

# Office of Child Abuse Prevention

## State Fiscal Year Annual Report

2023

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## **Overview:**

### **Mission**

The Office of Child Abuse Prevention's (OCAP) mission is to promote health and safety to children and families by reducing child abuse and neglect through the funding of direct services; the training of professionals that work in the child abuse prevention and protection arenas; and conducting activities that educate the public about child maltreatment and enhance the infrastructure that supports prevention efforts.

### **History**

The OCAP was created in 1984 by the Oklahoma Child Abuse Prevention Act, Title 63, O.S. Section 1-227.1. The Act declared prevention of child maltreatment as a priority in Oklahoma. Recognizing child abuse and neglect as a significant public health issue, the legislature placed the OCAP at the Oklahoma State Department of Health – emphasizing the importance of prevention rather than “after-the-fact” intervention. In 1995, the OCAP in partnership with Oklahoma State University began researching home visiting as an effective prevention strategy. The Healthy Families America Model was implemented in Oklahoma to provide such services, and in 2016, the decision was made to transition to the Parents as Teachers (PAT) Model. The PAT Model allowed a broader enrollment criteria and universal access to all Oklahoma families.

### **Program Costs**

The state expenditure per family for PAT during SFY 2023 was \$3,746. This amount was calculated by dividing the total contract expenditures of \$1,993,133 by the total number of unduplicated families participating in PAT. During SFY 2023, a total of 532 families received at least one home visit. Nine contracts serving 28 counties provided home visitation services to families during SFY 2023.

### **Parents as Teachers Eligibility Criteria**

Referrals to local PAT Programs come from a variety of sources including [Women, Infants, and Children](#) (WIC) clinics, the [parentPRO](#) free telephone referral line, [Oklahoma Human Services](#) (OKDHS), Family Resource Centers and most often friends and family. Participation in PAT is voluntary and the families who live in the counties where PAT serves can enroll when there is a child prenatal to five years and may remain actively engaged in services until their child completes kindergarten.

## **Activities of the Office:**

### **Quality Assurance Site Visits**

The Office of Child Abuse Prevention provides on-site and virtual technical assistance to assist Contractors with implementation of the PAT Evidence-Based Home Visiting Model as well as adherence to the OCAP policies and procedures and the provisions of the contract. The goal of the quality assurance site visit is to increase quality assurance in program delivery through:

- Reviewing program documentation to ensure contract compliance
- Identifying technical assistance needs
- Providing onsite consultation, technical assistance, and training to program staff
- Continuing to build on the positive working relationship between staff at the Contractor Site and the OCAP.

Upon completion of the site visit, a monitoring plan is shared with the Contractor Site that addresses strengths as well as any challenges meeting the contractual and/or PAT Model requirements. If a formal recommendation is issued, Contractor Sites will develop a Success Plan and action steps to address areas of deficiencies.

## Legislative Updates

In 2019, the first session of the 57<sup>th</sup> Legislature passed House Bill 1061 (HB1061) and Senate Bill 742 (SB742). These bills relate to the Child Abuse Prevention Act by providing for dissemination of new information in the 2021 Child Abuse Prevention Annual Report.

Below is information provided by Oklahoma Department of Human Services in regards to HB1061 for the number of individuals whose parental rights have ever been terminated and number of children born to an individual whose parental rights have ever been terminated.

Distinct Count of Children	Distinct Count of Parents	Total Count of Terminated Parental Rights
2,236	2,025	3,200

The information in SB742 requires that the District Attorneys Council submits to the OCAP annual truancy reports. Most of the districts do not classify truancy as a juvenile delinquent matter, therefore, the number of reports in most districts will be zero.

Below is the information provided the District Attorneys Council in regards to SB742 for the number of individuals who have truancy reports.

County	Reports
Creek	3

Below is the information provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Education in regards to SB742 for the number of individuals who have Chronic Absenteeism.

County	Reports	County	Reports	County	Reports	County	Reports
Adair	685	Custer	1,129	Latimer	270	Ottawa	1,000
Alfalfa	78	Delaware	824	Le Flore	1,123	Pawnee	58
Atoka	138	Dewey	96	Lincoln	546	Payne	1,807
Beaver	136	Ellis	61	Logan	203	Pittsburg	1,440
Beckham	987	Garfield	1,848	Love	125	Pontotoc	666
Blaine	220	Garvin	343	Major	147	Pottawatomie	1,258
Bryan	1,134	Grady	737	Marshall	233	Pushmataha	129
Caddo	582	Grant	69	Mayer	509	Roger Mills	126
Canadian	6,590	Greer	149	McClain	663	Rogers	2,657
Carter	593	Harmon	65	McCurtain	844	Seminole	422
Cherokee	757	Harper	36	McIntosh	305	Sequoyah	1,093
Choctaw	84	Haskell	314	Murray	355	Stephens	766
Cimmaron	61	Hughes	328	Muskogee	346	Texas	865
Cleveland	11,215	Jackson	163	Noble	102	Tillman	41
Coal	174	Jefferson	151	Nowata	109	Tulsa	34,536
Comanche	2851	Johnson	180	Okfuskee	198	Wagoner	931
Cotton	110	Kay	1,547	Oklahoma	43,485	Washington	1,412
Craig	342	Kingfisher	278	Okmulgee	492	Washita	263
Creek	933	Kiowa	98	Osage	38	Woods	166
						Woodward	73

## Continuous Quality Improvement Projects

A Continuous Quality Improvement Project (CQI) is a formal approach to the analysis of performance and systematic efforts toward improvement. These efforts can seek “incremental” improvement over time or “breakthrough” improvement all at once. The tool that is used by the OCAP for CQI is a four-step quality model, the Plan-Do-Study-Act process (PDSA):

- Plan: Identify an opportunity and plan for change
- Do: Implement the change on a small scale
- Check: Use data to analyze the results of the change and determine whether it made a difference
- Act: If the change was successful, implement it on a wider scale and continuously assess results. If the change did not work, begin the cycle again

The Contractor will complete at least one CQI project annually. The following steps will be taken by the Contractor to ensure adherence to model, and OCAP CQI guidelines:

- Complete and submit the CQI Application
- CQI project implementation
- CQI project completion
- Complete storyboards
- Present story boards at the designated meeting

Contractor Site	Counties Served	Description of Project	Reason for Focus
Great Plains Youth & Family Services (GPYFS)	Beckham, Greer, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman, Washita	Staff agreed that each month of the CQI process, a specific day and time for staff to work on revitalizing their self-esteem and well-being will be scheduled.	PAT-Great Plains saw need to increase staff morale.
Test & Check Results			
Staff members planned an opportunity for self-care as a team meeting for the months of Sept., Oct. and Nov., with the goal of improving their individual, program and family well-being. The team completed the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale in Aug., 2022 and Jan., 2023. This measure depicted an average 12-point increase in PE's Self-Esteem after self-care team trainings were implemented.			

## Great Plains Youth and Family Services Kiowa County Emily and Traeden

When Emily enrolled in PAT, she was just shy of her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, alone, and pregnant. She had no relationship with Allen, the father of the baby, during the pregnancy or after the birth. She was living on her own, working and trying to make ends meet.

Mona, Emily's Parent Educator, recognized that Emily needed support and began to introduce the benefits of co-parenting with Allen, Traeden's father. When the baby was born, Mona supported this new little family by providing diapers, wipes and other caregiving items for Emily and Traeden, and all the while, continued the conversation around co-parenting.

*"Our son is better adjusted being able to have both parents working together for him."*

During enrollment, Emily made the decision to start college and commuted the first semester, but realized that it was too much for her and Traeden, so she made the decision to move to where she was attending school. Unfortunately, she was out of the catchment area

for PAT, and she was forced to withdraw, but Mona did not give up on supporting Emily and Traeden. She provided outreach with Emily and continued to discuss the benefits of co-parenting. Emily earned her degree in education and secured a teaching position at her hometown school, which was the same town where Traeden's father resided.

Emily had the support of her family and Mona to implement a co-parenting agreement stating "Mona has always told me that in co-parenting we are working for Traeden's best interest, not mine or Allen's. She taught us the importance of co-parenting and it has worked very well since we started working together."

*"These two families have come so far in their relationship for the best interest of Traeden and their blended families. This example of co-parenting for such a young couple with this unpredictable beginning is commendable and is a positive example of co-parenting for couples of all ages." - Mona, Parent Educator*



Co-Parenting

In a study of 54 children, the children in shared-parenting families had better outcomes than children in sole physical custody families.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "10 Surprising Findings on Shared Parenting after Divorce or Separation." *Institute for Family Studies*, ifstudies.org/blog/10-surprising-findings-on-shared-parenting-after-divorce-or-separation. Accessed 30 Oct. 2023.

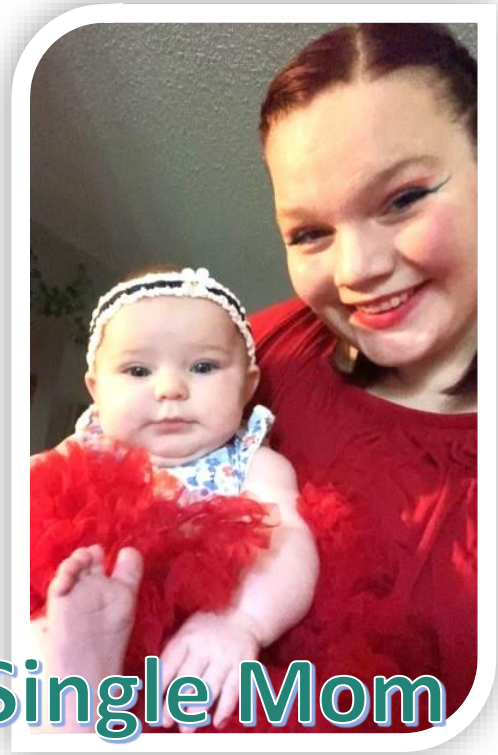
Contractor Site	Counties Served	Description of Project	Reason for Focus
Northwest Family Services (NWFS)	Alfalfa, Grant, Major, Woods	By December 31, 2022 NWFS will have monitored early literacy in 10 enrolled families by surveying families as a pretest in October and as a posttest in December.	NFS enrolled families have voiced their concerns regarding goals to increase language development in their children.
<b>Test &amp; Check Results</b>			
PEs provided reading materials to all enrolled families. PEs encouraged families to explore local libraries. PEs encouraged families to read more during the home visit as well as continuing to read between visits. Families were provided a calendar to chart their reading at home. All families who participated in the pre- and post-test increased the number of books and time spent reading each week.			

