



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**KANSAS CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL**  
Intake to Petition/CJA  
Task Force

May 31, 2022

## **Kansas Citizen Review Panel – Intake to Petition Annual Report**

The **Kansas Citizen Review Panel – Intake to Petition (ITP)** is one of three Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) in the State of Kansas. This panel also serves as the state's **Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force**, per requirements set forth in Section 107(c) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). This is a multi-disciplinary body of private and public agencies, law enforcement representatives, attorneys, judges, social workers, consumers and citizens committed to the protection of children in Kansas. Also serving as the state of Kansas' Children's Justice Act Task Force, as required under federal Section 107 of CAPTA to enable a state agency to receive funding from the Department of Justice – Office of Victims of Crime, this CJA Task Force oversees grant funds used to improve the investigation, prosecution, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.

The work of the Task Force operates in accordance with CAPTA requirements. In this role, members focus on gathering citizen input, creating a network of community engaged partners across the state and making recommendations to modify and/or improve the state child protective services system from the **intake of a child into care to the point a petition is filed**.

The Task Force meets quarterly, including an annual joint retreat with the other two Citizen Review Panels. This joint meeting provides a valuable opportunity for the panels to review previous year's work together and share ideas for exploration in the upcoming year. Subcommittees are utilized when smaller workgroups are needed to execute the tasks as identified by the Task Force.

The State complies with the membership requirements for the CJA Task Force. In addition, there are advisory members who bring added perspective, specifically representatives from executive branch agencies with whom collaboration is essential for system-wide improvement. Task Force membership attendance and participation remains consistent, with the recent addition of adding the new role of Kansas Child Advocate to the panel. Another exciting development during the reporting year was the establishment of a Task Force chairperson. Honorable Doug Jones was voted in as the Intake to Petition/CJA Task Force chair on Friday, April 12.

With the continued spread and threat of COVID-19, the panel continued to meet virtually in 2021. Meeting virtually has continued to allow for higher membership attendance. Even as the threat of COVID-19 subsides, the panel has expressed interest in continuing to meet virtually for most meetings, as efficiencies have been established and identified through remote work. We will still try to convene in person once or twice a year as well.

## Task Force Membership Listing

State/Territory:  Kansas

Task Force Membership Designation	Name	Title	Organization	Relevant Background/Experience
Law Enforcement	Jeff Cope	Lyon County Sherriff	Lyon County Sherriff's Department	** please see bios in the appendix
Criminal Court Judge, Chairperson	Doug Jones	District Magistrate Judge	5 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District	
Civil Court Judge	Recruiting			
Prosecuting Attorney	Katy Britton	Senior Assistant District Attorney	Douglas County District Court	
Defense Attorney	Miranda Johnson	Attorney	Caffey, Johnson & Ingels, P.A. Manhattan	
Attorney for Children	Recruiting			
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)*	Kristin Hines	State Trainer	Kansas CASA	
Health Professional	Jennifer Hansen	SANE Medical Director	Children's Mercy Hospital	
Health Professional	Emily Killough	Child Abuse Pediatrician	Children's Mercy Hospital	
Mental Health Professional	Angela Dunn	Behavioral Health Coordinator	Kansas City Public Schools	
Child Protective Services	Ann Goodall	CAPTA/CJA Public Service Administrator	DCF	
Child Protective Services	Jennifer Slagle		DCF	
Individual Experienced in Working with Children with Disabilities	Darla Nelson-Metzger	Advocate Coordinator	Families Together, Inc.	
Parent/ Representative of Parent Group	Pamela Robbins	Executive Director	KFAPA	
Adult Former Victim of Child Abuse and Neglect**	Amber Jewell	School-based Social Worker	USD 245	
Individual Experienced in Working with Homeless Children and Youth	Tate Toedman	State Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youth	Kansas Department of Education	
Optional Categories				
Office of Judicial Administration	Lana Goetz	Court Program Specialist	OJA	
Child Welfare Advocate	Kellie Hans Reid	Director of Children & Family Health	CareSource	
Division of the Child Advocate	Kerrie Lonard	Kansas Child Advocate	Division of the Child Advocate	
Family Preservation	Christi Smith	Executive Director	DCCCA, Inc.	
Education Advocate	Kelly Stanford	Chief Program Officer	Communities in Schools	
Other State Agencies	Libby Snider		Kansas Department of Corrections	
Tribal Representative	Sandra Shopteese	Tribal Specialist	DCF	
Child Welfare Contractor	Valerie Leon	Director of Reintegration	Saint Francis Ministries	
Substance Abuse Counselor	Jennifer Gassmann	DEC/Parent Child Assistance Program Supervisor	Kansas Children's Service League	
Advisory Member	Christine Lucero	Program Specialist	ACF, Region VII	
Advisory Member	Sara Hortenstine	Executive Director	Kansas Child Death Review Board	
Foster Parent	Jenny Broyles	--	--	
CRP Coordinator	Taylor Forrest	CRP Coordinator	Mainstream Nonprofit Solutions	

