

Adoption Tracking Tool (ATT)

ORIENTATION

JUNE 3, 2021

JUNE 17, 2021

Introductions

- Dr. Becci Akin, Kansas Strong Project Director, Associate Professor, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare
- Dr. Kaela Byers, Kansas Strong Project Lead Evaluator, Associate Research Professor, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare
- Kathy Armstrong, Assistant General Counsel, Prevention & Protection Services, Department for Children and Families
- Amy Raymond, Director of Trial Court Programs, Office of Judicial Administration

Housekeeping

- Add any questions in chat
- Presenters will pause every few slides to review and answer questions from attendees that are in the chat
- There will be two poll questions during this presentation. You must answer the poll questions to get CLE credit.

Kansas Strong for Children and Families

- Federally-funded initiative that aims to support Kansas child welfare
- A collaborative, data-driven system to achieve positive outcomes for a child's safety, permanency, and well-being
- Stakeholders involved in the project
 - Kansas Department for Children and Families
 - Cornerstones of Care
 - KVC Kansas
 - Saint Francis Ministries
 - TFI Family Services
 - DCCCA
 - Kansas Supreme Court, Office of Judicial Administration

STRATEGIES & OUTCOMES



Interagency and Community Advisory Board

A cross-system collaboration among leaders and managers in Kansas that will:

- Build knowledge of needs and service gaps
- Use data and CQI, create action plans to address needs and service gaps
- Lead with shared outcomes & accountability

Target Population: Children and families involved with the child welfare system and needing services and supports

Improved service array and resource development

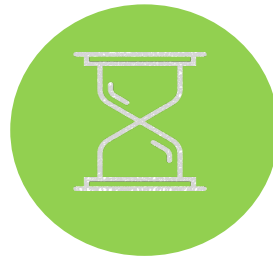


Parent/Youth Facilitation

A facilitation process for older youth (15+) and their parents that aims to reduce the number of out-of-home placements by engaging parents and youth in a meaningful problem-solving process, and connecting them with community services and supports

Target Population: Older youth (14+) with emotional and behavioral problems who are at risk of entering foster care

Children are maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate



Adoption Tracking Tool

Case reporting tool that will reduce time to adoption by:

- Establishing clear timelines and benchmarks
- Providing a tool for agency workers and court/legal system to assist with communication of roles, responsibilities, and process

Target Population: Children and youth legally free for adoption and a case plan goal of adoption

Children have permanency and stability in their living situations



KanCoach

Coaching program focused on developing and strengthening supervisory capacity and skills to promote quality frontline practice and improve outcomes. Priority topics are: safety/risk assessment & case planning, engagement, relative/kin connections, and secondary traumatic stress