*Northwest Family Services  
Woods County  
Destiny and Finley*

Destiny, a single, teen mom came to PAT needing help. She had just found out that she was pregnant and was very scared. Destiny shared with her Parent Educator, Kylie “The father of the baby is not involved in my life and never will be.”

As a child, Destiny was placed in foster care and was adopted along with her sister and brother. She shared with Kylie “My relationship with my adoptive mother is very estranged and I want nothing to do with her.”

During enrollment, Destiny attended college and held down a full-time job to support herself and Baby Finley with the goal of graduating in May of 2024. Kylie helped Destiny put a plan in place so she could not only be a full-time employee, student and single mom but also exclusively breast feed Finley. With the support of Kylie, Destiny has arranged times with her employer to pump, enabling her to stock up on breastmilk while Finley is in the care of her grandfather. Destiny shared “It has been a blessing that someone would be willing to step up and help me as much as they can, so I am able to support myself and Finley.”



*“I was adopted and didn’t have the best home life and I want to break that cycle and be there for my daughter. I want her to know she is loved, and I want to be the best mom I can for her and PAT has helped me do that. It has helped me process my pregnancy and given me people I can rely on after my daughter was born. I’m learning as I go and that’s okay. PAT is helping me navigate single parenting and hopefully I can do a good job for my baby.” – Destiny, Finley’s mom*

According to the Kids Count Data Center, 35% of Oklahoma Children are living in a single-parent family.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> “Children in Single-Parent Families: Kids Count Data Center.” *Children in Single-Parent Families* / KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/106-children-in-single-parent-families?loc=2. Accessed 30 Oct. 2023.

Contractor Site	Counties Served	Description of Project	Reason for Focus
Frontline Family Solutions	Southern Cleveland, McClain, Garvin	PEs will discuss the “Why Screening Matters” handout on the purpose of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ). This will lead to 10% increases in the parents’ (a) average understanding of the ASQ and (b) average rating of importance of the ASQ.	To increase PCGs’ understanding and awareness of the importance of ASQs
<b>Test &amp; Check Results</b>			
58% of enrolled parents were provided with the handout “Why Screening Matters”, and 19% were provided with no handout. Fifty-one parents received information about their child’s most recent ASQ Screening, and 37 did not receive the latest ASQ information. Overall, the results show an increase of 10% parent knowledge of the importance of the ASQ.			



# Housing Stability

*Frontline Family Solutions  
Comanche County  
Henry, Jazmine and Jamarkus*

When this family came to PAT, they were living in a homeless shelter, unemployed, had no child care or transportation. Jamarkus’s mom, Jazmine was in the Army National Guard but due to not getting the COVID 19 vaccine, she was inactive in duties. Henry and Jazmine partnered with their Parent Educator, Brittany to put supports in place. Brittany and Jazmine set a goal for her to return to school and while in PAT, Jazmine enrolled and was working towards an associate’s degree. Within two months of starting PAT the family moved to government housing, and Jamarkus began attending the local Head Start program. Henry has gained employment in construction work and Jazmine has held two short-term jobs. Jazmine shared “Enrolling Jamarkus in Head Start, will help my employment be more sustainable.”

Brittany helped Jazmine set goals and encouraged her by providing acknowledgement of efforts and praise. Brittany recognized the family’s need for Concrete Supports and provided diapers, wipes, formula, and food boxes, reducing daily stress and increasing the focus on providing baby Jamarkus with a healthy environment. Brittany also provided child development activities, development-centered parenting and family well-being information to the family to increase Henry and Jazmine’s knowledge of child development.

*“PAT has helped a lot. I love the visits and it gives me something to look forward to. It’s very rewarding child-wise as far as meeting new kids at Group Connections, and exploring new things and ways to help him learn.” – Jazmine, Jamarkus’s mom*

*“Seeing Jazmine apply child development info in her parenting has been a highlight for me working with this family. Knowing my encouragement, information, and the resources I’ve provided have helped this family work towards goals and a greater well-being is testimony to how PAT works and the impact we can make with families.”  
- Brittany, Parent Educator*

In Oklahoma, an estimated 3,932 people are experiencing homelessness – or about 9.9 for every 10,000 people, the 22nd lowest homeless rate among states.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> “Here’s How Homelessness in Oklahoma Compares to the Rest of the Country.” 24/7 Wall St., 29 Jan. 2022, 247wallst.com/state/heres-how-homelessness-in-oklahoma-compares-to-the-rest-of-the-country/.



Contractor Site	Counties Served	Description of Project	Reason for Focus
Northern Oklahoma Youth Services (NOYS)	Kay, Osage, Noble & Pawnee	To increase the total number of families served to 85% of program capacity monthly by measuring and contrasting recruiting effort data between September 2022 and December 2022.	To fulfill OSDH capacity requirements.

**Test & Check Results**

Staff made face-to-face contact with more than 50 schools, daycares, churches, businesses, civic groups, coalitions, state agencies and health departments in Sept. & Oct. of 2022. Points of contact were added to a resource list. Program brochures and flyers with QR codes directing to the program website were left with sites. Seven new referring partners were created. Social Media, print media, technological outreach (in the capacity used in this project) yielded negligible usable data and few tangible results. Relationship-based engagement with local partners and refinement of a resource list targeting early childhood intervention yielded the best results.

*Northern Oklahoma Youth Services  
Kay County  
Robert and Asher*

At 44 years old, Robert found himself in a new role as a father while participating in residential substance abuse treatment due to years of drug addiction. Slowly, as Robert showed success, he was allowed visitation with his baby, Asher. Robert knew he needed an extra layer of support, and that is when he enrolled in PAT. Noelle, Robert’s Parent Educator, knew he needed the basics, so she began with infant care, child development, and bonding/attachment. Asher struggled to gain weight since birth and has been seen by a specialist to investigate a diagnosis for his condition. Robert showed dedication to building a new life for his family while working, attending Asher’s doctor appointments, substance abuse treatment, and visitation with Asher. Robert and Noelle worked together to help create a bond with Asher, and he began to flourish. During enrollment in PAT, Asher achieved normal weight range and met developmental milestones and best of all, is in full custody with Robert. A network of support that includes Asher’s foster parent and maternal grandmother, helped Robert graduate his substance abuse treatment, and close his DHS case.

*"Robert's resilience is obvious after you have spent just a small amount of time with him. He's made so much growth after making the decision to live a sober life, which is not easy in itself, and be the father that Asher deserves. Any adversity that has come his way, Robert has adapted and stayed focused on his priorities."*

*– Noelle, Parent Educator*



Oklahoma’s rate for Any Substance Abuse Disorder is 16.1%. This means that between 700,000 and 950,000 adult Oklahomans need services; most are not receiving the care they need to fully recover from their illnesses.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Query, [www.odmhsas.org/eda/prevalence.htm#:~:text=Also%2C%20Oklahoma's%20rate%20for%20Any,received%20ODMHSAS%20services%20in%20FY21](http://www.odmhsas.org/eda/prevalence.htm#:~:text=Also%2C%20Oklahoma's%20rate%20for%20Any,received%20ODMHSAS%20services%20in%20FY21). Accessed 31 Oct. 2023.

Contractor Site	Counties Served	Description of Project	Reason for Focus
<b>Youth &amp; Family Services for Hughes &amp; Seminole Counties</b>	Hughes, Seminole	The CQI Project is to achieve PAT required number of home visits per family. Each family will receive a minimum of 2 visits per month.	The PAT program is not achieving the required number of home visits per family. As mandated by OCAP each family is required to have a minimum of two visits per month.

### Test & Check Results

The PAT program implemented strategies to achieve 2 visits per month with each family enrolled. The CQI project revealed a constant number of home visits was maintained. The monthly capacity report showed that 50 visits were completed in September, 42 visits were completed in October, 38 visits were completed in November, and 49 visits were completed in December.



# Breastfeeding Support

*Youth and Family Services for  
Hughes and Seminole Counties  
Seminole County  
Erica and Kinsley*

When Erica enrolled in PAT, she was pregnant with her third child and shared with her Parent Educator, Taylor, that her focus was breastfeeding. She stated “I have had trouble in the past keeping up my milk supply, but would like to breastfeed my baby.” Erica went on to say “My mental health has been greatly impacted by

not being able to breastfeed especially when it is natural for moms to feed their children this way. It really hurt my feelings not being able to produce enough milk to feed my babies in the past.” Taylor listened to Erica and began putting supports in place. First, she administered the General Anxiety Disorder Screening (GAD-7) and the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) to screen where Erica was mentally and provided referrals. Next, Taylor dove into the PAT curriculum with Erica to gain knowledge about breastfeeding. Taylor stated “I was available to Erica for extra support during her postpartum period and postnatal care.” Taylor encouraged Erica to discuss her mental health and how she was doing with her breastfeeding journey.

After baby Kinsley was born, Erica stated “I have experienced some struggles with breastfeeding Kinsley, but have remained committed to being successful. I feel that my mental health during my postnatal period is much better than it has been in the past.”

Taylor helped Erica reach breastfeeding goals and maintained regular contact with her through personal visits and phone calls. She continues with extra check-ins to ensure Erica has the support that she needs.

