



Joint Committee on Child Welfare System Oversight

November 16, 2022

Chair Concannon, Vice Chair Hilderbrand, and Members of the Committee:

This submission was prepared by Cornerstones of Care Chief Programs and Innovation Officer, Justin Horton. On behalf of our organization, team members, and community of supporters- thank you for the opportunity to present today.

Who We Are

Cornerstones of Care is a behavioral health organization with a rich, 152-year, history of providing prevention, treatment and support services to children and their families. The children that we serve have all experienced trauma. Trauma resulting from discrete events, such as abuse or neglect, separation from a loved one, and witnessing or experiencing violence in their community, as well as trauma stemming from ongoing, cumulative experiences like poverty, addiction, discrimination, and mental illness.

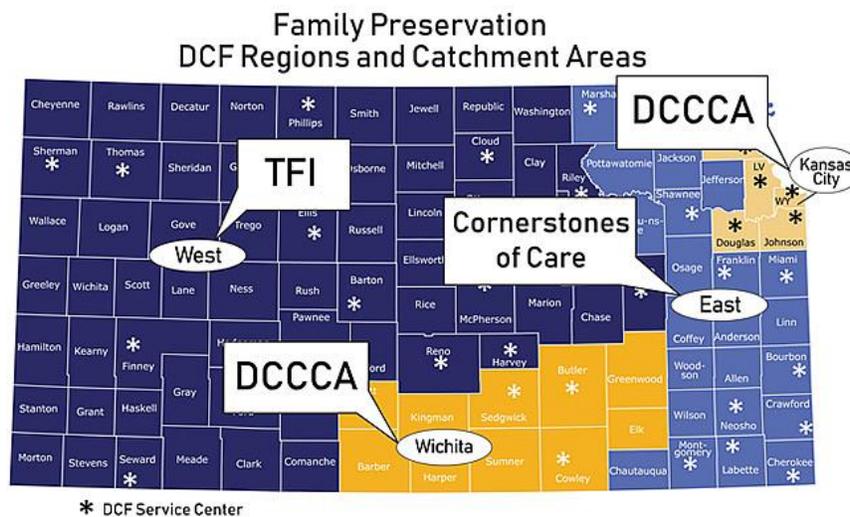
Cornerstones of Care is a certified trauma-informed organization by The Sanctuary Institute. This model recognizes trauma as pervasive to the human experience. It acknowledges the vulnerability of clients, organizations, and systems to the adverse effects of trauma and guides the approach that our 650 team members across our organization take to recognize understand and respond to trauma in a manner that mitigates its' negative effects. This model also fosters a restorative organizational culture, framework for creating trauma informed communities, and promotes healthy team member engagement, safety, self-awareness, and self-care.

Trauma gets a lot of the attention in the work we do, but the other side of that coin is resilience. The Sanctuary Model is essential to promoting growth and resilience both in those who seek treatment and in the people and systems who provide that treatment.



Prevention and Protective Services: Family Preservation

Cornerstones of Care is the Family Preservation provider in the East Department for Children and Families (DCF) region. Our Family Preservation program has offices in Brown County, Crawford County, Franklin County, Montgomery County, and Shawnee County.



Today, DCF has shared data on outcomes for all regions that have been reconciled through June 2022. **Cornerstones of Care met or exceeded 5 of the 6 reportable safety indicators.**

		East Region
Safety		
Children Maintained at Home		
Tier 1 (Standard 90%)		93.7%
Tier 2 (Standard 90%)		90.5%
Maintained at Home:		
Tier 1 (Standard 90%)		89.6%
Tier 2 (Standard 90%)		90.3%
Medication Assisted Treatment (Pregnant Woman Using Opioid)		
Tier 1 (Standard 90%)		0.0%
Tier 2 (Standard 90%)		0.0%
Babies Born Substance Free (Pregnant Women using Non-Opioid Substances)		
Tier 1 (Standard 90%)		0.0%
Tier 2 (Standard 90%)		0.0%
Safety During FP In Home Services		
Tier 1 (Standard 95%)		99.1%
Tier 2 (Standard 95%)		98.1%



Partnerships

Successful and safe outcomes from Family Preservation work is due to a community of providers and support rallying around a family in need. We are part of that community but understand that maintaining and fostering connections with other community providers is vital.

We are part of dozens of ongoing dialogues with community providers. One example is that our Family Preservation team has been participating in a work group for Franklin County. The purpose of the group is to brainstorm/ develop services for teens facing truancy. There is a high number of teens in this county who are being court ordered to attend school, but there are few services to adequately support these youth. The Franklin County Out of Home Committee has branched into sub-committees to tackle the various issues that are causing children in that county to go out of home due to non-abuse and neglect issues. One of our Directors is leading the sub-committee on Truancy Prevention. This group is currently working to identify key players, such as school counselors, SRO’s, school social workers, and Communities in Schools partners to invite to the table for these discussions.

A few other community partnership examples are listed below.

Group	Area	Involvement/Activity
Care Portal	East Region- (Bourbon, Cherokee, Crawford, Labette, Montgomery, Shawnee counties)	Family Preservation families have received substantial support through donations by the faith-based community.
My Family	Southeast Kansas (Cherokee, Labette, Montgomery, Wilson, Neosho counties)	Family Preservation is part of the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV) funds. This resource refers families to the appropriate Early Childhood program, based on the families’ needs, income, and age of children.
Kansas Children’s Service League	East Region	KCSL presented on their parenting resources and Parent Helpline.
United for Youth	Nemaha County	Monthly meeting to discuss at risk families/youth in Nemaha County and how agencies can work together to support them.



ICC	Marshall County	Monthly meeting to discuss at risk families/youth in Marshall County and how agencies can work together to support them.
Pottawatomie County Stakeholders Meeting	Pottawatomie County	Monthly meeting to discuss at risk families/youth in Pottawatomie County and how agencies can work together to support them.
Safe Families	East Region	Team members have worked collaboratively with Safe Families to locate safe respite for children in our program.
Crawford County Mental Health Center	Southeast Region	CCMH provided Ethics training to team members and have joined several meetings to staff families being served by both programs.

Alumni Advisory Group

We have stood up an Alumni Advisory group that meets quarterly. Hearing from and listening to families that have completed the service is important for continuous quality improvement.

July – September 2022 Unreconciled Data

24- and 48-Hour Family Contact: Goal is 95%

Month	24 Hour Contact	48 Hour Contact
July	96%	100%
August	98%	100%
September	96%	97%

Successful Case Closures: Goal is 85%

Month	Percentage of Successful Case Closure
July	83%
August	80%
September	90%

Our Successful Case Closure rate decreased in July and August. We have been consistently exceeding our goal each quarter from the previous fiscal year to date. We have seen a trend of out of home placements due to substance use issues. We have a report that helps us identify trends. We have implemented a more comprehensive closure packet that includes resources for families, a relapse prevention plan, and continued action plans.



Prevention and Protective Services: Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Programs

Behavioral Intervention Support Team (BIST)

Cornerstones of Care focuses on youth at risk for placement disruption due to behavioral needs by providing additional in-home trauma-informed education and support to foster parents and relative caregivers utilizing the Cornerstones of Care Behavior Intervention Support Team (BIST). Our service area is families serving children in DCF custody Wyandotte, Leavenworth, Atchison, Jefferson, Johnson, and Douglas counties.

Between July – October 2022, our BIST team worked with 45 referrals.

- 4 families declined the service
- 3 youth disrupted prior to BIST being in the home
- Of the 38 families actively worked with, 35 remained intact and no disruption occurred.

