



KidsView

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Compass Mental Health Helps One Family Find Their Way

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Taylor

KCSSL's Compass mental health services provide a variety of options, helping children and their families build upon their strengths and discover alternative ways to manage family

stress. Ranging in scope and capacity over the years, mental health services have expanded and grown to now include Johnson, Sedgwick and Shawnee Counties.

Kelly and her daughter, Taylor, began individual and family therapy almost a year ago. "I was going through a divorce and struggling financially. We were having behavioral problems with Taylor and it was affecting the entire family," said Kelly. "Her behavior was also causing problems at school. As she got older, the problems continued and became more frequent."

Kelly says Taylor would often scream if someone touched her. "She would insist on having her hair re-done 20 times a day because it didn't feel right and she would change clothes 10 times a day because they didn't feel right," said Kelly. "And she wouldn't let things go until it would drive her crazy and she would act out."

Day after day, Kelly experienced difficult behaviors. Problems at school, particularly with getting along with the other children, also began to get more and more pronounced, requiring Kelly to home-school Taylor for several months until an Individualized Education Plan and a smaller classroom size could be arranged.

During therapy and consultation with doctors, Taylor was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome (AS). Often difficult to diagnose, AS is an autism spectrum disorder that is characterized by difficulties in social interaction, along with restricted and repetitive patterns of behavior and interests. Individuals with AS usually want to fit in and have interaction with others; they simply don't know how to do it. They may be socially awkward, not understand conventional social rules, or show a lack of empathy, making it difficult to develop friendships.

"Caring for a child with AS takes an unnatural amount of patience," said Kelly. "As an adult, I have to exercise patience. And it means just that – exercise. But she's getting better at holding it in and I'm getting better at not reacting when she can't hold it in."

According to Kelly, education from their therapist has helped everyone understand

KCSL and Wichita Child Guidance Center Form New Alliance

Beginning July 1, the Wichita Child Guidance Center (WCGC) and the Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) have started an affiliation of the two agencies leading to the integration of WCGC and KCSL, creating new opportunities in successfully meeting the needs of Wichita area children and families.

WCGC staff and programs are now managed by KCSL in a one-year subsidiary arrangement, according to Janet Schalansky, KCSL's President and CEO. Following the successful completion of steps toward full integration, the two agencies would formally merge in July 2011.

New Alliance continues on page 3



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From the President's Desk



about the education element within many Kansas Children's Service League's programs.

For some of our services the link is straightforward. Our Head Start program is a quality preschool option for many families in southwest Kansas (see article page 5). Likewise, the Center for Restorative Education (CRE) at KCSL's Family Resource Center in Topeka helps at-risk of or suspended and expelled students stay on track with their education. And, for professionals, resource families, and parents we offer many learning opportunities including our online eLearning program, parent education trainings, and the Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (see article page 7).

Less obvious is the educational component of many of our family support programs. For instance, many new parents involved in our Healthy Families and Early Head Start programs lack parenting skills and don't have a built-in support system to help them be confident in their new role. Because of this, a primary focus for our home visitors is teaching them about healthy child development, the importance of parent-child interaction, and child care basics. They also assist with laying a foundation for future family success by working with parents to overcome obstacles, linking them with necessary resources, and developing and achieving goals.

Another example can be found within our Resource Family Services. Compass Services, KCSL's expanded family of prevention-oriented services, now provides additional levels of out-of-home care including therapeutic, professional resource family care, and

children's residential services (see article page 6). Specially trained licensed foster parents employ a Teaching Parent model and along with the child's parents, social workers, counselors, and educators, care for children and youth who might otherwise be in more restrictive levels of care. Working at home, they help carry out treatment plans designed to help children and their parents to learn the skills they need to handle their feelings, to build good relationships with others, to succeed in school, and to be responsible members of a family and community.

There are many more examples – including our coordination of the *Period of PURPLE Crying*® implementation across the state, our new pre-K work in Reno County (see article page 6), and facilitation of peer-to-peer learning through support groups and parent leadership opportunities.

While I'm not equating KCSL's services with those of higher learning, I do believe KCSL's services – much like schools – do have life-long and lasting effects. For many of us, some of life's greatest lessons were learned at home from our very first teachers – our parents. Through our work with families, KCSL is changing outcomes for at-risk kids. Keeping them safe. Creating strong and vibrant families. And shaping communities that care about the well-being of children.

