



**Testimony for
ERO 43**

**Presented to
The Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Written testimony by
Susan Mosier, MD
State Health Officer and Acting Secretary
Kansas Department of Health and Environment**

February 10, 2015

Chairman King and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am pleased to provide written testimony in support of ERO 43 which transfers Medicaid eligibility processing duties from the Department for Children and Families (DCF) to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and transfers foster care licensing responsibilities from KDHE to DCF.

Beginning July 1, 2015, all foster care-related services will fall under DCF oversight, and Medicaid eligibility workers will transition to KDHE on Jan. 1, 2016. Discussions are underway to ensure a smooth transition of services and address issues such as staffing needs.

Consolidating the Medicaid eligibility determination process and placing it solely under KDHE's purview will simplify the process for both the state and the consumers who depend on timely and accurate responses. Combining the current KDHE and DCF work groups that manage Medicaid eligibility will reduce the Kansas Medicaid Payment Error Rate Measurement through better coordination of staff training and by ensuring uniform implementation of policy and processing changes. Estimated savings from this ERO are \$26 million SGF, which accounts for an anticipated 2% reduction in the Kansas Medicaid Payment Error Rate Measurement.

KDHE is the State Medicaid agency, and this move will allow KDHE to manage the delivery and coordination of Medicaid services, provide accurate and timely determinations, and achieve savings that come with moving this program from DCF to KDHE. Additionally, this will streamline the process for consumers, ensuring that they only need to interact with one state agency to address all of their Medicaid eligibility concerns.

Moving the foster care licensure responsibilities from KDHE to DCF will consolidate all foster care functions into one agency, simplifying the process for foster parents and enhancing DCF's ability to care for children who must be removed from their homes. Since DCF oversees child welfare services across Kansas, shifting this function out of KDHE will enable DCF to monitor and coordinate the entire foster care process and ensure more efficient services for children in need of care.

These are common-sense reforms that will streamline agency functions and allow KDHE and DCF to better serve our state's most vulnerable populations. Thank you for the opportunity to share this information.