



CYPM Kansas State Policy Team TA Conference Call Summary

January 26, 2022 10:00am-12:00 pm

Conference Call Number: 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 984 8710 6341

Brown County Sheriff

Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

Community Corrections

Cornerstones of Care

Court Services

DCCCA

Defense Attorney

Department for Children and Families

Department of Corrections

Ellsworth Police Department

Guardian Ad Litem

Judge-5th Judicial District

Juvenile Intake and Assessment

Kansas Department of Education

Kansas Family Advisory Network

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Parent Advocate

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St. Francis Ministries

TFI Family Services

Youth Advocate

Welcome & Introductions

Highlighting Top Issues

- Identifying a family advocate for the team
 - Ashley stated that we are still looking for a parent advocate for the team. She asked the team to send her contact information for anyone interested. She also asked the team to ask their staff if any parents they are currently working with might be interested.
- Local participation from youth and families
 - The pilot counties are also having challenges identifying youth and parent advocates for the local teams.
- Update on emergency placement recruitment
 - Ashley stated that a draft of the school personnel flyer is in progress. She is waiting on information from Cornerstones of Care. Once the draft is completed it will be shared with the team.
- Updates on record retrieval costs
 - This issue was brought to the team by Kristen a few months ago. The coordinators are looking into each district/region to find out the cost and process for obtaining records. This will give the team a better idea of any necessary changes.

Updates

- Engagement with Pilot Counties
 - **Shawnee County:** At the last meeting we reminded the team to provide the survey link to their current families. One staff member sent the survey out and discovered the language in the survey was a little confusing. A parent who looked at the survey was confused by the words "child welfare" and stated she had never been on welfare. The words "child welfare" were left in the survey but an example of DCF was provided to clear up the confusion. Since there have been struggles getting parents to respond to the survey, the SNCO team decided to reconvene the focus group workgroup that was used for youth listening sessions and they will begin planning for parent listening sessions.
 - The team was asked to share the focus group report with their own staff and bring feedback to the January meeting. The purpose of the discussion was for staff to begin thinking about short-term and long-term changes based on what the young people said in those listening sessions. Staff acknowledged the issues with inconsistency between agencies. The discussion will assist SNCO with changes and creating necessary protocols. KVC and JIAC are developing an information-sharing agreement. They already share most information, but the formal agreement will state the who, what, when, and how for sharing necessary information. Macon added that the team has been going through a mapping exercise on how young people come into the JDC



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and the initial JIAC process to understand how young people can be identified. Through this process, it has become clear that staff understand the need for sharing information, but many are still concerned with who it is going to, how it is used, etc. This agreement will show staff that they can share information and how to do it. Hope asked if an example of a local MOU could be shared to help other jurisdictions that are also concerned about information sharing and how it can/should be done. Macon stated, yes from what SNCO creates we can use that as a template. CJJR also has other information-sharing agreements from other jurisdictions that can be shared as well.

- **Montgomery County:** The team finished up the year by walking through current processes for when a youth in foster care is arrested and taken to JIAC. At the January meeting the team identified goals for 2022 . Their first goal is training. The team understands there are gaps and misunderstandings between agencies regarding what each agency can/should provide (what services, how to refer, who to contact, etc.). Prevention is another goal and ties into the training on what services are/can be provided and by whom. Interagency collaboration (streamlining communication between all agencies involved) is another important piece of implementing the CYPM. The last item on the team's goal list is to develop an integrated case management process. Now that goals have been established the team will begin walking through each goal and identifying tasks to accomplish each goal.
- **Sedgwick County:** Sedgwick is currently working on developing an implementation team. The team decided it would be a good idea to have leadership and implementation teams to keep the momentum going toward reimplementing CYPM. The team continues to work on the 101 trainings and completing their assessment inventory.
- **Workgroups**
 - No updates on Prevention as the local counties work through kinks regarding the survey. The team may need to discuss if the survey is worth pursuing at the next meeting.
 - Macon stated that she has received feedback from DCF, KDOC, and OJA regarding the information sharing document which lays out the statutes related to information sharing. She stated there is a lot of information to sift through, and the current document is based on the 2019 statutes, therefore, revisions may be needed. Once the current statutes are reviewed and any updates are made to the document, the team will need to consider how revisions will be made when there are future updates to statutes.
- **Presentations Opportunities**
 - No upcoming.
 - Alex, Ashley, and Daniel presented at the Safe and Supportive Schools Virtual Conference the morning of this meeting. The audience of this conference