## CRP Intake to Petition/CJA Task Force Meeting Overviews

### CRP Intake to Petition/CJA Task Force Meeting Overviews

**June 25, 2021**

#### **Focus: Conduct Needs Assessment to Improve Panel Function**

**Outcomes:** The meeting began with an open invitation for someone to take on the role of Intake to Petition/CJA Task Force chair. The meeting moved into general updates from panel members. Honorable Judge Jones said his district had been overrun with truancy cases the last six months. He had to create special dockets to process the high volume of truancy cases. Judge Rush also said this was an issue she was seeing as well. DCF then provided their updates. Kellie Hans Reid updated the panel that the RFP on Mobile Response Teams was awarded to Beacon Health Option and would go live in the fall of 2021. She also said DCF was putting a special emphasis on keeping kids out of congregate care whenever possible. DCF also said they were working on placement stability and had seen some progress, but needed to do more. Next, the panel was informed about the CRP Annual Conference, which was held virtually. Several panel members and the two facilitators attended the conference. Finally, the meeting ended with the facilitators conducting a Needs Assessment to help improve panel function. The panel felt like their biggest strengths were that panel members were passionate about the topic and that the panel is well represented from all sectors of child welfare. The biggest challenges they identified were:

- Engagement with zoom or virtual meetings
- Lack of direction or topics during meetings
- The panel also said they would like a refresher on CAPTA and an orientation on CRP

**August 27, 2021**

#### **Focus: Joint Panel Meeting**

**Outcomes:** Each year, all three of the Kansas Citizen Review Panels hold a joint meeting to collaborate and strategize. On August 27, 2021 the joint retreat was held via Zoom. The meeting started with a presentation from Sherrie Gross on the Kansas Practice Model. They also discussed the Team Decision Making and Family Finding. Overall, through the Kansas Practice Model, they are striving to build critical thinking within DCF and through their practitioners. After this presentation, each panel separated to enter a strategic planning session. During this planning session, each panel discussed challenges, barriers and then identified key focus areas or strategic objectives for the year.

The Intake to Petition/CJA Task Force decided to focus on the following topic areas:

- Exploring a child welfare training clearinghouse
- Having a CJA sub-grantee attend each panel meeting to give an update on their progress

Following the strategic planning session, Shanelle Dupree, Kansas City Regional Director, and Brandi Turner, DCF DEI Officer, presented DEI efforts within DCF. To wrap up the CRP Joint Retreat, Children's Alliance provided an overview of their Kinship Caregiver Training.

**December 10, 2021**

**Focus: Recapping & Reviewing Task Force Strategic Objectives**

**Outcomes:** The meeting began with an open invitation for someone to take on the role of Intake to Petition/CJA Task Force chair. Ann Goodall introduced Jennifer Slagle as the new CJA Grant Administrator. Jennifer will be the primary contact person in overseeing CJA grants moving forward. The meeting then moved into panel member updates. Christine Lucero provided an update on the upcoming Round 4 of the Child and Family Service Review (CFSR). Ann Goodall updated the panel about the Kansas Practice Model showcase & Family findings. In the southeast region 72 percent of kids that they did a Family Finding for ended up with a kin or non-related kin, instead of going to strangers in foster homes or group homes. She informed the panel about the Crisis Response hotline for families. This is a statewide phone number individuals can access when in a crisis that might not reach the level of calling 911. Ann also updated the panel that the DCF office now has a Pack n' Play in every office to help with safe sleep practices. Darla Nelson-Metzger said she has seen an increase of mental health needs for students and there are not adequate resources to address behaviors.

Kelly Robbins, Executive Director of Child First of Kansas provided an overview and update of their program. This CJA sub-grantee provides forensic interviewing training to experts across the state. After 15 years they have trained over 1500 child abuse protection professionals in Kansas. This year with their grant, the main goal is to get an increase in the number of counties that have had somebody trained.

To wrap up the meeting, the Task Force recapped their strategic objectives and set a course of action on how they would like to approach researching and focusing on those objectives.

**February 18, 2022**

**Focus: Discussing Child Welfare Training Clearinghouse**

**Outcomes:** The meeting began with an open invitation for someone to take on the role of Intake to Petition/CJA Task Force chair. Kerrie Lonard, previous GAL who sat on the Task Force, joined in her new capacity as the Kansas Child Advocate. She provided an overview of the new division. The Division of the Child Advocate was established by Governor Laura Kelly in October 2021 by Executive Order 21-28. The meeting then moved into panel member updates and updates from DCF. Jennifer Slagle told the panel DCF revised the KRPC line to include a call prompt to help adjust call flow. Beginning Jan. 25, DCF is now offering virtual office hours, Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. Following DCF updates, the Task Force moved into a discussion about a Child Welfare Training Clearinghouse. Facilitator Taylor Forrest reported out that she had met with the Children's Alliance as they currently provide an online resource of trainings. Taylor also presented an example she found in Michigan. The Task Force then set out an action plan for how to handle Annual Report Recommendations. To wrap up the meeting, Assistant Director of KCSL Pam Noble presented on the Governor's Conference, which is a CJA sub-grantee. The conference was held virtually again due to COVID.

**April 12, 2022**

**Focus: Identifying Annual Report Recommendations**

**Outcomes:** The meeting opened with Honorable Judge Jones being voted in as the Intake to Petition/CJA Task Force Chairperson. Facilitator Taylor Forrest also updated everyone about the National CRP Conference and opened it up for panel members to sign up to attend. Taylor also sent out CAPTA for all panel members to review the language. The meeting then moved into general updates from panel members. Lana Goetz asked for members to complete the OJA Training Needs Assessment survey by April 30. She also said 2021 CINC and Juvenile Offender Codebooks are now available. Ann Goodall updated the panel that DCF was working on the renewals for the CJA grants. The Family First Prevention Services Grants are entering their final year, fiscal year 2023, which means the RFP's will be going out again. After the DCF update, Taylor updated the panel about the meeting she had with Michigan about their Child Welfare Training Clearinghouse. The panel then reviewed the survey that was sent out to identify Annual Report Recommendations. From there, there was discussion about recommendations. The Task Force did not come to any major decision, so an additional panel meeting was scheduled to continue the discussion.