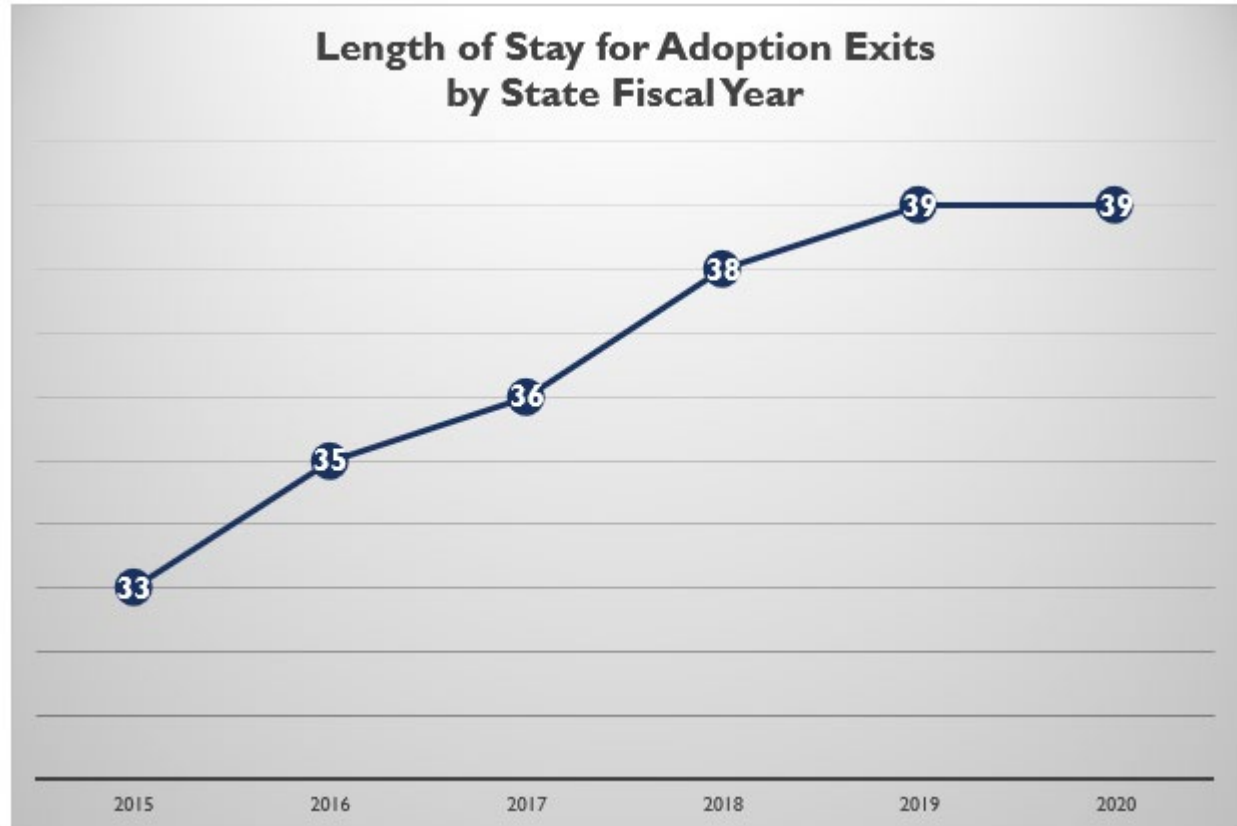
Target Population: Children and youth with risk factors related to entry, reunification, and adoption

What is the ATT?

- A tracking tool for key tasks and timelines as a specific child in need of care (CINC) case moves forward to adoption
- A communication tool among caseworkers, judges, attorneys, and other court personnel.
- Targets efforts to identify barriers.
- Designed to support efficient and timely progress to adoption by using a standardized tool for tracking key benchmarks and time schedules for children legally free for adoption.
- Designed to support collaborative accountability.
- It is not meant to be punitive.

Why does Kansas need the ATT?

- Kansas ranks 45th in the nation in non-permanent discharges from foster care.
- Kansas ranks 43rd in the nation in time to adoption.
- Time to adoption has increased 18% since 2015.



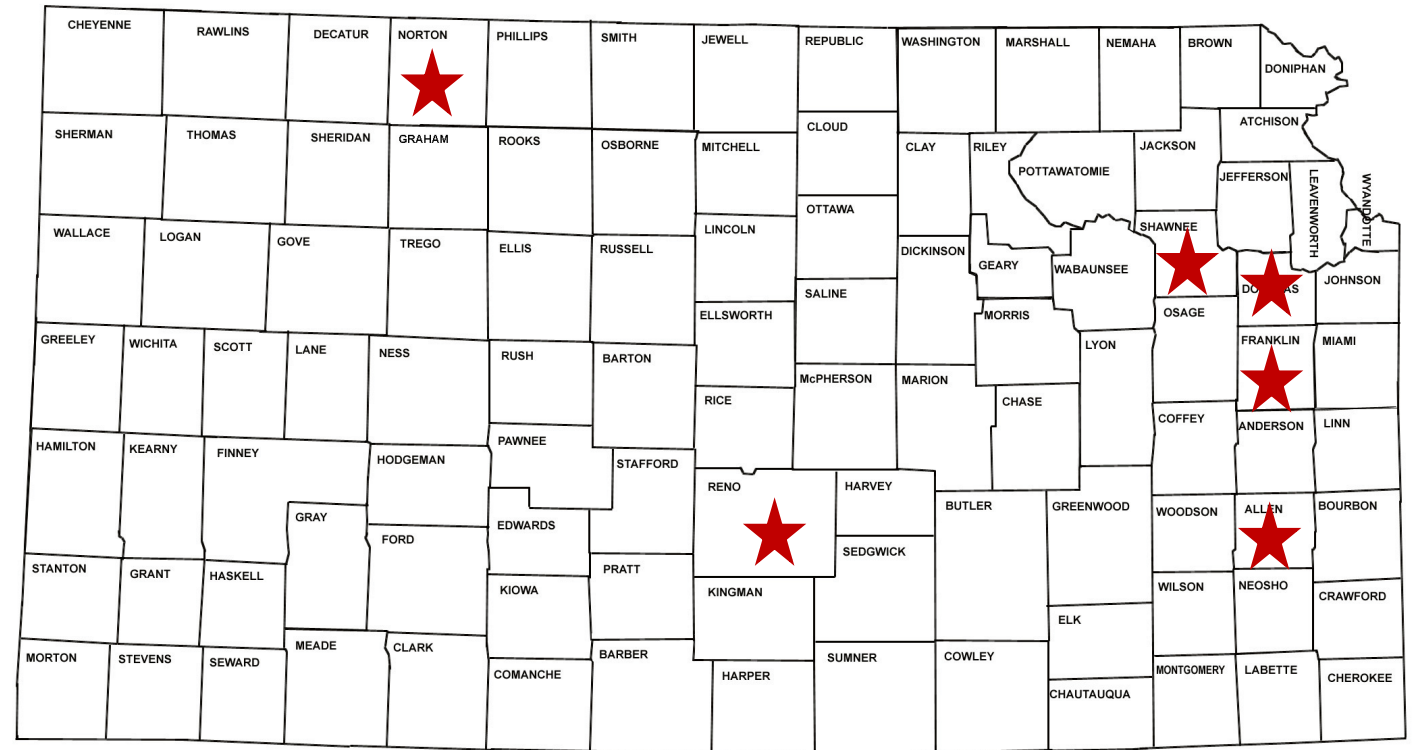
How will the ATT be used?

