



**OKLAHOMA
COMMISSION ON
CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

2915 North Classen, Suite 300, Oklahoma City, OK 73106
405-606-4900

**MEETING NOTICE
State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board
Greg Delaney, Chair**

Friday, April 9, 2021 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CDT)
Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth
2915 N. Classen Ave, Suite 300
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

The meeting will be held in person and available virtually.

This public meeting is being held consistent with the amendments to the Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. § 301 et seq., signed into law by Gov. Stitt on February 10, 2021. See SB 1031, 202 O.S.L 3, § 3.

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/983720909>

You can also dial in using your phone. United States: [+1 \(224\) 501-3412](tel:+12245013412) **Access Code:** 983-720-909

The following State PARB Members will be attending via Go to Meeting: Judge Bill Baze, Christina Siemens, Cindy Nocton, Daniel Herring, David Ross, Deanna Chancellor, Greg Delaney, Dr. Greg Parks, Lana Freeman, Judge Leah Edwards, Lou Truitt Flanagan, Melanie Johnson, Judge Ryan Reddick, Dr. Carol Bridges, Jonette Dunlap, Dr. Kalie Kerth, Lisa Buck, Judge Louis Duel, Paula Cantrell, Sandra Brown, Tracy Otto, Judge VerSteeg, Sarah Herrian

The following staff will be attending via Go to Meeting: Keith Pirtle, Mark James, Christina Whatley, Lisa Rhoades, Cherra Taylor, Annette Jacobi, Danielle Dill

The following individuals will be attending via Go to Meeting: Kim Rebsamen, Lisa White, Geneva Stretch

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: July 23, 2021

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

- | | | | |
|----|--|---------|-----------------|
| 1. | Welcome and introduction of members and Guests and a Call to Order | 5 Min. | Greg Delaney |
| 2. | Determination of Quorum and Compliance with Oklahoma Open Meeting Act | 5 Min. | Cherra Taylor |
| 3. | Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2021
<i>Discussion and possible action</i> | 5 Min. | Greg Delaney |
| 4. | Legislative Update | 10 Min | Jennifer Hardin |
| 5. | Commission Report | 10 Min | Dr. Kalie Kerth |
| 6. | Vote on PARB Representative to OCCY Board of Commissioners
<i>Discussion and possible action</i> | 10 Min. | Greg Delaney |



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- | | | |
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| 7. PARB Database and Evaluation | 25 Min. | Lisa White, OU E-Team |
| 8. PARB Program Manager's Report | 10 Min. | Keith Pirtle |
| 9. Review of the local PARB Board Recommendations and Development of Annual State PARB Recommendations
<i>Discussion and possible action</i> | 40 Min. | Keith Pirtle |
| 10. New Business
Business which was not known nor could have been know through exercise of due diligence at the time of posting of this agenda | 5 Min. | Greg Delaney |
| 11. Adjournment | | Greg Delaney |

The Board may discuss, vote to approve, vote to disapprove, vote to table, or decide not to discuss any item on the agenda



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Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth
2915 N Classen Blvd, Suite 300
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106

STATE POST ADJUDICATION REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD

via

Gotomeeting video call
Friday, February 26, 2021

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Chairperson, Greg Delaney. Determination of quorum was established for members present and the board was in compliance with notice and agenda requirements of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. Members present via video conference were: Dr. Carol Bridges, Dr. Greg Parks, Paula Cantrell, Tracy Otto, the Honorable Louis Duel, Greg Delaney Lisa Buck, Christina Siemens, Daniel Herring, the Honorable Leah Edwards, Sarah Herrian, and Jonette Dunlap. Members present via phone were: David Ross, and Melanie Johnson. Members not present were: Cindy Nocton, the Honorable Ryan Reddick, the Honorable Pat VerSteege, Sandy Brown, Dr. Kalie Kerth, Lana Freeman, Lou Truitt-Flanagan, Deanna Chancellor, and the Honorable Bill Baze. OCCY staff members present were: Keith Pirtle, Christina Whatley, Kim Rebsamen, Cherra Taylor, and Mark James.

2. Introduction of Members and Guests, Public Comments

Sonja Cole, and Kelly Tannehill from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS); Lisa White, and Geneva Strech from the University of Oklahoma (OU); and Johnna James of Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) were in attendance. No public comments were made.

3. Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2020

Discussion and Possible Action

The Chair recognized the roll call to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2020, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board Meeting, and the members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

4. PARB and ICWA: Where We Are and Where Should We be Going?

An outline was provided in the packet. Keith Pirtle discussed what PARB is currently doing to identify and make active efforts on Indian Child Welfare (ICW) cases. He also discussed possible ideas on how PARB's role can be more accurately defined as well as enhancing communication with Tribes and OKDHS, improve on coordination between the Tribes and OKDHS, and encourage local PARBs to invite ICW workers to participate in meetings.

Christina Siemens stated that she attended a presentation regarding the Cherokee Nation's partnership with OKDHS and suggested to have the presenter speak to the Board.

Kelly Tannehill, tribal liaison with OKDHS, stated that many tribes are providing trainings in response to the Supreme Court's ruling of the *McGirt v. Oklahoma* case. She also stated that an ICW court has been established in Tulsa, making it the seventh ICW court in the nation.

Keith reported that copies of a map showing tribal and OKDHS jurisdictions, an ICW contact list and the

Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Bench Guide to Indian Child Welfare book were sent via email to the Board members. Kelly explained that the Bench Guide was created to educate attorneys and judges on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). Kelly will provide her division's contact information to Keith for dissemination as well as provide ICWA training information to PARB members.

Johnna James, tribal liaison with ODMHSAS, explained the importance of ICWA regarding culture and historical trauma.

Jonette Dunlap stated that the Tribes should be considered less of a group and more of a foreign country, that Tribes should always be notified at the time of removal to determine Tribal placement.

5. PARB Evaluation Update

Copies of the PowerPoint were distributed to the members. Lisa White, OU's Evaluation Team (E-Team), presented on the highlights of the evaluation of PARB demographics and data for Oklahoma and Garfield Counties. Some of the E-Team's findings include:

- Found approximately 161 OKDHS workers were assigned, 24 Tribes represented, 39 CASA workers were assigned, and ten judges reviewed PARB cases in Oklahoma County in calendar year (CY) 2019.
- Found approximately 27 OKDHS workers were assigned, 31 CASA workers were assigned, and one judge reviewed PARB cases in Garfield County in CY2019.
- In CY 2019, 377 children were served in Oklahoma County, with the largest group in the age range of 0-3 years.
- In CY 2019 for Garfield County, 251 children were served, with the largest group in the age range of 0-3 years.
- The top three recommendation categories for Oklahoma County were placement, mental health services, and parental rights and support.
- The top three recommendation categories for Garfield County were, placement, parental rights and support, and assignment of worker/advocate.
- Of the 342 active PARB members, about 83% were female, and the average age of the members is 56 years.