**April 28, 2022**

**Focus: Identifying Annual Report Recommendations**

**Outcomes:** The entire purpose of the meeting on April 28, 2022 was to further discuss Annual Report Recommendations. At this meeting, the Task Force decided to table the Child Welfare Training Clearinghouse recommendation. The Task Force then looked at last year's recommendations and DCF's response. From the discussion, the following recommendations were identified:

1. Increase resources for front line child welfare staff.
2. Have DCF monitor and provide regularly updates to the panel at each quarterly meeting on the implementation and development of the Kansas Practice Model.
3. Roll out the Opioid Response Network pilot program from Shawnee county to the entire state to ensure all jurisdictions have access to the training resource.
4. Have DCF regularly report to the panel on pilot programs in the state that could be implemented statewide, and if implemented how that would affect the workforce statewide.

**Prior Year Projects/Activities and Performance Reports**

The CJA Task Force provides funding to agencies from the State of Kansas utilizing a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Applicants are typically not-for-profit organizations including faith-based organizations; associations; universities and colleges that can provide programs or services statewide for systemic improvements in handling of cases of child abuse or neglect. Applicants must successfully communicate a comprehensive approach to improve the assessment, investigation and prosecution of suspected child abuse and neglect cases including child abuse/neglect related fatalities and cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems, as it relates to the implementation of the program's standards.

Multiple grants to organizations able to provide improved services Statewide were issued for the funding period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, with renewable agreements awarded in fiscal year 2022 and 2023. The maximum award amount per grantee is \$60,000. The total amount available to award for FY22 was \$184,000.

The purpose of this grant opportunity is to provide CJA funding to agencies from the state of Kansas; not-for-profit organizations may include faith-based organizations; associations; universities and colleges that are able to provide programs or services statewide to implement improvement of the assessment, investigation and prosecution of suspected child abuse and neglect cases, including child abuse/neglect related fatalities and cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems. The goal of this program is to improve the systemic handling of cases of child abuse or neglect. This grant will be awarded to multiple organizations that can make a statewide impact. Programs should contain design elements that may include the following:

A. Investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as cases involving suspected child maltreatment related fatalities and cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal, in a manner that reduces the additional trauma to the child victim and the victim's family, and which also ensures procedural fairness to the accused;

B. Experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques that may improve the prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings or enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action in child abuse and neglect cases, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation cases, including the enhancement of performance of court-appointed attorneys and guardians ad litem for children, and which also ensure procedural fairness to the accused; and

C. Reform of state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children from abuse, including sexual abuse and exploitation, while ensuring fairness to all affected persons.

Grantees are asked to focus submissions on:

- Training,
- Organization support,
- Collaboration efforts,
- Tools and protocol development, and
- Coordination with court improvement programs.

Grantees are made aware that funding is not to be used for supporting child abuse prevention programs or treatment services. Grantees are responsible for providing indirect services that support the implementation of evidence-based strategies resulting in improvements in targeted state or community-level factors, while also contributing to state and local outcomes as indicated. Grant funds should reflect the recommendations of the CJA task force and should fall within one of the primary categories under CAPTA.

In addition to a clearly articulated design for the expenditure of funds, the grantee is responsible for including outcomes they expect to achieve goals during what time frame and the method for demonstrating and measuring that achievement.

Benchmarks for citing progress are required with quarterly reports identifying programmatic adjustments as necessary to achieve the project goals. Grantees must also demonstrate support and alignment to at least one of the CJA recommendations that were a result of Kansas' 2021 Three-Year Assessment, as required by the Children's Bureau.

For the year of 2021 (June 2021- July 2022), the CJA Task Force selected the following organizations as sub-grantees of CJA funds:

<b>Children's Advocacy Centers of Kansas</b>	\$41,197
<b>The Children's Mercy Hospital</b>	\$51,150
<b>Kansas Children's Service League</b>	\$27,905
<b>Kansas Child First, Inc.</b>	\$52,525

These grants continue annually through June 30, 2024. The following is a description of each activity undertaken by selected grantees using CJA funds in the 12-month period preceding the date of the previous annual report submission.

Each grant funded organization must meet one or more of the recently revised three-year assessment priorities, as identified by the CJA Task Force:

**Objective 1: (A)**

The CJA Task Force recommends training and resources for stakeholders, including:

- prosecution; guardian ad litem trainings
- Law enforcement trainings, training creation, and training delivery
- Anti-human trafficking, mandated reporting, death scene investigations
- Train the Trainer models

**Objective 2: (B)**

The CJA Task Force recommends training and resources stakeholders focusing on improving the quality of the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases.

**Objective 3: (B)**

The CJA Task Force recommends training and resources for stakeholders at the front-end of the child welfare system to increase their knowledge and understanding of the effects of trauma on child victims of violence, the impact of coexisting and connected trauma experiences, and the importance of including caregivers in the healing process.

