From: Todd Fertig [mailto:Todd.Fertig@dcf.ks.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2015 2:18 PM
To: Rachel Sommerfeld
Subject: DCF response to inquiry re response time to CINK reports

April 3, 2015

Rachel Sommerfeld
Rachel. Sommerfeld@ksn.com
316-■■■■■■■■

Dear Ms. Sommerfeld:

Below is data indicating the percentage of time DCF meets the expected time frame to make contact with a family subject to abuse/neglect report. DCF does not track the time from the beginning of the report to the completion of each step. Therefore data on the average response time for each of the four steps is not available.

Report: Child in need of care reports are received by the Kansas Protection Report Center (KPRC) 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The Intake process begins upon contact with a reporter alleging a circumstance of child in need of care. The report date and time shall be the start of a reporter's call with an intake staff. (per PPS policy PPM 1000)

Preliminary Inquiry: If a report is not immediately accepted for further investigation and/or assessment based on information from the reporter, a Preliminary Inquiry shall be completed. (per PPS policy PPM 1320). The Kansas Code for Care of Children provides for DCF to conduct a Preliminary Inquiry as a result of the department having received information that a child appears to be in need of care [K.S.A. 38-2230]. Preliminary Inquiry is for the purpose of determining whether an allegation of abuse or neglect is known to the agency through a current completed investigation, gaining additional information regarding an allegation or non-abuse/neglect circumstance, and/or whether the interests of the child require further assessment. The Preliminary Inquiry information shall be obtained as soon as practical and shall not exceed three (3) working days from the date the report is received by the agency. For the purpose of Preliminary Inquiries, three working days begin the first working day after the report is received by the agency. (per PPS policy PPM 1320)

Initial Assessment: All child in need of care reports shall have an Initial Assessment made without delay. The maximum time allowed to make an Initial Assessment decision or request a Preliminary Inquiry is the end of the next half work day from the time the report is received. (per PPS policy PPM 1330)

Reports assigned for further assessment: Response time begins with the time of the assignment as designated on the PPS 1002, Initial Assessment. Response time ends when the department has determined the safety of the child or made
reasonable efforts to make such determination. Reports assigned for abuse/neglect concerns shall be assigned with either a same day or 72 hour response time. If a report is accepted for Child in Need of Care/Non-Abuse/Neglect assessment, the report shall be assigned a 20 working day response with exceptions detailed in policy. (PPS policy PPM 1670) The KPRC social worker shall determine the response time for abuse/neglect assignments according to criteria in policy. (PPS policy PPM 1521) In SFY 2015 through January, 97% of reports assigned for further assessment for abuse/neglect concerns had a timely contact with the victim/family.

We hope this information will help you. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Theresa Freed
Director of Communications
Kansas Department for Children and Families
785-296-0537
Theresa.freed@dcf.ks.gov

Todd Fertig
Public Information Officer
Kansas Department for Children and Families
785-368-6613

This message and accompanying documents are covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521, and contain information intended for the specified individual(s) only. This information is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error and that any review, dissemination, copying or the taking of any action based on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by e-mail and delete the original message.
Dear Ms. Sommerfeld:

Below is data indicating the percentage of time DCF meets the expected time frame to make contact with a family subject to abuse/neglect report. DCF does not track the time from the beginning of the report to the completion of each step. Therefore data on the average response time for each of the four steps is not available.

Report: Child in need of care reports are received by the Kansas Protection Report Center (KPRC) 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The Intake process begins upon contact with a reporter alleging a circumstance of child in need of care. The report date and time shall be the start of a reporter’s call with an intake staff. (per PPS policy PPM 1000)

Preliminary Inquiry: If a report is not immediately accepted for further investigation and/or assessment based on information from the reporter, a Preliminary Inquiry shall be completed. (per PPS policy PPM 1320). The Kansas Code for Care of Children provides for DCF to conduct a Preliminary Inquiry as a result of the department having received information that a child appears to be in need of care [K.S.A. 38-2230]. Preliminary Inquiry is for the purpose of determining whether an allegation of abuse or neglect is known to the agency through a current completed investigation, gaining additional information regarding an allegation or non-abuse/neglect circumstance, and/or whether the interests of the child require further assessment. The Preliminary Inquiry information shall be obtained as soon as practical and shall not exceed three (3) working days from the date the report is received by the agency. For the purpose of Preliminary Inquiries, three working days begin the first working day after the report is received by the agency. (per PPS policy PPM 1320)

Initial Assessment: All child in need of care reports shall have an Initial Assessment made without delay. The maximum time allowed to make an Initial Assessment decision or request a Preliminary Inquiry is the end of the next half work day from the time the report is received. (per PPS policy PPM 1330)
Reports assigned for further assessment: Response time begins with the time of the assignment as designated on the PPS 1002, Initial Assessment. Response time ends when the department has determined the safety of the child or made reasonable efforts to make such determination. Reports assigned for abuse/neglect concerns shall be assigned with either a same day or 72 hour response time. If a report is accepted for Child in Need of Care/Non-Abuse/Neglect assessment, the report shall be assigned a 20 working day response with exceptions detailed in policy. (PPS policy PPM 1670) The KPRC social worker shall determine the response time for abuse/neglect assignments according to criteria in policy. (PPS policy PPM 1521) In SFY 2015 through January, 97% of reports assigned for further assessment for abuse/neglect concerns had a timely contact with the victim/family.

We hope this information will help you. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Theresa Freed
Director of Communications
Kansas Department for Children and Families
785-296-0537
Theresa.freed@dcf.ks.gov

Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas