



Response to Child Welfare Task Force Inquiries – August 2017

At the initial meeting of the Kansas Child Welfare Task Force (CWTF) on August 4, 2017, questions were asked related to (1) number of children experiencing stays in SFCS and KVC offices; (2) number of one-night placements where waiver granted to allow placement of a child for one night placement in a full foster home; and (3) number of children experiencing one-night or short-term placements rather than long-term placements.

SFCS provides the following information:

(1) Overnight stays in FY2017

The first overnight stay at SFCS offices occurred in February of 2017. The below demonstrates the numbers of overnight office stays in FY2017.

MONTH	NUMBER OF OVERNIGHT OFFICE STAYS	NUMBER OF CHILDREN STAYING IN OFFICES	NOTES
FEBRUARY	1	1	Child previously placed in PRTF 6 times and numerous acute screens
MARCH	4	4	Children with numerous PRTF and acute screens; children with physical and sexual aggression
APRIL	37	31	Children with aggressive behaviors including assault, sexual aggression; children with juvenile offender charges, children at risk for running from placement, children with suicidal and self-harming behaviors, sibling groups, children with developmental disabilities, child human trafficking survivor, child with medical needs, children with sexualized behavior
MAY	0	0	
JUNE	4	4	These office stays occurred on the same day. Searching went into the evening but no placements were found.

SFCS tracks the reasons that providers cannot accept children for children awaiting placement. Here are some reasons provided as reflected in our records:

- Placement is full / no homes available
- No homes for long term placement
- No homes for emergency placement
- No homes for teens
- No options for child's age
- No options for child's behaviors
- No options can meet the child's needs
- No placements that will take a high needs child
- No options for sexually acting out behaviors
- No homes for high needs child for long term placements
- No homes for child of this age with these behaviors

(2) Number of one-night placements where waiver granted to allow placement of a child for one night placement in a full foster home

Due to a recent change in how a regulation is interpreted, requests for exceptions are not normally required for a child to stay in a one-night placement in a full foster home (so long as the child is not returning multiple nights in one seven-day period).

- Records indicate that **one exception was requested and granted** on 2/10/17 to exceed capacity by one in order for a sibling visit to occur.

(3) Number of children experiencing one-night or short-term placements

SFCS provides the following information related to the number of children experiencing one-night or short-term placements as of the end of FY2017. In June of 2017:

- A total of 424 different short-term placements occurred.
- These short-term placements impacted 194 children.
- On average each day, 14 children were newly placed in short-term placements.
- On average each day, 39 children were placed for a second or subsequent night in short-term placements. In other words, 39 children stayed or returned to the same short-term placement as the night before.
- Adding the 14 new emergency placements and the 39 emergency placement extensions, approximately 53 children per day experienced a short-term placements. The number of children that experienced a short-term placement ranged from 30 children to 76 children per day.

- Of the 194 children that experienced short term placement, 139 would have benefited from a higher level of care than was available.
- The remaining 55 children experienced short term placement due to a lack of resources -- they were not high needs children, there simply were not enough foster homes / beds available.
- Short-term placements were made in a variety of placement settings: foster care, shelter, acute, PRTF or youth residential facilities.¹

For questions, please contact Rachel Marsh, Executive Director, Public Policy, Saint Francis Community Services, at rachel.marsh@st-francis.org or (620) 200 – 0635.

¹ These numbers do not include office stays. As noted above, there were 4 office stays in June, 2017.