



# **THRYVE SYSTEMS & YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD**

## **CHANGE LEVER SUMMARY**

Supported in partnership with the  
Youth Violence Prevention Center- Kansas City

2/24/2026

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## Overview

### Vision: Empowered Youth Thriving in Safe & Prosperous

ThrYve (Together Helping Reduce Youth Violence) supports a community-based approach to prevent youth violence in Wyandotte County. The mission of ThrYve is to “empower youth to be hopeful and thrive by connecting youth and families to opportunities that foster resiliency and success through coordinated systems and communities of support.” Through cross-sector collaboration with more than 40 community partners across 14 sectors of the community, the ThrYve Systems Advisory Board implements change levers (i.e., programs, policies and practices) to foster a safe and caring community for youth. The ThrYve Youth Advisory Board is also envisioned to mobilize youth leaders as agents of change. Through a network of partners, ThrYve coordinates violence prevention programs in schools, hospitals (e.g., REVIVE), and the community. The ThrYve partners work together to support a menu of youth opportunities during out-of-school time that offers youth the skills and experiences to thrive through positive social interactions, academic enrichment (i.e., tutoring, college access programs), and career readiness supports.

ThrYve (Together Helping Reduce Youth Violence) is all about making Wyandotte County a safer and better place for young people. Our mission is to help youth feel hopeful and thrive by connecting youth and their family to opportunities that build resilience and success through a supportive community.

We work with over 40 dedicated community partners across 14 different sectors of our community to make this happen. The ThrYve Systems Advisory Board brings together programs, policies, and practices to create a safe and caring environment for youth. Plus, the ThrYve Youth Advisory Board empowers young leaders to be agents of change and works closely as a part of the Systems Advisory Board.

Through our network of partners, we coordinate violence prevention programs after-school from the schools, hospitals (like REVIVE), and the community. We also offer a variety of out-of-school activities, including in the summer, which help youth develop important skills and have positive social interactions. Whether it's tutoring, college access programs, or career readiness support, we've got youth covered through opportunities provided for our ThrYve Youth Advisory Board and collaborative youth partners.

## The Youth Violence Prevention Center- Kansas City

The Youth Violence Prevention Center–Kansas City (YVPC-KC) is one of five nationally designated CDC-funded Centers of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention. YVPCs aim to prevent youth violence through community and academic research partnerships, helping communities benefit from advances in prevention science by developing, implementing, and evaluating promising strategies. YVPC-KC focuses on reducing youth violence and promoting positive youth development in Kansas City, Kansas, by collaborating with community partners to address risk and protective factors, create safer environments, and reduce violence-related injuries and deaths among youth. Guided by our ThrYve approach, YVPC-KC has expanded youth violence prevention efforts across the Kansas City metro area through coordinated youth engagement activities and the evaluation of multiple hospital violence prevention programs (HVPPs).

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## Action Teams

Through the ThrYve Youth & Systems Advisory Board, we're all about making our community a safer and better place for our youth. To do this, we have five committed action teams that work together with other partners in our community to bring about positive change.

1. **Youth Justice and Crime Prevention Team:** This team includes justice organizations, schools, government, and law enforcement partners, as well as other groups that work with these systems. They use strategies like Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Restorative Justice Practices. CPTED focuses on things like better street lighting and removing graffiti to reduce youth violence. Restorative Justice involves working with schools and the juvenile justice system to create programs like youth court.
2. **Trauma and Social Support Team:** This team helps our community respond to crises and supports youth who have experienced or are at risk of violence. They work on projects like the REVIVE Hospital Violence Prevention Program. Key partners include the health department, school district, local hospitals, and community organizations that provide social services to youth and families.
3. **Youth Opportunities Team:** Made up of youth-serving organizations, this team provides positive experiences for youth. They offer year-round support, out-of-school activities, and skill development programs like life skills, academic support, and career readiness.

4. **Family and Community Engagement Team:** This team includes community members, faith leaders, and parents. They focus on getting the community involved in violence prevention efforts.
5. **Youth Advisory Board:** This youth-led council work with the ThrYve coalition to identify, implement, and guide strategies to make our community better.

