



**OKLAHOMA
COMMISSION ON
CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board
Friday, February 26, 2021 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CDT)**

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 Wednesday, March 18, 2020. See SB 661, 2020 O.S.L 3, § 3. **Extended February 2021.**

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

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/886552821>

You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (408) 650-3123 **Access Code:** 886-552-821

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, Greg Parks, Lana Freeman, Judge Leah Edwards, Lou Truitt Flanagan, Melanie Johnson, Judge Ryan Reddick, Carol Bridges, Jonette Dunlap, Kalie Kerth, Lisa Buck, Judge Louis Duel, Paula Cantrell, Sandra Brown, Tracy Otto, Judge VerSteege, 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, Sonja Cole, Kelly Tannehill, Johnna James, Lisa White, Geneva Stretch, Johnna James

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: April 9, 2021

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

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| 1. | Welcome and introduction of new 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 October 23, 2020
<i>Discussion and possible action</i> | 5 min. | Greg Delaney |
| 4. | PARB and ICWA: Where we are and where should we be going? | 40 Min | Keith Pirtle |
| 5. | PARB Evaluation Update | 20 Min | Lisa White, OU E-Team |
| 6. | PARB Program Manager's Report | 10 Min. | Keith Pirtle |



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| 7. | State PARB Ongoing Focus Areas

Eliminating the requirement of a jury trial for the termination of parental rights

Kids Who are at Risk due to Community Isolation Task Force

Data and Quality Assurance Committee Request

<i>Discussion and possible action</i> | 25 Min. | Keith Pirtle |
| 8. | 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 |
| 9. | 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

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, October 23, 2020

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, Greg Delaney, Lana Freeman, Melanie Johnson, Lisa Buck, Christina Siemens, Dr. Kalie Kerth, Daniel Herring, Lou Truitt-Flanagan, the Honorable Leah Edwards, Sarah Herrian, the Honorable Ryan Reddick, the Honorable Pat VerSteeg, and Jonette Dunlap. Members present via phone were: Paula Cantrell, David Ross, Sandy Brown, and Deanna Chancellor. Members not present were: Tracy Otto, the Honorable Louis Duel, Cindy Nocton, and the Honorable Bill Baze. OCCY staff members present were: Keith Pirtle, Amanda Jett, Katharine Carson, Kim Rebsamen, Lisa Rhoades, and Mark James.

2. Introduction of Members and Guests, Public Comments

Sherry Skinner, Sonja Cole, and Kelly Tannehill from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS); Lisa White, Geneva Strech from the University of Oklahoma (OU); and Constance Nizza of Secretary Justin Brown's office were in attendance. No public comments were made.

3. Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2020

Discussion and Possible Action

The Honorable Leah Edwards motioned and David Ross seconded to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2020, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board Meeting. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

4. Child Welfare Data: New Judicial Dashboard

Sherry Skinner, Program Administrator for OKDHS, presented on the new judicial dashboard available on OKDHS' website. The judicial dashboard provides statistical measurements and other information regarding children in foster care. The website initially shows data at a statewide level with options to retrieve data at the district or county level. Some of the aggregate data provided includes:

- Number of days from removal to adjudication.
- Number of days from removal to first permanency hearing.
- Number of children exiting the system into permanency.
- Number of days from removal to permanency.
- Number of days from removal to adoption finalization.
- Number of children in care or supervision.

The data is updated monthly and provides a twelve-month timeline. Data is collected by the county or region of jurisdiction.

5. PARB Evaluation Update

Lisa White, OU's Evaluation Team (E-Team), presented on the results of the analysis of PARB data. Some of the E-Team's findings and next steps include:

- Identified ten primary recommendation categories such as placement, mental health services, visitation, cultural supports, and health care services.
- Preparing a comprehensive report, which will be released in November.
- Begin designing a web-based application for inputting and tracking data, which will be beta-tested to determine efficacy.

6. PARB Program Managers' Report

Copies of the report were distributed to the members. Keith Pirtle reported that Tulsa and Oklahoma County PARBs have been meeting virtually. However, the Executive Order that allowed virtual meetings under the Open Meetings Act is set to expire on November 15, 2020. All meetings falling under this Act will be required to meet in person after the expiration date. Twenty of the thirty-six other boards statewide have been continuing in-person meetings. Keith also reported that Atoka County PARB has disbanded. He will be working to recruit new members as soon as possible.

