

**SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES****January 26, 2024
1:00 PM**

Commissioners present in person: Jacqueline Aaron, Jeffrey Cartmell, Melinda Fruendt, Jason Hicks, Kalie Kerth, Lindsay Laird, John Schneider, Deborah Shropshire, Ginarie Harrington, Keith Reed, and Ellen Buettner

Commissioners attending virtually: Brenda Myers, Brad Wilson, and Jonathan Hall

Guests present in-person and virtually:

Talita DeNegri (Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics), Gabrielle Jacobi (Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness), Dr. Lana Turner-Addison (Parent Partnership Board), Lauren Pool (Disability Advocate), Michelle Crockett, Judge Mike Warren, Representative Melissa Provenzano (Oklahoma House of Representatives), Constanzia Nizza (Office of Juvenile Affairs), Kendra Dougherty (Oklahoma Department of Health), Sandra Balzer (Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General), Dr. Karla Finnell (University of Oklahoma, Hudson College of Public Health), Sierra Salas (University of Oklahoma), Anika Starling (Oklahoma City Public Schools), Abigail Peters (University of Oklahoma), McKenzie Cowlbeck (University of Oklahoma), and Linsey Garlington (Oklahoma City-County Health Department)

Staff present: Annette Wisk Jacobi, Rob Agnew, James Boykin, Brittany Gassner, Ellen Hardy, Marcia Johnson, Elizabeth Kaup, Elly Kohs-Brantley, Caitlin Merritt, Isabel Rodriguez, Cherra Taylor, and Mahboob ul Haq

Welcome, Introductions, and Determination of Quorum

— *Chairperson John Schneider*

Chairperson John Schneider called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. with a quorum present.

Public Comment

No public comment was given.

OCCY Parent Partnership Board (PPB) Report

— *Dr. Lana Turner-Addison, Parent Partnership Board Member*

Dr. Turner-Addison invited the commissioners to a “Come and Go” Breakfast at the Capitol in Room 112 on February 14, 2024, from 8am to 9:30am. The event is hosted by OCCY’s PPB and the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR). PPB members will network with legislators and provide information regarding the value of partnering with parents for positive change.

Dr. Turner-Addison presented her story of becoming a mother at the age of 17 and the challenges she faced as a teen parent. She also presented on the ongoing challenges that teen parents face including education and housing as well as the social stigma of being a teen parent, and the need for communities to establish and/or expand services to

support young families.

Executive Director Appointment

— Chairperson John Schneider

Secretary Shropshire moved to enter into executive session. Commissioner Laird seconded the motion. All members present in the room voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Myers, Commissioner Hall, and Commissioner Wilson were not able to vote due to virtual attendance.

The commissioners entered executive session at 1:16pm.

The commissioners exited executive session at 1:32pm.

District Attorney Hicks moved to officially exit executive session. Commissioner Harrington seconded the motion. All members present in the room voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Myers, Commissioner Hall, and Commissioner Wilson were not able to vote due to virtual attendance.

Chairperson Schneider reported that the personnel committee conducted an annual evaluation and expressed appreciation for receiving a self-evaluation from Director Jacobi. The commissioners reviewed the self-evaluation report during the executive session.

Director Fruendt moved to accept Director Jacobi's self-evaluation report. Commissioner Kerth seconded the motion. All members present in the room voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Myers, Commissioner Hall, and Commissioner Wilson were not able to vote due to virtual attendance.

Chairperson Schneider reported that the executive director must be reappointed every two years as required by statute.

Commissioner Laird moved to reappoint Annette Jacobi as the executive director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth for two years. District Attorney Hicks seconded the motion. All members present in the room voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Myers, Commissioner Hall, and Commissioner Wilson were not able to vote due to virtual attendance.

Secretary Shropshire moved to increase Director Jacobi's salary to \$109,708, which moves the salary to the midpoint of the salary band for this position and reflects a pay raise. Director Fruendt seconded the motion. All members present in the room voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Myers, Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Wilson were not able to vote due to virtual attendance.

Implementation of OCCY Policy to comply with 10 O.S. §601.5 regarding the Commission's approval for the Director to employ agency staff

— Annette Wisk Jacobi, OCCY Executive Director

Director Jacobi reported that Statute 10 O.S. §601.5 requires the executive director hire staff at the advisement and approval of the Commission. Director Jacobi state that upon her initial appointment to OCCY, she found that this was not practiced. It was agreed to include a commissioner, preferably from the personnel committee, in the hiring process.

There was no concern regarding the current hiring practice and OCCY has sought to change the statute to remove the requirement. OCCY learned that the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) has a similar requirement and changed their hiring practice in 2019 to seek approval for their Board during their quarterly meetings.

Director Jacobi provided some options for the commissioners to consider in moving forward with OCCY's hiring process. Some of the options include:

- Continue with the current practice and seek to change the statute.
- Adopt a practice like TSET's.
- Commissioners provide additional options or recommendations.

