

STATE POST ADJUDICATION REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD

AGENDA SPECIAL MEETING

Date: 5-30-2024

Time: 1-3 pm

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

- | | | | |
|----|---|---------|----------------|
| 1 | Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests | 5 Min. | Sarah Herrian |
| 2 | Determination of Quorum and Compliance with Oklahoma Open Meeting Act | 5 Min. | Cherra Taylor |
| 3 | Review and Approval of the Minutes of the January 19, 2024, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board meeting
<i>Discussion and possible action</i> | 5 Min. | Sarah Herrian |
| 4 | PARB Proposed Legislative Changes Update | 10 Min. | Marcia Johnson |
| 5 | Proposed New PARB Standards to replace OMA Rules
<i>Discussion and possible action</i> | 10 Min. | Keith Pirtle |
| 6 | Recommendations from the Nominating Committee for Chair and Vice Chair Elections and Elections
<i>Discussion and possible action</i> | 5 Min. | Daniel Herring |
| 7 | Response from the Office of the Attorney General regarding Jury Trials in Termination Case | 10 Min. | Sarah Herrian |
| 8 | Review of the Annual Report Survey Submissions from Local Boards | 20 Min. | Cindy Humphrey |
| 9 | Child Welfare Task Force Priorities | 10 Min. | Keith Pirtle |
| 10 | <i>State PARB Findings and Recommendations to the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth in Accordance with Title 10, Chapter 51, Sect 1116.6</i>
<i>Discussion and possible action</i> | 20 Min. | Keith Pirtle |
| 11 | PARB Conference Evaluation Report | 5 Min | Lisa White |
| 12 | Program Managers Report | 10 Min. | Keith Pirtle |
| 13 | 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 | 5 Min. | Sarah Herrian |
| 14 | Adjournment | 5 Min. | Sarah Herrian |

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
January 19, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chairperson, Deanna Chancellor. 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, Deanna Chancellor, the Honorable Kaitlyn Allen, Dr. Carol Bridges, Dr. Kalie Kerth, Sarah Herrian, Jonette Dunlap, the Honorable Leah Edwards, the Honorable Christine Larson, Greg Delaney, Lynda Whitney, Cindy Nocton, and Amanda Bodine. Members not present: Madisyn Abbe, David Ross, Christina Siemens, Lisa Buck, and Lou Truitt-Flanagan. OCCY staff members present: Keith Pirtle, Mark James, Margaret Butler, Christina Whatley, Marcia Johnson, and Cherra Taylor. 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 August 30, 2023, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board Special Meeting *Discussion and Possible Action*

Handouts of the minutes were provided.

Greg Delaney motioned, and the Honorable Kaitlyn Allen seconded approve the minutes of the August 30, 2023, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board Special Meeting. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Dr. Carol Bridges arrived at 10:10am.

4. PARB Year in Review and Program Manager's Report

Keith Pirtle, PARB Program Manager, presented a comparison analysis between calendar year 2022 and calendar year 2023 as well as other activities since August 30, 2023. Some of the information provided include:

- PARB has 300 members statewide, compared to 287 in 2021 and 279 in 2022.
- There was an addition of six new boards and a disbandment of four boards in 2023.
- Highlights of the 2023 PARB institute at the Center for Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) Conference as well as plans for the 2024 conference were discussed.
- Discussion of Tulsa and Oklahoma County PARB coordinators' activities.

Handouts of the manager's report were provided.

5. Formation of a Nominating Committee for Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Chairperson Chancellor requested for volunteers to sit on the nominating committee for the upcoming Chair and Vice Chair elections. Daniel Herring, Dr. Kalie Kerth, and Judge Kaitlyn Allen volunteered.

The Board will vote from the committee's nominations for Chair and Vice Chair during the next Board meeting scheduled in April 2024.

6. Child Welfare Task Force Report Next Steps

Mr. Pirtle presented on a summary of the Child Welfare Task Force Report and its recommendations, the next steps to be taken, and PARB's potential involvement to increase chances of success. He also stated that Judge Allen and Sarah Herrian were a part of the Task Force. Some of the information discussed include:

- Updating the Individualized Service Plan (ISP) format.
- Suggested creating measurable plans that are understandable and easy to follow.
- Suggested updating the membership requirements of the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board to include a member who is a parent partner and a member who is a foster care alumnus.
- Suggested adding mental health and trauma informed training for local PARB members to enhance the recommendations for supportive services.
- Discussed on the concerns regarding the issues regarding case transfers between workers and the lack of standardized protocols to transfer cases. Daniel Herring stated that he will review the current protocols and report to the Board at the next meeting.

