

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

SENATE BILL 997

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AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to children; amending 10 O.S. 2001, Section 7004-1.7, which relates to pilot programs for children at risk of abuse and neglect; extending effective date of program; providing for expansion of program; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2001, Section 7004-1.7, is amended to read as follows:

Section 7004-1.7 A. A pilot program to serve children at high risk of abuse and neglect shall be established by the Department of Human Services in consultation with an evaluation team created pursuant to this section if funds are available. The pilot program shall ~~begin no later than February 1, 2002,~~ and end no later than May 1, ~~2005~~ 2008.

B. As funds are available, the Department of Human Services shall expand the pilot program to include at least one rural community that has the capacity to meet the needs of children at high risk of abuse and neglect.

C. 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.~~ D. An evaluation team shall determine the effectiveness of the pilot program, and make a ~~preliminary~~ final report to the Legislature, no later than February 1, ~~2005~~ 2008. 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.

~~D.~~ E. The evaluation team shall consist of not more than two representatives from the following entities who have expertise in child abuse prevention or a related field and who have an understanding of program evaluation techniques:

1. The Department of Human Services;

2. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services;

3. The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth;

4. The Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission;

5. The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy;

6. The Oklahoma Court-Appointed Special Advocate Association;

7. The University of Oklahoma; and

8. Oklahoma State University.

~~E.~~ F. 1. Upon receipt of recommendations of the team 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, provided funding is available for such expansion.

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

~~F.~~ G. 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.