- Caseworkers complete the tool for children who are legally free for adoption meaning:
 - there has been termination of parental rights pursuant to court order; or
 - relinquishment of parental rights has been accepted and approved by the DCF Secretary and Guardian ad litem (GAL).
- Judges, attorneys, and caseworkers use the ATT as an information tool in court hearings.
- The ATT can be used to document barriers that get in the way of timely adoption which can result in:
 - Adoptions completed expeditiously
 - Improved permanency and stability

Poll Question #1

ATT pilot – Phase 1

- Six counties
 - Allen
 - Douglas
 - Franklin
 - Norton
 - Reno
 - Shawnee
- Pilot Period: June 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020



Children Legally Free for Adoption (N = 386)

- Allen (n = 20)
- Douglas (n = 38)
- Franklin (n = 35)
- Norton (n = 5)
- Reno (n = 127)
- Shawnee (n = 161)

Data Collected

Surveys

- Web-based survey emailed monthly from July to December
- 50 people from all 6 pilot counties and all stakeholder groups responded

Focus Groups/Interviews

- 20 focus groups or interviews
- People from all 6 pilot counties and all stakeholder groups participated

What did we learn from the pilot?

Surveys

On a scale of 0 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree), the ATT can:

Track adoption milestones that are completed: 2.9

Track adoption milestones that are in progress: 2.8

Identify barriers that may be slowing the adoption process: 2.5

Support good communication between the agency and court system: 2.5

Streamline the adoption process for the child: 2.4

Serve as a communication aid rather than as a punitive tool: 2.7

Focus Groups/Interviews

Track Milestones: Most stakeholders agreed that the ATT helps track milestones that are and are not completed.

Identify Barriers: Court and DCF stakeholders endorsed ATT as helping to identify barriers to adoption

