

Kansas Juvenile Justice/Behavioral Health State Task Force Launch Meeting
Stepping Up Initiative
June 7, 2024, 12:00pm – 1:30pm CT

Zoom Link: <https://csg-org.zoom.us/j/87165666547?pwd=SVgrb04vMlVHQjFCRmxaYkpMQUIJZz09>

Attendees:

CSG Staff: Stephanie Ueberall, Megan Davidson, Meredith Butler, Audra Goldsmith, Emily Rogers, Josh Weber

Core Team Members Present:

Clay McCarter, Director of Special Projects, KDOC
Destini Gillian, Justice Involved Services Coordinator, KDADS
Laura Brake, Director of Crisis Services, KDADS
Brenda Soto, Director Medicaid, and Children's Mental Health Services, DCF

Taskforce Members Present:

Jeff Butrick, Director Community Based Services, KDOC
Representative Angela Martinez, 103rd District
Amy Raymond, Chief of Trial Court Services, Office of Judicial Administration
Dr. Sherrie Vaughn, Executive Director, NAMI KS
Angela McHardie, Deputy Director Detention Center, SNCO
Anna Sagan, Director Special Projects, Board of Indigent Defense
Dustin Browning, Director of Community Corrections, 4th Judicial District
Donald Hymer, Assist District Attorney, Johnson County, Chair Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee
Senator Molly Baumgardner, 37th District
Mike Fonkert, Deputy Director, KS Appleseed
Andrea Diaz, Special Projects Coordinator, ACMHCKS
Marquetta Atkins, Executive Director, Destiny Innovation INC. Progeny

Unable to attend: Honorable Delia York (Wyandotte County District Judge), Representative Stephen Owens (74th District), Representative Brenda Landwehr (125th District), Representative Susan Concannon (107th District), Senator Ethan Corson (7th District), Sheriff Bill Carr (Finney County), Jennifer Zirkle (JIAS, 15th, 17th, 23rd JDs), Zach Vincent (Governor's Office), Trish Backman (State Board of Education), Gary Henault (KDADS), Linda Buchheister (KDADS), Ashley Brown (DCF), Leslie Rannebeck (DCF)

Introductions

Clay [KDOC]:

- Stepping Introduction: KDADS and CSG partnership, launch KS TA Center with sole adult focus of the initiative.
 - Can we broaden this initiative to the youth system?
 - December 2023, contractual agreement with CSG to begin tailoring the SU initiative with a juvenile lens.
 - Forming this taskforce is a part of this SOW, making up the KS taskforce.
 - 3 agencies that are making up the core team leading this work: KDOC, KDADS and DCF

Destini [KDADS]:

- Discussed current TA Center and partnership with CSG and the positive impact it has had.
- Initiative will assist in understanding what we have and where our gaps are.
- KDADS investing in:
 - Youth mobile crisis
 - Youth respite Centers
 - Youth mobile Competency centers, among others

Brenda [DCF]:

- Looking forward to leveraging current child centers/services and better serving youth across the state and the tangible difference this will make.

Project Presentation:

Stephanie [CSG]:

- Areas of Focus:
 - CSG background
 - Initiative overview
 - Relevant context for this project, 3 yr. SOW
 1. Policy Rev
 - 5 Key Phases of State Taskforce work
 - Launching Taskforce today
 - Assessments Jan-June 2024
 - Listening Sessions June-Aug 2024
 - Key Finding and Recommendations Sept-Oct 2024
 - Action Planning Dec 2024-2025
 - Implementing and Support 2025-2026
 - 2. Adapting SU framework to juveniles
 - Problems to address/ Possible Solutions
 - Nationally- challenges in promoting wellbeing of young people (i.e., increased hospitalization, lack of appropriate/available workforce), highlighting the need to community-based services and support
 - Cross-systems approaches to combat these issues, including KS established KS SU initiative to assist with the issue
 - Research shows that diversion from juvenile justice system increase better public safety
 - Advancing BH
 - Creating a Strong Foundation
 - Design Easily Accessible Services
 - Strengthening System to promote sustainability
 - Review of State examples
 - Front-end Prevention Strategies
 - Youth Mobile Crisis: CT, NV
 - Assessment Centers and CSUs: OK, CO
 - School-Based Diversion: WI, MA
 - Early Intervention
 - Utah, statewide "early intervention" approach serving youth and families
 - Florida, established statewide system of services for community-based services

