

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**November 22, 2024
9:30 AM**

Commissioners present in person: Jacqueline Aaron, Jeffrey Cartmell, Melinda Fruendt, Ginarie Harrington, Jason Hicks, Kalie Kerth, Keith Reed, John Schneider, Timothy Tardibono, Mike Warren

Commissioners attending virtually: None

Guests present in-person and virtually: Christy Tubbs, Teresa Rafael (Children’s Trust Funds Alliance) , Sunnie Jamerson (OCCY Parent Partnership Board); Constanza Nizza (Office of Juvenile Affairs); Sandra Balzer (Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General); Richard DeSirey, Steve Metzger, Joe Dorman, Suzy Gibson, Roxanne Mayer, Lori Essary

Staff present: Annette Wisk Jacobi, Mark James, Rob Agnew, Payton Marr, Brittany Gassner, Ellen Hardy, Marcia Johnson, Caitlin Merritt, Isabel Rodriguez, Keith Pirtle, Danielle Dill, Cherra Taylor, and Mahboob ul Haq, Shelbi Tatarian, Amoreena Killough

Welcome, Introductions, and Determination of Quorum

— *Chairperson John Schneider*

Chairperson John Schneider called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with a quorum present.

Public Comment

Richard DeSirey

Mr. DeSirey reported his participation in the OICA Fall Forum. In 1982, he established the first agency to enter a contract with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for child services. Mr. DeSirey is urging a reconsideration of the reinstatement of Medicaid providers to support mental health services for children. He emphasized the necessity for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) to form designated collaborative organizations with these agencies and he called urged that reimbursement rates for these providers be increased.

Review of the Minutes of September 13, 2024, Commission Meeting

— *Chairperson John Schneider*

A handout was provided.

Judge Warren moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Aaron seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

OCCY Parent Partnership Board (PPB) Report

— *Sunnie Jamerson, Parent Partnership Board Member*

Sunnie Jamerson shared her personal story and insights into the Remerger program.

Highlights included:

- Success stories from program graduates.
- Call for increased parity between state-funded programs and privately funded initiatives like Remerger.
- Encouragement for collaboration between OCCY and partner agencies.

A handout was provided.

Presentation of The 2024 Ray Helfer Award

— *Teresa Rafael, Executive Director, Children's Trust Fund Alliance*

Teresa Rafael recounted the legacy of Dr. Ray Helfer, a distinguished pediatrician affiliated with Michigan State University. Dr. Helfer was a trailblazer in the identification of child abuse and neglect, as well as in the development of preventive measures against such issues. In 1980, he established the first trust funds for children and families through state legislation. The Children's Trust Fund Alliance, a national membership organization, collaborates with the American Academy of Pediatricians to identify individuals who embody the remarkable contributions of Dr. Helfer in improving the lives of children and families within communities.

Annette Wisk Jacobi nominated Oklahoma pediatrician Dr. Marney Dunlap for her work in preventing child abuse and neglect and Dr. Dunlap was selected as the national winner. Dr. Dunlap was provided the award by Chairman Schneider on behalf of the Children's Trust Fund Alliance.

**Presentation: Update from the Oklahoma Institute
For Child Advocacy on the 2024 Legislative Fall Forum**

— *Joe Dorman, Executive, Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy*

Joe Jorman presented a powerpoint on the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy' Fall Forum. Highlights included:

- 100 advocates attended the forum.
- OICA would like to meet with child-serving agencies before December 6, 2024 (billing filing date).
- An advocacy day will be held in March. Details will be forthcoming.

Powerpoint was shown.

Presentation: State Plan for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

— *Suzy Gibson, M.S., Parent as Teachers Program Manager-
Oklahoma State Department of Health*

Suzy Gibson, presented the state plan for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. Highlights from the presentation included:

- Surveys regarding prevention needs were collected from all 77 counties;
- Strategic focus areas included infrastructure, family support, public awareness, and community action; and
- The State Plan goals will be measured for impact.

