

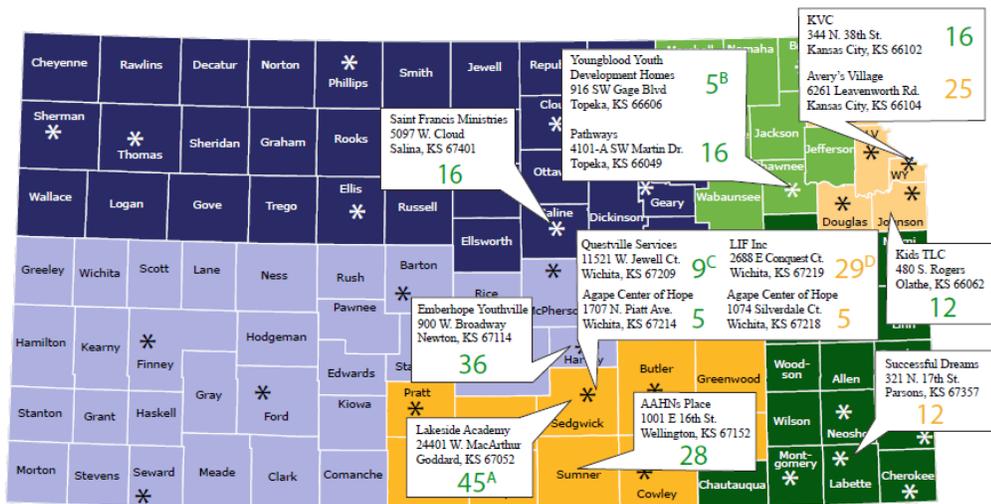
# Prevention in Kansas

## In this issue...

QRTPs, 1 year in Kansas *pg 1-2*

Region Round up news:  
 Progress toward prevention *pg 3-4*

The Kansas Crossover  
 Youth State Policy Team *pg 5*



- \* DCF Service Center
- Available QRTP beds
- Pre-QRTP status/pending beds
- A Serves males ages 12-18
- B Has exception for 4 over capacity
- C Beds reserved for females
- D Four separate homes in Wichita for males, 13-18

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## QRTPs, celebrating one year in Kansas



Above: Questville Services QRTP staff prepare to celebrate graduating youth. Families are encouraged to participate in celebrations like this, or through phone calls, sending mail, day passes and home visits, and participating in treatment plan meetings.

Family First celebrated one year of implementation on Oct. 1. Although the Family First Prevention Services Act focuses on candidates for care or children at imminent risk of removal from their home, there are aspects of the law that apply to children or youth in foster care. One such example is when a foster youth is pregnant and/or parenting, they are automatically eligible for Family First services. In that case, the foster care provider and DCF will work together to refer that child to the Family First program best suited to their needs.

Family First also introduced Qualified Residential Treatment Programs, or QRTPs. QRTPs are high quality, trauma-informed, supportive services in a home-based setting for children who may have emotional or behavioral disorders and whose needs aren't met in a less restrictive environment. QRTPs also

serve children who are at-risk of becoming sex trafficking victims. After placement in a QRTP, children must be assessed within 30 days by the independent assessor\*. QRTPs need to be able to implement the necessary treatment identified in the child's assessment. Within 60 days of placement, the court considers the assessment to determine if the placement is necessary. At each following permanency hearing, evidence must be submitted to ensure the QRTP is meeting the child's needs. When the child/youth transitions home, the QRTP offers individualized aftercare services to the child and family for six months post discharge.

*(continued next page)*  
 \*see issue 01 for independent assessor

# Qualified Residential Treatment Programs in Kansas (cont.)

To become a licensed QRTP, a facility must apply to an accrediting agency and work through a strict set of conditions. Policies and procedures need to be re-written to meet the accrediting agencies standards and site visits should show the facility is practicing what is in the policy manual. QRTPs must provide at least six months of data showing they are providing therapeutic services. Here is unique information about some of the licensed QRTPs in Kansas.

