile Intake Assessment Center (JIAC) that honors the 2016 US Attorney General Opinion and clearly outlines that arrest report must be completed before youth is released to JIAC. The arrest report should include all details from the original classification of the call from dispatch to final classification of the call when the youth arrives at JIAC, all expectations for youth brought to the facility, transfers, arrest reports, officer release form, etc. *[See also in JIAC Recommendations]*

13. Ongoing **implicit bias training and testing** that includes, race, culture and gender diversity, for all law enforcement officers and supervisors.
14. Expanding the **Community Support Specialists** at WPD.

## YOUTH CORRECTIONS

### We recommend...

1. By July 1, 2022, updating JIAC Policy 8.810 – **Use of Force**, so that it states:
  - Once youth is secured in a cell, instead of holding him/her down in the prone position, close the cell and allow the youth to calm down.
  - Do not use any position that covers the youth’s chest.
  - Only allow the prone position to be used to cuff and sit or cuff and stand.
  - One staff person is responsible for video/audio recording any incidents of restraint, keeping time to ensure a youth is sitting or standing immediately after cuffing/restraining, and the youth is in overall good health and wellbeing. This person would also be observing employees and in charge of “tapping out” anyone who appears to have reached his or her physical, mental, or emotional limit when working with a youth. This person should never assist in restraining the youth. *[KJCC has a program that could be used as a model.]*
2. Increasing Sedgwick County funding to JDF to provide for **core mental health services** that also support JIAC, so those services provided by JIAC are not dependent on grant funds for mental health programs at the local level.
3. Requiring a **nursing staff person** to be present at JIAC/Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) 24/7.
4. Establishing a long-term goal for the Kansas Department of Corrections to develop and implement a strategy that moves juvenile justice systems to a **restorative justice system**.
5. Supporting the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition legislative agenda to **increase the number of mental health professionals** in Sedgwick County.

### Additionally

6. Requesting a **Legislative post-audit** be conducted to examine the implications of the “Stand Your Ground” laws, particularly as it relates to incidents involving law enforcement.
7. Ensuring JIAC and JDF provide **trauma care services** for youth who experience a traumatic, crisis event while at JIAC or JDF. Services could be delivered onsite, as well as in the community once a child is released.
8. Requiring **CIT training** for JIAC and JDF personnel.

9. Creating a **database at JIAC that identifies grassroots organizations** that serve youth who are impacted by the youth correction systems. A transparent process should be developed and implemented that allows the community to see organizations included in the database, as well as creates opportunity for other organizations to be added to the database. Organizations listed in the database will be intentionally engaged and provided with technical assistance to apply for grant funds that allow for culturally relevant, gender and trauma-based programs are available for youth. (Opportunity to coordinate with similar recommendation for WPD.)
10. Establishing a **“calming room”** at JIAC that could be safe for youth experiencing some form of distress, where they can be safely left alone and not restrained.
11. Prioritizing in the County’s upcoming Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget updates for the **video recording system** at JIAC to cover more areas of the lobby and holding rooms, and a recording system that includes **audio capacity**.
12. Supporting the expansion of the statewide **Crossover Youth Practice model** implementation to every judicial district in Kansas and develop local protocols to serve youth with involvement in child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
13. Creating and staffing a **Citizen’s Review Board** for JIAC and JDF, with quasi-judicial powers.
14. Ongoing **implicit bias training and testing** that includes, race, culture and gender diversity, for all JIAC and JDF personnel.
15. Ensuring a reliable level of service for **remote/virtual access to mental health** consults at JIAC and JDF from COMCARE or another mental health provider. The providers need to be available 24/7.
16. Updating the language of the JIAC **Medical Criteria for Admission Form 8.804** so it requires current and accurate information prior to transfer.
17. Requiring all training related to mental health, trauma, cultural and gender diversity, and implicit bias be **required at regular intervals** for all law enforcement, JIAC and JDF personnel. (See also in WPD.)