Check out the attached list to see the different projects we're working on and their current status.

Together, we are making a difference!

**I ThrYve, You ThrYve, We ThrYve**

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## Change Lever Status Definitions

Our goal is that every partner of the ThrYve Systems and Youth Advisory Board champions at least one or more of the change levers identified by the group to help make a difference in our community. A change lever may have more than one champion. Our goal is that all of the change levers have one or more champions to help guide the work along with other partners of the ThrYve Youth and Systems Advisory Board. As you review this Change Lever Summary document, you will note that the status of the change lever is noted. Below is a brief definition of each status.

- **Complete and Ongoing:** Change lever is complete with a final product. Often change levers are sustained as ongoing strategies with ongoing action plans.
- **In Progress:** Change Lever has an up to date action plan with active partners championing its implementation.
- **Developing:** In progress with an identified champion who has agreed to work to develop an action plan.
- **Not Started:** Open opportunity for new champion(s)

A **change lever** is a factor, mechanism, or strategy that helps drive and accelerate change within a system, organization, or community. Think of it as a “lever” you can pull to influence outcomes and create transformation. In other words, it’s something that has the power to shift behaviors, policies, or structures toward a desired goal.

### Key Characteristics of a Change Lever:

- **Catalyst for Action:** It sparks movement toward change.
- **High Impact:** It influences multiple areas or stakeholders when activated.
- **Strategic:** It’s chosen because it can produce significant results with relatively focused effort.

### Examples in Practice:

- **Policy Changes:** Updating laws or regulations to support equity.

- **Community Partnerships:** Leveraging collaborations to expand resources and reach.
- **Youth Leadership:** Empowering young people as decision-makers to shift systems.
- **Data & Evidence:** Using research to inform and justify new approaches.

**In ThrYve's context, change levers might include:**

- Building strong cross-sector partnerships.
- Elevating youth voice through advisory boards.
- Aligning with community health improvement plans.
- Implementing trauma-informed practices.

**Attached below is a list of the change levers organized by action team, followed by status of the change levers.**

<b>SYSTEMS &amp; YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD CHANGE LEVERS</b>	
<b>ALL ACTION TEAMS</b>	
<b>Change Lever: What Needs to be Accomplished?</b>	<b>Status</b>
1a. Establish data-sharing agreement across ThrYve partners.	ONGOING
1b. Reduce the amount of news time given to sensationalized stories related to youth violence.	ONGOING
1c. Establish resource-sharing hub and agreements	ONGOING

<b>ALL</b>	<b>FCE</b>	<b>YO</b>	<b>YJCP</b>	<b>TSS</b>	<b>YAB</b>
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<b>SYSTEMS &amp; YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD CHANGE LEVERS</b>	
<b>FAMILY, &amp; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTION TEAM (FCE)</b>	
<b>Change Lever: What Needs to be Accomplished?</b>	<b>Status</b>
2a. Create a network among ministers of all denominations where programs and strategies to prevent youth violence could be discussed.	IN PROGRESS
2b. Provide information to parents and guardians about warning signs of violent behavior, gang involvement, and other risky behaviors	NOT STARTED
2c. Establish a program where representatives from community or faith-based organizations take youth on trips or to places they have never visited.	IN PROGRESS
2d. Conduct prayer walks or drive-by prayer to pray for the community and establish a presence in your community that will allow congregants to get to know neighbors and youth in neighborhood.	NOT STARTED
2e. Connect/reconnect with churches and faith-based organizations	NOT STARTED
2f. Create opportunities for neighborhood residents to influence policy issues that affect the community	NOT STARTED
2g. Creating intergenerational mentorship opportunities where youth assist older adults with digital literacy skills in a structured and supportive environment	IN PROGRESS
2h. Identify and disseminate information to parents, youth, and community on summer youth programs during breaks (winter break, spring break)	IN PROGRESS
2i. Increase parental involvement (e.g., Parent Council, parent survey, Parents as Teachers).	NOT STARTED
2j. Increase the number of agencies or organizations that conduct free parenting classes with culturally appropriate content.	NOT STARTED
2k. Organize support groups and networks for parents and guardians to increase parental/guardian involvement (e.g., Parent Council, parent survey, Parents as Teachers)	DEVELOPING
2l. Provide access to male role models who use nonviolent means of expression.	DEVELOPING
2m. Provide workshops for parents and youth to enhance skills of anger management, conflict management, decision making, peer refusal, and parent-child communication	NOT STARTED
2n. Provide in-service training to area clergy and religious workers on how to use community resources for preventing and coping with violence and sexual abuse and facilitate more effective referrals to local agencies.	NOT STARTED

