

# Prevention in Kansas

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## Mobile Crisis Response coming October 1

In February of 2021, Kansas Department for Children and Families awarded an agency contract to Beacon Health Options to offer state-wide family crisis response and support services. Since that time, DCF and Beacon have been working to establish contacts with providers and expectation of services. Kelly Hans-Reid, DCF Director of Medicaid and Children's Mental Health Services says, "DCF is so excited to be able to offer families a new option of support when they find themselves in challenging situations."

Starting October 1, 2021, families will be able to call the crisis helpline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, to speak with a qualified professional that can help them navigate their children's mental health issues.

Services provided under the contract include:

- A centralized behavioral health crisis helpline
- 24 hour a day, seven day a week screening and mobile response stabilization services to connect clients to community-based services no matter where the crisis is occurring

The crisis line will serve families and caregivers who have children experiencing emotional crisis or other behavioral health symptoms, including substance use disorder. Young adults between the ages of 18 to 21 who were formerly in the foster care system also are eligible for the services.

With this contract DCF hopes to support families during an emotional crisis before more restrictive or institutional interventions are necessary. Additionally, the agency wants to ensure families are connected to community-based supports and services and prevent unnecessary hospitalization or other out-of-home placements for children and youth.

Susan Coakley, interim president, Beacon Health Options said "Our goal is to work closely with the department to ensure Kansas children and young adults have access to a comprehensive crisis system that anticipates needs and provides recovery-focused interventions in all phases of the crisis continuum. Through this collaboration we anticipate greater success at deescalating and mitigating crises before more restrictive or institutional interventions become necessary and to ensure connection to needed supports and services."

Beacon Health Options currently contracts with the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services for management of substance use disorder, problem gambling, and DUI funds and they administer the State Opioid Response Funds. Beacon has experience in other states with crisis intervention service and mobile response administration.

*(see next page for mobile crisis infographic)*

# (continued) Mobile Crisis Response starting October 1, 2021



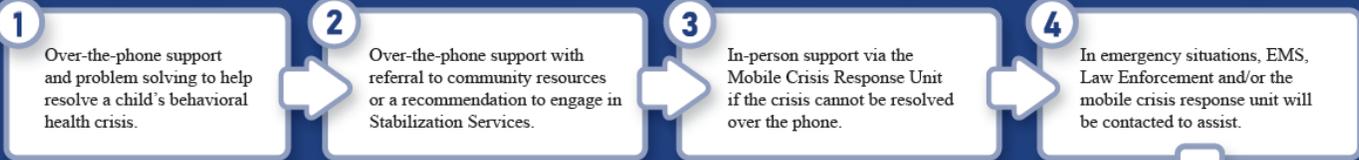
## Kansas Family Crisis Response Services

Crisis Helpline and Mobile Response assists families at all of the times and locations convenient for them. Services are available for all children in Kansas ages 0-18 and any child in foster care up to age 21. This new array of services is designed to help Kansas families when they need it the most.



### Child Behavioral Health Crisis Helpline

Anytime, anywhere support! Trained professionals answer the Helpline 24/7, 365 days a year. Callers are provided with one or more of the following services:



**5 Mobile Crisis Response Unit**  
The Mobile Crisis Response Unit can be deployed to anywhere a child is experiencing a crisis.

#### Deployment Levels:

- » Routine Response
- » Urgent Response
- » Emergent Crisis Response
- » Emergent Psychiatric Response (includes inpatient psychiatric treatment screen)

#### Deployed within

- 72 hours
- 24 hours
- 60 minutes
- 60 minutes

#### Mobile Crisis Response provides:

- » In-person Support and De-escalation
- » Crisis Intervention
- » Behavioral and Safety Planning
- » Referral to Community-based Services
- » Transitional Care Service Connector

### 6 Stabilization Services

Stabilization Services provided up to 8 weeks. These services work with the individual and their family, caregiver or safety/lifetime network to identify skills and resources that include formal and informal supports. Service providers complete referrals and ensure timely access and delivery of community-based services.

#### Reduce:

- » The need for law enforcement, juvenile justice, and foster care involvement.
- » Trips to the ER for mental health evaluations

#### Prevent Crises:

- » Out of Home Placement
- » Detention/ Incarceration
- » Unnecessary use of acute care or institutional settings.

#### Final Outcomes:

The child behavioral health crisis helpline gives families the resources to help resolve current crises and prevent future crises.

Above: the Mobile Crisis Response infographic. The crisis line phone number will be released in early fall and will begin taking calls on October 1, 2021.



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# Every Story has an Origin— a Kinship Program

## Community Provider Spotlight: Children’s Alliance of Kansas

Established in 1954, the Children’s Alliance serves as a united voice for providing the highest quality care and services to children and families involved in the family wellbeing system across the state. In 2009, Children’s Alliance purchased the Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP), a series of child welfare training and development programs utilized across the country. Since that time, Children’s Alliance has established itself as a leader in advocacy, education, and networking. Working with our members to strengthen children, families, and communities, the Children’s Alliance’s latest mission includes partnering with the Kansas Department for Children and Families to provide a parallel curriculum series to MAPP that supports kinship caregivers and their families.

With expertise in the unique needs of children, parents, and families at risk of being or already involved in the child welfare and foster care systems, the Children’s Alliance plays a key role in promoting networking opportunities for our members, developing effective advocacy strategies in working with the legislature and public policy, and implementing educational



opportunities for members and caregivers. Through a statewide training collaborative, the focus is on providing programs that develop, engage, and support foster, adoptive and kinship families, as well as the child welfare workforce. The newest endeavor is an educational program for kinship families called “Origins.”