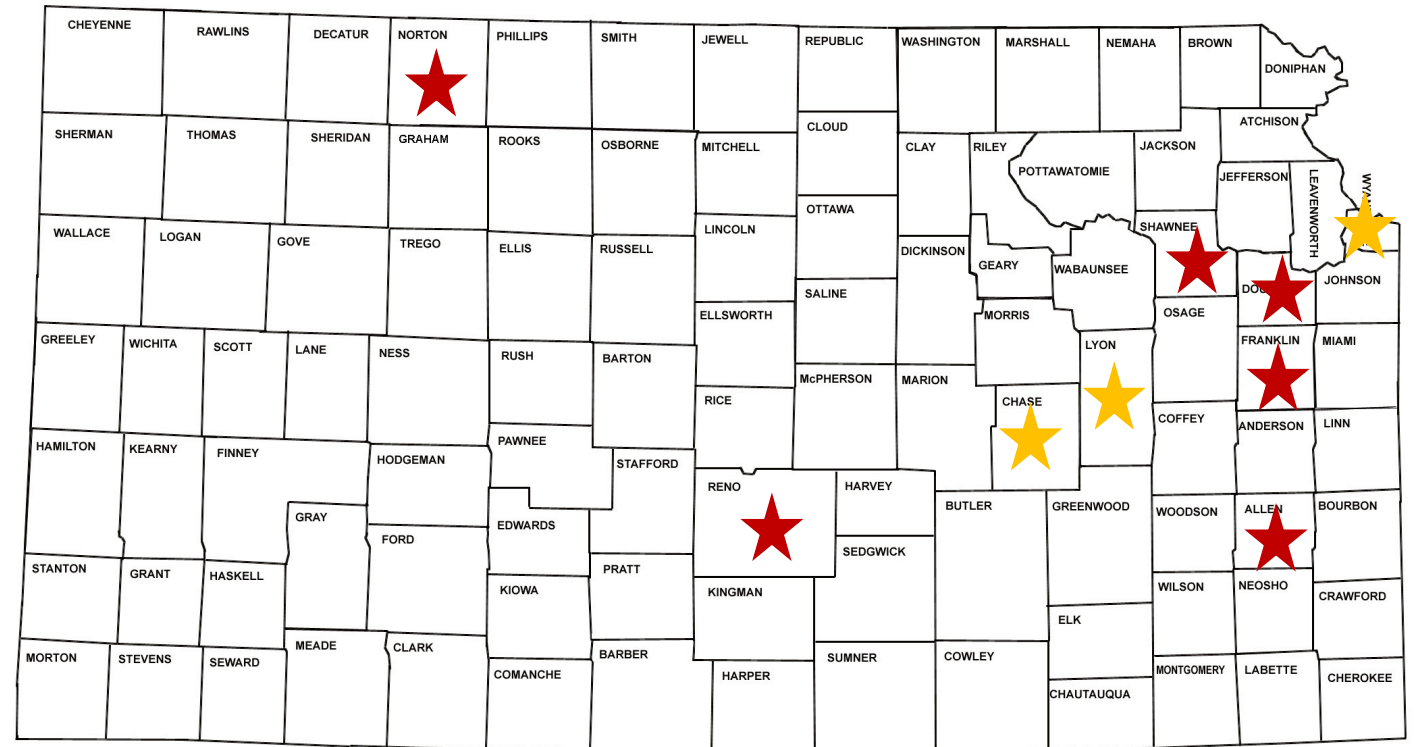
Facilitate Communication: Court and DCF stakeholders endorsed between-stakeholder communication as being facilitated. Agency staff endorsed within agency communication.

Streamline the Adoption Process: Court and DCF stakeholders endorsed most strongly.

Useful: Most stakeholders endorsed the tool as potentially useful in some specific capacity.