The U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2020-2025 recommend that infants be exclusively breastfed for about the first six months with continued breastfeeding while introducing appropriate complementary foods for 1 year or longer.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> “Facts.” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 7 Aug. 2023, [www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/facts.html](http://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/facts.html).

Contractor Site	Counties Served	Description of Project	Reason for Focus
<b>Latino Community Development Agency (LCDA)</b>	Oklahoma	PAT will recruit/engage 20 clients (5 beta and 15 crossover participants) to utilize a Positive Parenting App for Parenting Tips twice a day from mid-Oct through the end of Dec. demonstrating a significant increase in parent-child interaction frequency during the 2 weeks they received Tips compared to the 2 weeks without Tips.	Increase parent engagement in positive interactions with the developing child

**Test & Check Results**

Daily engagement with the Tips was roughly 60% and with the survey was roughly 46%. Daily engagement with at least 1 Tip or Survey was 86%. Results suggest that Tips did not have much effect on interaction frequency. But this measure may not be sensitive to the Tip influence. Investigators were more hopeful that Tips affect quality of parent interactions which is being assessed pre and post. Positive finding: Nearly all participating families said they would recommend the Positive Parenting App for Tips to friends, and some asked to keep the app. Daily engagement with some aspect of the Tips App was high (86%).

*Latino Community Development Agency  
Oklahoma County  
Deysi, Alvaro, Elena and baby Karina*

Deysi and Alvaro were first-time parents from Guatemala and referred to PAT by their daughter Elena’s pediatrician after Deysi inquired about a program that could support them as new parents.

Upon enrollment, Marina, Deysi and Alvaro’s Parent Educator, helped the family accomplish several goals related to their health and stability. Marina provided them with a YMCA membership thanks to a partnership between PAT and the YMCA. Deysi and Alvaro attended regularly and began to see positive health outcomes including Alvaro losing weight and Deysi was able to get her fatty liver and skin problems under control. Marina stated “PAT has strengthened this family with protective factors, making them more resilient, independent, self-sufficient, and knowledgeable of community resources.” Deysi gave birth to Elena’s sister, Karina in May 2023, and is excited to have her baby participate in PAT. Deysi said: “We are very thankful for the services. I don’t know where we’d be without PAT.”



*“I have had the opportunity to observe how the family prioritizes their physical health and takes care of it with good nutrition and physical activity. Deysi and Alvaro are a great example for their daughters and are initiating them into a healthy lifestyle.”  
- Marina, Parent Educator*

A study by BMC Public health cited social, health and educational benefits as being key incentives for involvement in physical activity.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Brown, Helen Elizabeth, et al. “Engaging Families in Physical Activity Research: A Family-Based Focus Group Study.” *BMC Public Health*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, 25 Nov. 2015, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4660685/.

Contractor Site	Counties Served	Description of Project	Reason for Focus
Parent Promise	Oklahoma	PAT will use the Child Development PDSA to encourage enrolled families to implement the activities on the Diaper Time is Talk Time handouts. The learning collaborative survey will be completed every 90 days and the Child Development PDSA will be completed at every home visit. The PEs will ask the clients who changed their child’s diapers and how many activities the families were able to practice.	To encourage parent child interaction and support child development. Increase parent child interaction by 15%.
<b>Test &amp; Check Results</b>			
PAT reached a 15% increase in parent child interaction. PEs encouraged parent child interaction and supported child development using handouts from Diaper Time is Talk Time. PAT learned that by following up with families and explaining the benefits of the activities, they were more likely to practice and repeat.			

*Parent Promise  
Oklahoma County  
Devon and Adeline*

When Parent Educator Christy and Devon met, he shared with her his past struggles which included substance abuse and jail time and that Adeline’s mother wasn’t doing much better. Devon decided he needed to show up as Adeline’s father and sought help by enrolling in PAT. He and Christy planned obtainable goals and together they worked to meet those goals to create a better life for him and Adeline. Christy started with the basics, knowledge of child development and what to expect as Adeline grew, then they moved on to connecting with community resources to continue to support his family. Devon’s hard work paid off as he now has full custody of Adeline, stating “She is an amazing human!” Devon thanked Christy for “Keeping things real” and offering support in a non-judgmental way.

*“Devon is a single father that continues to strive for excellence with himself and Adeline.” – Christy Bowie, Parent Educator*

*“PAT means a lot to me and Adeline. The tips about potty training are so helpful and is making the progress a lot easier and smoother. The goals that I have met with Miss Christy is my daughter’s speech by training and learning along the way and the books that she gives us has helped Adeline excel in her speech. Miss Christy has helped me out a lot and she is the most amazing person I have met; I am very thankful for Miss Christy.” – Devon, Adeline’s Dad*



Children who feel a closeness to their father are: twice as likely as those who do not to enter college or find stable employment after high school, 75% less likely to have a teen birth, 80% less likely to spend time in jail, and half as likely to experience multiple depression symptoms.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> all4kids. “A Father’s Impact on Child Development: Child Abuse Prevention, Treatment & Welfare Services: Children’s Bureau.” *Child Abuse Prevention, Treatment & Welfare Services | Children’s Bureau*, 12 May 2023, [www.all4kids.org/news/blog/a-fathers-impact-on-child-development/#:~:text=Children%20who%20feel%20a%20closeness,to%20experience%20multiple%20depression%20symptoms.](http://www.all4kids.org/news/blog/a-fathers-impact-on-child-development/#:~:text=Children%20who%20feel%20a%20closeness,to%20experience%20multiple%20depression%20symptoms.)

Contractor Site	Counties Served	Description of Project	Reason for Focus
Parent Child Center of Tulsa	Tulsa	Increase workforce training on child development.	To increase parent educators' comfort regarding having conversations with parents about the possibility of developmental delay and referrals to services.
Test & Check Results			
PAT implemented monthly trainings to support having challenging conversations about developmental concerns with families. Average PE comfort with conversations about developmental delays increased more than 20%. We saw immediate effect of first month's training ("Watch Me!" from CDC). One possible explanation: The baseline comfort ratings did not refer to a specific family. Later, PEs rated their comfort after a conversation with a client. The hypothetical comfort may have been lower than the comfort about a specific child, when the PE had more information for the conversation.			

*Parent Child Center of Tulsa  
Tulsa County  
Ada, Martin and Hilary*

When Ada came to PAT, she was struggling with how to help her son, Martin with a speech delay that was causing significant behavioral issues including hitting himself out of frustration when he was not able to communicate. Daisy, Ada's Parent Educator stated "I began suggesting the use of sign language to help Martin communicate, and Ada quickly learned some sign language and incorporated it into their daily life."

In addition, Daisy provided Ada with referrals starting with enrolling Martin in CAP Tulsa Early Childhood Program. Daisy Stated "I referred Martin to Sooner Start and Child Guidance for speech therapy." Ada has learned many activities such as pretend play to help Martin learn new words. His language acquisition increased and he continued on building his vocabulary and sentences. Ada said "I am very relieved and happy when Martin tells me his new words and shows me songs he has learned." Martin was no longer hitting himself when he got frustrated, and uses his words instead. Ada continued to support Martin's language development by enrolling in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, stating "I want to be able to help both my kids with their English."



## Early Intervention

*"Ada is great with Martin; she sits down and dedicates time to him to do pretend play and repeats words to him. She also is using signs with him for words such as milk, more, etc. I found it inspiring that Ada is taking English classes in addition to her full-time job so that she can help him learn English." – Daisy, Parent Educator*

The Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities is a federal program that provides for services and supports to children birth through 2 years old at risk for developmental delays or disabilities. <sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> "What You Need to Know: Early Intervention." ZERO TO THREE, 22 June 2023, [www.zerotothree.org/resource/what-you-need-to-know-early-intervention/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=grants&utm\\_content=child-development&gclid=Cj0KCCQjwy4KqBhD0ARIsAEbCt6g6lNlc4PYg0T60SmVunacG\\_d3Ko8EViVQAKBATQZ3QnC2QVDqCHrYaAs7cEALw\\_wcB](https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/what-you-need-to-know-early-intervention/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=grants&utm_content=child-development&gclid=Cj0KCCQjwy4KqBhD0ARIsAEbCt6g6lNlc4PYg0T60SmVunacG_d3Ko8EViVQAKBATQZ3QnC2QVDqCHrYaAs7cEALw_wcB).

Contractor Site	Counties Served	Description of Project	Reason for Focus
Tahlequah P.S.	Adair, Cherokee, Creek, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Sequoyah, Wagoner	Increase each PE's caseload size to equal 20 families by March 2023.	To expand knowledge of services. To inform the community where our program is now located-TPS. In hopes to increase enrollment numbers for program.
Test & Check Results			
Supervisor has taken the lead on presenting the program to various departments at TPS, delivered brochures to outer counties, and presented the program to DHS, C1 and the program's new advisory team. Supervisor networks regularly with school counselors, BOE, nurses, social workers, and Alt Ed staff and students. At the end of the project period, our theory was proven to be successful as all present PE's have a full caseload.			



## Domestic Abuse Survivor

*Tahlequah Public Schools  
Cherokee County  
Tonya and Amelia*

When Tonya enrolled in PAT, she was a domestic abuse survivor, pregnant and lived in a shelter. Due to the stress of Tonya's encounters with abuse, Amelia was born with low birth weight, and developmental setbacks. Tonya was struggling with self-esteem, mental health, and the ability to provide integrated care for her child.

In the beginning of PAT services, Amelia was failure to thrive, not gaining weight adequately, or meeting developmental milestones. She was unable to walk into the first year of her life or use significant language and gestures. Over time, through collaborative and empathetic care from her parent educator, Morgan, and healthcare providers, this is no longer the case.

