

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
OCCY COMMISSION MEETING
April 14, 2023

PERSONNEL

New Employee: Mr. James Boykin has recently joined OCCY as a community planner and will serve within the Office of Planning and Coordination. He brings with him over 10 years of experience working within OKC's nonprofit world and has a reputation for providing stellar service to vulnerable populations. Mr. Boykin has an associate's degree in Counseling/Social Work, bachelor's degree in organizational leadership, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Central Oklahoma. Welcome James!

Community Planner: Applications have been submitted for the new Preschool Development Grant position and interviews will begin the week of April 10th. This position is new to the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) and we anticipate having funding for the position for a minimum of three years. Federal funding for this grant is going to Oklahoma Human Services and they, in turn, are providing funds to the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR) for implementation. OCCY is a subrecipient of OPSR.

FINANCES

General Budget Monitoring: We are so very pleased with the work of our new team member Mahboob UI Haaq. He has worked with the program areas to assure that they have released encumbered funds that are now not anticipated to be used prior to the end of this fiscal year. At this time, OCCY has spent 76.24% of its funds by the end of the third quarter. In addition, our monthly meetings with the Office of Management and Enterprise (OMES) have resumed. A joint presentation will be given by Mr. UI Haaq and Megan Patton of OMES at the Commission meeting.

(Please see handout from OMES).

DIRECTOR'S HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

Juvenile Competency Evaluations - Commissioner Work Group:

I want to thank Director Holt and her Administrative Assistant Audrey Rockwell for pulling together the first meeting for the above work group. It is so very needed and we are looking forward to the additional support when it comes to strategizing ways to meet the demand for evaluations. We appreciate our partners from the Office of Juvenile Affairs, the District Attorneys Council, the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and the Oklahoma Human Services.

In addition, I want to thank Dr. Kathy LaFortune for drafting a document that articulates the need for a more effective and robust juvenile competency system. This document will help us express our need for a program coordinator, more evaluators, and a remediation program. We plan to add some information to this document and will distribute it in the future.

The Impact of Medical Marijuana on Children Work Group:

This work group has now met twice. The group has decided to focus on three main areas: 1) marijuana ingestions by children; 2) marijuana use by youth; and 3) marijuana use by pregnant mothers. The work group continues to add new members and collect data as well as other

helpful information. Our goal is to produce a document or powerpoint that will outline our findings and recommendations by mid fall – in time to request legislation during the next session if necessary.

Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR):

I have been serving as the Chairperson for the OPSR Board of Directors for several years. It has been an honor and I have thoroughly enjoyed supporting the OPSR organization in this capacity. However, I feel that it is necessary for me to step down from this role. OCCY will be a subrecipient of theirs for the Preschool Development Grant and one of OPSR's employees coordinating these efforts is Ms. Gabrielle Jacobi, my daughter. This is Ms. Gabrielle Jacobi's second stint at OPSR and I know she is more than up to this challenge. It would be best though, to allow another OPSR Board member to serve as Chairperson and reduce the potential for and appearance of conflict.

OCCY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Post Adjudication Review Board - PARB (Keith Pirtle)

PARB Conference:

For the first time in three years, PARB held a statewide gathering and training as a pre-institute of the Annual Oklahoma Child Abuse and Neglect Conference. We'd like to thank the University of Oklahoma, Center on Child Abuse and Neglect for this opportunity to join their event. Throughout the day, PARB members heard from judges, individuals with lived experience, and each other. It was a wonderful day of strategy sharing and numerous recognitions. Those honored included:

- Jay Scott Brown, PARB Hall of Fame(posthumously): Mr. Brown was appointed to the State PARB in 1992 by Governor David Walters and served for the next 27 years.
- Pat Lowry, PARB Hall of Fame: Ms. Lowry is a long-time advocate for foster care children and served PARB both as a volunteer and as a OCCY staff member.
- Sandra Brown, PARB Hall of Fame: Ms. Brown served many years with the Oklahoma child welfare system and in addition, devoted time to PARB for 30 years.
- Susan Johnson, PARB Hall of Fame: Ms. Johnson was a premier member of the Wagoner County PARB for 30 years.
- Tricia Gardner, Hall of Fame: In addition to Ms. Gardner's academic career at the OU Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, she has chaired one of the seven Oklahoma County PARBs since 1992.
- Denise Gerhold, Child Welfare Partner of the Year: As a Child Welfare Director out in western Oklahoma, Ms. Gerhold was recognized for her effective advocacy and her support for the Beckham and Roger Mills' PARB.
- Judge Pat VerSteeg, Judicial Partner of the Year: Judge VerSteeg has made such great use of his PARBS in Roger Mills, Beckham, and Washington Counties. He has been a staunch champion of PARB since his appointment to the State PARB by Governor Brad Henry in 2008.

