

January XX, 2025

Representative XXX, Chair, Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight
Representative Lewis, Chair, House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
Senator Warren, Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary

Dear Chairpersons,

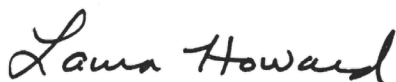
The Department for children and Families wishes to provide an update regarding 2018 House Substitute for SB 179 which created law describing a Juvenile Crisis Intervention Center (JCIC) as a facility that provides short term observation, assessment, treatment, and case planning, and referral for any juvenile who is experiencing a mental health crisis and is likely to cause harm to self or others.

K.S.A 65-536 sets forth the Secretary for DCF provide an annual report of specific information regarding outcomes of juveniles admitted into intervention centers to the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight, the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice, and the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

The JCIC regulations were published and became effective June 7, 2024. The licensing division has not received any applications to open a Juvenile Crisis Intervention Center, thus there is no juvenile outcome data to provide.

The accompanying document provides background and the status of recent supports to families to meet the crisis assessment and treatment needs of youth. The purpose of this information is to convey that while no JCIC facility is in operation resources for families and youth serve as alternatives to a facility based JCIC approach. We look forward to presenting this information at your convenience. Thank you for sharing this letter and accompanying document with the Committee.

Sincerely,



Laura Howard, Secretary
Department for Children and Families and
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

Cc:
Andrew Brown, Commissioner, KDADS
Hope Cooper, Deputy Secretary, KDOC
Tanya Keys, Deputy Secretary DCF

Background:

House Substitute for SB 179 created law describing a Juvenile Crisis Intervention Center as a facility that provides short term observation, assessment, treatment, and case planning, and referral for any juvenile who is experiencing a mental health crisis and is likely to cause harm to self or others.

K.S.A 65-563 (effective July 1, 2018) required DCF to begin a JCIC Jan. 1, 2019, to provide access to a broad range of services to meet the needs of a juvenile. To date, no JCIC physical facility is in operation. However, community-based alternatives to meet a continuum of crisis care needs for children have been established and approaches are emerging that do not require a child to leave their home in order to receive supports during an emotional crisis. Additional resources are also emerging for situations, similar to those that might necessitate JCIC usage, that allow for a youth to receive temporary services outside their home.

- In January 2021, DCF awarded a contract to Beacon Health Options (now known as Carelon) for The DCF Family Mobile Crisis Line including crisis intervention triage, mobile response and stabilization and referral services for all children and adults through age 20. Since the beginning of the Family Mobile Crisis Line text and chat access have been added to the Family Mobile Crisis Helpline which assists in making access easier and more equitable.
- In July 2022, the National Suicide Prevention Line became the three-digit 988 Lifeline. The line is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) and administered by Vibrant. The 988 Lifeline is call, text or chat with trained crisis counselors who are trained to provide free and confidential emotional support, crisis counseling and connection to community resources.
- Over the past several years, bed capacity has increased for short term acute or psychiatric residential resources and efforts have shifted to preventing the need for youth to leave home in order to receive supports. We know there are operating capacity challenges with some workforce gaps; however, bed capacity has been increased.
- In Oct. 2024, the Just Go Pilot Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) hosted by KDADS and DCF concluded. The pilot identified a need for more education around the model. KDADS developed and deployed the MRSS and Schools training geared towards the model's use with youth in schools. KDADS is in the process of developing a similar training for MRSS and Law Enforcement. Additional training and certification is underway at KDADS and will be added as a requirement to bill mobile crisis for any provider that should choose to utilize the service. Finally, KDADS is close to launching the Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) and Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) Practice Standards. These standards outlines the goals, guiding principles, eligibility criteria, service components and best practice to implementation.
- Crisis Respite Centers also build capacity of non-hospital or non-PRTF services for youth ages 5-17. Any Kansas youth, including those in foster care, who require an immediate episode of care (from hours to a maximum of 28 days) for the amelioration of psychological and substance use symptoms and impairment and/or until the family rupture involving the youth, can be re-stabilized and can access children's crisis respite programming. These centers provide services within a defined geographical area of the state through specialized consultation, technical assistance, crisis intervention, crisis stabilization and care management to ensure children and youth can remain in their home community and connected to local providers, who may already be providing them services.

- KDADS has executed three contracts for the development of new crisis respite centers in Kansas. KDADS continues to work on further development to increase the coverage across of the state. Current Children's Crisis Respite Centers include:
 - Compass CMHC – Garden City
 - Crawford County – Pittsburg
 - Family Service & Guidance Center (FSGC) – Topeka
 - Johnson County – Overland Park
 - Wyandot County – Kansas City
- Crisis Stabilization Units: Services to support and stabilize an individual, improve psychological symptoms of distress, and to engage them earlier in the process of a mental health or a substance use crisis. Current providers include: Current providers include:
 - RSI operating under Wyandotte Mental Health Center and Heartland RADAC
 - COMCARE Crisis Center under COMCARE Mental Health Center and SACK RADAC Wichita
 - The Residents Crisis Center under Valeo Mental Health Center
 - Guiding Lights Crisis Stabilization Center under The Guidance Center in Leavenworth
 - Pawnee Crisis Stabilization Center under Pawnee Mental Health Center in Manhattan
 - Schwaller Crisis Center under High Plains Mental Health Center in Hays
 - Compass Behavioral Health Crisis House under Compass Community Mental Health Center in Dodge City
 - Two additional Crisis Centers have been funded and are under development to open in FY25:
 - Bert Nash Treatment and Recovery Center under Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center in Lawrence
 - Crawford County Mental Health Center Crisis Stabilization under Crawford County Community Mental Health Center in Pittsburgh
- **Children's Behavioral Interventionist (CBI)** In October 2023, CBI became a new Medicaid covered service in Kansas. The intent of this Medicaid billable services is for intense support provision in the home and community where the child resides. Services include neuro-developmental activities for children and families who struggle with behavioral and emotional management through a person-centered treatment plan. This service requires family involvement and is for the direct benefit of the child. The goal is to increase behavioral functioning in daily living activities, stabilize the child in their home and community settings and eliminate the need for high levels of treatment. CBI services are cost-effective trauma-informed alternatives to avoid placement disruption. Current providers include:
 - FosterAdopt Connect
 - DCCCA
 - EmberHope
 - KVC
 - Mental Health America of South Central Kansas

Attached to this report you'll see a timeline of all JCIC activities since the bill was passed.