**Aahn's Place**— Wellington is home to Aahn's Place, serves up to twenty-eight youth, ages 10-18 from all over the state. Allowing both boys and girls enables siblings to be kept together. The word "Aahn" means pride which is a focus while teaching and restoring hope to youth in care. Situated in the small, tight knit town of Wellington, the kids experience community support and involvement and regularly volunteer. Staff care for the kids and instill kindness, pride and hope, for a successful transition.

**EmberHope Youthville**— This therapeutic environment in Newton, serves girls ages 6-17, and seeks to improve their decision making, coping, and social skills and to address any underlying issues which may be impacting them. Their improved abilities utilize trauma-informed and evidence-based practices.

Aftercare services may include therapy, medication management, medical follow-up as needed, family therapy, addiction services, and a referral to the local Community Mental Health Center for community-based services.

**KidsTLC** in Olathe specializes in youth, ages 6-17, with trauma and attachment mental health issues. With the ability to serve 12 youth at one time, KidsTLC is committed to embedding, embodying and enacting the principles of Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy, Practice and Parenting (DDP) in order to create supportive, family-focused therapeutic teams that build resilient, trusting relationships. KidsTLC is the only residential program in the world currently to be certified in DDP.

**KVC**— The sixteen bed QRTP in Wyandotte county serves girls 12 and

older. Through a partnership with KVC Outpatient Services, onsite individual and group therapy family therapy is provided when appropriate. On almost two acres of land, the girls can play volleyball, basketball, walk laps or visit with family at the picnic tables. There is also a



gardening areas where they raise food for the house. Partnering with the girl's local school district, they can attend middle or high school off site.

After care support is provided on a weekly basis for the first month after discharge and weekly contacts for the following five months. It is focused on placement stability and offers community resources as well as ideas on how to implement positive behavior interventions and support.

**Lakeside Academy**— Located in Goddard, Kansas on 52 acres, this forty-five bed QRTP serves adolescent males, ages 13-18. Additionally, Lakeside is able to accommodate students with sexual maladaptive behaviors, providing curriculum-specific programming and individual therapy.

While at Lakeside, importance is placed on outdoor and physical activity. Students learn to fish at the on-site lake, and engage in recreational activities in the large gym and weight room, a basketball court, and football field. The "Spartan Strong" group motivates students to maintain and/or improve their physical health. Student Government Association (SGA) is another large part of the culture, which allows an organized way to provide feedback and participate in the design of their programming and facility management.

**Saint Francis Ministries**— SFM Salina West QRTP offers trauma-focused, unique and individualized treatment for each of the youth and their family. Services may be provided to youth that have experienced substance abuse and human trafficking. The array of programs include an Equine Therapy Program, a Ropes Course Program, and a therapeutic Gardening Program. Staff receive

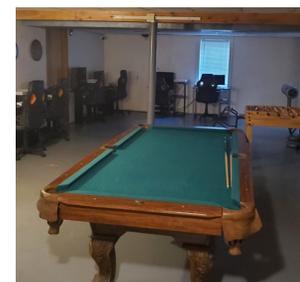
monthly training to ensure best quality of care is being provided with an emphasis on safety and healing as top priorities.



Once a youth has completed the QRTP program, aftercare is offered through the outpatient Behavioral Health Program. These services include individual and family therapy, medication management, and outpatient substance use treatment to help ensure the youth and family are supported.

**Questville Services** located in Wichita, is a nine bed QRTP equipped to meet the specific needs of youth and their families. Services are under the supervision of a licensed master's social worker and a medical doctor. With a unique family treatment model and a strengths-based approach, families are encouraged to participate through engaging in phone calls, sending mail, day passes and home visits, participating in treatment plan meetings and attending special events. Experienced and caring professionals challenge and guide the youth on the path to self-awareness while encouraging teamwork and individual skill development. Youth enjoy home cooked meals, with each youth taking turns to cook dinner with staff's assistance and supervision. The youth share favorite family recipes.

**Youngblood Youth Development Homes**— This eight bed home in Topeka, provides a structured environment with 24/7 supervision. The team consists of an administrator, assistant administrator, case coordinator, counselor, direct care staff, head of operations, nurse, supervisor and therapist and believe everyday is a new day at Youngblood. Residents practice social skills, coping skills and their targeting skills daily.



