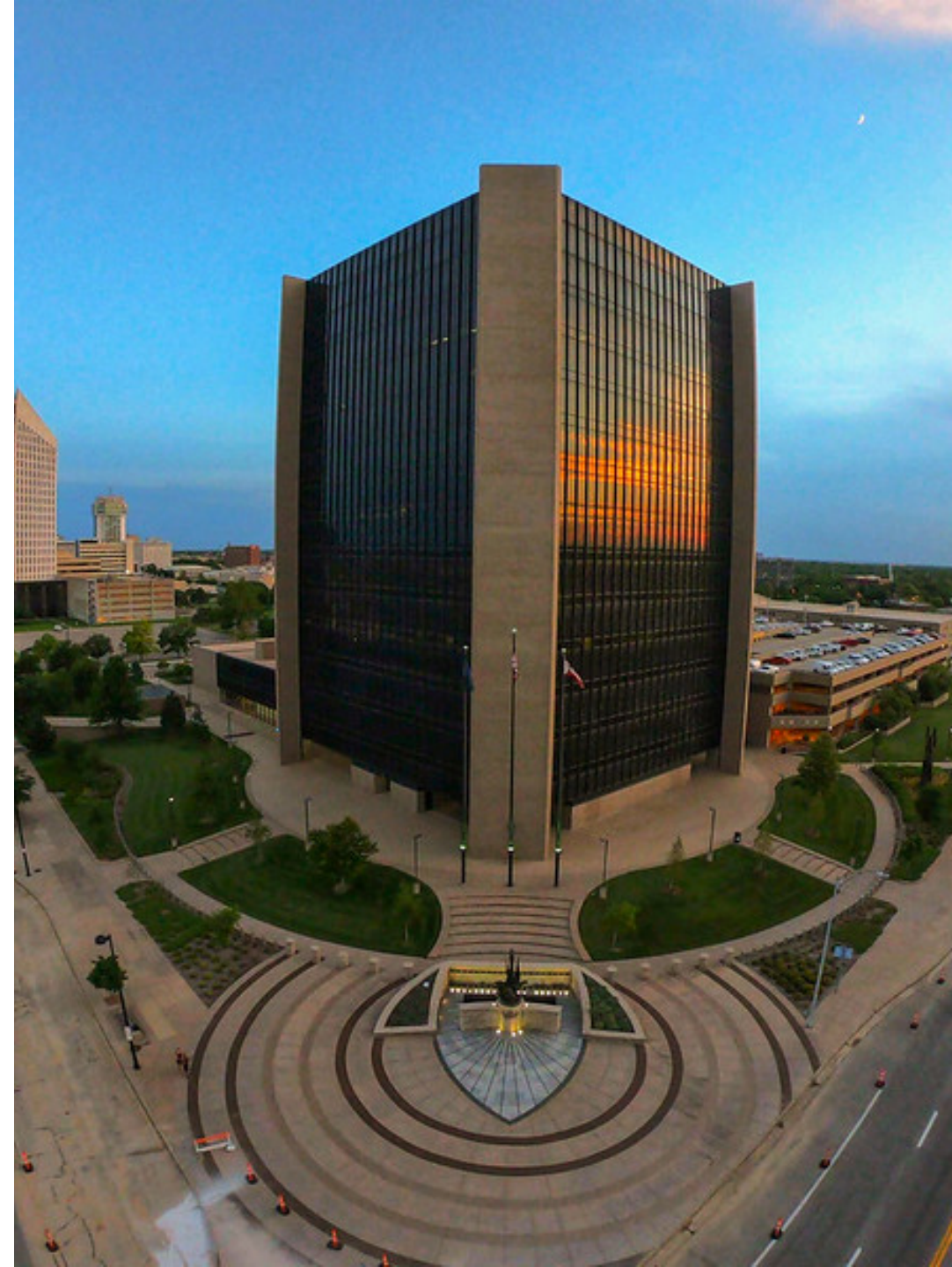


C.J. Lofton Taskforce Recommendation Progress Report



Wichita Police Department

October 25, 2022



CJ Lofton Task Force



<https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/community-taskforce/>

Work of the Taskforce:

- Review the circumstances and details of the Cedric Lofton case, relative to existing system standards and performance.
- Review law enforcement and foster care policies. Review mental and behavioral health training and resources.
- Review Juvenile Intake and Assessment System (JIAS/State) and Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC/County) standards and use of force.



CJ Lofton Task Force Progress Report



- This update only addresses the 14 recommendations listed for the Wichita Police Department, though there is some overlap with 911 Emergency Communications, Foster Care, and Youth Corrections.



Recommendation #1



- Increase funding for COMCARE mobile mental health unit and ICT One, so they can be available 24/7 and dispatched by 911 as a resource that serves the community.



Status – In Progress



- ICT 1 is a program that teams up a police officer, a social worker, and a paramedic to respond to mental health calls in the field. **This program has been successful and will continue.**
- WPD seeks to **work with COMCARE to hire certified mental health care workers.** These individuals will assist with law enforcement related calls for service.
- **Funding (\$750,000) is in the 2023 budget.** This option allows the WPD to fund the effort while certifications and expertise will come from COMCARE.



Recommendation #2



- Developing and implementing standardized training for foster care, law enforcement, 911, JIAC, and JDF personnel. This should include topics on de-escalation, mental health first aid, adolescent brain development, and de-stigmatization of mental health.
- It will also be vital to provide training addressing when and under what circumstances a youth can and should be taken to Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph, as opposed to JIAC.