**Objective 4: (C)**



The CJA Task Force recommends training and resources that would enhance the capacity of stakeholders involved in the forensic and medical evaluation of child abuse as well as covers any medical professional, includes mental health aspects, enhancing MDT's and school counselors.

### **Children's Advocacy Centers of Kansas**

Children's Advocacy Centers of Kansas, Inc (CAACKS) is statewide membership association representing the 16 children's advocacy centers in the State of Kansas. The mission of the association is to promote excellence in child abuse response and prevention through training, program development, advocacy and leadership.

The first of the ECHO series, Medical Aspects of Child Maltreatment was held on November 2. It was titled CDC Sexually Transmitted Diseases Updates and had 13 participants. The second session, titled Photo Documentation, was held on Dec. 7 and attended by 28 participants. In addition to the didactic training at each session, 5 total cases were discussed with participants. The third ECHO series focused on Court Testimony and was held on Feb. 1 and had 23 participants. An additional session was held on March 1 on Evidence Collection and had 16 participants.

CAACKS also supported the attendance of three staff to the Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect in the fall of 2021. They were also able to send 10 staff to the Dallas Crimes against children conference in August 2021. Additionally, CAACKS was able to send 12 staff to the International Symposium of Child Abuse and Neglect Virtual Conference in March 2022. These conferences helped support needed training and continuing education related to current trends in child advocacy, child welfare, child abuse investigations, and mental health treatment.

Children's Advocacy Centers of Kansas is holding two more ECHO series sessions—one on May 3 on self-care and another on June 7 on Human Trafficking.

### **Children's Advocacy Centers of Kansas' intended goals align with CJA Task Force**

#### **Objective 1: (A)**

The CJA Task Force recommends training and resources for stakeholders, including;

- prosecution; guardian ad litem trainings
- Law enforcement trainings, training creation, and training delivery
- Anti-human trafficking, mandated reporting, death scene investigations
- Train the Trainer models

### **The Children's Mercy Hospital**

Children's Mercy Hospital (CMH) is a non-profit children's hospital system with a team of Child Abuse Pediatricians who perform medical evaluations for thousands of children and families for whom there are concerns for child maltreatment, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, and/or neglect, and work very closely with multidisciplinary partners who investigate these concerns.

CMH has initiated a new pilot program, *Safe-Care Kansas*. This program, which is being piloted in Wyandotte and Johnson counties, is a medical referral process for child abuse investigations. The purpose of *Safe-Care Kansas: A Pilot Program* is to ensure that young children who may be victims of abuse/neglect receive expert assessment, including medical evaluation when indicated, to aid in the determination of whether abuse has resulted in injury and/or safety risks

that require intervention. Involvement of experts in child abuse pediatrics results in more accurate assessments related to child maltreatment, which may improve the provision of targeted services to families and improve child safety outcomes. When DCF is assigned an investigation for a child under four years of age with allegations of physical abuse or physical neglect, the assigned Specialist will complete a medical referral form with basic information about the allegations, which will be reviewed daily by a child abuse pediatrician who will provide recommendations regarding the need for medical evaluation or detailed case review, or additional information about the maltreatment concerns in the allegation.

There were significant delays in program initiation due to CMH and DCF negotiations on the terms of the agreement, and the NOGA was not formally finalized until May 2022. As such, the timelines described in the original project summary were not met. However, the pilot program started in fall 2021 with education and training for DCF specialists and supervisors, and the referral process started in October 2021. We have done some preliminary analyses of the referral process, including number of referrals meeting criteria that were actually sent, DCF Specialist satisfaction with the program, ease of use, and referral turn-around time and are currently reviewing this data.

**The Children’s Mercy Hospital intended goals align with CJA Task Force Objective 4: (C)**

The CJA Task Force recommends training and resources that would enhance the capacity of stakeholders involved in the forensic and medical evaluation of child abuse as well as covers any medical professional, includes mental health aspects, enhancing MDT’s and school counselors.

**Kansas Children’s Service League**

Kansas Children’s Service League (KCSL) is a statewide not-for-profit agency that has worked for over 126 years to prevent child abuse, strengthen families and empower parents and youth. Annually, KCSL along with other organizations provide the largest statewide conference in Kansas on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

The 45th Annual Governor’s Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect was held virtually October 27-28 and November 3-5. 27 workshops were held. KCSL applied CJA funds to deliver training to professionals in the areas of the assessment and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect cases. These funds assisted KCSL to offer presentations and related expenses for the following speakers:

Samantha Mellerson, BA, W. Haywood Burns Institute; Michael Finley, BA, JD, W. Haywood Burns Institute

Sarah Klein, Advocate, Survivor and Sexual Abuse Attorney

Jeff Linkenbach, M.A., EdD

The keynote speakers covered the following topics:

**November 3**

**Keynote**

**K-1 Understanding the Historical Context of Structural Racism and Current Day Implications: How We Got Here and a Better Path Forward, Samantha Mellerson, BA, W. Haywood Burns Institute; Michael Finley, BA, JD, W. Haywood Burns Institute**

This session will provide a historical perspective to the impact of structural racism on the development of human services work. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how we got here, and what we need to consider to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities within systems.

#### **November 4**

##### **Keynote**

##### **K-2 Sarah Klein, Advocate, Survivor, and Sexual Abuse Attorney**

Sarah Klein is a victims' attorney, advocate, and a former competitive gymnast. Sarah is also one of the first known victims of former Olympic women's gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar, and in July 2018, at the ESPYs, Sarah accepted the Arthur Ashe Courage Award on behalf of herself and the hundreds of other survivors of Nassar's sexual abuse.

