



Kansas Child Welfare Summit

Working together to create lasting improvement in child welfare.

KANSAS CHILD WELFARE SUMMIT Attendee Preparation

The 2024 Kansas Child Welfare Summit will serve as a forum for child welfare partners to collaborate and enhance the safety, well-being, and permanency for children and families of Kansas. The purpose of this document is to get you thinking before the summit about how to increase collaboration with child welfare partners. We encourage you to take a deep dive into these questions and share your thoughts candidly with your team while at the Summit. Questions like these will be asked of local teams during the Summit so bring this document with you.

Name: _____ Child welfare system role: _____

County Name: _____ Judicial District: _____

CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

Does your county or judicial district have a compiled list of local resources and services available to children and families involved in the child welfare system that range from prevention to intensive needs?

Yes No

If yes, is this list accessible and used by child welfare system partners, including the juvenile court?

Yes No

If no list exists or is not used, identify strategies for creating a continuum of care.

CURRENT CHILD WELFARE PRACTICES & COLLABORATION

Identify 3 ways child welfare system partners effectively collaborate in your county:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Are there specific reasons that collaboration efforts are stalled or difficult? What are they?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Identify ways in which collaboration can be improved:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

REFLECTIONS ON IMPROVING THE KANSAS PERMANENCY PROCESS

Are reasonable steps being made to achieve reintegration or find a permanent home (guardianship, adoption, or independent living) for the child? Yes No I don't know

If no, what do you think are some of the reasons these steps are not being taken?

Do you think there are steps in the process where there are delays? Yes No

If yes, when do you think those delays occur and why?

Do you think information about the case is communicated to parties in a timely and understandable manner? Yes No

If no, what do you think can be done to improve communication?

Do you think the least restrictive placement is selected when a child is removed?
 Yes No

If no, what do you think are some of the reasons why?

REFLECTIONS ON SAFETY VS. RISKS

Is child safety discussed in court?
 Yes No

How do you think conversations or assessments about child safety could be improved?

REFLECTIONS ON DISPROPORTIONALITY AND DISPARITY

Data shows that certain individuals and/or communities are disproportionately and negatively affected by the child welfare system. What practices, policies, or procedures do you think contribute to these inequities?

What changes do you think could be made to the child welfare system to eliminate these inequities?

REFLECTIONS ON EMPOWERING FAMILIES

Do you think child welfare partners meaningfully engage with families (e.g. ask for information, listen to the family's perspective, allow the family to be an active part of the decision-making process) throughout the case?

Yes

No

I don't know

If no, what do you think could be changed to increase family engagement?

REFLECTIONS ON AUTHENTIC ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION WITH YOUTH

Do you think child welfare partners meaningfully engaged with children in each step of the process where appropriate (e.g., informed, offered the ability to participate)? How do you know?

REFLECTIONS ON CHILD WELFARE PARTNER WELL-BEING

What stressors do you face in your role?

How do you manage stress?

Are there services or resources in your community to help deal with this stress? Yes No

What services or resources do you think would be helpful to manage stress?

REFLECTIONS ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN KANSAS

How are mental health services delivered in your community?

What services are needed but not available?

What do you think your team can do to increase services in your area?

CHANGING CURRENT CHILD WELFARE PRACTICES

What practical changes could be made to better serve families? (*This is not limited to formal court cases.*)