Ms. Sommerfeld,

Your most recent request for answers to a set of questions was provided to our data unit. They are scheduled to address your questions on Tuesday of next week and will provide an estimate at that time for the work that would be required to answer your questions.

Thank you for your patience.

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

Ms. Freed, Mr. Fertig,

Thank you for the below color-coded responses, indicating responses in our continuing Q&A. I did note that my email address was incorrect, so Brittany Glas forwarded the email on to me. For future reference my email address is: rachel.sommerfeld@ksn.com.

I do have some additional follow-up questions regarding my initial and ongoing request.

On March 23, 2015 I requested the following:
"I am requesting documentation of the response times of each of these 4 steps [referring to report, preliminary inquiry, initial assessment and further assessment or investigation] for child cases in DCF for the past 5 years... I would like a breakdown by each year, or if possible, month-to-month."

As of this date, I have not received this specific information. I was initially told “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."

I have since been offered the following data, with ongoing requests and questions for clarification:
1) On-time percentage for SFY 2015 further assessment for abuse/neglect timely contact with victim/family.
2) On-time percentages for Initial Assessment decisions for 2014 and 2015 YTD (for both adults and children, combined).

I appreciate your further clarification of policies listed below. However I am still requesting the specific data for the past 5 years and documentation of the data and how it was compiled. I have asked, in multiple ways, for better clarification of how DCF monitors and tracks response times and on-time percentages throughout the stages of an investigation and the data that you track. Although you have provided on-time percentages for initial assessment decisions (children and adults) and timely contact with victim/family, I have not been offered 5 years of data, and
have further not received documentation of that data. As my initial request also requested information regarding child cases, I am also requesting that the on-time responses for Initial Assessments be split up into on-time child responses and on-time adult responses. I am also requesting on-time data and documentation for the other stages of a child case/report (preliminary inquiry, further assessment: same-day response, 72-hour response, 20-day response.)

You mention several different systems that track cases saying there is no one central location to pull reports on the data from these systems:

KIPS
KIDS
FACTS

Due to the standard Federal CFSR review, you say that this information cannot be made available until after June, when that review is completed. Do you have a projected date for this data being made available? What is the timeframe (start date and anticipated completion dates) expected for this CFSR review?

Further, are there other methods available to receive this information in a more timely fashion? We understand if this data is not available in a simple 2 or 3-page report but continue to request this data so that we can compile the information requested in our KORA. Many other government agencies also offer us the ability to inspect certain records and documents in person, in lieu of providing printed documents. Please let me know if this is an option as well, that could provide us a more direct method to finding this data. We further understand that if this data is only available through your data team, you will provide us an estimate for any fees incurred for staff time or copies of documents.

I have done some searching on the DCF website and the online policy manual and am hoping to get a better understanding of the systems you mentioned above. Can you direct me towards further explanation of these systems to supplement the information I have found online?

FACTS: Family And Children Tracking System is the agency’s child welfare information system. Information in FACTS is used to support the department budget, internal management, and reports to the legislature, federal government and the general public. FACTS includes information about the outcomes of abuse and neglect investigations, the child abuse and neglect central registry and foster care and adoption information.

KIPS: Kansas Intake/Investigation Protection System (online link to form for mandatory reporters)

KIDS: I have not been able to find more documentation about what KIDS stands for and how it is implemented.

Thank you for your help with this continued request.

Sincerely,

Rachel Schrag Sommerfeld
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