

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
OCCY COMMISSION MEETING  
November 3, 2023**

**PERSONNEL**

Child Death Review Board (CDRB): There are changes underway for this program area. After more than 20 years of serving as the CDRB Program Manager, Ms. Lisa Rhoades decided to leave state service. We celebrated her remarkable career after the State Board meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have this position filled soon.

In addition, OCCY was provided with two new positions as of July 1, 2023 thanks to additional state appropriations. One of these positions is for an additional CDRB Case Manager, the third for the program. We had an overwhelming number of applicants for this position and are in the process of interviewing.

We will be holding off to post the second new position provided to CDRB until we know the skill sets of the two newest individuals. That will allow us to know how to best create the job description.

These positions are very needed because we for many years, beginning around 2015, this department was only staff by the Program Manager. This lack of capacity caused a severe backlog. We are so appreciative though of our current case managers Lizz Kaup and Joseph McGrath who are creating efficiencies. They have been tremendously productive, and it is a pleasure to work with them.

Cross-Systems Coordinator: This position has been funded by multiple agencies, including OCCY, and housed as an employee of Oklahoma State University, Center for Integrated Research on Childhood Adversity. The position provides support for the Trauma-Informed Task Force which merged into the workings of the Children State Advisory Workgroup (CSAW). Mr. Tayvon Lewis has been serving in this position. The position transitioned from OSU to OCCY as of October 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lewis began employment with OCCY at that time but has since left the agency to work with a private entity. We thank Mr. Lewis for all he has done while in the role and wish him much success in his new endeavors. The position is now open and is posted.

**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.)*

**DIRECTOR'S HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES**

New Commissioner: Welcome Director Cartmell! Assistant Director Mark James and I went to visit with Director Cartmell in the new Office of Juvenile Affairs space in the Connors Building on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to his leadership and to working serving with him.

Stewards for Healthy Medical Marijuana Policy (task force): The task force that has been studying the impacts of the medical marijuana industry on children will be part of an interim

study requested by Representative Cindy Roe. The interim study will be held Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol in room 5S.2 at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the interim study will be to 1) highlight the serious increase in accidental ingestions of marijuana by small children; and 2) provide prevention solutions to the problem. The information shared has been gathered during the months the task force has met.

Numerous professionals will be presenting from various agencies and organizations. We are ever grateful that they have dedicated so much time and expertise to the cause. In particular, I would like to recognize Lauren Kidwell of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Lee Rhoades of the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority, and Kristie Edelen of the Oklahoma Poison Control Center for their extraordinary dedication to this work. Their expertise has been invaluable and they have been selfless in sharing their knowledge and time.

Please feel free to join us for the study at the Capitol or watch online. We anticipate a report containing the same information to be completed shortly.

OCCY Staff Retreat: OCCY staff once again returned to the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) Boathouse at Lake Arcadia for a day of team building and vision setting. During the morning, UCO staff led staff through a series of exercises that tested our communication and analytical skills. After lunch, Program Managers/Hope Navigators Keith Pirtle and Brittany Gassner presented information about HOPE science and compassion fatigue. Ultimately, they assisted us in shaping a new vision for our agency's efforts related to Hope. We look forward to continuing the work.

Staff Wellness Day: OCCY has been hosting an annual flu clinic for several years now, but this year we expanded the day to include additional wellness activities. Cameron Building neighbors were invited to participate as well. We would like to thank the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness for providing our morning smoothies from Wheeze the Juice; Anne Roberts for providing a yoga class; Brandon Holcomb from the Oklahoma Credit Union for teaching us about financial wellness; Susan Robinson of Thrive OK for teaching us stress reduction techniques; Passport Health for the vaccinations; and Collin Walke for sharing his insights about mindfulness. It was a day set aside to remind us to take care of ourselves so that we can continue to care for others.

New Commissioner Handbook: I would like to thank Rob Agnew, OCCY Public Information Officer, for continually updating our New Employee Handbook as well as our OCCY Commissioner Handbook. Every edition gets better and better.

Please find attached the latest version of the Commissioner Handbook. Please let us know if any edits need to be made to your contact information.

## **OCCY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Post Adjudicated Review Board – PARB (Keith Pirtle)**

Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) Coaching Table and Conference: PARB Program Manager Keith Pirtle participated in this international faith and foster care

conference held in Oklahoma City on September 20, 21 and 22. Mr. Pirtle co-facilitated a “Resource Table” discussion on advocating in the courts alongside CASA. Chris Campbell of Project 111/Careportal and Andrea Stasyszen with OHS were highly involved in this conference and held a workshop on “Church and State Partnerships.” Mr. Pirtle also joined the Project 111 meeting and was able to promote PARB in a room full of Project 111 staff and ministers across Oklahoma.

