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## **COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Special Meeting  
September 26, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**

Commissioners present in person: Rachel Holt, Kalie Kerth, Carrie Slatton-Hodges, Ginanie Harrington, Joy Hofmeister, Jonathan Hall, Jason Hicks, Kevin Corbett, and John Schneider

Commissioners present virtually: No Commissioners attended virtually

Guests present: Mike Warren, Sandra Balzer, Lana Turner-Addison, Terry Smith, Sid Brown, Brandy Bahm, Betty Hawkins-Emerly, Constanzia Nizza, Joe Dorman, Pat Damron, and Michael McNutt

Staff present: Annette Wisk Jacobi, Mark James, Cherra Taylor, Rob Agnew, Lisa Rhoades, Makala Pittman, Nicole George, Marcia Johnson, Keith Pirtle, Isabel Rodriguez, Elizabeth Kaup, Joseph McGrath, Danielle Dill, and Harold Jergenson

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### **Welcome, Introductions, and Determination of Quorum**

– *Chairperson John Schneider*

Chairperson Schneider called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

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Commissioner Harrington arrived to the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

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### **Presentation and Approval of the State Fiscal Year 2024 OCCY Budget Request**

– *Mark James, Assistant Director*

Assistant Director James presented the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 Budget Proposal to the commissioners for approval. Some of the information provided included:

- OCCY will request a flat budget for SFY 2024.
- Ninety percent of the SFY 2023 appropriations were spent on personnel costs.
- In addition to appropriations, OCCY received funding from contracts with the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services as well as federal Title IV-E and Community Justice Act Grant funds.
- Projected carryover from SFY 2022 and SFT 2023 is \$550,000.
- Phase 1 of the new OCCY database was not completed as expected during SFY 2022, leaving \$200,000 carryover. Phase 1 is expected to be completed by December 2022.
- Of the \$550,000 in carryover, \$60,000 has yet to be designated for programs and/or services.

**A handout was provided.**

*Superintendent Hofmeister moved to approve OCCY's budget proposal for State Fiscal Year 2024. Commissioner Kerth seconded the motion. All of members present voted in the affirmative.*

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## Presentation on the Freestanding Multidisciplinary Teams: Annual Review and Proposed Determination of Functioning Status

– Pat Damron

Pat Damron, OCCY's contracted Freestanding Multidisciplinary Teams (FSMDT) manager, presented on the history of the FSMDTs and the annual survey results. She then presented the list of FSMDTs that were deemed "functioning" after their annual reviews and recommended to receive funds for Calendar Year 2023. Some of the information provided include:

- Multidisciplinary teams were created to reduce trauma for victims and minimize gaps in the investigations.
- The five required members for the teams consist of the district attorney, child welfare specialist, mental health professional, law enforcement official, and a medical professional.
- The State of Oklahoma has 37 FSMDTs and 20 Child Advocacy Centers (CACs).
- Survey data included: 50% of alleged victims reported to the teams were between the ages of 0 – 6 years; 57% of the alleged victims were white; 43% of the cases reported alleged sexual abuse; 61% of alleged perpetrators were parents or stepparents; and 48% of the cases involved drugs and alcohol.
- Some of the barriers many teams faced include poor communication, staff turnover, and changes in the court system due to the McGirt Ruling.

Ms. Damron reported that 37 FSMDTs met the standards of a functioning team and requested Commissioners' approval for funding the teams for CY 2023. The teams are as follows:

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|-------------------------|--|---|
| • Adair                 | • Haskell                                  | • Murray                                  |
| • Atoka                 | • Jackson (Greer, Harmon, Kiowa, Tilliman) | • Noble                                   |
| • Beckham (Roger Mills) | • Johnston                                 | • Nowata                                  |
| • Blaine                | • Kingfisher                               | • Okfuskee                                |
| • Cherokee              | • Latimer                                  | • Oklahoma                                |
| • Choctaw               | • Lincoln                                  | • Okmulgee                                |
| • Coal                  | • Logan                                    | • Pushmataha                              |
| • Comanche              | • Love                                     | • Seminole                                |
| • Craig                 | • Marshall                                 | • Stephens (Jefferson)                    |
| • Creek                 | • Mayes                                    | • Texas (Beaver, Cimarron, Harper)        |
| • Custer/Washita        | • McClain                                  | • Wagoner                                 |
| • Garvin                | • McIntosh                                 | • Woodward (Alfalfa, Dewey, Major, Woods) |
| • Grady                 |  |   |

**A handout was provided.**

Commissioner Hall moved to approve funding for the thirty-seven Freestanding Multidisciplinary Teams for CY 2023. District Attorney Hicks seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

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Superintendent Hofmeister left the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

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**Review of the Minutes from the March 25, 2022, Special Commission Meeting**

– Chairperson John Schneider

Director Holt requested that the part, “after vote was counted” be removed as commissioners didn’t vote during executive session. No other requests or comments were given.

