

DCF LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



February 8, 2022

TESTIMONY OF

Kansas Department for Children and Families

TESTIMONY ON

Written Only –

KDHE Budget Line: Post-Partum Coverage Extension

Chair

Representative Carpenter

Vice Chair

Representative Lynn

Ranking Minority

Representative Ballard

and

Members of the Committee

SUMMARY & DCF POSITION

Chair Carpenter and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to express our support for extending Medicaid post-partum maternal coverage to 12 months. As DCF continues its efforts to provide early supports to children and family, this extension can be another tool in our tool belt to prevent maltreatment and the future need for foster care.

Beginning in April, states may extend Pregnant Women coverage to 12 months postpartum through a Medicaid state plan amendment. This would add 10 additional months of coverage for the Pregnant Women eligibility group. The additional postpartum coverage will impact and improve countless health outcomes for mothers, children, and families across the state.

KDHE asked the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care to study actual Medicaid data from the pandemic era to gain perspective into the services accessed.

Key findings:

- 94% of new mothers with substance use disorder have worse outcomes when Substance Use Disorder treatment ends prematurely because Medicaid benefits end.
- 36% of Medicaid moms have a behavioral health diagnosis at the time of birth, and 26% receive a new behavioral health diagnosis more than 60 days after the baby is born.
- 23% of inpatient stays more than 60 days postpartum were due to mental health issues.

As DCF focuses efforts to support families and keep children out of foster care with programs like the Family First Prevention Services Act, the postpartum extension is an additional tool to aid these efforts. Kansas has the opportunity to join this endeavor. DCF is eager to see this extension approved for Kansas children and families.