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## STATE POST ADJUDICATION REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

Date: 10-28-2022

Time: 10-12

Location: 2915 North Classen, Suite 300  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

### MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

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|----|--|---------|--|
| 1  | Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests and a Call to Order   | 5 Min.  | Deanna Chancellor                                |
| 2  | Determination of Quorum and Compliance with Oklahoma Open Meeting Act  | 5 Min.  | Cherra Taylor                                    |
| 3  | Review and Approval of the Minutes of the April 22, 2022, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board meeting<br><i>Discussion and possible action</i> | 5 Min.  | Deanna Chancellor                                |
| 4  | State PARB Proposed 2023 Meeting Dates<br><i>Discussion and possible action</i>  | 5 Min.  | Deanna Chancellor                                |
| 5  | Interim Studies on Adoption and Foster Care in Oklahoma  | 20 Min. | Sarah Herrian and Marcia Johnson                 |
| 6  | How do we Improve Legal Representation of Children and Families?   | 30 Min. | Representative Danny Williams                    |
| 7  | Follow up on the Elimination of Jury Trials in the Termination of Parental Rights Cases.   | 20 Min. | Judge VerSteeg and Representative Danny Williams |
| 8  | Report from Commission   | 10 Min. | Dr. Kalie Kerth                                  |
| 9  | PARB Program Manager's Report  | 10 Min. | Keith Pirtle                                     |
| 10 | New Business<br>Business which was not known nor could have been known through exercise of due diligence at the time of posting of this agenda           | 5 Min.  | Deanna Chancellor                                |
| 11 | Adjournment  | 5 Min.  | Deanna Chancellor                                |

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

## **STATE POST ADJUDICATION REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting  
April 22, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**

### **1. Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests and a Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 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 in person: Sarah Herrian, the Honorable Christine Larson, Daniel Herring, Deanna Chancellor, Dr. Carol Bridges, Christina Siemens, Dr. Kalie Kerth, Lou Truitt-Flanagan, Dr. Greg Parks, Jonette Dunlap, Greg Delaney, Cindy Nocton, and Melanie Johnson. Members present virtually: the Honorable Pat VerSteeg. Members not present: Brandi Watts, the Honorable Louis Duel, Lisa Buck, the Honorable Leah Edwards, David Ross, and the Honorable Bill Baze. OCCY staff members present: Keith Pirtle, Christina Whatley, Kim Rebsamen, Marcia Johnson, Mark James, and Cherra Taylor. Guests present: no guests attended.

### **2. Determination of Quorum and Compliance with Oklahoma Open Meeting Act**

Quorum was determined and in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

### **3. Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2022, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board Meeting**

#### ***Discussion and Possible Action***

Cindy Nocton motioned, and Lou Truitt-Flanagan seconded approve the minutes of the January 28, 2022, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board Meeting. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative, except Dr. Carol Bridges and Deanna Chancellor who abstained. Motion passed.

*Jonette Dunlap and Judge Pat VerSteeg arrived at 10:08 a.m.*

### **4. State PARB Previously Identified Issues Updates**

Judge Pat VerSteeg provided an update regarding possible elimination of the right to request jury trials. Judge VerSteeg reported that a proposition for legislation was opposed by Senate leadership. Efforts are being made to locate a case or several cases that could be presented to the Supreme Court.

Keith Pirtle, PARB program manager, provided an update regarding priorities of appeals of juvenile cases in the Supreme Court. Keith reported that the delays in resolution were due to late appeal filings at the district court level. The Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee is developing a form and will include the requirement of 30 days from original ruling to file an appeal.

Keith also provided an overview regarding the number of youth aging out of DHS custody without adequate independent living resources.

Sarah Herrian provided an overview regarding children at risk for abuse and neglect due to community isolation. She reported that it was recommended to engage the home school community and get the homeschooling parents involved, increase the identification of abuse, and possibly develop legislative changes in the future.

*Handouts of the findings and recommendations were provided.*

*Christina Siemens arrived at 10:16 a.m.*

## **5. Local Board Recommendations Review**

Cindy Nocton presented on the overarching commendations and concerns from the local PARBs. Some of the information reported include:

- Overall approval of staff support of boards.
- Overall approval of training efforts.
- Communication issues with child welfare staff at Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS), CASA, and attorneys.
- Permanency issues.
- Issues with recruiting new volunteers.
- Concerns with turnover at OKDHS and lack of knowledge of PARB among OKDHS staff.
- Lack of knowledge of community resources.
- Lack of space to hold meetings.