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<b>SYSTEMS &amp; YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD CHANGE LEVERS</b>	
<b>YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES ACTION TEAM (YO)</b>	
<b>Change Lever: What Needs to be Accomplished?</b>	<b>Status</b>
3a. Establish youth community service programs to enhance life skills and social responsibility.	IN PROGRESS
3b. Establish mentoring programs to enhance job/employment, educational, and secondary education opportunities.	IN PROGRESS
3d. All athletic directors and/or coaches will be required to present a program to student athletes at the beginning of each sports season regarding the causes and consequences of violence, including the use of manipulation and coercion which relates to sexual violence. This program will include healthy alternative methods by which youth can protect themselves and resolve conflict by nonviolent means.	NOT STARTED
3e. Create opportunities for job shadowing	NOT STARTED
3f. Develop a plan for identifying and referring at-risk youth (survivors, witnesses, and/or perpetrators) to appropriate individuals or agencies.	NOT STARTED
3g. Establish a variety of alternative activities for at-risk youth.	IN PROGRESS
3h. Establish board policies by which youth can have influence on the policies and practices of organizations. Providing opportunities by which youth can have influence/involvement on boards and policies.	IN PROGRESS
3i. Establish early (elementary school) intervention programs for prevention of violence and gang-related activity for families and youth.	IN PROGRESS
3j. Establish mentoring programs by which at-risk youth who avoid violence and weapons can gain (e.g., Hope Hangout).	IN PROGRESS
3k. Extend available and affordable daycare or after-school care options to reduce stress of safety concerns for parents and guardians (e.g., KC Linc; Boys & Girls Club; DCF referrals for daycare; Urban Scholastic Center; Hope Center.	NOT STARTED
3l. Improve relations between youth and police (e.g., bias training, Juvenile Community Policing, Neighborhood Watch; Police Youth Athletic League program ( <a href="http://www.kcpal.org">www.kcpal.org</a> ))	NOT STARTED
3m. In collaboration with local parent teacher organizations (ptas and pto's), establish and implement violence prevention programs for use by parents or guardians at home	NOT STARTED
3n. Inform parents on warning signs of violent behavior, including gang involvement and coercive sexual relationships.	DEVELOPING
3o. Provide safe and affordable transportation to supervised recreational opportunities.	DEVELOPING

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<b>SYSTEMS &amp; YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD CHANGE LEVERS</b>	
<b>YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES ACTION TEAM (YO)</b>	
3p. Provide skills training for parents and guardians that emphasizes adult-child communication and information about youth violence in your community, including recognizing signs of youth violence, monitoring behaviors related to violence, and methods of talking to their children about youth violence (e.g., KC Mothers in Charge).	DEVELOPING
3q. Provide skills training in conflict management, decision making, peer mediation, and communication to youth.	NOT STARTED
3r. Provide transportation for youth to get access to support and prevention programs (e.g., WYCO Request a Ride).	DEVELOPING
3s. Reduce barriers to unemployment (e.g., federal policies, language/translation, school ID, transportation/access points).	NOT STARTED
3t. The school district, parents or guardians, and the recreation department will establish coordinated before and after school and summer activities for youth.	NOT STARTED