Education doesn't begin or end at school. And children aren't the only ones in families that need to learn. Life-long learning brings new perspectives and expands individual's horizons. And when these lessons can be applied within families their trickle becomes a flood throughout generations.

Thank you for your continued support of our work with Kansas kids and families.

Janet Schalansky

Janet Schalansky, President/CEO

"A combined mental health program between KCSL and WCGC strengthens community visibility and creates operational efficiencies between two programs with shared values and compatible target populations," Schalansky said. "This relationship demonstrates the interests of both agencies to develop the best programming and service delivery model for those they serve."

"We are very pleased with this agreement which we believe will strengthen and help sustain both WCGC's and KCSL's vital services to our community," said Walter Thiessen, former executive director with Wichita Child Guidance Center.

WCGC's programs include individual, family, and group therapy, psychiatric evaluation and medication management, and psychological evaluation. WCGC also offers the Children of Divorce workshop, a required training for

divorcing Sedgwick County couples with minor children. Twenty-two full and part-time staff and approximately \$1.3 million in grant and fee for service funding are currently associated with these services. During the first quarter of 2010, WCGC provided services to 1,037 children and families.

According to Schalansky the WCGC programs and employees will remain at their current location at 415 N. Poplar in Wichita and will now operate under the umbrella Wichita Child Guidance Center, a subsidiary of the Kansas Children's Service League. Services will continue uninterrupted and unchanged for families currently receiving services through both WCGC and KCSL. Thiessen will serve as clinical director for the combined WCGC and KCSL mental health services program in Sedgwick County, as well as serve on KCSL's management team.

and cope with Taylor's behavior and it has been key to her improvement. "Knowledge of her own condition has given Taylor a sense of importance as well as helping her to know she is not the only one out there like this.

"Therapy has also been so helpful for me as a parent, helping me to understand that I didn't raise Taylor to be this way and it's not my fault. It has helped us all to understand and cope," Kelly continued. "And with the combination of therapy and a more fitting school arrangement, Taylor is thriving – even getting straight A's last year."

KCSL offers child and adolescent therapy, family therapy and group therapy to help find solutions to difficulties in family life by providing new and different ways to resolve problems through a variety of services.

For more information about KCSL's Compass mental health services, call 877-530-5275 or visit www.kcsl.org.

"Chairish" the Children to be Revealed at 2010 Red Stocking Breakfasts

A new addition to KCSL's Red Stocking Breakfast events, "Chairish" the Children, will be introduced this year. Chairs will be decorated by various community members and then auctioned off to raise funds for KCSL programs.

Art teacher Teddy Gingerich is creating a chair for the Hutchinson breakfast. In Wichita, Kathy Sweeney, Director of Education at the Wichita Center for the Arts, is coordinating a group of young artists who will paint the chair. The Topeka artist is Ye Wang, Assistant Professor of Art at Washburn University. Deb Huber of Deb Huber Designs will be creating the chair for the Garden City breakfast.

To the right: Marissa Hitt, the 5-year-old adopted daughter of community council member Dennis Hitt, with the chair she painted for the Greater Kansas City Red Stocking Breakfast. The chair Marissa painted is currently on display at the Hook Art Gallery in Kansas City, Missouri. For more information on Marissa's artwork, visit paintingsbymarissa.com.



Make a Donation Online

It's easy ... just go to our web site at www.kcsl.org and click on Donate Now.

Did You Know?

KCSL and Wichita Wild Team Up Again

More than \$3,000 was raised from a Wichita Wild promotion made possible by A-OK Pawn and Retail. Fans purchased mini footballs to throw at a target at halftime to win prizes from A-OK and the Wichita Wild. All proceeds from the promotion benefited KCSL programs and services.

Restorative Education Program Helps Students Return to School

The Center for Restorative Education is preparing for the 2010-2011 school year. Last year, all 25 of the student's who participated in the program earned credit that was transferred back to their home school. Five were seniors and graduated. The other 20 are able to return to school.

Fatherhood Initiative Receives Continued Funding

KCSL received funding to continue the Partners for Kids: United Hands Make the Best Families Responsible Fatherhood project for another year. The project is funded through Circle of Parents to provide training and technical assistance to Kansas early home-visit programs.