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primarily consisted of teachers and other school staff. Some of the topics discussed in the Q&A portion will be brought to the SPT for further discussion. One of those issues is support for all youth in care, not just crossover youth. Amongst the discussion for support were such things as credit recovery (exceptions for youth in care), IEPs (delays when young people switch schools), etc. Macon mentioned that a large piece of getting supports in place is the educator having knowledge that a youth is in care (child welfare or juvenile justice). Macon suggested that the SPT work toward every school having a liaison who understands the systems but can also filter the information to parties who need to know that information and will use the information to benefit the young person. Linda asked if the point of contact could be the school social worker, which could be a viable option. Stacy mentioned that due to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) she was under the impression that every school was to have a point person for such purpose. Linda stated that in her experience every school does have a designated ESSA contact. Vicky stated that in Wyandotte County each school has a social worker, larger schools have more than one, many of which have DCF and/or CMP experience and are knowledgeable of the child welfare processes. Ashley stated that she would reach out to John and find out if there are designated persons at each school. Ashley will also ask that John or Kent speak to this at the meeting in February. Macon asked that Ashley not only ask about child welfare involvement but also those young people who are involved with the juvenile justice system. Macon also stated we may be able to use the designated points of contact at each school to help disseminate the educator's flyer. Stacy suggested the contact person could be the McKinney Vento person at each school. When Ashley talks with John she will verify if every school has such a contact.

- Other Issues
 - Alex brought up a recent news article about a crossover youth that was in the midst of a mental health crisis and ultimately ended up dying at the Sedgwick County Juvenile Intake Center.
 - The team is not allowed to discuss specifics as the investigation is ongoing however Macon wanted the issue brought to the team for discussion.
 - Alex asked Hope if she had any comments regarding the incident because she is on a task force that will be investigating and making recommendations for changes to processes to prevent the potential for youth to be harmed when taken into custody in the future. The task force includes community members from multiple entities and their primary focus is looking at policy and procedure, not just for intake but for the county as a whole. The task force will also be reviewing the video footage and the DA's investigative report.
 - Hope asked Daniel if the Sedgwick County Crossover team had been reviewing this case and if any of those members were on the task force. Daniel stated it had not been discussed during team meetings, but this should be addressed and/or discussed.



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- Hope asked the team their thoughts on the SPT's role in this case.
 - Ashley suggested going through the events of the case and at each step talking about what could have been done differently and discussing what protocols need to be put in place.
 - Kristen stated that the team needed to keep in mind that the youth was not involved with the juvenile justice system until this incident. This started as a mental health crisis and this team could address how youth are funneled into the juvenile justice system due to mental health crises.
 - Macon asked the team to consider how change is made at the local level. While the state can offer information and suggestions on best practices, and thoughts on what needs to change, there may be some resistance at the local level. The team needs to move to action as opposed to just recommending changes. Hope stated she did not see this as an issue because while Juvenile Intake is operated by KDOC, the agency provides standards for operations. The standards can be changed, and MOU's can be required if necessary. Hope stated that she also believes that the SPT can make legislative change or influence change by remaining active and not allowing hurdles to slow the work.
 - Regina stated that in Wyandotte they do see youth brought to detention for battery on an LEO and noted the need to intervene with mental health support before situations escalate to a youth being charged and/or detained. She also stated that a Family Engagement position, funded by a community corrections grant, works with youth in detention. This position can go into detention facilities to get mental health services started and work with youth who are struggling. The position also assists when a youth transitions from detention back in their home school.
- Hope asked if there was any supports or engagement available for youth in foster care to assist them in working through a mental health crisis. Regina stated that in Wyandotte County their police department has a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) but she has primarily seen this team work with adults.
- Vicky stated that the CMPs have a behavior intervention specialist position. Linda stated she is not sure if all CMPs have a behavior intervention specialist, but they do all have an after-hours crisis team.
- There is also a new Mobile Crisis service funded by DCF that provides intervention via telephone, and in-person, to those needing mental health screenings, etc. The flyer for this service was put in the chat, by Stacy, during the meeting and will be shared with these notes.
- Hope stated that one action item the SPT could take on is taking the information that has been shared and distributing it widely.
- Alex stated that many of the members of the SPT are in positions where they oversee others. She asked to what degree are they able to empower people



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to act humanely while thinking in the moment. According to the articles written about this situation, the youth had been locked out of the foster home and he had stated that he didn't want to go anywhere, he just wanted to sleep on the porch. Alex asked, at what point could someone have just stayed there with him? At JIAC when the youth was in restraints and lying face down for a long period, at what point is it too much? Colleagues and staff should be empowered to stop and take a breath to think about situations.

- Lisa cautioned that information provided to the public is not always reported accurately.
- Dawn agreed regarding inaccurate information; however, she also agreed with Kristen's earlier statement that youth in mental health crises need different types of intervention.
- Macon stated that something tragic has occurred to a young person in care and immediate action is needed. While we do not know the specifics, the SPT should focus on solutions, such as de-escalation services and other interventions to assist a young person in crisis.
- Linda stated that during the last couple of years they have trained their foster parents differently for crisis intervention purposes and have advised them to contact mental health services. Previously foster parents were trained to contact LEO. Linda suggested that all caregivers, including biological parents, have access to training, not only for mental health and/or behaviors but also to help them establish a plan of action for when a crisis occurs.
- Macon suggested that this discussion be continued during next month's meeting and that staff be prepared to discuss the concerns raised today.