2023 HB 2021 - Update

Renewed interest in opening a JCIC in Johnson County has prompted the agency to take important steps to restart the process as DCF and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services worked through their questions and concerns.

In 2023, focus pertained to certain definitions in statute and regulations that County officials saw as restrictive and cost prohibitive. For example, both parties agree that statute needs to be changed to say, “behavioral health” rather than “mental health.” Johnson County worked with legislators and other stakeholders on statutory language that addresses their concerns which was passed into law via House Bill 2021.

The bill also added language to the child welfare and juvenile offender code regarding collaboration for services between DCF, KDOC, and the Judicial Branch.

The agency also met the deadline set forth in the bill of October 1, 2023, to identify an evidence-based risk and needs assessment to administer to children who have been identified as exhibiting behavior that could lead to juvenile offender charges related to physical violence, aggression, damage to property or use of life-threatening drugs during the course of a child in need of care proceeding. DCF, in collaboration with KDOC-JS and our child welfare partners, identified the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) and have defined score cutoffs for referring children to services available through either agency. A referral process was created to connect children engaged in child welfare services to KDOC services and ongoing collaboration meetings continue to occur between DCF, KDOC, Child Welfare Case Management Providers, and Family Preservation Providers.

DCF believes the language changes and additions provide an opportunity for a comprehensive service array to families whose children are experiencing behavioral health crisis, to include mental health, substance use, and other behavioral needs.

JCIC Update

The JCIC regulations were published and became effective June 7, 2024. The licensing division has not received any applications to open a Juvenile Crisis Intervention Center.

The license division has received interest from three mental health centers interested in opening Crisis Units and they wish to operate them under the group boarding home residential center regulations.

JCIC Timeline

2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July, K.S.A 65-536 effective. • October, Dept. of Admin Released JCIC RFP for DCF with reponses due Nov. (1st RFP) • November, one (1) bidder: Johnson County for NE KS counties. • December, JCIC draft regulations from Dept of Admin and Budget to Attorney General. • December Award notice from DCF to JO CO
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January required JCIC start date. • April, JO CO rescinds bid, no award made. • Apr-May, DCF, KDADS, KDHE, KDOC-JS meet monthly to identify next steps given withdrawl of only bidder. • April, DCF and AG representatives meet to review proposed Regulations. • August, Dept. of Admin Released JCIC RFP for KDADS with reponses due Oct. (2nd RFP) • September, DCF returned revised regulations to DofA and Budget. • October, one (1) bidder: Family Service & Guidance Center to serve 120 youth in 11 NEK counties. Technical and financial proposal review begin.
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan -Feb, JCIC RFP review teams meet and negotiations begin. • March, negotiations yield requirements for JCIC not feasible for bidder to implement. KDADS contact Dept of Admin to close the RFP with no award. • June, Dept. of Admin Released Crisis and Mobile Response RFP for DCF with responses due July. • September, DCF, KDADS and KDOC-JS meet to identify next steps to meet crisis care continuum needs, discuss emerging alternatives to present to Secretaries Howard and Zmuda. • DCF received 3-4 Regulation not approved by AG office.
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January, Kansas Family Crisis Response and Support contract award for 10/1/21 launch of crisis triage, mobile reponse and stabilization services (est. 10,000 crisis calls & 4,000 mobile response annually) • Contract lays groundwork for '988' National Suicide Hotline implementation in 2022. • 2 DCF placement stability grants for in home Behavior Interventionist awarded in KC and Topeka . • Family Service and Guidance Center Crisis Recovery Program for the stabilization of youth started with contract for short term stabilization 24 hours to 28 days. Exploring similar program in SW KS. • Alternatives such as respite, cooling beds or in home interventions explored for implementation and purchase of service. • Fall, DCF initiated calls to Missouri to learn about implementation of Treatment Foster Homes and Professional Child Specific foster homes programs by MO DSS and DMH state agencies.
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Bill 2021 was passed into law: • Changed the term mental health crisis to behavioral health crisis and added a definition. • Established language for collaboration across DCF, KDOC, and the Judciial Branch to increase accessibility of services. • Set a deadline of October 1st for DCF to identify an evidence-based risk and needs assessment to administer to children who have been identified as exhibiting behavior that could lead to juvenile offender charges related to physical violence, aggression, damage to property or use of life threatening drugs during the course of a child in need of care proceeding. • DCF identified the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) to be in identifying appropriate youth for referral. • MOU between DCF & KDOC finalized and executed for access to \$2M in Evidence-Based Programs Account for grants and contracts on future JCIC's. • August 2023 DCF recieved finalized and approved Rules & Regulations for the Attorney General's Office.
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Public Hearing and Economic Impact Statement on Rules & Regulations posted. • February 2nd - Joint Committee on Administrative Rules & Regulations JCIC Regulations Hearing • March 8th - Public JCIC Rules & Regulation Hearing • June 7, 2024 - the JCIC Regulations were published and became effective.