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**Testimony to the Special Committee On Foster Care Adequacy
Regarding Foster Care and Law Enforcement Interactions
November 17, 2015**

Chairman Knox and Committee Members,

Several months ago, in response to a request for information, I queried our membership about law enforcement relationships with foster care homes. I have attached a summary document of key responses I received. As I reviewed the responses I found several items that were repeated and some response content that appeared to be more isolated. As we consider the responses I received, it is important to remember that these kind of queries seem to generate responses from those that are frustrated more than from those who have positive experiences. There are clearly many more quality foster parents and foster homes in Kansas than problematic ones. Thankfully, those needing attention seem to be the exception.

There were agencies that had very few issues with foster homes, a handful that seemed to have more issues, and some responded about no interactions or positive interactions with foster homes or the controlling agencies. It is safe to assume that many agencies did not respond at all because they had no noteworthy interactions with foster homes. As could be expected, larger jurisdictions seemed to have more concerns since larger jurisdictions also have more foster homes within their jurisdiction. It is important to note that even the larger jurisdictions did not seem to relate issues that spanned all foster homes. Instead, those issues seem to center on a handful of foster homes with repeated interactions with law enforcement and the response from DCF and DCF contractors to assist in dealing with the issues.

It is also important to note that law enforcement concerns with DCF and DCF contractor responses seem to be more related to their local interactions rather than to centralized contacts regarding foster care oversight. We have encountered this kind of response on other issues in the past and it appears to be more a product of the lack of relationships between local DCF employees and local law enforcement than system issues. The one exception is a lack of response when calling the 24 hour DCF hotline. As can be expected, many of the law enforcement interactions do not occur during normal business hours of 8-5 M-F. Calls to the DCF hotline, not only in foster care matters but in other matters as well, too frequently only add to law enforcement frustration and offer little help in resolving the matter at hand. The issues with the call center related to me include 1) no answer; 2) unsuccessful efforts to connect the officer with a case worker; 3) unavailability of critical information.

Some of the common themes that appeared to be occurring across the state are listed below.

- Law enforcement across the state reports responding to foster homes for a variety of non-criminal and non-CINC events. Many times these are behavior problems that should be addressed by the foster parents, not law enforcement. Examples range from not coming home on time when the child's whereabouts is known to just not having the will or capabilities to

deal with the behavior issues. You will see examples of this in the attachment. When they learn the officer cannot take the child into custody and remove them from the home on such issues, it is not uncommon for those foster parents to then report a criminal allegation such as an assault or vandalism that has occurred in the past but was unreported.

- There were also reports of foster parents not being supportive of the process when a law enforcement officer does take custody of a foster child. For example, not going to locations of mental health or medical treatment facilities; and not providing information directly to juvenile intake.
- At least one agency reported difficulty in obtaining history information and emergency contact information on the child from the foster parents, due to their reluctance to share that information. This is critical when the officer is being asked to take the child into custody.
- While many jurisdictions report positive relationships with DCF and receive good DCF responses, others report poor responses in this area. In particular, there seems to be a universal concern with the difficulty to obtain useful information or get assistance when law enforcement calls the hotline number. It is also often difficult to get help in contacting the assigned social worker, and when the assigned social worker is not available it is nearly impossible to reach an alternative person.
- Another issue that appears to sporadically occur across the state is for a criminal complaint to be made, the child removed from the foster home, and the investigation impeded by moving the child a long distance away before the child's involvement in the investigation can be completed. This occurs both when the child is a victim and when a suspect.
- Several agencies report frustration with the lack of cooperation in multi-discipline training and problem solving when requested by law enforcement.
- Some foster parents and some service providers expect law enforcement to be their taxi service for the foster children and the fall back solution when none is provided by DCF or DCF contractors.

Suggestions

- Assure foster parents are trained in de-escalation and conflict resolution skills, and when there are signs the foster parent is struggling in that area arrange for assistance and remedial training.
- Cooperatively create and encourage multi-disciplinary training and problem solving so law enforcement, foster parents, DCF, and DCF contracting agencies have a better understanding of each other's needs, limitations, restrictions and requirements.
- Require foster parents and assigned social workers to provide information and, when possible, accompany law enforcement to treatment centers or juvenile intake when the child is removed from the foster home.
- Make critical history information available to juvenile intake and law enforcement to assure safe placement choices for placement of children removed from a foster care setting. Mental health and health history information should be available to medical and mental health treatment centers through the DCF call center without delay.
- Create a secure (within KCJIS) information exchange system for foster kids and CINC kids. The ability to share past history, past and current treatment programs, medications, and trigger points is critical as kids move from place to place and from foster home to a custody status.
- Fix the lack of information at the DCF call center. There are common complaints that many times the lines are not answered and, when they are answered, the lack of any information or assistance forthcoming. **If the assigned social worker is not available there should be an on-call supervisor always available to assist the foster parent, law enforcement or treatment providers with information, guidance, and seeking an intermediate solution.**

