We welcome your questions by email. We will decline an on-camera interview.

Ms. Freed,
I’m just following up on the below request. I also left you a couple of voicemails. Just wondering where we are on the process of an on-camera interview for the questions discussed in the below emails and previous KORA requests.

Thanks!

Rachel Schrag Sommerfeld
Executive Producer
KSN | ksn.com
833 North Main St. Wichita, KS 67203
Newsroom: 316-292-1111
Direct: 316-292-1141   Cell: 316-

Ms. Freed,
Thanks for taking my call yesterday regarding an on-camera interview. After our conversation, I found an organizational chart regarding the supervision/chain of command for DCF, linked here: http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Documents/PPSORGChart.pdf

If this online chart is still accurate with correct names/positions, I would like to formally request an on-camera interview at the soonest possible date with one (or more) of the following individuals: Michael Myers, Dianne Keech, Maryann Peerboom. As we discussed last night, I believe it would be appropriate to issue these questions on why policies are the way they are, how they were developed, etc. with an individual in the Topeka office, as I am looking for more information than a simple explanation of a policy, as I have been able to do extensive research on the policies on the online policy
database, located here: http://content.dcf.ks.gov/PPS/robohelp/PPMGenerate/ (Thanks for your help in directing me towards this helpful document!)

As we also discussed last night, I would like the opportunity to discuss and ask questions on the DCF/Kansas Protection Report Center’s procedures and policies that I’ve been discussing in my KORA requests including, but not limited to, the process of Initial Assessment, Preliminary Inquiry, Investigation; policies on timely responses, how those policies work, why they are what they are, what the procedures are for following up, failure to respond in a timely matter, how those determinations of what is “timely” are made, on-time percentage rates and their further documentation, what the follow-up procedure is for failing to have timely responses in cases, how a case is handled after it has not had a timely response, etc. I would also like to discuss the process of contact with victim, family, alleged perpetrator, how the case progresses, what elements are involved in an investigation, etc. As the flow of my KORA requests has shown, I am interested in cases involving children/child abuse & neglect, child protective services, etc. not adult protective services.

I’m also interested in finding out more about the DCF staffing and workload. I understand from a variety of your press releases in the past, that DCF can struggle with finding qualified social workers willing to take on the challenging position of working in DCF. Your March 6, 2015 press release said that “DCF typically has approximately 50 vacant social worker positions, which it struggles to fill.” (Source: http://www.dcf.ks.gov/Newsroom/Pages/03-06-2015.aspx) I’d like to discuss more on that concern and how the agency works under the constraints of staffing shortages and the effort to fill those positions, such as through the Recruitment and Retention Workgroup.

Thanks again for your continued help with the additional KORA questions listed below, and in setting up an on-camera interview. I look forward to your response and an opportunity to schedule that interview as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Rachel Schrag Sommerfeld
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