

# Child Welfare System Task Force Responses

## September 19, 2017

*The following information is being provided by the Kansas Department for Children and Families and its foster care contractors, KVC and Saint Francis Community Services, in response to questions submitted by KLRD on behalf of the Task Force related to the August Child Welfare System Task Force meeting.*

**Number of children removed from the home for non-abuse/neglect and the percent of removals that are non-abuse/neglect.** See attached documents.

**Information DCF might have regarding the non-abuse/neglect removal percentage in other states.** The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) does not have information regarding the non-abuse/neglect removal percentages in other states. However, DCF would note, this is not a “like” comparison. Non-abuse neglect categories are not universal, and each state approaches this subject differently. The definitions of abuse, neglect and non-abuse neglect vary. Additionally, not all states have these specific categories.

**Steps Kansas has taken to reduce the number of removals in non-abuse/neglect cases.** Policy revisions were made in July 2014. The form that documents the reason for removal (PPS 5110) was revised. Directions were provided to indicate the primary reason for removal should be an abuse/neglect reason over any non-abuse/neglect concerns. The non-abuse/neglect concerns are selected as secondary or additional reasons for the removal. The non-abuse/neglect reasons for removal were defined. A box was added to the form to indicate whether DCF requested the petition for removal to better track whether the non-abuse/neglect population was requested by DCF or another entity. The addition to the PPS 5110 tracks all removals and whether they were requested by DCF. Also, the PPS Data Unit provides the PPS Program Administrator with a report quarterly that shows removals which have a non-abuse/neglect reason listed as the primary removal reason with an abuse/neglect reason as a secondary reason. This list is sent to the regions to review and determine if a correction is needed. Policy revisions were made in January 2016 and July 2016 to define safety and risk, to provide staff with guidance regarding removal decisions. Kansas is working on revising and changing some non-abuse/neglect assignment types to abuse/neglect assignments.

**Number of one-night placements (waiver granted to allow placement of a child for one night in a full foster home).** According to the DCF Licensing division, exceptions (waivers) apply to the capacity of the family foster home or other regulations concerning the living conditions of the home, and generally would not be relevant to placement considerations, such as the length of stay.

**Number of children who stayed in a foster care contractor’s office overnight and the number of nights of stay.** See attached documents provided by KVC and Saint Francis Community Services.

**Copy of the systemic analysis of lack of placements and the initiatives DCF is working on to address the issue.** It is unclear what is being referred to here, but we assume the Diligent Recruitment Plan. The link to the State Plan has previously been provided to the task force. Please see the original handouts provided during the August meeting.

**Link to the child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) for Social Security Title IVB programs.** The link to this plan was also previously provided during the August task force meeting.

**Updated percentage of the rate of exceptions granted for living space in foster care homes.** (This was asked of Legislative Post Audit (LPA), but the source would be DCF.) The approval rate since July 2016, when the LPA report was issued for this category, was 70 percent; however, in this category there have been only 10 requests. The LPA report stated, “Our review showed that during a 15-month period, DCF granted 98% of the approximately 1,100 requests by child placing agencies to waive the capacity or sleeping space requirements.” (Emphasis added.) If the approval rate since July 2016 of both living space and capacity exception requests were considered, that approval rate would be 85.8 percent. Exceeding capacity request approval rate is 86 percent, while the square footage approval rate is 70 percent. Updating those figures to 2017, year to date, the combined approval rate is 86.3 percent (exceeding capacity approval rate is 86.6 percent; while square footage approval is 62.5 percent).