EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2017, all three Working Groups met around the October 10th Task Force meeting:

- General Administration of Child Welfare and Foster Care met on October 9th—9 of 12 members attended the meeting.
- Protective Services and Family Preservation met on October 10th and all 10 members attended the meeting—8 members were present in person and 2 members dialed in via phone.
- Reintegration and Permanency Placement met on October 9th and 8 of 12 members attended the meeting—6 members were present in person and 2 members dialed in via phone.

These meetings were focused on introductions, networking, education, knowledge needs, and issue identification.

Each chairperson/vice chairperson worked with the Kansas Health Institute (KHI) to schedule the meeting and prepare meeting agendas.

KHI facilitated brainstorming sessions for two of the three Working Groups to identify issues and knowledge needs (including testimony).

The Working Group on General Administration of Child Welfare and Foster Care invited Dawn Rouse from the Office of Judicial Administration to present information regarding federal mandates as they relate to child welfare statutes and policy.

Two of the three Working Groups requested Kyle Hamilton from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes to discuss the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA)/Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) to their Working Group members.
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CHILD WELFARE AND FOSTER CARE

Meeting Date/Time: October 9, 2017 │ 01:30 – 04:30 PM

In-Person Attendees (9): Sandra Lessor (Chair); Senator Laura Kelly (Vice Chair); Judge Dan Cahill; Mary Tye; Dona Booe; Sarah Oberndorfer; Loren Pack; Susan Prochaska; Kathy Keck

Remote Attendees: none

Unable to Attend (3): Erin Rainey; Dr. Kathy Melhorn; Kellie Hogan

Other Attendees (10): Dawn Rouse (presenter); Representative Linda Gallagher; Rachel Marsh; Steve Greene; Samuel Mil Holland; John Paul Grauer; Ben Frie; Donna Frie; Hina Shah; Krista Elliott

MEETING SUMMARY

After introductions, Dawn Rouse, a court improvement specialist from the Office of Judicial Administration presented information on the regarding federal mandates as they relate to child welfare statutes and policy. Throughout her presentation, Ms. Rouse engaged the Working Group in a robust discussion around some of the following topics:

- Legislation related to the child welfare system including:
  - Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) and the Indian Child Welfare Act and discussion focused on provisions for safety, permanency and well-being;
  - Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 and discussion focused on provisions to support kinship options, reasonable efforts to keep siblings together, coordination with schools to provide stability, and transition plans for older youth;
  - Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (PSTSFA) and discussion focused on provisions for sex trafficking, reasonable efforts to keep siblings together, and normalcy for foster youth; and
  - Child and Family Service Improvement Act of 2006 and discussion focused on provisions for procedural safeguards with permanency hearings.

- State’s ability to choose how to implement this legislation—either by state legislation (CINC code in Kansas) or in a policy and procedure manual (DCF’s PPM);

- Compliance of IV-E review by the federal government and qualifications for certain subsidies including a discussion on the penetration rate and funds drawn down;

- Reasonable efforts and its role in removal, prevent placement, reunification and permanency plan;

- Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) for youth over age 16 as well as case plans for youth over age 14; and

- National Youth Transitional Database, which uses a scoring system to determine the effectiveness of states’ youth transition to adulthood.

After the presentation, the chair discussed the education focus of the initial working group meetings and submission of questions or data requests to the chair and KHI as materials are reviewed. The working group members then engaged in a dialogue on prevention. The discussion entailed prevention services, data, community-based organizations, conducting assessments and other aspects related to prevention. The working group discussed federal law and the idea of Kansas formulating and adopting a value statement.
### Action Items

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<tr>
<td>1. Request Kyle Hamilton to present KOMA/KORA</td>
<td>Hina Shah (KHI)</td>
<td>10/18/2017</td>
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### Decisions Made

none

### Barriers Identified

none

### Next Meeting

October 18, 2017 at 1:30 PM. Working Group will conduct a brainstorming session along with a review of KOMA/KORA with Kyle Hamilton from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes.
**MEETING SUMMARY**

After introductions, the chair opened discussion on the 2013 evaluation of DCF’s child protective services function by reviewing the nine recommendations suggested by the Casey Family Programs Assessment in the Performance Audit Report System, Part 1. He highlighted that only one recommendation has been implemented and the need to understand the delay or status of the other recommendations. DCF and its contractors were present and will be prepared to discuss the implementation plan and checklist at future meetings.

The group then discussed other knowledge needs and identified issues relevant to their charge through a quick brainstorming session. This included a robust discussion on the following:

- Front-end and investigation intake and processing (Protection Report Center);
- Data on non-abuse/non-neglect removals;
- Availability of services;
- Local standing order/rules versus state and federal laws and policies;
- Prevention; and
- Solicit best practices from other states.

The group identified the need for testimony from Susan Gile (DCF) to better understand the current system. They have also requested a presentation by Kansas County District Attorneys Association (KCDAA) to understand policies/current practices that impact filing decisions and mitigate risk.

**ACTION ITEMS**

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<tr>
<td>1. Presentation by Susan Gile</td>
<td>Steve Greene (DCF)</td>
<td>11/2/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Presentation by KCDAA</td>
<td>Hina Shah (KHI)</td>
<td>12/4/2017</td>
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**DECISIONS MADE**

none

**BARRIERS IDENTIFIED**

none

**NEXT MEETING**

November 2, 2017 at 1:00 PM. Susan Gile from the Kansas Department of Children and Families will present information on Protection Report Center and if time permits, the group will review their brainstorming session and engage in next steps.
Reintegration and Permanency Placement

Meeting Date/Time: October 9, 2017 | 09:00 AM – 12:00 PM

In-Person Attendees (6): Alicia Johnson-Turner (Chair); Representative Linda Gallagher (Vice Chair); Ashlyn Yarnell, Lori Ross, Ruth Schenck, Nina Shaw-Woody

Remote Attendees (2): Mickey Edwards, Serena Hawkins

Unable to Attend (4): Charlene Brubaker, Bethany Fields, Cara Payton, Judge Kathleen Sloan

Other Attendees (9): Rachel Marsh; Steve Greene; Samuel Mil Holland; John Paul Grauer; Ben Frie; Donna Frie; Kyle Hamilton; Hina Shah; Krista Elliott

Meeting Summary

After introductions, the chair requested the Working Group members identify issues in the child welfare system related to their charge (reintegration and permanency placement). Working Group members engaged in an exercise to identify issues and prioritize them. Four broad issues were prioritized:

1. Staff turnover as related to the broader topic of workforce;
2. Older youth;
3. High needs; and
4. Availability of services.

There were some issues identified which may be more relevant for other working groups and KHI has shared these with the chairperson from these groups.

Working Group members then engaged in an exercise to conduct a deeper dive on the four prioritized issues. Working Group members identified knowledge needs and potential testimony requests for each prioritized issue to obtain a better understanding of the breadth and depth of these issues. For example:

- During the staff turnover discussion, the underlying challenge may be related to communication flows and understanding workflows and components of a case file may help the group formulate recommendations.
- During the older youth discussion, understanding changes as a result of Juvenile Justice Reform and achieving permanency were proposed. Data were also requested on children sleeping in contractor offices (KVC and St. Francis) with a focus on the age of the children.

Only the two prioritized issues listed above were discussed during the meeting due to time.

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Decisions Made

none

Barriers Identified

none

Next Meeting

November 9, 2017 at 10:00 AM. Working Group will continue the brainstorming exercise with a focus on high needs, substance abuse, services, and cost/funding.