Fountain Collection Benefits Healthy Families

Healthy Families Wyandotte County was the recipient of coins deposited into the main fountain at The Legends at Village West, an entertainment site in Kansas City, for the months of April and May. The donation was made as part of Child Abuse Prevention Month. More than \$600 in coins was collected from the fountain. The coins

were deposited in the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and matched, raising the total amount to more than \$1,200.

KCSL Receives Numerous Grants

The Kansas Children's Service League is receiving grants totaling nearly \$70,000 from the Finnup Foundation, Ross and Marianna Beach Foundation, and Wachovia Bank/Wells Fargo. A \$30,000 grant from the Finnup Foundation is funding a part-time translation position for KCSL's Head Start, Early Head Start (EHS), and Healthy Families programs in Finney County. The Beach Foundation grant of \$20,000 is in support of KCSL's child abuse prevention efforts and will directly benefit the Healthy Families program and the Parent Helpline (1-800-CHILDREN). A \$10,000 donation from Wells Fargo will be used to support the agency's mission driven operations. Target awarded KCSL \$6,000 for Literacy programs in Kansas City, Kansas, Hutchinson, and Garden City. Each program received \$2,000. Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation awarded \$3,000 to Healthy Families Shawnee County.

KCSL Adds Five New eLearning Courses

Funds from the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services from The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has made it possible for KCSL's eLearning program to add five new courses built around the following topics: Childhood Obesity and Good Nutrition, Play is Crucial: The World of 2-year-olds, Working with Children with Disabilities, Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome, and Child Care Business Practices. In addition to the new courses, a portion of the ARRA funds will be used to build an online payment and registration system for all KCSL courses.

SAFE and Strong



Check out our new
look at kcsl.org

Topeka, Wichita Offices to go Wireless

KCSL has been awarded a capacity-building grant from the Topeka-based Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansas for \$20,000 to provide wireless internet access in KCSL's Bette and Mark Morris Center for Children and Families in Topeka and Custer office in Wichita.

"KCSL, like many organizations, has determined that in order to efficiently and effectively deliver critical services we must work 'smarter'," said Janet Schalansky, President and CEO. "To achieve this we need to provide the best tools possible so our staff, board of directors, and partners can work together to plan and implement

services that protect and promote the well-being of children."

According to Schalansky, the grant from the Sunflower Foundation will fund the infrastructure needed to provide wireless connectivity in the Topeka and Wichita offices by September, and create the capacity to expand to other locations in the future.

The wireless project would continue to provide a secure information systems environment for KCSL staff while providing visitors and meeting participants in its facilities access to wireless connections.

KCSL Head Start Program Restructuring to Meet New Standards and Goals

For more than 30 years, the Kansas Children's Service League has offered the Head Start program to children and families in southwest Kansas, striving to provide the best early learning opportunity to ensure low-income children enter school ready to succeed.

New standards and goals recently set forth by the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Head Start place increased requirements on Head Start grantees, including KCSL, to promote positive, sustained child outcomes for the children it serves. Known as the Roadmap to Excellence, this initiative sets forth requirements to improve school readiness outcomes among Head Start children and to promote their long-term success.

To assure compliance with these standards it has become necessary to restructure KCSL's Head Start program, developing new community partnerships with schools and child care centers, realigning internal resources to meet new programmatic goals and educational and skill level requirements.

One part of the restructuring plan included the conversion of the center-based program

in the city of Stafford to a home-based service with an enhanced child care component. This change enables KCSL to expand Head Start services to all of Stafford County communities and creates access to child care services in Stafford for all families, not just those involved in Head Start.

"KCSL's newly restructured Head Start program will continue to provide a quality educational program for the 490 children we serve, as well as enhanced services for the family that promotes self-sufficiency and meets the special developmental and other needs of both the children and parents involved in this program," said Janet Schalansky, KCSL President and CEO. "While change is not always easy, we believe this direction is the best course for KCSL's Head Start program to remain in compliance with OHS standards and best serve the children and families of southwest Kansas."

Counties served by KCSL's Head Start services include: Finney, Grant, Haskell, Kearney, Kingman, Pratt, Scott, Seward, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens and Wichita.

You & A Kid



Marquis
Age 16

ID # CH-5215

Marquis is a crowd-pleaser who enjoys speaking in public. His hobbies include playing basketball and football. His favorite class in school is World History. Marquis wants a family that will encourage and help facilitate continued contact with his four siblings. He would like a forever family to be understanding of his past losses and provide him with the support and love he needs.



