

Strengthening Kansas Children & Families

TFI is a leading child welfare agency providing experience, compassion, quality services and care. Our strength as an organization lies in the fact that we do what is best for children and families. TFI currently serves as the Case Manage grantee in DCF Areas 4 & 8, which includes 26 counties in Southeast and Southcentral Kansas. When children are removed from their homes by the courts in Kansas, they are placed into DCF custody, and referred to TFI in these counties for case management services. TFI works with children and their parents towards addressing the risk and safety issues that led to the removal, with the goal of returning the children home safely and quickly. As part of these services, TFI offers a variety of behavioral health interventions, along with individual and family therapy. Two specialized services include Kansas PMTO and Substance Abuse Counseling services. For children who cannot return home, TFI will work towards a timely adoption or other permanency option. Please read more about our Case Management outcomes below:



Child Safety

Childhood safety is our top priority. We have worked diligently to improve safety for the youth we serve in Areas 4 and 8. **For area 4, TFI has maintained at 2.13 victimizations, compared to the statewide average of 3.42 victimizations** (measured by confirmed allegations of abuse & neglect, per 100,000 days in care). In Area 8, **TFI has brought down the victimizations by over 5 points during the past year, from 8.9 to 3.7. The national average of victimizations is 9.2.**



Connection

TFI recognizes the value of connection and consistent contact between our staff and youth, as it leads to more timely permanency. **TFI has been able to maintain and often exceed the performance standard of 95% for face-to-face contact, with youth at 96.7% for area 4, and 98.5% for area 8.** Additionally, 90% or more of these contacts occurring within the residence, compared to the 50% performance standard.



Placement Stability

TFI is committed to reducing the number of placements for youth in out-of-home care. **Areas 4 and 8 boast significantly lower placement moves per the federal performance measure, compared to the current statewide average, resulting in 1 to 2 less moves per youth.** Less placements means stability and more timely permanencies for the youth we serve.



Siblings

While many states are seeing a decrease in siblings being placed together, **TFI has seen an increase in youth being placed with at least one sibling, from 73% statewide in FY19 to 80% (area 4) and 75% (area 8).** This serves as a protective factor for youth and promotes social-emotional and academic development for youth.



Stronger Families, Stronger Communities.

TFI is a leader when it comes to providing safe relative and kinship placements. There has been a significant increase in children being placed with a relative or kinship provider. **In FY19 statewide, only 32.5% of children in out of home care were placed with a relative or kinship provider. Currently, 48% of youth in Area 4 and 50% in Area 8 are placed with kin.** The current statewide performance is 44%.



Timely Permanency

We are committed to ensuring youth reach permanency as quickly and safely as possible. Currently TFI is leading statewide efforts for FY 23 year-to-date by reaching 44.2% (area 4) and 41.9% (area 8) of youth returning home within 12 months of entering care, compared to statewide year-to-date average performance of 40.85%.



Decreasing Congregate Care

TFI is dedicated to supporting our youth and families by ensuring youth remain in a family-like setting, when possible. TFI is currently surpassing the 90% performance standard by achieving 91.3% of youth we serve being placed in their least restrictive setting.



Educational Excellence

TFI is dedicated to youth reaching academic success, and we know educational continuity and grade promotion contributes to that goal. Areas 4 (32.8%) and 8 (25.5%) are leaders in keeping youth in the same school, compared to the statewide average of 23.9%. We are also excelling in promoting youth to the next grade level at 94.4% (area 4) and 90.6% (area 8), compared to the goal of 70% and statewide average of 90.6%.



Decreasing Runaway & Missing Youth

TFI strives to ensure every child is placed in a safe and secure environment and has the lowest runaway rate in Kansas, reflecting only 10% of youth missing from placement in the state are TFI youth. Additionally, TFI has the lowest number of incidents of youth without a placement over the past year.



Bridging the Gap to Build Connection

Eve* came into TFI's care at one month old with medical needs and was placed with foster parents Wayne* and Kassie*.

Wayne and Kassie embodied both the beauty and difficulty of what being a foster parent is. They took excellent care of Eve, but they also worked hard in partnership with her biological mother to help her learn and understand how to be a mother to a small child with medical needs.

These foster parents went above and beyond expected levels of care, taking in a special-needs infant and caring for her through the subsequent year while going out of their way to support the biological parent as the time for reintegration drew closer and closer. At the same time, Eve's mom was working hard at her reintegration tasks, utilizing the services she was introduced to and learning to live on her own as a single parent.

The foster family included Eve's mom and maternal grandmother in dining out, medical appointments, and other activities. And, together with the case team, the foster family decided that one of the best ways they could help Eve's mom get used to being a full-time mother was to have her stay overnight at their home to observe how they care for her at all times of the day or night. This occurred several times and helped this young mother develop more and more confidence in her ability to take care of a very young child.

Eve was reintegrated with her mother just before Christmas as a result of her mother's commitment to learning, her foster parents' commitment to their success and the support of the team in their efforts to work together.

**Names have been changed to protect identity.*

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