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House Social Services Budget Committee
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Foster Care Overview

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Chairman Crum and members of the committee, I am Tanya Keys, Director of Children and Family Services with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). Thank you for the opportunity to provide an overview of the Kansas foster care program.

The child welfare system in Kansas is governed by the federal Department of Health and Human Services Administration of Children and Families and Kansas Code for Care of Children. The system is a design of checks, balances and partnerships that help protect the rights of parents while ensuring children are safe from harm and achieve positive outcomes within families.

Outcomes for families are stronger when children and youth are safely maintained at home in their community. During State Fiscal Year 2010, agency staff investigated or assessed 27,915 reports of alleged child abuse or neglect and other non abuse neglect circumstances occurring within families. Assessments include consideration of safety threats, service needs, resources and capacity of parents and caregivers to meet needs of their children. SRS offers a variety of programs to safely support and maintain families, prevent abuse and neglect.

Foster care services are provided when the court finds a child to be in need of care and parents are unable to meet the safety needs of the child. The court determines whether the child must be removed or whether additional efforts should be made to maintain the child in the home. When a child is in imminent danger and cannot otherwise be protected, SRS requests that law enforcement consider protective custody or request a county or district attorney consider involving the court. If law enforcement believes protective custody is required, law enforcement may remove the child for a maximum of 72 hours exclusive of weekends and holidays. The child may be placed by law enforcement with family or in a facility designated by the court or SRS. If placed in the latter, the home or facility must be licensed by KDHE. Children enter or, if taken into protective custody, remain in the foster care system through a petition filed, usually, by a county or district attorney representing the state.

This program and policy area is of great importance and a top priority for the Secretary. Statewide on December 31, 2010, there were 5,148 children and youth in the custody of the Secretary of SRS and in foster care out of home placement. Between state fiscal years 2007 and 2009, there was a 16% safe reduction in the number of children in care consistent with national trends (Figure 1). However, in contrast to national trends, during SFY10, the number of children removed into foster care increased 13% and the number of children in care increased 5 percent. The removal rate per 1,000 children in Kansas increased from 4.5 in SFY09 to 4.9 in SFY10. Nationally, the removal rate per 1,000 children is 4.1 and the number of children in foster care was reduced 17 percent between 2005 and 2009.

Statewide, the average number of months in care increased from 18.8 in SFY09 to 19.4 in SFY10. If this trend continues, the out of home placement caseload is projected to increase 11% between June 2010 and June 2012. The SFY10 increase in caseload is the product of a 13% increase in the number of children removed and fewer timely permanencies for children in care (Figure 2). Analysis of trends around removal reasons and efforts to safely prevent removals through community service grants are underway through a statewide improvement team. This team, with representation of courts, law enforcement, community providers and SRS met in the Fall of 2010 to develop a framework from which regions should assess promising practices and develop local plans to safely reduce the number of children in care. The statewide team will hear presentations on the local safe reductions plans on March 29, 2011, during a statewide summit.