Geneva Strech, OU's E-Team, stated that study of the demographics will assist in determining how recommendations could potentially be impacted, and identify possible gaps.

6. PARB Program Managers' Report

Copies of the report were distributed to the members. Keith Pirtle reported that Tulsa and Oklahoma County PARBs had stopped meeting virtually in November and December due to the expiration of the Executive Order allowing virtual meetings under the Open Meetings Act. A new Executive Order has been enacted in February 2021 to allow meetings to continue virtually under the Open Meetings Act. He also reported that Tulsa County PARB conducted a virtual volunteer appreciation event, and that Oklahoma County conducted a new member orientation.

Other activities include:

- The new PARB in Ottawa County began meeting in January 2021.
- Keith attended Okfuskee County PARB's meeting to assist the new chair and provide training to new members.
- All PARB forms and documents were updated and fillable PDF forms uploaded to OCCY's website.
- New PARB badges will be created for all local and state PARB members in late spring 2021.

7. State PARB Ongoing Focus Areas

Discussion and Possible Action

Copies of the Ongoing Issues report was distributed to the members. Keith briefly discussed on each of the items on the report, which include:

- Elimination of jury trials for parental rights termination hearings.
- A task force that focuses on children who are at risk for abuse due to community isolation.
- OCCY and OKDHS forming a steering committee to plan a virtual Permanency Summit to be held in May or June 2021, which will focus on barriers of permanency of children in OKDHS custody.
- Creating a Data and Quality Assurance Committee to review data and provide feedback.
- Determining whether the Board wants to continue moving forward with the name change of PARB.

Keith stated that due to the pandemic causing priority issues, the bills for the name change in the 2020 and 2021 Legislative sessions failed. Judge Edwards suggested to include in the name change bill for Legislative Session 2022 a tribal designation to the State PARB Advisory Board membership. Members agreed to continue to moving forward with the name change.

8. New Business

(Business which was not known nor could have been known through exercise of due diligence at the time of posting of this agenda)

No new business at the time of this meeting.

9. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2021

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Post Adjudication Review Board (PARB)

PARB Database Preview

Prepared by: ETEAM

April 2021



The University of Oklahoma
Outreach
E-TEAM




DASHBOARD

PARB

Lana Freeman

- Dashboard
- Add Member
- District / Board
- Reviews
- Home



DISTRICT/BOARD LIST

The screenshot shows the PARB District/Board List application. The top navigation bar includes the PARB logo, a user profile for Lana Freeman, and a 'New Member' button. The left sidebar contains navigation options: Dashboard, Add Member, District / Board (highlighted), Reviews, and Home. The main content area is titled 'District / Board' and features a table of districts and a detailed view of a member.

District / Board Table


#	Name	District	Active	Actions
1	District 1 / 1	District 1	Active	
2	District 2 / 1	District 2	Active	
3	District 2 / 2	District 2	Active	
4	District 2 / 3	District 2	Active	
5	District 3 / 1	District 3	Active	
6	District 4 / 1	District 4	Active	
7	District 4 / 2	District 4	Active	

Members Tab

#	Role	Name	Address	Contact	Actions
1	Member	Test User	2601 Tech Place Norman 73071	test@eteam.com 4055551234	x

Total 1 members found.
ParbId: 68f15554-e21d-4995-9a55-e7bf9c16272d

REVIEW DETAILS

 Lana Freeman

Reviews Add Review

Search Reviews

District / Board JD Number Search

#	JD No	KK No	Review of	Reviews	
1	JD-17-83	20503284	Dunlap	<div>Tue, 02 Mar 2021</div> <div>Sun, 21 Feb 2021</div>	Add Review

Total 1 reviews found.

Modify Revision

Case Details

District / Board JD/JF# KK#

District 3 / 1 (District 3) JD-17-83 20503284

Review of

Dunlap Core

Court Details

The Honorable (Judge Name) Next Court Date

Haralson mm/dd/yyyy

Assistant District Attorney (ADA)

Case Review

Review Date Reviewer Next Review Date

03/02/2021 Lana Freeman 04/05/2021



1700 Asp Ave
Norman, OK 73072
(405) 325-4132

The Educational Training, Evaluation, Assessment, and Measurement (E-TEAM) Department of the University of Oklahoma is a full service department with senior researchers, data analysts, technical writers, and data base developers and managers representing decades of experience in all phases of research data processing. E-TEAM also has several years' experience as evaluators for both state and national initiatives, including mental health, child welfare, juvenile justice, and education. E-TEAM has staff with extensive experience in tribal projects in conjunction with the American Indian Institute (also located at the University of Oklahoma). E-TEAM also has bi-lingual staff to facilitate communication with Spanish-speaking customers and subjects.

Visit the ETEAM at <http://eteam.ou.edu/>.

Post Adjudication Review Board (PARB)

Oklahoma and Garfield Counties



The University of Oklahoma
Outreach
E-TEAM

Introduction

Data from the Oklahoma and Garfield County PARBs were analyzed for calendar year 2019. Reports for each were distributed to PARB leadership; reports included recommendations for continued improvement of PARB processes and data entry. For this report, data from both Garfield and Oklahoma counties are presented, which provides an overview of the aggregate data, as well as a comparison of the two counties. Overall, there were 552 PARB forms analyzed.

Garfield County

- 278 PARB forms completed
- 133 Cases reviewed
- 250 Children under PARB review

Oklahoma County

- 274 PARB forms completed
- 210 Cases reviewed
- 377 Children under PARB review

PARB Recommendation Form

On both Oklahoma and Garfield Counties' PARB forms, information was entered via paper forms, which detailed case information. Although each form presented slightly different information, both counties collected much of the same information. Following is a comparison of both PARB districts' open-entry fields that were included on both the Garfield County and Oklahoma County PARB forms. Full reports with a complete analyses of open-entry data have been distributed to PARB leadership.

Data Field	Garfield County Count	Oklahoma County Count	Combined Totals for Oklahoma and Garfield Counties
Presiding Judges	1	10	11 Presiding Judges
DHS Workers	27	161	188 DHS Workers
CASA Workers	31	39	70 CASA Workers
Children with Indian Child Welfare Affiliation	28	79	107 Children with ICWA Affiliation

PARB Review Frequency

Garfield County

Seven PARB members reviewed cases in Garfield County in 2019; 54 cases had a single review; 34 had two reviews; 29 were reviewed three times; 11 were reviewed four times; and 5 cases were reviewed five times.