Handouts of the Task Force's report were provided.

7. Report from the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth

Dr. Kerth reported that the January 12, 2024 Commission meeting was rescheduled to January 26, 2024. She also reported that Dr. Deborah Shropshire presented the Child Welfare Task Force report to the commissioners and that the commissioners approved State PARB sending a request for the Attorney General's Opinion regarding jury trials in parental termination cases at the November 3, 2023 meeting.

Dr. Kerth announced that there are multidisciplinary trainings available from multiple organizations, including the NEAR Science and Handle with Care trainings. The trainings are open to anyone interested in serving Oklahoma's children.

8. PARB Proposed Legislative Changes

Ms. Johnson reported that House Bill 1382 proposes that local PARBs be exempt from the Open Meetings Act. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Pirtle met with Mark Thomas of the Press Association to obtain feedback and approval for the bill.

She also reported that the deadline for filing bills was January 18, 2024. Ms. Johnson began creating a list of bills to monitor and encouraged the Board members to reach out to her if there are bills they would like to include on this list for monitoring.

9. 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)

Cindy Nocton requested moving the next State PARB Advisory Board meeting from April 19, 2024 to a time during the Center for Child Abuse and Neglect's (CCAN) Conference, scheduled for April 15 – 17, 2024, for traveling purposes. Mr. Pirtle will explore options and let the Board members know what options are available.

10. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2024.

Sarah Herrian motioned, and The Honorable Leah Edwards seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting is adjourned at 11:50am.

Proposed New PARB Standards to replace OMA Rules

1. Establishing a quorum: A minimum of 3 active members must be present at the meeting location to conduct a PARB meeting. Additional members may participate by video up to half of the total meetings per year. If a board meets 10 times in a year, each member must attend at least 5 meetings in person per year.
2. Minutes will no longer be required.
3. Meeting dates for the following calendar year are established by each board and submitted by December 15, to the PARB Program Manager, the presiding juvenile court judge and to the person responsible for scheduling the meeting location such as the court clerk.

Boards will no longer file their dates with the County Clerk or need to comply with requirements for special meetings when dates change.

4. All PARB business will be held in executive session. Only current active members, staff, potential members, and those that are conducting approved research and who have signed and submitted a confidentiality agreement may attend executive session.
5. All cases that are reviewed will be entered into the PARB database for tracking purposes.

Current Requirements that need to be reinforced and enforced

1. Requirements of a PARB member: From the Policies and Procedures Manual
 - B. Attend 4-hour New Member Training.
 - C. Attend a minimum of 2 hours of in-service training and/or other approved training annually.
 - D. Provide all information requested by the PARB program staff, which may be needed for overall program evaluation, i.e., PARB minutes, agendas, and monthly time sheets, etc.

State PARB Nominations: July 1, 2024-June 30, 2026 Term

State PARB Meeting April 19, 2024

Chair Nomination

1. Deanna Chancellor. This would be the second and final term of eligibility in this position.

Vice-Chair Nomination

1. Sarah Herrian. This would be the second and final term of eligibility in this position.



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

January 30, 2024

Via Email

Annette Wisk Jacobi, Executive Director
Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth
2915 N. Classen Blvd., Suite 300
Oklahoma City, OK 73106
Annette.Jacobi@occy.ok.gov

Re: Attorney General Opinion Request – our internal tracking number AGO24-1

Dear Executive Director Jacobi:

I am responding to your letter requesting an official Attorney General Opinion in which you ask the following question:

Does the Oklahoma Constitution guarantee the right to a jury trial in a termination of parental rights proceedings?

Because the answer to your question is clear and does not require statutory interpretation, the office is answering your question by letter of counsel instead.

Article II, section 19 of the Oklahoma Constitution states “[t]he right of trial by jury shall be and remain *inviolable*.” (Emphasis added.) Second, section 1-4-502 of title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes guarantees parents a right to jury trial on the issue of termination of parental rights. Oklahoma constitutional and statutory law are plain, clear, and unambiguous. Accordingly, the use of interpretative aids to construe both the constitutional and statutory language is unnecessary. *See Rickard v. Coulimore*, 2022 OK 9, ¶ 5, 505 P.3d 920, 923.