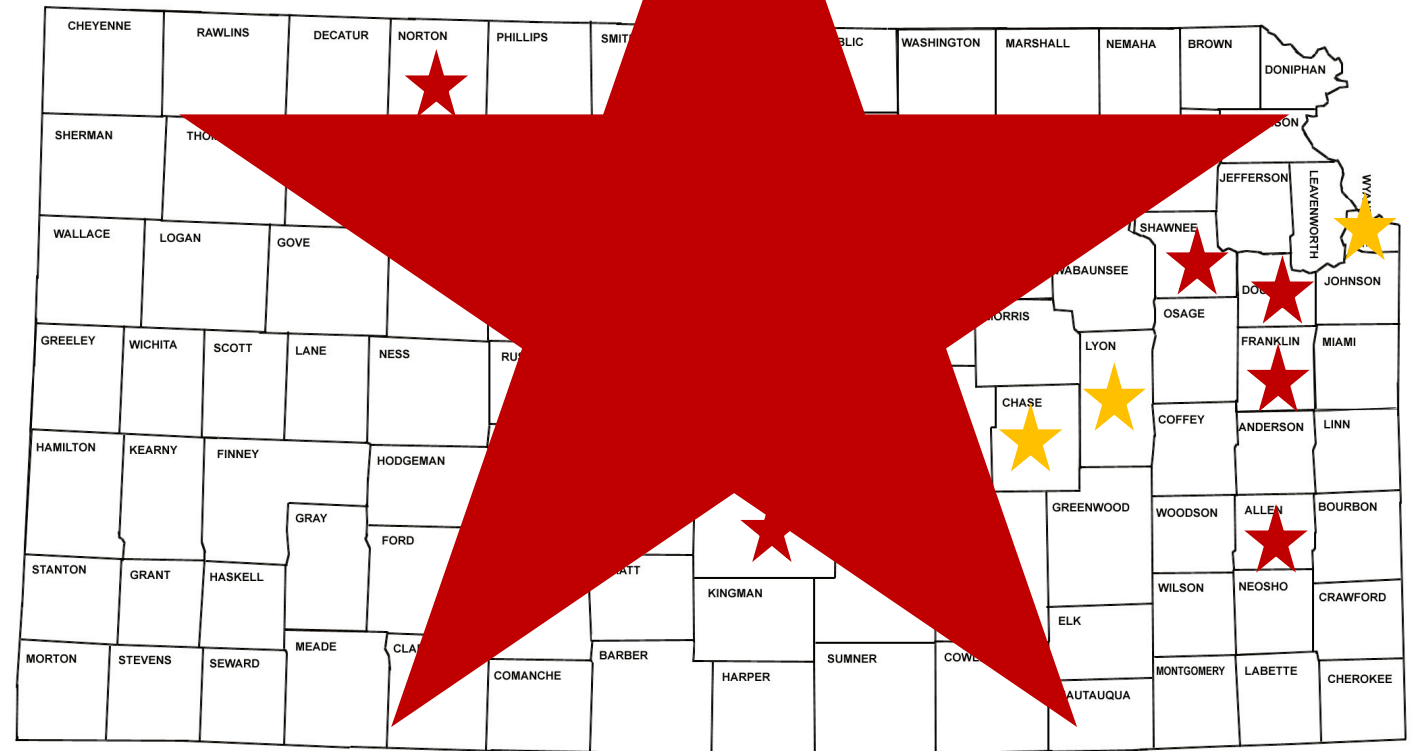
ATT pilot expansion – Phase 2

- Three new counties
 - Lyon
 - Chase
 - Wyandotte
- April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021



ATT Full Implementation

- Statewide Implementation
 - Following successful pilot, DCF policy workgroup and SCTFPP approved adoption of ATT statewide
- Expansion to all remaining counties beginning July 1, 2021



IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF _____ COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE INTEREST OF

Child's Name _____ Court Case No. _____

Date of Birth _____ Male Female

Removal date:	
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Current Placement Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Adoptive	Date Placed:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Relative		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Foster Home		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		

Does the Indian Child Welfare Act apply?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, see Section 9	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined
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Section 1 – Legal History		
Date child became legally free:		
Parent 1		<input type="checkbox"/> Relinquishment Accepted and Approved by Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Parental Rights Terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Complete
Parent 2		<input type="checkbox"/> Relinquishment Accepted and Approved by Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Parental Rights Terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Complete

The Tool

Section 1: Legal History

Section 2: Adoptive Resources

Section 3: Best Interest Staffing

Section 4: Child's Consent

Section 5: Adoption Subsidy

Section 6: DCF's Consent to Adopt

Section 7: SSI

Section 8: ICPC (if applicable)

Section 9: ICWA (if applicable)

Section 10: Adoption Hearing

Section 11: Additional Information

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Section 2 –Adoptive Resource	
Does the child have an identified adoptive resource?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes; If Yes, date identified and name/s	
<input type="checkbox"/> No, date referral sent to Adopt KS Kids (PPS5310)	
Adoption application and supporting documentation was provided to the adoptive resource	
Date adoption application completed and received by the Child Welfare Case Management Provider (CWCMP):	
Home Study/Assessment	
Date Started:	
Date all supporting documents were received by CWCMP:	
Date Completed:	