New PARBS Established:

Mr. Pirtle is pleased to announce that three new PARBS were launched during March: Bryan County, Haskell County, and Lincoln County. We look forward to their good work.

Office of Planning and Coordination – P&C (Danielle Dill)

Children of Incarcerated Parents:

- A day of strategic planning is scheduled for May 12th at the Office of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma in Tulsa. The event will be facilitated by the Restorative Justice Institute of Oklahoma.
- OCCY is sponsoring 18 community partners to attend the Arizona State University Fifth Annual Children of Incarcerated Parents National Conference. It will be held virtually on April 17th, 24th, and May 1st.

Homeless Children and Youth:

- OCCY provided funding for four OK Youth Action Board members to attend the National Network for Youth Summit held March 2nd and 3rd in Washington, D.C.
- OCCY provided funding to support the 2023 Youth Action Retreat held on March 24th and 25th in Oklahoma City. Other retreat sponsors included the OKC Youth Action Board, the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and Evolution Foundation.

Parent Partnership Board (PPB):

- OCCY hosted the National Family Support Network's "Developing and Sustaining Effective Parent Advisory Committees Virtual Training" on March 1st and 2nd. Twenty-seven attendees representing 15 partner agencies completed the training.
- We want to thank Commissioners Lindsey Laird and Kalie Kerth for meeting with PPB members on March 8th. The members appreciated hearing about your personal journeys that led you to be such strong advocates for children and their families.
- OCCY will be hosting the Children's Trust Fund Alliance's "Brining the Protective Factors to Life in Your Work: Train-the-Trainers Training." It will be held April 18 – 20 at the Edmond Conference Center. Registration is full and there is a waiting list.
- The PPB members are planning their first retreat. It will be held at the University of Central Oklahoma Boathouse at Lake Arcadia on April 29th.
- Congratulations to Dr. Lana Turner-Addison for being named the first PPB Chairperson and Ms. Senaqua Hildreth for being named Apprentice Co-Chair.

Collaborations:

- OCCY was asked to serve as a co-sponsor of the Bi-Annual Collaborative Convening along with the Oklahoma Human Services and the Oklahoma State Department of Health. This meeting took place at the Annual Child Abuse and Neglect Conference on April 3rd.

Preschool Development Grant:

OCCY hopes to have a contract in place shortly with the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness regarding this work. OCCY will be serving as subrecipient and working in the space of parent voice and parent leadership. Funds will be provided to support a new OCCY staff position related to these efforts.

P&C Database:

The P&C portion of the OCCY database is complete and is in the testing phase. Most of the data at this time will be associated with the impacts of trainings and convenings organized by P&C.

Legislative/Policy Issues (Marcia Johnson)

Ms. Johnson will discuss legislation pertinent to OCCY at the commission meeting. I want to thank Ms. Johnson for her doggedness during this legislative session. Her experience and knowledge is so useful to our agency.

** During our last Commission meeting it was questioned if the Commissioners should be voting to have a bill added to the OCCY legislative agenda (meaning that our legislative liaison would actively promote and support a bill during legislative session). After research, our Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Sandra Balzer, has concluded that such actions are not prohibited. It has been a practice of OCCY for many years. However, Ms. Balzer does not believe it is appropriate for our agency logo to be included on handouts or other printed material created by other entities.

(Please see attachment.)

Freestanding Multidisciplinary Teams (FSMDT) (Brittany Gassner)

Board of Child Abuse Examiners:

A Child Abuse Examiner Training, co-sponsored by HARUV USA and Child Advocacy Centers of Oklahoma, will be held September 29th in Tulsa. Subject matters will include commercial sexual exploitation of children. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations will provide an updated on the backlog of sexual assault kits.

