



Committee on Federal and State Affairs

February 5, 2019

HB 2094

Presented by:

Tanya Keys

Deputy Secretary

Kansas Department for Children and Families

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Testimony of:

Tanya Keys, Deputy Secretary
Kansas Department for Children and Families

Testimony on:

HB 2094

Chair Barker, Vice Chair Awerkamp, Ranking Member Ruiz and Members of the Committee:

The Department for Children and Families appreciates the work of the committee and is grateful for its interest in protecting the children of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to present neutral testimony to provide information on DCF policies related to problem sexual behaviors in children.

Current DCF policy allows investigators to consider reports of problem sexual behavior for a Family In Need Assessment when the parents are aware of the issue, are willing to address it, but at the time of the report are not able to address it on their own and need an assessment for possible services. Depending on the needs of the child and family, those post-assessment services would often include referrals to community-based counseling, as DCF does not have counselors on staff. If the parents are aware of the issue but are unwilling to address the behavior, the report of problem sexual behavior may be assigned for abuse/neglect assessment.

Our agency is committed to ensuring services are provided for children who are victims of abuse as well as those with problem sexual behaviors. As required by K.S.A. 38-222(b), the department and law enforcement jointly investigate cases of suspected sexual abuse.

If the committee moves forward with HB 2094, DCF is requesting clarifying language regarding the types of counseling that will need to be offered, and whether the bill requires DCF only to provide the referrals for children and families to counseling and other services, or if the bill requires DCF to pay for all uninsured costs related to the counseling.

I thank you for the opportunity to address this important issue and I am happy to stand for questions.