



FAST FACTS

Agency Background

Kansas Children's Service League is a private, not-for-profit agency serving children and families with offices and affiliates throughout Kansas. Founded in 1893, the League provides a continuum of programs and services, advocates for children, and collaborates with other public and private agencies to increase effectiveness and promote efficiency and quality. The League's services and advocacy efforts focus on keeping children safe, families strong, and communities involved.

Our Mission

To protect and promote the well-being of children.

Our History

The League has its roots in two parent agencies: The Kansas Children's Home Society, founded in Topeka in 1893, and The Christian Service League, founded in 1906 in Wichita. Both agencies concentrated on finding permanent homes for orphaned or abandoned children and foster homes for children whose parents were temporarily unable to care for them. The two agencies merged in 1926. The newly combined agency continued its tradition of providing direct services to children and families and directing a strong child advocacy program.

During the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s the League's most visible work was infant adoption. By the 1970s, societal changes lead to decreases in the number of babies placed for adoption. In response, the League developed a broader range of services to meet the changing needs of children and families. Among these services was Head Start, which the League still provides in 13 Western Kansas Counties. Recognizing the need for services for children 0-3, the League began providing Early Head Start Services in Finney County in 2001.

In 1993, the Kansas Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse merged with the League, bringing the Parent Helpline, parent support groups, and a statewide network of child abuse prevention affiliates to the

agency. By the early 1990s a new prevention program, Healthy Families, was developed to support at-risk parents of newborns. Currently the League offers Healthy Families in five Kansas communities and a variety of child abuse prevention and community based services across the state aimed at strengthening families and preventing out of home care.

Since 1996 when the state of Kansas extensively privatized its child welfare services, the League has partnered with the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to serve children in the state's care. This new community-based delivery model is credited with significant positive outcomes for kids including increased safety while in care and more timely permanency. Currently, the League holds the Statewide Adoption contract and sponsors a network of resource family foster homes delivering care and support to some of Kansas' most vulnerable children.

The League is a charter member of the Child Welfare League of America and the Kansas chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America. The League has achieved national accreditation from the Council on Accreditation and is a member of 15 United Way agencies across the state.

Agency Snapshot

Number of employees (approximate): 250

Number of children & families served annually: 40,000

Top Administrators:

Janet Schalansky, President/CEO

Jeff Wietharn, Board Chair

Central Office:

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