

The Budget Committee notes a recent round-table discussion involving both administrative and field staff from the Kansas Department for Children and Families and its contractors. This round-table discussion gave committee members an opportunity to ask questions to field and executive staff regarding the challenges of ensuring the child welfare system in Kansas remains one of the safest in the nation. The Budget Committee notes it was especially encouraging to hear about the hard work and dedication exemplified by field staff from DCF, Saint Francis Community Services and KVC Kansas. As the Budget Committee monitors the welfare of children in Kansas, the Committee observes that this continues to be the highest priority for DCF and its contractors. The Committee notes its satisfaction with the collaborative spirit of these stakeholders as they continue to foster a positive environment for employees and a safe system for children. The Budget Committee recognizes that, in the most recently-completed Child and Family Services Review completed by the federal government, Kansas ranked second in the country in protecting children in the system from abuse and neglect. Finally, and equally important, the Budget Committee will diligently work together with DCF, its contractors and various stakeholders, to help make Kansas one of the best states for recruiting and retaining social workers in the nation.