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Ellsworth Police Department  
Guardian Ad Litem  
Judge-5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Juvenile Intake and Assessment  
Kansas Department of Education  
Kansas Family Advisory Network  
Kansas Health Institute  
KVC Kansas  
Lawrence Douglas Co. Dept. Of Health  
Office of Judicial Administration  
Parent Advocate  
Sedgwick Co. Office of the District Attorney  
St. Francis Ministries  
TFI Family Services  
Youth Advocate

## Welcome & Introductions

### Establish Rules for Engagement

- Cameras and “hand-raising”
  - CJJR, the Statewide Coordinators, Stacy, Amy, and Hope met to discuss ways to bolster engagement and connection with team members. The team is asked to turn on their cameras for the duration of the meetings unless they need to step away. If there are connectivity issues, team members are asked to relay that information in the chat and proceed with turning cameras off if needed to help connection. In addition, during discussions to ensure that all voices are heard, team members are asked to use the hand-raise reaction button when they want to contribute to the conversation. For meetings that will last two (2) hours, there will be a break.

### Projects in Progress

- Update on emergency placement recruitment
  - Draft of school personnel flyer in progress
    - Ashley is working to incorporate feedback given by the team during the previous discussions, including information regarding Police Protective Custody (PPC) which has proven to be a challenge because the process differs between each county. She has reached out to Jim Johnson, a KDOC Program Consultant who oversees and provides technical assistance to Juvenile Intake and Assessment Services (JIAS) for information. As suggested, Ashley also contacted Safe Families; however, they did not have any information which needed to be included.
    - Hope stated that she is working on a project regarding PPC based on what is being seen with the Wichita Task Force in regards to the case of Cedric Lofton. KDOC is working on updating the MOU with DCF for JIAS throughout the state. While KDOC will not have all of the answers regarding what occurs locally, she suggested adding a note to the flyer that PPC will filter through KDOC until statewide guidance/protocols can be developed. KDOC is also putting together a workgroup to address gaps around local law enforcement responding to youth who go into PPC. There will be a total revamping of processes. PPC youth are not technically under the custody of DCF or DOC which makes it difficult for local law enforcement.
    - Ashley will continue developing the flyer and work with Hope to incorporate the process for contacting KDOC.
    - Macon reminded the team about a previous conversation regarding educating and making information available to school personnel about their ability to support youth through



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emergency placement; however, there is a need to provide the education system with information regarding how disruption in the education process impacts this population of youth. She stated that the SPT team can do some work in this area, including supporting youth by having liaisons in each school/district and also educating staff on the challenges these young people face so there is a level of compassion and empathy that they are receiving within the school setting.

- Updates on record retrieval costs – no update was provided during this meeting.
- Education point person for system-involved youth
  - Ashley has spoken with John regarding a point person at each school to be able to filter information to the correct people who would need to know if a youth is involved in the system.
  - Hina suggested leveraging an existing infrastructure through the mental health intervention teams. She stated that there are 35 – 50 of these teams in schools who could assist with the dissemination of information.
  - John stated that he is the head of the mental health intervention team program. The program is currently in 55 of the 286 districts with hopes of expanding to all districts. He stated that he initially thought the McKinney-Vento liaisons could act as point persons for the school; however, since youth placed in PPC aren't considered homeless, those youth would not qualify, so those liaisons would not be able to assist. He questioned if information regarding a youth's arrest and/or being placed in PPC can be provided to school staff without breaking any laws.
  - Macon asked if Kansas' definition of homelessness includes youth in foster care.
  - John stated that the law in Kansas changed in 2016 to mimic the federal definition of McKinney-Vento; however, since a child in foster care is normally in state custody, they would not be eligible for services under the Act.
  - Stacy stated that the time a youth falls under McKinney-Vento is between a temporary custody hearing and adjudication. After that, the youth is considered CINC and no longer meets the homeless definition.
  - John stated that this goes back to the question of if a JIAS worker can provide information to the school without breaking confidentiality. He asked if a document could be created for parents to sign which says, we strongly encourage you to contact the school to alert them of the situation so that support can be put into place to further benefit your child when they do come back. If you do not want to do that as a parent because you are embarrassed or there are barriers, or you do not get along with the school, I as the JIAC employee have that relationship with the school, and I can call the contact.



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- Alex asked what the protocol is in Kansas for communication between JIAC, detention, and schools. She stated that youth retain their educational rights when they are held in secure custody.
- John stated that what normally happens is that the facility contacts the previous school when they need to enroll a youth; however, there are situations when this may not occur promptly, such as when the youth will only be at the facility a short time or the youth is arrested and released back to the family. He stated that these situations create some tension for the youth and family that the school should be aware of to be able to provide wrap-around services. He suggested that legal counsel be consulted to determine the feasibility of providing information to the school without parental permission, and/or asking parents to advise the school of the situation or signing a waiver to allow JIAS to advise the school.
- Macon stated that this is a two-pronged approach. She suggested determining what is legally feasible and including the parent in the decision. She cautioned about telling the parents that schools are providing support unless they can do so. There needs to be a process to help ensure this occurs and includes an education piece to inform school staff of what is most helpful to crossover youth, and to prevent them from being ostracized within the school building.
- John stated that when he was an SRO he would go to the principal and counselor and let them know, “Johnny’s going to have a rough day today, or may have a rough day”, without providing details. He stated that the challenge he sees is different interpretations between county/district attorneys throughout the state. He will reach out to his contacts to find out if there is an agreement or law that we can base information sharing between JIAC and schools.
- Thinking back to when she was a teacher, Alex added that she did not need to know all of the details about the situation, but just a heads up that the youth may have a rough day or may have her head down and to just let it go. She agreed with Macon, in that educators or other school staff should be prepared to not misinterpret a youth’s behavior and approach them with compassion.
- Brady referenced portions of Juvenile Justice Code 38-2310(e)(2)(K). He stated that this code provides the legal framework for the release of information from JIAS to the extent necessary to enable the school to provide the safest possible environment for pupils and employees. He added that legal counsel from all entities will need to agree to the interpretation.
- Alex asked if the code outlined the types of information that can be shared.
- Brady stated that the code is fairly broad and states, records, reports, and information that is obtained as part of the intake and assessment for



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juveniles. He believes the code intends to allow for schools to be told, at the least, that the youth may have a rough day.

