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## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT OCCY COMMISSION MEETING December 1, 2022**

### **PERSONNEL**

**Executive Assistant** – We are happy to say that Kathleen Arrieta is the new OCCY Executive Assistant. She will be assisting the OCCY Commissioners as well as Mark and me. An Oklahoma native, she has spent the past 19 years working in a similar role for Graham Windham, a child welfare agency in New York City. Please welcome Kathy back to Oklahoma and to OCCY!

**Freestanding Multidisciplinary Team (FSMDT) Program Manager**: We are also pleased to announce that Brittany Gassner has joined OCCY to serve as the FSMDT Program Manager. Brittany has more than 14 years of professional experience within the field of victim services, including Victim/Witness Coordinator at the Kingfisher County DA's office, as well as the FSMDT Coordinator for the Kingfisher County FSMDT. She worked closely with the previous FSMDT Program Manager Jimmy Widdifield, Jr. and has hit the ground running.

**Business Manager**: Interviews continue for the Business Manager and we hope to have the position filled within the next three weeks or so. Meanwhile, we want to thank Kevin Clagg and Amber Miller at the Office of Juvenile Affairs for sharing their time and expertise with us. They are providing support now and have offered to help train the new Business Manager once hired.

**Legal Externs**: Two Oklahoma City University law students spent their fall semester externing with OCCY. It has been a pleasure to get to know Crystalle Fry and Danielle Sasser. We wish them continued success as they move into their last semester of law school.

### **FINANCES**

**General Budget Monitoring**: Monthly finance meetings with the OMES and OCCY staff continue. ***(Please see attachment in Commissioner Packet.)***

### **DIRECTOR'S HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES (Annette Wisk Jacobi)**

**Database**: We have been very pleased with the progress that the OU Evaluation Team (E-Team) has made on our agency database. While the database is not fully completed nor perfect, we appreciate the partnership we have had with the E-Team in the database design and feel confident they are building a useful product to meet our needs. Department modules have been designed for Post Adjudication Review Boards, the Office of Juvenile Systems Oversight, Freestanding Multidisciplinary Teams, Child Death Review Boards, and the Office of Planning and Coordination. The E-Team is in the process of final design and data migration.

**Bartlesville Tour**: In August, OCCY staff was joined by Joe Dorman of the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy and Gabrielle Jacobi of the Oklahoma Policy Institute and traveled to Bartlesville as part of a community listening tour. The day began with Gabrielle, Joe, and me serving as guests on KWON's local morning radio show to discuss issues related to children and families. Senator Julie Daniels and Representative Judd Strom joined us for the rest of our stops which included Ray of Hope Advocacy Center, the Kiwanis Club of Bartlesville (where Gabrielle presented Washington County and State KidsCount data), Youth and Family Services of Washington Co., and the local Boys and Girls Club. Special thanks go to Bartlesville residents Karen Waddell and Vanessa Ford for assisting us in tour planning.

**Special Visit**: Executive Director Roger Sherman of Idaho Children's Trust was in Oklahoma recently on business connected with Prevent Child Abuse America. He made time to visit with OCCY staff and OCCY made arrangements for him to visit Positive Tomorrows.

Woodward: In October, OCCY partnered with the Oklahoma Policy Institute and traveled to Woodward for a community listening tour. Representatives Mike Dobrinski and Carl Newton were gracious to join us. The day once again started off by Gabrielle and I serving as guests on the radio station K101's morning show. We then tour The Hope Center, Western Plains Youth and Family Services, Woodward Middle School's Technical Applications Program, Big Five Community Services, and The Pregnancy Center of Woodward. Special thanks to Kevin Evans, Executive Director for the Western Plains Youth and Family Services for encouraging us to make the trip.

Children's Trust Fund Alliance Annual Meeting: Staff, Parent Partnership Board members, and Chairman Schneider traveled to Denver for the annual Children's Trust Fund (CTF) Alliance meeting. The meeting was jointly held in part with the annual Prevent Child Abuse America meeting. National researchers and practitioners spoke with just about everyone's favorite presenter being Dr. Wendy Ellis from George Washington University's College of Public Health. Staff from OCCY are engaged in many of the CTF committees including Marcia Johnson – public policy; Rob Agnew – communications; Mark James – audit; and Isabel Rodriguez – parent leadership. In addition, I served my last term as a member of the Board of Directors – most recently serving in the role as Treasurer.

## **OCCY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Post Adjudication Review Board - PARB (Keith Pirtle)**

New Tulsa Coordinator: Tulsa County has hired a new PARB Coordinator. Welcome Malayna Hasmani! She has most recently been dedicating time to recruiting new PARB members. If you know of anyone that would be interested in serving in the Tulsa County area, please contact Malayna at [tulsaparb@gmail.com](mailto:tulsaparb@gmail.com).

