

Kansas Department of

# **Social and Rehabilitation Services**

Janet Schalansky, Secretary

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice  
Committee

February 6, 2003

HB 2030 - Educational Programs for  
Reporters of Child Abuse

Integrated Service Delivery

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**HB 2030 - Educational Program for Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse**

Representative Loyd and members of the Committee, I am Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Increasing the awareness and knowledge of those mandated to report suspected abuse and neglect of children improves safety for children and decreases the burden on intake staff who must screen out reports which don't rise to the level of abuse or neglect. Community understanding of child abuse and neglect is an important component of our responsibility to provide safety to children in Kansas.

Currently, SRS provides grant money to Kansas Children Service League (KCSL) to publish and distribute a booklet entitled A Guide to Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in Kansas to any person requesting information regarding reporting abuse and neglect. In FY 2002, KCSL distributed more than 12,500 booklets. Presentations by KCSL or SRS staff are available upon request within the limits of staffing and budget.

The Committee may wish to give further thought to the feasibility of providing a 4 hour training for all mandated reporters within the time frame set out in the bill. The number of licensed psychologists; psychotherapists; marriage and family therapists; professional counselors; registered substance abuse counselors; licensed child care providers; licensed social workers; and those licensed to practice healing arts or dentistry, or optometry alone, currently exceeds 28,000. K.S.A. 38-1522 also identifies as mandated reporters: persons engaged in postgraduate training programs approved by the state board of healing arts; licensed nurses examining, attending or treating a child under the age of 18; teachers, school administrators or other employees of a school which the child is attending; chief administrative officers of medical care facilities; firefighters; emergency medical services personnel; mediators appointed under K.S.A. 23-602 and amendments thereto; juvenile intake and assessment workers; and law enforcement officers. The specific number is unknown but represents a significant investment in training.

The second area of consideration is the complexity of the outlined curriculum. For

example, the bill calls for a review of methods of 'diagnosing injuries' inflicted as a result of abuse. The statute regarding mandated reporters states that reporters are required 'to report if there is a reason to suspect' a child has been injured as a result of abuse or neglect. Diagnosing injuries is a skill most mandated reporters are unlikely to acquire within the 4 hour time frame. Please consider requiring the training to provide information on the indicators of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and physical neglect.

To develop a publicity and educational program; establish and implement a procedure to certify programs meet the course requirements and coordinate with licensing or certification entities will require 2 full time FTEs prior to July 1, 2004. One of these employees would be needed beyond July 1, 2004 to perform future certifications. Additionally, there will be a cost for the employers required to deliver this educational program to more than 30,000 mandated reporters statewide by July 1, 2004.

Thank you and I will stand for questions.