
COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
June 19, 2026
9:30 a.m.

Commissioners Present in Person: Jackie Aaron, Jonathan Hall, Jason Hicks, Kalie Kerth, Bryan Larison, Mary Melon-Tully, Timothy Michaels-Johnson, Sharon Millington, John Schneider, Mike Warren and Hannah Whipp

Commissioners Attending Virtually: None

Guests Present In-person and Virtually: Jill Mencke (OK Policy Institute), Carly Putnam (OK Policy Institute), Nancy Charbonneau (Parent Partnership Board) Cheneah Williams (OCA), Christy Horn (OCA), Natalie Moore (OCA), Stephanie Miller (OCA), Ty Mowdy (Assistant Attorney General)

Staff Present: Annette Wisk Jacobi, Mark James, Lakesha Mackie, Brittany Gassner, Madison Wingate, Shelbi Tartarian, Keith Pirtle, Andrew Long, LeeAnn Bennett, Jessi Hamby, Cherra Taylor, Jasmyne Mackie, Robert Agnew, Christina Whatley, Regina James

Welcome, Introductions, and Determination of Quorum

– Chairperson John Schneider

- Chairperson John Schneider called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. with a quorum present.

Public Comment

– Chairperson John Schneider

- No public comment.

Discussion and Possible Vote Regarding the Minutes of March 26, 2026, Commission Meeting

– Chairperson John Schneider

Commissioner Larison moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Melon-Tully seconded the motion. Commissioner Aaron, Kerth, Larison, Melon-Tully, Millington, Schneider, District Attorney Hicks, and Judge Warren all voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Michaels-Johnson and Commissioner Whipp abstained. The motion passed.

- Copies of the minutes were provided.
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Presentation: OCCY Parent Partnership Board Report

– *Nancy Charbonneau, OCCY PPB Member*

Nancy Charbonneau shared her personal experiences with homelessness, domestic violence, mental health challenges, and foster care. She discussed the difficulty of finding reliable childcare in rural Oklahoma, including previously driving more than 70 miles a day to access care while working. After her former provider closed, she had to temporarily place her children with different providers before securing stable care. Ms. Charbonneau also described challenges with health care coverage, including an unexpected loss of Soonercare and being without medication for approximately one month, which negatively affected her mental health and daily functioning.

Ms. Charbonneau emphasized that reliable childcare and health care are essential to child safety and family stability. Without consistent childcare, parents may be unable to work, attend school, or pursue career opportunities, while frequent changes in caregivers can negatively affect children's sense of security and well-being. She encouraged continued investment in rural childcare and stronger support systems, including health care coverage, to help families work, pursue education, maintain their health and build long-term stability.

Presentation: Oklahoma Youth Advisory Council Report

– *Rex Templeton, OYAC Member*

Mr. Templeton provided an update on the council and its recent activities. Oklahoma Youth Advisory Council (OYAC) is a statewide youth advisory group focused on mental and behavioral health and consists of 12 youth advisory adults ages 16-24 from urban, suburban, and rural areas. The council works to ensure youth voices and lived experiences are included in decisions regarding services and policies affecting children, youth, and families across Oklahoma. Mr. Templeton shared his experiences with homelessness, foster care, and involvement with community organizations, noting that they joined OYAC to create positive, long-term change for youth and families.

OYAC held its first meeting in March, April, and May, focusing on orientation, engagement opportunities, and providing youth input on the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. During the summer, the council planned additional meetings focused on communication skills, strategic sharing of lived experiences, and developing goals. A summer retreat in Oklahoma City was also planned to allow members to work on strategic planning and establish goals for the coming year.

– *Powerpoint Presentation was shown.*

Discussion and Possible Vote Regarding Finance Report

– *Mark James, OCCY Assistant Director*

Mark James provided an overview of its financial status through May 31, 2026. The total annual budget is approximately \$6.1 million, with \$5.3 million in expenditures and encumbrances to

date, representing about 87% of the budget. Funding comes from three primary sources: \$3.1 million in state appropriations, \$1.5 million through the revolving/200 fund, and \$1.4 million through the 210 fund, which supports the freestanding teams. A significant portion of the agency's funding comes through partnerships and reimbursements from other state agencies.