#### **November 5**

##### **Keynote**

##### **K-3 The DNA of HOPE: The Science of the Positive Framework, Jeff Linkenbach, M.A., EdD**

The DNA of HOPE is the Science of the Positive Framework. The Science of the Positive is the study of how positive factors impact culture and experience. It focuses on how to measure and grow the positive, and has been applied over decades with agencies, communities, and businesses. It is based on the core assumption that the positive is real and is worth growing – in ourselves, our families, our workplaces, and our communities (Linkenbach, 2007) Reverse the ways you understand resilience and the developing brain. Healthy Outcomes for Positive Experiences, HOPE, provides a powerful complement to ACES-based work and opens new opportunities for promoting health in children and adults. Research shows that positive childhood experiences both support child development and mitigate the effects of toxic stress; HOPE-based strategies can increase resilience and promote positive transformation in individuals and communities.

4 out of 5 performance measures were all met: 90 percent (goal 80 percent) of participants indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed that the overall relevance to the conference was high. 97 percent (goal 80 percent) of participants indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed that the overall information from the conference provided them with a better understanding of the issues. The only performance measure not met was in regard to networking.

##### **Kansas Children's Service League's intended goals align with CJA Task Force Objective 3: (B)**

The CJA Task Force recommends training and resources for stakeholders at the front-end of the child welfare system to increase their knowledge and understanding of the effects of trauma on child victims of violence, the impact of coexisting and connected trauma experiences, and the importance of including caregivers in the healing process.

##### **Kansas Child First, Inc.**

Kansas ChildFirst Program is an interactive course that teaches professionals proper interview techniques when conducting an investigative interview of a potential child abuse victim. The difference between keeping a child safe or not is by having a well-trained child abuse professional as part of the first response team in child abuse investigations. The first step in the investigating and prosecution of a child abuse case, especially sexual abuse, is to interview the child. If the interviewer is not well trained in forensic interviewing, the child could easily be re-victimized.

The 2022 Advance class will be held on June 14-16 in Wichita KS. It will be focused on “Interviewing People with Disabilities” presented by the Model Agency. Registrations are continuing to roll in for this class.

ChildFirst classes were held September 13-17 and March 28 – April 1 with 88 professionals being trained in forensic interviewing. The evaluations rated the classes as excellent. These professionals walked away with a new skill and a new approach to working child abuse cases.

**Kansas Child First’s intended goals align with CJA Task Force Objective 4: (C)**

The CJA Task Force recommends training and resources that would enhance the capacity of stakeholders involved in the forensic and medical evaluation of child abuse as well as covers any medical professional, includes mental health aspects, enhancing MDT’s and school counselors.

**I. Prior Year Budget Expenditure Line Item**

<b>KANSAS CHILDREN’S JUSTICE ACT</b>	<b>FY22 BUDGET</b>
PRINTING AND FREIGHT	\$0
TRAVEL & GAS (PPS ADMIN & CJA TASKFORCE CAN USE FOR CJA RELATED TRAVEL)	\$5,325
FEES – OTHER SERVICES (JOB RELATED TRAINING, DATABASE ACCESS FEES, ETC.)	\$2,675
CONTRACTS/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$0
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$0
COMMODITIES (OFFICE SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS)	\$0
GRANTS (CJA GRANTS TO VENDORS)	\$176,000
<b>CJA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$184,000</b>

**Recommendations and Opportunities for Future Work**

The Kansas Citizen Review Panel – Intake to Petition and Children’s Justice Act Task Force remain an important forum and mechanism for providing input and feedback about how the child protection system can be improved. We will continue to collect feedback, analyze data and make recommendations that reflect how the system can use that information to improve and build on success.

As required by Section 106(c)(6) of the Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA), the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) must provide recommendations to improve the child protective system at state and local levels. The Kansas CRPs remain strong partners to the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) and are committed to working with the agency on the following recommendations to further aid in system- wide child protective outcomes.

**Recommendation #1 – DCF monitor and provide regularly updates to the panel at each quarterly meeting on the implementation of and development of the Kansas Practice Model (KPM)**

Understanding the importance of KPM and the emphasis DCF has placed on this new framework, the Task Force requests regular updates on this program to gain a thorough knowledge and understanding about KPM. The Task Force was provided an overview of KPM at the last Joint CRP Retreat, but task force members still do not feel that they have an in-depth knowledge of KPM.

Due to a desire to understand KPM and its impact on the Kansas child welfare system, the Task Force requests that a DCF representative provide a thorough update on KPM at each quarterly task force meeting. This update could encompass any programmatic changes, developments or an assessment of its effectiveness and impact on the child welfare system. If the state has data on KPM, the Task Force requests DCF share that information regularly as well.

**Recommendation #2 – Roll out the Opioid Response Network pilot program from Shawnee County to the entire state to ensure all jurisdictions have access to the training resource**

Parental substance abuse continues to play a role in child maltreatment, neglect and abuse, negatively affecting family wellness. Particularly, opioid misuse poses a potential risk to the safety of children across the United States, “the increase of opioid misuse has been described by long-time child welfare professionals as having the worst effects on child welfare systems that they have seen” (Alcohol and Drug Use Statistics, National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare). In Kansas, parental alcohol or other drug abuse is a contributing factor for removal approximately 41-50% of the time (Alcohol and Drug Use Statistics, National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare).

