

neglect or poverty?

Child advocates  
split on when one  
or the other puts  
children at risk

Grace Hills  
The Kansas Reflector

TOPEKA - Testimony over a proposal to redefine “neglect” for the child welfare system showed a divide between social workers and law enforcement.

Legislation in the House seeks to prevent the removal of children from homes based solely

on poverty, an issue that child welfare advocates in Kansas have long said the state confuses with neglect.

“Changing the definition of neglect will change the direction of child welfare in our state,” said Rep. Cyndi Howerton (R-Wichita) who chairs the Child Welfare and Foster Care Committee. “I am curious why we are divided. That may be a systemic issue that we need to look more into.”

House Bill 2132 would change the word “failure” to “refusal” in state policies related to neglect.

**This bill really strips us of our ability to protect those at-risk children, and it doesn't add any services to them. The services that those families need are intense. They need mental health treatment. They need drug and alcohol treatment.**

Tabitha Owen, Smith County attorney

The word change aims to evaluate families’ care when they are financially available or offered the needed resources.

The bill would prohibit the removal of a child based solely on isolation, a parent’s age, crowded housing, substance abuse, parental drug exposure, mental health, disabilities, special needs or truancy.

“Abuse can occur in

every socioeconomic status, but unfortunately nationally 85% of families investigated by children and family services live 200% below the poverty line,” said Gail Cozadd of the Kansas Children’s Service League.

Brenna Visocsky of Kansas Appleseed said that of the 6,000 kids in foster care in Kansas, which is twice the nation-

al average based on population, more than half of them are attributed to neglect.

“What seems like a minor language change can keep hundreds of families in Kansas together, and increase their opportunities to thrive,” Visocsky said.

Kristalle Hedrick, CEO of the Children’s Alliance of Kansas, spoke in support of the bill, citing the 655 cases of child removals primarily because of neglect or truancy in the last fiscal year in Kansas.

Hedrick said poverty is often a root cause of

a child missing school, as parents without access to transportation or child care face challenges in getting their children to school.

However, Hedrick said that the alliance was divided on whether to support the bill.

Opponents to the bill said they agreed that poverty should not be a factor in removing children from a home, and noted the harm of placing a child in foster care. But they raised concerns about the possibility of leaving chil-

(See POVERTY on page 23)

Scott City Council Agenda

Tuesday, February 18 • 6:30 p.m.  
City Hall • 221 West 5th Street

- Approve minutes of February 3 regular meeting
- Appoint city representative for the Scott County Development Committee
- Approve mayor’s appointments to city offices and commissions
- Elect council president
- Approve 2025 Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual
- Discuss/approve BS&A government software
- Approve CCLIP agreement for preservation of US83 Highway
- Approve Miller Pipeline BASE grant

- SCDC Director Nicole Martin  
1) Monthly update

- Water project update by GMS resident project representative Mark Hornberger

Open agenda. Audience is invited to voice ideas and concerns. A time limit may be requested

- Pool Department  
1) Misc. business

- Building Inspector  
1) Misc. business

- Police Department  
1) Misc. business

- Parks Department  
1) Misc. business

- Public Works Department  
1) Misc. business

- Clerk’s Department  
1) Misc. business

- City administrator’s comments  
1) GMD annual meeting on March 5

- City attorney’s comments

- Financial reports

- Executive session(s)

- Mayor’s comments

- Adjournment

Agenda is subject to change between time of publication and time of meeting. Please visit <https://www.scottcityks.org/government/city-council/agendas-and-minutes> for updates.

Scott County Commission Agenda

Tuesday, February 18  
County Courthouse

- 4:00 County business  
Emergency Preparedness Director  
Tim Stoecklein - Radios
- 4:15 Sandra Acosta and Menesis Navaro  
District Court
- 4:30 Tod Salfrank - Transystems  
Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant
- 5:00 Scott County Hospital CEO Mark Burnett  
Annual Financial Report
- 5:15 Madison Scotese - Nextera Update
- 5:30 Public Works Director J.C. Amack

Agenda may change before the meeting. Contact County Clerk Marie Allen for an updated agenda (620-872-2420) or visit [www.scott.kansasgov.com](http://www.scott.kansasgov.com)

Scott Co. LEC Report

Week of February 3-9

Police Department

**Feb. 6:** A lost property report was filed with the police department.

**Feb. 9:** 3:41 p.m. A non-injury vehicle accident occurred in the 600 block of Elizabeth Street.

**Feb. 9:** 4:34 p.m. Officers responded to a juvenile problem at Jefferson/Alice Streets.

Sheriff’s Department

**Feb. 3:** 5:03 p.m. 1310 S. Main. Icela Rivero, 18, Garden City, was arrested for DUI.

**Feb. 3:** 5:03 p.m. 1310 S. Main. Lorena Ramirez, 18, Garden City, was arrested for domestic battery.

**Feb. 5:** 5:09 p.m. Officer responded to a juvenile problem at 809 W. 9th Street.

**Feb. 7:** 5:39 p.m. Claudia Astudillo, 47, Scott City, was arrested on a local warrant and transported to the Scott County Law Enforcement Center.

