

## **COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting  
May 21, 2021  
9:00 a.m.**

Commissioners present: Melinda Freundt, Rachel Holt, Kalie Kerth, Lindsay Laird, and John Schneider

Commissioners present virtually: Jackie Aaron, Kevin Corbett, Jonathan Hall, Joy Hofmeister, Angela Marsee, Mike Warren, and Brad Wilson

Guests present: Amanda Everett, Joe Dorman, Wanda Felty, Beth Martin, Sherry Fair, Betty Hawkins-Emery, Brenda Loggins, Sid Brown, Jeremy Irons, Lou Leake, Torry Lawhon, Jill Geiger, Shavonne McRee, Carmin Tecumseh-Williams, Linda Manaugh, and Brandy Bahm

Staff present: Annette Wisk Jacobi, Mark James, Amanda Jett, Cherra Taylor, Rob Agnew, Lisa Rhoades, Elizabeth Kaup, Ellen Lohrenz, Jimmy Widdifield Jr, Joseph McGrath, Tina Pendergraft, Keith Pirtle, Adrienne Elder, Jennifer Hardin, and Danielle Dill

---

### **Call to Order and Determination of Quorum**

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

Chairperson Laird called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

---

### **Welcome and Introductions**

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

Chairperson Laird welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were given.

---

### **Public Comments**

Public comment was given by:

- Brenda Loggins, grandmother, spoke about hope with action and stated that we need to do better amongst each other with more transparency and accountability.
- Torry Lawhon, father, spoke about his experience with DHS and how he believes the system is flawed.
- Joe Dorman, executive director of the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, congratulated Director Holt and Secretary Corbett and stated that OICA has taken on OCCY's legislative list and looks forward to the partnership they have. He stated that OICA is collecting ideas for interim studies. If Commissioners have suggestions, please contact him.

---

### **Review and Approval of the Minutes from the March 12, 2021, Commission Meeting**

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

Chairperson Laird asked the Commission to review the minutes and called for a motion.

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve the minutes as written. Director Holt seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative except District Attorney Marsee who stepped away.

### **Finance Report: An update regarding the OCCY Budget, Expenses, and Balances**

– Brandy Bahm

Ms. Bahm provided an overview of the financial report through April 30, 2021.

Director Freundt moved to approve the financial report. Superintendent Hofmeister seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative except District Attorney Marsee who stepped away.

***A handout was provided.***

---

### **Executive Session Pursuant to Title 25 O.S. §307 (B)(1) for the Purpose of Conducting a Performance Review and Discussing Any Other Matters, Including Compensation, Related to the Employment of the Executive Director**

– Chairperson Lindsay Laird

Chairperson Laird called for a motion to enter executive session

Judge Warren moved to enter executive session. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

The Board entered executive session.

Chairperson Laird called for a motion to exit executive session.

Judge Warren moved to exit executive session. Superintendent Hofmeister seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

The Board exited executive session.

---

### **Review of Personnel Matters, Including Compensation, Relating to the Executive Director**

– Chairperson Lindsay Laird

Director Holt provided an overview on behalf of the Personnel Committee, which consisted of Commissioner Freundt, Commissioner Schneider, Chairperson Laird, and Director Holt. The overview included:

- An OCCY staff survey was conducted.
- A Commissioner survey was conducted.
- A Director's self-assessment survey was conducted.
- The results as well as the Director's goals were provided to the Commissioners during Executive Session.

Superintendent Hofmeister commended Director Jacobi for her work and carrying the agency through the pandemic with fewer resources than normal.

Director Holt moved to approve the personnel review for Director Annette Jacobi. Judge Warren seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

Commissioner Schneider motioned to increase to Director Jacobi's salary by 4.5%, bringing it to \$103,142, which is approximately 50% of the authorized salary pay band. Judge Warren seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

---

### **Presentation: Ready Together Oklahoma – An Action Plan for Supporting Students Through the Pandemic and Beyond**

– Superintendent Joy Hofmeister

Superintendent Hofmeister presented on the action plan, Ready Together Oklahoma, to assist students with academic, social, and emotional needs that may have been hindered due to the pandemic. Some of the action items discussed included:

- Investing at least \$14 million for education enrichment.
- Launched a recovery website to provide resources for schools and communities.
- Funding for schools to increase the number of counselors available to students.