FSMDT Database:

On March 6th, Maggi Hutchason (Noble County), Lara Welch (Love County), and Amanda Wheeler (Murray County) completed the new database training conducted by Lisa White from the OU E-Team. Since that time, they have been utilizing the database during FSMDT staffings. They, along with their partner agencies, have been providing feedback. Overall, their response has been positive.

FSMDT Visits:

During the month of March, Ms. Gassner attended FSMDT meetings in Logan, Adair (virtual), Love, and Murray Counties.

Children's Justice Act Grant: Upcoming Trainings (Brittany Gassner, Makala Pittman)

For more information about the below trainings and/or how to register, please contact Makala Pittman at (405) 606-4903 or makala.pittman@occy.ok.gov.

1. Child First Forensic Interview Training

Presenters: Maria Rosales-Lambert, Oklahoma Interviewing Services, Inc.; Vicki Boan, Oklahoma Interviewing Services; Holly Chandler, The Saville Center for Child Advocacy; Andi Hamilton, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations; Jaclyn Rivera and Lori McConnell, District Attorney's Office #7

Date: April 17th – 21st

Format/Location: Hybrid in OKC

2. Coercive Control Training

Presenter: Jackie Steyn

Date: April 21st

Format/Location: Virtual

Public Information/Communications (Rob Agnew)

Mr. Agnew has been extremely busy designing PARB lapel pins, certificates, fact sheets and annual reports – all while responding to media requests and open records requests. We cannot thank him enough for his quick, professional work in so many areas.

In addition, Mr. Agnew has been working on quality control for both the OCCY website and our social media. Results are below:

Adobe Analytics (March 1 to March 31, 2023)

- Total Website Visits – 1,425
- Total Unique Visitors – 1,089
- Total Pages Viewed – 2,592

Facebook Content Overview (March 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023)

- Page Reach – 5,244 defined accounts – Up 27.1.7% (Top Media Type – Images)
- Page Engagement (Last 90 days) – 1,700 defined accounts – Up 8.8% (Most Reactions – Images)
- Facebook Page Followers – 1,805

LinkedIn Visitor Analytics (last 30 days)

- Search Appearances – 309
- Unique Visitors – 49
- New Followers – 33
- Post Impressions – 1,200

Oklahoma Child Death Review Board – CDRB (Lisa Rhoades)

Due to transitioning to the new database, it was not possible to update the number of cases opened, ready for review, and closed. We will have these issues resolved by the next Commission meeting.

Office of Juvenile Systems Oversight (Harold Jergenson, Tina Pendergraft)

	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
Nov 2022	29	40	0	0
Dec 2022	17	34	1	3
Jan 2023	40	43	0	0
Feb 2023	29	28	1	0
March 2023	37	28	0	0

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
SFY 23 YTD	318	353	5	5

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
November 2022	42		11
December 2022	37		13
January 2023	47		10
February 2023	21		16
March 2023	56*		20**

*as reported by TJ Cleary of Oklahoma Human Services

** as reported by Dawn Leemon of Oklahoma Human Services

TOTALS	# of Foster Youth Complaints		# of Foster Parent Complaints
SFY19	183*		180
SFY20	395		178
SFY21	405		182
SFY22	395		163
SFY23 YTD	333		135

*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)

	# of Referrals	# Competent	# Not Competent	Pending Completion
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	2	1	0
October 2022	5	2	3	0
November 2022	7	3	2	2
December 2022	3	0	3	0
January 2023	7	2	1	4
February 2023	13	1	1	11
March 2023	6	1	0	5

*One evaluation dismissed

TOTALS	# of Referrals	# Declared Competent	# Declared Not Competent	Pending Completion
SFY19	32	19	13	0
SFY20	34^	14	18	0
SFY21	37+	10	24	0
SFY22	47+	12	32	0
SFY23	52*	14	15	22

*One evaluation canceled ^Two evaluations canceled +Three evaluations canceled

Respectfully submitted,


 Annette Wisk Jacobi
 OCCY Executive Director

April 14, 2023
 Date