Other activities include:

- There is progress in establishing a new PARB in Ottawa County with the first meeting potentially scheduled for January 2021.
- Keith and Oklahoma County Coordinator, Christina Whatley, were working to increase communication efforts with the judges presiding over juvenile courts in Oklahoma County.
- All PARB forms and documents are updated and fillable PDF forms have been created and put on the OCCY website.
- Keith is working on re-establishing the Foster Care Mediation Program through OCCY. Keith stated that it will a while before the program is operational again.

7. 2021 State PARB Proposed Meeting Dates

Discussion and Possible Action

Copies of a list of proposed dates were distributed to the members. The proposed meeting dates for calendar year 2021 are January 22, April 9, July 23, and October 22.

Melanie Johnson motioned and Lou Truitt-Flanagan seconded to approve the proposed meeting dates of January 22, April 9, July 23, and October 22 for calendar year 2021. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

8. Potential PARB Legislative Issues for 2021

Discussion and Possible Action

Copies of a list of potential issues were distributed to the members. Keith stated that the potential issues previously discussed were home schooling safety, PARB's name change, and jury trial trials for terminating parental rights, and asked the members for feedback in moving forward.

Members discussed the need for oversight to provide safety for home schooled children without alienating families who truly provide education. Members also discussed the similar issues of unseen abuse and neglect that could occur in homes where virtual schooling and truancy exist. It was agreed that children's safety was essential but there was confusion and uncertainty on how to proceed legislatively. Keith will schedule a virtual meeting with committee members to discuss options on moving forward.

Keith reported that the name change failed due to the lack of legislative sponsorship. There was discussion on whether to pursue the name change of PARB and most agreed that the change would be beneficial for promoting and recruiting efforts.

Sarah Herrian expressed her concern regarding the delays of permanency for children in foster care due to the issues with conducting jury trials in some jurisdictions, thereby continuing to perpetuate trauma. Judge Pat VerSteeg provided a brief history of how jury trials became a constitutional requirement in Oklahoma, upheld by the Supreme Court. He further explained that the State PARB Advisory Board attempted previously to promote legislative changes that could speed up the process towards permanency. He also stated that the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee had reviewed the protocols for termination cases of all fifty states and found that eliminating jury trials would be cost effective, decrease the delay in permanency, and reduces the number of appeals filed; only five states in the U.S. still conduct jury trials, with four of the states requiring them; and national guidelines discourage the use of jury trials in termination cases.

Sarah shared data she retrieved from the 111 Project's website, which showed that around 40% of children in out-of-home care are awaiting permanency. Judge VerSteeg added that the number of states that require jury trials has decreased over time, and that Oklahoma is the only state where jury trials were deemed a constitutional requirement by the Supreme Court.

Keith will follow up to determine next steps for legislative action on jury trials.

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

Discussion and Possible Action

Tabled until the next meeting due to time constraints.

10. 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.

11. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

State PARB Indian Child Welfare and PARB Outline for Discussion

2-19-2021

1. PARB and ICWA: Where we are and where we are going
 - A. The State of PARB and ICWA
 - a. Tulsa and Oklahoma Counties have ICWA Boards
 - b. Most boards try and identify ICWA Cases, make sure there are active efforts, that Tribal placement is pursued, and that DHS is reporting ICWA compliance.
 - c. Bryan County has Choctaw Nation ICW staff attend the PARB Meeting
 - B. Discussion Questions
 - a. What is PARB's Role in ICW cases?
 - b. Where are there opportunities for PARB to connect better with tribes and ICW workers?
 - c. How do we foster that connection?
 - d. How can PARB help the process when a case is determined to be ICW?
 - C. PARB Goals related to ICW and PARB
 - a. Engage Tribal ICW Workers in PARB meetings to coordinate services
 - b. Improve communication between DHS, and ICW in case planning
 - c. Identify issues surrounding ICW process early and bring them to the Courts attention
 - d. Have Tribal PARB volunteers serve in Tribal Court
 - D. PARB Strategies for Enhancing ICWA
 - a. Encourage local PARB Boards to invite tribal ICW Workers to regular PARB meetings.
 - b. Encourage local PARB Boards to reach out to ICW Workers from Tribes in their area to have a lunch and share. Discuss ways they can share information and work together and share what they both do.
 - c. Better coordination and collaboration with all ICWA partners including, DHS Tribal Coordinators, Tribal ICW Workers and Tribal Courts.