Marco & Yesenia
Ages 7 & 5

ID #'s CH-5147 & CH-5146

This adorable pair is looking for a forever family that will keep them together. Marco is described as a very loving and affectionate child. He enjoys being held and getting hugs. High energy activities, like playing soccer, are what he enjoys most. Yesenia is described as a "social butterfly." She loves talking with others. Like her brother, she is an affectionate and loving child. Yesenia enjoys being active, participating in gymnastics and playing with her dolls.

To learn more about adoption visit AdoptKSKids.org or call 877-457-5430.



Tune In for Kids

Meet more great kids needing adoption on these stations:

In northeast Kansas, "Wednesday's Child" with Lori Hutchinson on WIBW TV-13

In southeast Kansas, "Monday's Child" with Lisa Oligis on KOAM TV-7

In south central and western Kansas, "Susan's Kids" with Susan Peters on KAKE TV-10



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KCSL to Provide Unique Approach for Children Needing Specialized Care

Compass Services is a new direction for KCSL's resource home program. Through Compass, families with children who might otherwise need more restrictive care are provided with another option, and KCSL foster families have greater opportunities to serve kids.

"Many times families with children with developmental disabilities or those with kids who have special physical, psychological or emotional challenges need assistance or even a break," said Dona Booe, KCSL's vice president of programs and services. "Our Compass families are specially trained, licensed foster families who care for the child while working in coordination with their family, case manager and other professionals ensure services and supports meet the child's needs."

According to Booe, Compass Services employs a Teaching Parent model. As both caregivers and teachers, Compass families work at home to carry out treatment plans designed to help children and families learn the skills they need to be successful at home, in school and in

their community. In addition to specialized and ongoing training and round-the-clock support, Compass families have access to the clinical expertise of KCSL's mental health services.

KCSL will still sponsor resource homes who primarily serve children in foster care, however Booe says these families will primarily serve older children (age 10 and older) and those who need a higher level of care in order to transition into a regular foster home, to an adoptive family or even back home.

"The move to providing therapeutic foster care to children outside of the State's system is another step towards greater prevention programming within KCSL," Booe continued. "By ensuring families get the help they need and children continue to receive the services they require, we greatly diminish the likelihood of future interventions."

To learn more about accessing Compass Services or if you are interested in providing therapeutic foster care in your community, contact Gail Cozadd at 877-530-5275 or visit www.kcsl.org.

Pre-K Initiative Combines School Readiness With Family Involvement

Kansas Children's Service League is participating in a Reno County early education program aimed at at-risk four-year-olds. The initiative is intended to increase children's school readiness and academic success through high-quality learning experiences.

The initiative is funded by a Pre-K grant from the Children's Initiative Fund and coordinated by Reno/Rice County Smart Start. The Hutchinson Community Foundation is serving as the program's fiscal agent.

"We anticipate serving 214 children during the 2010-2011 school year,"

said Michael Woods, program services supervisor for KCSL's Hutchinson office. "Essentially, what that means to our community and schools is 214 children who potentially would not have had a Pre-K opportunity now do, and will be better prepared when they enter Kindergarten."

Because family involvement is a key component of the program, KCSL will coordinate family services staff for nine participating programs. Family service workers provide parent education through family events and home visits, serving as a link between the family, the classroom and the community.

KCSL's expertise with education and awareness and family support programs make this program a natural fit for the agency, according to Woods. "What we know from our Head Start, Early Head Start and Healthy Families programs is that you can have the best educational environment, the best curriculum, and the best teachers – but the child is not isolated from family dynamics that may negatively impact school readiness," he said. "Through this program we not only help the child, but help the child's family support them and prepare them to be successful in school."

Adopt Kansas Kids: A Year Later



Adopt Kansas Kids celebrated its first anniversary on July 1. Over the past year the statewide recruitment and adoption awareness campaign managed by KCSL has made strides in creating a collaborative effort among various partners to find families for Kansas' waiting children.

"We've come a long way in a relatively short amount of time," said Tina Long, project director. "The State's transition to a new system for adoption, KCSL's new processes for registering children and families on the adoption exchange, and introducing the new Adopt Kansas Kids brand all were challenges to overcome our first year. Despite all of these changes, I believe we've been very successful in serving our adoption partners, families interested in adoption, and most importantly the kids."