Partnership with Legal Aid Services of Tulsa: PARB Coordinator Malayna Hasmanis met with staff from Legal Aid Services of Tulsa to identify gaps in reaching permanency in deprived cases. In addition, they explored the need for statewide training on active efforts, unpacking bias, and understanding the legal system.

New Tulsa PARB: Ms. Hasmanis also met with the new Mental Health/ Domestic Violence PARB to identify logistics for 2023 meeting times and identify next steps for streamlining the case review process. They also discussed the need for additional PARB member recruitment and made training recommendations. This PARB hosted its official first meeting on October 10th, which was also World Mental Health Day.

New State Colleague Connection: PARB staff held a virtual meeting on October 12 with the staff from the Kentucky Citizens Foster Care Review Board. The group spent an hour explaining each other’s programs and learning from each other. The Kentucky staff shared information about their Title VI-E connections and uses. The meeting concluded with PARB staff being invited to participate in Kentucky’s virtual training.

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

#### **Fatherhood:**

- Thank you to Oklahoma Human Services for committing \$50,000 to support the 2024 Fatherhood Summit that will take place in Tulsa in February. This summit will be the second of its kind organized by OCCY and its partnerships. The summit was originally suggested by the Children of Incarcerated Parents Advisory Committee and members of the committee have been highly involved in the planning and execution of last year’s and this year’s events.

#### **Homeless Children and Youth:**

- Representative John Talley and Senator Brenda Stanley recently celebrated the passage of House Bill 1029 with partners of the Homeless Children and Youth Steering Committee at the OCCY office. Many were in attendance including McKinney Vento liaisons from various schools and OKC Youth Advisory Board members. Because of the bill, Oklahoma public schools will have a standardized form to utilize when collecting and reporting the number of homeless children and youth. Having more accurate reports should lead to Oklahoma receiving more federal funds which can be used to support homeless students.
- A Youth and Family Resource Fair was held at OSU-OKC at the end of October. Cosponsors of the event include OCCY, the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and the Oklahoma Youth Advisory Board.

#### Partnership with Childhood State Advisory Workgroup (CSAW):

- Oklahoma sent a team of professionals as well as those with lived expertise to the Thriving Families Safer Children In-Person Working Group Session in Tempe, Arizona this month. Danielle Dill attended on behalf of OCCY. Topics of conversation included equity, co-design, fatherhood, and policy.
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation is providing CSAW a one-year grant of \$25,000 and technical assistance to fund sustainability and capacity building around youth-adult partnerships.

#### Parent Partnership Board (PPB):

- On September 12<sup>th</sup>, OCCY Community Planner Isabel Rodriguez and Parent Partnership Board Member Nubia Fiesel co-facilitated the OCCY, OHS, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) State Plan Café de la Comunidad (community listening session) for parents in partnership with Lilyfield/Empower. Over 50 parents participated in the session to help inform state agency child abuse prevention plans. Most of the session was conducted in Spanish.
- The OCCY PPB would like to thank Secretary Shropshire for making time to meet with them. She attended the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and the parents felt very heard. Members of the Board look forward to more interaction with the Secretary and OHS.
- OCCY, OSDH, and the Oklahoma Family Support Network is planning a Community of Practice meeting to discuss “Developing and Sustaining Effective Parent Advisory Committees.” The meeting will take place on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be focused on equitable compensation for those sharing their lived expertise. Staff from the Children’s Trust Fund Alliance will be presenting.

#### **Freestanding Multidisciplinary Teams (FSMDT) (Brittany Gassner)**

**FSMDT Database:** The teams have not been utilizing the new database as of yet due to concerns raised by the Child Advocacy Centers of Oklahoma. Some of the teams contract with child advocacy centers and as part of the centers national accreditation process, they must agree to *not* collect identifying case information. They worry that if they have a contractual relationship with a team and the team collects identifying information for their case reviews and enters into our database system, they will be jeopardizing that accreditation.

As a response to their concern, our Assistant Attorney General Sandra Balzer has drafted a memo that explains our statutory mandate to collect the information. She has also created a basic agreement for the teams to utilize the database. These documents will be shared soon.