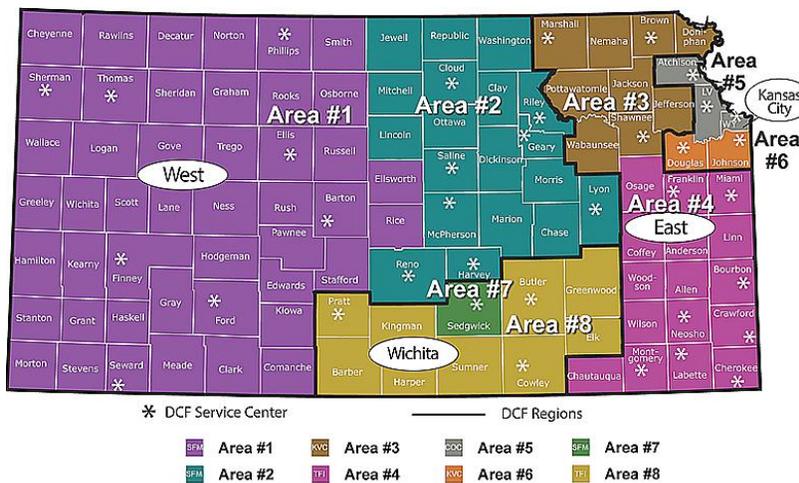
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

Please see attachment titled “Family First Prevention Services Act, Report Dates: 10/1/2019 – 9/30/2022. Function Family Therapy is an evidence-based treatment model and is an approved intervention by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. Cornerstones of Care has been providing FFT in Kansas since 2001. We are proud to be one of the providers who helped with 1,606 overall referrals since October 1, 2019. Since that date, overall, for all FFPSA mental health providers, 89% of target children and youth who have reached 12 months from the time of service referral remained together at home without need for foster care.



Foster Care/Adoption Case Management

Cornerstones of Care is the Foster Care provider in Area 5. Our geographic area covers three counties in Kansas: Atchison, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte. Our program has offices in Leavenworth County and Wyandotte County.



Today, DCF has shared data on outcomes for all regions that have been reconciled through June 2022.

Foster Care Outcomes									
	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Statewide
Safety									
Maltreatment in FC (Standard: 8.50 victimizations per 100,000 days in care or less)	4.28	2.61	1.09	2.54	6.42	4.25	2.57	1.57	3.02
Permanency & Well-Being									
Placement in Family Like Setting (Standard: 90%)	89.2%	90.0%	91.4%	91.6%	89.1%	94.2%	94.6%	92.1%	91.7%
Children Are Placed with Relatives (Standard: 50%)	39.7%	37.7%	43.9%	47.7%	50.1%	47.3%	42.3%	49.5%	44.1%
Children Are Placed with Siblings (Standard: 78%)	79.1%	72.7%	74.9%	78.0%	72.7%	82.7%	77.6%	75.1%	76.7%
Placement Stability: Rate per 1,000 days in Foster Care (Standard: 4.44 or less)	6.00	7.90	6.60	5.00	6.40	6.70	9.20	5.80	7.00
Child/Worker visit occurred monthly (Standard 95%)	97.3%	97.6%	98.7%	96.7%	96.2%	99.5%	95.5%	98.5%	97.4%
Child/Worker visit occurred in residence (Standard 50%)	85.8%	83.7%	84.2%	92.0%	87.9%	91.1%	81.7%	95.6%	86.8%
Permanency in 12 Months: Children Entering Care (Standard: 40.5%)	40.5%	42.2%	27.8%	40.1%	27.3%	31.8%	30.1%	32.8%	34.7%
Permanency in 12 Months: Children In Care 12 to 23 Months (Standard: 43.6%)	46.2%	45.4%	34.6%	39.1%	43.9%	41.0%	46.7%	36.3%	42.4%
Permanency in 12 Months: Children In Care 24 Months or Longer (Standard: 30.3%)	34.3%	36.6%	33.2%	39.4%	34.3%	31.6%	35.9%	27.4%	34.6%
Children in Care 3+ Years (Standard: 47.8% or less)	36.5%	34.8%	48.1%	35.6%	47.0%	39.1%	45.8%	41.9%	39.5%
Re-entry to Foster Care in 12 Months (Standard 8.3% or less)	9.7%	6.6%	11.4%	6.1%	7.0%	24.4%	5.1%	8.9%	8.5%
Educational Progression (Standard: 70%)* *****	85.9%	88.9%	59.1%	51.7%	37.7%	53.4%	87.6%	87.0%	69.4%
Timely Adoption < 24 Months (Standard: 26.8%)	13.3%	14.1%	10.2%	6.7%	9.4%	6.8%	22.9%	10.0%	12.8%
Adopted in < 12 Months of TPR (Standard: 45.8%)	36.2%	43.6%	43.3%	39.0%	32.2%	46.9%	46.2%	29.1%	40.8%
Permanency with TPR (Standard: 96.8%)	90.2%	89.8%	87.2%	93.4%	84.8%	87.3%	93.4%	86.7%	89.7%
Success Indicators									
Permanent Connection	90.9%	82.1%	89.9%	98.1%	80.0%	92.6%	91.1%	83.7%	88.3%
Children Have Educational Continuity (Same School Attendance) (Standard: 25%)	35.9%	28.8%	12.4%	30.8%	11.0%	18.7%	18.4%	24.2%	22.7%
Completed 12th Grade	66.7%	59.5%	68.1%	14.8%	14.5%	72.2%	72.3%	54.3%	53.6%