As of May 31st, the agency had approximately \$1.3 million in total cash across its four funds. Maintaining a cash reserve is necessary because many agency expenses must be paid upfront before reimbursement is received. The agency is also working to close out FY26 expenses, transition into FY27, and complete upcoming budget and contract requirements.

- FY26 spending is approximately 87% of the budget, with additional expenses expected before year-end.
- The agency continues to rely heavily on partner agencies and reimbursement funding to support its overall operations.
- Cash reserves are necessary to pay expenses upfront while awaiting reimbursement.
- FY27 budget preparation and fiscal-year transition activities are currently underway.

Judge Warren moved to approve the finance report. District Attorney Hicks seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

- *Financial reports were provided.*
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Discussion and Possible Vote Regarding the OCCY 2027 State Fiscal Year Budget

– *Mark James, OCCY Assistant Director*

Mark James presented the proposed SFY27 budget of \$5.3 million, compared to \$6.1 million in FY26. The decrease of approximately \$813,000 is primarily due to planned reductions in grant funding, changes in state retirement contributions, personnel adjustments, and the exclusion of approximately \$234,000 in potential FY26 carryover that cannot yet be included. The agency also reduced or discontinued some services due to lower available grant funding.

State appropriations account for approximately \$3 million, with 88.5% going directly toward payroll. The remaining funding comes primarily from reimbursable partnerships and the 210 funds, which largely pass through to the freestanding teams. The agency emphasized that many partnership funds must be spent upfront and reimbursed later, making adequate cash reserves important.

- Proposed FY27 budget: \$5.3 million, down approximately \$813,000 from FY26.
- 88.5% of state appropriations is allocated to payroll.
- A significant portion of the budget comes from reimbursable partnerships and pass-through funds.
- Future budget presentations will include a clearer breakdown of state appropriations, 200 funds, and 210 funds by department, particularly to show how statutory responsibilities are funded.

District Attorney Hicks moved to approve the 2027 budget. Commissioner Melon-Tully seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

- Financial reports were provided.

Discussion and Possible Vote to Elect the Following Commission Officers

– Chairperson John Schneider

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary

Chairperson John Schneider stated that, after serving as Chairperson for several years, he believed it was appropriate to allow others the opportunity to serve in leadership roles. He expressed his appreciation for serving as Chairperson and his continued commitment to the Commission as a member. Chairperson Schneider then presented a proposed slate of officers for discussion and consideration Commissioner Kalie Kerth, District Attorney Hicks and Commissioner Jonathan Hall.

Chairperson Schneider opened the nominations for Chairperson of OCCY Commission with a motion for Commissioner Kerth. It was seconded by District Attorney Hicks. Commissioners Aaron, Hall, Larison, Melon-Tully, Michaels-Johnson, Millington, Schneider, Whipp, District Attorney Hicks, and Judge Warren voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Kerth abstained. The motion passed.

Chairperson Schneider asked for a motion for Vice Chair of OCCY Commission. Judge Warren made a motion to nominate District Attorney Hicks as the Vice Chairperson of OCCY Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Aaron. Commissioners Aaron, Hall, Kerth, Larison, Melon-Tully, Millington, Schneider, Whipp and Judge Warren voted in the affirmative. District Attorney Hicks and Commissioner Micheals-Johnson abstained. The motion passed.

Lastly, Chairperson Schneider asked for a motion for Secretary of OCCY Commission. Commissioner Kerth made a motion to nominate Commissioner Hall for Secretary of OCCY Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Millington. Commissioners Aaron, Kerth, Larison, Melon-Tully, Micheals-Johnson, Millington Schneider, Whipp, District Attorney Hicks and Judge Warren voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Hall abstained. The motion passed.

Newly nominated officers will take effect July 1, 2026.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Amendment to the 2026 Child Death Review Board Recommendations

– Elizabeth Kaup, OCCY Child Death Review Board, Program Manager

Elizabeth Kaup presented CDRB fifth annual recommendation highlighting inconsistencies in the information received from suicide death investigations. Information regarding mental health history, circumstances leading to death, self-harm, and previous suicide attempts is not consistently available.

Because information is not giving leading up to the deaths, it's been recommended convening a multidisciplinary workgroup of representatives from law enforcement, the Medical Examiner's Office, behavioral health, public health, and social services to develop a standardized suicide death investigation form. The form would capture key medical and mental health history, social context, and known risk factors while remaining practical for field use. The goal is to improve the quality and consistency of suicide death data to better inform prevention efforts.