Response #1

I have been involved in a series of events over the past 18-24 months. I became involved when I noticed a spike in calls for assistance at one of many group homes. The calls were frequent and usually required two officers and on multiple occasions a supervisor. This placed an undue burden on my staffing. I would like to provide you a snapshot of the history of our (my) involvement.

The switch [in service providers] resulted in several administrative changes within the foster care process as to how we (police) were to deal with the residents and staff.

The [current state foster care districting] brought into our community several new group homes in which children were assigned from all over the western part of the state. The children placed into foster care were relocated and assigned to one of the group homes established in our community.

The group homes are independent contractors who are a for profit status who are sub-contractors to the St Francis foster care system. The homes each have their own set procedures/protocols in dealing with police and children placed in foster care. This brings several problems into the fold as what type of response we (police) are called to. The officers want to be receptive to helping but because of internal group home protocols the officers are receiving conflicting directions which results in a non-established response.

Additionally, I have noticed that officers are being used as tools to remove children from foster care until another appropriate placement is found. This is a very time consuming process and a poor choice of resource usage.

In an effort to help resolve these issues and to have an open dialogue several staff members from various group homes and local St Francis management were invited as guest instructors to help us better understand the process. The meeting was held on July 15, 2014 and we had over 50 police officers and supervisors present. The meeting was fundamentally productive but no lasting actions were established.

Additionally, the frequency of calls required the use of our local mental health agency. The officers were dispatched to the homes only to be told the child would need to be transported to the [mental health] center for treatment. The officers were tasked with transporting the child with very limited information on their history (medical, mental, family, current placement status.). The officers would ask if someone from the Group Home would be going with or meeting them at the treatment center and the response was "sure" as soon as we find someone. This caused an unnecessary delay in services and removed an officer from the primary responsibilities of responding to 911 calls.

I have provided information as to what I (officers assigned to me) have encountered.

- Officer sent to pick up an 8 yoa male because child refused to return home. He was out playing two houses away. The child was returned by the officer. Foster mother told the officer that child made suicidal statements and would require assessment at [the mental health center]. The officer being helpful transported the child to [the mental health center] and waited for the foster mother to arrive. The officer contacted supervision after two hours when she had not arrived. The foster mother was located and was out shopping with other family members. The foster mother never showed up. After six hours, supervision was able to locate a St Francis social worker who guided the officers through the process of returning this child. The child did not require any treatment from the [mental health center] assessment.
- Officers sent out to make a child return home. The child was at a friend's house and was not ready to come home. The child was 10. The officers arrived and returned the child home. The officers discussed with the foster parent who explained to the officers that her instructions from the St Francis staff was to call 911 and report the child as a runaway as she was not allowed to leave the property and physically take control of the child.

