

**Division of Prevention and Protection Services (PPS)
Kansas Department for Children and Family Services**

For Governor's Task Force on Childhood Poverty

Director: Gina Meier-Hummel, LMSW

Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas



Prevention and Protection Services

Mission

Protect children and vulnerable adults to prevent further harm.

Vision

Safety and Permanency for children, families and adults.

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Program Descriptions

Kansas Protection Report Center: receives statewide reports of child and adult abuse and/or neglect 24 hours per day/7 days per week, including holidays.

Child Protective Services: intake and assessment of alleged abuse and neglect.

Adult Protective Services: intake, assessment and services to vulnerable adults.

Family Preservation: contracted service that provides intense time limited home based services to families at risk of having their children removed from their care

Family Services: the purchase of services for families who have children at risk.

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Program Descriptions Cont.

Community Services: prevention monies directed at community services that intervene with families to provide targeted services to families at risk.

Foster Care: contracted service provided to children and families when the court has found the child to be in need of care and the parents are not able to meet the safety and care needs of the child.

Adoption Services: recruitment of adoptive parents, support and matching of children waiting for adoption, and post adoption support.

Independent Living Services: provides services and supports to older youth in DCF custody for a successful transition to self-sufficiency.

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Safety and Permanency for Children and Families

Prevention services improve the safety, health and well-being outcomes of at risk youth and their families.

Children who age out of the foster care system without permanency are more likely to struggle with education, housing, employment, self-esteem and mental health issues, substance abuse, and to be involved in the criminal justice system.

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PPS Initiatives

- Faith-Based Initiatives
- Alternative Response Program
- Family Group Decision Making
- Foster Care and Family Preservation RFP's
- Permanency Roundtables

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Faith-Based Initiatives

Initiative to partner with faith-based organization across the state to help support the needs of children and families in their community. Safe Families is an example of this collaboration.

Safe Families provides temporary care for families who voluntarily agree to have their children out of home on a short term basis. This will keep children out of the formal foster care system.

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Alternative Response Program

As the Department for Children and Families focuses even more closely on prevention efforts, this expansion of our services has been developed for low-risk families who need help addressing issues so their children are able to remain safe at home. Licensed social workers partner with families and teach needed skills to prevent future problems that might require more intensive levels of PPS services. Alternative Response (AR) services are voluntary, family-centered and available for up to six months.

Counties with AR Services as of November 1, 2012

Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Cherokee, Coffey, Crawford, Dickinson, Geary, Harvey, Labette, Lincoln, Linn, McPherson, Montgomery, Neosho, Ottawa, Reno, Rice, Riley, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Stafford, Wilson.

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Family Group Decision Making

This practice model promotes a higher level of family participation in their case planning and goal development. They are encouraged to include all of their support systems in this process. This collaboration encourages the family to actively drive the process.

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Foster Care and Family Preservation RFP's

There are six protective factors woven into all aspects of the child welfare system and DCF expects these factors to be a part of all contracts: Nurturing and Attachment, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Concrete Support for Parents and Social and Emotional Competence of Children. When these are present, the well-being and health of children and families are improved.

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Permanency Roundtables

This initiative promotes permanency for hard-to-place children in foster care. This collaboration encourages all foster care contractors to work together in finding creative solutions to permanency barriers.

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Contact Information

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