Commissioner Whipp moved to approve the recommendation. District Attorney Hicks seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed

- Report was provided.
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Discussion and Possible Vote Regarding the Annual Performance Review of Executive Director Annette Wisk Jacobi

Commissioner Hall made the motion to go into executive session. District Attorney Hicks seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Return to Open Session

District Attorney Hicks made the motion to return to open session. Commissioner Kerth seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed

Assistant Attorney General Ty Mowdy announced that only the executive director's performance evaluation had been discussed during executive session and that no votes or actions had been taken while in executive session.

Possible Action Following Executive Session

Commissioner Michaels-Johnson made the motion to increase the salary of the Executive Director position to \$130,000 and to authorize the Personnel Committee to complete its review. Judge Warren seconded the motion. Commissioners Aaron, Hall, Kerth, Larison, Melon-Tully, Michaels-Johnson, Schneider and Judge Warren voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Millington and Whipp abstained. The motion passed

Presentation: 2026 Kids Count Oklahoma

- Jill Mencke, Policy Analyst I
- Carly Putnam, Policy Director and KIDS Count Coordinator, OK Policy Institute

Ms. Mencke and Ms. Putnam provided an overview of Oklahoma's child well-being data from

the KIDS Count Data Book. The report measures 16 indicators across economic well-being, health, education, and family/community. Oklahoma ranked 44th overall, including 30th in economic well-being, 37th in health, 48th in education, and 43rd in family and community. Ms. Putnam noted that one in five Oklahoma children live in poverty, one in four experience food insecurity or significant housing cost burdens, and many families face unstable employment. They also discussed disparities in income, health care access, and outcomes across racial and ethnic groups, as well as challenges related to SNAP and Medicaid access. Ms. Putnam emphasized that policy and funding decisions can affect families' ability to meet basic needs and access health care.

The presentation also addressed education, child welfare, and youth justice. Oklahoma's education outcomes have declined in areas such as early childhood participation, math and reading proficiency, while education funding has not kept pace with inflation. The presenters also discussed the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACE), noting approximately 21.5% of Oklahoma children have experienced two or more ACEs. Approximately 6,500 children were in out-of-home placements last year, and families of color are disproportionately involved with the child welfare system. The presenters emphasized the importance of addressing family needs and providing support that helps children remain safely connected to their families and communities, while also highlighting the connection between child welfare involvement and youth justice system involvement.

- *Powerpoint Presentation was shown.*

Presentation: Foster Youth Matters and Foster Parents Voices Update

- *Cheneah Williams, MWS, Program Administrator, Office of Client Advocacy*
- *Stephanie Miller, M.A., Foster Care Ombudsman, Office of Client Advocacy*

The Office of client Advocacy (OCA) promotes the safety, independence, and rights of Oklahoma's most vulnerable individuals, including vulnerable adults and individuals receiving Developmental Services (DDS), children in child welfare custody and congregate care facilities, and foster parents and youth. OCA provides advocacy through court and multidisciplinary team participation, investigators, grievance and intake services, and oversight of grievance programs. Following 2024 legislation, OCA transitioned from Oklahoma Human Services to the Oklahoma State Department of Health, where it has established a strong partnership.

OCA also restructured its grievance programs by consolidating foster parent, foster youth and Developmental Disabilities Services grievance under one division. It has also developed a shared database and improved online complaint system with the Office of Inspector General. The office provides training for and oversight of facilities, conducts site visits, supports program reviews and reconsiderations, and conducts community outreach regarding the rights of those it serves.

The grievance process begins with intake and review to determine whether an issue falls within OCA's authority, with staff providing education and informal problem-solving when appropriate. Formal grievances are generally directed to the appropriate district director, field manager, or child-placing agency, with most resolved at the lowest level and unresolved matters eligible for further review.

Grievances are generally required to be resolved within 60 days.

Foster parents may file grievances regarding violations of their rights, and anyone may file on behalf of a foster youth, with the youth's wishes considered when appropriate. Certain matters, including child welfare investigations and findings, are outside OCA's authority, but staff provide referrals to appropriate resources.