Placement with a Relative

Cornerstones of Care is proud to be the first grantee to achieve 50% of youth placed with a relative. Placing a child with a relative as swiftly as possible after out of home entry can aide in timely permanency. *July-September data is not reconciled with DCF.*

Outcome	Target	June 2022	July	Aug	Sept
Children are placed with relatives	50.00%	50.1%	49.44%	51.67%	51.31%

Placement Stability

Cornerstones of Care is proud to be the first grantee to achieve the Placement Stability rate of 4.44 or less per 1,000 days in foster care. However, as of June we have slipped to 6.40. Cornerstones of Care has started Placement Stability Team Decision Making (PS TDM) meetings which brings together a youth’s team to collectively make a placement decision that helps maintain placement stability. Between July-September 2022, we had 33 TDM meetings that have resulted in 24 clients (73%) maintaining current placement. The breakdown of the percentage of clients who maintained placement as the result of a TDM are 54% for July, 89% for August, and 80% for September. We look forward to expanding capacity of this effective process.

Permanency

Cornerstones of Care is meeting two of the three permanency outcomes. To improve, we have started Red, Yellow, Green (RYG) Staffing Meetings. The purpose of the RYG staffing meeting is for internal teams to meet to review barriers to permanency and together identify solutions.



Average Length of Stay

As of October 2022, the average months in out of home care for the 630 clients was 30 months. In November, in addition to Red, Yellow, Green meetings we are starting an intense deep dive into approximately 75 cases to identify what paperwork processes exist that are holding up permanency. These cases should be able to achieve permanency swifter than your average case. We will leverage support of our Attorneys to help with external paperwork delays.

Caseload Size

As of October 2022, the average caseload size for our Foster Care Case Management team is 15.7 youth.

Youth on Run and Youth in Office

	July	August	September
Number of Youth on Run	22	27	23
Number of Youth Who Had an Overnight in the Office	2	11	3
Number of Total Nights a Youth was Overnight in the Office	2	21	8

We are working diligently to get to a point where we have 0 clients sleeping in an office. As the newest grantee, a shortcoming for us was that we did not have a physical infrastructure in the state. We do not operate PRTF or QRTP or shelter in KS. Currently, we have a lot of talented people putting their heads together to open a brick-and-mortar shelter no later than 1/23/23. It is a free-standing building not in or near any of our offices. We are at a place now to capitalize on existing space, and we have the team members and support services to operate the facility. The building is set up to be self-sufficient. There is a lounge area, game room, full kitchen, full laundry, restrooms, and 9 bedrooms.



