

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT
OCCY COMMISSION MEETING
June 23, 2023**

PERSONNEL

New Employee: Thanks to our partnership with the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness, we have brought on Ms. Caitlin Merritt to serve in the role of Community Planner for Oklahoma's federal Preschool Development Grant. Ms. Merritt's work will focus on improving early childhood education and outcomes by building community capacity and utilizing family-centered approaches. Prior to serving at OCCY, Ms. Merritt was a public educator for four years at the elementary level, focusing on equitable reading instruction and parent partnerships. She holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Cameron University and is a first-generation high school and college graduate. Her passion for serving single-parent households and neurodivergent families stems from her lived experience and belief that knowledge is transformative. Welcome Caitlin!

FINANCES (Mahboob ul Haq, OCCY Business Manager)

General Budget Monitoring:

Mr. ul Haq continues to monitor our current budget situation. In addition to the attached report, Mr. ul Haq will present information during our meeting that will provide further explanation and detail. Ms. Megan Patton from the Office of Management and Enterprise Service will be virtually attending and available to answer questions alongside of Mr. ul Haq.
(Please see handout from OMES).

We would like to congratulate Mr. ul Haq on passing the PCard Administrator exam! He continues to add to his skill set to serve OCCY and we are ever grateful.

DIRECTOR'S HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

The Impact of Medical Marijuana on Children Work Group:

This work group continues to meet and share information. A retreat is planned for August to solidify recommendations. We are anticipating working with Dr. Jeff Linkenbach, Director and Chief Research Scientist at the Montana Institute. Dr. Linkenbach has developed national award-winning programs that change community norms. He holds a doctorate of education with a focus on community education, a master's degree in counseling and has over the past 30 years of experience in public health leadership. He is known for translating social norms science into practical applications.

Commissioner Retreat:

While Dr. Linkenbach is here, we would like to incorporate his expertise into our OCCY Commissioner Retreat scheduled for August 18th. We have several meetings set up with Dr. Linkenbach over the course of the summer and will continue to seek your input as we craft the Commissioner Retreat agenda.

OCCY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Post Adjudicated Review Board – PARB (Keith Pirtle)

New PARB Established:

Mr. Pirtle is pleased to announce that the Muskogee County PARB held their first meeting on May 18th. All 10 members were present along with child welfare staff. We look forward to their good work.

In addition, Malayna Hasmanis, the Tulsa County PARB Coordinator, is working to develop two new Tulsa PARBs with specific focuses: 1) mental health, and 2) domestic violence. If you know of someone that would be a good addition to these teams, please contact Ms. Hasmanis at (803) 810-2531 or tulsaparb@gmail.com.

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

Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP):

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma (BBBSOK) was awarded \$75,000 for State Fiscal Year 2024 for the Oklahoma Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents Program. The award will support one-to-one mentoring for 50 children in the state impacted by parental incarceration.
- CIP Advisory Committee Strategic Planning Meetings were held on May 12th at the Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma office in Tulsa and June 9th at the OCCY office. The planning session was facilitated by the Restorative Justice Institute of Oklahoma and Fancy Hippie Group. They utilized the ABC(2) Framework – Align, Build, Collaborate, and Communicate – to guide the sessions and develop the plan.

Homeless Children and Youth:

- On May 2nd, Governor Stitt signed into law House Bill 1029, authored by Representative John Talley and Senator Brenda Stanley. It will go into effect November 1, 2023. This new law directs the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), in conjunction with the OCCY Homeless Children and Youth Steering Committee, to adopt a standard form to be used by all school districts which will identify students who are homeless. School districts are also required to report the results to the OSDE no later than June 1st of each year. Then, beginning July 1, 2024, and every year after, the OSDE shall compile a report containing the number of students who are homeless by district and grade level.
- OCCY, along with the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, co-sponsored the “Family and Natural Support Training” May 22nd- 25th in Oklahoma City. This Canadian framework introduces and provides a preventive approach to addressing youth homelessness instead of simply providing emergency services

Parent Partnership Board (PPB):

- OCCY hosted the Children’s Trust Fund Alliance (CTFA) “Bringing the Protective Factors Framework to Life in Youth Work” Training-of-Trainers April 18th – 20th at the Hilton Garden Inn & Edmond Conference Center. There were 20 attendees and the evaluation feedback was extremely positive. OCCY staff Isabel Rodriguez and James Boykin successfully completed the training along with Commissioner John Schneider.
- The PPB convened its first Retreat and Strategic Planning Session at the University of Central Oklahoma Boathouse on April 29th. The retreat included a myriad of activities

including team building exercises and was facilitated by Chris Payne, APR with Union Public Schools.

- The partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) continues to move parent voice work forward through the Oklahoma Community of Practice (CoP): Developing and Sustaining Effective Parent Advisory Committees. The CoP featured the work of OCCY PPB Co-Chair Dr. Lana Turner-Addison as well as CTFA consultants Michael Huesca (California) and Kara Georgi (New York). A provider café was also conducted. Fifteen individuals representing 12 different organizations attended.
- In addition to the Community of Practice, OCCY is co-sponsoring the OSDH Family Support and Prevention Service annual meeting on June 27th. OCCY PPB member Senaqua Hildreth will share her expertise at the meeting by serving on the parent voice panel. OCCY PPB will also be staffing a resource table at the event.