Last year the Task Force recommended more substance abuse training and as a response, DCF informed the Task Force about the Opioid Response Network pilot program in Shawnee County. The Task Force still identifies a need for more substance abuse training across the state of Kansas. The Task Force also followed up and asked about the effectiveness of the Opioid Response Network pilot program. DCF reported back about the success of the pilot program by saying, “*The DCF Stakeholders in Shawnee County, Kansas requested assistance*

*from the ORN to address specific needs of mothers, families and children involved in their services. Between August 30<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>, the ORN responded to some of the needs by providing a series of webinar-based trainings, evidence-informed reading assignments and facilitated discussions with 105 unique stakeholders. The purpose of the learning opportunities was to increase awareness and knowledge of stimulant use and how it has impacted families in Shawnee County.”*

We know Opioid abuse is happening in other parts of the state, and not just in Shawnee county. According to DCF’s report on Out of Home Placements by primary removal reason, parental opioid use was the primary reason four times in the Kansas City Region from 7/1/21 to 3/31/22.

Given the success of the pilot program, the Task Force recommends rolling out this pilot program statewide to allow for other jurisdictions to benefit from the training. It was communicated to the Task Force that the trainings were recorded. At the very least, the Task Force recommends providing the recorded trainings to other counties.

**Recommendation #3 – DCF regularly report to the panel on pilot programs that could be implemented statewide, and if implemented, how that would affect the workforce statewide**

The Task Force recognizes that there are often pilot programs that DCF is aware of that are happening across the state. However, not every stakeholder has that same awareness. These pilot programs can be extremely successful and beneficial for all Kansas children and families statewide.

As such, the Task Force requests the receipt of regular reports or updates from a DCF representative at each quarterly task force meeting on DCF pilot programs. This recommendation serves to improve communication between DCF and the Task Force. It will allow for panel members to have a more thorough understanding of the Kansas child welfare landscape and new initiatives. Based upon the reports from DCF on whether pilot programs are successful, the Task Force would like to evaluate whether to recommend a statewide rollout of the program to cover more jurisdictions.

To continue to best serve as the consumer voice and to adequately evaluate the system from intake to petition, the panel believes improved communication is a foundational piece that needs emphasized and improved in the coming year. The Task Force also recognizes the need to be more proactive in asking for and seeking out relevant information. As such, the Task Force would like to work together with DCF to improve communication.

**Recommendation #4 – Increase resources for frontline child welfare staff**

In conjunction with our counterpart, the Custody to Transition Panel, the Intake to Petition/CJA Task Force is recommending an increase of resources for frontline child welfare staff. Having a strong and robust workforce is vitally important to improving outcomes for Kansas children and families. While staff turnover has been a prevalent issue for quite some time, the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused additional strain on the child welfare workforce.

The Quality Improvement Center for Workforce Development (QIC-WD) recently reported that turnover in child welfare before the pandemic was 6 times the national average for other types of jobs. (QIC-WD, 2018). Other national data suggest that the annual turnover rate in child welfare agencies ranges between 20 and 40 percent, with some areas having turnover rates as high as 90-100 percent during the pandemic.

In addition to increasing salaries for front line child welfare staff, the Task Force recommends DCF explore additional retention alternatives. These can include, but are not limited to:

- Weighted caseloads
- Job sharing
- Monthly supervisions
- Mental health resources

The Intake to Petition/CJA Task Force understands the recommendations above will require appropriation or funding from the Kansas Legislature. While this burden does not lie with DCF alone, the state communicates regularly with the legislature about budgetary needs. The Intake to Petition/CJA Task Force implores DCF to utilize this report to illustrate the need for more funding & resources to create a robust workforce for Kansas child welfare. Without prioritizing workforce, the panel believes outcomes will continue to suffer and will create barriers to creating a strong child welfare system.

## **2021 Annual Report Conclusion**

The Kansas Citizen Review Panel—Intake to Petition members remain committed to ensuring the citizen and community voice is a part of shaping and improving the child protection and child welfare system. Working with DCF, we will continue to be an important source of information that is a valuable component of policy and practice development. We will continue to look for ways to increase the relevance of our work and invite agency leaders to do the same. For more information on the content of the report, contact: Taylor Forrest at [tforrest@tfifamily.org](mailto:tforrest@tfifamily.org).

## **Appendix A: Resources:**

“Turnover.” *Turnover | Quality Improvement Center for Workforce Development*, <https://www.qic-wd.org/topics/turnover>.

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. “Child Welfare and Alcohol and Drug Use Statistics.” *Child Welfare and Alcohol and Drug Use Statistics | National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW)*, <https://ncsacw.acf.hhs.gov/research/child-welfare-and-treatment-statistics.aspx>.

## **Appendix B: CJA Task Force Member Background Descriptions**

**Kellie Hans Reid** – Kellie is the Director of Child and Family Health at CareSource. She previously served as the Director of Medicaid and Children’s Mental Health at the Department for Children and Families. She is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and has practiced individual and family therapy for the last 15 years. Kellie has also served in a variety of roles in the child welfare system in Kansas.