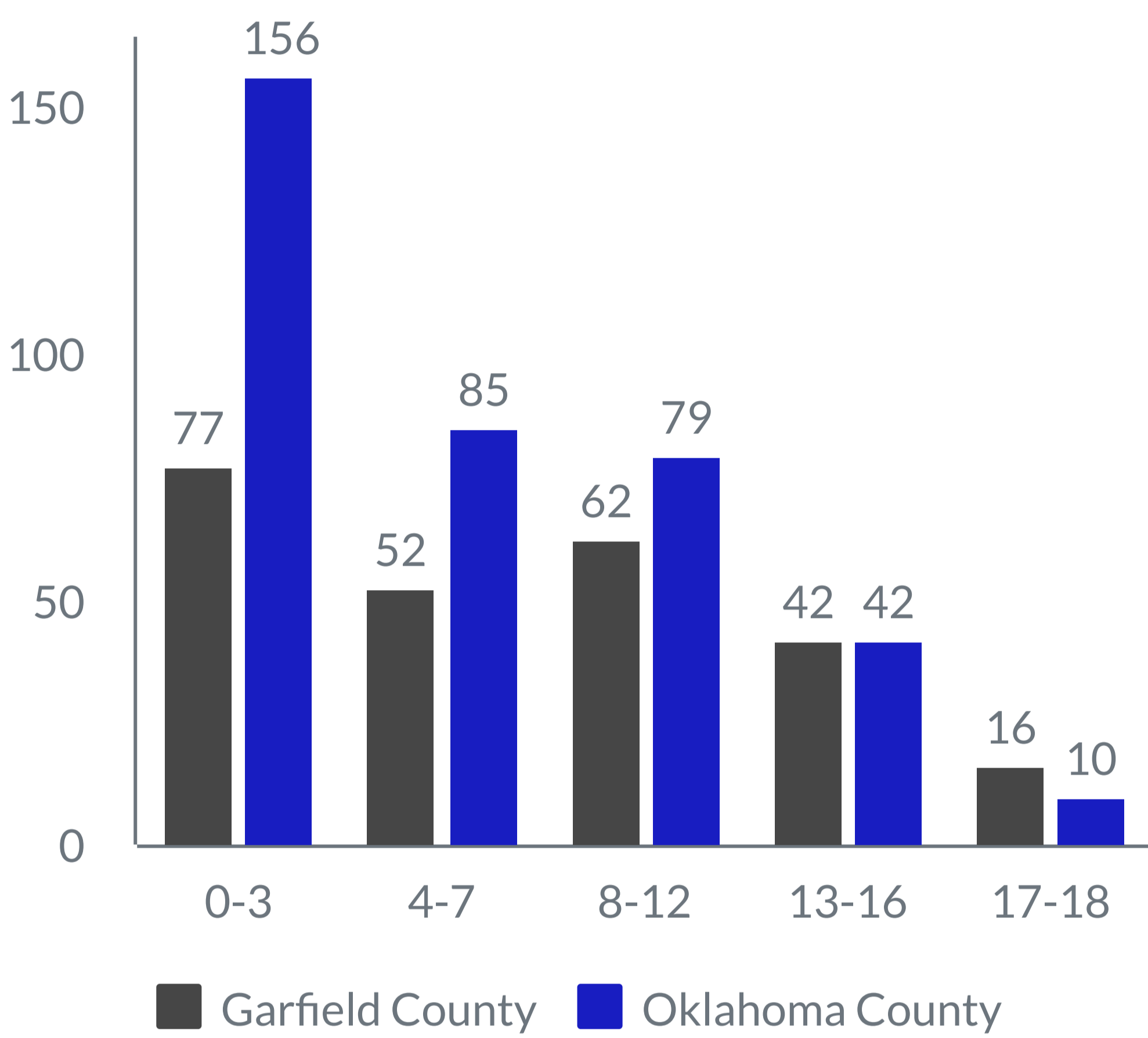
Oklahoma County

Twenty PARB members reviewed cases in Oklahoma County in 2019; 161 cases had a single review; 36 had two reviews; 11 were reviewed three times; and 2 cases were reviewed four times.

