

**UPDATED
TENTATIVE
AGENDA***

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT

October 27, 2025

**Monday, October 27
Morning Session**

Room 112-N—Statehouse

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/live/vbaOSVm-hkY?si=afEspaYbO3G4mh1f>

Harmony: <https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00287/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20251027/-1/20824>

- 9:00 a.m. Child in Need of Care Appeals
- Kerrie Lonard, Child Advocate, Office of the Child Advocate (OCA)
 - The Honorable Kellie Hogan, 18th Judicial District Court Judge, and Grant Brazill, Kansas Supreme Court Task Force on Permanency Planning
- 10:00 a.m. Office of the Child Advocate Update
- Kerrie Lonard, Child Advocate, OCA
- 10:30 a.m. Liability Insurance for Case Management Providers
- Pat Murphy, Chief Revenue Officer, The Miller Group
 - Kristalle Hedrick, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Alliance of Kansas
- 11:00 a.m. Community Mental Health Center Services for Foster Youth
- Michelle Ponce, Associate Director, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas
- 11:30 a.m. Department for Children and Families (DCF) Update
- Laura Howard, Secretary for Children and Families, DCF
- 12:30 p.m. Working Lunch
- Lunch will be provided to committee members and staff.*
- Approval of August 4, 2025, meeting minutes
- 1:00 p.m. Testimony from Individuals, Providers, and Organizations Concerning the Kansas Child Welfare System
- Verbal Testimony*
- Jordan and Jasmine Chessher, Co-Founders, Project Heaven
 - Andrea Verbanic, private citizen
 - Sarah Goble, private citizen
 - Peter and Kimberlee Berezuk, private citizens

* Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in committee meetings. Requests for accommodation should be made at least two working days in advance of the meeting by contacting Legislative Administrative Services at (785) 296-2391 TTY: 711

- Nick Reinecker, private citizen
- Michelle and Victor Adams, private citizens
- Sherry Leshner, private citizen
- Ashley Crego, private citizen
- Meghann Miller, private citizen
- Rebecca Bryant, private citizen
- Dr. Jeffrey Boris, M.D., private citizen
- Kathy Winters, private citizen
- Karin Brownlee, private citizen
- Angela Spetalieri, private citizen
- Alicia Paschall, private citizen

Written-only Testimony

- Melissa Campos, private citizen
- Dr. Tamra Lemley, M.D., private citizen

- 1:30 p.m. Presentation on Social Welfare Workforce in Kansas
- Becky Fast, Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers - Kansas Chapter
 - Dr. Tim Davis, Chair, Fort Hays State University Department of Social Work
- 2:30 p.m. Family Preservation and Case Management Provider Updates
- Justin Horton, Chief Programs and Innovation Officer, Cornerstones of Care
 - Jeanette Owens, Chief Child Welfare Officer, DCCCA
 - Brenda Watkins, President, EmberHope Connections
 - Linda Bass, President, KVC Kansas
 - Matt Stephens, Vice President of Advocacy, St. Francis Ministries
 - Tabitha Gibson, Senior Vice President of Permanency Services, TFI Family Services
 - Kristalle Hedrick, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Alliance of Kansas
- 4:00 p.m. Committee Discussion and Recommendations
- 4:30 p.m. Adjourn