Figure 1

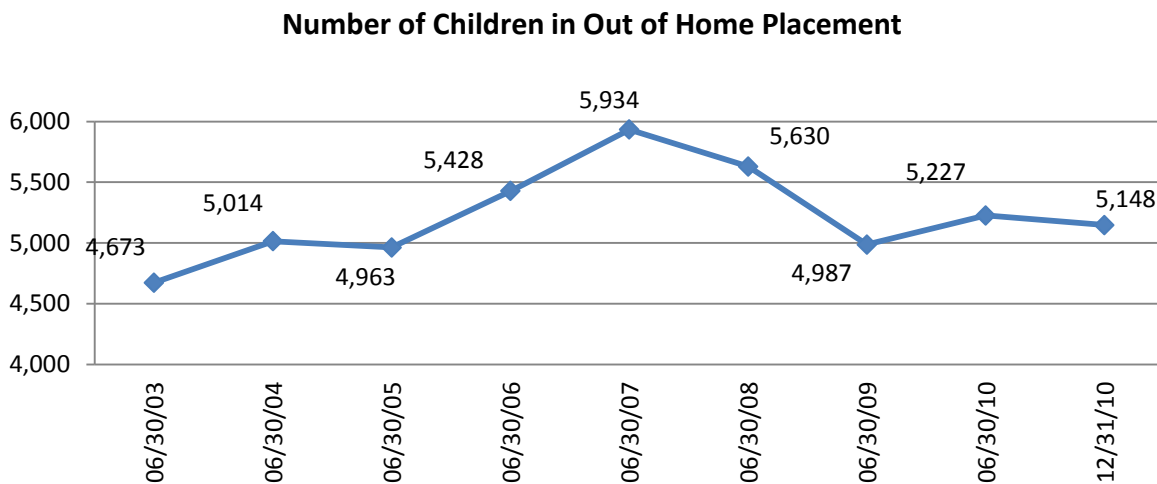
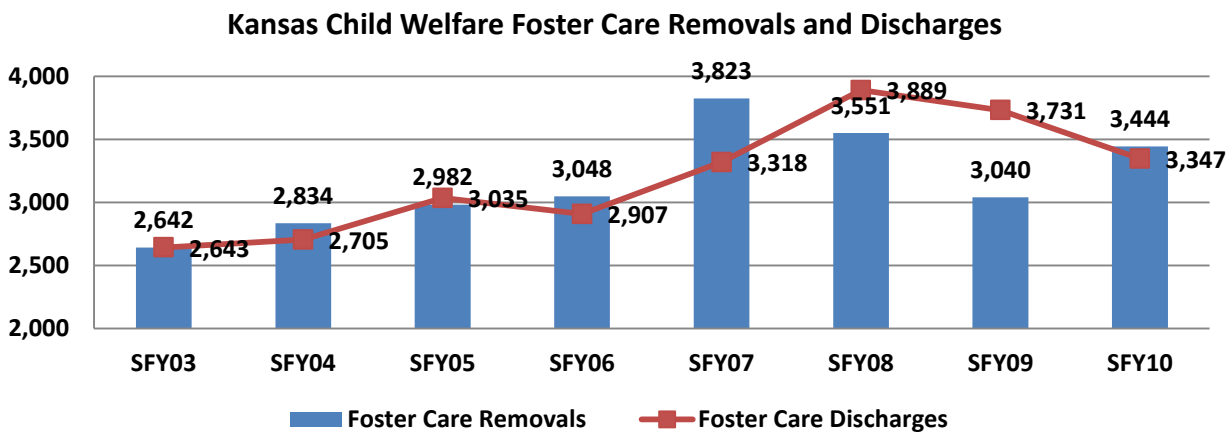


Figure 2



SRS contracts with community based not for profit organizations to provide reintegration/ foster care services in Kansas. Contract procurement for foster care services is governed by Department of Administration Division of Purchases rules regarding bid solicitation, negotiation and award. Contracts for foster care services began in February of 1997. Since 1997, the contracts have been placed for bid four times.