State PARB Meeting: During the most recent State PARB meeting, members discussed the challenges they see in the courts along with possible recommendations. Two of the possible recommendations include the elimination of jury trials in relation to terminating parental rights and the need to develop a system that would provide high quality legal representation for parents as well as children in deprived cases. State Representative Danny Williams was a guest at the meeting.

### **Oklahoma Child Death Review Board – CDRB (Lisa Rhoades)**

Practicum Student: We said goodbye to our intern Mr. Max Smith. He worked with the with CDRB staff and staff from the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Service to create and implement an environmental scan regarding safe sleep education for parents/caregivers (e.g., non-childcare center-related). He presented his preliminary data to the State CDRB at the end of the summer.

Grandparent 101: CDRB continues to partner with OSDH's Preparing for a Lifetime in hopes to provide educational material to grandparents. A curriculum has been chosen. However, the purchase of it is on hold at the Office of Management and Enterprise Services. The intent is to provide the curriculum to organizations and programs along with safe sleep education.

National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome Annual Conference: CDRB staff attended this annual conference in October. It was a great opportunity for learning and networking.

Water Damage: In October, there was a massive water leak in Lisa Rhoades' office. Thankfully building management was able to make repairs and clean up the damage fairly quickly. It did involve clean up over a weekend and did disrupt Ms. Rhoades' ability to work in her office for about a week. Thankfully she was able to pivot and telework.

Number of Cases Closed: CDRB staff continue to make progress on setting up and closing cases. Since May, CDRBs have reviewed and closed 178 cases.

<b>Year of Death</b>	<b>March 2022</b>	<b>April 2022</b>	<b>May 2022</b>	<b>June 2022</b>	<b>July/Aug 2022</b>	<b>Sept 2022</b>	<b>Oct 2022</b>
2017	240/260	244/260	244/260	244/260	244/260	244/260	244/260
2018	137/243	188/243	194/243	199/243	214/243	217/243	218/243
2019	2/229	12/229	26/229	54/231	107/231	127/231	136/231
2020	0/248	0/249	0 /250	0/250	1/249	1/249	19/257
2021	0/ 84	0/107	0 /139	0/173	0/173	0/214	0/241

*The first number is the number closed/the second number is the number of cases established in the system for review.*

Since January 1, 2022 through November 29<sup>th</sup>, CDRB staff have prepared 458 cases for review and the Boards have closed 312 cases. Having the two additional staff persons (Lizz Kaup and Joseph McGrath) has made a tremendous difference. I want to thank Lisa Rhoades and team, as well as the Boards, for their hard work.

#### **Office of Planning and Coordination - P&C (Danielle Dill)**

Interim Studies: P&C staff were integral in coordinating two interim studies during the past few months. The first was sponsored by Rep. John Talley and focused on children and youth experiencing homelessness. There were a variety of presenters with both professional backgrounds in service and research as well as those that have experienced homelessness. As a result, Rep. Talley will be authoring a bill related to the study.

In addition, P&C staff were also instrumental in coordinating an interim study sponsored by Rep. Mark Lawson. This study focused on providing tax credits for foster youth transitioning out of state custody. There were multiple partners involved with this study including the OK Policy Institute, OK Successful Adulthood Program, and the OU National Resource Center for Youth Services. Like the other study, those that have experience the issue did present. Because of the study, Rep. Lawson plans on authoring a bill to financially assist foster youth. However, it may be evolving into something different than a tax credit.

National Family Support Network (NFSN) Training: During September, OCCY sponsored a Parent Advisory Council Training conducted by the NFSN. Thirty-three trainees from 14 agencies participated.

The Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) Advisory Committee: During this fall, this group has been very active. Three major activities included:

- 1) The Oklahoma Department of Corrections and partners (Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma, New Hope Oklahoma, OK Messages Project, Office of Juvenile Affairs, OCCY, and the University of Oklahoma), have been awarded a U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program Second Chance Act – *Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and their Minor Children Grant*. The grant totals \$741,960 with a focus on positive family engagement strategies such as the “Nurturing Parent” curriculum, reunification visits and programming, after-school and camp programming, empowering at-risk youth, connection and literacy services and program evaluation.
- 2) The CIP Advisory Committee and HARUV USA at OU-Tulsa hosted a workshop on “Incarceration and Its Impact on Children and Families” in June. Dr. Hilary Cuthrell, a national researcher from Wisconsin, along with Dr. Nancy Correa from Texas Children’s Hospital presented their latest research findings. Other presenters included David Gately from the Oklahoma Policy Institute and a panel consisting of individuals that have had experiences related to the justice system either as an incarcerated adult or as a child of an incarcerated adult. Approximately 70 professionals attended.
- 3) On October 14<sup>th</sup>, the 2022 Oklahoma Fatherhood Summit was held at the Tulsa Dream Center. Welcoming remarks were provided by Governor Stitt and the keynote was provided by well-known author and researcher Dr. Ken Canfield. The event included break-out sessions and opportunities to meet with a variety of vendors. There were 170 attendees and the evaluations were very positive.