Superintendent Hofmeister requested the Commissioners to support the action plan. Commissioner Kerth read out loud the draft resolution provided in the packet.

Judge Warren moved to support the Ready Together Oklahoma action plan and the resolution. Commissioner Fruendt seconded the motion. All members present vote in the affirmative.

***A handout was provided.***

---

### **Presentation: An Overview of The Federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant**

– Beth Martin

Beth Martin, Director of Family Support and Prevention Service at the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), presented on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

Ms. Martin provided information regarding the additional funds being provided to Oklahoma through the federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant and the Maternal, Infant and Early Child Home Visiting Grant. She covered the distribution formulas used to distribute funds between the states and purposes of each. Ms. Martin also reported that OSDH and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) are partnering on multiple projects including the Family Resource Centers and the Hope Centers.

---

### **Update: Issues Related to Oklahoma's Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)**

– Carmin Tecumseh-Williams

Carmin Tecumseh-Williams, Deputy Cabinet Secretary of Community and Human Services for the Muscogee - Creek Nation, reported that:

- Four of the five Tribes have signed ICWA agreements with the State.
  - 384 native children, 236 Muscogee – Creek being Muscogee-Creek, children, 384 native children, 236 of them Muscogee-Creek, were residing within the Muscogee-Creek reservation area at the time of the Supreme Court ruling in the McGirt case.
  - The Muscogee – Creek Nation's Children and Family Services employed 30 workers at the time of the Supreme Court ruling, but has now grown to 40 workers."
  - The Muscogee – Creek Nation plans to further expand services and hire additional staff.
-

**Introduction and Overview: Comprehensive State Plan for Services to Children and Youth**

– *Jill Geiger*

Jill Geiger, Analytical Consultant with Jill Geiger Consulting, discussed the requirements of the State Plan for Services to Children and Youth’s Annual Report, the deliverables that Ms. Geiger will provide, the list of agencies and programs that will be contacted for information, and how she plans to gather community input.

---

**Update: OCCY Request Bills and Other Related Legislative Items**

– *Jennifer Hardin*

Jennifer Hardin, Legislative Liaison for OCCY, provided an update regarding the legislative bills for the 2021 Legislative Session. The bills that were signed by the Governor were House Bill (HB) 2311, HB 2312, HB 2317, and Senate Bill (SB) 987. HB 2313 was vetoed. SB 537 was pulled by the author, but could be reintroduced in the 2022 Legislative Session. SB 339 did not move forward through this session.

OCCY’s budget for the State Fiscal Year 2022 was increased by 9.3%. The additional \$214,000 will provide three more staff persons.

***Handouts were provided.***

---

**Director’s Report**

– *Annette Wisk Jacobi, Executive Director*

Director Jacobi reported on the progress of creating a new OCCY database and the issues that have arisen during the review process. The final decision is for the University of Oklahoma to create an agencywide database for OCCY. Contract negotiations are in progress and involve the Office of Management and Enterprise Services.

***A handout was provided.***

---

**New Business**

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

There was no new business

---

**Commissioner Announcements**

– *All*

There were no announcements

---

**Chairman Remarks**

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

Chairperson Laird reported that Commission meetings will require that a majority of Commissioners gather in-person in order to hold meetings. She congratulated Director Holt on her recent Senate confirmation for her permanent position as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs. She thanked the Commissioners who have signed up to serve on OCCY Committees and encouraged those that have not to do so.

---

## **Adjournment**

– Chairperson Lindsay Laird

Director Fruendt motioned to adjourn the Commission meeting. Commissioner Kerth seconded the motion. The Commission meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

## **Future Meeting Dates**

June 25, 2021

September 17, 2021

November 19, 2021