Child Welfare Practice Model

Background
Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) strategies create a foundation of resiliency and prevention networks, timely exits to permanency, and health care and wellbeing coordination. Strategies are supported by a practice model with principles and approaches linked to better outcomes, engagement, equity and inclusivity alongside families in communities.

Evidenced Based Practice

Informed Decisions

Workforce

Resiliency and Prevention Networks
Timely Exits to Permanency
Health Care and Wellbeing Coordination

Principles and Approach

Family Finding
• Family and youth engagement
• Healing and Development
• Sustained Placement Stability
• Create Lifetime Networks

Team Decision Making™
• Facilitated meeting model
• Families alongside support network and DCF
• Inclusivity
• Decision transparency

Child Protection Framework
• Caregiver and safety network engagement in assessments
• KPRC Intake Structured Decision Making®
• Safety and Risk Structured Decision Making®
• Signs of Safety®
• Reliability, Equity
Family Finding: DCF, Grantees, CASA and Juvenile Srvs.
- Engagement and family meeting (model) when there is a barrier to stability or legal permanency for a child.
- Includes youth and family in tracing/search and planning.
- Statement of need, concerns & goals are co created.
- Creates lifetime networks for sustained stability.

Team Decision Making™: DCF Statewide in 2020
- Facilitated family meeting (model) before a child is moved to determine if a child needs to be separated from their parent(s)/primary caregiver due to the parent(s)/primary caregiver behavior threatening a child’s safety.
- Families invite their support network.
- Decision creates and results in strongest plan for safety.
- Now in CK, CR, JO, WY. South central counties Spring 2020

Signs of Safety® Southcentral implemented. Statewide in 2020
- Set of tools for response to assigned reports alleging Abuse, Neglect or Family In Need of Assessment.
- Alongside families and safety network create a balanced assessment of strengths and existing safety.
- Asks what are we worried about, what's going well and what needs to happen?
- Children's tools gain child and youth's voice.
- Includes system of meaningful measures, supervisor coaching and QA.

Structured Decision Making®
- Tools for response to reports alleging abuse or neglect.
- Focused on a sequence of key decision points to be intentional about decisions.
- Structured scoring for Abuse and Neglect indices.
- Initial implementation in Kansas Proection Report Center and counties of CR, CK, JO and WY.
- Evaluation with Team Decision Making planned by National Council on Crime and Delinquency.