Area 5 Client Population and Funding

As of November 7, 2022, Cornerstones of Care is providing services to 628 foster care clients, which is down 25% from our contract inception (October 1, 2019). We are thankful to the many teams, agencies, and people that have helped make this happen. We realize it is because of the work of a lot of different entities.

By Catchment Area	Type of Information	Jul 22	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Fiscal year Total	Fiscal year Average
Area 5	Removals	22	30	24	8	0	84	21
Area 5	Exits	11	18	14	18	2	63	13
Area 5	OOH Last Day of the Month	616	632	645	630	628		630

Foster Care Case Management												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
OOH youth 2019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	842	847	822
OOH youth 2020	825	809	815	788	781	775	761	756	734	745	745	743
OOH Youth 2021	746	750	733	715	683	661	691	681	676	652	651	650
OOH Youth 2022	631	613	617	615	634	606	616	632	645	630	628	

Below is the payment structure taken directly from our Notice of Grant Award (NOGA). Payment is structured based on the number of youth in care. As previously mentioned, over the last three years the number of clients in out of home care is reduced by 25%. Our aim is to safely continue to reduce the number of youth in out of home care.

Rates		SFY 2020	SFY 2021	SFY 2022	SFY 2023
Monthly Base Rate		\$1,114,620	\$1,135,223	\$1,135,223	\$1,141,677

Caseload Range			Monthly* Payment – Yr 1	Monthly Payment – Yr 2	Monthly Payment – Yr 3	Monthly Payment – Yr 4
Low	% Incr.	High				
1,765	10.00%	1,942	\$1,872,744	\$1,703,664	\$1,703,664	\$1,713,349
1,604	10.00%	1,764	\$1,563,312	\$1,592,209	\$1,592,209	\$1,601,261
1,457	10.00%	1,603	\$1,461,039	\$1,488,046	\$1,488,046	\$1,496,506
1,324	10.00%	1,456	\$1,365,457	\$1,390,697	\$1,390,697	\$1,398,603
1,202	10.00%	1,323	\$1,276,128	\$1,299,717	\$1,299,717	\$1,307,106
1,092	10.00%	1,201	\$1,192,643	\$1,214,689	\$1,214,689	\$1,221,594
992	10.00%	1,091	\$1,114,620	\$1,135,223	\$1,135,223	\$1,141,677
902	-10.00%	991	\$1,114,620	\$1,135,223	\$1,135,223	\$1,141,677
819	-10.00%	901	\$1,053,316	\$1,072,786	\$1,072,786	\$1,078,885
744	-10.00%	818	\$995,384	\$1,013,783	\$1,013,783	\$1,019,546
675	-10.00%	743	\$940,637	\$958,024	\$958,024	\$963,471
613	-10.00%	674	\$888,902	\$905,333	\$905,333	\$910,480



Child Placing Agency (CPA)

As of the end of September 2022, we have 43 licensed families and 9 families in the licensure process. As of October 2022, we have added a Resource Family Development Recruiter position to increase recruitment efforts.

Cornerstones of Care will be holding a celebration for National Adoption Day on Saturday, November 19th at the home of Sporting KC, Children's Mercy Park. It will be a day of gratitude, celebration, games, fun, giveaways, and food.

Independent Living Programming and Support

Cornerstones of Care has apartments in Kansas City, KS with a capacity to support up to 18 foster teens and young adults in our Pathways Transitional Living program. Referrals for admission can come from any grantee.

Supervision from supportive, on-site team members is provided 24/7/365. Transitional Living case managers, on-site team members, and a life coach support the residents in education attainment, job readiness and attainment, life skill development and in forming connections to the community and service providers within the community. Our goal is to help our residents be interdependent and know where to turn for help after they discharge from our program. In quarter three of 2022, 100% of our residents accessed mainstream resources in the community.