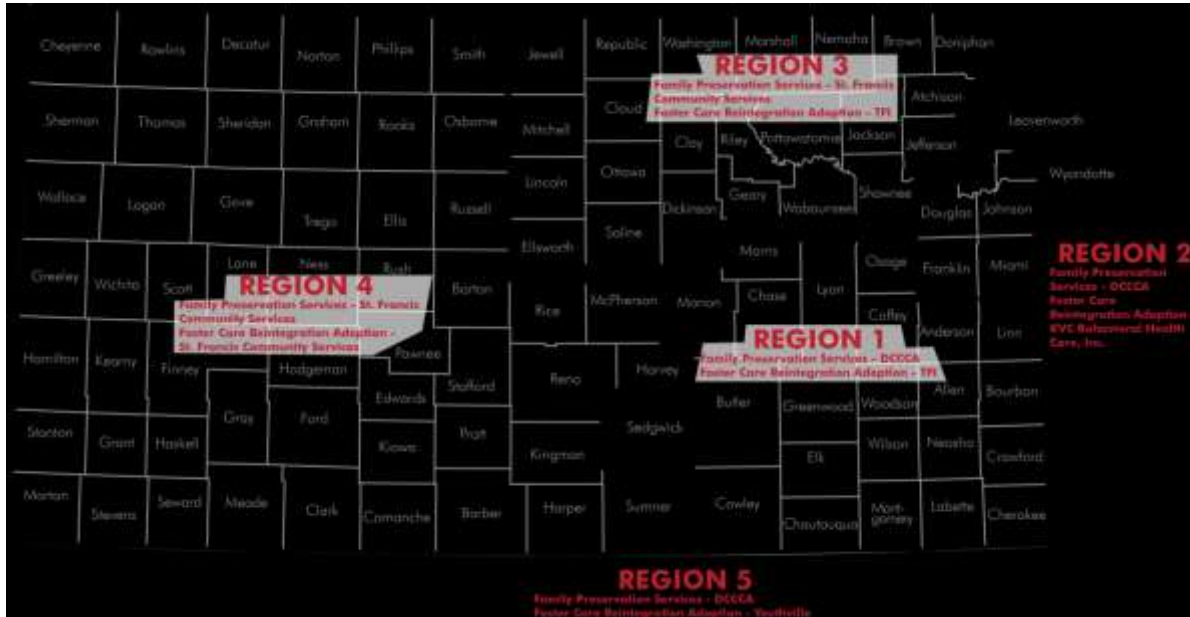
Through the Department of Administration, a Request for Proposal (RFP) is posted for SRS. The RFP sets out the requirements to be met by a successful bidder and includes the rules to be followed during the bidding and award process. Bidders submit questions, technical and cost proposals separately through Department of Administration for processing and subsequent review by SRS. A Procurement Negotiating Committee (PNC) is created consisting of the following entities (or their designees), who conduct final evaluation and award: Secretary of the Department of Administration Director of Purchases, Department of Administration; and Secretary of the Departmental Social and Rehabilitation Services. Technical proposals are provided to review team members and cost proposals to cost team members. Proposals are reviewed separately by different teams composed of individuals with subject matter expertise. After review of the proposals, an evaluation summary is prepared of each bidder and provided to the PNC. A final ranking of combined technical and cost information determines which vendors to invite to negotiations. After negotiations with bidders, the PNC recommendations for contract awards are provided to the Department of Administration and notices of intent to award are provided to successful bidders.

The contract award for foster care effective July 1, 2009 is for 4 years with up to 2 two-year extensions possible. Contracts are awarded in each of the 5 contract regions. (Figures 3 and 4)

Figure 3

Region 1	TFI Family Services, Inc.
Region 2	KVC Behavioral Health Care, Inc.
Region 3	TFI Family Services, Inc.
Region 4	St. Francis Community Services
Region 5	Youthville

Figure 4



Since SFY2006, an average of 3,381 children have entered foster care each year. In SFY2010, 3,444 children entered care. Of these children, the greatest percentage of children entered care for reason of parents substance use (19%), with physical abuse the second greatest reason for removal (14%). Over one half of children entering care in Kansas are for reasons not related to maltreatment, such as caregivers unable to cope with a child’s challenging behavior.

The child placing agencies provide services necessary to reintegrate the child and parent or, when the court determines that is no longer viable, an alternative permanency such as adoption or permanent custodianship. Court oversight continues until the child achieves reintegration (55%) or an alternative permanency of adoption (23%), or permanent custodianship (8%). The remaining youth (10%) reach adulthood while in care with transition supports provided until age 23. A small number of youth transition to other systems including juvenile justice. In SFY10, 721 children were adopted. Since 2007, an average of 741 children has been adopted each year.

Services and tasks to meet federal and state requirements are carried out in contracts through an array of workforce including licensed professionals and family support staff who work directly with families. Placement providers of relatives, family foster homes and residential providers are reimbursed for care of children and youth. Children in need of care under SRS responsibility may be placed with a relative or in a child care facility such as a family foster home or residential care center licensed by KDHE. Of all children in out of home placement, 95% are placed in a family like setting.