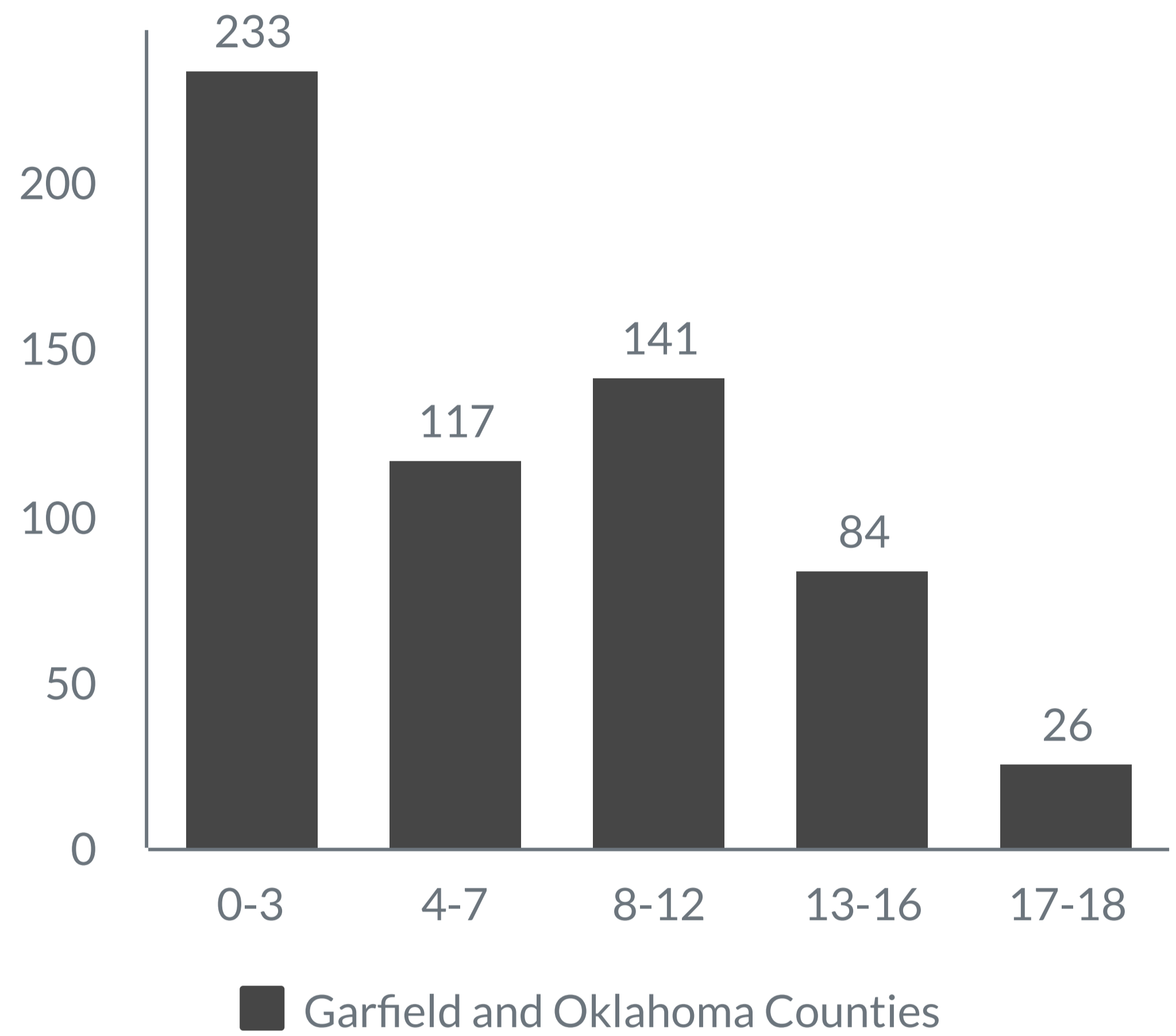
Age Distribution

After PARB reviewers enter the standard case information, information about each child is entered, including age, current placement, and number of months out-of-home, although only Oklahoma County consistently collected months out-of-home for each child. The following charts present the age distribution for Oklahoma County and Garfield County.

Age distribution from 2019 PARB reviews in Garfield County (n=249) and Oklahoma County (n=372)



Age distribution from 2019 PARB reviews in Garfield and Oklahoma Counties combined (n=621)