- Officers were sent to a business (Laundry) to a 911 call of a disturbance involving several people at a business. The officers responded and made contact with a foster parent who called 911 to report her under 5yoa foster child was not behaving and she was unable to make contact with the assigned social worker. The foster parent left several messages and did not receive a returned phone call. The officers were able to resolve the problem and child remained with the foster parent.
- Officers were dispatched to a possible sexual assault involving an older foster child (male) and a younger foster child (male). The older child was a court placement for a sexual offender and was not to be left alone or unsupervised with any younger children. Officers discovered the group home/social worker moved the offender to an undisclosed location and then out of the City. These actions impeded the criminal investigation which resulted in an investigative supervisor contacting the Director of St Francis and explaining the importance of working with law enforcement and not withholding information involving a criminal investigation.
- Sedgwick county deputies responded to a disturbance within a family. The deputies discovered two foster parents were moving in together and each had a foster child. Each child was from [different foster care systems]. The foster children ran away and were located by deputies and placed into custody. The deputies reported the foster parents chose not to take the children back. The deputies made calls and [one foster care system] quickly responded (30-45) minutes and took control of their child. The deputy reported that after several failed attempts to have a case worker [from the other system] respond he transported the child to their sub-station where he ‘babysit’ for several hours until a case worker responded. This resulted in a meeting with the local staff of St Francis at their office. The staff assured the deputy this was not the norm and would investigate the deputies concerns.
- The staff at several of the group homes are reluctant to provide the traveling “NOTEBOOK” to officers who are assisting them. This NOTEBOOK contains very vital information on each child such as medical history, emergency contacts and prior diagnoses.
- Officers are frequently called to homes for disturbances (usually fail to comply with house rules) when the officers arrive and conduct the investigation we frequently find the issue is not of a criminal matter and did not require police intervention. As an example officers and supervision were sent to a disturbance involving a foster child (16) who did not comply with the house rules. The foster child was eating a personal size bag of chips and refused to stop as directed by house parent. The house parent slapped the chips out of the girls hand and away from her. The foster child reacted as she has her whole life and shoved the house parent away. The house parent called the house supervisor who wanted the girl arrested/or sent in for a mental evaluation. The foster child’s local social worker responded and after considerable discussion took the child to another foster home. This process took over 2-hours.
- Officers have encountered situations when they respond to the foster homes (group) they are confronted with as mentioned violation of house rules. The officers explain they cannot enforce house rules as this is not a criminal matter. The house parent then brings up allegations of past misdeeds committed by the foster child (slamming the door, damaging dry wall, shoving another foster child) these incidents occurred usually several days prior. These types of incidents are misdemeanor crimes and the officers are very limited as to what they can do. The officers usually document the incident and take photos but very little is done on prosecution side.
- The purpose of this I am told is that if a child is placed into the juvenile system (JIAC) this increases the chances the child will be removed and reassigned to another foster home. The use of the criminal justice system as a tool to address [these issues] is not a wise use of resources.

- We have noticed on several instances that an officer removes a child from foster care and places them into the system. The group home is supposed to keep the bed open for 24 hours in case of a possible return of the child. This is not happening as soon as the child is removed the process to fill the bed starts. I am told this is a financial issue that an empty bed results in a non-payment.
- When a child is removed from a group home/foster care there is no dedicated bed space at [our children's home]. Speaking with staff it is a common occurrence for an officer to bring a child to the [children's home] and have to leave the child with them. The child sits in the lobby as the [children's home] staff locates someone from St Francis to take possession of the child. This is done with no supporting documentation from the placement center and results in an increased demand on the limited resources of the children home in providing for the child.
- There is no dedicated room at [our children's home] for children placed into Police Protective custody that are removed from the foster care system.
- A series of meetings have been conducted with local staff to discuss the problems we (police) are having with the foster care system and their charges. The staff provided a DCF supervisor number 1-888-732-4673 for the officers to call after hours. This number is to a call center in Topeka. I have personally called the number and had very poor response to my questions. The usual answer is we will locate the person's case worker and get back with you. The problem is there is no time line for a response.
- Inquiring about the local emergency contact number for the on-call case worker to respond was denied by Executive staff of St Francis. I was told to direct our questions to the 1-888-732-4673 number.
- The officers are reporting back to me that when a foster parent calls the hotline number for after hour's assistance they encounter the same type of response. The foster parents become frustrated and call 911 for assistance. The officers respond and again are placed into a situation when no positive outcome.
- I have noticed house parents have no formalize training in de-escalation techniques. I believe if this was part of a training curriculum it could possibly offer assistance and reduce the demands of police contact-intervention.

The circumstances that I have outlined above are only a small percentage of the calls we have made involving residents and staff of the homes.

Overall the staff is tasked with difficult and sometimes limited instructions in the dealing with foster care. I believe a streamlined (less red tape) is the response we need to achieve.

Response #2

My wife and I have also been foster parents for most of the last 10 years, so I may have a different perspective on the topic. As far as problems with the foster homes, I haven't seen any. I know at times there have been foster children that have run away, been violent or destructive. They are handled as any other case but usually they can be easier because of their mental health caseworkers or foster agency caseworker. These workers assist us in placement and understanding the history of the child. A lot of times they will show up and sit with the child while we go through our process.

I think at times; foster homes get a bad rap. Almost every child we have taken in has had a lot of problems. It usually takes a while to get them settled in and following rules. No matter how bad their home life was prior to their placement, most of the kids still love their mom and dad, and want to go home. We have had children that would defecate in their bedrooms, destroy property in acts of violence or rage, and we have had some run away, break into homes and steal a vehicle. My wife and I recently discussed the crazy behaviors that foster children often display. I have seen many success

stories with foster children as well, this past week we had foster children that are now grown, come and stay with us for the weekend.

