

Approved: February 10, 2011
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

JANUARY 27, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kiegerl at 9 a.m. on January 27, 2011, in Room 142S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jay Hall, Intern, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Rena Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
June Christensen, Committee Assistant

Others attending: See attached list.

Conferees Appearing before the Committee:

Representative Bill Otto
Amy Deckard, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Connie Zienkewicz, Executive Director, Families Together, Inc.
Children's Alliance, Written Testimony

Chairperson Kiegerl introduced Representative Bill Otto, who presented a proposal for the Committee to consider rescinding 2010 HB 2356, known as *Lexi's Law*, that was passed by the Legislature last year. There was no objection to the Committee accepting the bill, and Chairperson Kiegerl said he would work with the vice chairman and ranking member for consideration of rescinding the bill.

Chairman Kiegerl introduced Connie Zienkewicz, Executive Director for Families, Inc., for testimony (Attachment 1). She informed the Committee that Families Together (CFT) assists families how to be effective advocates for children with disabilities and special health care needs. CFT also has contracts with the Kansas Department of Social Rehabilitation Services (SRS), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) that also assists the families. She and her husband have a daughter, now 25, who has received services with the Home and Community-Based Services Developmental Disabilities (HCBS DD) waiver since the age of 8, which includes at-home day care so that both parents can work. The waiting list for services is very long, and as parents are aging and no longer able to care for their children, more services will be required. The main concerns are emphasis on employment, support of families, stress reduction, better quality of marriage, and fewer instances of child abuse.

She answered questions regarding SRS data and special services. Chairperson Kiegerl said hearings will be held on autism education, and, hopefully, 2010 HB 2227 will allow continuity within the school districts regarding education.

Amy Deckard, Senior Fiscal Analyst for the Kansas Legislative Research Department, explained about the flow of tobacco settlement dollars into state funding for children's initiatives. These dollars were a result of a 1998 settlement to drop pending lawsuits with the tobacco companies.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Room 142S, Statehouse, 9 a.m., January 27, 2011

She presented data (Attachment 2), for the FY 2010-2012 Children's Initiatives Fund and explained the various changes taking place with the Governor's proposed budget, new programs, and those being eliminated. The revenue from the settlement has been declining (from \$72.3 million in 2009 to \$60.8 million in 2010) due to less profit for the tobacco companies and dollars going to the escrow accounts of disputed lawsuits.

Written testimony from Bruce Linhos, Executive Director of Children's Alliance, (Attachment 3), was distributed.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 1, 2011, at 9 a.m., Room 142S, and will cover issues regarding problems with autism services. The meeting on Thursday, February 3, will address seclusion and restraint of autistic children in the educational system..

