



Kansas TB14 Pilot Plan

Advancing A Home for Every Child



Department for Children
and Families

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Introduction: Kansas' Commitment to Technical Bulletin (TB) 14

Kansas is currently implementing its approved CFSR PIP and remains committed to strengthening safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. TB14 provides an opportunity to consolidate existing improvement efforts within a streamlined framework that focuses on system-level impact, and the overall goal of A Home for Every Child.

To do this, Kansas will be leveraging and monitoring existing strategies in a coordinated manner that is intended to directly influence the home-to-child ratio. Kansas' TB14 approach is organized around the two primary drivers of that ratio:

1. Reducing the number of children entering and remaining in foster care.
2. Strengthening the recruitment and retention of foster homes aligned with child needs.

Through the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) under Technical Bulletin 13A, Kansas has focused on strengthening safety determination, prevention utilization, permanency practice, and system coordination through practice model implementation, case review learning, and cross-system collaboration. Technical Bulletin 14 builds on this foundation by organizing these ongoing improvement efforts around measurable population-level outcomes that influence the home-to-child ratio. The sections that follow outline the goals, strategies, and monitoring approach Kansas will use to advance these outcomes during the pilot period.

Technical Bulletin 14 Goals

Goal A (Children in Care):

Kansas will reduce the number of children in foster care preventing unnecessary entries into foster care and support timely, safe exits from foster care.

Goal B (Family Type Placement and Capacity):

Kansas will strengthen family type placement availability by recruiting and retaining the homes needed for Kansas children and improving support and placement stability through targeted supports.

Strategies and Initiatives to Impact Goals

Kansas recognizes that the foster home-to-child ratio is influenced by both the number of children entering and remaining in foster care and the number of available, stable foster homes. The strategies outlined below are designed to influence those drivers by strengthening safety determination and prevention utilization at the front door, improving placement stability during care, accelerating safe permanency leading to release from custody, and strengthening foster home recruitment and retention for children in care.

By aligning implementation support with defined monitoring measures, Kansas intends to ensure that workforce practice improvements translate into measurable population-level trends.

Strategy	Implementation/Ongoing Support	Monitoring/How We Will Know	Impact to Goal A?	Impact to Goal B:
Strengthening Decision Making Across the System by Utilizing Shared Definitions of Safety, Danger and Risk to Support Prevention, Placement and Permanency Decisions	a. Practice supports and structured consultation to reinforce consistent use of safety, danger, and risk language in decision-making. b. Continued implementation of the practice-model-aligned case plan and Four Questions Framework across prevention and foster care. c. Strengthening prevention pathways prior to removal by increasing access to family preservation services, community-based supports, and coordinated cross-system responses when safety concerns arise. d. Strengthening cross-system collaboration with courts, law enforcement, and community	Lead Measures: 1. Monthly entries into foster care 2. Timely reunification, guardianship and adoption rates (per federal benchmarks) 3. Percentage of families who had a child entering care who had documented engaged prevention services or efforts prior to removal	☒	☐

Strategy	Implementation/Ongoing Support	Monitoring/How We Will Know	Impact to Goal A?	Impact to Goal B:
	partners to support shared understanding when safety concerns arise.			
Increasing Early Identification and Engagement of Kin and Relational Supports to Support Prevention, Placement Stability, and Permanency	a. Early identification and engagement of natural supports consistently b. Kin-first placement expectations c. Supervisor consultation/review to support timely and consistent kin search and engagement	<u>Lead Measures:</u> 4. % of TDMs where at least one natural support person was engaged 5. % of children placed with relatives/kin initially and overall	☒	☒
Strengthening Stability Through Support in Foster Care Placements	a. Ongoing collaboration between Child Welfare and community-based service and support partners to enhance service array and improve access to timely supports for children and caregivers b. Ongoing collaboration between DCF/Child Welfare, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and Medicaid to reduce service access barriers and strengthen timely connection to these supports c. Ongoing use of Placement Stability Team Decision Making and other early-disruption protocols to provide timely support needed	<u>Lead Measures:</u> 6. Placement Stability rate (per 1,000 days in care) 7. Placement Interval Disruption Rates 8. Percentage of Children Experiencing 6+ Placement Moves in the Past 364 Days	☒	☒
Diligent Recruitment and Foster Home Retention	a. Finalize and implement Diligent Recruitment Plan	<u>Lead Measures:</u>	☐	☒

Strategy	Implementation/Ongoing Support	Monitoring/How We Will Know	Impact to Goal A?	Impact to Goal B:
	b. Targeted foster home recruitment aligned to child population needs c. Strengthen recruitment and retention strategies using foster parent feedback to continue to inform recruitment and retention efforts	9. Home-to-Child Ratio, with number of homes and number of beds 10. 12-month retention of licensed foster homes,		
Enhancing Live Monitoring and Monthly Ratio Review Discipline	a. Transition static reports to live dashboards b. Monthly review of the Monitoring/Lead Measures with stakeholders c. Option for targeted case reviews to explore Lead Measure concerns	1. Monthly statewide and regional home-to-child ratio 2. Trend analysis across lead measures 3. Documented action steps from monthly review meetings	☒	☒

Conclusion

Through participation in Technical Bulletin 14, Kansas is aligning existing safety, permanency, and placement stability within a coordinated framework focused on measurable population-level outcomes. By organizing strategies around the primary drivers of the home-to-child ratio and pairing these targeted implementation supports with disciplined monitoring, Kansas intends to ensure that improvement efforts translate into meaningful system trends.

This approach maintains accountability for safety, permanency, and well-being while strengthening prevention utilization, placement stability, and foster home capacity. Kansas remains committed to continuous learning and data-informed adjustment throughout the pilot period to ensure that every child has access to a safe and stable home.