

Kansas City Connected Communities - Thriving Families Convening

8/9/24

Key Takeaways:

- **Ask and Listen:** Change how we listen to families and engage more effectively. This involves sharing resources, understanding the family's needs and following up promptly.
- **Access and Availability:** Improve community referrals, support innovation and meet families where they are.
- **Eliminate financial barriers:** Address perceptions of funding and ensure accommodations for diverse family needs.
 - Poverty is often equated with neglect

CC-TF Goals Review

- **Ask and listen** to families about what they need
- **Eliminate financial barriers** for families to stay together and actively participate in reunification
- **Increase access and availability** of prevention/family support services and relationships
- **Provide legal representation** to parents

Brainstorm: How can you improve the three goals by 15%?

- Ask and Listen
 - Change how we listen
 - Share resources through fairs
 - Ask about family needs
 - Follow up with families within 24-48 hours
 - Connect families of color
 - Engage with, don't talk at
 - Safety – Individuals don't feel safe when they're the only one who looks like them.
- Access and Availability
 - Community referrals for services/supports
 - Allow for innovation to meet family's needs
- Eliminate Financial Barriers
 - Can be a hard goal to tackle but we can change perceptions regarding funding.
 - No family is the same – families need different things. Accommodate those different items so more families can access funds.
 - Meeting the parents where they are
 - Possible virtual meetings

A Look at CC-TF Statewide

- Kansas City (Jackson County)
- Kirksville (Adair County)

- Southwest (Greene, Newton and Jasper County)
- St. Louis (City and County)
- Sikeston (Scott and New Madrid Counties)

CC-TF Update

- **Youth Congress**
 - Priorities
 - Legal representation
 - Siblings and connections
 - Meeting with case manager privately/emotional support
 - Concrete services and supports
- **Parent Ambassadors**
 - Priorities
 - Concrete supports
 - Peer mentor support
 - Legal representation
 - Housing support
 - Messages are consistent with youth, parents and the three goals.
- **Legal Representation**
 - Engage with legislators on Senate Bill 801 and support high-quality representation for children.

Family Connection Centers

- Families may feel a sense of isolation. Family connection centers can help them create their own community with their peers.
- FCC Outcomes
 - \$3.65 savings for child welfare for every dollar invested
 - 64% reduction of child abuse cases
 - 50% reduction of out of home placements

Material Hardship Increases Risk for Child Welfare Involvement

- If low-income families experience at least **one** material hardship:
 - **3x** higher likelihood of Neglect investigation
 - **4x** higher likelihood of physical abuse investigation
- If low-income families experience **multiple** material hardships:
 - **4x** higher likelihood of neglect investigation
 - **7x** higher likelihood of physical abuse investigation

Priority 1 Discussion Group: Ask and listen to families about what they need

- What are the things you **MUST NOT** do to achieve your goal?

- Must not talk at people
- Must not assume
- Must not have predetermined conclusions
- Must not have ignored biases
- Must not judge
- Must not ignore burnout
- Must not disregard culture
- Must not ignore your prep work or homework.
- Must not present yourself as the expert
- Must not be invasive
- We must **DO**
 - Humility
 - Respect
 - Curious
 - Culturally competent
 - Open-mindedness
 - Be willing to start over and take a step back
 - Meet them where they are
 - Being intentional about questions, remember we are not entitled to all information
- **Goals for 2025**
 - Specifically focus on single parents, single black mothers who may be struggling with mental health issues – all parents.
 - More parent cafes – Give them a space to speak and engage. Utilizing community areas that are near, like churches or schools near bus route with meals available.
 - Led by parents and families most impacted by the issues at large
 - Building community connections – Connect communities east of Troost
 - Funding for these community connections

Priority 2 Discussion Group: Eliminate Financial Barriers

- What are the things you **MUST NOT** do to achieve your goal?
 - Must not add unnecessary services
 - Must not have unrealistic goal expectations
 - Must not use a one size fits all approach
 - Must not use resources that must be paid for
 - Must not assume poverty equals neglect – avoiding assumptions in general
 - Must not give family a pamphlet – weak resources
 - Must not schedule appointments during parents work day
 - Place children too far from home
- We must **DO**

- More individualized care/planning
- Ask more questions
- Remove bias
- Accurately distinguish between neglect and poverty
- Connect families to resources (before the hotline)
- Provide navigation on what constitutes neglect
- Mandated supporters as much as mandated reporters
- **Goals for 2025**
 - Engage the courts
 - Better use of 72-hour meeting representations for parents
 - Judges working with other judges
 - Increase education for judges and foster care case managers
 - Engage Office of State Court Administrators (OSCA)
 - Identify champions

Priority 3 Discussion Group: Increase Access and Availability

- What are the things you **MUST NOT** do to achieve your goal?
 - Must not assume how families define access and availability
 - Must not base it around the typical 9-5 schedule
 - Must not do a one-and-done approach, where something has been implemented but not reviewed
 - Must not underfund or devalue
 - Must not give the same thing to all families
- We must **DO**
 - Engage and co-design with each individual community
 - Collaborate with all agencies and organizations
 - Simplify referral process
 - Know what services exist and how to navigate the application process
 - Consider or provide transportation
 - Virtual options
- **Goals for 2025**
 - Connect prevention workers to community
 - Faith community, school community
 - Connection Centers
 - Identify what resources exist and what resources don't exist
 - Church, HeadStart
 - Combine resources together

Share one word to describe how you felt about the day:

- Hopeful, Informed, Optimistic, Grateful, Encouraged, Connected

Expect check-ins between now and the end of the year. The 2025 schedule is in progress.