

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Special Meeting
March 25, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

Commissioners present in person: Rachel Holt, Kalie Kerth, Lindsay Laird, Jackie Aaron, Ginarie Harrington, Keith Reed, Brad Wilson, Justin Brown, Brenda Myers, and John Schneider.

Commissioners present virtually: Mike Warren and Jason Hicks

Guests present: Sandra Balzer, Gabrielle Jacobi, Doris Fransein,Carolynn MacAllister, Amber Adams, Brandy Bahm, Donna Glandon, Constanzia Nizza, Lauren Gardner, Carrie Williams, and Joe Dorman

Staff present: Annette Wisk Jacobi, Mark James, Amanda Jett, Cherra Taylor, Rob Agnew, Lisa Rhoades, Joseph McGrath, Elizabeth Kaup, Makala Pittman, Brooke Laws, Ellen Lohrenz, Marcia Johnson, Jimmy Widdifield Jr, Tina Pendergraft, and Danielle Dill

Welcome, Introductions, and Determination of Quorum

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

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

Review of the Minutes from the June 25, 2021, Regular Commission Meeting

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

A handout was provided.

Director Holt moved to approve the minutes as written. Dr. Kerth seconded the motion. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative except for Interim Commissioner Reed, and District Attorney Hicks, who abstained. Judge Warren was absent during the vote.

Review of the Minutes from the November 19, 2021, Regular Meeting

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

A handout was provided.

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Aaron seconded the motion. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative except for District Attorney Hicks, who abstained. Judge Warren was absent during the vote.

Judge Warren arrived virtually to the meeting at 9:11am.

Update on House Bill 3468 regarding the “Parent Representation Act”

-- Judge Doris Fransein (ret)

Judge Fransein provided an overview of House Bill (HB) 3468, the Parent Representation Act, authored by Representative Mark Lawson. She stated that it was suggested that OCCY house the program. After some consideration, the bill was amended to name the Administrative Office of the Courts as the agency to house the program.

The bill has passed the House floor and has been sent to the Senate for approval. Senator Paul Rosino is the author.

A handout was provided.

Presentation on “Child Wellbeing in Oklahoma”

– Gabrielle Jacobi

Ms. Jacobi, the Child Well-Being Policy Analyst and the Kids Count Coordinator with the Oklahoma Policy Institute, provided an overview on the well-being of children in Oklahoma. Some of the information presented include:

- In 2021, Oklahoma ranked 33rd in economic well-being, 45th in education, 42nd in health, and 41st in family and community, with an overall ranking of 42nd in the U.S.
 - One in five children in Oklahoma live in poverty.
 - Seventeen percent of children have access to locations and services that encourage overall development.
 - Children’s ACE scores in Oklahoma are disproportionately high compared to the rest of the U.S.
 - Families in Oklahoma lack health insurance at higher rates than the rest of the U.S.
 - Some of the possible solutions proposed were increasing the minimum wage, invest in reliable public transportation, raise the reimbursement rate for childcare providers, fully fund public educations, and protect Medicaid expansion.
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Presentation on the Child Death Review Board Process, Barriers, and Improvement Strategies

– Lisa Rhoades

Lisa Rhoades, program manager of the Child Death Review Board (CDRB), provided an overview of the program, barriers faced, and ideas for improvement. Some of the information provided include:

- Child Death Review Board Act was created in 1991 and the board began reviewing case in 1993.
- CDRB currently employs three full time staff, the most employed in the history of the program.
- Minimum records needed include death certificate, chief medical examiner’s report, and law enforcement and child welfare records.
- Some of the barriers mentioned include repeated requests for records, security of reports, ensuring quorum at meetings, and no formal tracking system for recommendations.
- Some of the strategies mentioned include additional staff, direct records access, process evaluation, member recruitment, and logic models.
- Some recommendations were in the areas of abusive head trauma, unsafe sleep, and suicide.

Ms. Rhoades stated that a new database system is being created that will further streamline the data collection process.

Executive Director Appointment

– Chairperson Lindsay Laird

Commissioner Schneider moved to enter into executive session. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. All members present in the room voted in the affirmative. Judge Warren and District Attorney Hicks who were not able to vote due to virtual attendance.

Commissioners entered executive session at 10:36am.

Commissioner Aaron left the meeting at 11am.

Commissioners exited executive session at 11:03am.

Commissioner Schneider moved to reappoint executive director, Annette Jacobi, for another two-year term. Commissioner Harrington seconded the motion. All members present in the room voted in the affirmative. Judge Warren and District Attorney Hicks who were not able to vote due to virtual attendance.

Presentation and Approval of the Finance Report

– Brandy Bahm

Ms. Bahm provided an overview of the financial report through February 28, 2022, and responded to questions.

A handout was provided.

Director Holt moved to approve the finance report. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative except Commissioner Aaron who left the meeting.