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

GUEST LIST

DATE: January 27, 2011

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Children's Initiatives Fund

FY 2010 - FY 2012

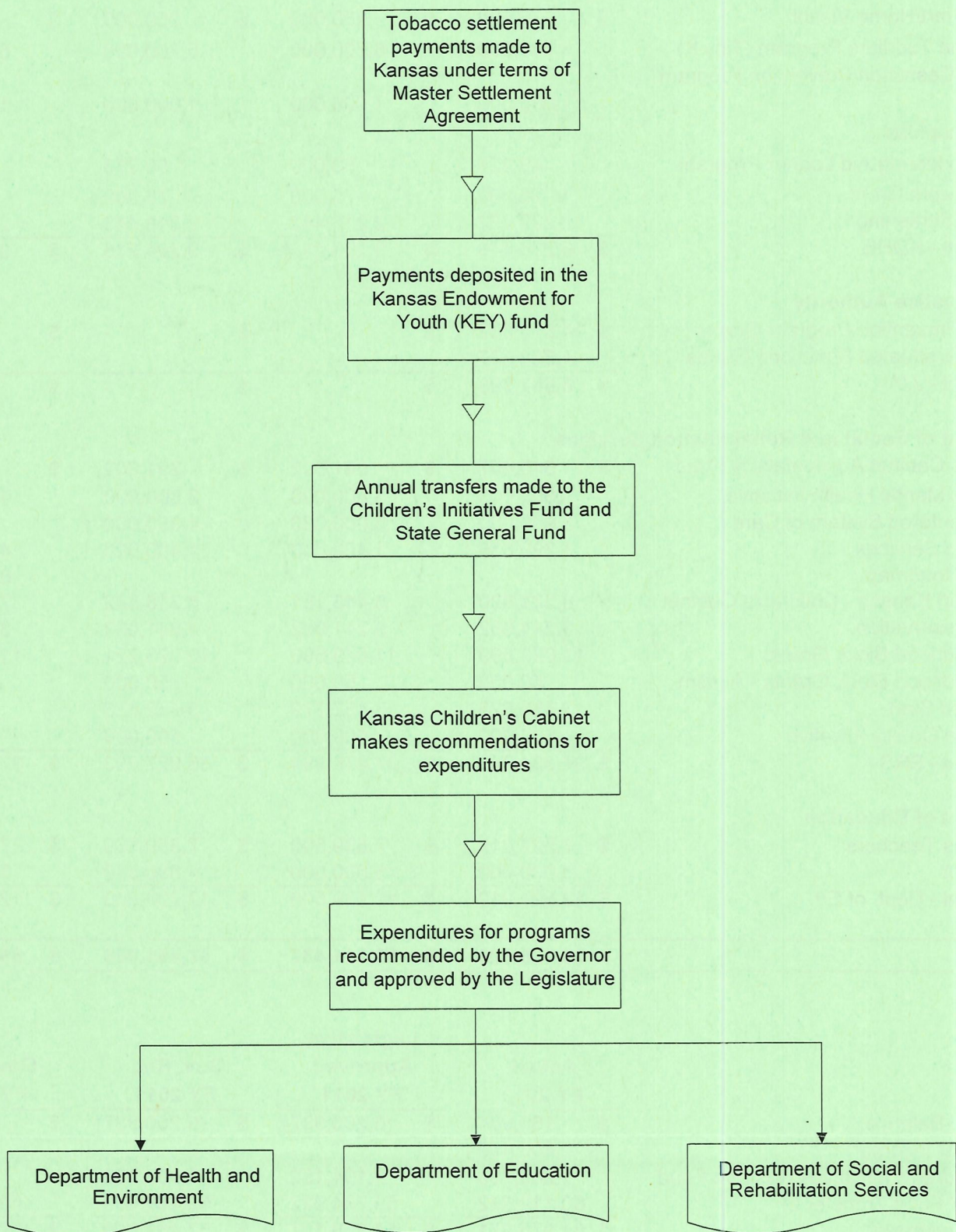
	Actual FY 2010	Legislative Approved FY 2011	Gov. Rec. FY 2011	Gov. Rec. FY 2012
Department of Health and Environment				
Healthy Start/Home Visitor	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Infants and Toddlers Program (Tiny K)	5,700,000	5,700,000	5,700,000	5,700,000
Smoking Cessation/Prevention Program Grants	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
PKU/Hemophilia		-		-
Newborn Hearing Aid Loaner Program	49,227	50,000	50,773	50,000
SIDS Network Grant	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Newborn Screening	2,222,222	2,218,443	2,218,443	2,218,443
Subtotal - KDHE	\$ 9,296,449	\$ 9,293,443	\$ 9,294,216	\$ 9,293,443
Juvenile Justice Authority				
Juvenile Prevention Program Grants	\$ 4,673,032	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Juvenile Graduated Sanctions Grants	4,324,677	-	-	-
Subtotal - JJA	\$ 8,997,709	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services				
Children's Cabinet Accountability Fund	\$ 545,407	\$ 541,802	\$ 291,802	\$ 541,802
Children's Mental Health Initiative	3,800,000	3,800,000	3,800,000	3,800,000
Family Centered System of Care	5,000,000	5,000,000	4,850,000	-
Child Care Services	1,399,836	1,400,000	1,400,000	4,852,779
Reading Roadmap	-	-	-	6,000,000
Smart Start Kansas - Children's Cabinet	8,321,820	8,443,161	8,318,582	7,468,582
Family Preservation	3,241,062	3,241,062	3,241,062	3,241,062
Early Childhood Block Grants	11,023,599	11,049,690	10,023,221	11,024,853
Early Childhood Block Grants - Autism	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Early Head Start	3,452,625	3,452,779	3,452,626	-
Child Care Quality Initiative	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Subtotal - SRS	\$ 37,334,349	\$ 37,478,494	\$ 35,927,293	\$ 37,479,078
Department of Education				
Parents as Teachers	\$ 7,527,019	\$ 7,539,500	\$ 7,359,130	\$ 7,539,500
Pre-K Pilot	5,000,000	5,000,000	4,880,370	5,000,000
Subtotal - Dept. of Ed.	\$ 12,527,019	\$ 12,539,500	\$ 12,239,500	\$ 12,539,500
TOTAL	\$ 68,155,526	\$ 59,311,437	\$ 57,461,009	\$ 59,312,021

