

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

**Regular Meeting  
April 21, 2023  
10:00 a.m.**

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Vice Chairperson, Sarah Herrian. 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: Daniel Herring, the Honorable Paul Hesse, Cindy Humphrey, the Honorable Tom Newby, the Honorable Kaitlyn Allen, Dr. Carol Bridges, Christina Siemens, Dr. Kalie Kerth, Sarah Herrian, Jonette Dunlap, the Honorable Leah Edwards, David Ross, the Honorable Christine Larson, and Amanda Bodine (new). Members not present: Madisyn Abbe, Deanna Chancellor, Brandi Watts, Greg Delaney, Cindy Nocton, Lisa Buck, Lynda Whitney, and Lou Truitt-Flanagan. OCCY staff members present: Keith Pirtle, Christina Whatley, Malayna Hasmanis, Marcia Johnson, and Kathleen Arrieta. No guests present for this meeting.

### **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 20, 2023, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board Meeting**

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

*Handouts of the minutes were provided.*

Dr. Kalie Kerth motioned, and the Honorable Kaitlyn Allen seconded to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2023, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board Meeting. Dr. Kerth amended her motion during roll call of votes and Judge Allen seconded the amendment. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

### **4. State PARB Conference Report**

Dr. Kalie Kerth reported that State PARB and the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) partnered with the University of Oklahoma's (OU) Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) and held a conference in April 2023. A little over seventy PARB volunteers from across the state attended the conference. Included were a judge's panel, an awards ceremony, and a breakout discussion on challenges and opportunities for local PARBs.

*Handouts of the conference report were provided.*

*Vice Chairperson Herrian took time in the meeting to give an announcement not on the agenda.*

## 5. Open Meeting Act Discussion

Keith Pirtle and Marcia Johnson discussed the rules of the Open Meeting Act, the statutes that govern PARB and the impact on local PARBs when conducting meetings. Mr. Pirtle explained the requirements that PARBs must adhere to when conducting meetings, including posting agendas 24 hours in advance of a scheduled meeting and determining quorum prior to continuing a meeting. Mr. Pirtle reported that training on the Open Meeting Act is provided to the volunteers.

Ms. Johnson explained that PARBs go into executive session every meeting to review case files, determine findings, and provide recommendations. She reported that discussions with the Oklahoma Press Association occurred. Included in the discussions were the burden the Act causes on local PARBs, concerns about removing the requirements of the Act, and possible compromises to keep some items that the act provides such as a quorum. Members discussed possible alternative measures to maintain structure of the meetings, including requiring member volunteers to continue attending in person to ensure confidentiality.

*Handouts of the Open Meeting Act Discussion points were provided.*

## 6. Report from the Governor’s Task Force for Child Welfare

Judge Kaitlin Allen and Vice Chairperson Sarah Herrian provided an overview of the Governor’s Task Force for Child Welfare and what areas of concern the Task Force will review and report to the Governor. The Task Force was created in January 2023 to make recommendations regarding policies, programs, and proposed legislation with the goal to help families achieve permanency. The four areas the Task Force will review are:

- Reducing time to permanency in foster care.
- Reducing the number of re-entries to foster care after discharge to permanency.
- Identify risk factors that lead to removing children from their homes.
- Identify and propose areas of support for biological parents.

A report to the Governor is due October 1, 2023.

## 7. State PARB Findings and Recommendations to the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth in Accordance with Title 10, Chapter 51, Section 1116.6

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

Mr. Pirtle reported that the annual report with recommendations is due to OCCY’s Board of Commissioners by May 1, 2023. The members deliberated on each possible recommendation and concluded that the recommendations to be included in the 2023 annual report are:

- *Change the name of the Post Adjudication Review Boards to; “**Citizens Review Board for Children in Foster Care**”.*
- *Eliminate the right to request a jury trial in the termination of parental rights procedures.*
- *Improve the quality of legal representation for children and parents in the juvenile court system and improve accountability for attorneys representing children and parents.*
- *Reduce the time to initiation of services and improve the quality of needed mental health services to families engaged within the child welfare system.*
- *Make PARB exempt from the Open Meeting Act on the local level.*

- *Improve the connections and resources needed to function in society, such as Oklahoma’s Promise, for youth who are aging out of child welfare custody.*

The Honorable Leah Edwards motioned, and Daniel Herring seconded to accept the recommendations as amended. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

*Handouts of the recommendations were provided.*

## **8. Report from the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth**

Dr. Kerth reported that the Parent Partnership Board (PPB) had invited commissioners to attend their meetings, and members shared their stories of lived experiences that ranged from child welfare involvement to domestic violence to poverty. Dr. Kerth commended the PPB for their work.

Dr. Kerth also commended Daniel Herring and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services’ (OKDHS) newest executive director, Dr. Deborah Shropshire, for their efforts in working with the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board and OCCY to improve outcomes for children.

## **9. Legislative Updates**

Ms. Johnson reported that House Bill (HB) 1929 would increase the age limit of a young adult continuing to receive services after aging out of care from 21 years of age to 25 years of age.

## **10. PARB Program Manager’s Report**

Mr. Pirtle reported on PARB activities from January 21, 2023, to April 20, 2023. Some of the activities reported in the meeting included:

- PARB partnered with OKDHS’ Office of Strategic Engagement and Project 111 to use the Care Portal in recruiting volunteers.
- Four new boards have been established or re-established. The counties they cover include Bryan County, Muskogee County, Lincoln County, and Haskell County.

*Handouts of the program manager’s report were provided.*

## **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 20, 2023.

Vice Chairperson Herrian adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.