



DCF Legislative Testimony

February 3, 2026

TESTIMONY OF: Tanya Keys, Deputy Secretary, Department for Children and Families

TESTIMONY ON: Oral, Proponent, SB 414: Authorizing the secretary of corrections to enter into a memorandum of understanding to provide money from the evidence-based programs account to residential facilities with behavioral health crisis intervention services for juveniles.

DCF | SB414 | ORAL | PROPONENT

Chair **Warren** and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 414, which amends K.S.A. 65-536 (h) to expand the type of crisis intervention service facility programs eligible to receive evidence-based funds. The purpose of this bill is positive wellbeing outcomes for all children in Kansas, specifically:

- Increased capacity and number of crisis intervention service facilities across the state for all children.
- Amplify crisis intervention continuum of care for all children.
- Prevent the need for further institutional care.
- Support parent’s capacity to prevent the need to enter foster care.
- Expand use of Kansas Department of Corrections juvenile evidenced based fund to include facilities licensed by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) for crisis intervention services.

Proposed amendment language in K.S.A. 65-536 (h) is: (h) The secretary of corrections may enter into memorandums of agreement with other cabinet agencies to provide funding, not to exceed \$2,000,000 annually, from the evidence-based programs account of the state general fund or other available appropriations for juvenile crisis intervention services *provided by a licensed juvenile crisis intervention center or other residential facility licensed by the Kansas department for children and families or the Kansas department for aging and disability services that has a program purpose of behavioral health crisis intervention for juveniles.*

BACKGROUND

This bill expands facilities eligible to receive crisis intervention service funds in K.S.A 65-536 (h) to include facilities licensed by KDADS.

K.S.A 65-536 sets forth that a juvenile crisis intervention center (JCIC) is a facility that provides short-term observation, assessment, treatment and case planning, and referral for any juvenile who is experiencing a behavioral health crisis and is likely to cause harm to self or others. A juvenile may be admitted to a juvenile crisis intervention center for not more than 30 days. A parent with legal custody or legal guardian of a juvenile placed in a juvenile crisis intervention center may remove such juvenile from the center at any time. A JCIC may serve any child in Kansas and is not limited to serving children and youth in the custody of the Secretary of the Department for Children and Families.

The law, effective July 1, 2018, contains various administrative requirements and operations of a JCIC program including that DCF promulgate rules and regulations to implement a JCIC and the secretary of corrections entered into memorandums of agreement with DCF for the use of funds from the evidence-based fund account on January 6, 2024, and regulations for JCIC facility (licensed by DCF) became effective June 7, 2024, [Juvenile Crisis Intervention Center Laws and Regulations June 2024.pdf](#). On October 1, 2025, DCF awarded the first JCIC grant funds from the evidenced based fund account to O’Connell Children’s

Shelter, whose contract is from Oct. 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025, for \$1,500,000. For JCIC fund account award for SFY 27 and out years, a Request For Proposal was released Sept. 9, 2025, and closed Nov. 21, 2025, and is currently in the review phase for award.

NEED FOR CHANGE

Expanding eligible bidders to licensed facilities by KDADS creates more opportunity for innovative programs. Since imagining Juvenile Crisis Intervention Centers in the 2018 law, additional facility-based crisis intervention service program models have been innovated and implemented. To build capacity of facility models in communities across Kansas, more crisis intervention facilities would benefit from an ability to access the \$2,000,000 account fund.

There is no fiscal impact to this bill as it simply expands eligible providers for the \$2,000,000 in the evidence-based fund account through Kansas Department of Corrections.

We ask that the committee pass out favorably.