The only issues we have seen is with the contract agency. Now we have KVC and are very pleased with how they work. Previously we were with TFI and were very unhappy with them. Foster homes are mandated on specific rules on dealing with children and these are overseen by the family support case worker. I can't remember any DCF investigation of a foster home.

Response #3

Most of my interaction with foster homes is rather indirect with those foster parents after a juvenile victim is placed with them; overall that limited interaction has been mostly positive.

I did have a case involving a 53 year old foster mother having sexual intercourse with her 16 year old foster son. He was immediately removed and placed in a different foster home and that suspect foster mother's license was quickly revoked. The additional problem in that case though was that KVC said they had placed the child in Hays, KS and that made him unavailable to his forensic interview the next morning. That interview had to be rescheduled to a later day delaying my investigation. Then I later found out that he wasn't actually placed in Hays after all; he was somewhere in southeast Kansas. KVC had lost track of him. That situation was very frustrating but it was not his new foster home's fault. I'm very careful now with PPC'd victims to ask JIAC / KVC / DCF to place them locally initially so I can have access to them. Just FYI; the suspect foster mother in this case was charged and convicted of two counts of Unlawful Sexual Activity.

Response #4

Most of my experiences in the foster home have all been related to the kids specifically. Either the kids are physically abusive to other kids or foster parents in the home, or they are in various sorts of sexual contact (consensual/non-consensual) with other foster kids in the home. DCF is almost always involved because the kids were taken into custody and depending on the circumstances work a joint investigation with us if it has any sniff of being criminal. Any other contact I have is usually just talking to the foster parents to make transportation arrangements for interviews and medical exams. It is sometimes hours after custody before a child is actually placed but that location information is always provided to DCF.

As far as DCF goes, if the foster home is suspected as the abuser, even if it is as simple as a lack of supervision concern, my understanding is that DCF, by policy, is supposed to enter that data separately. If it's just 2 kids in a foster home without any suspicion that the foster parents are suspect, the data is not track separately.

Response #5

In our county it seems as though it is a source of income for some families rather than trying to help the child in need. We have had placements by St. Francis into homes that have had a history of drug usage and other crimes. We have voiced our concerns and it seems that it falls on deaf ears.

We have one foster family that the mother is from Mexico and cannot speak English and the father is deaf. They live in a small town of 500. So you can imagine when a child from a metropolitan area gets placed in this home. There is a communication problem and there is no activity. The placement authorities stated that they really needed this family because of the lack of Spanish speaking households.

When they have placements we tend to have a lot of runaways.

Response #6

Historically we have had calls to these homes, but mostly because of the nature of the children that they house.

Locally there has been decent response from DCF as long as you know who the case worker is.

I don't recall much trouble at all with the parents. It's almost always centered around issues with the kids.

In general I just don't see a huge issue with foster homes here, now St Francis...

Response #7

Foster homes fail to have or share records on kids in their custody with basic information like dates of birth and the KVC/TFI/St. Francis case worker's name and phone number.

We are seeing a decline in quality of foster homes and foster parent's especially with TFI. Has the screening process changed due to the lack of placements?

DCF has been responsive; however, their contractors KVC and TFI are difficult to work with when problems arise. It is rare to get a supervisor to call back or follow up on reported issues.

There appears to be a lack of case worker training and large turnover rates in KVC, TFI, and St. Francis.

There appears to be a need for better monitoring, training, and accountability for contracting agencies like KVC, TFI and St. Francis.

I have been trying to organize a training session on runaways, Ex Parte/No Run Orders, and Interstate Compact procedures with KVC, the DA's Office, and Interstate Compact for over a year and KVC admin promises to get back in touch, but then never does.

Most problems we respond to with physical or sexual abuse and drug use come when a child is placed in a relative placement instead of a licensed foster home.

In one case with a TFI foster home the foster parents were harboring runaways on several occasions and refusing to cooperate with law enforcement. They refused entry to look for the runaway and lied when asked if the runaway was there. It was reported to TFI, but nothing was done and they are still fostering two children at this time.

Several foster parents have told me the only reason they foster is so they don't have to work outside the home. These same foster homes tend to have a lot of runaway children.

We need funding for alternatives to juvenile detention for runaways and teenagers in need of care such as day and evening reporting centers, emergency shelters, more beds in crisis centers (PRTF's), and electronic monitoring services. We are done with preliminary work on these alternatives and the cost savings of these options verses incarceration.