During the second year of PAT services, Amelia is no longer failure to thrive. After introducing leg braces and physical therapy, she is now able to walk, run, climb, and dance. Amelia has also made significant strides in language development due to the collaborative care of her speech therapists and Morgan; Amelia now signs, speaks several words, and communicates through gestures and verbalization.

*"Tonya has discovered the joys of yoga, creativity, and community through her avid participation and willingness to learn."  
– Morgan, Parent Educator*

Abuse often gets worse during pregnancy. [The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](https://www.marchofdimes.org/find-support/topics/pregnancy/abuse-during-pregnancy#:~:text=Abuse%20often%20gets%20worse%20during,partners%20during%20pregnancy%20each%20year.) (also called ACOG) says that 1 in 6 abused women is first abused during pregnancy. More than 320,000 women are abused by their partners during pregnancy each year.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> "Abuse during Pregnancy." *March of Dimes*, [www.marchofdimes.org/find-support/topics/pregnancy/abuse-during-pregnancy#:~:text=Abuse%20often%20gets%20worse%20during,partners%20during%20pregnancy%20each%20year.](https://www.marchofdimes.org/find-support/topics/pregnancy/abuse-during-pregnancy#:~:text=Abuse%20often%20gets%20worse%20during,partners%20during%20pregnancy%20each%20year.) Accessed 31 Oct. 2023.

## Oklahoma Family Support Network

The Oklahoma Family Support Network (OFSN) was formed in 2018. During 2023, the OFSN was in the development and operational phases of the [National Family Support and Strengthening Network](#) Development Continuum. During the phases, network meetings convened, a network vision, mission, and goals were acted upon and operating guidelines were put in place. In addition, the OFSN maintained regular offerings of the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support Virtual Certification Training, the review and refinement of network processes and systems, and continued advancement of network goals. A full-time position to coordinate OFSN development was maintained and the OFSN coordinator continues to grow partnerships at state and local levels, and coordinates the Oklahoma Standards of Quality training team with the goal of statewide implementation.

In 2023, three Oklahoma Family Resource Centers (OFRC) were awarded funding to develop, implement, and sustain OFRCs in each Tulsa, Oklahoma and Cleveland Counties. These OFRCs are the inaugural members of the OFSN and will help guide future goals. The OFSN coordinator worked with the OFRCs to provide technical assistance including implementation of the Quality Standards, developed Parent Advisory Committees, maintained fidelity to the frameworks utilized, and developed a sustainability plan to be implemented beyond available funding. The network benefits are extended to individuals and agencies. The benefits include Community of Practice participation, free professional development, and flexible funding opportunities. Relationships are formalized by utilizing a memorandum of understanding to outline OFSN expectations and member expectations.

Since inception, the OFSN has conducted a total of eleven Standards trainings and certified 236 Family Support and Strengthening professionals, advocates, and funders across the state. The Oklahoma Standards Training Team has four trainers and one technical support assistant. The OFSN provided a revised version of the Standards of Quality in January 2021 and a newly piloted virtual Standards of Quality training was launched in Oklahoma in August 2021.

The OFSN continued their partnership with the Oklahoma Human Services (OKDHS) designing and implementing two pilot Family Resource Centers (FRCs) in Oklahoma. They were the first of their kind in Oklahoma to combine the Science of Hope and the Quality Standards utilizing the [Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework](#) from the Center for the Study of Social Policy and the Principals of Family Support Practice, along with Dr. Chan Hellman's study of [Hope Science](#). In addition, the OFSN embarked on a new partnership with Potts Family Foundation and the Oklahoma State Department of Health's Allied Health programming for infant and early childhood mental health to develop FRCs in even more communities. These FRCs will have an infant mental health focus and will include innovative service designs to meet the needs of families. The FRC's in partnership with Potts began with community surveying and assessments to understand how communities and young children have experienced long term effects from COVID. After the communities have been surveyed the FRC implementation will begin.

Another notable partnership that has continued to thrive is with the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY). The partnership combines the work of OCCY's Parent Partnership Board with the OFSN's community level Parent Advisory Committees. Through this combined effort, more Family Strengthening and Support professionals and Parent Professionals have been certified in the OFSN's Sustaining Effective Parent Advisory Committees certification training and is also trained in [Circle of Parents](#), offered by OSDH. The OCCY and OFSN launched the initial Oklahoma Parent Advisory Committee Community of Practice for providers and professionals who are implementing parent advisory committees. This is the first official OFSN group to convene, is regularly scheduled for professional development, networking, and peer support opportunities. The first cohort was identified and met in 2022; additional cohorts will be added on a regular basis. The Community of Practice supports provider and agency effort to lift parent voice in all aspects of services.

## Family Resource Centers Community Impact

*Center for Children and Families*

*Cleveland County*



The Center for Children and Families (CCFI) hosted a community Back to School Bash event that offered school supplies, haircuts, food, games and access to valuable resources in the community. The event was free for the community and more than 400 people attended. Funding from The Family Resource Center (FRC) grant was a huge contributor as well as donations from the community and partnering agencies.

Backpack donations and supplies were received from local nonprofits and businesses such as Together We Will, Oklahoma Regional Food Bank and Hitachi Computer Products of Norman. Food was donated by Buffalo Wild Wings and Shipley's Donuts. Paul

Mitchell hair and Beauty School brought in stylists to offer free haircuts. The City of Norman helped provide a safe space for families by closing down the streets directly surrounding CCFI during the event. Family members were also able to enjoy activities such as face painting, a bounce house and music from DJ Joe Dayz with Millennial Productions.

Vendors included: Abbott House, Bethesda, Inc., Boy Scouts of America, Cleveland County Health Department, Community Afterschool Program (CASP), iCode Norman, Loveworks Leadership, Mathnasium of Norman, Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma, Norman Pediatric Dentistry, Oklahoma Family Network, Oklahoma Parents Center, Pioneer Library System, Sooner SUCCESS, Stellar Pediatric Urgent Care and TheraFUN.

CCFI's Family Navigator was able to connect families with services and organizations, or provide referrals. CCFI distributed 628 diapers from the Baby Pantry and 1,020 menstrual products from our partnering agency Period OKC.

The Parent Advisory Committee gave input on what they would like to see in this event and indicated a need for the community to be connected with other organizations in Norman. They also volunteered to hand out diapers, menstrual products, and provided translation services for members of our Spanish speaking community.

*"It was great to see so many families be able to gather supplies and be connected to resources they may not know existed in our community." – Parent Advisory Committee President*

An active Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) can be a highly effective method of ensuring meaningful parent engagement, developing parent leadership skills, and supporting a Program's success.<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</sup> "Training." *National Family Support Network*, [www.nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org/training](http://www.nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org/training). Accessed 30 Oct. 2023.



## Parent Promise Oklahoma County



Parent Promise FRC formed a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) in April of 2023, after a successful informational and recruitment session. Currently, eight passionate and caring members representing a variety of ethnicities, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds serve on the PAC. The meetings provide a platform for parents to share ideas and collaborate.

Parent Promise staff and the PAC have built a meaningful relationship and the PAC works with us to provide feedback, ideas, and concerns while discussing specific aspects of the program. The PAC members have also proven to be great assets to each other, offering suggestions and specific resources to others.

The PAC has been essential in guiding Parent Promise on hosting parent workshops and other groups by deciding what times and days work best for families. Parent Promise was able to schedule an Education Workshop at a time suggested for moms with babies who nap. Based on feedback from the PAC, Parent Promise provides additional workshops to meet the needs of families.

Parent Promise partners with OSDH to provide an array of trainings for the PAC Members. PAC members have shown interest in different trainings so they can share knowledge gained through parent led workshops at the Family Resource Center. With assistance from the FRC, four of the PAC members were able to attend the Wrightslaw Special Education and Advocacy training, through a partnership with SoonerSuccess.

PAC members promote workshops, trainings and Circle of Parents by posting on social media, dispersing flyers in the community and utilizing word of mouth. A great example is one of the PAC members attended classes and play groups at different libraries around the Oklahoma City metro area to share flyers about the Circle of Parents groups.

*“I’m thrilled with the progress our PAC has achieved. The collaboration and valuable input at each meeting have been overwhelmingly positive and useful. Our fantastic team at Parent Promise has provided childcare during monthly meetings which has alleviated stress for the PAC members. After each meeting I feel grateful to have learned something new to help the preparation for planning the next event or workshop we will host.”*

*– Abigail, Family Resource Center Navigator*



*Parent Child Center of Tulsa  
Tulsa County*

The Parent Child Center of Tulsa FRC held a free Legal Aid information session for parents with attorney, Luis Flores. The need was identified for legal assistance, specifically for those involved in family court or immigration, through a Community Needs Assessment. In addition to these topics, Mr. Flores discussed divorce, personal injury, and workers compensation. Fifteen families attended the session which was held in person and via Zoom.

**LUIS ENRIQUE FLORES  
LAW PLLC**

MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER  
18TH @ 5:30PM

**GOT QUESTIONS?**

DIVORCE  
PERSONAL INJURY  
CRIMINAL DEFENSE  
IMMIGRATION &  
WORKERS  
COMPENSATION

**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

**JOIN US !  
FREE Q&A  
SESSION**

1421 S. BOSTON  
AVE. TULSA OK  
74119

**PLEASE RSVP**  
JOEY 918 699 0506

**THE PARENT CHILD CENTER OF TULSA**

*“El abogado nos ayudó a mi esposo y a mí a resolver nuestro estatus de asilo. Nos dirigió a las agencias y a las personas con quienes hablar para completar el papeleo. Cuando todos los demás abogados cobran por las consultas.” – Participant*

**Translation:**

“The attorney helped my husband and I resolve our asylum status questions. He directed us to agencies and people to talk to complete the paperwork when other lawyers charge for consultations.”

## Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to The White House briefing (2023), President Biden identified April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and indicated that the month of April is a time to join together to promote safety and well-being of all children and families and to recognize the child welfare workforce and allies who work tirelessly to protect our children.<sup>11</sup> Many Oklahoma communities issued proclamations and media releases to raise awareness on the importance of child abuse prevention while also shining a light on the many ways we can all play a role in preventing children from being harmed.

The OSDH, Family Support and Prevention Service (FSPS) observed National Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) month with a variety of statewide events and activities. This is made possible each year with the expertise, dedication, and involvement of countless prevention partners who meet throughout the year as part of the Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Action Committee. During SFY 2023, the CAP Action Committee led national CAP month planning meetings monthly from August 2022 through May 2023. Over the fiscal year, the CAP Action Committee facilitators implemented a feedback survey with members. Through this process, new needs were identified and the group immediately began to make modifications based on these responses. A CAP Action Planning team was established and work began immediately around areas that were identified through the feedback survey.

CAP awareness activities began in 2022 with a CAP T-Shirt Design Contest. The winning design was then used for t-shirts that were sold statewide with help from partners with the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City. The FSPS, CAP Action Committee members, and other partners helped to promote the t-shirts to increase the participation in the annual Oklahoma Wears Blue day social media campaign.

The month of April was kicked off with the lighting of the Skydance Bridge in Oklahoma City turning blue in observance of national CAP month. The FSPS has a longstanding partnership with the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, located at the Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center. As part of this partnership, the FSPS is a co-host for the annual Child Abuse and Neglect Conference. This always takes place during April and the FSPS utilizes this as another way to acknowledge CAP month and extend the reach of community awareness for CAP efforts in Oklahoma. The FSPS helps to promote the prevention track of the conference and was able to bring a national speaker with lived experience in multiple systems as well as experience serving on national and state level parent advisory committees to discuss prevention specific to working with fathers.

The FSPS continues to partner with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth in collaborative efforts to provide quality services across the state. The Collaborative Convening was co-hosted by teams at the three state agencies in April 2023 in conjunction with the Annual Child Abuse and Neglect Conference. This event was held in-person for the first time since 2019 and was well attended. Feedback from parent leaders, providers, and other stakeholders was collected during this Community Café style event and will be used for a variety of efforts at each of the three state agencies.

The FSPS, once again, hosted the annual Outstanding Child Abuse Prevention Awards Ceremony at the State Capitol in 2023. This is a special event that provides the FSPS and partners a way to honor the many individuals and programs that provide exceptional services and advocacy for Oklahoma children and families throughout the year.

The FSPS continues to partner with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth in collaborative efforts to provide quality services across the state. The

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<sup>11</sup> “A Proclamation on National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2023.” *The White House*, The United States Government, 31 Mar. 2023, [www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/03/31/a-proclamation-on-national-child-abuse-prevention-month-2023/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/03/31/a-proclamation-on-national-child-abuse-prevention-month-2023/).

Collaborative Convening was co-hosted by teams at the three state agencies in April 2023 in conjunction with the Annual Child Abuse and Neglect Conference. This event was held in-person for the first time since 2019 and was well attended. Feedback from parent leaders, providers, and other stakeholders was collected during this Community Café style event and will be used for a variety of efforts at each of the three state agencies.

Events and activities such as the Happiest Day Children’s Coloring Challenge, the promotion of pinwheel gardens, and the annual Blue Ribbon Tree for Kids Campaign continued in 2023 with great participation and success.

**2023 Child Abuse Prevention Month Campaigns, Events and Activities:**

- CAP T-Shirt Design Contest and T-shirt Sales
- Creation of social media campaign materials for all activities and events (Designed by the CAP Action Committee members and the OSDH/OOC)
- Social media promotion leading up to April via the Oklahoma Child Abuse Prevention Facebook page
- Promotion of 2023 April CAP Month Campaigns on OSDH website
- 2023 Statewide CAP Month Events and Activities Calendar developed which highlighted state wide and local events
- Happy Day Coloring Challenge
- The Super CAP Month Challenge
- Pinwheel Gardens
- Dissemination of Children’s Bureau National CAP Month Resource Guides
- Annual Build a Blue Ribbon Tree for Kids Campaign

*Pinwheel Gardens*



*Wear Blue Day*



*Child Abuse Prevention Day*





## *Achieving Goals*

*Oklahoma County  
Ana Mendez*

While enrolled in PAT, Ana was able to meet several of her goals including getting her GED, and finding quality childcare. Next, Ana enrolled in ESL classes which helped her prepare for her citizenship exam which she passed on the first attempt, along with her GED. She continued with ESL classes and her ultimate goal was to attend Oklahoma City Community College to become a pharmacy technician.

## Professional Education and Training Provided

### Orientation

Supervisors and Parent Educators receive orientation training (separate from intensive role specific training) prior to direct work with families to familiarize them with the functions of the site.	
Orientation	Boundaries
	Community Resources
	Confidentiality
	Provisional Child Abuse and Neglect Indicators
	Provisional Child Screenings: Hearing & Vision
	Provisional Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) Database Training
	Provisional HIPAA and Cyber Security
	Provisional Life Skills Progression (LSP)
	Provisional Onboarding
	Provisional Personal Visit Observation
	Provisional Policies and Procedures
	Provisional S.O.A.P. Notes
	Provisional Staff Safety
	Site and Role Specific Orientation

### Parents as Teachers (PAT) Model Training

Parent Educators and Supervisors are required to complete all PAT trainings.	PAT Foundational I
	PAT Foundational II
	PAT Model Implementation

### Annual Training

Complete within 30 days of employment and every year thereafter.	Caregiver Health and Wellness
	Child Abuse and Neglect Indicators Training
	Diversity Awareness - <i>Based on their current service population</i>
	Intimate Partner Violence Training
	Policy and Procedure Review
	Substance Use

### Required Training

Complete within the first year of employment	Attachment
	ASQ 3, ASQ:SE 2
	Child Maltreatment and Mandatory Reporting in Oklahoma
	Developmental Milestones
	Family/Domestic Violence
	Home Visitors Safety Training
	Maternal Depression/Reproductive Health
	Mental Health Issues
	PICCOLO

	Reflective Supervision for Parent Educators
	Reflective Supervision for Supervisors
	Safe Sleep
	S.O.A.P. Notes Documentation Training
	Special Needs
	Strengthening Families: Protective Factors
	Tobacco Cessation/Substance Use
<b>Complete Within Second Year of Employment</b>	Adoption
	Autism
	Breastfeeding
	Child Passenger Safety
	Circle of Parents
	Motivational Interviewing
	Newborn Screening/Grief
	Period of Purple Crying
	Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support

## Professional Development

<b>Parent Educators and Supervisors obtain competency-based professional development and renew certification with the national office annually.</b>	
First year of certification and beyond	20 clock hours
Core Competencies	Annual



## Family Characteristics

### Age of Client

Age of Client	Percent
Under 16 years	1%
16-19 years	5%
20-24 years	18%
25-29 years	28%
30-39 years	38%
40 years & Older	10%
Total	<b>100%</b>

### Marital Status of Client

Marital Status of Client	Percent
Divorced	5%
Married	39%
Not married but living with partner	22%
Single, Never Married	31%
Separated	3%
Widowed	0%
Total	<b>100%</b>

### Age of Children Living in Household

Age of Children	Number
Under 1 year	28
1-2 years	274
3-4 years	153
5-9 years	102
10-14 years	3
15-18 years	0
Total	<b>560</b>

### Household Composition of Families Served

Household	Percent
Father of the Child	64%
Others	32%
Grandparent of the child	2%
Aunt of the client	1%
Uncle of the client	1%
Total	<b>100%</b>

## Number of Families Accepted to Program & Average Length of Enrollment

Site	Number of New Families	Number of Total Families	Average Time Enrolled (Months)
Great Plains	14	59	24.3
Latino Community Development Agency	20	44	23.4
Frontline Family Solutions	25	36	12
Northwest Family Services	12	35	22
Northern OK Youth Services	50	68	9.4
Parent Child Center of Tulsa	39	73	11.3
Parent Promise	39	111	18.6
Tahlequah	49	76	8.1
Youth & Family Services for Hughes & Seminole Counties	8	30	15.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>16</b>

## Number of Families Not Accepted to Program & Reason

Potential Enrollee	Number
Unable to locate	30
Refused services/not interested	28
Returned to Work	8
Other	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>

## **Program Activities and Recommendations for SFY 2023:**

### **Virtual Service Delivery**

The COVID-19 Health Crisis has served as a catalyst for Parents as Teachers to release guidance and materials supporting virtual home visiting, making valuable resources and support available to professionals serving families during this unprecedented time. PAT is a leading partner in the Rapid Response collaborative, along with the Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals, and the National Alliance of Home Visiting Models. Virtual service delivery refers to services both through interactive video conferencing technology and phone calls. Virtual visits through an interactive video conferencing platform allow there to be two-way, real-time, audio-visual communication between the home visitor and parent(s), guardians, or primary caregivers and their child(ren). Virtual services will remain an option for families, not just in times of health crisis, severe weather or other environmental situations, but based on family choice as well. Having a range of options for service delivery supports the Essential Requirements for model fidelity.

### **Virtual Training Plan**

Due to the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis, Parents as Teachers suspended all on-ground training and transitioned Model Implementation, Foundational and Foundational 2 Core trainings to a virtual platform. Following suit, the OCAP has provided the Contractors with virtual training and webinars covering topics that are required in the Training Plan and relevant to home visiting. As the number of COVID-19 cases decreased and the vaccinated persons increased, the OCAP has resumed several in-person trainings, following all recommended COVID-19 Safety Guidelines.<sup>12</sup>

### **Supervisor Activities**

#### *Monthly*

The OCAP schedules supervisor calls on the last Friday of each month. The OCAP has made it a standard to meet using video capabilities and incorporating communication during months that meetings were not held by sending out updates in presentation format. This allowed the OCAP to provide consistent communication using PowerPoint, video and Webinar platforms enhancing engagement with the Contractors. Additionally, trainers were scheduled that provided information and current practices as requested by the Contractors. Some of the technical assistance provided in monthly supervisor's calls included policy and PAT model updates, resources, database information, and training. Based upon a SFY 2023 satisfaction survey given to the PAT Supervisors, the Monthly Supervisors Call had a 73% satisfaction rate, which is up from 62% in FY22. The OCAP has implemented regular satisfaction and review surveys to identify adjustments that can be made to increase over-all satisfaction. In SFY 2023 the OCAP will continue to keep up to date with this information to provide technical assistance and support relevant to the individual Contractor.