The Board members discussed ways to find possible solutions to the barriers that local PARBs faced. Some of the suggestions were:

- Increase compensation for OKDHS child welfare staff.
- Strengthen transition of cases between child welfare staff.
- Educate judges on domestic violence and its effects on children.
- Local PARBs build relationships with child welfare supervisors and directors.

*Handouts of the local board responses were provided.*

*Judge Pat VerSteeg left the meeting at 10:38 a.m.*

## **6. State PARB Recommendations for 2021 Annual Report**

### ***Discussion and Possible Action***

Keith Pirtle reported that the 2021 annual report is due to OCCY's Board of Commissioners by May 1, 2022. The last items needed to add to the report are the State PARB Advisory Board's recommendations. Mark James, assistant director of OCCY, stated that the recommendations need to have specific strategies. The Board members discussed the continued support to eliminate the right to request jury trials on termination of parental rights, and to support efforts to reduce the number of youth aging out of custody without a support network and/or other resources. Also discussed was the language that was presented House Bill 3190, which would have implemented sanctions on children's attorneys who inadequately represent their clients.

Sarah Herrian motioned to explore House Bill 3190 and recommend support of the Bill. Dr. Kalie Kerth seconded the motion. Sarah Herrian amended her motion to recommend support of the language of House

Bill 3190. Dr. Kalie Kerth seconded the amended motion. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative except Judge Christine Larson, who abstained. Motion passed.

Chairperson Greg Delaney motioned to recommend continued support of eliminating the right to request a jury trial in the termination of parental rights procedures and recommend continued support to reduce the number of youth who turn 18 while in OKDHS custody with the connections and resources to function in society. Christina Siemens seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

## 7. OCCY Legislative Report

Marcia Johnson, legislative liaison for OCCY, provided an update on the legislative bills regarding children. The bills as they stand are:

- House Bill (HB) 2351 requires the court to assess a child's placement in a residential treatment facility to determine if placement is still appropriate after sixty (60) days. The bill is awaiting confirmation of schedule to be heard on the Senate floor.
- HB2992 changes the age restrictions of children testifying in an alternative setting outside of the courtroom from under twelve (12) years of age to under eighteen (18) years to coincide with the definition of a child in statute. The bill is awaiting confirmation of schedule to be heard on the Senate floor.
- HB3190 states that the request for a jury trial for a termination of parental rights case must be filed at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the initial hearing. The bill has died.
- HB3408 adds the "act of deceptive falsification" to the definition of child abuse. The bill has died.
- HB3468 would create the Parent Representation Program with the Administrative Office of the Courts. The bill has died.
- Senate Bill (SB) 217 would modify provisions of the Youthful Offender Act. The bill is awaiting confirmation of schedule to be heard on the House floor.
- SB1282 requires the Office of Juvenile Affairs to approve a risk-assessment screening tool to be used when a child is taken into custody. The bill is awaiting the Governor's signature.

*Handouts of the list of bills were provided.*

## 8. Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair 2022-2024

### ***Discussion and Possible Action***

Deanna Chancellor was nominated to be Chair from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024. Sarah Herrian was nominated to be Vice Chair from July 1, 2022 to June 20, 2024.

Chairperson Greg Delaney motioned, and Dr. Kalie Kerth seconded to accept Deanna Chancellor as Chair and Sarah Herrian as Vice Chair of the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board beginning July 1, 2022. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

## 9. Report from Commission

Dr. Kalie Kerth provided an overview of the Board of Commissioners' activities. She reported on the difficulty of meeting quorum and holding meetings due to many factors. She stated that legislation was primarily discussed at the last scheduled meeting, along with the reappointed of the executive director for another two-year term, and what programs in OCCY are performing well and what programs need improvement.

**10. PARB Program Manager’s Report**

Keith reported that the annual report will be completed by the May 1 deadline. He also reported on the overall annual number of members, cases reviewed, etc. from the previous three years. Highlights of the annual report also include the deployment of the PARB database, and community outreach.