In my humble opinion Kansas needs to look at the re-integration / re-removal rate of children in Kansas. We are placing children back at home far too soon before the root cause of the initial removal has not been dealt with. We then re-traumatize the children by removing them a second or third time for the sake of "family re-integration". Kansas needs to be a "Child First" state putting child safety and mental health above all else.

Response #8

We have had numerous problems over the years with foster children being bad influence on other kids causing numerous problems in the school. In fact, the Superintendent of the school related to me that the majority of their school issues are associated to foster kids.

The other major problem our agency has is the foster parents expect us to be a taxi service after hours. Foster parents have problematic children and are in contact with the placement agency which does not intervene and transport the kids out of the home. They however tell them if the kids act up and especially if you fear for your safety "the police have to take the kids." We are a six man department covering 24/7 365 days a year and when we have to unnecessarily tie up our resources mostly because the foster parents or the placement agencies are unnecessarily using up our manpower the rest of the community gets neglected.

I recall an incident many years ago where a foster home every year in the summer was planning a vacation and suddenly they became fearful of the foster kids (I think there was around 4 kids in the home) and ask the Police to remove the kids from the home. After they came back from vacation the placement agency would put the same kids back in the home and all was well.

Response #9

Placement - If a child is out of control or commits a serious crime foster care does not seem to be a consistent option, but there are no alternatives other than family, friends, or lock-up.

Availability - There are not always available homes.

There have been some allegations of abuse/neglect out of foster homes, but the issue appears to be very rare. Sometimes foster children make allegations against each other in a single home.

We do have one home where runaway issues are common. Again rare issue.

Response #10

Foster homes are in short supply and we often have to travel long distances to place children.

Some of the homes don't appear to be the loving and nurturing environments that traumatized children need. A common comment/perception is that some foster homes must be doing it mainly for the money.

Recently, we had a case where a special needs (SN) girl confined to a wheel chair needed placement and so did her two normal functioning siblings. A CINC case had been filed months earlier with no action. DCF contacted us one day about their continued concerns and said she was removing the kids that day. The DCF worker did not know that the SN girl was fed through a tube and we could not find a proper placement and were forced to release her to a grandmother who lived in less than ideal conditions as well. We did this so the girl would have access to special food, the feeding mechanism, and medication that she needed. Before this we checked with hospitals who refused to take her unless she had a medical condition requiring hospitalization. Also, we had to call around to find a vehicle that could transport her safely (no help from DCF on this). When we asked the DCF worker for help her response was that she had done her job and couldn't help further. And she DIDN'T KNOW that the girl was fed through a tube because the parents were uncooperative with her investigation. This all day affair was a disaster waiting to happen and tied up two of three officers on duty that day.

A placement was found for the siblings two hours away and right before we left the placement called back and said "Nevermind." We ended up taking those two kids to grandma too. When the original DCF worker found out she was upset and asked why we took the kids to grandma and we actually had to explain it to her. My officers got hung out to dry and left twisting in the wind that day and this demonstrates one of several huge gaps with CINC kids who need temporary safe housing.

I have been trying to schedule a meeting with the local DCF director to discuss this, but our schedules haven't synched but hope to by next week. Also, the assistant prosecutor who handled the original CINC report left the office so we had no help from them that day. Still trying to meet with the County Attorney to find out what happened.

Response #11

We mostly find that foster homes are simply doing it for the money therefore they have too many foster children to honestly care for them or help them. I can't understand why the state allows foster homes to house several children at the same time.

I always get the same response from DCF "there is just nothing we can do until we fix the protocol at the state level"

Foster parents typically will share with us any and all info they have on the children.

Response #12

There is only one foster home with whom I had negative issues, but those issues center around parenting issues/skills and a lack of discipline, not drug issues, abuse issues, nor domestic violence. All other foster homes have been extremely positive and actually productive.

I did not express my personal feelings to DCF about my issues with the foster home. I might add, DCF has ALWAYS been very responsive to my reports and calls regarding child and adult reports. I have no complaints at all concerning DCF. The local DCF folks are a lifesaver to me.

Response #13

This response is from a JIAC worker, not from law enforcement.

Youth in DCF custody- Youth placed in foster homes come to JIAC for a variety of reasons. We often struggle to make contact with the foster home (they know not to pick up the phone when we call), and when we do make contact, they do not want to pick the youth up for several hours.