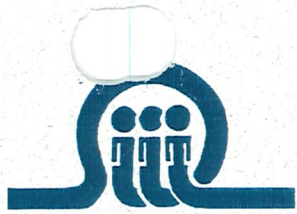
	Actual FY 2010	Legislative Approved FY 2011	Gov. Rec. FY 2011	Gov. Rec. FY 2012
Beginning Balance	\$ 165,984	\$ (6,200,937)	\$ (6,200,937)	\$ 428
Plus: Other Income*	406,440	-	-	-
Children's Initiatives Reserve Fund	1,283,705	1,194,152	1,194,152	-
KEY Fund Transfer In	60,119,242	59,764,922	62,469,685	59,311,593
Total Available	\$ 61,975,371	\$ 54,758,137	\$ 57,462,900	\$ 59,312,021
Less: Expenditures	68,155,526	59,311,437	57,461,009	59,312,021
Transfer Out to State General Fund	20,782	-	1,463	-
ENDING BALANCE	\$ (6,200,937)	\$ (4,553,300)	\$ 428	\$ -

* Other Income includes released encumbrances, recoveries and reimbursements.

Staff Note: The Governor's recommendation for FY 2011 transfers \$475,985 from the Kansas Endowment for Youth Fund to the Attorney General. The Governor's recommendation for FY 2012 recommends a transfer from the KEY fund to the Attorney General of \$485,593.

Flow of Tobacco Settlement Dollars in Kansas





Families Together, Inc.

Parent Training & Information Centers for Kansas

Home Page:
<http://www.familiestogetherinc.org>

Administrative Center
313 N. Seneca
Wichita, Kansas 67203
Voice/TDD (316) 945-7747
1-888-815-6364
Fax (316) 263-0031

Wichita Parent Center
3033 W. 2nd, Suite 106
Wichita, KS 67203
Voice/TDD (316) 945-7747
1-888-815-6364
Fax (316) 945-7795
wichita@familiestogetherinc.org

Topeka Parent Center
501 Jackson, Suite 400
Topeka, KS 66603
Voice/TDD (785) 233-4777
1-800-264-6343
Fax (785) 233-4787
topeka@familiestogetherinc.org

Garden City Parent Center
1518 Taylor Plaza
Garden City, KS 67846
Voice/TDD (620) 276-6364
1-888-820-6364
Espanol (620) 276-2380
Fax (620) 276-3488
gardencity@familiestogetherinc.org

Kansas City Parent Center
1333 Meadowlark Ln., Suite 103
Kansas City, KS 66102
Voice/TDD (913) 287-1970
1-877-499-5369
Fax (913) 287-1972
kansascity@familiestogetherinc.org

Statewide Spanish Parent Line
1-800-499-9443

Representative Kiegerl and members of the Children and Families Committee:

I am Connie Zienkewicz, Executive Director of Families Together, Inc. Families Together is a non-profit organization which serves Kansas families who have children with disabilities or special health care needs. We are dedicated to a society that includes and values all people. It is our mission to encourage, educate and empower families and their sons and daughters with disabilities to be effective advocates. We currently are the recipients of the Parent Training and Information Center grant from the Federal Department of Education to assist families in understanding and navigating the Special Education system, and the Family to Family Health Information Center grant to assist families of children and youth with special health care needs to find their way through the maze of health care. In addition, we also have contracts with Social and Rehabilitation Services, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the Kansas Department of Education to help each of those agencies serve families of children with disabilities or special health care needs.