#### *Bi-Annual*

During SFY 2023, the Fall bi-annual meeting was cancelled in the interest of time due to a conferences and other commitments that came up in October. The Spring bi-annual meeting was scheduled virtually due to accessibility to Contractors who were far distances and travel proved to be a burden. The objectives were to create a platform to dive deeper into topics that were discussed during the monthly supervisor's call. The Contractors presented their annual CQI Projects during the Spring Face to Face. There were a couple of breakout groups that included Parent Educators that were formed to discuss diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA) and Medical Marijuana and the experiences that providers are having with families. Contractors learned from each other on how to address topics as those specific issues arise. Case

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<sup>12</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, October 19). *How to protect yourself and others*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved November 11, 2022, from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

Presentations were discussed in groups for feedback from other Supervisors to analyze services. All sites submitted a Case Presentation prior to the meeting and a couple of sites were chosen to present. Those that did not have an opportunity to present were encouraged to discuss in their teams or at Advisory Committees.

## **Blue Ribbons Sites**

The PAT Essential Requirements and Quality Standards form the basis for the Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process (QEIP), which is the process that Contractors go through to demonstrate their commitment to high quality services and work to earn the Blue Ribbon designation.<sup>13</sup> Currently, Oklahoma has four Contractors that serve Oklahoma, Tulsa, Kiowa, Greer, Jackson, Beckham, Tillman, Washita, McClain, Garvin, Southern Cleveland and Comanche Counties that have achieved Blue Ribbon status.

## **Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process**

Contractors are invited to participate in the QEIP process for the first time in their fourth year of implementation. QEIP helps ensure that Contractors are delivering high quality home visiting services while implementing the PAT model to fidelity. The QEIP process ensures that essential requirements and quality standards set by Parents as Teachers National Center are fulfilled. This indicates the highest quality of services are being provided to children and families. During SFY 2023, Contractors serving Beckham, Washita, Greer, Kiowa, Jackson Tillman, McClain, Garvin, Comanche, Oklahoma, Hughes and Seminole counties have been designated to begin the QEIP process and ultimately achieve Blue Ribbon Status.

## **Mentorship**

During SFY2023, an opportunity was identified to support sites who would be going through the QEIP process. Due to the extensive work that goes in to the Self-Study, sites who previously achieved Blue Ribbon status served as a mentor to sites who were presently working through their Self-Study. Mentee sites reported that having a mentor to answer questions and provide insight about their own experiences was supportive and reduced stress.

## **Monthly Report**

Monthly Reports are designed to support sites in being aware of and having a month-to-month view of deliverables: completed home visits and capacity. Within the monthly report, sites are able to communicate their current staffing as well as caseload expectations based on staffing changes. The PAT Model recommended data review throughout the year is also built into the Monthly Report to support staff in completing data reviews prior to the end of the year Annual Performance Report (APR) submission. Monthly Reports are due on the 5<sup>th</sup> each month (or the next business day if the 5<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday) to capture visits completed and number of families served for the previous month.

## **HVLAC**

Home Visitation Leadership Advisory Coalition (HVLAC) was created in 2003 in partnership with OSU Cooperative Extension Office. Participants share the common goal of working together and striving to strengthen state and local collaborations. The primary focus was based on early family support and education programs that are preventive in nature and particularly utilize home visitation approaches. Since 2003, Family Support and Prevention Service has expanded and grown to new heights. In 2023, providers participating in HVLAC identified the need to expand to better support providers in Oklahoma. Starting in January 2024 we will transition HVLAC into FSP CoP. Family Support Provider Community of Practice. This community of practice is a place for anyone who provides strength-based services to children and families to come to better their quality of services and strengthen relationships with other providers/referral sources. The community of practice will continue to be preventative in nature but expand its goals. The FSP

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<sup>13</sup> *Blue Ribbon affiliates*. Parents as Teachers. (2021, October). Retrieved November 11, 2022, from <https://parentsasteachers.org/blue-ribbon/affiliates-1>

CoP mission is to lead, advise and advocate for the field of family support with unwavering commitment to strengthening families, promoting provider well-being, and fostering inclusive communities. We aim to validate members' experiences and skills through comprehensive support, to nurture the resilience of providers and families. The benefits of the community of practice include the following:

- Knowledge Building
- Resource Gathering/Network Building
- Confidence in the services/support in Oklahoma
- Connecting to other service providers
- Model skills for family's engagement/collaboration
- Idea Sharing & Skill Building

### Annual Performance Report (APR)

The Annual Performance Report is required by all PAT Affiliates as a vehicle to report services provided to the PAT National Center. The Central Office has supported sites in collecting the data by developing a report in the Data Management System, Efforts to Outcomes (ETO). Affiliates are now able to pull a report that mirrors the APR to make reporting manageable and accurate. Annually, Affiliates submit the report utilizing the National Center's platform and cover a wide range of service outcomes including special populations served, completed home visits, staffing, and length of service, to name a few. All sites successfully submitted their individual 2023 APR by the due date of August 15, 2023.

### Parent Satisfaction Report

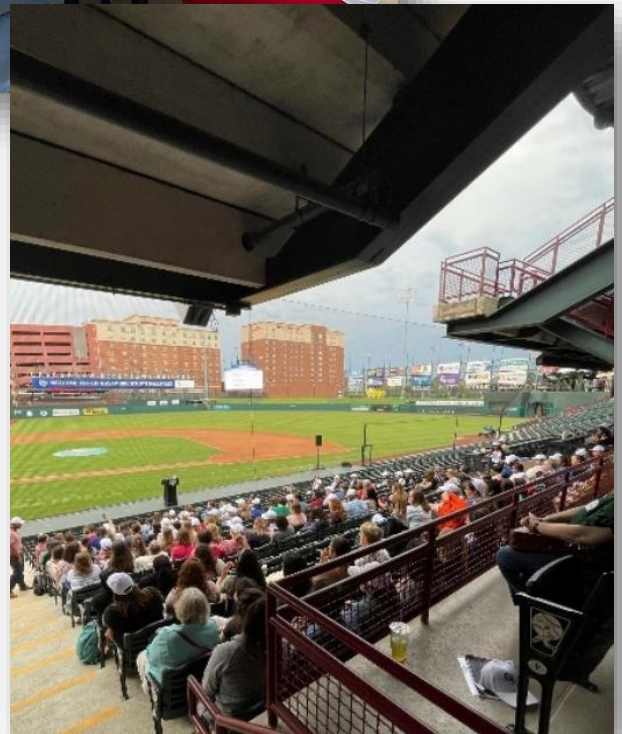
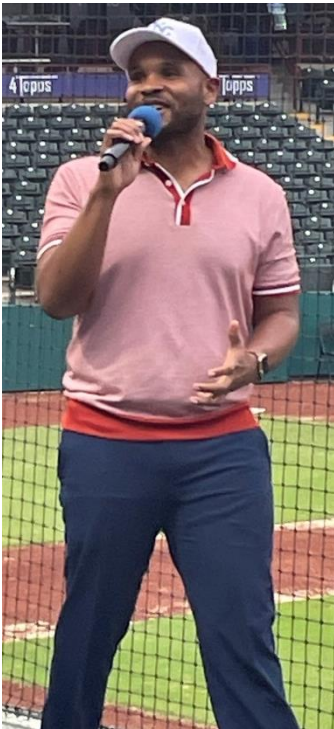
According to Model Requirements, PAT Affiliates are expected to get feedback from families around their satisfaction of the services they are receiving. Each affiliate provided the survey to families and submitted the report to the Central Office. During Target Fidelity Project (TFP) calls, Consultants reviewed the results with affiliates and discussed any trends and lessons learned from the results of the surveys.



*My Parenting Educator, Krystal has provided my family with the educational tools, resources and guidance to help us build a healthy, loving, and positive environment for our children. Our family has accomplished many goals while being in PAT including going back to work as a substitute teacher. My parent educator encouraged me to join the Parent Committee and I've volunteered with group connections. - Deshonna*

## Annual Meeting

The 2023 FSPS Annual Meeting took place at the Dodger's Stadium on June 27, 2023 where individuals made a Major League Impact through their contributions and attendance. In addition to PAT Contractors, other home visiting models and family support providers attended. Keynote and breakout sessions addressed topics including self-care, empathy and expanding our capacity to serve families, parent voice, and collaboration. All programs that attended were provided a space to break out to have more meaningful conversations around program updates for the upcoming year. Additionally, the Annual Meeting was an opportunity to highlight individuals who produced the most home visits. The Parent Educator of the Year, Hope Jackson, who serves Beckham, Greer, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman, and Washita Counties, delivered more PAT home visits than any other PAT Parent Educator in FY2023.