18. Developing and implementing a **MOU** between the Wichita Police Department and Juvenile Intake Assessment Center (JIAC) that honors the 2016 US Attorney General Opinion and clearly outlines that arrest report must be completed before youth is released to JIAC. The arrest report should include all details from the original classification of the call from dispatch to final classification of the call when the youth arrives at JIAC, all expectations for youth brought to the facility, transfers, arrest reports, officer release form, etc. *[See also in WPD Recommendations]*
19. Requiring law enforcement officers who bring an allegedly combative, noncompliant youth into the JIAC **to stay on scene, or nearby**, until the juvenile is processed.
20. Striving for **parity in programs** for those impacted by the youth corrections systems, through intentional engagement and funding of culturally competent and gender responsive programming.
21. Not allowing a juvenile in a **Wrap restraint** be brought into the JIAC facility.
22. Not allowing a **single JIAC worker** to handle intake for someone described as “a combative juvenile.”
23. Ensuring all juveniles at JIAC **are separated from each other** (taken to another room), so they are not exposed to potentially traumatic events in the common areas.
24. Strengthening the **Individual Justice Plan (IJP)** process used in different organizations throughout Sedgwick County.
25. Using Team Justice as a vehicle to **gain community volunteers** for Crossover Youth Practice Model

## **Addendum**

### **Task Force Resource Members**

- Steven Stonehouse, Sedgwick County Department of Corrections
- Hope Cooper, Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC)
- Kristin Peterman, Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- Shantel Westbrook, Sedgwick County COMCARE
- Lemuel Moore, Wichita Police Department

### **Speakers**

#### *Department of Justice letter*

- Steve House, Task Force Member

#### *Juvenile Justice*

- Marquette Atkins, Task Force Member, Progeny Juvenile Justice report (From Harm to Healing)

#### *Foster Care System*

- Kristin Peterman, Kansas Department of Children and Families
- Frances Breyne Avery, J.D. of Beacon Health Options, and Executive Director of the Kansas Engagement Center
- Mary Ann Smith, DCCCA

#### *Mental Health*

- Jennifer Wilson, Sedgwick County COMCARE
- Shantel Westbrook, Sedgwick County COMCARE

#### *Wichita Police Department*

- Lem Moore, Interim Chief of Police
- Paul Duff, Interim Deputy Chief
- Bob Reichenberger, Lieutenant
- Tom Fatkin, Lieutenant
- James Hook, Sergeant
- Rebecca Jabara, Officer
- Manny Thompson, Officer

#### *911 – Emergency Response*

- Elora Forshee, Director of Emergency Communications

#### *Youth Corrections*

- Hope Cooper, Deputy Secretary of Kansas Department of Corrections
- Steve Stonehouse, Deputy Director of Juvenile Programs at Sedgwick County
- Jodi Trongsard, Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center Administrative Manager
- Eric English, Administrative Coordinator Juvenile Detention Center (JDF)

#### *Mental Health*

- Robyn Chadwick, Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph Hospital President and Executive Leader for its Behavioral Health Services *District Attorney – Laws*

#### *Law*

- Marc Bennett, Sedgwick County District Attorney

**HOUSE BILL No. 2468**

By Representative Finney

1-6

1 AN ACT concerning children and minors; relating to the revised Kansas  
2 code for care of children; caring for children in the custody of the  
3 secretary; enacting the Kansas foster youth bill of rights.

4  
5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. (a) Consistent with the policy of the state in K.S.A. 38-  
7 2201, and amendments thereto, in order to ensure proper care and  
8 protection of a child in need of care in the child welfare system, unless  
9 otherwise ordered by the court, such child shall have the right to:

10 (1) Live in a safe, comfortable placement, in accordance with K.S.A.  
11 38-2255, and amendments thereto:

12 (A) Where such child lives in the least restrictive environment;

13 (B) where such child shall be treated with respect, have a place to  
14 store belongings and receive healthy food, adequate clothing and  
15 appropriate personal hygiene products;

16 (C) with siblings when possible; and

17 (D) upon proper investigation and consideration in accordance with  
18 K.S.A. 38-2242, and amendments thereto, with a relative or someone from  
19 such child's community with similar religious beliefs or ethnic heritage;

20 (2) have visits with family;

21 (3) have as few placements as possible;

22 (4) have and maintain belongings by:

23 (A) Making a list of belongings to have when placed out of home;

24 (B) providing such list of belongings to such child's case manager;

25 (C) bringing such belongings when placed out of home; and

26 (D) if going on a visit or to a new placement, have belongings packed  
27 and transportable for the visit or move;

28 (5) have access to all appropriate school supplies, services, tutoring,  
29 extra-curricular, cultural and personal enrichment activities;

30 (6) attend school daily, in accordance with K.S.A. 38-2218, and  
31 amendments thereto;

32 (7) receive a high school diploma, if such child has earned the  
33 standard credits in accordance with K.S.A. 38-2285, and amendments  
34 thereto;

35 (8) be notified of all hearings held pursuant to the revised Kansas  
36 code for care of children, when age or developmentally appropriate;

1 (9) attend, in person or virtually, all court hearings held pursuant to  
2 the revised Kansas code for care of children, when age or developmentally  
3 appropriate;

4 (10) offer the judge thoughts on any placement or placement change  
5 proposed, in accordance with K.S.A. 38-2262, and amendments thereto,  
6 when age or developmentally appropriate;

7 (11) have a guardian ad litem represent the best interests of the child,  
8 in accordance with K.S.A. 38-2205, and amendments thereto, and contact  
9 such child regularly;

10 (12) request a lawyer who will tell the court what such child wants, if  
11 different than the determinations of the guardian ad litem, in accordance  
12 with K.S.A. 38-2205, and amendments thereto;

13 (13) privacy to send and receive unopened mail and make and receive  
14 phone calls;

15 (14) have regular and private contact with and access to case  
16 managers, attorneys and advocates;

17 (15) access accurate and necessary information for such child's well-  
18 being from case managers and guardians and any person who is by law  
19 liable to maintain, care for or support the child;

20 (16) as few changes in case managers as possible;

21 (17) contact a case manager's supervisor if there is a conflict between  
22 such child and such child's case manager that cannot be resolved; and

23 (18) when transitioning out of the child welfare system:

24 (A) Be an active participant in developing a transition plan, as  
25 defined in K.S.A. 38-2202, and amendments thereto;

26 (B) have services and benefits explained;

27 (C) have a checking or savings account;

28 (D) learn to manage money, when age or developmentally  
29 appropriate;

30 (E) learn job skills appropriate for such child's age; and

31 (F) be involved in life skills training and activities.

32 (b) This section shall be known and may be cited as the Kansas foster  
33 youth bill of rights.

34 (c) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to the revised  
35 Kansas code for care of children.

36 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
37 publication in the statute book.

## HOUSE BILL No. 2469

By Representative Finney

1-6

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1 AN ACT concerning children and minors; relating to the revised Kansas  
2 code for care of children, placement of child in custody of the secretary,  
3 foster parents; enacting the Kansas foster parents bill of rights.

4  
5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. (a) In order to ensure active participation of foster parents,  
7 as an integral, indispensable and vital role in the state's efforts to care for  
8 children in the custody of the secretary, unless otherwise ordered by the  
9 court, such foster parents shall have the right to:

10 (1) Be treated by the Kansas department for children and families and  
11 other child welfare system stakeholders with dignity, respect and trust as a  
12 primary provider of care and support and a member of the professional  
13 team caring for a child in the custody of the secretary;

14 (2) not be discriminated against on the basis of religion, race, color,  
15 creed, gender, marital status, national origin, age or physical handicap in  
16 accordance with K.S.A. 44-1001, et seq., and amendments thereto, and  
17 federal law;

18 (3) if the values and beliefs of the child and the biological family are  
19 respected and not infringed upon, continue with such parents' own family  
20 values and beliefs with consideration given to the special needs of children  
21 who have experienced trauma and separation from their biological  
22 families;

23 (4) make decisions concerning the child, consistent with the policies,  
24 procedures and other directions of the Kansas department for children and  
25 families, department of health and environment and within the limits of  
26 state and federal law;

27 (5) receive standardized preservices training by the Kansas  
28 department for children and families, or the department's designee, and at  
29 appropriate intervals to meet mutually-assessed needs of the child and  
30 such parents;