**Kerrie Lonard** – Division of the Child Advocate, Topeka – Kerrie is the Child Advocate/Director of the Kansas Division of the Child Advocate. The Division was established by Executive Order in October 2021, with Kerrie’s appointment announced in December. Kerrie is also the current state coordinator for the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC). Previously,



Kerrie spent 14 years with Kansas Legal Services serving as both Staff Attorney and Managing Attorney. Kerrie has represented children and youth as Guardian ad Litem (GAL), as well as parents, and interested parties in child-in-need-of-care proceedings. She has facilitated and presented at statewide GAL and Child Welfare practitioner continuing legal education trainings and served as a member on the Kansas Supreme Court Taskforce on Permanency Planning. During law school she interned as a CINC prosecutor and volunteered as a CASA. Kerrie holds BSW and MSW degrees and worked as a school social worker for several years as well as positions within foster care and mental health.

**Ann Goodall** – Kansas Department for Children and Families, Topeka – Working in child welfare for 23 years, Ann served as a DCF Child Protective Services social worker and supervisor for over 18 years, specializing in child sexual abuse and forensic interviewing. Her current position as the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Program Manager places her in a position to help Kansas children and families through National CAPTA connections and local panels and groups.

**Judge Douglas Jones** – Cottonwood Falls – As District Magistrate Judge, Judge Jones is interested in helping to improve the system. Judge Jones believes the most critical decisions made regarding a child are whether or not to remove a child from the home. He offers perspectives and ideas to formulate policies that ensure safety as well as what is involved in the decision to remove or not remove a child from the family. While in private practice, he served as a Guardian Ad Litem in numerous child in need of care cases. He handles most of the temporary custody hearings in child in need of care cases in the Fifth Judicial District.

**Miranda Johnson** – Caffey, Johnson & Ingels, P.A.– As a Guardian Ad Litem and defense attorney in Kansas for more than 15 years, Miranda has witnessed a need to ensure the safety of the child prior to court involvement. On this panel, she works to review and improve the policies not only from intake to petition, but before, to help keep families intact and children safe. Her knowledge of the court system as it relates to CINC cases is extensive.

**Christi Smith** – Christi is the Family Preservation Director at DCCCA. Christi provides leadership to the Family Preservation teams located in the Wichita and Kansas City Regions focused on providing in-home services for at-risk families. They focus on improving parenting and family functioning to empower parents to change their lives and create a safe environment for their children.

**Amber Jewell** School Social Worker K-12, USD 245—With the Kansas Child Welfare System, I have had a three-prong experience. Initially, I was a youth in foster care that was reliant on the parts of foster care system. Next, I became a LMSW and a case manager within the foster care reintegration system that worked with families and youth who had experienced an out of home placement. Now, I function as a trainer, foster parent and advocate for people impacted by the foster care system with the hope to better the foster care system and those it serves. I work through Children’s Alliance to provide training as needed within and for the foster care system, participate in CPS groups and boards, and maintain a foster care home license.

**Dr. Emily Killough**, Child Abuse Pediatrician, CMH—I am a child abuse pediatrician and specialize in the forensic medical evaluation of children who may have been abused or

neglected. I work closely with other professionals in the child welfare field including DCF and law enforcement and help explain the medical significance of injuries and other findings. I am considered a regional expert in the medical evaluation of child maltreatment.

**Dr. Jennifer Hansen**, Child Abuse Pediatrician, CMH—As a resident of KS and health care provider with a specific interest in child health (with focus on child abuse), I would like to advocate to improve the systems of care for children in the state. I have special expertise in this area that may be helpful in reviewing cases and informing policies. I am also a parent and have a vested interest in ensuring the overall health and safety of children in our state for the future.

**Sherriff Jeff Cope**, Lyon County Sherriff-- works in the public with the children at risk in Lyon county. Brings a perspective of law enforcement to the table.

**Angela Dunn** – Angela is currently the Behavioral Health Coordinator for Kansas City Kansas Public Schools. She leads the mental health and suicide prevention initiatives for the school district and provides clinical guidance for each school’s behavioral health teams. Angela was previously a case manager foster care youth with KVC and the Director for Clinical and Specialty Services for PACES Inc. in Wyandotte County. She is an advocate for mental health and has provided testimony to the Kansas State Legislature on improving funding for Community Mental Health Centers and mental health in schools.

**Pamela Robbins**, Pamela Robbins serves as the Executive Director of Kansas Foster and Adoptive Parent Association. KFAPA provides education, advocacy and support for foster, adoptive and kinship families throughout the state. Pamela has worked in the child welfare system for twenty years as a trainer as well as experience in licensing and placement. Pamela and her husband also have lived experience, having served as foster parents for 22 years. Three of their five children are adopted. Pamela holds a Master of Public Administration. Pamela is a parent advocacy volunteer for North American Council on Adoptable Children and also serves on the National Foster Parent Council of States.

**Katy Britton**, Douglas County District Attorney’s Office – Katy is a Chief Assistant District Attorney and CINC prosecutor in the DA’s office, where she has worked since 2007. In her first nine years as a prosecutor, she handled a wide range of criminal cases including domestic violence, sexual assault, and gun crimes. Five years ago, she begrudgingly handled the office’s CINC prosecutor role when another attorney was on maternity leave. She fell in love with the collaborative nature and common goal of these cases and has been working in this area since. Katy is very proud of the Douglas County CINC team: attorneys, law enforcement, DCF investigators, KVC case managers, Child Advocacy Center staff, and CASAs.