The Children’s Alliance is designing a comprehensive kinship program to support states and agencies that are practicing Kin-First policy. *Kinship: Origins* is the first tool being designed to fit a family’s needs as they begin their journey with caring for kin. The name “Origins” was chosen because it means using the past—a family’s roots—to help build the future. The term also means the start of something new. *Kinship: Origins* is here to support the caregiver, child, and the child’s family as they start this new path together.

While the *Origins* online course will be self-directed, it will

also be facilitated by the kinship support workers who are directly involved with kin families. Making *Origins* not only a training for families but also a tool to assist agencies in engaging and joining with their families to get the best outcomes for safety, permanence, and well-being.

### Questions for families covered in *Origins*

- What is a Kinship Caregiver?
- Where do I start with Kinship?
- How do I navigate the Family Wellbeing System?
- How do agencies and I work together?
- How do trust and trauma work in children?
- How do I work with feelings and behaviors?
- How do I support the family connection?
- What is Kinship licensing?
- Where do I go from here?

The pilot program for *Origins* will begin in August 2021 in Kansas and will be implemented statewide in September 2021.

For families who need additional support to be successful with their kin, The Children’s Alliance is also developing a path toward skill building with *Kinship: Path*. This program will help families build the support they need to be successful by providing trauma-informed, skill-based training that will also be a path to foster care licensure, should they choose. *Kinship: Path* will be implemented in Kansas at the beginning of 2022.

Additionally, the Children’s Alliance will be developing and designing *Kinship: Home* to support Kin family homes long-term. This series of trainings deal with a variety of single topics for kin families. *Kinship: Home* will provide on demand, right-time trainings for specific topics that kin families need, and it’s anticipated to grow over time as we look for the best ways to support Kin First. *Kinship: Home* will begin in 2022.

The hope is *Kinship: Origins, Path, and Home*, will provide kin families with the comprehensive training they need when starting their journey, continuing on their path, and maintaining the home they want with their family.

*If you or your agency would like information regarding any of our programs, contact Executive Director of Public Policy, Shanna Jager at [sjager@childdally.org](mailto:sjager@childdally.org).*

*Learn more about Children’s Alliance of Kansas by visiting their website at: <https://childdally.org/>*

# Crossover Youth Practice Model updates

## June update

Written by Ashley Brown, [ashley.brown@ks.gov](mailto:ashley.brown@ks.gov),  
DCF Crossover Youth Practice Model Coordinator

The [March newsletter](#) highlighted Kristen Powell as a member of the Kansas Crossover State Policy Team (SPT). Kristin brings the much needed youth voice to the SPT and is being featured here again because of this latest accomplishment!

Kristen was one of fifteen individuals, whose names were submitted, to be nominated for membership on the Supreme Court Task Force on Permanency Planning.

The task force was established in 1984 as a requirement of a federal Administration for Children, Youth, and Families Program Instruction and has been active since. It is considered a Statewide Multidisciplinary Task Force and was established for the purpose of demonstrating meaningful, ongoing collaboration among the district courts of Kansas, the Kansas Department for Children and Families, and Native American tribes located in the State of Kansas. The Task Force must develop and implement strategic plans and monitor progress toward outcomes to meet requirements of pertinent ACF program instructions. Members are appointed by the Kansas Supreme Court. Task force members include; district court judges, district magistrate judges, lawyers, court-appointed guardians, prosecutors and representatives from Indian tribal

courts, state agencies, Court Appointed Special Advocates, citizen review boards and mental health, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment providers.

On May 24, 2021 Kristin was officially appointed as a new member on the task force, to serve from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025. Kristin is replacing Daniel Martin, whose term expires June 30, 2021 and will attend her first meeting in August.

**“I am excited to be appointed to the Supreme Court Task Force on Permanency Planning. I am hopeful that while being a member of the task-force I will be able to use my personal experiences and my voice to talk about and advocate for the important changes and improvement needed in the systems of care.”**

**—Kristen Powell, Kansas Crossover State Policy Team**



## July update

Written by Daniel Olson, [olsond@ks.gov](mailto:olsond@ks.gov),  
Office of Judicial Administration  
Crossover Youth Policy and Practice  
Coordinator

The State Policy Team (SPT) continues to work towards fully establishing the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) in 3 counties, Montgomery,

Shawnee, and Sedgwick.

SPT is working to identify barriers that the youth and families face. This is important to implementation of the CYPM because the process will be more fluid. It will create a uniform process across the state for agencies to follow that will benefit youth and families.

Shawnee and Montgomery counties are developing focus groups for their area. These focus groups will be made up of past youth and parents who have been involved in either the foster care system, juvenile justice system, or both.

Questions about barriers and what was helpful to families when they were involved with the system are being developed in order to help guide the team.

They are also working on developing a Guiding Coalition. The Guiding Coalition will consist of community members or organizations who will identify resources

in their local communities and to help overcome obstacles that are discovered.

The third county, Sedgwick, is working on an inventory of their assessments tools used at the multiple agencies involved with the families. They are working to determine what assessments could be streamlined and decrease redundancy. Sedgwick county has started the process of developing a “101” cross-systems trainings for their county so stakeholders have a better understanding of how each agency operates.

*To learn more about the Crossover Youth Practice Model and information regarding past and upcoming meetings of the State Policy Team please visit:*

[https:// www.doc.ks.gov/juvenile-services/crossover-youth-practice-model](https://www.doc.ks.gov/juvenile-services/crossover-youth-practice-model)

*You may also contact Kansas Department of Corrections Crossover Coordinator:*  
[michelle.montgomery@ks.gov](mailto:michelle.montgomery@ks.gov)