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<b>SYSTEMS &amp; YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD CHANGE LEVERS</b>						
<b>YOUTH JUSTICE &amp; CRIME PREVENTION TEAM (YJCP)</b>						
<b>Change Lever: What Needs to be Accomplished?</b>					<b>Status</b>	
4a. Develop an injury and fatality review committee to review youth related incidents of homicides and youth violence.					ONGOING, COMPLETED	
4b. Improve night and street lighting and supervision in public parks and recreational areas.					DEVELOPING	
4c. Educate the public as to how victims and advocates can access services. Disseminate information about legal services whereby protective orders, temporary restraining orders, and peace bonds keep violent offenders from attacking partners or family members.					NOT STARTED	
4d. Provide a coordinated program of "wrap around" services for youth involved in violent crimes that includes juvenile court, schools, and social and rehabilitation services.					DEVELOPING	
4e. Develop and implement a plan to maintain property by removing graffiti associated with gang activity; restrict access to abandoned buildings, vacant lots, and other gathering places of illegal activity.					COMPLETED	
4f. Provide skill training in how to avoid, walk away from, or mediate potentially violent situations without a loss of respect.					DEVELOPING	
4i. Demonstrate commitment to/promotion of youth employment and skills					DEVELOPING	
4j. Disseminate appropriate information to the community related to the consequences of use and possession of weapons. (Youth Advisory Board Team also identified as priority)					DEVELOPING	
4k. Driver's Ed- increase opportunities for youth to obtain driver's license					DEVELOPING	
4l. Establish and increase use of silent witness and related youth crisis hotlines for reporting violence, including physical and sexual abuse. (Trauma & Social Service Action Team also identified as priority)					IN PROGRESS	
4m. Establish accurate reporting systems for firearm and gang-related injuries.					DEVELOPING	
4n. Support participation in programs for police officers to work with youth in alternative activities and education (1) Develop plan for ages of police program for middle and high school youth (2) Work with youth outreach kids (3) Have police come and engage with kids (4) Youth alive website for trauma services (4) High risk youth involvement in programs already in place (5) Increase officer interactions with kids, even if not in existing programs					DEVELOPING	
4o. Expand existing programs to youth who are not justice involved					NOT STARTED	

  

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<b>SYSTEMS &amp; YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD CHANGE LEVERS</b>	
<b>YOUTH JUSTICE &amp; CRIME PREVENTION TEAM (YJCP)</b>	
4p. Identify and engage youth with community organizations who provide youth employment opportunities and have the capacity to serve additional youth	DEVELOPING
4q. Promote certification programs for youth employment, including sports and recreation certification (e.g., Lifeguard certification, referee, umpire, coaching) (Collaborate with Youth Opportunities Action Team)	NOT STARTED
4r. Publicize the levels of violence-free days involving youth.	NOT STARTED
4s. Reduce the waiting period between actual arrest and final disposition for violent crimes.	COMPLETED
4t. Strengthen and enforce laws regarding buying, selling, or possession of firearms by youth.	IN PROGRESS
4u. Disseminate information about legal services whereby protective orders, temporary restraining orders, and peace bonds keep violent offenders from attacking partners or family members	NOT STARTED
4v. Examine the Juvenile Justice System flow chart for any other concerns/additions/modifications	NOT STARTED
4w. Examine data to determine whether pre-file IIP results in better outcomes and determine how Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JRA) affects the community.	NOT STARTED
4x. Develop & disseminate informational materials to better inform community on SB 367.	NOT STARTED
4y. Increase sense of belonging and connection in schools & community for HS/MS age youth by implementing restorative practices (e.g., restorative circles)	DEVELOPING
4z. Develop a continuum of restorative practices and training and technical support across community sectors that can address different levels and types of harm including peer mediation, restorative circles, conflict resolution, etc.	DEVELOPING