Presentation of OCCY Expenditures State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022

– Mark James, Assistant Director

Assistant Director James provided an overview of the budget for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 and the proposed budget for SFY 2023. Some of the information presented include:

- 88% of the total appropriations to date for SFY2022 provided for the personnel's salaries.
- 8% of the total appropriations to date paid for rent of office space and contracts for professional services.
- A staff member will be hired with the use of a grant from the Oklahoma State Department of Health. This staff member will manage the Parent Partnership Board and coordinate all activities that will be funded with this grant.
- It was proposed to use remaining unencumbered carryover funds for community development grants, juvenile competency support, and technological support for various OCCY board meetings.

A handout was provided.

Presentation of Proposed OCCY Staff Salary Adjustments

– Mark James, Assistant Director

Assistant Director James reported that OCCY had eliminated two unfilled positions and reallocated the funds for salary increases for all current staff except the executive director. He also reported that OCCY reallocated some of the funds from budgeted line items toward the salary increases.

A handout was provided.

Director Holt left the meeting at 11:15am.

Presentation regarding Board of Child Abuse Examination Administrative Rules

– *Danielle Dill*

Ms. Dill provided an update on the adoption process of the Board of Child Abuse Examination administrative rules. She reported that:

- No written notification of disapproval from the Governor or Cabinet Secretary was received by the 30-day deadline from submission.
- No public comment was received during the designated period of February 1 – March 3, 2022.
- No public comment was received during a public hearing held on March 4, 2022.

A handout was provided.

Dr. Kerth moved to approve the proposed administrative rules for the Board of Child Abuse Examination. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

Presentation on House Bill 2992, “Child Witness Bill”

– *Dr.Carolynn MacAllister*

Dr. MacAllister provided an overview of House Bill 2992 and the history leading to the creation of the bill. Some of the information provided include:

- The Oklahoma Child Abuse Prevention Working Group reviewed statutes relating to age limitation regarding testifying in court and approached Representative Carol Bush and Senator Kay Floyd to author a bill to realign child witness age specifications with the definition of a “child” as specified in Title 10A.
- House Bill (HB) 2992 would revise the age limitation of child witnesses to allow alternative methods of testimony after the age of 12 years.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics Child Witness Policy Statement says that alternative methods of testimony are less stressful for children and provides for more accurate and detailed information.
- The current status of the bill is that it has passed the House Floor, been sent to the Senate, and awaiting assignment to a committee.

A handout was provided.

Dr. Kerth moved to support House Bill 2992. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative except Interim Commissioner Reed, Director Freundt, and Commissioner Wilson, who abstained.

Presentation on Senate Bill 1408 the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR) and the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association

– *Carrie Williams*

Carrie Williams, executive director of OPSR, presented on the history and the restructuring process of OPSR. OPSR was created in 2003 as a source of collaboration for early childhood programs and services. In 2021, OPSR began restructuring the program to include the Oklahoma Clearinghouse for Early Childhood Success. In November 2021, OPSR began negotiations to merge with Oklahoma Childcare Resource and Referral Association (OCRRA) to better streamline services. Senate Bill (SB)1408 will update Statutes regarding OPSR to reflect the current changes taking place. SB1408 passed the Senate and has moved to the House for consideration.

OCCY Parent Partnership Board (PPB) Report

– *Amber Adams*

Amber Adams, Parent Partnership Board member, provided an overview of PPB’s activities since the implementation of the board in November 2021. Some of the previous activities include:

- Attended the National Mentoring Summit.
- Participated in presentations and listening sessions for House and Senate bills.
- Attended the Strength Finders Workshop.
- Presented to the OPSR Board.

Upcoming scheduled activities include:

- Presenting at the Build Healthy Communities and Preventing Child Maltreatment Collaborative.
 - Oklahoma Policy Institute presenting to PPB.
 - Individual meetings with OCCY Commissioners.
 - Attending a Strategic Sharing Workshop.
 - Meeting with the University of Oklahoma’s E-Team for ongoing evaluation efforts.
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Public Comments

Public comments were given by:

- Joe Dorman, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA), announced that OICA is hosting a chili cookoff at the State Capital on March 28th. This also coincides with OICA’s annual Advocacy Day. Mr. Dorman encouraged Commissioners to continue collaborations with OICA and offered assistance where possible.
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Chairperson Laird left the meeting at 11:41am.

Director’s Report

– *Annette Jacobi, Executive Director*

Director Jacobi gave a report on activities occurring within OCCY. Director Jacobi thanked the Commissioners for reappointing her for another two-year term as executive director of OCCY. She introduced Marcia Johnson as OCCY’s new legislative liaison. Director Jacobi reported that SB 537, OCCY’s administrative bill, has passed the Senate Floor and has moved to the House for consideration. She also reported that the staff of Office of Juvenile Systems Oversight had receive cases outside what is traditionally reviewed. Staff has worked diligently, including collaborating with multiple agencies, to resolve the issues pertaining to these unique cases.

A handout was provided.

Announcements

– *Commissioners*

No announcements were given.

Chairperson Comments

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

No comments were given.

Adjournment

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

Commissioner Reed moved to adjourn the Commission meeting. Dr. Kerth seconded the motion. The Commission meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Future Meeting Dates

May 20, 2022

June 17, 2022

August 5, 2022

September 16, 2022

November 18, 2022