

# KANSAS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

68-West-Statehouse, 300 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504  
(785) 296-3181 ♦ FAX (785) 296-3824

kslegres@klrd.ks.gov

<http://www.kslegislature.org/klrd>

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**To:** Joint Committee on Health Policy Oversight  
**From:** Iraida Orr, Principal Analyst  
**Re:** Preliminary Recommendations for Inclusion in Committee Report to the 2013 Legislature

This memorandum outlines the potential recommendations to be considered for inclusion in the Committee report to the 2013 Legislature, as discussed in the Committee meeting today.

## **Preliminary Recommendations:**

Based on the testimony heard and the Committee deliberations, the Committee reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

- Commend the work of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) staff, especially Rachel Berroth (Director for the Bureau of Family Health), for the smooth and successful implementation of Lexie's Law.
- Highlight the *2012 NACCRRRA Report of State Standards and Oversight of Small Family Child Care Centers* which cites an improvement in the State's ranking from 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation in 2010 to 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2012, and recognize the support provided by Child Care Aware to providers.
- Recognize the importance of enacting 2012 HB 2660 to address concerns encountered by KDHE in implementing the requirement in Lexie's Law that each applicant for licensure as a day care provider be a high school graduate, by authorizing the Secretary of KDHE to grant an exception to the high school diploma requirement when an applicant for a day care facility is otherwise qualified and the exception is in the best interest of all children in the applicant's care.
- Commend Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities (KCCTO), which has provided timely online training in response to Lexie's Law to more than 1,800 child care providers in 90 counties. The Committee wishes to highlight the enthusiasm of KCCTO in providing training for child care professionals.

- Recognize the Kansas Department of Health and Environment staff for their timely work on new and amended regulations for day care homes, group day care homes, child care centers, and preschools, which became effective February 3, 2012.
- Consider that although the Kansas Department of Health and Environment budget cuts have not affected the Child Care Licensing Program, other cuts have been made to entities providing training to child care providers and child care resources and referral services for families (such as a more than 60 percent budget cut to Child Care Aware of Kansas); and recognize Lexie's Law<sup>1</sup> was deemed by the Legislature to be worthy of the time and effort it took to enact it, and sufficient funding is needed to support the law adequately.

**Proposed Legislation:** The Committee recommends legislation be presented during the 2013 Legislative Session providing for legislative oversight of KanCare.

Other Matters for Discussion or Consideration:

- The Joint Committee on Health Policy Oversight is set to sunset on July 1, 2013. The Committee may wish to consider whether the Committee should continue by examining the following:
  - Is the Committee's charge being accomplished by another Joint or Standing committee or committees?
  - Are there policy considerations for continuing or allowing the Committee to sunset?
- There is no liability insurance requirement for day care homes, group day care homes, and school age programs. Does the Committee have any recommendations on this topic?