

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1143

By: Peters

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to child abuse prevention; creating a pilot program to service children at high risk of abuse and neglect; providing for content; establishing an evaluation board; providing for membership and duties; providing for promulgation of rules and time for statewide implementation; detailing contents of program; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 7004-1.7 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. A pilot program to serve children at high risk of abuse and neglect shall be established and begin operations no later than January 1, 2002, and end no later than November 1, 2004.

B. The pilot program shall:

1. Identify the populations of children at high risk of abuse and neglect and characteristics of those children at high risk of abuse and neglect, including, but not limited to, populations in which parental drug and/or alcohol abuse, mental illness, mental and/or physical disability and domestic abuse are an issue;

2. Develop and design programs to provide services to children at high risk of abuse and neglect;

3. Develop methods for coordinating state and local services to assist high risk children and their families;

4. Allow and provide for participation of both urban and rural concerns in developing and designing such programs;

5. Monitor, evaluate and review the programs implemented to serve populations of children at high risk of abuse and neglect; and

6. Include such other areas, programs, services and information deemed necessary by the Department of Human Services to provide a comprehensive assessment of the needs and programs necessary to provide assistance to children at high risk of abuse and neglect.

C. The pilot program shall be established and operated by the Department of Human Services in consultation with an evaluating board established pursuant to this section.

D. Expenses for establishment and operation of the pilot program shall not exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) the first year of operation and Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) the second year of operation.

E. The evaluating board shall determine the effectiveness of the pilot program, and make a report to the Legislature, no later than May 1, 2005. Such report shall cover:

1. Effective programs that will serve children that are at high risk of abuse and neglect;

2. Statewide expansion of programs;

3. Funding sources;

4. Training of professionals to serve such populations;

5. Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing continued effectiveness of such programs;

6. Special needs of children at risk of abuse and neglect from parental addiction to drugs and alcohol and parental mental illness and mental and/or physical disability and from domestic abuse; and

7. Recommendations regarding the issuance of grants and contracts for serving such high-risk populations.

F. The evaluating board shall consist of not more than two appointees who have expertise in the child abuse prevention area or

related fields and who have an understanding of evaluation techniques from the following officials and agencies:

1. The Governor;
2. The Speaker of the House of Representatives;
3. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
4. The Department of Human Services;
5. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Services;

6. The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth;
7. The Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission;
8. The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy;
9. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority;
10. The Oklahoma Court-Appointed Special Advocate Association;

and

11. The State Department of Health.

G. 1. Upon receipt of recommendations of the board evaluating the pilot project established pursuant to this section which indicates that the expansion of the pilot project on a statewide basis would be economically feasible and practical, the Commission for Human Services shall promulgate rules for developing a statewide program serving populations of children at high risk of abuse and neglect.

2. Upon promulgation of rules by the Commission, the provisions of this section shall become effective statewide.

H. The Department of Human Services may:

1. Contract for services necessary to carry out the duties of the Department pursuant to the provisions of this section; and

2. Accept the services of volunteer workers or consultants and reimburse them for their necessary expenses pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby

declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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