**11. 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 was discussed.

**12. Adjournment**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2022.

Lou Truitt-Flanagan motioned, and Dr. Kalie Kerth seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

DRAFT

# Post Adjudication Review Board Program

## 2023 State PARB Meeting Dates

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### January

State PARB Meeting  
January 20, 10:00-12  
2915 North Classen, Suite 300  
OKC, Main Conference Room

### April

State PARB Meeting  
April 21, 10:00-12  
2915 North Classen, Suite 300  
OKC, Main Conference Room

### October

State PARB Meeting,  
October 20th, 10:00-12  
2915 North Classen, Suite 300  
OKC, Main Conference Room

**Report on Interim Studies on Adoption and Foster Care in Oklahoma:**

**Sarah Herrian and Marcia Johnson**

**State PARB Meeting**

October 28, 2022

**DATE: June 27, 2022 BY REPRESENTATIVE(S): Williams, Danny; Conley, Sherrie**

Held September 6, 2022

TOPIC OF THE PROPOSAL: Parental rights in Oklahoma and how to improve the rights of parents and guardians in the state

EXPLANATORY COMMENTS ON THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY PROPOSAL: In this study, we will examine the effects of the government on families within our state. Father's rights and responsibilities will be examined to ensure fathers are receiving the same rights to their children as mothers. The Pinnacle Plan will be reviewed to see if it is helping the children of Oklahoma and examine laws that could be made alongside the Pinnacle Plan to improve the foster care system.

Notes: Children and parents rights need adequate representation. Children should not be bounced around in foster care homes. Parents have a better chance of retaining their rights when a Judge decides.

**DATE: July 1st, 2022 BY REPRESENTATIVE(S): Lowe, Dick; Hill, Brian; Boles, Brad**

Held September 20, 2022

TOPIC OF THE PROPOSAL: An in-depth look at Adoption and Foster Care in Oklahoma.

EXPLANATORY COMMENTS ON THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY PROPOSAL: A study to improve options for Oklahoma to reduce barriers to permanency and encourage finding options to support a more feasible foster care system without compromising the safety aspects in the program.

Notes: Sarah Herrian, Keith Howard and Dr. Shropshire all presented.

**3. Pederson/Rader study are not yet available.**

**Common Themes**

1. Elimination of Jury Trial in the termination of parental rights
2. Adequate representation for kids and parents
3. Time to permanency

# Support Protect Monitor

## Post Adjudication Review Boards of Oklahoma Program Manager's Report October 28, 2022

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**Kim Rebsamen has resigned.** Our wonderful Tulsa PARB Coordinator has resigned her position to become a full time Court Case Manager in Tulsa County again. Her last day was September 30. Kim was a great volunteer recruiter, children's court expert, cheerleader, sounding board, organizer, and overall huge asset to PARB. She has taken Tulsa PARB to new heights.

**New Tulsa PARB Coordinator Malayna Hasmanis.** Malayna has been a Tulsa PARB Member since August of last year. She has done all kinds of exciting things throughout her career, and we feel very blessed to have her.

**2023 PARB Conference.** The University of Oklahoma Center for Child Abuse and Neglect will be partnering with PARB for their 2023 State Conference.

**Database Roll out and Report.** Regular meetings continue to occur between Lisa of the OU E-Team and PARB staff. Fixes continue to be made to the database and technical assistance provided to PARB members as needed.

### **Local Board and Database Report**

1. Number of local PARB Members: 266. Down 32 from April 2022.
2. The Number of active Boards: 43 Haskell County about to come online
3. Number of Boards reporting using the new system: 36
4. Number of cases entered this year: 1,184

**Local PARB meetings attended since April.** Garvin, Major, Pontotoc, Wagoner, Pittsburg, Woodward, Okmulgee, Osage, and Craig County PARB's.

**DHS Regional Presentations.** The purpose of the presentations are to discuss PARB's statutes, encourage relationship building between PARB staff, volunteers and child welfare staff as well as encourage child welfare supervisors to partner with their local PARB to help make them as effective as possible.



Presentations have taken place in regions 1, 2, 4, and 5

**Other Outreach Activities.** Judge VerSteeg and Keith presented at the Court Improvement Conference in Norman and then Keith presented at the Tulsa CIP Conference with Judge Gore. This was a great opportunity to reach out to Judges, attorneys, and CASA members.

Keith presented a one-hour virtual training to all Judges across the state about PARB. This Judge's Rapid-Fire presentation was recorded and is a part of the Judges video library.

Keith and Christina met with Judge Allen to discuss PARB in Oklahoma County and make a connection.

**Training.** Several virtual PARB trainings took place since our last meeting. These include: Regular new member orientations, Foster Care and PARB, Case Review and Recommendation Writing, and Child Welfare 101 for the PARB Member.

**2021 Annual Report.** The 2021 PARB Annual Report was completed and submitted to the Commissioners and to State PARB Members. I have a hard copy if anyone wants to look it over.