31 (6) receive timely financial reimbursement and to be notified of any  
32 costs or expenses for which such parents may be eligible for  
33 reimbursement in accordance with K.S.A. 38-2216, and amendments  
34 thereto;

35 (7) receive information regarding services and contact the Kansas  
36 department for children and families, or the department's designee, during

1 regular business hours and a telephone number for after business hours in  
2 the event of an emergency;

3 (8) be notified, prior to the placement of a child, of any information  
4 or issues concerning the child and known to the Kansas department for  
5 children and families, or the department's designee, that is relevant to the  
6 care of a child when such child is placed with such parents or that may  
7 jeopardize the health and safety of the foster family or the child or alter the  
8 manner in which care and services should be administered;

9 (9) discuss known information regarding the child prior to placement  
10 and be provided such information from the Kansas department for children  
11 and families as such information becomes available under state and federal  
12 law;

13 (10) with reasonable notice, refuse placement of a child in such  
14 parents' home or to request the removal of a child from such parents'  
15 home;

16 (11) receive any available information through the Kansas department  
17 for children and families regarding the number of times a child has been  
18 placed and the reasons for such placements, and to receive the names and  
19 phone numbers of any previous placements if such placements have  
20 authorized such a release by law;

21 (12) receive information from the Kansas department for children and  
22 families that is relevant to the care of a child when the child is placed with  
23 such parents;

24 (13) provide input and participate in the case planning process for the  
25 child and the right to participate in and be informed about the planning of  
26 visitation between the child and the child's biological family, recognizing  
27 that visitation with the biological family is important, in accordance with  
28 K.S.A. 38-2255, and amendments thereto;

29 (14) communicate with the child's child welfare case management  
30 provider and to share and obtain relevant and appropriate information  
31 regarding such child's placement;

32 (15) communicate with members of the child's professional team, for  
33 the purpose of participating in such child's case plan, with other  
34 professionals who work with such child's child welfare case management  
35 provider, including, but not limited to, therapists, physicians and teachers,  
36 as allowable by rules and regulations, state and federal law;

37 (16) be notified in advance of any court hearing or review where the  
38 case plan or permanency of the child is an issue, including periodic  
39 reviews held by the court, in accordance with the revised Kansas code for  
40 care of children;

41 (17) be considered, when appropriate, as a placement option, if a  
42 child who was formerly placed with such parents is in the custody of the  
43 secretary again;

1 (18) continue contact and communication with a child subsequent to  
2 the child's placement from such parents' family foster home, subject to the  
3 approval of the child and the child's biological parents, if such biological  
4 parents' rights have not been terminated;

5 (19) direct questions regarding information, concerns, policy  
6 violations and a corrective action plan relating to licensure as a family  
7 foster home to the department of health and environment; and

8 (20) have the rights described in this section be given full  
9 consideration when the Kansas department for children and families  
10 develops and approves policies regarding placement and permanency.

11 (b) This section shall be known and may be cited as the Kansas foster  
12 parents bill of rights.

13 (c) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to the revised  
14 Kansas code for care of children.

15 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
16 publication in the statute book.

**As Amended by House Committee**

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***As Amended by Senate Committee***

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*Session of 2021*

**SENATE BILL No. 12**

By Senator Faust-Goudeau

1-7

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1 AN ACT concerning the department for children and families; relating to  
2 performance-based contracting.

3  
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) The Kansas department for children and families shall  
6 collaborate with community partners and stakeholders to jointly develop a  
7 plan for implementation of a set of performance-based contracts to provide  
8 an array of evidence-based prevention and early intervention services for  
9 families who are at risk for an out-of-home placement or have a child in  
10 out-of-home care and for children who are awaiting adoption. The  
11 implementation plan shall describe:

12 (1) The services that are required to be delivered under any contract  
13 in order to assure that providers have the ability to provide adequate,  
14 appropriate and relevant evidence-based services to individual families;

15 (2) the outcome measures that will be used to evaluate the  
16 effectiveness of provider performance under the contracts;

17 (3) how families will be referred to contracted providers, including  
18 the protocols for continued communication or coordination between  
19 providers and the department in order to assure child safety and well-being  
20 and to promote the family's engagement; and

