

# DCF LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



*November 4, 2021*

## **TESTIMONY OF**

Deputy Secretary Tanya Keys  
Department for Children and Families

## **TESTIMONY ON**

Senate Bill 367 Impact

### **Chair**

Senator Hilderbrand

### **Vice Chair**

Representative Concannon

### **Ranking Minority**

Senator Faust-Goudeau

**and**

**Members of the Committee**

## Introduction

Chair Hilderbrand, Vice Chair Concannon, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony regarding the current impact of the 2016 Senate Bill 367 on Child In Need of Care populations and their families.

## Background

Senate Bill 367 set forth implementation timelines of number of juvenile justice reforms including but not limited to assessments, programs and use of detention and facility placements for juveniles. In early implementation which began July 1, 2017 there were some concerns expressed by stakeholders that transition activities related to reforms of limiting the use of detention and group care shifted the service delivery for families whose children were justice involved into Child In Need of Care programs without additional resources to child welfare.

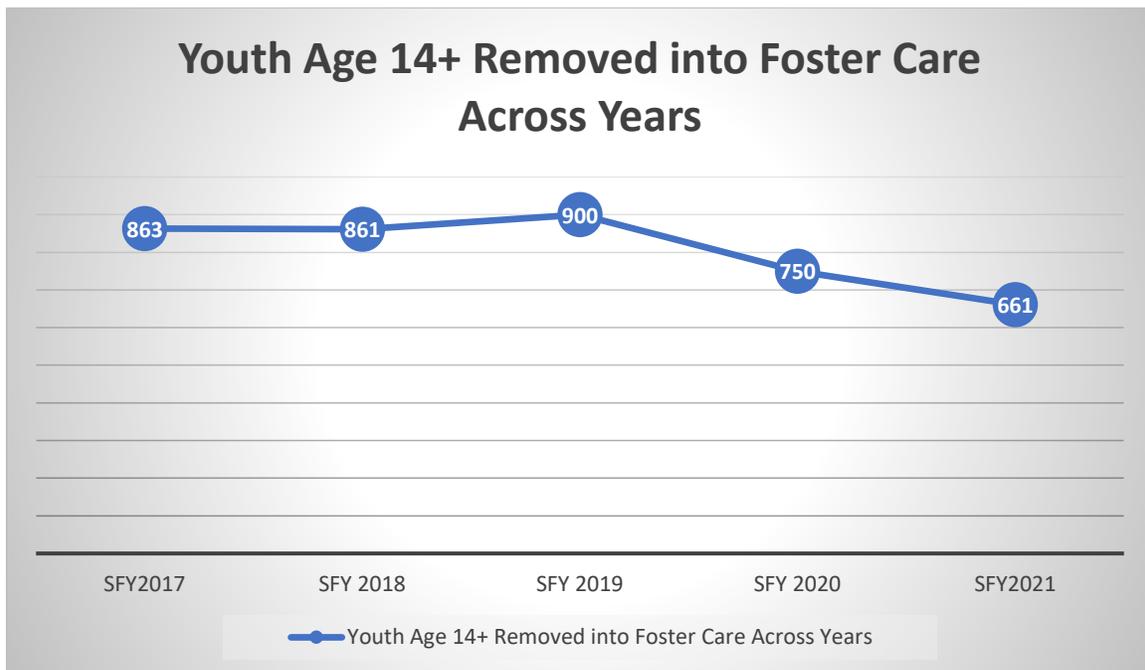
Related in part to these concerns, in 2019, House Substitute for SB 25 included a budget proviso for DCF to convene two working groups to study the impact of SB 367 on "crossover" youth. Youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems are referred to as "crossover" youth. The first working group, the Crossover Youth Services Working Group, met in fiscal year (FY) 2019 and identified themes, challenges and needed services. The second working group, the Crossover Youth Working Group met July 2019 to January 2020 to gather and study 16 specific data elements. Reports of activities and findings from these workgroups is located on the DCF public web page [Crossover Youth - Agency Information \(ks.gov\)](#). Key takeaways from this workgroup included:

- Identifying earlier intervention needs and using services through community-based providers is needed.
- While they make up only a small segment of the broader foster care or juvenile offender populations, crossover youth often have significantly higher needs and require highly coordinated cross-system collaboration to be effective.
- Contact with law enforcement is an important entry point for crossover youth.

## Current Trend

The number of youth age 14 and older entering foster care reduced 23% from 863 in SFY2017 to 661 in SFY21. There was a slight increase during SFY2019 followed by a decline of that age group entering foster care. Although a causal or correlation isn't known at this time, it is apparent that intervening earlier through several touch points including local community corrections, schools, DCF programs and other community-based providers may have had positive impact on preventing foster care since SFY2019. Input from families and stakeholders and findings from the 2019-2020 workgroups informed and reinforced state and local agencies to focus resources on a program array to serve families and youth based on their needs. Mental health and family services added through Family First Prevention Services Act, schools and local community offices corrections increased the reach of prevention supports to more families and youth.

## Youth Age 14+ Removed into Foster Care Across Years



Collaboration entities such as Kansas Cross Over Youth Programs and the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) encourage system assessment and capacity building in communities. Created by Senate Bill 367, JJOC is a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency committee tasked with monitoring the implementation of juvenile justice reform in Kansas. The Cross Over Youth Practice Model (CYPM) is supported by Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform as a multi-system and multi-agency collaboration used to identify and remove barriers to serving crossover youth in Kansas. These entities have supported emerging practices and funding opportunities to increase access to services for families who intersect both systems:

- KDOC currently had two grant opportunities open for application to any entity for services to families and youth at risk for juvenile delinquency, victimization, and juvenile justice system involvement. Two grant tracks were released: a non-matching grant with priority for focus on homeless youth, runaway youth, crossover youth, and employment /workforce development and a matching grant for general prevention. KDOC collaborated with local stakeholders and DCF in the development of these prevention grants.
- The Youth Level of Services/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) used by KDOC assesses the risk of future reoffending and needs associated with this risk. It's a "map" for how to proceed with case planning and referrals to services to address the needs of the youth. KDOC is implementing a risk screener to allow the broader population at risk of justice involvement to be assessed. Those assessed moderate or high risk on this screener including those involved would also be eligible for services. Implementation by the KDOC is anticipated by the end of this calendar year.
- Ongoing implementation of the CYPM between OJA, DCF, and KDOC meets monthly and representatives from OJA, DCF, and KDOC hold additional meetings to problem solve and brainstorm. Coordinator positions are established for two pilot counties of Montgomery and Shawnee counties within KDOC, DCF, and OJA to support the collaboration across agencies.

- Representatives from KDOC, DCF, and OJA have finalized an information sharing memorandum of understanding to increase understanding of cross over data and impact opportunities.

The table below describes some programs provided by KDOC or DCF through community-based providers available to families across the state for their child’s well-being and stability; however, not all programs are available statewide.

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Available to families involved with DCF/ KDOC or Both.</b>
Functional Family Therapy	Statewide Contract for KDOC In the KC and Topeka Regions for DCF. Short-term treatment strategy designed to help troubled youth and their families to overcome delinquency, substance abuse, and violence.	Both
Multi Systemic Therapy	DCF Family First Prevention Services Act well-supported evidence base to prevent the need for foster care.	DCF
Parent Project	Parent Project is a skill-based curriculum for parents of youth with aggressive or anti-social behaviors targeting family conflict, drug use, gangs, violence, and school performance.	KDOC manages the programs and is open to foster care & CMHC providers and schools
Youth Advocate Program	Community-based intensive program that provides supervision and support in a youth’s home and community	Both
Moral Reconciliation Therapy	Cognitive behavioral community-based program that addresses criminogenic needs	Both
Aggression Replacement Training	Cognitive behavioral community-based program that addresses aggression	Both

Thank you for the opportunity to provide summary information on current impact of SB367. DCF looks forward to continued collaboration alongside families and communities to identify meaningful supports to prevent the need for foster care. If there are additional questions, I am happy to respond to any questions.