Recommendations made included:

- The commissioners reviewing and approving hiring policy annually and approving an organization chart. Once approved, the director would fill individual positions without Commissioner involvement.
- Employees be hired on a provisional bases and then seek approval at a pending Commission meeting.

Assistant Attorney General Sandra Balzer will review the commissioners' recommendations and report to the commissioners on her findings.

Resume the Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) unannounced annual inspections of the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics

— *Mark James, OCCY Assistant Director*

Assistant Director James provided information regarding the statutory obligations of OJSO. He stated that OJSO previously reviewed all children institutions and facilities annually until a statutory change in 2009 altered OJSO's authority to annually review state-operated facilities only. The state-operated facilities in Oklahoma are Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center, the Oklahoma School for the Blind, The Oklahoma School for the Deaf, Children's Recovery Center, J.D. McCarty Center, and the Oklahoma School of Science (OSSM) and Mathematics. OJSO currently inspects five of the six facilities annually.

OCCY recently received an open records request regarding inspection reports of OSSM. Upon review of records, it was found that OJSO had not conducted routine inspections since 2008. Upon further review, it was determined that OSSM falls under OJSO's statutory obligations for inspections. OCCY requested feedback and/or approval to resume inspections of OSSM.

Director Cartmell moved for the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth resume inspections of the Oklahoma School for Science and Mathematics in accordance with State statute. Secretary Shropshire seconded the motion. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative except Commissioner Wilson due to technical difficulties with Zoom.

Legislative Report

— *Marcia Johnson, OCCY Legislative Liaison*

A handout was provided.

Marcia Johnson provided a status overview of legislative bills that OCCY are monitoring. Some of the bills being monitored are as follows:

- House Bill (HB) 3335, authored by Representative Roe, outlines the recommendations

of the Stewards for Health Medical Marijuana Policy Task Force. The recommendations stem from reports of increased exposure of marijuana products in children, particularly children under the age of five years. An interim study, requested by the Task Force, was conducted in the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Controlled Substance Committee in November 2023. Some of the recommendations include requiring packaging have little to no color and no images, adjust the warning labels to more strict standards, and limiting the amount of THC per serving to 5mg and the total amount of THC per package to 100mg.

District Attorney Hicks moved to continue pursuing legislation to further restrict access of medical marijuana to children. Commissioner Aaron seconded the motion. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative except Commissioner Wilson who exited the meeting due to technical difficulties.

- Senate Bill (SB) 1634, authored by Senator Coleman, requires medical marijuana growers and processors to prepackaged marijuana weighing between ½ gram to three ounces to the dispensaries. SB1747, authored by Senator Garvin, contains the same language.
- HB3231, authored by Representative Lawson, creates a process of verifying youth ages 14-21 years as homeless to be considered eligible to obtain a Real-ID noncompliant identification card. Youth, ages 14 through 17, would be able to obtain the identification card without parental consent. There would be no cost to the youth for the identification cards..

Secretary Shropshire moved for the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth support legislation verifying and assisting homeless youth in obtaining a Real-ID noncompliant identification card. Commissioner Kerth seconded the motion. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative.

Commissioner Wilson who exited the meeting due to technical difficulties.

- HB1382, authored by Representative Talley and Senator Hall, would exempt local post adjudication review boards (PARBs) from the Open Meeting Act (OMA) while the State PARB Advisory Board would still be subject to the requirements of OMA.

Director Cartmell moved for the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth support legislation exempting local post adjudication review board from the Open Meetings Act while the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board remains subject to the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Harrington seconded the motion. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative.

Director's Report: A Report Regarding Agency Activities and Personnel Changes

— Annette Wisk Jacobi, OCCY Director

Director Jacobi provided several reports and announcements as follows:

- Kathleen Arrieta, Executive Assistant, and Makala Pittman, FSMDT Training Assistant, have resigned from their positions with OCCY for other opportunities. The process to hire new staff is underway.
- Margaret Butler has joined OCCY as the new Cross-Systems Coordinator and Elly Kohs as the new Case Manager for the Child Death Review Board (CDRB).
- Elizabeth Kaup has been promoted to the position of Program Manager over CDRB.

- The Homeless Children and Youth Steering Committee, in the Office of Planning and Coordination (P&C), has partnered with the Oklahoma’s Credit Union to provide unaccompanied homeless youth accounts without parental consent.
- P&C will be hosting the 2024 Oklahoma Fatherhood Summit in Tulsa on March 14, 2024.
- PPB member, Wyjuana Montgomery, was selected to serve as a Family Consultant for the Capacity Building Center for State, in part of the Children’s Bureau’s Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative.
- Malayna Hasmanis, the Tulsa PARB Coordinator, was recognized for her recruiting and collaborative efforts to determine systemic issues and provide recommendations for improvement.
- The Child Abuse Training and Coordination Council will be re-established in accordance with Title 63 O.S. §1-227.9.
- CDRB received a grant in the amount of \$225,000 from the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention to study Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) cases as well as Sudden Death in the Young (SDY) cases. CDRB will use some of the funds to hire interns to conduct the work.
- CDRB will start reviewing deaths that occurred in 2022 first, then work backwards to complete the reviews of earlier years. The annual reports will be revised to include cases based on year of death – not year of review.