- DCF intake/foster care communication process map
  - Ashley has received all of the information and will email the map to SPT members for review. She will work with Jim Johnson to determine a method for the dissemination method, and with the other statewide coordinators to determine a place to house the map.

### Updates

- Engagement with Pilot Counties
  - Sedgwick County continues to grow in membership, eight (8) individuals have accepted the invitation to join the team from different agencies; three (3) from the juvenile justice system and five (5) from child welfare are expected to attend the April meeting. The addition of these individuals will help strengthen the leadership team and develop an implementation team. Based on CJJR recommendations, Daniel has developed a tracker to help keep track of goals and action plans.
  - Shawnee County continues to discuss the current system and make improvements, which are being documented in the new protocol and procedural map. The team is doing very well, and most of their meetings have very productive conversations. The team continues to work on facilitating a focus group for parents. During the March meeting, the team revised the parent/guardian survey developed by the SPT's Prevention Workgroup to be more specific for SNCO. Lastly, JIAS and KVC are in the process of developing a formal information-sharing agreement.
  - Montgomery County continues to develop cross-system training content. The team plans to have all material done by April and ready to present in early June.
- Presentations Opportunities
  - Kansas Crime Victim's Rights Conference, April 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Vicki asked if the coordinators were still planning to present for the Kansas Association of Court Services Officers, which was canceled last year. She will provide details and check back in with the coordinators.

### Reimagining the State Policy Team

- Steering Committee
  - Hope stated that she, CJJR, the statewide coordinators, Amy, and Stacy met to discuss SPT engagement and progress. Amy discussed changes being made to the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee, which is another statewide group. The JJOC is charged with overseeing reforms of the juvenile justice system (SB 367). At the beginning of the reform was a lot of implementation, and the group was doing well. Once the implementation phase was completed, attendance and participation dropped as members were questioning their roles and the group's



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purpose. The JJOC “reimagined” will utilize a steering committee, which she likened to the SPT, which would be the larger group that identifies and discusses the main focus areas of CYPM and would meet less often, for instance, quarterly. During the interim months, workgroups/subcommittees roll up their sleeves. Each member of the JJOC was asked to be part of a workgroup which could include ad hoc members, such as Jim Johnson, to help with work around JIAS, or could include additional law enforcement officers, or someone from a particular school district depending on the need. The work done by the subcommittees would be taken back to the larger steering committee, the entire SPT, for discussion. Then, if more work is needed, that information would be relayed to the subcommittee. Three (3) focus areas or subcommittees for the SPT are Policy, Practice, and Uplifting Youth and Families.

- Stacy added that the focus of the meeting is to make sure that we are on track and improving engagement.
- Regina and Dustin’s agreed that the plan Hope laid out would be a good fit for the team.
- Hope stated that chairs are needed for the subcommittees, and a survey would be sent asking SPT members which committee they are interested in, and interest in being a chair. She stated that the chair position would be time-limited and rotated. Those focus areas could potentially change depending on the landscape and the needs of Kansas.
- Alex reiterated the focus areas are Policy, Practice, and Uplifting Youth and Families. Having areas of focus will ensure that we can make a direct and immediate impact on the lives of youth and families. She stated that goals for each will be very specific and tangible. As goals are accomplished new goals will be identified and subcommittee members may choose to change subcommittees based on interest and opportunity to explore other areas of CYPM work.
- Alex stated that she will put together and disseminate a brief survey. Within the survey, all SPT members will be asked for a commitment to remaining a part of the SPT. If a member does not wish to continue volunteering with the team, they are asked to identify someone else within their organization who might be interested. The survey will also ask team members to identify their top two (2) focus areas of interest for participation on subcommittees. Lastly, the survey will ask team members who wish to remain as part of the team to commit to being forward-thinking and solution-focused.
- Macon suggested adding a question relative to other people who might be interested in this work. With this reconfiguration, we are seeking team members who can see the possibility of change, are desirous of change, and are willing to roll up their sleeves, but understand that it is going to



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be a challenge. If there are current SPT members who have co-workers who fit, please provide their names and contact.

- Subcommittees (1. Policy; 2. Practice; 3. Uplifting Youth and Families)
  - Policy focus: TBD based on an assessment of policies, practices, and influence of agencies on crossover youth
  - Practice focus options: 1) Develop practice guidelines for CY aging out of care; 2) Develop guidelines for early identification of CY; 3) Develop guidelines for collaborative meeting structures that support team decision making on CY cases
  - Uplifting Y&F focus: 1) Identify advocates for the steering committee; 2) TBD based on areas identified in the local focus group reports
- Survey to determine team membership and roles
- Open discussion / questions

**Future Meeting Dates**

- Calls/meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from 10:00am-12:00pm. Subsequent dates include:
  - April 27<sup>th</sup>
  - May 25<sup>th</sup>