Moreover, two Oklahoma Supreme Court cases confirm that article II, section 19 requires that a parent must be given a jury trial in a termination of parental rights proceeding if the parent demands. In 1987, the court in *A.E. v. State* overturned its prior precedents and held that parents were guaranteed a right to jury trial under article II, section 19 of the Oklahoma Constitution. 1987 OK 76, ¶ 22, 743 P.2d 1041, 1048. The court subsequently relied on its *A.E. v. State* holding in its decision to issue a writ of mandamus in *Gray v. Upp*. 1997 OK 98, 943 P.2d 592. In *Gray*, the court directed the trial court to hold a jury trial on the termination of a mother’s parental rights. *Id.* ¶ 1, 943 P.2d at 592.¹ Additionally, when interpreting the Due Process Clause under the Fourteenth Amendment, the U.S. Supreme Court has historically protected an individual’s parental rights. *See*

¹The court also explained that the 1990 amendment to article II, section 19 of the Oklahoma Constitution (State Question No. 623) did not “repeal[] [or] negate[] the right of a parent to be tried by his/her peers” *Gray*, 1997 OK 98 ¶ 2, 943 P.2d at 592.

e.g., Pierce v. Society of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, 268 U.S. 510 (1925); *Stanley v. Illinois*, 405 U.S. 645 (1972); *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205 (1972); *Washington v. Glucksberg*, 521 U.S. 702 (1997); and *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57 (2000).

Finally, the views and analysis set forth in this letter are my own. And because this is a letter of counsel, it should not be construed as an official Attorney General Opinion and is therefore considered advisory only. Please contact me at (405) 521-3921 or Thomas.Schneider@oag.ok.gov if you have any follow-up questions.

Respectfully,



THOMAS R. SCHNEIDER
Deputy General Counsel

PARB 2023 Board Annual Report Answers

1. Are there any systemic issues, concerns, or barriers related to the juvenile court system that your board has identified over the past year that you would like included in PARB's annual report.
2. How can the State PARB staff and the State PARB Board better support your efforts?

The following is an edited and condensed summary of the feedback received by the 44 active PARB Boards across the State in December of 2023. A complete report is available on request.

Systemic issues, concerns, or barriers:

Cleveland: The board has noticed that in many domestic violence cases, the natural parent's hearings are held together. They believe possibly separating those hearings more could be more beneficial to the parties and help them feel safer in their efforts to reunite with their children.

The board has had concerns over how often DHS workers change on a case. They believe that many times, these multiple changes can prolong a case.

There have been several court supervision cases in the county where appropriate and timely progress has not been made, yet the case remains in court supervision.

Many cases are also continued multiple times before adjudication and/or disposition occurs. The case is pushed months out before any progress even begins to start. Finding ways to reduce the continuances would reduce time in care.

Creek: Moving caseworkers out of office hampers their communication and training. New caseworkers are no longer in an office environment that allows them to learn from more experienced co-workers.

Changes to DHS structure which no longer engages the caseworker in foster home placement is proving there doesn't seem to be an adequate method for equitable case load distribution.

Siblings are sometimes separated at such distances that CASA cannot be involved due to travel demand.

Custer: The Open Meeting Act is a struggle, particularly for rural communities where volunteers are spread so thin.

Delaware: Turnover of permanency workers and/or lack of permanency workers necessitating "borrowing" from other counties.

Latimer and Leflore: The board is concerned with the length of time it takes for termination. We are also concerned that the DHS has continued to have significant turnovers that have affected their ability to serve families effectively.

Love: There should be more resources available to foster families in Southern Oklahoma.

Mayes: There are times when we feel reunification is occurring too quickly.

We think there should be exceptions to the rules and reunification should depend on circumstances not time.

McClain and Garvin: We see bio parents who have been given multiple chances in drug court and then end up with horrendous child endangerment charges shortly thereafter due to substance abuse once again.

OKC-7: There is a perceived inconsistency in length of time between adjudication and the decision for permanency plan based on case worker and/or judge. For example, some cases move swiftly with termination of parental rights within 3 months; other cases have been ongoing for greater than a year without progress towards permanency.

Osage: "PARB's job description centers on the welfare of the children we serve. Part of that welfare concerns placement, and Oklahoma is in a logistic nightmare in terms of placement in foster homes that are hours away from the county court in which their cases reside. Often the children are placed hours away from their parents and family, and it is the responsibility of our DHS workers to transport at all hours, and all distances as they try to provide safe housing.