Review of the Minutes from the November 3, 2023, Commission Meeting

— *Chairperson John Schneider*

A handout was provided.

Commissioner Kerth moved to approve the minutes from the November 3, 2023 Commission Meeting. Director Cartmell seconded the motion. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Reed and District Attorney Hicks abstained. The motion passed.

Presentation of the Finance Report

— *Mahboob ul Haq, OCCY Business Manager*

A handout was provided.

Mahboob ul Haq presented an overview of OCCY’s financial status through December 31, 2023. Some of the information provided include:

- Currently, OCCY has utilized 49.66% of its total budget of \$5,476,194, and 99.32% of its year-to-date budget.
- OCCY has a cash balance of \$735,665.47 as of December 31, 2023.
- OCCY staff attended the budget hearings with the Senate and the House of Representatives for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025.
- OCCY requested an appropriation increase of \$248,255 for SFY 2025’s budget.
- OCCY participates in monthly financial meetings with Megan Patton, Financial Manager at the Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services’ (OMES) Agency Business Services (ABS).

Commissioner Laird moved to approve the Finance Report. Commissioner Reed seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Presentation: Standards for Playgrounds Which Assure Access for Those with Disabilities Act

— *Representative Melissa Provenzano, OK House of Representatives, and Lauren Pool, Disability Advocate*

A handout was provided.

Representative Provenzano and Ms. Pool presented about the new playground in Tulsa and the legislative bill to improve standards of all playgrounds.

- In September 2023, Tulsa opened its first fully inclusive playground. It is the first of its kind in Oklahoma.
- It was designed with children with disabilities in mind, but adults with disabilities have also benefitted using the new playground.
- Given a one-million-dollar donation, plans for the park were developed in 2020, and construction began in September 2022.
- HB 3935 was introduced for the 2024 Legislative Session and would require any new install or upgrade of playground equipment be fully inclusive and accessible for all adults and children regardless of ability.
- The state of West Virginia just opened their first fully inclusive playground.

Representative Provenzano requested that the Commissioners review the bill and put it under consideration for support at the next Commission meeting.

Presentation: Supporting the Life Course Trajectory of Pregnant and Parenting Teens

— *Dr. Karla Finnell, J.D., Ph.D, Associate Professor, OU Hudson College of Public Health and Anika Starling, Director of Health Services, Oklahoma City Public Schools*

A handout was provided.

Dr. Finnell presented regarding the issues that expectant and parenting youth face and the programs and resources available to ensure youth have successful outcomes. Some of the information provided include:

- The Expectant and Parenting Teen Coalition was formed in early 2023 to determine needs and assemble additional resources in support of the Supporting Teens Educational and Parenting Success (STEPS) Program at the Oklahoma City Public Schools.
- Oklahoma's teen rate is nearly twice the national average at 21.2 per 1000 births.
- Children born to teen parents have worse lifetime outcomes than children born to adult parents.
- Teen parents not only experience the typical stressors of becoming parents, but also face a higher risk of other issues such as homelessness and mental health problems.
- Research has shown the resources such as school-based case management programs and poverty-reduction programs mitigate risk factors and improve outcomes for both teen parents and their children.
- Some of the projects currently in progress are work-study programs to provide paid internships outside of school for career development, evidence-based education on childbirth, parenting, safe sleep, etc. embedded in the schools, increase staffing

numbers of case managers, and strengthen partnerships with community-based resources.

Presentation: Update Regarding RSV Cases in Oklahoma

— *Kendra Dougherty, MS, Director of Infectious Disease Prevention and Response, Oklahoma State Department of Health*

A handout was provided.

Ms. Dougherty presented on the trends of respiratory illness in children during the 2023-2024 season. The information provided include:

- Surveillance is comprised of data from healthcare providers, laboratories, hospitalization, death reporting, and wastewater testing.
- Data is collected to monitor influenza, Covid-19, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) occurrences.
- RSV positive cases began increasing in October 2023 and began declining in early January.
- Influenza cases began increasing in December 2023 and continues to climb.
- Covid-19 case numbers have remained mostly consistent after the initial peak in August 2023.
- There are many options for protection against these respiratory viruses available.

Announcements

— *Commissioners*

No announcements were given.

Chairperson Comments

— *Chairperson John Schneider*

Chairperson John Schneider thanked Director Jacobi for her efforts in coordinating the meetings.

Adjournment

— *Chairperson John Schneider*

Chairperson John Schneider adjourned the meeting at 3:43 PM.

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