**Darla Nelson-Metzger**, Families Together, Inc. – Darla has served as the coordinator of the Education Advocate Program for 26 years, working with contracting agencies, schools, foster and adoptive parents and volunteers. The education advocate program currently serves over 900 CINC and JOs who receive special education services. Additionally, she has works as the Training Director and Family Resource Specialist at Families Together serving birth, foster, adoptive and other persons acting as parents regarding issues involving special education. Darla has served on various committees and boards; all revolve around suggestions for improvements in the lives of children with disabilities: Kansas Coordinating Council on Early

Childhood Developmental Services-parent member; Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council's Children's Subcommittee; Foster Home Licensing Advisory Committee; Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative Board Member.

**Tate Toedman**, Kansas Department of Education, Topeka – As Assistant Director of the Special Education and Title Services team, he works with programs that assist at-risk students and families. Tate has a deep understanding of how these students need advocates and a system that is respectful to their unique needs. He oversees at-risk programs in school districts throughout the state, having served as the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth for the State of Kansas. As a past teacher, Tate has taught and been a school counselor in high poverty schools in the Topeka school district as well as serving as a mentor in the Big Brother Big Sister program. He has previously served as a community action board member for Brown and Nemaha Counties in the Big Brother Big Sister program. Tate also has served on the Governor's Subcommittee on Housing and Homelessness and the Kansas Statewide Coalition for Homelessness and Housing.

**Kelly Stanford** – Kelly Stanford is Chief Program Officer for CIS of Mid-America, and has been with the organization since 2013. She holds a B.A. in English and history from Texas A & I University, along with a M.Ed. in Education Administration from Angelo State University. She brings many layers of experience to CIS of Mid-America, including teaching at alternative schools in Texas, school and district leadership at both the director and assistant superintendent level in Texas and Colorado and, most recently, five years as the Executive Director of Routt County United Way in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. She is a 2017 graduate of the Allstate Foundation's Greater Good Non-profit Leader's Program in conjunction with the Kellogg School of Management's Center for Non-profit Management at Northwestern University and serves on the Kansas Department of Education's ESSA Advisory Council.

**Libby Snider**, Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services, Topeka – Libby is a staff attorney at KDOC, where she has practiced since 2005, beginning at the Lansing Correctional Facility, moving to the Central Office in Topeka in 2008, and assuming the attorney role for Juvenile Services in 2018.

**Sandra Shopteese**, Department of Children and Families – Sandra is the Tribal Specialist for Kansas. She is an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Sandra has worked in child welfare for twenty- seven years. Currently her work involves oversight of a grant with the tribes. Also enhancing communication with the Residential Kansas Tribes to coordinate educational training, culture, policies, and services. Sandra is a Qualified Expert Witness and has worked with CINC cases. She has been an ICWA emergency foster home, Native American MAPP Trainer, and currently is a Positive Indian Parenting facilitator. Sandra lives in a three generational home, volunteers as a Peacemaker, is a legal guardian, and volunteers as a member of the Social Services Advisory Board for her tribe.

**Valerie Leon** – Valerie has been providing hope and healing to children and families for the fifteen years. During her time at Saint Francis Ministries, she has worked as an In-home Family Preservation Therapist and later provided leadership to the Family Preservation Program as supervisor for the West Region. Valerie transitioned to Foster Care Homes Program for several years working as the Recruitment/Licensing Supervisor. Her work in Family Preservation allowed her to bridge the gap between programs, keeping the voice of children and families first.

In this program she was able to spend time recruiting, training, building community partnerships, and licensing foster homes as well as share birth families' feelings of grief, shame, and loss as their children entered the child welfare system. In her role as Reintegration Director, Valerie continues to advocate for children, birth families, foster/adoptive families in the child welfare system along with staff working in this field. She has continued to maintain important connections with foster/kinship families while continuing to build new relationships with foster/kinship families by providing TBRI (Trust Based Relational Intervention) training and instructing CPR/First Aid Training for families licensing and recertifying their homes to care for children.

**Sara Hortenstine, Kansas Child Death Review Board, Topeka** – Sara Hortenstine is Executive Director of the State Child Death Review Board, housed in the Office of Kansas Attorney General. The CDRB is the third of the three Citizen Review Panels in Kansas. Sara attends the meetings of the other two panels, acting as a liaison and sharer of information and resources. The CDRB examines trends and patterns that identify risk factors in the deaths of children, from birth through 17 years of age, that occur in the state of Kansas.

**Kristin Hines, Kansas CASA Association, Topeka** – Kristin has worked in social service nonprofits for 17 years. She served as the Executive Director of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program serving all six of the rural and frontier counties of the 16th Judicial District in Southwest Kansas for 15 of those years. She holds an MBA and scored in the top 10% of students on the National Field Test for MBAs in 2015. Kristin is well-known as a professional willing to help those within and outside the CASA network. In 2021, she moved into the position of State Trainer for the Kansas CASA Association. In this role she is able to support children and families through building the capacity of all CASA programs and their volunteers across the state of Kansas.

**Jennifer Gassmann, KCSL** – Jennifer Gassmann is the supervisor of the Parent Child Assistance Program in Shawnee County with Kansas Children's Service League. She has worked as a social worker for twenty-five years and has a variety of experience in providing services to families, including foster care, adoption, family preservation, and substance abuse. She received her Bachelor in Social Work Degree at Kansas State University, and also received certification in substance abuse case management. Jennifer is the board chair of the state Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. She is a licensed foster parent and also volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children in the court system.

**Jenny Broyles – foster parent**