Public Notice

(First published in The Scott County Record on Thurs., Feb. 6, 2025; last published Thurs., Feb. 13, 2025)2t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
SCOTT COUNTY, KANSAS

Fernanda Gonzalez Aragon, plaintiff  
and  
Kansas Department of Revenue,  
and  
Trenton Cantrell

Case No. SC24CV15

Pursuant to Chapter 60 of  
Kansas Statutes Annotated

NOTICE OF SUIT

To Trenton Cantrell and all other concerned persons:

You are notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Scott County by Fernanada Gonzalez Aragon, Plaintiff, praying that title to property stated in the Petition be awarded to the Plaintiff and you are hereby required to plead to the Petition on or before March 19, 2025. If you fail to plead, judgment will be entered upon the Petition.

Fernanda Gonzalez Aragon  
402 N. College  
Scott City, Ks. 67871

check us out at [scottcountyrecord.com](http://scottcountyrecord.com)

Public Notice

(Published in The Scott County Record Thurs., Feb. 13, 2025)1t

TREASURER’S QUARTERLY STATEMENT

SCOTT COUNTY, KANSAS • AS OF JAN. 31, 2025

Total cash in the Scott County Treasury as of the above date  
**\$22,497,421.98**

FUND	FUND BALANCES
General .....	\$ 1,893,687.45
Sheriff’s Department .....	17,816.21
Community Development Block Grant Loan .....	0.00
Fight Addiction Fund .....	18,192.90
Micro-Loan Revolving Loan Fund .....	3,203.13
Coronavirus SPARK Fund .....	0.00
Alcohol Program .....	30,578.62
Indoor Arena Fund .....	2,396.29
Special Cemetery Equipment .....	14,149.32
County Employee Benefits .....	2,199,046.21
County Health - M. Koehn Memorial .....	122.67
County Health - J. Binns Memorial .....	391.99
County Health .....	68,045.46
County Health - Emergency Preparedness .....	20,946.03
County Health - Special Assistance .....	92,349.58
Hospital Maintenance .....	25,899.65
Ambulance .....	5,277.22
Library Maintenance .....	0.00
Library Building .....	36,834.94
Noxious Weed .....	80,828.56
Special Noxious Weed Equipment .....	64,227.84
Landfill Special Equipment Sales .....	129,683.19
Road and Bridge .....	631,732.74
Fire District .....	254,375.73
County Public Buildings .....	1,653,141.00
Special Highway Improvement .....	182,224.46
Special Parks and Recreation .....	10,558.39
Special Road Machinery .....	79,353.04
Equipment Reserve .....	574,003.73
County Bond and Interest .....	138,124.68
Hospital Bond and Interest .....	505,155.65
Sheriff Equipment Fund .....	1,884.64
Special Law Enforcement .....	4,780.70
Prosecutor Training and Assistance .....	5,182.83
Attorney Worthless Check Fees .....	605.25
Register of Deeds Technology Fund .....	44,295.12
Clerk Technology Fund .....	18,074.67
Treasurer Technology Fund .....	9,445.00
Motor Vehicle Operating Fund .....	3,262.26
Zella O. Carpenter (S.A.) .....	522,203.91
Zella O. Carpenter .....	508,740.00
Oil and Gas Valuation Depletion .....	1,309,982.26
Keystone General .....	13.07
Keystone Hall .....	13.03
Scott Township General .....	537.72
Kansas Education Building Fund .....	0.00
State Institution Building Fund .....	0.00
Neighborhood Revitalization .....	0.00
Advance Tax .....	0.00
Current Tax .....	10,872,216.23
Tax Escrow Accounting .....	74,116.15
Current Tax Interest .....	143.97
Delinquent Personal Property Tax .....	1,350.96
Redemptions .....	50,013.11
Commercial Motor Vehicle .....	6,049.41
Motor Vehicle Registration Tax .....	289,442.44
Recreational Vehicle Tax .....	5,281.90
Rental and Excise Tax .....	26.94
Wildlife and Parks .....	4,186.95
Federal Withholding Tax .....	- 0.04
Judgment Fees .....	144.00
Driver’s Licenses .....	358.00
Motor Vehicle .....	1,467.67
Vehicle Registration Tax Interest .....	1,164.48
Motor Sales Tax .....	30,092.67
State Withholding .....	0.00
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 22,497,421.98</b>

State of Kansas  
County of Scott

I do solemnly swear that the above statement is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, so help me God.

Lark Speer  
County Treasurer

Subscribed to and sworn to before me  
this 10th day of February 2025  
Marie Allen  
Notary Public

**The Country Oven**  
Tastes like home!  
620-379-4472 (Bakery) 620-214-0933 (cell)

Will you be gone for  
a weekend or a week?  
We can provide your pet  
a home away from home.



**Miller  
Veterinary  
Clinic**  
1801 US-83, Scott City  
(620) 872-7211