Partnership Strengthening Youth Custody and Transition Services: OCCY would like to thank the partners who have signed on to provide transition school-to-work services for eligible youth in OJA custody. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by OJA, Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School, the Department of Rehabilitative Services, and OCCY.

#### **Parent Partnership Board (PPB):**

- In September, members of the Parent Partnership Board had a meeting with Director Holt, Director Fruendt, and Commissioner Schneider to learn about their respective agencies and work within the greater child-serving systems. Board members expressed much gratitude about the insights and time provided to them and look forward to future meetings with other Commissioners.
- Board member Tamara Bryan is serving as a parent representative to the Children and Family Service Review Planning and Implementation Team and Community of Practice in partnership with OKDSH and a part of the Children’s Bureau, Capacity Building Center for State and Capacity Build Center for Courts Initiative.

- Four members of the PPB attended the Children's Trust Fund Alliance Annual Meeting in Denver. Board member Betty Hawkins-Emery serves as the Co-Chair of the Alliance's National Parent Partnership Council and did a great representing our state.

**Communications (Rob Agnew)**

I want to thank Mr. Agnew for his continued work in supporting the program areas and the entire agency. He coordinated outstanding media and publicity coverage, including radio and television coverage, for the 2022 Fatherhood Summit as well as our recent visits to Bartlesville and Woodward. In addition, our website receives over 1,000 hits per month routinely because of his efforts to promote OCCY's work and services.

**Legislative/Policy Issues (Marcia Johnson)**

Ms. Johnson will discuss legislation pertinent to OCCY at the commission meeting. **(Please see attachment in Commissioner Packet.)**

**Office of Juvenile Systems Oversight (Harold Jergenson, Tina Pendergraft, and Mark James)**

	New Complaints	Closed Cases	Facility Complaints	Facility Oversight Visits
July 2021	25	37	0	0
Aug 2021	39	21	0	0
Sept 2021	46	43	0	0
Oct 2021	60	20	0	0
Nov 2021	37	39	0	1
Dec 2021	37	18	1	2
Jan 2022	34	49	0	0
Feb 2022	24	30	6	0
Mar 2022	41	25	1	0
April 2022	34	36	0	0
May 2022	39	23	3	0
June 2022	46	49	2	0
July 2022	42	40	1	0
Aug 2022	43	30	2	0
Sept 2022	44	55	0	1
Oct 2022	37	55	0	1

TOTALS	New Complaints	Closed Cases	Facility Complaints	Facility Oversight Visits
SFY19	404	368	7	1
SFY20	334	545	15	5
SFY21	364	337	3	3
SFY22	462	390	13	3
<b>SFY 23 YTD</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

**Foster Youth Matters/Foster Parent Voices (Mark James and Tina Pendergraft)**

	# of Youth Complaints		# of Foster Parents Complaints
July 2021	41		6
August 2021	42		22
September 2021	35		14
October 2021	37		9
November 2021	30		18
December 2021	24		16
January 2022	28		9
February 2022	24**		14**
March 2022	26		17
April 2022	21		16
May 2022	46		10
June 2022	12		41
July 2022	18		41
August 2022	14		29
September 2022	19		32
October 2022	14		28

<b>TOTALS</b>	<b># of Foster Youth Complaints</b>		<b># of Foster Parent Complaints</b>
SFY19	183*		180
SFY20	395		178
SFY21	405		182
SFY22	366		192
<b>SFY23 YTD</b>	<b>65</b>		<b>130</b>

\*Program stated in November 2018 (SFY19)

\*\* In previous reports, the foster parent and foster youth numbers for the month of February were transposed.

#### **Juvenile Competency Evaluations (Mark James)**

	<b># of Referrals</b>	<b># Competent</b>	<b># Not Competent</b>	<b>Pending Completion</b>
July 2021	5	0	5	0
August 2021	5*	2	2	0
September 2021	4	1	3	0
October 2021	5	3	2	0
November 2021	3	0	3	0
December 2021	2	1	1	0
January 2022	3	0	3	0
February 2022	2	0	2	0
March 2022	5	2	3	0
April 2022	4	1	3	0
May 2022	6*	2	3	0
June 2022	3*	0	2	0
July 2022	4*	1	2	0
August 2022	4	2	2	0
September 2022	3	1	1	1
October 2022	5	1	0	4
November 2022	7	0	0	7

\*One evaluation dismissed

<b>TOTALS</b>	<b># of Referrals</b>	<b># Declared Competent</b>	<b># Declared Not Competent</b>	<b>Pending Completion</b>
SFY19	32	19	13	0
SFY20	34^	14	18	0
SFY21	37+	10	24	0
SFY22	47+	12	32	0
<b>SFY23</b>	<b>23*</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>

\*One evaluation canceled

^Two evaluations canceled

+Three evaluations canceled

Respectfully submitted,

December 1, 2022

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Annette Wisk Jacobi  
1220OCCY Executive Director