

November 18, 2020

Dear Sen. Wilborn:

I hope this communication finds you well. I'm reaching out today because I was listening to the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice yesterday and wanted to provide an update on the status of a topic there has been a lot of conversation around: Juvenile Crisis Intervention Centers (JCIC).

In 2018, DCF, KDADS and KDHE collaborated to post an RFP for JCICs with the intent being for facilities to open by January 1, 2019. This RFP returned very few feasible proposals. There was one response that seemed promising but ultimately could not be awarded due to lack of clarity on funding, complicating factors with promulgating regulations agreeable to the bidder, and issues with the readiness of the physical site location. There was similar collaboration in SFY2020 for another JCIC RFP which yielded one response that was not feasible to award. This second RFP process was also a collaborative one. DCF drafted regulations, KDADS issued the RFP and KDOC-JS supported the process with \$2M of funding from the evidence-based reinvestment funds.

Given the unsuccessful awards of the JCIC RFPs and evolving needs of families who are caregivers of youth, DCF, KDADS, and KDOC-JS agreed this past September on an alternative path forward aimed at providing the same types of services a family could access in a JCIC.

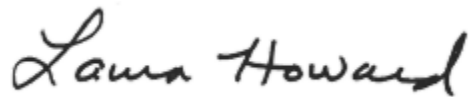
- To meet the needs of families with a child experiencing an emotional crisis, DCF will award a contract for a Family Crisis Response and Support program that will provide statewide crisis intervention services. This program will provide the same types of mental and behavioral health resources and supports that a family could access at a JCIC, including immediate crisis intervention and triage assessment, through a model of mobile service delivery. Depending on the needs of the family the program will also provide planning for short-term services or a warm handoff to a mental/behavioral health provider. The program's mobile response mechanism will allow for families to receive these services in a timely manner no matter where in Kansas they live. DCF is currently in the process of reviewing bid proposals and navigating award details.
- Over the past 2 years, capacity has increased for short term acute or psychiatric residential resources such as PRTFs. Efforts have shifted to preventing the need for youth to leave home in order to receive supports. One example of this is the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, but efforts to keep individuals in the community can be seen across the continuum of services offered by KDOC-JS, DCF, and KDADS. This emphasis on keeping youth in the community aligns with the intent of 2018 SB 179.
- As an alternative to a single statewide intervention center approach, it's recommended that funds and resources be diverted to explore and support implementation of community respite centers or similar programs that provide temporary short-term relief to families experiencing an emotional crisis. These programs could use existing regulation or licensing guidance for program implementation in

communities across the state using planned budgeted funding from KDOC-JS or another feasible source. DCF, KDADS, and KDOC-JS will be considering what this model could look like in the coming months.

It is DCF, KDADS, and KDOC's intention that this collection of supports will fill the need and provide community-based services as an alternative to the original SB 179 language approved in 2018. All three agencies are committed to ensuring that youth and families experiencing emotional crises can access the services they need.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or my staff if you have any questions or concerns about any of this information. We look forward to keeping you apprised of these efforts as they move forward.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Howard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Howard, Secretary