Average Age

Garfield County Average

Age: 7.7 years

Oklahoma County Average

Age: 5.95 years

6.65

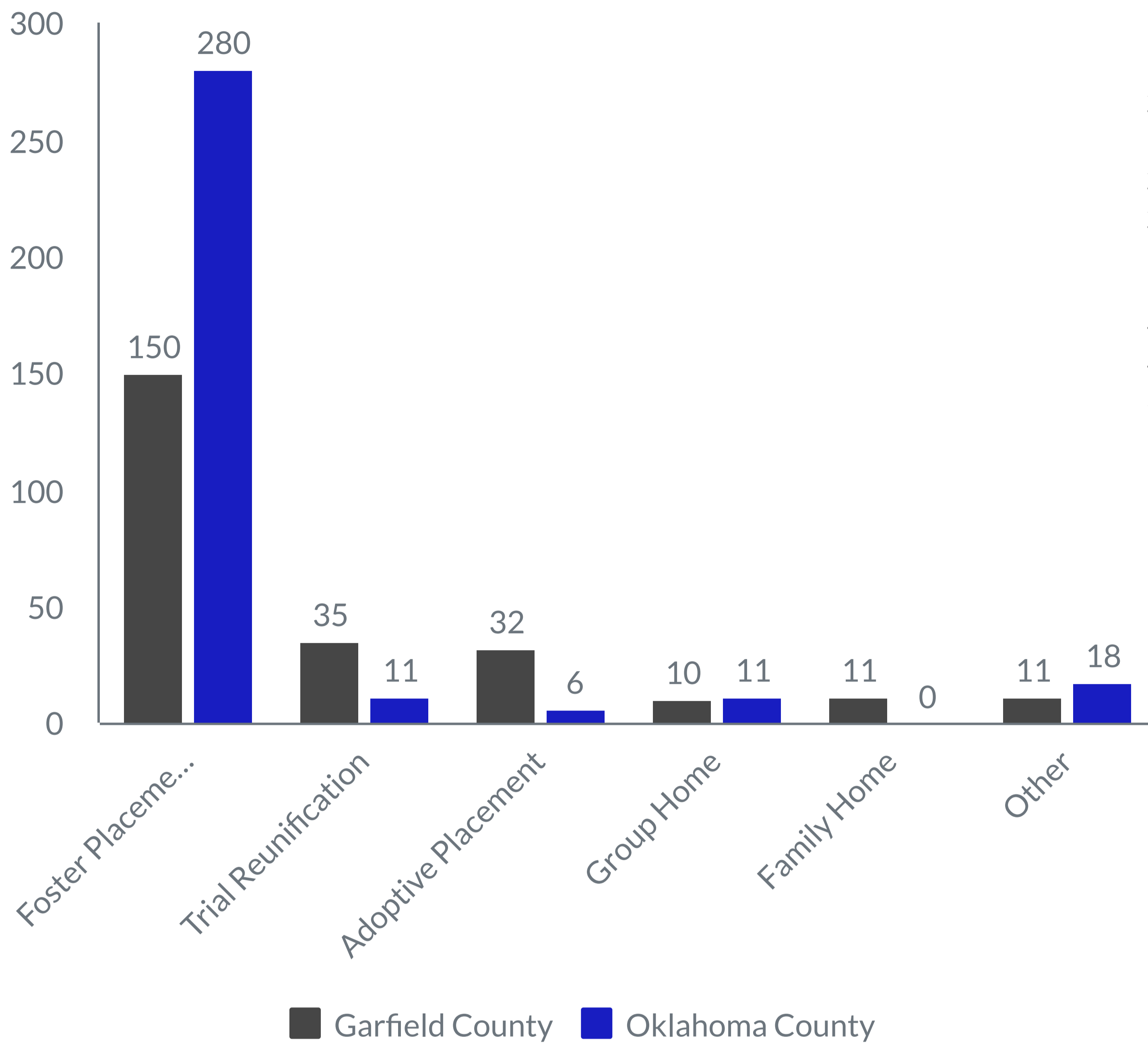
Average age for Oklahoma and

Garfield County

Children : 6.65 years

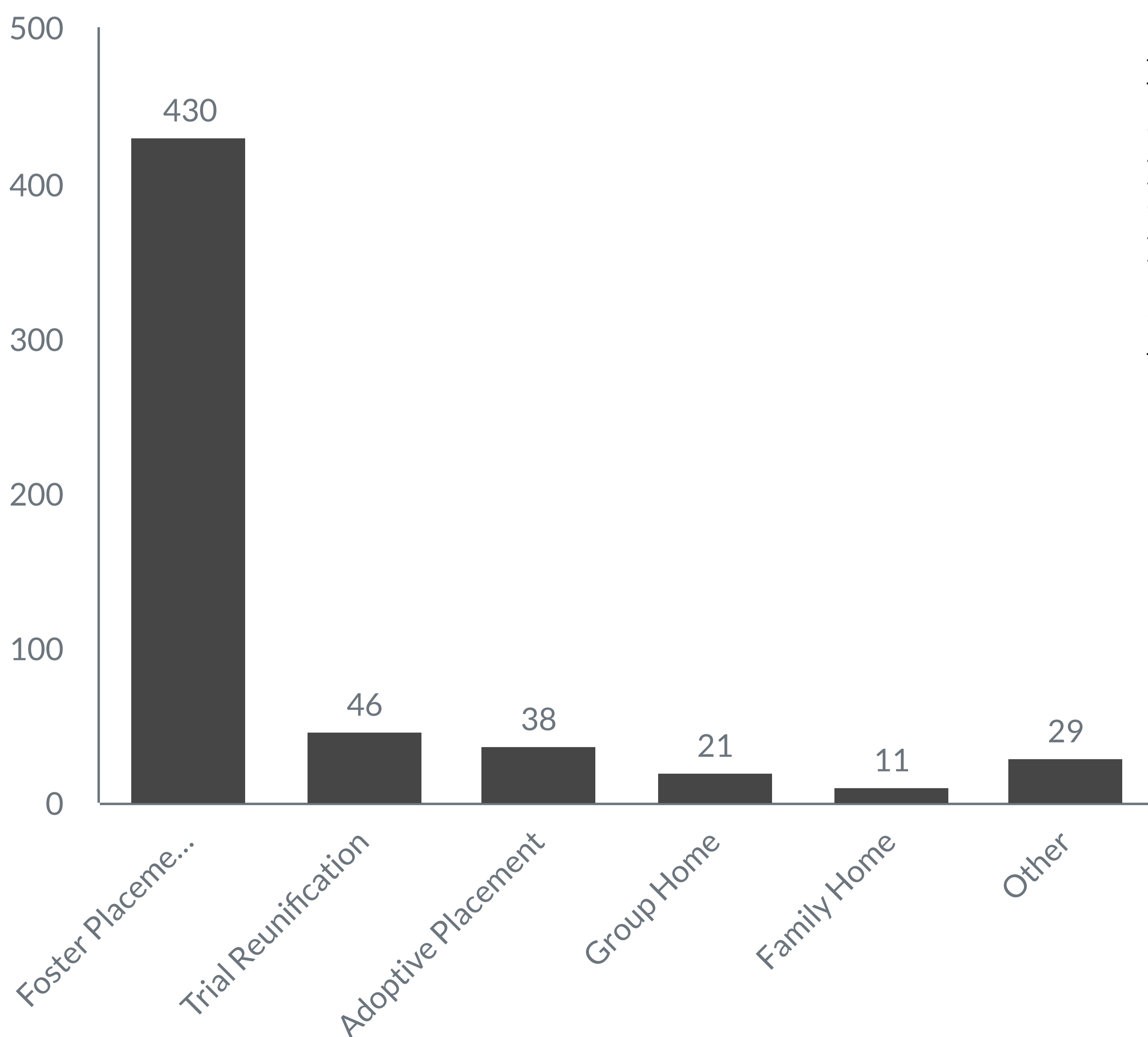
Placement Information

Placement Distribution from 2019 PARB reviews in Garfield County (n=249) and Oklahoma County (n=353)



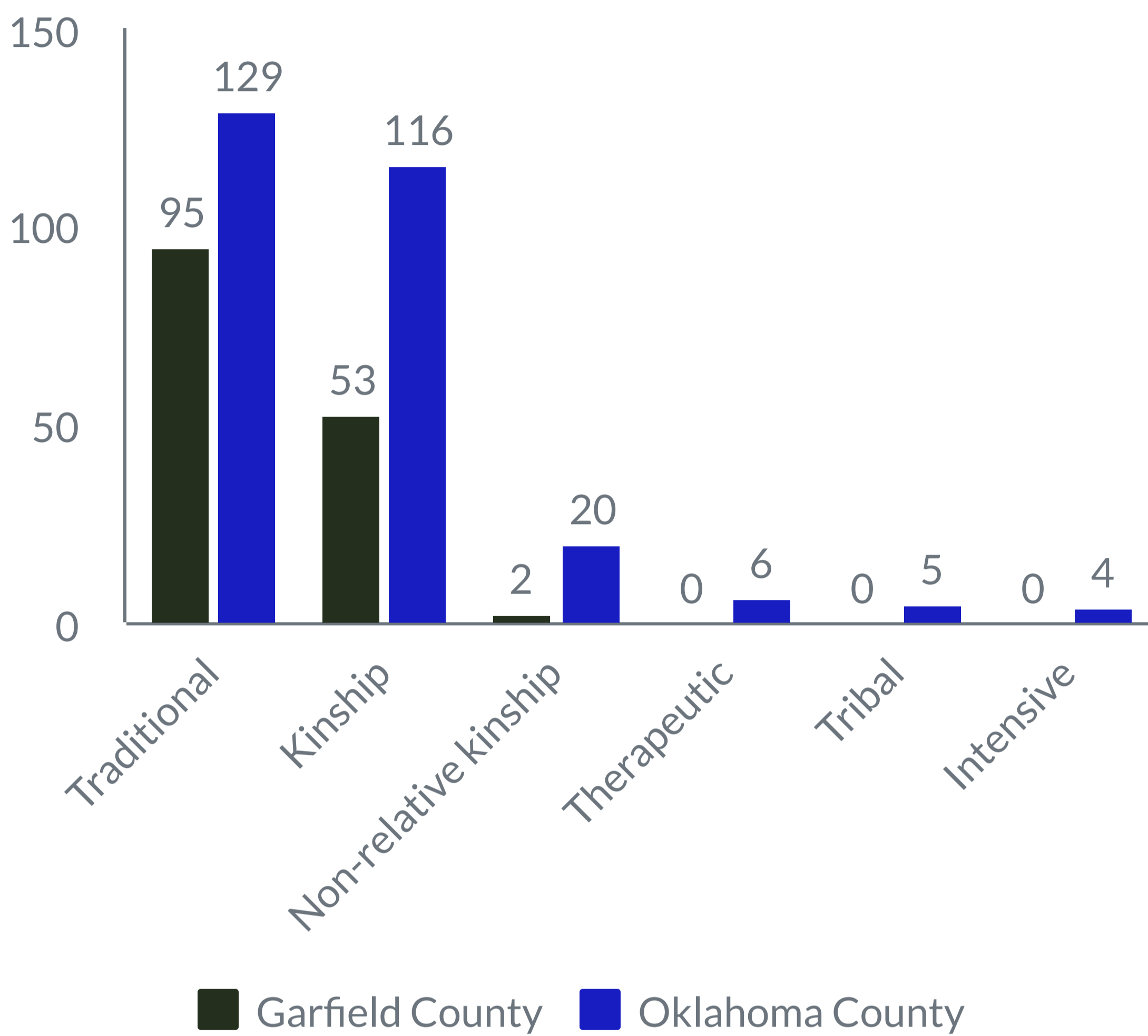
PARB members record placement information for each child during a review (although there are some instances in which this information was not recorded). For both Garfield and Oklahoma Counties, foster placement was the most common placement type, followed by trial reunification.