Protect Support Monitor

Post Adjudication Review Boards of Oklahoma Program Manager's Report February 26, 2021

1. PARB Board Report:

- A. Tulsa County stopped meeting in November and December due the Open Meetings Act emergency clause expiring. During that time, Kim held a Tulsa County PARB Volunteer Appreciation event. She also held a virtual meeting with all the Juvenile Court Judges in which Keith also participated. Kim also held three special trainings for Tulsa PARB members during this time.
- B. Oklahoma County stopped meeting in November and December due the Open Meetings Act emergency clause expiring. During that time Christina provided a new member orientation and had separate meetings for all seven Oklahoma County Boards to go over their annual report questionnaire and get their feedback.
- C. About 20 of the 36 local PARB Boards are meeting in person. The other continue to postpone their meetings.
- D. Ottawa County PARB was started in January. Members were sworn in, they had their second meeting and are now recruiting additional members.
- E. Keith met with Kimbra Whaley to discuss getting a Board going in Caddo and Grady Counties.
- F. Keith attended the January 14th Okfuskee County PARB Board to assist the new chair and provide training to new board members.
- G. Annual report questionnaires and a request for 2021 meetings dates was sent out to all PARB chairs. The meeting dates were due December 15 and the Annual Report Questionnaire was due January 31st. Most reports have been submitted and are being compiled for the 2020 report.

2. Administrative

- A. Outreach activities took place to promote the PARB new member training on 9-29-2020. As a result, one new member and 9 potential members were trained and 10 people were registered for the next PARB New Member Training. Several new members have joined since.
- B. PARB Form updates and fillable PDF Forms were created and added to PARB's updated section of the OCCY web site.
https://www.ok.gov/occy/Programs/Post_Adjudication_Review_Board/index.html.
- C. 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 once session is over and a name is finalized.

3. Special Projects

- A. Progress is being made on the OU Study of the PARB Boards. Garfield County PARB recommendations are currently being analyzed and categorized. Membership is also being analyzed and steps are being taken to develop the database. A timeline has been established to ensure the data base will be ready for testing in March. Annette Jacobi and Mark James participated in a meeting with OU on 2-3-2021.

- B. PARB Staff led a breakout session for a Legislative Youth Summit on Homeless Youth and promoted the Commission and OCCY programs as well as the homeless task force.
- C. Keith facilitated and held the Kids who are at risk due to community isolation meeting on February 3rd and 17th. This subcommittee of the State PARB is tasked with developing strategies to identify and address instances of child abuse and neglect for kids that have been removed from school to be home schooled or have not been identified at all.
- D. The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, is forming a steering committee to plan a virtual Permanency Summit in May or June of 2021. The first steering committee is scheduled for March.
- E. Two meetings were held with Phil Johnson and Tim Scott on getting the Foster Care Mediation Program up and running again through OCCY.

State PARB Ongoing Issues Report

2-26-2021

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. The next one is scheduled to take place on March 11th, where we will be looking at data and narrowing down strategies.

3. Virtual Permanency Summit. The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, is forming a steering committee to plan a virtual Permanency Summit in May or June of 2021. This Summit will focus on the barriers to timely, quality, and permanent placement of kids currently in DHS custody and active in the deprived court system. All Court partners, service providers and citizens will be invited to this one-day event. Participants will learn about challenges to timely permanent placement and work together to find solutions and commit to renewed action. At this time, we are asking a few partners like you to serve as part of the Permanency Summit planning committee.

3. Data and Quality Assurance Committee. As we continue to narrow down outcomes and look at data, it would be nice to have a group from the state PARB to review information related to data and outcomes

4. PARB Name Change. Citizen’s Review Board for Children and Youth. SB 1731. A proposed name change has been submitted to the Legislature as part of OCCY’s general bill. If anyone has concerns about this name change, now is the time to discuss it.