At Families Together, we talk to families every day who are facing the challenge of finding appropriate services for their children in schools, the health care system and in their communities. Each year our staff members provide direct services to over 2500 families across the state. We have a newsletter that reaches about 10,000 families and the electronic version of the newsletter is sent to an additional 3000 parents and professionals in the field of education or other services to this population.

HOUSE CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES
DATE: JANUARY 27, 2011
ATTACHMENT NO.2

Assisting Parents and Their Sons and Daughters with Disabilities

One of the greatest concerns to the families we serve is support for their family in providing for the needs of their family member with a disability and the other members of the family. One way that the state has created to help families and individuals with disabilities is the Home and Community Based services waivers for persons with Developmental Disabilities, Head Injury, Physical Disabilities, and Severe Emotional Disabilities. These waivers have assisted families in getting appropriate services for their sons and daughters in their local communities instead of the institutional placements of the past.

In recent years, the funding for services on these waivers has not kept pace with the numbers of persons living in our communities in Kansas. Currently there are **1413** children under the age of 18 on the waiting list. That means that all those families are trying to meet the needs of all their family members without any support. Since services to children are provided by families and children are generally served in schools 7 hours a day, the services for children on the waiting list has not been addressed with the same vigor as those adults who do not have ANY services after graduation from school. The impact this has on families is that they do not have the respite to take a break from the day to day care-giving of the person with disabilities, the child or young adult does not have the support that they may need to access their community more independently, the siblings of the person with disabilities may not have the opportunity to access as many activities due to the care-giving responsibilities of the parents. This added stress on families makes it much more likely that a child with disabilities will be a victim of abuse than a child without disabilities. The rate of abuse or neglect of children with disabilities is 3.4 times that of typical children. (Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities, now called the Office of Child Abuse and Neglect)

From SRS: As of January 6, 2011, we have 3391 persons on the MR/DD waiting list who have a request date of 12/31/2010 or earlier. Of the 3391, 2383 are unserved, 1008 are underserved. Breakdown by ages is: 5-17: 1413, 18-64: 1965, 65+: 13

By providing training and support to families, Families Together works to decrease the stress on families and support their appropriate care and supervision of the care of their child with disabilities. Some of the ways that we support families include weekend training events for the entire family, phone and in person consultation with our staff about the concerns of the family, and materials and training for families, professionals in the Child Welfare system, and caregivers.

On a personal note, my husband and I are the parents of six children one of whom is a young lady with severe disabilities. She is 25. Fifteen or so years ago, we applied for the HCBS DD Waiver for her. She has received services in our home from caregivers since she was about 8. When she graduated from high school 4 years ago, she began receiving services due to her status as being "in crisis" since her dad and I were both working all day. She is on the waiting list for residential services at this time. The last time I checked she was about 2000 on the 4000+ waiting list for additional services. Currently she continues to reside with us in our family home with the support of Supportive Home Care workers. She is fortunate to have a family who can continue to care for her in the family home. Other adults are not so fortunate and must rely on elderly parents/caregivers to do what they can to provide a good safe environment for them.

Many families who need services now to support their children in their home are on that same LONG waiting list. This probably means that other children in the family don't have parents to attend their parent teacher conferences, little league games, or take them to the park because the parent is the caregiver for sibling with disabilities or special health care needs who cannot attend. This is a challenge for the parents who would like to be there to watch or support their other child, and for the sibling who needs the time and attention of the parents, as well. These added stresses contribute to the dissolution of families and to the possibility of abuse and neglect of some of all of the children in the family.