Pilot County Youth Listening Sessions

- Montgomery and Shawnee Counties each held 3 different sessions that were approximately 2 hours long.
- Montgomery County had 6 youth participants ages 10 to 20 years old. All participants were only justice-involved.
- Shawnee County had 7 youth participants ages 15-25. All participants were crossover youth.
- Themes that were identified through the sessions:
 - Participants across the counties expressed that involvement with the systems placed added strain on their families. Systems tended to work against the building, repairing and maintenance of familial relationships. However, it also prompted some to reflect on their behaviors and work to reconnect with family.
 - The experiences participants had with agency and system workers varied greatly. Some were seen as very positive, while others the opposite.
 - Participants conveyed mixed experiences with certain services, but overall expressed feeling unprepared for court and confused by the process.



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- Participants indicated poor communication, representation, and rapport with and by their attorneys.
- Alex and Victoria discussed several areas covered during the listening sessions.
- Impact on families
 - Family separation
 - Added burdens
 - Lack of communication
 - Renewed efforts
- Experiences with Agency Personnel
 - Case worker turnover and trust
 - PO approach and rapport
 - Police mistreatment
- Opportunities and Resources
 - Counseling and therapy
 - Tutoring and mentoring
 - Reentry and transition to adulthood
- Understanding of Court Procedures
 - Understanding and awareness
 - Perception of fairness
- Experiences with Attorneys
 - Communication and representation
- Responses and Reactions
 - What can we do with this information?
 - Shaileen suggested that this information be shared with those who represent young people. Possibly providing training for GAL's, attorneys, etc. It is important that they hear how the young people view their representation.
 - Regina agreed and stated that when asked if their attorney went over the case with them, a lot of times they say "yes", because they do not want to say they didn't understand. Alex stated that suggestions from a previous meeting was to create a document for attorneys to review with their clients prior to court. But it is good to remember that simply mandating a document does not prevent an attorney from breezing through the document and/or ensuring the young person will be confident in saying they do not understand.
 - Hope mentioned the Juvenile Defense Counsel report and stated that there are a few groups working on the recommendations. One, the Kansas Advisory Group (KAG), is working to provide JTIP Trainers Certification to detention center staff. The KAG is also working on a juvenile defense training and resource hub. The Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) is also assisting the KAG with implementing recommendations from the report. Alex asked if the JTIP



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training could be mandated for attorneys. Hope stated the training is still in development and right now it is not required, but the hope is to make this training a requirement in the future.

- Regina stated that as part of the overhaul of the juvenile justice system (SB367), there is training regarding juvenile justice for juvenile attorneys; however, this requirement has not been implemented/enforced yet.
- Alex mentioned a gap in family therapy and Hope asked for clarification as to what the gap is. Alex said that a SNCO team member stated that the Medicaid reimbursement rate is low and is causing an issue with availability of family therapy due to lack of money and a large amount of paperwork involved. Macon stated that in D.C. the agency she worked with had another pool of money so that families could access quality family therapy and did not have to rely on Medicaid providers. Regina stated they have this funding in Wyandotte County, and it has been helpful for families in need of therapy. She stated that many providers do not accept private pay insurance due to the low reimbursement rates but with the additional funds Wyandotte County is able to provide these services for free. She stated they also have contracts to provide juvenile sex offender assessments as needed.
- Hope stated that KDOC has contracts to provide Functional Family Therapy (FFT) across the state and that contracts have been modified to allow for crossover youth. Macon asked Hope how we can ensure that folks, at least for the JDs that we are currently in, have the FFT information. Hope stated she would provide FFT contact information to judicial districts.
- The full reports from Shawnee and Montgomery County listening sessions, as well as the PowerPoint shared at this meeting, will be sent out with the summary of this meeting.

Pilot County Attorney Concerns (Conversation will take place in February)

- What can we do to ensure youth have better legal representation?

Brainstorm Solutions on Cross-County Cases

- a) communication issues between Juvenile Intake and foster care providers
 - Review updated DCF intake/foster care communication process map
 - It has been completed and was sent to the team for feedback.
- b) supervision of cross-county cases and the ability of young people to acquire services if they have DCF and juvenile justice cases open in two different counties (Refer to DOC Standards)
- c) the 5120 Notification of Move/Placement Change form and how additional stakeholders may be able to partake in its receipt



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- d) youth who reside on reservations and who come into custody of the state due to an offense

SPT 2022 Goals – What are we aiming to accomplish?

- 1) Transition of crossover youth; 2) Celebration of crossover youth

Working Toward Our Goals

- Transition for crossover youth
- Celebration of crossover youth

Future Meeting Dates

- Calls/meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 10:00am-12:00pm. Subsequent dates include:
 - February 23rd
 - March 23rd