BILL SUMMARY

1st Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.: HB1581
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Author: Rep. Lawson
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Research Analysis

The proposed committee substitute for HB 1581 amends statute related to child abuse multidisciplinary teams. The measure provides that the child abuse multidisciplinary team functions include that law enforcement and child welfare staff will conduct joint investigations as outlined in each written protocol in a timely manner, into reports of child sexual and physical abuse or neglect. The measure also provides the team will also identify gaps in service or all untapped resources within the community to improve the delivery of services to the victim and family and they will provide data as requested to the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Team Council. The measure restores language that authorizes a multidisciplinary child abuse team to enter into an agreement with the Child Death Review Board. The pcs restores classification language regarding child advocacy centers. The pcs provides that by January 31, 2026 and each year after, the Department will partner with a designated entity to disburse monies from CAMA to eligible child abuse multidisciplinary teams and child advocacy centers. The pcs provides that a child abuse multidisciplinary team or child advocacy center may carry over funding for a period of one year after allocation, provided that funds not used within 24 months of the original allocation will be returned to the CAMA account. If the entity is ineligible for upcoming funding, unused funds from the current or previous years will be returned to the CAMA account for use in subsequent years. In partnership with the Department, an eligible entity is authorized to administer the CAMA fund. The Department of Human Services is also authorized to contract with a qualifying entity to administer CAMA funds and a qualifying entity is authorized to contract with eligible providers.

The measure creates the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Team Council and outlines the requirements and membership of the eight-member council. The measure repeals 10A O.S. 2021, Sections 1-9-103a and 1-9-103b and 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-227.9.

Prepared By: Suzie Nahach, House Research Staff

Fiscal Analysis

HB 1581 establishes the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Team Council to oversee child abuse investigations conducted by multidisciplinary review teams across the state, transferring this oversight responsibility from the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY). In addition, the measure authorizes the Department of Human Services (OKDHS) to partner with a nationally accredited association of Children's Advocacy Centers to distribute funds from the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Account (CAMA) to eligible multidisciplinary review teams and child advocacy centers.

Funding for the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Account (CAMA) already exists within OKDHS, and the measure removes the provision that allowed OCCY to retain five percent (5.0%) for

administrative costs. Therefore, the proposed changes and transfer of responsibilities outlined in the measure are not expected to result in additional costs for the state.

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Other Considerations

None.

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