Youth placed in PPC- we have a very difficult time finding foster homes that will take PPC youth. We contact every foster care agency to request placement, and very rarely, we will find a home. When we do place youth in PPC foster homes, most foster parents do not want to transport youth in their care to emergency appointments or return them to JIAC upon release to a parent. The homes are paid mileage and are told about the responsibilities (I've taken the same classes they've taken), but the majority of the time, refuse to transport.

Youth in DCF custody- if we have a difficult time reaching foster parents or they are not cooperating by picking the youth up, we will contact the agency the home is licensed through. (KVC, DCCCA, TFI etc). Typically, they will assist with arranging for the youth to be picked up. We have had several issues with KVC workers not returning phone calls, telling JIAC staff they need to deal with the issue, and leaving youth in JIAC for 5-6 or more hours. Our experience with this particular agency has not been positive the majority of time.

Youth placed in PPC- if we have an issue with a foster home, we contact the licensing agency to discuss the problem. Typically, we have good response from the agencies if we have concerns. We also hotline homes if the situation warrants.

DCF always refers to the placement agency with PPC foster homes.

Response #14

NOTE: This response is from an officer who had an adopted child that ended up in foster care.

Here are a couple solid items that cannot be construed as "opinion"

July 2012 – "T" was placed in a foster home of single female with her own biological children as well as often visiting her mother who had a 16-year-old male present. Many problems with this foster home to include complaints of verbal and physical abuse from the 23-year-old daughter and the 16-year-old. Foster Mom would let Mom watch "T" which created problems. Foster Mom was not prepared to deal with behavioral problems that "T" exhibited. Even after "T" took a lawnmower blade and took it into foster Mom's mother's home to threaten others after fighting with the 16-year-old, he was still not removed from the home, because the foster Mom did not request it.

Eventually he was moved after several police calls, a trip to the hospital in an ambulance after he fell and bloodied his face, was standing on the roof of the house, continued communication issues with the Foster Mom, as well as visit issues.

November 2013 – "T" was placed with an adult single male in {another city}.

When my daughter drove up one Sunday to visit him, he was gone. On Monday, I found out he was moved suddenly due to some sexual concerns with the foster father, but I was never given the whole

story. I was told "T" was not a victim. He has said nothing happened to him, but all boys were removed.

September 2014 - Couple foster home in [another city] - Placed in a home that was able to make all the rules and call all the shots. They were able to dictate everything to KVC and KVC let them because they didn't want to have to find another home. The home eventually gave notice because they could not handle "T" but until that time they were unbearable to deal with and it was agreed upon by the GAL and KVC, but they would not do anything to risk the bed.

February 2015 - Single man foster home: "T" came to a visit with a swollen arm, told his sister he had been in a fight, told his foster dad he was injured, his foster dad said he would be fine. I contacted KVC, asked if they knew about the fight and his arm. The next visit he was in a cast and still fighting. Still stayed in the foster home. Only left when the foster father could not handle him any longer. Police had also been called to this home on several occasions.

Unfortunately, the lack of available foster homes and funding dictate many of these problems. The places "T" needs to be or where he does the best at costs more money so [there appears to be reluctance to] place him there. The number of available foster families are few and the ones there are don't want to deal with problem children and understandably so. The lack of foster homes leads to the allowance of letting those that probably should not be qualified as foster homes be qualified.

- I personally know of one in Johnson County that is a single mother with PTSD with a completely filthy house. She gets foster children all of the time. How in the world would someone that has issues dealing with their own trauma be placed in charge of taking care of children?

Then what happens and has happened on numerous occasions is that when a foster home gives their notice that they can no longer handle the child, they have already "agreed" to the stipulations that KVC has up to 14 days to find another placement. Unfortunately, in our case, no matter what is happening, they just plan on picking up on the 14th day as that is the limit and it takes time to find a place that will take him. He also has been placed in shelters in several occasions.

Unfortunately, he has become an offender, (getting ready to be sentenced on CDTP) but I feel like some are relieved at that because then they can place him in other places as he supposedly won't be eligible for other locations (like foster homes). However, after just hearing that on Sept. 8th in court and a PSI ordered he had another critical incident at a shelter in which they said he attacked another boy and he was moved out and placed into another foster home.

Nothing ever makes sense and what is told is often reversed/changed, etc.

I don't know if this will help, but that is only a very small piece of the hell we have lived through in the last couple of years in this area.

Even though we no longer have parental rights and the state has custody of him we have retained our attorney to continue to attend all hearings and be able to get copies of all paperwork that pertains to him. If we didn't, it scares me to death to think of what else could be happening to him if no one was looking out for him like the thousands that are in foster care today.