

DCF LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



March 6, 2023

TESTIMONY OF

Tanya Keys, Deputy Secretary

Kansas Department for Children and Families

&

Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

TESTIMONY ON

House Bill 2033

Chair

Senator Gossage

Vice Chair

Senator Erickson

Ranking Minority

Senator Pettey

and

Members of the Committee

SUMMARY OF ISSUE & DCF POSITION

Chair Gossage and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify as a proponent on HB 2033. House Bill 2033 proposes changes to the Child in Need of Care (CINC) and other statutes K.S.A. 38-2202, 38-2231, 38-2243, 38-2302, 38-2330, 65-536 and 75-52,164 defining behavioral health crisis.

CONTEXT & HISTORY

2018 House Substitute for SB 179 created law describing a Juvenile Crisis Intervention Center (JCIC) as a facility that provides short term observation, assessment, treatment, and case planning, and referral for any juvenile who is experiencing a mental health crisis and is likely to cause harm to self or others. K.S.A 65-536 sets forth the Secretary of DCF provide an annual report of specific information regarding outcomes of juveniles admitted into intervention centers to the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight, the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice, and the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Replacing the term “mental health” with the term “behavioral health” will provide opportunity and clarity for a comprehensive service array to families whose children are experiencing behavioral health crisis, to include mental health, substance use, and other behavioral needs.

Additionally, DCF restarted the JCIC rules and regulations process and provided those regulations to Department of Administration on in January 17, 2023 for their review to advance to the Attorney General for review. The agency is also is working with Johnson County to determine next steps in their program needs.

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION & FISCAL IMPACT

The definition of behavioral health will provide flexibility for Juvenile Crisis Intervention Centers to serve youth with substance use disorder presenting situations. There is no fiscal impact to DCF.

DCF POSITION

DCF and KDADS are supportive of this legislation and would ask this committee to pass House Bill 2033 favorably.