# Region Round up: Progress towards Prevention

*Our six DCF Regions have been working hard to move toward a prevention focused agency. Here are some current projects and recent highlights . Thank you to region leadership and staff for gathering and providing these updates.*

**Northeast Region :** As the new Northeast region kicks off, our leadership held virtual coffee dates with contractors, grantees, stakeholders, and community providers for introductions and to build connections, as well promoting conversations about service arrays or gaps in our communities.

The Northeast co-hosted the Family First Interagency Advisory Board meeting, with the KU Evaluation Team, bringing together a team of stakeholders passionate about preventing foster care and improving how systems align and serve Kansas families. We anticipate our

group will expand and diversify by our next meeting in January.

This quote from Robin Sharma seems relevant to the efforts Kansas is making toward prevention: “Change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous in the end.” The NE Region will go live with Team Decision Making (TDM) October 19th. The Northeast is inspired by the successes other regions are having with TDM and is looking forward to embracing a new way of interacting with families. Ultimately it’s having faith and trust in the process of learning as we grow alongside Kansas families.



**Southeast Region:** The Southeast is seeing the benefit of having a Family First protection specialist. Gloria Montes started her new role at the DCF Service Center in Pittsburg this August. She assists the entire region in connecting families to the best evidence-based programs based on their need and communicates directly with the Family First providers. During her short amount of time with the agency she has been able to participate in the Family First Interagency Board and has made suggestions to make the Family First services more inclusive to Spanish speaking families. She assisted the Prevention team with Spanish translation to improve the service menus. During the home visits, she has been able to assess for safe sleep for families with infants, assist families in learning more about DCF’s Economic and Employment Services, specifically the GOALS program, and model behaviors for parents set forth by the Family First providers. Along with assessing, and modeling, Gloria is making referrals and very importantly, engaging with families, which will make a huge impact. We are proud of her accomplishments!



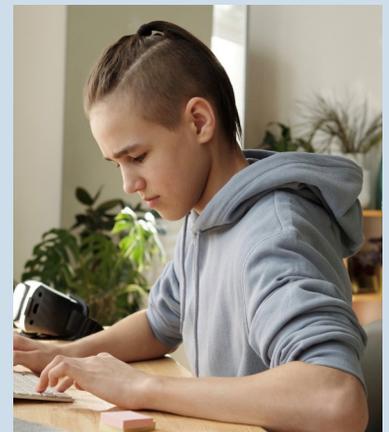
**Kansas City Region–** The Kansas City region continues to move forward with the Kansas Practice Model and is seeing first-hand benefits of using genograms and mapping to learn more about families, said one CPS in Johnson County, “In completing a genogram with the family, I learned more about the dynamics, which included an ex in-law, who is a huge support for the mom and kids. I probably would not have found that information out as easily or at all if I did not complete the genogram and ask about the relationships.”

**Team Decision Making (TDM) “GOES LIVE” in Three Counties and Hits Milestone in Two Others:** The Kansas City Region recently hit a milestone of holding the 200th TDM in Wyandotte and Johnson counties since implementation on November 4, 2019. Kansas City will also “go live” with TDM implementation in our final three counties, Douglas, Leavenworth and Atchison, on Monday, October 5, 2020. Our teams are very excited to offer the benefits of Team Decision Making to families across our entire region. A family’s own support system when combined with the open communication with DCF while facilitating a Team Decision Making meeting is very powerful.

**Partnering with Schools-Impact Events:** With a new school year upon us, even with some districts going to virtual learning, children are still at risk of becoming or being homeless. This

school year, as in previous ones, DCF is partnering with McKinney-Vento liaisons across the Region for Impact Events. Impact Events are a one-stop resource for homeless families who have been referred by the schools through the McKinney-Vento liaisons. The focus is on the child, but the services provided are wrap around services to include the entire family. The goal is for the child to attend school, advance to the next grade, ultimately graduate, possibly attend post-secondary education, and go on to be a contributing member of society.