**A handout was provided.**

Director Holt moved to approve the minutes with the requested changes. Commissioner Kerth seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

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**Review of the Minutes from the June 17, 2022, Regular Commission Meeting**

– Chairperson John Schneider

**A handout was provided.**

Commissioner Hall moved to approve the minutes as written. Secretary Corbett seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

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**Presentation and Approval of the Finance Report**

– Brandy Bahm

Ms. Bahm provided an overview of the financial report through August 31, 2022.

**A handout was provided.**

Commissioner Slatton-Hodges moved to approve the Finance Report. Commissioner Kerth seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

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**Public Comments**

Public comments were given by:

- Betty Hawkins-Emery, Parent Partnership Board member and the Co-Chair of the Alliance National Parent Partnership Council, thanked the Commissioners for giving parents a voice. She also shared that Parent Partnership Board member Dr. Lana Turner-Addison has been advocating for childcare services and that grants are available for start up day cares.
- Sid Brown, former OCCY Commissioner, thanked Terry Smith for his role in writing the book, “Throwaway Kids” and gave his account on what had occurred prior and during the class action lawsuit.

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**Presentation of “Throw Away Kids: Reforming Oklahoma’s Juvenile Justice System” - Book**

– Terry Smith

Terry Smith co-authored the book “Throwaway Kids” with Bob Burke. Mr. Burke is a noted attorney and historian who has written over 150 books about Oklahoma historical figures and events.

The book begins with the history of children’s legal issues during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It then covers the beginnings of Oklahoma’s care for children. Kate Barnard advocated for children’s issues

as early as 1906 and was the first woman to be elected as a state official in Oklahoma. She served Oklahoma's first Commissioner of Charities and Corrections.

The book moves onto the days when Lloyd E. Rader was the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. In the late 1970s, attorney Steven Novick brought the class action lawsuit against the Department of Human Services. The complaints in the lawsuit included extreme restraint practices, excessive isolation, sexual abuse, and forced prostitution.

Many reforms in the child serving system resulted from the lawsuit including the creation of OCCY and the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy in 1982. In addition, the Office of Juvenile Affairs was spun off from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services in 1995.

The books are sold through the Oklahoma Hall of Fame Museum.

***Books were provided.***

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**Report from the OCCY Parent Partnership Board (PPB)**

– *Dr. Lana Turner-Addison*

Dr. Turner, PPB member, provided an update of the activities for which PPB has participated from June 2022 to September 2022. Some of the activities include:

- A Memorandum of Understanding between OCCY, the Children's Trust Fund Alliance, and Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness was established.
  - PPB members served in an advisory capacity to the OCCY Homeless Children and Youth Steering Committee as well as the Strengthening Youth Custody and Transition Services Advisory Committee.
  - Dr. Turner organized "The Back-to-School Parent and Community Enrichment Extravaganza" in North Tulsa.
  - La'Chanda Stephens-Totimeh, PPB member served on the planning committee for the 2022 Oklahoma Fatherhood Summit scheduled for October 14, 2022.
  - Four PPB members will be attending the 2022 Children's Trust Fund Alliance/Prevent Child Abuse America Annual Meeting in November 2022.
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**Legislative Report**

– *Marcia Johnson*

Marcia Johnson, OCCY's Legislative Liaison, provided an update on the legislative bills pertaining to children. The legislative updates Ms. Johnson highlighted were:

- The second special legislative session will begin on September 28, 2022.
- Twenty-five American Rescue Plan Act funding bills were passed and sent to the Governor.
- An interim study on homeless students will be heard on September 27, 2022.
- An interim study on extending earned income tax credit to former foster youth who aged out of the child welfare system will be heard on October 13, 2022.

Ms. Johnson announced that that the swearing-in ceremony will take place on November 16, 2022.

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**Director's Report**

– *Annette Jacobi, Executive Director*

Director Jacobi reported that Jimmy Widdifield, FSMDT Program Manager, and Amanda Jett, Executive Assistant resigned their positions with OCCY for other opportunities. Director Jacobi stated that the process to hire new staff is underway. She requested assistance from the commissioners in hiring a business manager. She also thanked the commissioners for all the work they do in serving the children of Oklahoma.

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**Announcements**

– *Commissioners*

No announcements were given.

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**Chairperson Comments**

– *Chairperson John Schneider*

Chairperson Schneider thanked Terry Smith for his presentation.

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**Adjournment**

– *Chairperson John Schneider*

Director Holt moved to adjourn the Commission meeting. Commissioner Slatton-Hodges seconded the motion. The Commission meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

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**Future Meeting Dates**

December 1, 2022 Special Meeting