Our **Build Trybe** program is a mentorship community that builds health, independence and empowers residents with employable skills. It is a bridge connecting youth, who lack a stable long term support system, to opportunity. Our team of trade experts and community partners introduce and connect youth to three skill-based career paths: 1) Culinary, 2) Construction, and 3) Horticulture. In quarter three of 2022, 70% of our KCK residents were in Build Trybe.



Resident Highlight

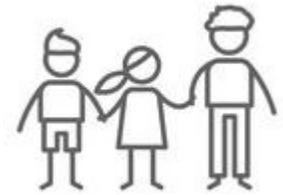
One Pair shoe store is a unique shop that has been highlighted on local media. The founder employs youth to create, sell, and promote the styles of shoes that youth are into currently. In turn, the youth receive the important life skill of entrepreneurship. Two of our young men in the Pathways Transitional Living program volunteered on August 6, 2022, at the One Pair back-to-school giveaway. After volunteering, a KCK transitional living resident was hired and has begun working there. We are proud of their hard work and excited to see what this opportunity brings!





FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Report Dates: 10/1/2019 - 9/30/2022



FAMILY FIRST REFERRALS

3,377 Referrals

Our Goal: The Kansas Family First Prevention Service Evaluation is a 3-year study examining the impact of prevention programs to strengthen families and prevent child welfare involvement in the state of Kansas. This project assesses implementation and outcomes related to the delivery of these community-based programs targeting mental health, parent skill building, kinship navigation, and substance use. Our goal is to provide evidence of the effectiveness of prevention services in Kansas to keep children safely with their families whenever possible.

REFERRALS BY SERVICE TYPE

48%

Mental Health Services

30%

Parent Skill Building

15%

Kinship Navigation

7%

Substance Use Services

3%

Multiple Service Types

BY THE NUMBERS

Family First Outcomes

89%

of target children and youth who have reached 12 months from the time of service referral remained together at home without need for foster care.*

73%

of families referred to Family First were engaged timely in services (within 2 days). (GOAL: 95% of cases)

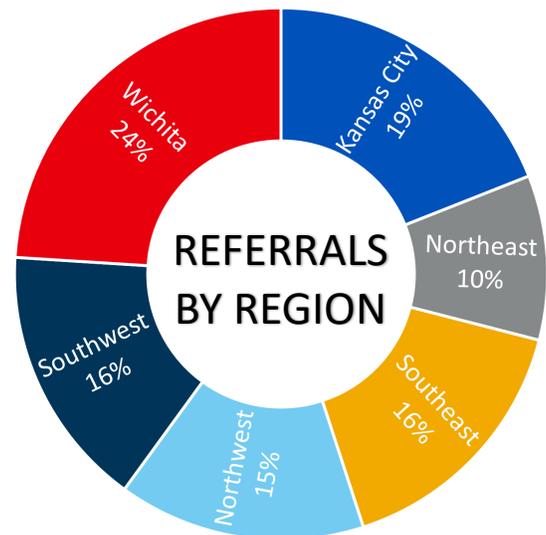
52%

of cases served and closed had successfully completed the referred service. (GOAL: 95% of cases)

5%

of target children and youth served have been placed in foster care during an open Family First case.* (GOAL: Less than 10% of cases)

*Target children are candidates for care within the target age range of the referred program





FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Report Dates: 10/1/2019 - 9/30/2022



FAMILY FIRST
**SUBSTANCE
USE SERVICE
REFERRALS**
224 Referrals

Our Goal: The Kansas Family First Prevention Service Evaluation is a 3-year study examining the impact of prevention programs to strengthen families and prevent child welfare involvement in the state of Kansas. This project assesses implementation and outcomes related to the delivery of these community-based programs targeting mental health, parent skill building, kinship navigation, and substance use. Our goal is to provide evidence of the effectiveness of prevention services in Kansas to keep children safely with their families whenever possible.