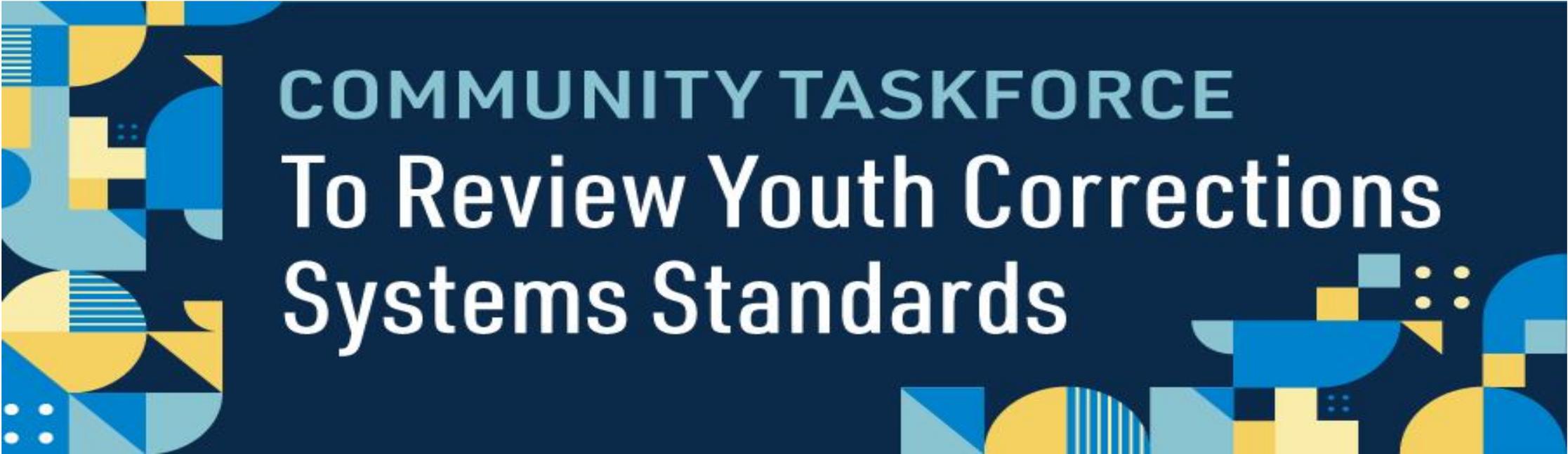
21 (4) the optimum balance of shared responsibility for child protection  
22 and child welfare between the department and the providers, including a  
23 description of the core functions to be performed by each.

24 (b) In developing the implementation plan, the Kansas department for  
25 children and families shall consider the capacity for regionwide delivery of  
26 an array of evidence-based prevention and early intervention services to  
27 children and families, paying particular attention to the willingness and  
28 ability of the community and stakeholders to collaborate in the  
29 development of the implementation plan by January 31, ~~2022~~ **2023**, and  
30 whether there are any existing and available multidisciplinary or multi-  
31 system work groups engaged in performance improvement or reform  
32 efforts. The Kansas department for children and families shall report to the  
33 governor, the house of representatives committee on children and seniors  
34 and the senate committee on public health and welfare by January 31,

1 ~~2022~~ **2023**, with a plan to begin implementation on July 1, ~~2022~~ **2023**. Not  
2 later than January 31, ~~2023~~ **2024**, the Kansas department for children and  
3 families shall provide to the governor and the legislature a status update  
4 and recommendations for continued progress.

5 (c) The Kansas department for children and families shall submit a  
6 proposal to the legislature and the governor on or before January 31, ~~2023~~  
7 **2024**, for the reinvestment of savings from reduced foster care caseloads  
8 into evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs designed  
9 to prevent the need for or reduce the duration of out-of-home placements.  
10 The proposal shall include sufficient detail regarding accounting,  
11 budgeting and allocation of resources or other procedures for legislative  
12 consideration and approval.

13 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
14 publication in the ~~statute book~~ **Kansas register**.



# 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, 18<sup>th</sup> 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!