**Child Abuse Training and Coordination Council (CATCC):** When the administration of the teams was moved from the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) to OCCY, it was believed that the statute that created CATCC was repealed. [CATCC provided support and guidance to the OSDH staff who supported the FSMDTs.] Someone recently had a question about CATCC and that caused us to look at Title 63. We discovered that CATCC was not repealed. References to OSDH were simply changed to OCCY. For that reason, we plan to reconstitute CATCC. Their support and expertise was valuable in the past and we feel it will be in the future.

## **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](mailto:makala.pittman@occy.ok.gov).*

### **COMPLETED TRAININGS**

1. MDT Foundational Training  
Presenters: Brittany Gassner and Roxanne Mayer of Child Advocacy Centers of Oklahoma  
Date: September 27th – 28th  
Format/Location: In-person, Altus  
# Attendees: 30
2. Child Abuse Medical Examiner Training: Child Sexual Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation (co-sponsored with HARUV-USA)  
Presenters: Dr. Lauren Conway, Dr. Michael Baxter, Dr. Mary Ellen Stockett, OSBI Agent Matt Stillwell, OSBI Agent Chris Leamon  
Date: October 25th  
Format/Location: In-person, Tulsa  
# Attendees: 37
3. MDT Foundational Training  
Presenter: Brittany Gassner, OCCY  
Date: October 27th  
Format/Location: In-person, Hugo  
# Attendees: 10

### **UPCOMING TRAININGS**

1. Mindful Negotiations  
Presenters: Zana Williams  
Date: November 2  
Format/Location: In-person, OKC
2. Child First Forensic Interview Training  
Presenters: Maria Rosales-Lambert, Oklahoma Interviewing Services, Inc.; Vicki Boan, Oklahoma Interviewing Services; Holly Chandler; Andi Hamilton, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations; Jaclyn Rivera and Lori McConnell, District Attorney's Office #7  
Date: November 13-17  
Format/Location: In-person, OKC
3. Child First EX  
Presenters: Maria Rosales-Lambert and Vicki Boen  
Date: January 8-9, 2024  
Format/Location: In-person, OKC
4. Interviewing a Child with Disabilities  
Presenter: Zero Abuse Project  
Date: January 22, 2024  
Format/Location: Virtual

5. Mindful Negotiations  
Presenter: Zana Williams  
Date: January 24, 2024  
Format/Location: In-person, OKC
  
6. Tech-Facilitated Crimes and the Forensic Interview  
Presenter: Zero Abuse Project  
Date: February 13, 2024  
Format/Location: Virtual
  
7. A Voice for the Silent Victim: Corroborating Cases of Non-verbal and Unavailable Victims  
Presenter: Zero Abuse Project  
Date: March 14, 2024  
Format/Location: Virtual

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

	<b>New Complaints</b>	<b>Closed Cases</b>	<b>Facility Complaints Visits</b>	<b>Facility Oversight Visits</b>
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
June 2023	36	45	2	0
July 2023	40	68	0	0
August 2023	41	47	0	0
Sept 2023	34	24	2	0

<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>New Complaints</b>	<b>Closed Cases</b>	<b>Facility Complaints</b>	<b>Facility Oversight Visits</b>
SFY19	404	368	7	1
SFY20	334	545	15	5
SFY21	364	337	3	3
SFY22	462	390	13	3
SFY23	429	462	8	5
<b>SFY24 YTD</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

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

	<b># of Youth Complaints</b>		<b># of Foster Parents Complaints</b>
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
June 2023	45		16
July 2023	40		18
August 2023	21		21
September 2023	18		13

\*as reported by TJ Cleary of Oklahoma Human Services

\*\* as reported by Dawn Leemon of Oklahoma Human Services

<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	395		163
SFY23	437		165
<b>SFY24 YTD</b>	<b>79</b>		<b>52</b>

\*Program started 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
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	4	0
December 2022	3	0	3	0
January 2023	7*	2	4	0
February 2023	13	8	4	1
March 2023	6*	5	0	0
April 2023	3	0	3	0
May 2023	8*	1	6	0
June 2023	4	1	2	1
July 2023	3	0	2	1
August 2023	7	2	2	3
September 2023	7	1	1	5

\*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
SFY23	67~	27	34	2
<b>SFY24 YTD</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>

*\*One evaluation canceled ^Two evaluations canceled +Three evaluations canceled ~Four evaluations canceled*

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Wisk Jacobi  
OCCY Executive Director

November 3, 2023

Date