- KS: Defining the Problem and Identifying Opportunities for Improvement
 - Youth arrests are declining and under the national average
 - 77% are for non-person offenses
 - Compared to national average, KS has lower violent arrest rate but higher arrest for drugs
 - KS reduced use of detention overtime but still 88% higher than the national average for pre-adjudicated individuals
 - 36 % of youth detained pre-adjudication were held for status, non-person offenses or technical violations
 - More than two-thirds of youth starting probation had low or moderate risks to reoffend
 - Can these youth be better served through other avenues?
 - 20% are committed for non-person offenses or technical violation
 - Can these youth be better served through other avenues and remain in the home?
 - Less than half of these youth are high risk to reoffend
 - BH are significant drivers for justice involvement
 - Youth needs for SUD, suicide intervention/prevention place them in need for crisis intervention services
 - Opportunities
 - Developing robust systems
 - Enhancing foundational crisis supports
 - Strengthening Cross-system collaborations
 - Maximize federal funding for EBP
 - Formulate strategies for enhancing workforce
 - Promote system accountability and track outcomes
- Q & A
 - Clay McCarter: pre-adjudication detention rate (88%) is surprising, interested in knowing what factors effect this statistic
 - Josh: Lack of alternatives, particularly in rural areas, could lead to this increased percentage. The goal is to be able to share potential policy solutions to combat this issue.
 - Marquetta Atkins: Progeny did a documentary with a person with lived experience school to prison pipeline and his experience with the system; Will share a link to the documentary
 - Strong impact of 'You are What You Create', isolation from pandemic and residual effects of the pandemic have continued to have a negative impact on youth
 - Doing outreach to schools in the Sedgwick County area. Example, Sowers (?) alternative school in Wichita KS
 - Word to Life program- use music and spoken word to empower kids to express themselves
 - Josh: acknowledge the work being done in KS down to the advocacy groups and grassroots initiatives to assist youth
 - Mike Fonkert: Appreciates the multi-system collaborative approach,
 - KS in a good spot in terms of health of state budget to identify the need and make massive investments to help solve problems.

- Question: Data slides dated to 2020-2021, are we going to be able to get more recent data?
 - Narratives into crime and the story being told via most recent data would be most useful in moving this work forward.
 - Josh: The data used is the most up-to-date federal data available but will continue to grasp at available data to provide updated information as we move forward in this project. Suggested strategies to manage and work with high-risk youth, while still diverting low risk youth.
- Josh: Resources- based on initial conversation there is opportunity to leverage existing resources and think creatively about how to tap into those resources and best coordinate existing funding
- Don Hymer: When looking at the mental health piece and funding through the juvenile justice system it can be difficult.
 - Working on putting investment \$ where needed, everyone recognizes the need for advancing things like PRTFs and community-based MH service, a challenge could be identifying if it is a juvenile justice vs mental health issue.
 - It is paradoxical to use juvenile justice \$ to fund MH services that may be outside the juvenile justice system.
 - Question: Would it make more sense to have an independent funding stream that is not connected to the juvenile justice system?
 - Josh: recommendations will take that into consideration and assist with identifying a clearer path from MH and Juvenile Justice for funding usage. The goal is to keep kids out of the system and make sure they are in the system for the right reason and not because of a MH need. Examples from Utah and Florida are funded through JJ systems in the states, but with a clear purpose and intent to divert youth away from the JJ system.
- Angela Martinez: Question: how involved have schools been thus far in this project (early intervention K-12)?
 - Prevention measures that can happen in the schools to build the types of skills so they can better navigate the MH issues and pressures they face.
 - Josh: Recognition of the importance of involving schools but making sure we are staying in the scope of this work
 - Steph: Representatives from Department of Education on the taskforce and will be conducting listening session with administration/principals and line staff educators. Additionally, looking at MHIT programs coming from KDADS and other state frameworks that can support children in schools.
- Josh/Steph: Concluding meeting and next steps
 - Policy reviews & Statutory analysis
 - Share slides and recording from today
 - Upcoming Events:
 - Hosting Webinar June 25th
 - Ask to disseminate to networks of the taskforce members
 - Listening sessions and feedback from taskforce members
 - Outreach for listening sessions will be happening soon
 - Next meeting: Sept 2024, looking to schedule that soon