



Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
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Presented by:

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Thank you Madame Chair and members of the committee for the opportunity to be here today and talk about the core functions of the Department for Children and Families after ERO #41. As you know, ERO #41 consolidated all disability waiver and mental health services from the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services into the new Department for Aging and Disability Services; and renamed the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services as the Department for Children and Families.

DCF manages and administers the delivery of human services to the people of Kansas and is the agency that steps in when children and their parents or guardians do not have other family members to support them, or when their needs are so great that family members cannot manage alone.

The goals of DCF are to strengthen families, safely reduce the number of children in care, to promote employment, provide responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars and to build public/private partnerships.

DCF provides services to Kansans guided by the following mission statement: To protect children, promote healthy families and encourage personal responsibility.

DCF touches the lives of a half-million Kansans each year through the programs and services we administer. Those include:

- Child welfare contracts including foster care and family preservation
- Federal benefits programs including SNAP, TANF, Child Care Assistance, LIEAP, and the USDA commodities distribution services
- Medicaid eligibility determination
- Child Support Services
- Rehabilitation Services including vocational rehab and disability determination

DCF provides many services directly to its clients; others are delivered through contracted partnerships in communities across the state. Our partners include child care providers, child welfare contractors, and many others. Partners range from community-based organizations to national organizations and include both for-profit and not-for-profit businesses, faith-based organizations, advocacy groups, local governmental entities and foster families.

DCF services are provided through our regional offices and focus on three primary objectives:

- Protect children and adults;
- Promote permanent, nurturing families;
- Provide temporary assistance.

Staff in the regional offices, operating under the program guidance of central office managers, works to:

- Investigate reports of child and adult abuse and work with families and the court system to determine appropriate interventions;
- Assist clients to become employed and self-reliant through job readiness activities, vocational assessment, training, rehabilitation technology, and job placement and supported employment activities;
- Help clients access child support from noncustodial parents; and
- Connect clients to resources and services in the community that will meet their needs.

At the core of our mission is the belief that strong families make a strong Kansas. Thank you Madame Chair, again, for this chance to speak to your committee. I am happy to stand for questions.