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Section 3 – Best Interest Staffing	
Is the child's case exempt from the Best Interest Staffing (BIS) Per Agency policy (PPM 5340)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If exempt:	
Date waiver email sent:	
Date authorized by CWCMP Director:	
If not exempt:	
BIS	Date:
Date report sent to CWCMP Director:	
Date authorized by CWCMP Director:	
Selected and non-selected families informed of decision by CWCMP	Date:
Request for internal review received from non-selected family, if applicable (non-selected family may request an internal review within 5-working days of notice)	Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Internal review held, if applicable (to be held within 5-working days of receiving request for internal review)	Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Written internal review decision sent to requesting family, if applicable,	Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Final adoptive resource selection	Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

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Section 4 – Child's Consent		
Is the child over the age of 14?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the child consent to the adoption?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

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Section 5 – Adoption Subsidy	
Is the child placed with the selected adoptive resource?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Selected resource has reviewed the child's foster care case file? (to be completed within 7-working days of selection per Agency policy)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date:	
<input type="checkbox"/> No Date scheduled:	
	Date Completed
Referral for adoption assistance subsidy sent by CWCMP to Agency per Agency policy (PPS 6110)	
Family contacted to schedule subsidy negotiation	
Adoption assistance meeting between the Agency and the adoptive resource	
Adoption assistance agreement - (PPS 6130) signed per Agency policy (PPM 6260)	
Adoption placement agreement - (PPS 5343) signed per Agency policy (PPM 5360)	

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Section 6 – DCF's Consent to Adopt		
	Estimated Date of Completion	Date Completed
Complete consent to adopt packet per Agency policy (PPM 5360) (Appendix 5R) sent to Region		
Consent to adopt (PPS 5350) signed by Agency Region and sent to CWCMP (to be signed by the Regional Director or designee within 30-days of receiving a complete and accurate consent to adopt packet)		
Adoption packet was provided by the CWCMP to attorney for the adoptive family (PPM5363) (signed consent to adopt is valid for 6-months)		

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Section 7– Supplemental Security Income (SSI)		
Is SSI application indicated? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (If yes, complete this section). <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Date of initial SSI application:		
Date of initial SSI decision:		
Date of SSI request for reconsideration/Appeal:		<input type="checkbox"/> NA
Date of SSI reconsideration/Appeal decision:		<input type="checkbox"/> NA

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Section 8 – The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), (only applicable if ICPC applies)	
Does ICPC apply? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, complete this section).	Date Completed
CWCMP sent referral to Kansas ICPC	
Placement decision by receiving state (approval/denial on 100A)	
Child was placed in receiving state	
ICPC Case Closure	

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Section 9 – Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), (Complete if ICWA applies)	
Name of Applicable Tribe	
Documentation of the Initial Certified Letter sent to the Tribe	
Is identified placement an ICWA preferred placement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If No, findings to support good cause deviation	

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Section 10 – Adoption Hearing	
Judicial District	
County	
Court Case Number	
Hearing date	
Finalization date	

Section 11 – Additional Information Requested by the Court

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How will Kansas know this is making a difference?

- CFSR Case Record Review beginning January 1, 2021
 - Presence of ATT in adoption cases where child/youth is legally free
 - Adoption barriers*
 - Time elapsed between benchmarks*
- Use of Administrative data to assess short and long-term outcomes related to **adoption timeliness** and **permanency**.

** Case review items still being finalized in partnership with DCF*



Poll Question #2

DCF Policy and Procedure Manual (PPM)

- Effective July 1, 2021, the Adoption Tracking Tool and Instructions for Use will be included in the DCF PPM.
- Form PPS 5400
- PPS 5400 Instructions
- Three other policies reference the ATT and its usage
- http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Documents/PPM_Forms/Policy_and_Procedure_Manual.pdf

References and Resources

<https://www.kscourts.org/About-the-Courts/Programs/Adoption-Tracking-Tool>

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Kansas Judicial Branch website. The navigation bar is dark blue with white text. On the left is the logo "Kansas Judicial Branch". To its right are links for "About the Courts", "Cases & Opinions", "Rules & Orders", "eCourt", and "Newsroom". Above "eCourt" and "Newsroom" are the labels "Public", "Attorneys", and "Judges" respectively. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: "Home > About the Courts > Trial Court Programs". The main content area has a light blue background with the title "Adoption Tracking Tool" in a large, bold, orange serif font.

On July 1, 2021, the Department for Children and Families will begin using the Adoption Tracking Tool statewide.

Questions?

Evaluation

Thank you for your participation in this project!

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT AMY RAYMOND (RAYMONDA@KSCOURTS.ORG)