In addition to the inadequate funding for Community programs, the Education budget is being strained in Kansas school districts and across the country. Our school districts need adequate funding to provide the services to help our children – all children – to become the next leaders of our state. Making our schools the best they can be in preparing all children for a productive future should be another priority of this legislative session. In the area of Special Education, families and students need to see employment as the FIRST option for life after school. Many students with disabilities are not given that vision, but rather one of "being cared for" or no hope of a "REAL" job in our communities. Students and families need to help the schools to prepare for competitive employment with real success. When we help persons with disabilities to be tax payers instead of users of state dollars, we grow our economy, and more importantly we give dignity to the persons who are successful in their adult lives.

As a society and as a state, we need to find ways to support young families with the assistance they need to meet the needs of all members of the family. This little bit of support for families can reduce stress, add quality to marriages, and decreases the likelihood of abuse and neglect.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this information today.

Connie Zienkewicz, Executive Director

Wichita Parent Center

3033 W. 2nd, Suite 106
Wichita, KS 67203
(316) 945-7747
(316) 945-7795 (fax)

e-mail: wichita@families-together-inc.org

1-888-815-6364 toll free

Topeka Parent Center

501 Jackson, Suite 400
Topeka, KS 66603
(785) 233-4777
(785) 233-4787 (fax)

e-mail: topeka@families-together-inc.org

1-800-264-6343 toll free

Garden City Parent Center

1518 Taylor Plaza
Garden City, KS 67846
(620) 276-6364
(620) 276-2380 (Espanol)
(620) 276-3488 (fax)

e-mail: gardencity@families-together-inc.org

1-888-820-6364 toll free

Kansas City Parent Center

1333 Meadowlark Lane, Suite 103
Kansas City, KS 66102
(913) 287-1970
(913) 287-1972 (fax)

e-mail: kansascity@families-together-inc.org

1-877-499-5369 toll free

Statewide Spanish Parent Line
Lina Estratal de Padres en Espanol
1-800-499-9443

Administrative Center

313 N. Seneca, Suite 114
Wichita, KS 67203
Call the Wichita Center above

How Families Together Offers Assistance

The Parent Training and Information Centers in Wichita, Topeka, Garden City, and Kansas City provide literature, videos, and information on a variety of topics, such as:

Acceptance & Awareness
Assistive Technology
Community Based Instruction
Early Childhood
Educational Rights
Health & Medical Issues
IEP Development
Inclusion
Sibling Issues
Specific Disabilities
Support Groups
Transition

A newsletter is distributed quarterly to families, service providers, and education advocates who have requested to be on the Families Together mailing list.

Parents may call or come by any of the centers for individual assistance from other parents of sons and daughters with disabilities. Events including mini-conferences, Parent Networking Conferences and Family Enrichment Weekends are held statewide to provide opportunities for parents to learn and network with each other.

Families Together sponsors two state-wide conferences each year. Nationally known speakers gather with families, educators, and service providers to share successes and achievements and to provide information on current issues of interest.

Families Together provides a voice for families with the state legislature.

Families Together offers free workshops for parents whose children have disabilities and the professionals with whom they work. Examples of the workshops are Special Education Law, IEP Development, Step Ahead at Age Three, Discipline, and Effective Advocacy.



____ Yes, please add my name to the Families Together mailing list to receive the quarterly newsletter and send additional information regarding the Child Advocate Program.

____ (Free printed copy of newsletter to families, professionals \$10 annual subscription—free to professionals by email)

____ Yes, I am interested in serving as Child Advocate.

Name _____ Parent _____ Service Provider _____

Address _____ (City) _____ (Zip) _____

Telephone () _____ If no phone, how can you be reached? _____

Name of child with a disability _____ Date of Birth _____

Child's disability _____ Date of Birth _____

Other children in the family _____ Date of Birth _____

_____ Date of Birth _____

Mail this form to: Families Together, Inc. • 501 Jackson, Suite 400 • Topeka, KS 66603

Additional Programs

Education Advocate Program

Families Together coordinates the Education Advocate program through a contract with the Kansas State Department of Education. This program serves children whose parents are unknown, unavailable or whose parent rights have been terminated and the child needs someone to represent them in special education matters.

