Foster Care Forum
Manhattan

February 15, 2018
Goals for the child welfare system:

Federal: safety, permanency, well-being

Kansas Department for Children & Families:

1. Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care.

2. Provide a more stable environment for children in out-of-home care by avoiding multiple transfers of custody and school placements.

3. Provide permanency for children in a shorter period, whether through reintegration back into their home, or, if needed, adoption.
Number of kids in foster care:

- 7,324 children in foster care at the end of January 2018
- About 2,000 more children in foster care compared to 2012

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.
Number of kids in foster care:

- Kansas is outpacing the national increase in foster care.
  - US: +9%
  - Kansas: +22%

- More kids in foster care per 1,000 kids than in 42 other states.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number in foster care per 1,000 kids</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kansas: 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States: 6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sources: National increase of number of children in care as of September 30th, 2012, compared to September 30th, 2016: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Trends in Foster Care and Adoption.
Number in care per 1,000 kids: Annie E. Casey Kids Count summary of Child Trends analysis of federal foster care data as of 2015.
Number of kids in foster care:

Riley County
Monthly Average Number of Children in Foster Care

SFY 2011: 57
SFY 2012: 48
SFY 2013: 42
SFY 2014: 63
SFY 2015: 65
SFY 2016: 40
SFY 2017: 54
SFY 2018: 56

strengthen families rebuild hope
Number of kids in foster care:

Geary County
Monthly Average Number of Children in Foster Care

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>77</td>
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strengthen families
rebuild
Number of kids in foster care:

Riley and Geary County
Monthly Average Number of Children in Foster Care

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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>60</td>
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</tbody>
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- Riley County
- Geary County
Reasons for entering care:

**Primary Removal Reason (SFY 2011-2017)**

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.
Potential contributing factor:

- Social safety net programs in Kansas have assisted many fewer children and families in recent years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of children served by TANF</th>
<th>Number of children served by child care assistance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2010</td>
<td>25,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2017</td>
<td>7,516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2010</td>
<td>20,627</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2017</td>
<td>10,145</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- KU research demonstrates a causal connection

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.
Potential contributing factor:

Riley County

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<tr>
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<th>July 2010</th>
<th>July 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of children served by TANF</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children served by child care assistance</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-56%  

-58%  

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.
Potential contributing factor:

Geary County

Number of children served by TANF

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>July 2010</th>
<th>July 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>212</td>
<td>78</td>
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-63%

Number of children served by child care assistance

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<tr>
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<th>July 2010</th>
<th>July 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>148</td>
<td>106</td>
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-28%

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.
Potential solutions:

Goal: Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care.

Potential solution: Strengthen safety net supports.
Potential contributing factor:

- Family preservation services have not kept pace with increased reports of potential abuse and neglect:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SFY 2011</th>
<th>SFY 2017</th>
<th>Percent change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intake reports</td>
<td>59,775</td>
<td>67,372</td>
<td>+13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reports assigned for investigation</td>
<td>30,458</td>
<td>37,445</td>
<td>+23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removals (entry into foster care)</td>
<td>3,408</td>
<td>4,020</td>
<td>+18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referrals to Family Preservation Services</td>
<td>2,687</td>
<td>2,630</td>
<td>-2%</td>
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Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.
Potential contributing factor:

- Family preservation services have not kept pace with increased reports of potential abuse and neglect.

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2687</td>
<td>2613</td>
<td>2476</td>
<td>2576</td>
<td>2621</td>
<td>2610</td>
<td>2630</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.
Potential solution:

Goal: Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care
Placement stability:

- Number of placement moves increasing statewide in recent years
- Compliance concerns in recent federal review
- Nationally, placements with relatives are generally more stable
- Placements with relatives are somewhat lower in Riley and Geary Counties compared to the state overall
Placement stability:

Placement Settings (SFY 2017)
- Foster family home:
  - Statewide: 55%
  - Riley County: 67%
  - Geary County: 68%
- Relative:
  - Statewide: 33%
  - Riley County: 18%
  - Geary County: 21%
- Group residential:
  - Statewide: 7%
  - Riley County: 7%
  - Geary County: 5%

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.
Potential contributing factor:

- Many relative homes are not licensed and receive a lower rate of payment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statewide, SFY 2017</th>
<th>Average # of kids per month</th>
<th>Average daily rate paid</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-relative licensed foster home (standard)</td>
<td>2,152</td>
<td>$21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative, non-licensed</td>
<td>2,182</td>
<td>$3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data presented to the Kansas Child Welfare Task Force summarized by SFRH Coalition.
Potential solution:

Goal: Provide a more stable environment for children in out-of-home care by avoiding multiple transfers of custody and school placements.

Potential solution: Provide relative placements more financial support and address potential licensing barriers.
Permanency:

- Average months spent in foster care for children exiting in SFY 2017 to:
  - Reunification: 10 months
  - Adoption: 36 months

- Anecdotally:
  - Services parents need as part of their reunification plans may not be available or may have waiting lists
  - High caseloads can make it difficult for social workers to work with families intensively, and contribute to turnover
  - Additional services may be needed for higher-acuity youth
Potential solution:

Goal: Provide permanency for children in a shorter period, whether through reunification back into their home, or, if needed, adoption

Potential solution: Create conditions for successful reunification or adoption: sufficient services, caseworker attention
What does this community need?

1. What does this community need to better support families and keep kids safe and out of foster care?

2. What does this community need to make sure kids in foster care have more stable placements?

3. How can kids in foster care from this community spend less time in foster care and achieve permanency (reunification, adoption) more quickly?

4. What are important issues in this community that we’re not talking about?