Commissioner Kerth moved to approve the State Plan. Commissioner Cartmell seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Presentation of the OCCY Finance Report

— *Mahboob ul Haq, OCCY Business Manager*

A handout was provided.

Mr. ul Haq presented an overview of OCCY’s financial status through the first four months of the state fiscal year. Highlights of the information provided include:

- Total budget allocation \$5.9 million.
- 17% of the budget is utilized to date.
- FY26 budget request submitted with focus on sustaining key positions.

Commissioner Warren moved to approve the OCCY finance report. Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Presentation of Revised Budget Request for State Fiscal Year 2026

— *Mark James, OCCY Assistant Director*

Powerpoint was shown.

Mark James presented a revised Budget Request for State Fiscal Year 2026. Highlights of the information included:

- Total proposed request: \$661,550.
- Increased appropriations to support Parent Partnership Board Coordinator, targeted salary adjustments, and three additional positions for the Office of Juvenile Systems Oversight.

Presentation and Approval of the Proposed OCCY Commission Meeting dates for Calendar Year 2025

— *John Schneider, OCCY Commission Chairperson*

The suggested 2025 meeting dates were January 24, April 11, June 20, August 15, September 19, and November 21.

A handout was provided.

Commissioner Warren moved to approve the dates as submitted. Commissioner Fruendt seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Proposed Legislative Agenda for Commission Approval

— Marcia Johnson, OCCY Legislative Liaison

There were five legislative concepts for consideration by the commissioners:

- 1) Restoring OJSO authority for routine inspections of private facilities receiving government funds.

Commissioner Cartmell moved to approve a request bill that would accomplish the legislative concept. Commissioner Aaron seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

- 2) Modifying last year's bill that requires that a parent or guardian must be included in all digital communication between a student and school personnel to include an alternative adult besides parent/guardian for unaccompanied, homeless students.

District Attorney Hicks moved to approve a request bill that would accomplish the legislative concept. Commissioner Kerth seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

- 3) Amending the statute that governs who may refer investigations to Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations to include the Executive Director of OCCY as already authorized in Title 10.

Commissioner Warren moved to approve a request bill that would accomplish the legislative concept. Commissioner Cartmell seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

- 4) Clarifying the activities of the freestanding multidisciplinary teams including the requirement to utilize the OCCY database for case reviews.

Commissioner Kerth moved to approve a request bill that would accomplish the legislative concept. Commissioner Aaron seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

- 5) Amending Oklahoma Administrative Code to related to the freestanding for improved data utilization and accountability.

Commissioner Kerth moved to approve the dates as submitted. Commissioner Harrington seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

A presentation was shown.

Presentation: Post Adjudication Review Board Programmatic Review

— Keith Pirtle, PARB Program Manager

Mr. Keith Pirtle provided an overview of Post Adjudication Review Board (PARB) program

and some of the highlights of information provided included:

- 286 volunteers statewide reviewed over 1,500 cases in the past year.
- There are plans for expansion into underserved areas like the Panhandle.
- The database is being utilized and trend analysis will now be possible.

A presentation was shown.

Director’s Report: Regarding the Agency Activities and Personnel Changes

— *Annette Wisk Jacobi, Executive Director*

Director Jacobi highlighted a few pieces of information from her written report:

- Introduction of new staff and interns.
- Updates from the Child Death Review Board (CDRB).
- Planning for an ad hoc committee to review OJSO policies.

A handout was provided.

Announcements

— *Commissioners*

Chairperson Schneider invited all commissioners to the Annual Thanksgiving lunch hosted by Youth and Family Services in El Reno: Monday, November 25, 2024; 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Chairperson Comments

— *Chairperson John Schneider*

Chairperson Schneider announced Commissioner Wilson, Commissioner Harrington, and Commissioner Myers’ terms had come to an end. He expressed gratitude for their work and dedication to OCCY.

Adjournment

— *Chairperson John Schneider*

Chairperson John Schneider adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

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