Figure 5

Outcomes for foster care are organized under measures for safety, permanency and well being. Kansas performance strengths are safety in care, placement with relatives, and placement in home like setting and timely adoption. Kansas completed its second round of the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) in June of 2007. As a result of that review, Kansas entered into a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) to improve performance with timely reintegration, placement stability and strengthen practices that engage fathers in case planning activities. Kansas ended formal PIP activities in June 2010 and was the second state in the nation to successfully complete its CFSR PIP requirements. Kansas maintains information on federal outcomes and state success indicators. Information is maintained on the CFS outcomes reports page at <http://www.srs.ks.gov/agency/cfs/Pages/CFSOutcomesandReports.aspx> and are detailed below:

Outcomes and Success Indicators SFY 11						
	Reg. 1 TFI	Reg. 2 KVC	Reg. 3 TFI	Reg. 4 SFCS	Reg. 5 YV	State
Safety in FC (Standard: 99.68% or more)	100%	99.92%	99.93%	99.85%	100%	99.93%
Placement in Family Like Setting (Standard: 90% or more)	95.9%	96.4%	94.2%	93.1%	93.0%	94.5%
Timely Reunification < 12 mos of removal (Standard: 69.9% or more)	75.6%	78.3%	89.9%	73.0%	45.5%	77.1%
Timely Reunification Median Length of Stay (Standard: 6.5 mos. or less)	8	8	5	7	12	7
Timely Reunification for entry 1/1/10-6/30/10 (Standard: 39.4% or more)	43.6%	33.5%	50.7%	39.5%	22.4%	39.5%
Stable Permanency re-entry in < 12 mos. (Standard 15% or less)	7.6%	2.4%	15.2%	7.0%	2.9%	7.5%
Timely Adoption < 24 mos. (Standard: 26.8% or more)	40.0%	45.9%	0.0%	14.3%	50.9%	36.1%
Timely Adoption Median Length of Stay (Standard: 32.4 mos. or less)	25	25.8	43.8	37.7	25.7	28.3
Children in Care 17+ mos. Adopted (Standard: 20.2% or more)	34.9%	50.7%	35.7%	42.5%	47.3%	43.1%
Children in Care 17+ mos. Legally free (Standard: 8.8% or more)	11.2%	8.9%	15.0%	11.2%	17.2%	13.0%
Adopted in < 12 mos of TPR. (Standard: 45.8% or more)	29.6%	31.4%	8.9%	40.0%	35.7%	29.8%
Children in Care for 24+ mos (Standard: 25% or more)	23.9%	29.6%	27.1%	33.0%	37.4%	31.1%
Permanency with TPR (Standard: 96.8% or more)	87.5%	87.0%	85.7%	93.8%	84.4%	87.2%
Children in Care 3+ yrs (Standard: 47.8% or less)	9.1%	44.4%	39.1%	21.1%	65.4%	37.0%
Placement Stability <12 mos. (Standard: 83.3% or more)	86.9%	81.0%	84.3%	82.2%	78.2%	82.7%
Placement Stability =12 mos and <24 mos.(Standard: 59.9% or more)	55.7%	64.1%	55.1%	50.7%	46.5%	54.2%
Placement Stability 24+ mos. (Standard: 33.9% or more)	25.4%	28.0%	27.1%	26.4%	23.6%	26.1%
Success Indicators						
Achieve Diploma or GED	31.8%	50.0%	43.5%	15.8%	21.7%	32.4%
Earn Semester Credits	49.1%	39.6%	42.5%	55.1%	43.5%	45.9%
Youth Have a Positive Role Model	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Children Are Placed with Relatives	29.0%	34.0%	35.5%	28.0%	18.9%	29.4%
Children Have Educational Continuity (Same School Attendance)	24.2%	15.0%	23.3%	21.4%	17.6%	20.4%
Children Are Placed with Siblings	81.6%	80.2%	75.2%	77.4%	73.0%	77.2%

Foster care caseload is included in the state's semiannual consensus caseload estimating process. Rates for foster care differ for each contractor and are based on competitive bids per geographic region. A fixed base payment, independent of the caseload, is made each month to cover the contractor's fixed costs. There is also a per child rate paid each month based on the number of children in out-of-home placement on the last day of the previous month. This portion of the payment represents the contractor's variable costs. There are no compensation incentives or extra payments any type of placements or permanencies.

Monthly Payment Rates:

SFY2011 Monthly Payment Schedule		
	Base Fixed Payment	Variable Per Child Payment
R1 - TFI	\$608,841	\$1,503
R2 - KVC	\$812,000	\$1,533
R3 - TFI	\$741,167	\$1,459
R4 - St Francis	\$999,970	\$1,608
R5 - Youthville	\$937,293	\$1,594

Thank you for the opportunity to present an overview of foster care. I am pleased to answer any questions of the committee.