Placement Distribution from 2019 PARB reviews in Garfield and Oklahoma Counties (n=602)



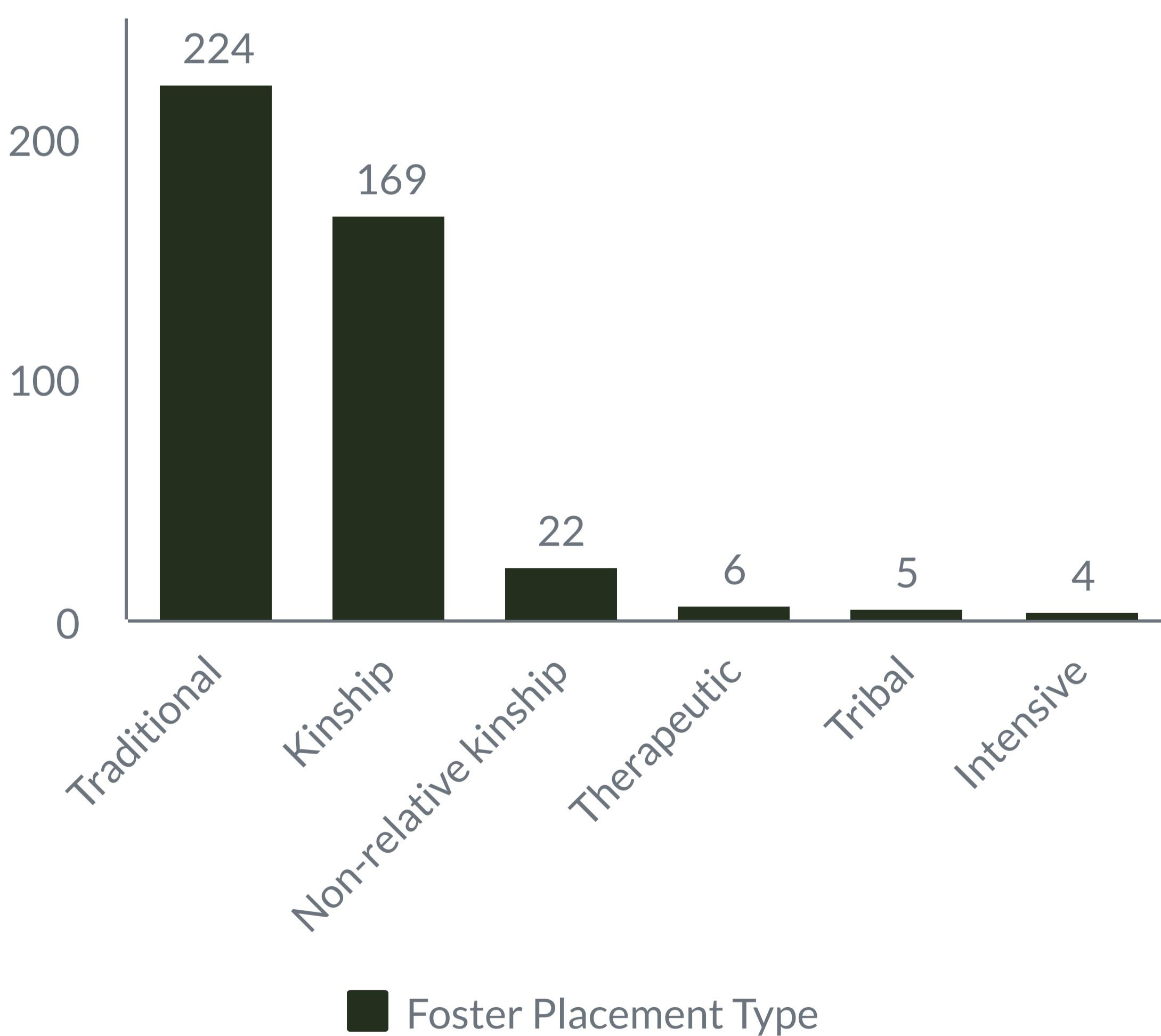
Aggregate placement distributions were somewhat reflective of each county's distribution in that foster placement and trial reunification continued to be the most common placements. Adoptive placements and group homes were the next most common placement types when looking at Oklahoma and Garfield Counties together.

Foster Placement Distribution



Foster Placement Distribution from 2019 PARB reviews in Garfield County (n=150) and Oklahoma County (n=280)

Foster placement was the most common placement type in both Garfield and Oklahoma Counties. Here (chart to left), foster placement is parsed out by type of foster placement, with traditional placement and kinship placement accounting for the majority of foster placement types in both counties.



Foster Placement Distribution from 2019 PARB reviews in Garfield and Oklahoma Counties combined (n=430)

When looking at foster placements for both Garfield and Oklahoma Counties together, traditional and kinship foster placements still account for the majority of all foster placements.

PARB Recommendations

Oklahoma County and Garfield County PARB recommendations varied in length, detail, and number of recommendations per form. A content analysis of the PARB recommendations in each county was conducted and findings were presented in the full PARB evaluation reports that were distributed to PARB leadership. Through those content analyses, 11 total PARB recommendation categories were created. It should be noted that the differences in recommendations between each county were apparent when forming recommendation categories. Garfield County recommendations fell under under four categories, while Oklahoma County recommendations fell under all 11 categories. There were some recommendations that did not fit well into a category and are not represented here. Recommendations that were not categorized would be placed under, *other* when reporting. In the table following, categories are presented with the percentage of forms containing PARB recommendations that fell under each listed category for each county, as well as for both counties combined. There were a total of 552 forms: 278 in Garfield County and 274 in Oklahoma County.

Recommendation Category	% in Garfield County	% in Oklahoma County	% of Forms Containing Recommendations in each Category for both Garfield and Oklahoma Counties Combined
Placement	88%	34%	62%
Parental Rights & Supports	24%	27%	26%
Assignment of Worker/Advocate	8%	3%	5%
Mental Health Services	2%	28%	15%
Visitation	0%	15%	15%
Educational Supports	0%	15%	15%
Community Resources	0%	14%	14%
Healthcare Services	0%	11%	11%

Recommendation Category	% in Garfield County	% in Oklahoma County	% of Forms Containing Recommendations in each Category for both Garfield and Oklahoma Counties
Tribal Supports	0%	13%	13%
Individual Service Plan (ISP)	0%	9%	9%
Permanency Plan	0%	3%	3%



Conclusions

This report presented data from Garfield County and Oklahoma County PARBs. These counties represent different types of PARB districts: Garfield County being a rural single-board district and Oklahoma County being a larger urban district with seven boards. Full reports with evaluation recommendations were prepared for PARB leadership for Garfield County and Oklahoma County. This report focused on both counties, looking at similarities and differences in the data and data entry processes. One of the biggest differences in the data was the average age of the children in each county. Oklahoma county serves, on average, younger children than Garfield county: 5.95 years and 7.7 years, respectively. This may be because children enter the system at an earlier age in Oklahoma County, or because of differences in demographics between the two counties.

