

June 21, 2019

Greg Smith, Chair  
Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee  
Department of Correction Juvenile Services

Dear Chair Smith:

The Department for Children and Families appreciates the effort, guidance and monitoring by the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee related to continued improvement in the juvenile justice system and implementation of Senate Bill 367. The 2019 final budget included two proviso workgroups for DCF to convene. The purpose of first workgroup with a report due by June 30, 2019 is to gather data to understand the impact of SB 367 on youth with offender behaviors entering foster care. The second workgroup has similar purpose and requires DCF to convene designees for greater in-depth analysis of youth at risk of entering foster care due to conduct that has resulted or could result in juvenile offender allegations and youth placed in foster care engaging in conduct that has resulted or could result in juvenile offender allegations.

DCF collaborates with Department of Correction Juvenile Services in communities to support families with youth who may be experiencing mental or behavioral health crisis or behaviors assessed as at-risk or alleged as juvenile offenses. While we await reports from the summer workgroups, there is information from stakeholders and community-based providers reflecting families with youth involved in juvenile offender allegations are shifting to service through DCF assessment, intervention and foster care programs. As such we aspire to act now to prevent these youth from entering foster care.

K.S.A. 75-52,164 juvenile justice improvement fund outlines use for the reinvestment funds, specifically that the "fund shall be for the development and implementation of evidence-based community programs and practices for juvenile offenders and their families by community supervision offices, including, but not limited to, juvenile intake and assessment, court services and community corrections." DCF further understands that the Oversight Committee are required to make recommendations on how reinvestment funds are spent, and the Secretary of Corrections is authorized to make the final decision on the allocation of reinvestment funds.

To prevent entry into the State's foster care program and maximize evidenced-base programs and practices to maintain juveniles in communities with their families, DCF requests consideration of allocating a portion of the Evidenced Based Programs Account of the State General fund (reinvestment fund) to DCF.

DCF will use reinvestment funds to initiate or amplify evidence-based program administration and training for programs serving youth facing crisis or juvenile offender allegations. Consistent with K.S.A. 75-52,164, DCF can prioritize funds to jurisdictions that demonstrate a high rate of out-of-home placement of juvenile offenders or youth alleged as juvenile offenders per capita that have few existing community-based alternatives.

DCF requests an opportunity to present or confer with JJOC Reinvestment Subcommittee or Oversight Committee as appropriate to explore a formal method of fund allocation to DCF. DCF looks forward to further discussion around the Committee's priorities and proposes the following initial uses or concepts for reinvestment funds:

Service	Proposed # Served	Cost per unit	Total cost
Intensive In-Home Family Preservation Services for families with youth age 15+ (Home Builders evidence base rated as effective in OJJDP Model Program Guide [MPG])	100 families with youth age 15 and older facing crisis or juvenile offender allegations and risk of entry into foster care	Avg. \$4,667 per family	\$466,700
Purchase Kansas Big Brother Big Sisters Community Based Mentoring in their 11 hub communities. Program rated as Effective for health, positive parent relationship, delinquency prevention and positive peer supports,	200 youth/ new mentees	\$1,500 per new mentoring match	\$300,000
Purchase crisis intervention beds for youth age 14 or older facing behavioral health crisis or allegations of juvenile offender behavior and at risk of entry into foster care.	To be determined after further analysis and discussion.		
Training costs to build capacity for Family Functional Therapy (FFT) teams in 8 DCF grant regions in the child welfare grantees for a team of 3-8 clinicians.	Phase 1 costs: \$47,782 Phase 2 costs: \$38,161 Phase 3 costs: \$13,216	\$99,159 per clinical area/site team  (x 8 areas)	\$793,272
Purchase Behavioral Intervention Services from FosterAdoptConnect  (emerging, but not yet evidenced based. Bruce Perry intervention base and working with KU for analysis and evidence information)	40 youth. Wyandotte and Johnson County families with youth age 15 and older facing crisis or juvenile offender allegations and risk of entry into foster care or in care.	\$49/ hour for minimum of 15 hours/ week. Typical length of service is 30 weeks or a total service cost \$22,050/ child.	\$882,000
Augment funds to family first prevention grant to overlapping evidenced based programs rated as effective in the OJJDP MPG and approved by the Administration of Children and Families Prevention clearinghouse such as Family Functional Therapy and Multisystemic Therapy.	youth age 15 and older facing crisis or juvenile offender allegations and risk of entry into foster care	Dependent on program or bidder proposal.	\$500,000
Implement Family Finding Practice Approach with 4 foster care grantees to identify and locate family willing to support youth age 15+ in care.	Training or collaboration costs not known yet		
Curriculum for specialized foster home or relative homes.	To be determined after further analysis and discussion.		

We look forward future discussion and agreements as appropriate regarding DCF use of reinvestment funds. Thank you for your commitment to collaboration for community-based programs for Kansas families. If you or subcommittee members have any questions, please feel free to contact Deputy Secretary Tanya Keys at [Tanya.Keys@ks.gov](mailto:Tanya.Keys@ks.gov) for more information.

Sincerely,



Laura Howard  
Secretary, Department for Children and Families

Cc:

Hon. Delia York, Chair, JJOC Reinvestment Subcommittee

Shanelle Dupree, DCF JJOC Committee Member

Charles E. Simmons, Acting Secretary, DOC

Hope Cooper, Deputy Secretary, DOC Juvenile and Adult Community Based Services

Rebekah Gaston, DCF Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs

Daniel Lewien, DCF Director of Office of Financial Management

LH:TK