Substance Use services include treatment services delivered by a qualified clinician, such as Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA), Parent Child Assistance Program, and Seeking Safety. Substance Use services account for 7% of all Family First Referrals statewide.

BY THE NUMBERS

Family First Substance Use Outcomes

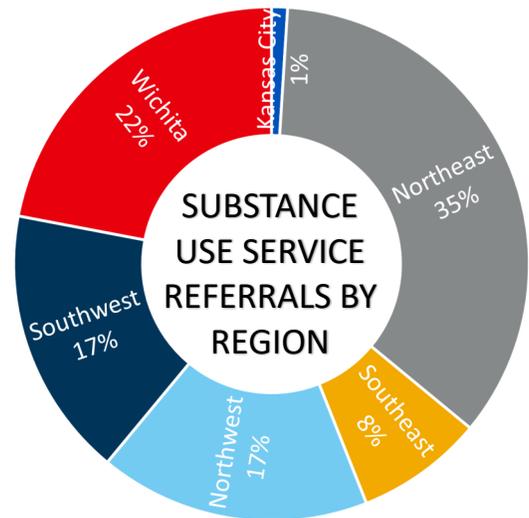
78% of target children and youth who have reached 12 months from the time of service referral remained together at home without need for foster care.*

92% of families referred to Family First were engaged timely in services (within 2 days).
(GOAL: 95% of cases)

51% of cases served and closed had successfully completed the referred service.
(GOAL: 95% of cases)

10% of target children and youth served have been placed in foster care during an open Family First case.*
(GOAL: Less than 10% of cases)

*Target children are candidates for care within the target age range of the referred program





FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Report Dates: 10/1/2019 - 9/30/2022



FAMILY FIRST MENTAL HEALTH REFERRALS

1,606 Referrals

Our Goal: The Kansas Family First Prevention Service Evaluation is a 3-year study examining the impact of prevention programs to strengthen families and prevent child welfare involvement in the state of Kansas. This project assesses implementation and outcomes related to the delivery of these community-based programs targeting mental health, parent skill building, kinship navigation, and substance use. Our goal is to provide evidence of the effectiveness of prevention services in Kansas to keep children safely with their families whenever possible.



Mental Health services are therapeutic services delivered by a qualified clinician such as Family Centered Treatment, Functional Family Therapy, Parent Child Interaction Therapy, and Multi-Systemic Therapy. Mental Health services account for 48% of all Family First Referrals statewide.

BY THE NUMBERS

Family First Mental Health Outcomes

89%

of target children and youth who have reached 12 months from the time of service referral remained together at home without need for foster care.*

73%

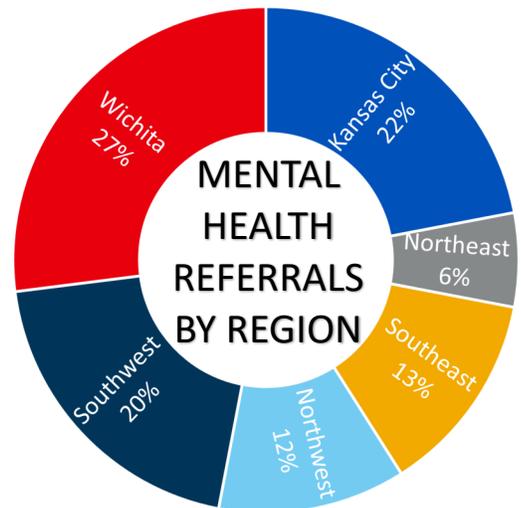
of families referred to Family First were engaged timely in services (within 2 days). (GOAL: 95% of cases)

64%

of cases served and closed had successfully completed the referred service. (GOAL: 95% of cases)

4%

of target children and youth served have been placed in foster care during an open Family First case. * (GOAL: Less than 10% of cases)