Placement information was similar in both counties, with traditional foster placement being the most common type of placement for children, followed by kinship foster placement. There were more children placed in trial reunification and adoptive placements in Garfield County than in Oklahoma County (see placement information on page 4).

One of the most apparent differences between the two counties were the PARB recommendations, which are based on information provided in case files, as well as other pertinent sources available to PARB members. Garfield County recommendations fell into four main categories: placement, parental rights and supports, and assignment of advocate/worker. Oklahoma County recommendations also fell under those four categories and, in general, were lengthier than recommendations in Garfield County. Oklahoma County recommendations fell under 11 total categories. The reason for so many different types of recommendations, categorically, may be because it was more common for members to conduct repeat reviews of the same case in Garfield County than in Oklahoma County (see page 2 for number of reviews per case), possibly making it more likely for PARB members to recommend continuing in DHS custody in Garfield County, especially if there were no significant changes in the cases.

Because PARB data collection processes vary from county to county and district to district, there were variations in the data that was entered into the paper forms by PARB reviewers; therefore, some information that was included in the individual county (Garfield and Oklahoma) reports was not included in this report. For example, the number of months out-of-home was entered on the Oklahoma County PARB recommendation form, but not on the Garfield County form. Another example of differences in data entry fields was the KK # (a unique child identifier for each case), which was collected on each form in Oklahoma County, yet not collected in Garfield County. With the development of the PARB database, which is part of the overall PARB evaluation, all PARB districts will be entering the same information during every PARB review, which will eliminate inconsistencies in data entry, ensure a more efficient streamlined data entry process, and allow evaluators to consistently analyze data that can be used to inform PARB members of trends and outcomes, and provide recommendations for future evaluation efforts as well as for the continued enhancement of PARB processes.





Protect Support Monitor

Post Adjudication Review Boards of Oklahoma Program Manager's Report April 9, 2021

State Level Activities

1. The PARB annual report has been written and is being formatted and edited for finalization prior to the May first deadline when it is due to the Commissioners.
2. PARB Study by the OU E-Team is wrapping up with the finalization of the report on Garfield and Oklahoma Counties. The database creation is also moving forward. We are finalizing a maintenance contract with OU to continue the work on the database and roll it out to all the PARB Boards.
3. Spring and Summer Tuesday Trainings are being scheduled.
4. New name badges have been created and are being sent to any PARB Members that specifically ask for them. We will make new badges for all local and state PARB members who want one.

Special Projects

1. **Elimination Jury Trials for the Termination of Parental Rights.** Judge VerSteege along with Judge Warren have taken the leadership on this issue through a JJAOC Subcommittee. They have had several meetings and have a draft report out. This comprehensive report discusses the high number of cases in Oklahoma urban counties awaiting a jury trial, what other states are doing and whether jury trials are necessary. The final report will be shared with the State PARB.
2. **Kids who are at Risk due to Community Isolation Task Force.** This subcommittee focuses on kids that are at risk for serious abuse due to a history in the child welfare systems and being removed from public schools in order to be "home schooled". Meetings took place on February 3rd and 17th and March 11th. The next one is scheduled to take place on April 8th, where we will finalize strategies.
3. **Virtual Permanency Summit.** An initial meeting of the steering committee to plan a virtual Permanency Summit in May or June of 2021 took place in early March. The overall consensus of the group was to hold this event in person and wait until next state fiscal year to hold it. This will allow more planning time. No follow up has taken place yet.

Local Board and Membership Updates

1. Boards that are not currently meeting
 - A. Atoka-Resigned
 - B. Jackson County-Not active
 - C. Pottawatomie County-Not active
 - D. Panhandle-Region 1-Not active
 - E. Canadian-Not active
 - F. Love-Not active
 - G. Cleveland-Not active
 - H. Lincoln-Not active

2. New Boards
 - A. Ottawa County
3. 39 Total active PARB Boards,
4. 283 local PARB members
5. Thirty-one new appointments and twenty-one confirmed resignations in CY2020 and CY2021, as of February 26, 2021:
 - a. Bryan: Hayley Germany
 - b. Creek: Erin Brook
 - c. Custer: Amy Martin
 - d. Delaware: Alaina Hilliard, Joni Hughes
 - e. Jackson: Iva (Denise) McAskill
 - f. Kay/Noble: David McGee, Kelli Morgan
 - g. Love: Deborah Miller
 - h. Major: Sharla Worley
 - i. Okfuskee: Robyn Custar, Morgan Henry
 - j. Oklahoma: Derek Duncan, Sharon Hsieh, Marcia Johnson, Alexandra (Allie) Ledford, Rachel Morse, Clifford Sipes
 - k. Okmulgee: Harvey Fields
 - l. Pontotoc: Khrystal Blankenship, Yolanda Cummings, Karen Gainey, Amy Ross
 - m. Sequoyah: Holli Reherman
 - n. Tulsa: Michelle Buford, Tianna Ellis, L'Oreal Grant, Jamelle King, Tessa Snipes, Christy Turkish
 - o. Wagoner: Stephanie Norsworthy

2020 Annual Report Community Reporting

The 2020 Annual Report questionnaire was sent out in December 2020 to all PARB Boards across the state. This included a request for their 2021 meeting dates, any membership changes and the usual data on the number of cases reviewed in 2020, volunteer hours and other critical information for 2020. There were also open-ended questions to gain insight into the training and other needs of the local PARB Members.

298	PARB Volunteers
2,497	Deprived Cases reviewed
131	Delinquent Case Reviewed
3,419	Children involved in reviews
6,848	Volunteer Hours reported
25	Judicial Districts served
13	Boards reviewed 100% of the deprived cases
383	Members attended training

The Boards were asked to identify the entities that provide input into their reviews. Below are the percentages by entity.

DHS-Child Welfare	94%
CASA	81%
Foster Parent	39%
Judge	23%
Service Provider	23%
Attorney	13%
OJA	10%
Assistant District Attorney	16%
Tribe/Indian Child Welfare	29%
School Personnel	13%
Service Providers	29%

Narrative Responses from Local PARB Boards

The local PARB Board Experience. What the Boards are saying this year.