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<b>SYSTEMS &amp; YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD CHANGE LEVERS</b>	
<b>TRAUMA &amp; SOCIAL SUPPORT TEAM (TSS)</b>	
<b>Change Lever: What Needs to be Accomplished?</b>	<b>Status</b>
5a. Provide information and training to teachers, parents, and guardians about what to look for and how to promote health and safety in children and youth (e.g., through newsletter, in-service training, schools, and local libraries).	ONGOING
5b. Establish and increase use of silent witness and related youth crisis hotlines.	DEVELOPING
5c. Establish intervention programs for those who are witness to violence, such as murder of a friend or family member. And 5k	DEVELOPING
5e. Conduct annual school-based health fairs with an emphasis on youth health issues, including physical assault, incest, and sexual abuse	NOT STARTED
5f. Considering joint application for funding to support hospital-based intervention activities	COMPLETED
5g. Develop an Injury and Fatality Review committee to review youth related incidents of homicides and youth violence. (Juvenile Justice/Criminal Justice Action Team also identified as a priority)	ONGOING
5h. Disseminate information on peaceful conflict resolution and how to walk away from potential fights	NOT STARTED
5i. Ensure that victims of violence receive adequate resources and medical care regardless of ability to pay.	IN PROGRESS
5j. Establish a peer support program for at-risk youth (e.g. those attempting to get away from gang involvement).	IN PROGRESS
5l. Establish regional support networks among leaders and members of youth organizations working on preventing assaultive violence.	NOT STARTED
5m. Facilitate REVIVE meetings occurring on a monthly basis for the hospital-based violence intervention program related to youth who are admitted to ER for intentional injury.	ONGOING
5n. Provide cross-cultural and trauma training for health professionals to enhance the cultural appropriateness of preventive services.	ONGOING
5o. Provide cultural training, trauma competence training and restorative justice training (e.g. respecting differences) across sectors (including school staff and health professionals) (e.g. custodians, administrators).	ONGOING
5q. Provide in-service training for school personnel in planning, implementing, and evaluating school-based programs for preventing youth violence.	NOT STARTED

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<b>SYSTEMS &amp; YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD CHANGE LEVERS</b>	
<b>TRAUMA &amp; SOCIAL SUPPORT TEAM (TSS)</b>	
5r. Provide skills training on conflict management, negotiation, decision- making, and refusal skills for local student organizations and athletic teams	NOT STARTED
5s. Provide training for all emergency room staff to instruct them in appropriate ways of dealing with victims of violence and persons arriving with the victims.	DEVELOPING
5t. Consolidate resources for the development and dissemination of resource guides.	DEVELOPING
5u. Develop and implement REVIVE, hospital-based violence intervention program related to youth who are admitted to ER for intentional injury	ONGOING

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<b>SYSTEMS &amp; YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD CHANGE LEVERS</b>	
<b>YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD (YAB)</b>	
<b>Change Lever: What Needs to be Accomplished?</b>	<b>Status</b>
6a. Provide through radio, television, social media, and newspaper PSA's appropriate for a variety of audiences (children, adolescents, adults) about the negative consequences of violence for youth and society. PSA's will be culturally specific and ethnically appropriate and will feature local and national celebrities and personalities.	ONGOING
6b. Establish a contest for youth to develop messages to discourage other youth from violence, gang activity, or using alcohol and other drugs.	IN PROGRESS
6c. Establish a student code of conduct which includes consequences for students who sexually harass or abuse other students.	IN PROGRESS
6d. Establish an ongoing system to provide public recognition for specific communities or youth efforts to prevent assaultive violence.	IN PROGRESS
6e. Establish peer support groups for teens to explore ways to resist youth violence, sexual coercion, and/or becoming involved in gang activity.	IN PROGRESS
6f. Local radio will sponsor regular live debates on ways of preventing youth violence.	ONGOING
6g. Provide opportunities for youth leadership and youth involvement (e.g., youth task force, youth advisory council) in advocating for policies that affect them and applying their leadership skills in addressing neighborhood problems and goals.	IN PROGRESS
6h. Provide PSA's which display how to avoid or walk away from a potentially violent situation without a loss of respect.	IN PROGRESS
6i. Provide skill training to youth including in methods of refusing peer pressure to use weapons, in recruiting peer support for the choice to avoid youth violence, and in how to avoid or walk away from a potentially violent situation without a loss of respect.	IN PROGRESS
6j. Establish youth community service programs to enhance life skills and social responsibility.	IN PROGRESS

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