Current Impact events are being staffed with the Kansas City Kansas School district in Impact KCK, that is hosted by Avenue of Life, also called Impact Wednesday; Shawnee Mission School District through Project Home; Olathe School District through Impact Olathe. Events are staffed virtually, so there is no in person contact.



# Region Round up: Progress towards Prevention (cont.)

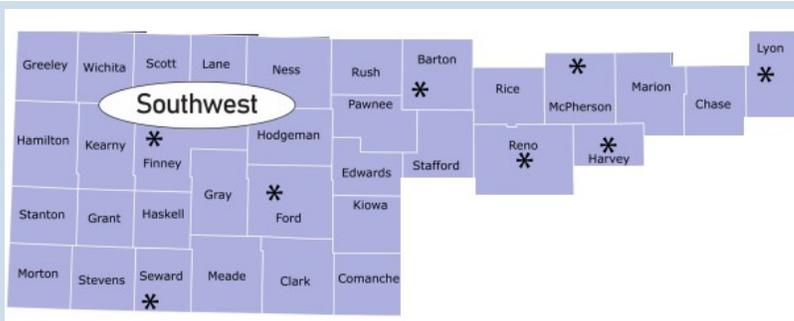
**Northwest Region-** It's exciting to hear of engagement with families as we continue to grow as a prevention state. One refreshing aspect as we reflect on our work with families, there is progress in putting aside the old mindset to automatically remove a family's newborn to out of home placement just because siblings are removed. Safety is always being considered, but these partnerships between Family First services and courts are allowing families the time they need to grow, learn and put safety networks in place.

Recently, a family already receiving foster care services had a new baby. Our DCF Practitioner was able to talk with the county attorney about the Family First Kansas Parents as Teacher's Association Bright Future Program and their capacity to work with this mother and father to provide parent skill building. This

included meeting with the family in their home two to three times per week as well as checking the baby's weight weekly. Through their ongoing work to support the mother through her health issues and the family's willingness to accept the Family First PAT program (which is more intensive than local community PAT referrals), the father is gaining skills needed to care for their newborn.

"The (PAT) program is wonderful as the families that accept this service learn bonding techniques, stages of developmental growth and proper care for newborns. The home visitor teaches all this and more with the curriculum. The biggest thing that I've noticed is how they work on the bond between the parent and the child. That bonding needs to happen early and I've seen some good successes," said a DCF supervisor.

It may be too early to know the long reaching impact with this particular family, but the discussion of prevention and the availability of this program is a step in the right direction for our region.



**Southwest Region-** The Southwest Region is proud to continue our work in prevention as a newly established region, effective July 1. The Southwest Region covers thirty-three counties in western and central Kansas. The eight DCF service centers in the Southwest have made 61 referrals to Family First Providers since during the first quarter (Jul-Sept).

In addition, staff have held 60 Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings with families since the Southwest Region was established. As we work to engage and be transparent with families one of our staff and supervisors were able to

express, they feel TDM meetings are very beneficial to both DCF staff and families. Our worker shared, "Every day we make decisions for family and it is stressful to make these bigger ones however it is easier when we can speak with family, learn about their protective factors, and work with them on how to resolve this issue." The worker and supervisor felt it helpful the family be a part of the brainstorming for where the child could reside safely, also understand what services and supports would be needed to make the placement safe for the child.

## The Wichita Region, Immediate Response Team Added

On August 16, 2020 an Immediate Response Team was added to DCF's Exploited Missing Children's Unit. This safely reduces the need for police protective custody and entails a DCF Supervisor and Child Protection Specialists be on call from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays and weekends 8 A.M. to 10 p.m. DCF staff then can respond immediately to Law Enforcement if there are concerns of abuse or neglect that result in forensic interview requests, or in human trafficking concerns/situations, or in a same day response and safety assessment. The Immediate Response Team had positive results where five families avoided the trauma of police protective custody with instead having placement with a relative and other families where the children were allowed to stay at home. These positive results were achieved with only 15 hours of staff time, which is flexed wherever possible.

