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## Department of Corrections – Administrative Services

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Steven Stonehouse  
Director

November 28, 2022

Chair Baumgardner and Committee Members:

Good afternoon. I am Steven Stonehouse and I am the director of the Sedgwick County Department of Corrections. I am here today to briefly discuss the steps our department took in response to the recommendations made by Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards after the death of Cedrick Lofton. As you are aware, Cedric Lofton died after an admission to the Sedgwick County Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC) in September 2021.

The taskforce made recommendations to improve our operations and reduce the likelihood of another tragic event like this happening again. The recommendations are in the areas of policy, medical services, training, community involvement/service provision, facility improvements, collaboration and long term/multi agency goals.

### **Policy revisions include:**

1. Updating the JIAC Use of Force policy (near completion);
2. Creating and staffing a Citizen's Review Board for JIAC and JDF with quasi-judicial powers (in progress);
3. Updating the JIAC Medical Criteria for Admission form (complete)
4. Not allowing a juvenile in a WRAP restraint be brought into the JIAC facility (complete)
5. Not allowing a single JIAC worker to handle intake for someone described as a "combative juvenile" (complete);
6. Ensuring all juveniles at JIAC are separated from each other (taken to another room), so they are not exposed to potentially traumatic events in the common areas (complete);

### **Medical services enhancements:**

24 hour a day nursing staffing with access to remote/virtual access for consultation when needed.

### **Training:**

1. Ensuring JIAC and JDF provide trauma care services for youth who experience a traumatic, crisis event while at JIAC or JDF (complete and ongoing);
2. Requiring CIT training for JIAC and JDF personnel (complete and ongoing);
3. Ongoing implicit bias training and testing that includes race, culture and gender diversity for all JIAC and JDF personnel (complete and ongoing)

### **Community Involvement/Service Provision:**

1. Creating a database at JIAC that identifies grassroots organizations that serve justice involved youth and intentionally engage these groups to apply for grant funds that allow for culturally relevant, gender and trauma-based programs are available for youth (ongoing);

2. Striving for parity in programs serving justice involved youth through intentional engagement and funding of culturally competent and gender responsive programming (ongoing);
3. Strengthening the Individual Justice Plan (IJP) process used in different organizations throughout Sedgwick County (ongoing)
4. Using Team Justice as a vehicle to gain community volunteers for Crossover Youth Practice Model (ongoing);

### **Facility Improvements**

1. Establishing a "calming room" at JIAC that could be safe for youth experiencing some form of distress, where they can be safely left alone and not restrained (complete);
2. Prioritizing in the County's upcoming Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget updates for the video recording system at JIAC to cover more areas of the lobby and holding rooms, and a recording system that includes audio capability (ongoing);

### **Collaboration**

Developing and implementing a MOU between the Wichita Police Department and Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC) that delineates responsibilities and requirements for admissions to JIAC (complete);

### **Long-Term Goals/ Multi Agency:**

1. Establishing a long-term goal for the Kansas Department of Corrections to develop and implement a strategy that moves juvenile justice systems to a restorative justice system (supportive);
2. Supporting the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition legislative agenda to increase the number of mental health professionals in Sedgwick County (complete);
3. Requesting a Legislative post-audit be conducted to examine the implications of the "Stand Your Ground" laws, particularly as it relates to incidents involving law enforcement (ongoing);
4. Supporting the expansion of the statewide Crossover Youth Practice Model implementation to every judicial district in Kansas and develop local protocols to serve youth with involvement in child welfare and juvenile justice systems (supportive and ongoing).

The Sedgwick County Department of Corrections has diligently worked to address all of the recommendations. We have made these recommendations a top priority and we are committed to these improvements for the long-term improvement of the juvenile justice system in Sedgwick County. We are grateful to the Taskforce members for their diligent work in coming together to address this tragic situation.

I am happy to answer any questions.