## Annual Meeting Highlights

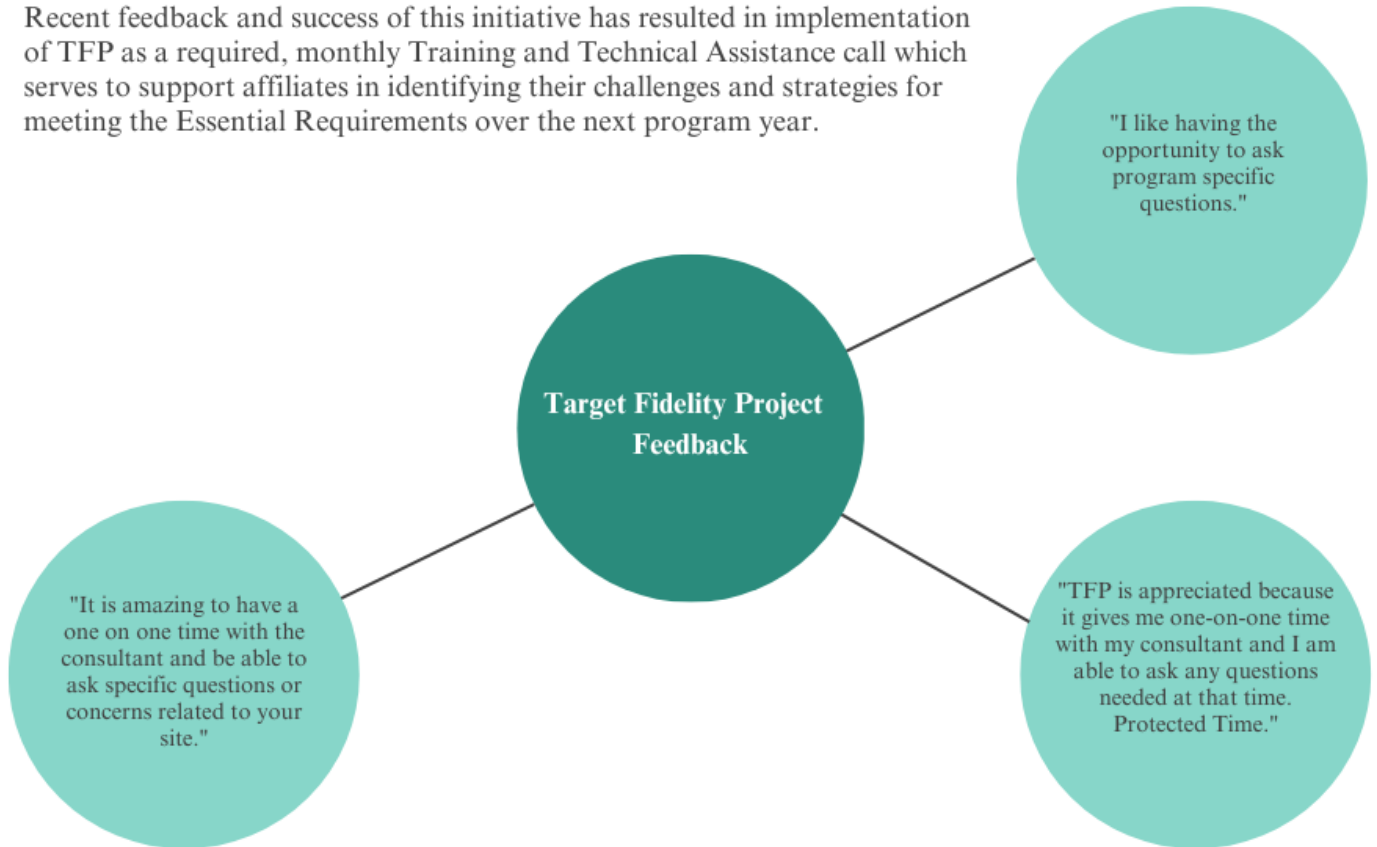
“Hearing from the clients in the break out, this should be included every year. It was very impactful.”

“Loved the appreciation and value of my job. I felt understood, I really love what I do and it was very encouraging to hear the speakers and know that our job is important, fruitful, and a huge hope for our community.”

“The Keynote speakers were both fabulous, and the lineup throughout the day was interesting and went at a good pace.”

## Target Fidelity Project

**Target Fidelity Project (TFP)** is an initiative of Parents as Teachers National Center to deepen the support offered to PAT Affiliates who missed one or more Essential Requirements on the affiliate's Annual Performance Review. Recent feedback and success of this initiative has resulted in implementation of TFP as a required, monthly Training and Technical Assistance call which serves to support affiliates in identifying their challenges and strategies for meeting the Essential Requirements over the next program year.



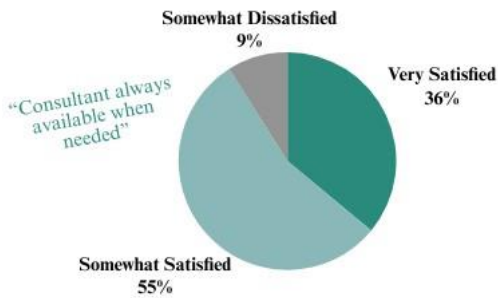


## State Office Satisfaction Survey

PAT Affiliates are invited to share their feedback on various dimensions of state office support through a year-end State Office Satisfaction Survey. The survey is sent out to program supervisors who participate in individual technical assistance calls, supervisors calls and other state required activities. The survey was open between August 21 - September 1 and completed by 11 PAT program leaders.

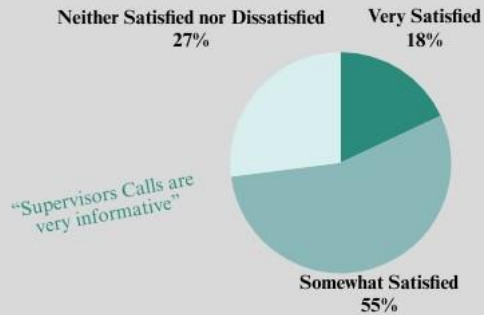
### Technical Assistance

How satisfied were you with the individual technical assistance provided to your site in FY23?



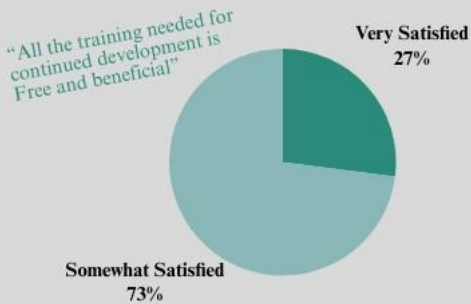
### Supervisors Calls

How satisfied were you with the Monthly Supervisors Calls in FY23?



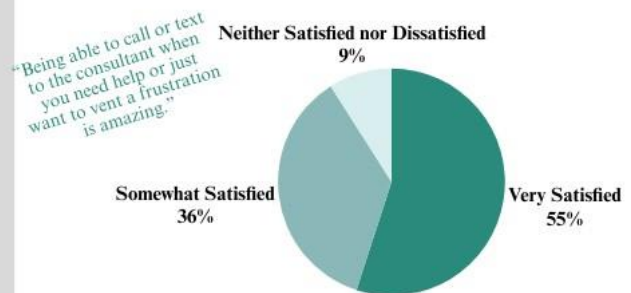
### Training

How satisfied are you with the trainings provided by the state?



### Overall Support

How satisfied are you with the overall program support provided by the PAT consultants and state lead?



## Budget and Program Needs:

Over the course of the last 12 years, the child abuse prevention fund has steadily decreased. In 2018, the contracts were cancelled and reinstated in 2019. Since then, the Child Abuse Prevention Fund has held steady, with no increase.

Below is a snapshot of the state budget history for PAT. In 2018, state funded PAT Programs were cut, and reinstated in 2019 at the current funding of \$2,014,668. The table below represents the decline of services from 2011 to 2023 due to budget cuts and no increases.

State Fiscal Year	Total Expenditures	Number of Families Served	Average Cost per Family	Number of Contractors	Number of Counties Served
2011	\$2,964,476	1,085	\$2,732	21	39
2012	\$2,790,426	1,068	\$2,613	19	37
2013	\$2,711,578	786	\$3,450	14	30
2014	\$2,788,042	774	\$3,602	14	30
2015	\$2,613,823	738	\$3,542	13	28
2016	\$2,440,713	672	\$3,632	13	28
2017	\$2,246,365	608	\$3,695	11	26
<b>Contracts Cancelled</b>					
2018	\$906,145	321	\$2,823	9	23
<b>Contracts Reinstated - \$2,014,668 total budget in the Child Abuse Prevention Fund</b>					
2019	\$2,014,668	386	\$5,479	9	28
2020	\$1,873,023	648	\$2,890	9	28
2021	\$1,769,755	592	\$2,989	9	28
2022	\$1,752,798	577	\$3,038	9	28
2023	\$1,993,133	532	\$3,746	9	28

The following table details the number of reports accepted for investigations in counties served by PAT. A report may have only one identified child victim or there may be multiple identified child victims.<sup>14</sup>

<b>Confirmed Child Abuse and Neglect Cases</b>					
SFY 2021 Oklahoma Human Services Child Abuse or Neglect Statistics					
<b>Rural Counties Served - 27</b>					
1.	Adair	241	15.	Major	36
2.	Alfalfa	23	16.	McClain	280
3.	Beckham	223	17.	Noble	121
4.	Cherokee	473	18.	Okfuskee	127
5.	Cleveland ( <i>Rural &amp; Suburban</i> )	1,910	19.	Okmulgee	507
6.	Comanche ( <i>Federal Funding</i> )	1,169	20.	Osage	409
7.	Creek	751	21.	Pawnee	163
8.	Garvin	232	22.	Seminole	299
9.	Grant	28	23.	Sequoyah	539
10.	Greer	46	24.	Tillman	49
11.	Hughes	142	25.	Wagoner	664
12.	Jackson	162	26.	Washita	99
13.	Kay	629	27.	Woods	60
14.	Kiowa	58			
<b>Metropolitan Counties Served - 2</b>					
28.	Oklahoma	6,331			
29.	Tulsa	6,530			
<b>Metropolitan Counties Total Cases</b>		<b>12,861</b>	<b>Rural Counties Total Cases</b>		<b>9,440</b>

<sup>14</sup> DHS Innovation Services, and OKDHS Creative Services. *Child Abuse or Neglect Statistics, Oklahoma Human Services, Oklahoma Human Services*, [oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/okdhs/documents/okdhs-report-library/S21015\\_ChildAbuseNeglectStatisticsFY21\\_cws\\_02162022.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/okdhs/documents/okdhs-report-library/S21015_ChildAbuseNeglectStatisticsFY21_cws_02162022.pdf). Accessed 30 Oct. 2023.