This year was all about COVID. Clearly from mid-March on, COVID was a barrier to serving as a PARB member and helping the juvenile court system. COVID kept members from getting into the courthouse and being able to review cases. COVID also kept court hearings from taking place, services from being provided and just general progress in the Juvenile Court system. One PARB Board summed up their year very nicely with the following statement that I think applies to most PARB Boards in 2020.

“Our board has met when possible due to the conditions we are facing with COVID. The board will continue to follow the rules set forth by our county courthouse and Judges. Our top priority is to keep

everyone safe and healthy. The board has not attended Court in several months as to Judges rules, but we hope to return to a normal year. I feel we have done the best we could do under these circumstances.”

The following questions and responses are a sample of what local PARB Boards had to say about their year and what they recommend moving forward.

What are the existing Barriers that Prevent you from functioning?

Several members would like to have case files early

COVID has been the biggest barrier this year. Courts have been closed and reports not sent.

COVID is the main barrier. Sometimes need to contact DHS workers to get the latest information.

COVID!!! The virtual meetings have been nice. Sending the information early really helped in reaching DHS folks. Also, the CASA folks I was able to reach them. I also had a better chance of getting a hold of people when we get the cases early.

Too many “passes” due to kids attorneys or DA not being prepared for court.

Difficulty getting up to date reports from DHS.

Are there steps that could be taken for your board to function better?

We were doing ok getting the process under our belt when the pandemic broke out

I think at this time that our board is functioning well

Right now we are in desperate need of more members. In the last year we have lost three.

I very much appreciated the ability for this board to meet electronically through COVID, and actually would love the option of meeting virtually in the future, too! We were rather productive on those virtual meetings. I also really like using the Box to be able to receive/review court files electronically.

OKSA requirements had not been met or it was not clear.

Having the worker there would be helpful. Workers never come. Identify the cases sooner. We can then look and prepare questions ahead of time. Also, making more time for the workers to present. Workers changing is an issue. Finding missing reports. Plan for my future is not in the court file.

We added two new members in 2020 and this has helped significantly. We would love to have two more members.

We believe we function well as a board except for COVID this year.

I feel like we are running things smoothly and have great communication and support with all entities

Subject areas you would like covered in training

Writing considerate, useful and helpful reviews that elicit positive response from all parties

How COVID has changed procedures

Legal aspects and how PARB fits in. How the courts operate and different types of hearings. Legal terminology.

How children are affected by different levels of trauma.

Any changes on foster care

Continued information on the effects of trauma and effects of substance abuse and domestic violence on children and families

Have the trainings at a different time? ICWA in general and partnerships. Training resources. Recordings to see later. Tour facilities

How can the State PARB Staff and State PARB better support your efforts?

State PARB has been extremely helpful this year: making good training available online, support local efforts, revising forms to make Form revision has been a real positive. I would like to work with Keith to set up another virtual training in 2021 that focusses on ICWA and/or independent living issues/support

Keep us updated on changes in DHS procedures and policies. Inform foster parents and other agencies that involve children in our system about PARB and it's role

The larger counties had different opportunities than the smaller county populations. This is such a big part of this year there is not much else. We had 2 elderly board members leave and with very little hope of recruiting anyone else when we could meet.

It would be helpful for staff to provide some in person training

Provide information on what happens at State PARB Meetings and OCCY meetings. Feel supported

I feel very supported. State PARB recommendations: Can I encourage the State to keep Christina & Keith? I'm amazed at the positive changes I've seen over the last two years. They're a good team that's taking our Board in a positive direction.

Are there any systemic issues, concerns or barriers?

Not at this time

A concern we have seen is the closing of the local DHS office which has caused problems for case workers such as because they are working from home they cannot print reports unless they travel to other towns. Just an observation of the problems by closing local office.

We have concern about how reliable and current the information is that we receive from DHS

High turnover with DHS workers and their lack of knowledge regarding PARB

I know this year has been off due to COVID; pre-COVID, it sometimes seems like we give many, many, many, second chances to bio parents to move forward with their plans, which just delays stability and permanency for the children. I recognize and appreciate that each case is worked individually and comes with its own variables, but it would be nice if there was more consistency (or better communication about WHY yet another second chance is being given, when this is about the 7th second chance on this case!)

A need for more juvenile mental health beds and treatment centers

The issue of Jury Trials for Termination of Parental Rights continues to be of concern, including the timeliness of permanency for children. This past year has been a difficult year for all entities involved in the Child Welfare system, both State and Tribal, and has perhaps highlighted some areas where services can be more efficiently and effectively provided in different formats, and through different mechanisms than traditionally in place.

Is there anything else you would like to say to the State PARB Staff or State PARB Board?

We look forward to meeting again once the pandemic is over or we have all been vaccinated

Keith and the State PARB have done a remarkable job in very trying circumstances. We look forward to 2021!

We have not been able to meet as a committee since April due to COVID. This was due to employees working remotely and the internet connectivity being poor that it made meetings impossible to conduct. The plan is to start our meetings again in January 2021, with the board meeting in a room so that we can social distance and all the other agencies calling onto a hipaa compliant zoom link.

More recruitment effort for PARB

Our board has met when possible due to the conditions we are facing with COVID. The board will continue to follow the rules set forth by our county courthouse and Judges. Our top priority is to keep everyone safe and healthy. The board has not attended Court in several months as to Judges rules, but we hope to return a normal year. I feel we have done the best we could do under these circumstances

This has been a challenging year for our Board since COVID has impacted so many areas of our work. Case accessibility and planning for reviews has been facilitated by Judge Jackson, the Judge's Bailiff, & Court Clerk and staff. We could not have functioned as a Board amid COVID without their assistance.

Consider additional efforts toward PARB recruitment & legislative action to allow for a permanent virtual meeting option under the OM

PARB 2020 Annual Report Discussion Questions for State PARB

4-9-2021

*The focus questions were generated from local PARB Board annual report submissions. As we go through these local board recommendations and focus questions be thinking of any **findings and recommendations** that the State PARB may want to include in the Annual Report to the Commissioners.*

Local PARB Board Recommendation Focus Questions

1. Should delinquent cases be a priority?
2. What should the ideal percentages be for those that provide input to the cases and show up?
3. What should the role of Judges be?
4. How about District Attorneys?
5. How to get up to date reports from DHS and what should those reports look like?
6. Is OKSA meeting it's potential?
7. Any training that you see should be a priority?
8. What, from your perspective, can PARB staff do to better support State PARB.
9. What, from your perspective, can PARB staff do to better support local boards.
10. What are some ideas to recruit volunteers for boards?
11. Are there any general State PARB findings or recommendations not yet discussed?

State PARB Findings and Recommendations

- 1.