**CarePortal comes to Sedgwick County DCF-** Sedgwick County DCF was added to the CarePortal in August, which allows for a CPS to make requests for hard goods or service money to help a family. Previously only limited Family Service funding was available and to overcome concerns about the anticipated volume of requests from Sedgwick county, The CarePortal added a special project, where Sedgwick county was "adopted" by a college football team. Sedgwick county was able to fulfill six family requests in August and fifteen in September, which included anything from beds or bedding to monies donated to cover electric bills. This has been such a positive step for the community and DCF staff are seeing these met requests stabilize families.



# Agency Collaboration Spotlight: Crossover Youth State Policy Team

The Kansas Crossover State Policy Team fosters a system of care inclusive of child welfare, juvenile justice, education, mental and behavioral health, and legal stakeholders that is comprehensive and adaptable to meet the unique needs of communities. The intentional and genuine partnership among these agencies strengthens the system of care by enabling information sharing, striving for continuous improvement, and purposely incorporating the voices of youth and families into all decisions affecting themselves and their communities.

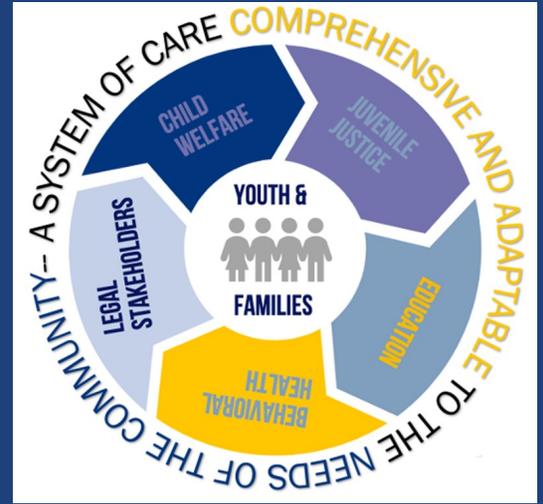
The statewide policy team is spearheaded by Office of Judicial Administration (OJA), Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), and the Department for Children and Families. Membership is also composed of partners from the following fields: Georgetown University, Education/Schools, Law Enforcement, Kansas Service Providers, Court Services,

Community Corrections, Judges and/or Attorneys, CASA, and Youth and Parent Advocates.

The purpose of the Statewide Policy Team is to establish reliable partnerships among agencies in order to facilitate information sharing and to improve how agencies serve youth and families. A huge part of that is ensuring that youth and families have opportunities to be heard. The team meets once a month and is open to the public.

Four workgroups were created by the Statewide Policy Team to tackle various issues; Information Sharing and Data Collection, Local Policy and Support, Prevention, Service Quality and Accessibility. This work will largely inform how the counties carry out the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM), such as expanding information sharing capacities and delivering this guidance to the counties so there is no

ambiguity regarding what is and is not permitted by statute and/or memorandum of understanding (MOU). The Statewide Policy Team is also exploring ways to help with data collection and analysis efforts that can be sustained over time.



## What is a crossover youth?



The Statewide Policy Team has defined crossover youth as: A young person age 10 and older with any level of concurrent involvement with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, inclusive of out-of-home placements, probation, Immediate Intervention Programs (IIPs), and voluntary/preventative services (defined

as Child in Need of Care (CINC) cases that are open for services such as Family Preservation, Family First and Family Services). This definition is to be used by all jurisdictions that adopt the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) but can be expanded if necessary.

DCF, Kansas Department of Corrections Juvenile Services and OJA will each have one Coordinator that will work together to ensure the initiative moves forward. The Crossover Youth Policy and Practice Coordinators will facilitate the Kansas Crossover Youth Policy Team that will collaborate to examine and develop state policy and guidance around the unique issues presented by crossover youth such as; access to

services, the need for enhanced trauma-informed practices, cross-system coordination to enhance case planning while avoiding duplication of services, etc. In addition to facilitating the policy team the coordinators will provide training, technical assistance and support of community-level initiatives with juvenile and family courts, agencies, and local communities to implement the CYPM.

To learn more about the Crossover Youth State Policy Team and more information regarding past and upcoming meetings please visit: <https://www.doc.ks.gov/juvenile-services/crossover-youth-practice-model>

*Thank you to the Crossover Youth State Policy Team for the update. Stay tuned for more updates from this team.*