State Plan Partnerships:

- OCCY co-sponsored along with ODSH and the Oklahoma Human Services (OKDHS) of the 6th Annual Biannual Collaborative Convening on April 5th. OCCY staff served as small group facilitators for the parent and youth voice session as well as the engagement in policy and practice session. OCCY PPB member Nubia Fiesel shared her lived expertise at the event. There were approximately 100 participants.
- The OSDH, OKDHS, and OCCY are working together to support each agency's state plans. Recently, an electronic survey was distributed among families and professionals asking about supports needed in their communities. The survey closed May 15th with over 1000 responses – with at least one response coming in from each of the 77 counties.
- Planning has gotten underway to conduct in-person and virtual community cafés. These cafés are a series of conversations planned and led by family members who learn the Community Café approach, so that participants can relate to each other and build community assets. The approach incorporates hosting principles, Appreciative Inquiry, and the Protective Factors needed to strengthen families. The first café is scheduled for July 11th in Norman. In addition, Isabel Rodriguez, OCCY Community Planner, will be conducting at least one community café in Spanish.

Strengthening Youth Custody and Transition Services

- The Mentoring Work Group met on April 27th and is exploring the idea of piloting *Mentoring Central's* online training for contracted mentors through the Office of Juvenile Affairs and other youth services organizations.
- The State Fiscal Year 2024 Memorandum of Understanding between OCCY, the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, OJA and the Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School (OYACS) is signed by all parties. This MOU provides paid work experiences for youth who are on track to be transitioned out of OJA custody at the Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center and attending the OYACS.

Miscellaneous:

- OCCY was pleased to sponsor a hole for the 2023 Oklahoma School for the Deaf Golf Tournament.

Legislative/Policy Issues (Marcia Johnson)

Ms. Johnson will present a legislative wrap up of legislation and rules pertinent to OCCY at the commission meeting. I want to thank Ms. Johnson for her efforts this past session. In addition, to tracking legislation, meeting with House and Senate members/staff, and keeping us all informed, she shepherded our rule changes. For those of you who may not know, the rules process is very specific and she did not miss a beat.

(Please see attachment.)

Freestanding Multidisciplinary Teams (FSMDT) (Brittany Gassner)

FSMDT Database:

We so appreciate the work of Maggi Hutchason (Noble County), Lara Welch (Love County), and Amanda Wheeler (Murray County) for piloting the new FSMDT database. They have provided such useful feedback. With their help, the OU E-Team is on track to launch the new statewide database at the beginning of July 2023. For the first time since administering the FSMDT Program, OCCY will have an electronic, real-time data collection system to track and manage staffed cases.

Board of Child Abuse Examiners:

- On April 5th, a medical pre-institute was held at the Annual Oklahoma Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. Seventy-five professionals attended this eight-hour session.
- Currently, OCCY has 16 Memorandums of Understanding with 16 child abuse examiners from across the state. Per statute, the contact information for these examiners has been distributed to OKDSH, local health departments, District Attorney offices, FSMDTs, and child advocacy centers.
- A Child Abuse Examiner Training, co-sponsored by HARUV USA and Child Advocacy Centers of Oklahoma, will be held this upcoming fall 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.

Chief Child Abuse Examiner (Dr. Mary Stockett):

Dr. Stockett is in the process of training health care providers in Hooker, Henrietta, and Yukon to be child abuse examiners. Once they have satisfactorily completed the training, they will be added to the list of examiners and their contact information will be shared with the relevant parties.

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.

COMPLETED TRAININGS

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: In-person, OKC

Attendees: 31

2. Coercive Control Training
Presenter: Jackie Steyn
Date: April 21st
Format/Location: Virtual
Attendees: 134
3. MDT Foundational Training
Presenters: Roxanne Mayer, CACO; Brittany Gassner, OCCY; Makala Pittman, OCCY
Date: May 31st – June 1st
Format/Location: In- person, Sallisaw
Attendees: 28

UPCOMING TRAININGS

1. MDT Coordinator Database/Annual Review Training
Presenters: Lisa White, OU E-Teams; Brittany Gassner, OCCY
Date: June 20th
Format/Location: Hybrid, OKC
2. Adult-Youth Interactions: Mindful Negotiations
Presenter: Zana Williams
Date: June 22nd
Format/Location: Virtual
3. Child Abuse and Neglect and Mandated Reporting in Oklahoma
Presenter: Tricia Gardner, JD
Date: June 29th
Format/Location: Virtual
4. 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: July 17th – 21st
Format/Location: In-person, OKC

Oklahoma Child Death Review Board – CDRB (Lisa Rhoades)

- During April, Ms. Rhoades met with Tracie Morris the Coordinator of the Cherokee National Grandparent Program Coordinator. The Cherokee Nation is considering becoming a partner with Preparing for a Lifetime, a collaborative group made up of professionals from varying organizations to possibly pilot the Grandparent Toolkit. The toolkit is designed to provide educate grandparents about current best practices related to children's safety and health.
- On May 6th, Ms. Rhoades participated in Safe Kids Day at the OKC Zoo and facilitated an interactive activity around booster seat requirements and usage for zoo patrons. In addition, caregivers were being recruited into a research study regarding harness-style car seat usage.

- Ms. Rhoades will be attending the Safe Kids World Wide Childhood Injury Prevention Convention in Washington, D.C. during July 23 – 26th. This convention brings together leading experts, advocates, academics, and partners to share best practices and experiences with the goal of increasing their collective impact. The National Center Fatality Review and Prevention will be paying for Ms. Rhoades' travel expenses.

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
April 2023	29	31	1	0
May 2023	46	33	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	393	417	6	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**
April 2023	26		4
May 2023	34		10

*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	392		149

*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
April 2023	3	0	0	3
May 2023	8	0	1	7

*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	63*	20	23	18

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

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Wisk Jacobi

 Annette Wisk Jacobi
 OCCY Executive Director

June 23, 2023
 Date