Status – In Progress



- The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office is the lead agency on this recommendation.
- Once implemented, the Wichita Police Department will assist with the standardized training. The WPD will be able to share successes in de-escalation and look to our partner agencies to share their expertise in mental health first aid, adolescent brain development, and de-stigmatization of mental health.



Recommendation #3



- Creating an eco-system in Wichita and Sedgwick County that provides a tightly engaged network of collaborators between the systems that intersect with foster care youth who might be facing a mental health crisis.
- This network should also facilitate partnerships with grassroots agencies in the community that can fill in the gaps for these youth. The agencies include DCF, Law Enforcement, COMCARE, JIAC and JDF.



Status – In Progress



- The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office is the lead agency on this recommendation.
- Once implemented, the Wichita Police Department will strengthen cooperative agreements and continue improving on this goal. Working with outside agencies and grassroots organizations to help foster care youth will continue to be a priority.



Recommendation #4



- By 2023, create a centralized database at the WPD that fosters transparency in the collaborations that exist between WPD and the community.



Status – In Progress



- A preliminary list of both formal and informal community organizations with whom WPD has connected has been developed. The list has been posted to the website for public consumption. This recommendation will be enhanced with the implementation of the Violence Interrupters program.
- [Wichita Police Department](#)
- Follow the above link and scroll sideways to Community Partners and click “View Partners”.
- Our list of community partners has been added to the WPD web page.



Recommendation #5



- Hiring 3 full-time and 3 part-time qualified mental health professionals to be on staff to support WPD employees.



Status - In Progress



- Action on this recommendation falls under recommendation #1.
- **Funding (\$750,000) is in the 2023 budget.** This option allows the WPD to fund the effort while certifications and expertise will come from COMCARE.



Recommendation #6



- Require mandatory trauma-informed training for law enforcement to better understand and serve all members of the community – but especially those from minority, underserved, and at-risk populations who are more likely to struggle with PTSD and other forms of trauma.



Status – In Progress



- WPD has begun training officers and detectives in science-based interviewing, a type of trauma informed interviewing.



Recommendation #7



- Requiring CIT training for all law enforcement supervisors and for all law enforcement officers.



Status – In Progress



- This is a joint training with EMS and COMCARE. New recruits get mandatory mental health training. Ongoing training is optional for officers. This will become required, as the goal is for all officers to have CIT training as soon as possible.
- One WPD supervisor is being sent to a **"train the trainer" certification in CIT**. Four additional supervisors will be sent.



Recommendation #8



- Create a culture at WPD that lives up to the expectations to “Protect and Serve” all people in Wichita’s diverse community.



Status - Implemented



- Included in this recommendation is an **annual review of employee expectations** and policies to identify ineffective processes and unacceptable behaviors.
- This recommendation also should be considered along with support of the findings from the **independent review currently being conducted by Jensen Hughes**.
- WPD implemented diversity panels to participate in forums for authentic dialog between law enforcement and community members. **The program has been added to standard police training.**



Recommendation #9



- Enhancing the Axon policy to include language that requires Officers to leave their body cameras on throughout an entire incident, including the completion of paperwork.
- Additionally, a process should be developed for random review of Axon footage and should be included as a part of the officer's periodic coaching and annual performance evaluation.



Status – In Progress



- Review current policy and cost of storing additional body camera footage.
- Captains, lieutenants, and sergeants have the authority to access and review body camera footage.
- The EIS system already prompts reviews based on rules such as use of force incidents that exceed a threshold.



Recommendation #10



- Requiring all training related to mental health, trauma, cultural and gender diversity, and implicit bias be **required at regular intervals for all law enforcement**, JIAC and JDF personnel. (See also in Youth Corrections.)



Status - Implemented



- Implemented by the Wichita/Sedgwick County Training Academy.



Recommendation #11



- Fostering a culture at WPD that allows exceptions to police protocols so an officer can escalate above the Supervisor's order when responding to calls involving foster youth in a mental health crisis.
- This is needed due to the complexities of multiple jurisdictions and custodies involved when a child is in the foster care system.



Status – In Progress



- In cases of mental illness, the policy may be changed to allow an officer to request a social worker.
- Officers will be trained on when to involve mental health care professionals.
- Supervisors will be directed to error on the side of caution and request help from mental health specialists.



Recommendation #12



- Developing and implementing an MOU between the WPD and Juvenile Intake Assessment Center (JIAC) that honors the 2016 US Attorney General Opinion and clearly outlines that arrest report must be completed before youth is released to JIAC.



Status – in progress



- The WPD and Juvenile Intake Assessment Center are currently finalizing this MOU to make sure it meets the 2016 US Attorney General Opinion.



Recommendation #13



- Ongoing implicit bias training and testing that includes, race, culture and gender diversity, for all law enforcement officers and supervisors.



Status - Implemented



- In addition to annual biased-based training, staff is working with the FBI for Color of Law and Hate Crime training.
- Trauma response training is under development and will be scheduled upon completion.
- WPD will identify the curriculum and engage agencies for perspective and input.



Recommendation #14



- Expanding the Community Support Specialists at WPD.



Status – In Progress



- The Community Support Specialists (CSS) are funded through the Department of Children/Families (DCF).
- There are currently two CSS personnel on board.
- Staff recommends one CSS for each bureau.
- Staff will reach out to DCF to determine if this program can be expanded over time.



Questions?