With 12 months behind them, Long says Adopt Kansas Kids staff are now focusing on ways to make the website more user friendly for both families and providers, finding ways to enable home-studied families to more easily engage in the matching process, adding new functionality to the website – including videos of children, and stepping up participation in community events and awareness building activities – particularly those organized by faith communities.

Some results from Adopt Kansas Kids' first year include:

- Responded to 3,535 inquiries about adoption
- Registered 162 new children on the Adopt Kansas Kids website (384 kids are currently on the site)
- Removed from the website or placed on hold 117 children due to adoption pending or family found
- Connected 474 home-studied families with a Kansas adoption provider
- Coordinated 166 professional photographs of children, including 61 Klicks for Kids photos

KCSL to Offer BullySafeUSA Train the Trainer Curriculum Model

Working with the Kansas State Department of Education, KCSL is offering training and technical assistance on bullying behaviors and how to effectively deal with them. Grant funding from UMB has been secured to underwrite the BullySafeUSA Train the Trainer Curriculum Model in five Kansas School Districts.

KCSL is contracting with SuEllen Fried, nationally known expert on bullying. Fried has worked with more than 75,000 students in 30 states during the past ten years, conducting student empowerment sessions in public, private and parochial classrooms in rural, urban and suburban settings. Their insights led her to design workshops for teachers, administrators and parents to change the culture of schools. In 2002 she founded BullySafeUSA to prevent bullying.

BullySafeUSA Train the Trainer is a 2½ day institute designed to facilitate student empowerment sessions in the classroom. By utilizing a train the trainer session, more students, educators, professionals and parents can ultimately receive this important message about bullying prevention.

KCSL to Host Annual Conference for Child Abuse Prevention in November

As the Kansas Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, KCSL hosts the most comprehensive conference and training event for the prevention of child abuse in Kansas each year. The 34th Annual Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect will be held November 3-5 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita.

This year's conference will feature two nationally recognized keynote speakers. Allie Phillips, Vice President of Strategic

Initiatives for the American Humane Society, will present, "The Link® Between Animal Cruelty and Human Violence." Dr. James Mercy, of the Centers for Disease Control, will present, "Safe, Stable and Nurturing Relationships."

The conference will include six institutes and 38 workshops. Continuing education units are offered from the Behavioral Sciences Review Board, the Kansas State Nurses Association and the Continuing Legal Education commission.

New legislation requiring additional safety training for social workers was signed into law during the most recent legislative session. Training sessions to meet the new requirements will be available at this year's conference.

Online registration is now available on www.kcsl.org. The deadline for early registration is October 12. For additional information please contact Pamela Noble at 877-530-5275 ext. 1343 or pnoble@kcsl.org.

Upcoming Events



Klicks for Kids

Sept 8 Geary Community Hospital
thru 1102 Saint Marys Road
Sept 17 Junction City

Oct 15 Intrust Bank Arena
thru 500 East Waterman Street
Nov 1 Wichita

Parent Leadership Conference

Oct 1 Holiday Inn Holidome
thru 605 SW Fairlawn
Oct 2 Topeka, KS

Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

Nov 3 Hyatt Regency
thru 400 W. Waterman Street
Nov 5 Wichita, KS

Red Stocking Breakfast

Dec 4 Lone Star Steakhouse
2306 E Kansas Avenue,
Garden City
Carlos O' Kelly's
909 E 30th, Hutchinson
Jack Stack Barbeque
95th and Metcalf, Overland Park

Dec 8 Carlos O' Kelly's
7703 East Douglas, Wichita

Dec 11 Liberal Country Club
339 W. 18th Street, Liberal

Carlos O' Kelly's
3425 S Kansas Avenue, Topeka

For more information on these
events, please visit our website,
www.kcsl.org



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Playtime!



A year after Healthy Families was introduced in Garden City, the program is now helping 10 families and continues to grow. Pictured here is a Burmese family and Eh Kerr, KCSL Interpreter (far right), participating in a water activity during a home visit to demonstrate the importance of play in a child's development. Since being in the program, the family has met regularly with their home visitor, learning about child development and nutrition and has updated the children's immunizations.

Kids View is published by the Kansas Children's Service League, a private not-for-profit agency whose mission is to protect and promote the well-being of children.

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