Thank you for the opportunity to respond. Our written statement is:

“This was an unthinkable tragedy. Our hearts go out to those affected by this child’s death. We will not contribute to a story that sensationalizes a family’s pain by participating in an on-camera interview for which we were refused questions/accusations that would allow us to provide accurate responses. We have spent months providing information to KSN with regard to our policies and procedures. We also sat down with a KSN reporter on Friday, April 17, for more than an hour, to have an open discussion with a subject-matter expert as we provided even further information. Despite the many hours spent addressing KSN’s questions, the news outlet continues to insist that the Kansas Department for Children and Families has been uncooperative. We hope members of the public who have questions about agency efforts to protect children will contact DCF directly to receive accurate and complete information. It is our mission to protect children, promote healthy families and encourage personal responsibility.”

Theresa Freed
Director of Communications
Kansas Department for Children and Families
Desk: 785-296-0537
Cell: 785-296-0537
Theresa,

Let’s look at the reality – there is no media outlet in the country that would call “reading a statement” an interview. If you would like to read a statement, then you can read a statement. But us supplying questions and your organization answering those questions in a separate room without us being about to follow up is not an interview.

You are offering to send us a taped statement. An interview is a meeting- where two or more people freely exchange questions and answers. Again, we are asking for an on-camera interview. If you refuse an on-camera interview, then you are welcome to send us a taped statement. We will also include that, as well as your specific rejections of an interview, your “qualifications” for a taped statement guised as an interview, and the other correspondence where we’ve requested an on camera interview and you’ve denied it in our report.

We believe in transparency. We’ve been as transparent as possible – we began asking questions about policies in February. Our first KORA was in March. We’ve gone back-and-forth since then trying to get clear answers and responses. We’ve gone beyond the normal expectations of requests and been incredibly patient with the back-and-forth.

We need an answer by Wednesday for an on-camera interview.

Looking forward to an answer,
Denise

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I realize this is not a traditional interview, but as I explained, it is similar to recording an agency representative reading a statement. You would be supplying the questions. So in this way, it is an interview. We are not refusing an on-camera interview. We are providing conditions for conducting the interview to ensure accuracy and to protect confidentiality requirements by which are bound. We are
happy to help inform the public about our policies and procedures. We are not interested in sensationalizing a family’s pain. This case is a horrendous tragedy. Our hearts go out to anyone affected by this child’s death.

Theresa Freed
Director of Communications
Kansas Department for Children and Families
Desk: 785-296-0537
Cell: 785-

Theresa, 
As we discussed via email, if your conditions are that we provide questions and you respond to them on tape, that is not an interview. 
I was told by Chuck that you would have a response to our interview request by Wednesday? Are you willing to do an actual interview on camera? I do know that Brittany discussed the possibility that it could be more than one person - and as I discussed with Chuck, it is perfectly reasonable that not one person would have all the answers to the questions we have. As I discussed with Chuck, our deadline for an on-camera interview (an actual interview where we ask the questions, someone from DCF answers and we record it all in the same room) is Wednesday – tomorrow. 
Thanks for getting some clarification on the questions we’ve been asking via email for three months. We look forward to getting some clarification.
Looking forward to setting up an interview hopefully this week.
Thanks,
Denise

Denise Killian
From: Theresa Freed [mailto:Theresa.Freed@dcf.ks.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 12:34 PM
To: Denise Killian
Cc: Rachel Sommerfeld; Brittany Glas
Subject: follow-up questions

Good afternoon,

Chuck forwarded me yesterday, the additional follow-up questions. I am working with our Prevention and Protection Services attorney to address these. I was informed that the information may not be provided immediately, but we are working on it. I advised Brittany on Friday, that we will be happy to do an on-camera interview with a few conditions and that I would check with our legal department on whether we can respond to direct allegations that will be made public. I have not heard back from Brittany on these items we discussed. If I can be of any further assistance in the meantime, please let me know.

Thanks,

Theresa Freed
Director of Communications
Kansas Department for Children and Families
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