Child Advocate Program

Families Together and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment have developed a Child Advocate training Program to serve infants and toddlers with disabilities whose parents are unknown, unavailable or whose parental rights are terminated.

Parent-to-Parent of Kansas

This network coordinates the matching of "supporting" parents, who have experience parenting a child with a disability, with "newly referred" parents who have just learned their child has a disability. Parents can also utilize the program for any other situation in which they feel the need for additional support, such as transition periods, medical issues, and more.

What is Families Together?

Families Together, Inc. is a statewide organization that assists parents and their sons and daughters with disabilities. The program's mission is to encourage, educate, and empower families to be effective advocates for their own children.

Families Together, Inc. is dedicated to a society that includes and values all people. They offer families the security of belonging to a support network of other parents that face similar goals, challenges, and needs.

The Board of Directors and staff members are parents of sons and daughters with disabilities, consumers, siblings and advocates who believe that all students are entitled to support services. Through a variety of programs that Families Together, Inc. offers, parents are informed about available resources and services throughout the state. They have information about making the maximum use of the services needed to support their son or daughter, so that their children can realize their capability and pursue a full and satisfying life.

Additional Programs

Family-to-Family

The Kansas Family-to-Family Health Information Center (F2F HIC) helps families of children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) and the professionals who serve them. Because the health care needs of CYSHCN are chronic and complex, parents and caregivers are often challenged with finding the resources to provide and finance health care for their children. Staff at the Kansas F2F HIC understands the issues that families face, provides advice, offers a multitude of resources, and taps into a network of other families and professionals for support and information.



Families Together, Inc. is part of Project Number CFDA Nu. 84.328M Award No. H328M070001 from the US Department of Education, Special Education Programs, Department of Personnel Preparation

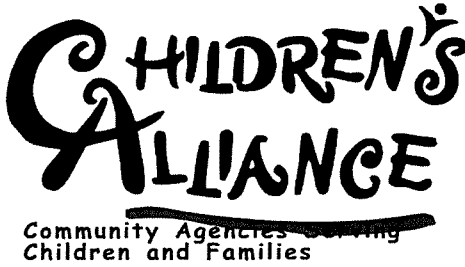


Parent Training &
Information Centers
for Kansas

1-888-815-6364 Wichita
1-888-820-6364 Garden City
1-800-264-6343 Topeka
1-877-499-5369 Kansas City

www.familiestogetherinc.org

Helping parents and their sons and daughters with disabilities for more than 25 years



Testimony on DD Waiver

House Children's Issues Committee

January 27, 2011

The Children's Alliance is dedicated to ensuring the health, safety and well being of children in our state. Our alliance of child welfare providers care for Kansas children and families in a variety of ways, including; family preservation, kinship care, foster care, adoption, residential services, and independent living. The goal for any child in out of home care in Kansas is to be reintegrated with family as quickly as possible or be placed in a family that can provide the child permanence. In order for this to happen, it is critical that appropriate services be available to all children.

Our organizations understand how important it is that a system of services be available for vulnerable children regardless of their needs. We also understand how important it is that collateral systems that offer these services be seamless in meeting the needs of these children. Many of the children our members serve face the same challenges.

We recognize that this is not the first difficult budget year Kansans have faced. Last year, foster care contracts were decreased by \$14 million and collectively nearly \$1 billion has been cut from the budget. This year the combined cuts in mental health total an additional \$15 million. All of these services are part of the critical infrastructure serving Kansans who have special needs. While it is easy for us to support the need for services for children with developmental challenges, we appreciate the difficulty that policymakers face in trying to fund these services.

As the Interim Children's Issues Committee heard, thousands of children are waiting for disability and autism services. Access to these services, like children's mental health services and child welfare services, often make a dramatic difference in a child's quality of life, development and family stability. The Children's Alliance has long advocated for a fully funded system of services for Kansas' children and families, wherein mental health needs, developmental supports, family supports and comprehensive health care is available to children and families needing these services.

Bruce Linhos
Executive Director

HOUSE CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES
DATE: JANUARY 27, 2011
ATTACHMENT NO.3