- *Powerpoint Presentation was shown.*
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Presentation: Child Death Review Board Review Reporting Using the National Fatality Review Case Reporting System

- *Andrew Lond, MPH, CPH, OCCY Child Death Review Board Intern*
- *Vivian Sanchez MPH, CPH, OCCY Child Death Review Board Intern*

Ms. Sanchez and Mr. Long, both interns with the Child Death Review Board (CDRB), presented their practicum projects focused on improving the use and reporting of CDRB data. They identified that while CDRB has strong data collection processes, reporting has historically been costly, labor-intensive, and difficult to compare across years. Mr. Long developed an automated reporting system using free software that can generate standardized annual reports for any year, while Ms. Sanchez created an interactive dashboard using nearly 3,000 reviewed deaths from 2013-2022. Together, these tools provide sustainable, cost-effective way to analyze trends, demographics, causes of death, contributing factors, and prevention opportunities.

The presenters noted that the tools can support prevention efforts, policy development, grant applications, and more timely, data-informed decision-making. Future plans include improving data completeness, developing multi-year and topic-specific reports, expanding dashboard access to CDRB staff and Board members, and using the data to identify trends and disparities with community partners. The tools have already been used to support local prevention initiatives and analyze emerging concerns, including THC ingestion cases. In closing, the presenters noted that making the dashboard publicly available is a future goal, dependent on available time, funding and resources.

- *Powerpoint Presentation was shown.*
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Presentation: Credentialing Postadjudication Review Board

- *Keith Pirtle, OCCY Postadjudication Review Board, Program Manager*

Mr. Pirtle introduced a new credentialing initiative for Oklahoma's approximately 40 Permanency Planning Advisory (PARB) boards, which include nearly 300 volunteers who review deprived cases and make recommendations to the judge, child welfare, and parties of the cases. Although the program has been operated since the 1980's, a formal credentialing process had not previously been implemented because the boards are intended to remain independent citizen review bodies.

The new process is designed to identify training and technical assistance needs, establish minimum standards, and promote consistent practices while respecting the independence of each local board. A standardized assessment tool evaluates required practices, board memberships and meeting requirements, use of the statewide database, and feedback from judges and board members.

Credentialing reviews are conducted throughout the year, with boards receiving a two-year credential based on their assessment results and specific recommendations for improvement. The initiative has already identified areas needing additional support, including boards that do not currently meet the membership requirement or five members. The credentialing process also strengthens communication with judges and local boards, clarifies expectations, and provides regular opportunities to address challenges and provide technical assistance. Continued recruitment of qualified judges and community volunteers remains an important priority to ensure all boards can meet requirements and effectively serve children and families.

- *Powerpoint Presentation was shown.*
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Presentation of the Executive Director's Report Regarding Agency Activities and Personnel Changes

– *Annette Wisk Jacobi, OCCY Executive Director*

Director Jacobi provided updates regarding the Commission's reports and data. The CDRB handouts were developed through extensive collaboration among staff and will continue to be expanded with additional data for future meetings. An overview of the Office of Juvenile Services Oversight (OJSO) report was provided. From January through March, OJSO reviewed 91 complaints and closed 86 files, while Foster Youth Matters received 91 separate youth complaints and 53 foster parent complaints. OJSO issued 23 violation reports, all related to child welfare. Director Jacobi clarified that these figures do not indicate that child welfare is the only system experiencing concerns, noting that OJSO has greater in-house expertise in child welfare and contracts with outside professionals for matters involving mental health, disability, education and child-care.

The report will continue to be expanded to include agency responses and additional information. Updates were also provided regarding public reports, open records requests, the Stillwater grand jury matter, and OJSO's involvement in the state's Meta lawsuit. Director Jacobi welcomed Jessi Hamby to OJSO, noting that she brings several years of child welfare experience to the agency, and provided updates on current vacancies and recruitment efforts.

The Executive Director expressed appreciation to the staff and Commission members for their work and dedication. Special recognition was given to Public Information Officer Rob Agnew for his extensive work preparing the meeting materials, as well as Assistant Director Mark James for the financial information, Lakesha Mackie and Cherra Taylor for meeting coordination, and Assistant Attorney General Ty Mowdy for keeping the meeting on track. The Executive Director also expressed sincere appreciation to Commissioner Schneider for his continued guidance and support and thanked all Commission members for their service and commitment.

Chairperson's Remarks

– *Chairperson John Schneider*

Adjournment

– *Chairperson John Schneider*

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.