“Research has proven evidence-based models of home-based family support services lead to fewer instances of child abuse and neglect, improved child health, and improved child development that results in less need for expensive remedial education.”<sup>15</sup> Enhancing and expanding our services has the potential to positively impact more families. Children and parents engaged in the PAT program are less likely to go to the emergency room for injury and have a 50% reduction in cases of abuse/neglect.<sup>16</sup> Families engaged in PAT are more likely to attend well child visits and eat more fruits and vegetables.<sup>17</sup> PAT children were rated significantly higher than non-PAT children on multiple, developmental indicators of school readiness (emotional well-being, fine motor, expressive language, receptive language and social competence).<sup>18</sup> PAT Families were found to be more responsive and stimulating for children while feeling more support from their communities.<sup>19</sup> PAT not only reduced the likelihood of abuse/maltreatment but also improved outcomes within education and physical health. PAT increased access to health care and social support networks.

### **To build infrastructure and fill gaps in services the OCAP has the following needs:**

- Restore state funding to a minimum of \$2,964,476 would be a good first step toward expansion of need services, with the ultimate goal of reaching and sustaining a level of funding that provided home visiting services for residents in every county.
- Increase the state’s investment dollars in child abuse prevention services such as PAT Home Visitation Services, Children First and SafeCare. Continue identifying gaps in the continuum of home visiting services to achieve a more cohesive robust home visiting footprint.
- The OFSN is a new initiative that has been implemented in OCAP and is part of the National Family Support Network.<sup>20</sup> In order to increase Family Resource Centers,<sup>21</sup> the OCAP will continue to develop the OFSN by increasing membership and visibility across the state focusing on a collaborative network of providers and agencies.
- Flexible funding which is essential for supporting parent voice and lived experience. It allows for timely response to emerging community needs, enabling parents to engage in decision making processes, family advocacy, and educational initiatives. Being responsive to community needs in a timely manner allows for programs to best support families and prevent child abuse/neglect.
- Develop a new comprehensive State Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect by collaborating with child and family serving agencies as well as the Oklahoma Commission for Children and Youth, and Oklahoma Human Services. The state plan will be implemented in 2024 and will establish SMART Goals to increase child abuse and neglect prevention services and close the gaps where they exist. The State Plan will be a working document that serves as the blueprint for child abuse and neglect prevention across Oklahoma.

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<sup>15</sup> *Annual outcomes report - OK school readiness.* (2020). Retrieved November 11, 2022, from [https://okschoollreadiness.org/uploads/documents/Home%20Visiting%20Report\\_2020.pdf](https://okschoollreadiness.org/uploads/documents/Home%20Visiting%20Report_2020.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Wagner, M., Iida, E., & Spiker, D. (2001). *The multisite evaluation of the Parents as Teachers home visiting program: Three-year findings from Winston-Salem, NC.* Menlo Park, CA: SRI International.

<sup>17</sup> Haire-Joshu, D., Schwarz, C., Steger-May, K., Lapka, C., Schechtman, K., Brownson, R., & Tabak, R. (2018). A randomized trial of weight change in a national home visiting program. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, 54(3), 341–351. [amepre.2017.12.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2017.12.012)

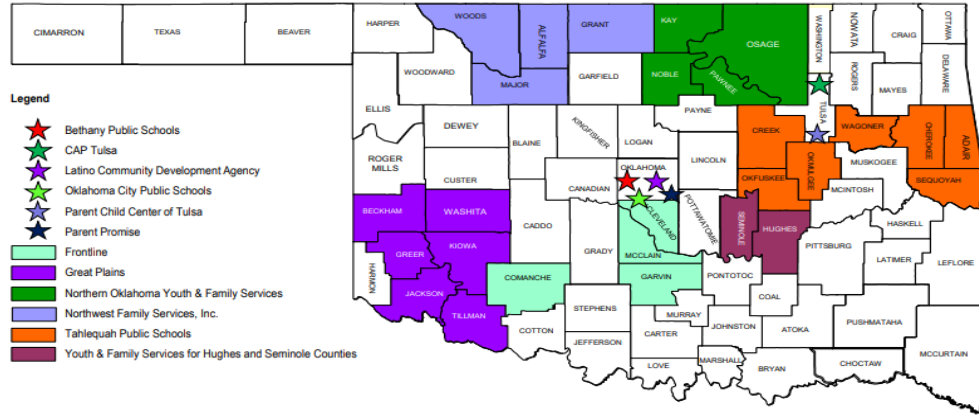
<sup>18</sup> O’Brien, T., Gamett, D.M., & Proctor, K. (2002). Impact of the Parents as Teachers program. Cañon City, CO (Fremont County) School Year 1999-2000. Center for Human Investment Policy, Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver.

<sup>19</sup> Owen, M.T. & Mulvihill, B.A. (1994). Benefits of a parent education and support program in the first three years. *Family Relations*, 43, 206-212. <https://doi.org/10.2307/585324>

<sup>20</sup> “National Family Support Network: Championing Family Support.” *Nfsn*, [www.nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org/](http://www.nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org/). Accessed 30 Oct. 2023.

<sup>21</sup> “Family Support Program.” *Nfsn*, [www.nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org/family-support-programs](http://www.nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org/family-support-programs). Accessed 30 Oct. 2023.

# Parents as Teachers & FRCs 2023



Data Source: Parents as Teachers, Family Support and Prevention Services, Oklahoma State Department of Health  
Created: 04.26.2022



Disclaimer: This map is a compilation of records, information and data from various city, county and state offices and other sources, affecting the area shown, and is the best representation of the data available at the time. The map and data are to be used for reference purposes only. The user acknowledges and accepts all inherent limitations of the map, including the fact that the data are dynamic and in a constant state of flux.



*The PAT Contractors that received federal funds only are Bethany Public Schools, CAP Tulsa, and Oklahoma City Public Schools. The FRC Contractors receive funds from the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Fund and are in Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties.*



*I am so proud of Kendra for all that she has accomplished. She is now working as a dental assistant and has her own apartment. She has overcome many obstacles to success with limited support and still maintains a positive attitude. I am honored to be part of her PAT support system.*  
– Samantha, Parent Educator

## Featured Parent Success Story

The Shirzai Family came to PAT seeking help. Naseeb was a single dad with nine children ages ranging from 19 to 4 years old and came to the United States seeking asylum from Afghanistan. To compound the trauma this family faced, Naseeb lost his wife and mother of his children, Bibi, due to health complications. Imani, Naseeb's Parent Educator, quickly went to work with the family by identifying vital areas of concern which was lack of consistent health care, and the mental health and wellness of the family, especially after the death of Bibi. Imani was able to help Naseeb establish a medical home and began



Mansuor is not pictured

consistently engaging the family in self-care rituals. The next hurdle Naseeb and Imani faced was financial, transportation, and citizenship challenges. Imani and Naseeb discussed setting goals and thoughtfully planned the family's future, step by step. First, Imani shared employment resources and as a result, Naseeb and his eldest child, Mansuor have obtained employment. Now that the family had a steady income, Naseeb went to work on finding transportation. With the support of Imani, Naseeb was able to get a driver's license and purchase two vehicles. The toughest hurdle for Naseeb was applying for Green Cards, partly because of all of the detailed paperwork, but also English was not his first language. Imani knew they had to have patience, and pay close attention to detail. By working together, Naseeb was able to successfully complete the required documents and get Green Cards for the family. Having Green Cards allowed Naseeb and his family to live and work permanently in Oklahoma. Imani stated "Completing this goal took a huge burden off of the family."

Having stability in the family allowed Naseeb to focus on his youngest, Khadija. After administering the ASQ:SE, Imani noticed that she was delayed in her social and emotional skills, was not picking up on the English language and she was experiencing challenges with her ability to do things for herself. Naseeb was committed and consistent and partnering with Imani to support Khadija as she learned and grew. Imani stated "Together, we explored strategies for fostering autonomy, language acquisition, verbal expression, navigating sibling rivalry, and enhancing various areas of growth and development." Naseeb and Imani consistently practiced parent-child interactions that fostered enhanced growth in language, cognitive, and social emotional skills. These interactions gave the family insight on the way their interactions impacted Khadija's development. Naseeb shared with Imani that he is "Very thankful for a good program, and Khadija had lots of good growth!" Khadija turned five and started elementary school in August. Naseeb has made it clear to Imani, "I would like to continue services throughout the school year." Imani stated "I have witnessed this family show such great resilience in acclimating themselves to a completely different world. The growth that this family has experienced has been phenomenal, and the family, as well as me, are confident that they will continue thriving!"



*CAP Tulsa  
Tulsa County  
Shirzai Family*

*“Nasseb told Imani “This has not been an easy transition, moving my family to the United States.”*

*To which Imani replied “You make it look easy because you and your family are thriving here!”*

*“Going through PAT has taught me how to cope with life on life’s terms. PAT gave me tools to help manage my life in a way that is productive. I now understand that not every day is gonna be great and that is ok because even my worst day today is better than my best day in my addiction. PAT gave me the opportunity to be a father and tools to be better equipped for the job. Asher keeps me focused.” – Robert, Asher’s dad*



*“We will never be able to thank Emily enough for the hours that she spent with us. It is a true blessing to have PAT, and we just wish every family in Oklahoma knew about PAT and could enjoy the innumerable benefits it has to offer. We have recommended PAT to several friends and we will keep doing it.” - Lauren, Sergio and Andrew*

## Acknowledgments

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This report is respectfully submitted in compliance with Title 63, O.S. Section 1-227.3.

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