*Target children are candidates for care within the target age range of the referred program



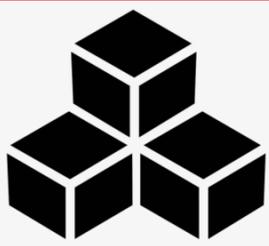
FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Report Dates: 10/1/2019 - 9/30/2022



**FAMILY FIRST
PARENT SKILL
BUILDING
REFERRALS
1,001 Referrals**

Our Goal: The Kansas Family First Prevention Service Evaluation is a 3-year study examining the impact of prevention programs to strengthen families and prevent child welfare involvement in the state of Kansas. This project assesses implementation and outcomes related to the delivery of these community-based programs targeting mental health, parent skill building, kinship navigation, and substance use. Our goal is to provide evidence of the effectiveness of prevention services in Kansas to keep children safely with their families whenever possible.



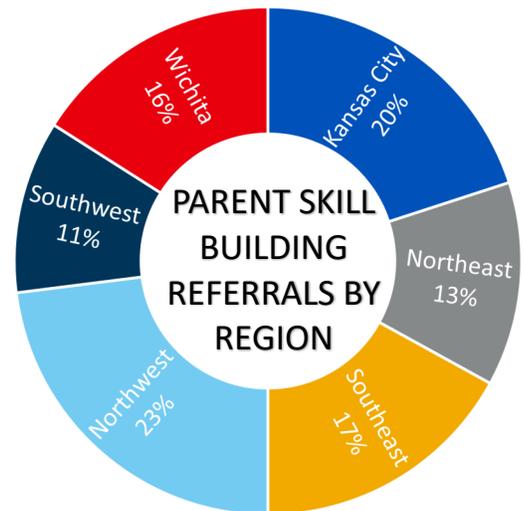
Parent Skill Building services are in-home skill-based programs that include parenting skills training and education, including Parents as Teachers, Attachment & Biobehavioral Catch-Up, Nurturing Parenting Program, and Healthy Families America. Parent Skill Building services account for 30% of all Family First Referrals statewide.

BY THE NUMBERS

Family First Parent Skill Building Outcomes

- 89%** of target children and youth who have reached 12 months from the time of service referral remained together at home without need for foster care.*
- 73%** of families referred to Family First were engaged timely in services (within 2 days). (GOAL: 95% of cases)
- 30%** of cases served and closed had successfully completed the referred service. (GOAL: 95% of cases)
- 5%** of target children and youth served have been placed in foster care during an open Family First case.* (GOAL: Less than 10% of cases)

*Target children are candidates for care within the target age range of the referred program





FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Report Dates: 10/1/2019 - 9/30/2022



FAMILY FIRST
KINSHIP
NAVIGATION
REFERRALS
507 Referrals

Our Goal: The Kansas Family First Prevention Service Evaluation is a 3-year study examining the impact of prevention programs to strengthen families and prevent child welfare involvement in the state of Kansas. This project assesses implementation and outcomes related to the delivery of these community-based programs targeting mental health, parent skill building, kinship navigation, and substance use. Our goal is to provide evidence of the effectiveness of prevention services in Kansas to keep children safely with their families whenever possible.



Kinship Navigation programs like Kids2Kin provide legal help for kinship families, eliminating legal barriers around permanency for kinship families. Kinship Navigation services account for 15% of all Family First Referrals statewide.

BY THE NUMBERS

Family First Kinship Navigation Outcomes

92%

of target children and youth who have reached 12 months from the time of service referral remained together at home without need for foster care.*

68%

of families referred to Family First were engaged timely in services (within 2 days). (GOAL: 95% of cases)

65%

of cases served and closed had successfully completed the referred service. (GOAL: 95% of cases)

5%

of target children and youth served have been placed in foster care during an open Family First case.* (GOAL: Less than 10% of cases)

*Target children are candidates for care within the target age range of the referred program