Pontotoc: ISP's appear to be "cookie cutter" plans, though we recognize there are many similar parent situations.

Tulsa: Similar to last year, our PARB members have observed barriers in permanency due to a lack of mental health services being provided for parents who experience substance abuse challenges.

There have been continued barriers to permanency ...due to the instability in housing access in Tulsa County.

There have been trends observed of an acceptance of letting our youth (usually 16 years old +) age out and promoting this as the permanency plan even when it may not be the most appropriate for the youth instead of engaging with active efforts to find placement outside of a group home placement.

Staff and State PARB Support:

Cleveland County: Our board had a conversation about this in our last meeting. They expressed that they were not really sure what the State PARB board was responsible for and how they could even support a local board's efforts. They said it would be good to know ways the state board could support a local board so they knew what to reach out to them about. So, maybe some education on the State PARB board, what they do and ways they can help or support a local board.

Tulsa: The communication of state-level policy initiatives has been helpful and appreciated regarding our efforts in Tulsa County! Continuing this level of transparency with current developments and projects would be appreciated in staying consistent for 2024. Our Tulsa County PARB members have appreciated hearing updates on these matters and developing a stronger understanding of our State PARB board and their role within our communities.

Bryan: Support by State PARB staff has been excellent.

Mayes: We need help getting more information about our cases.

OKC Board 7: Continue sharing with the courts and DHS that PARB exists! There is much value in a PARB review and recommendations, and sometimes it appears case team members do not understand who the PARB volunteers are or why we are involved in a case.

Recommendations from the Governors' CW Task Force that the state PARB Identified as a priority to support and address

4-19-2024

RECOMMENDATION 2.1: MODERNIZE THE STATE'S APPROACH TO INDIVIDUALIZED SERVICE PLANS.

State PARB Discussion:

- The ISP could be written better, with less cutting and pasting and more specific to addressing the reason for child welfare involvement.
- More training on partnership with parents and how to listen better.
- The ISP is hard to read. They could be formatted better.
- Some judges put the same thing in every ISP.
- Make things measurable
- Put the individual back in the individual service plan
- Make sure they are tied to a safety plan.
- Make sure the resource being referenced is available nearby
- Parents do not know how to complete the ISP
- Make sure you sustain hope
- There is some cutting and pasting going on with ISP.

GOAL 4: Increase Supports and Strengthen the Role of Foster Parents to Reduce Closure Rates and Placement Disruptions

State PARB Discussion:

- Increase financial support for foster families
- Improve respite supports.
- Identify additional financial support for kinship caregivers while completing introductory foster parent training.
- How do we professionalize the homes so they can handle the trauma?
- Build Capacity for childcare to serve children in foster care with complex needs
- Expand foster parent mentorship programs.

RECOMMENDATION 5.1: ENHANCE THE AVAILABILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS WHO SPECIALIZE IN WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.

State PARB Discussion:

- Expand Mental health and DDS PARB's.
- Train PARB members on mental health and DDS.

- From a state perspective add some training at State PARB on the mental health needs of kids in CW systems
- Talked about a need for mental health training
- How to strengthen local boards on finding resources
- Losing ability to maintain placement with proper supports

RECOMMENDATION 3.1: EXECUTE THE FAMILY REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM (FRAP) ACROSS THE STATE.

State PARB Discussion:

- The AOC created a panel to review submissions for a contract. They accepted bids. Legal Aid is moving forward. Legal aid has posted info on looking for people to fill those vacancies. It will start in Tulsa first. Then OKC.
- They discussed the increase in attorney pay.
- We need to provide information on what PARB is to this FRAP Group.
- Figure out the communication person is for FRAP.

RECOMMENDATION 2.4: ESTABLISH A CONSISTENT APPROACH TO PARENT PEER AND PARTNER PROGRAMS IN THE STATE.

State PARB Discussion:

- Concerned about having a parent at a PARB meeting because they could be subpoenaed.
- Parent Partners cannot serve on the board where they are working
- PARB Members could sit in on Family Team meetings
- PARB Members get to attend family team meetings in Comanche County.
- The parents get to speak at the family team meeting
- Get parent feedback, could be written.
- Have a parent on local PARB's when their case is closed.
- Have a parent partner on the state level.
- Letters from foster parents and kids and bio parents is good.

RECOMMENDATION 3.2: DEVELOP A TECHNOLOGY CASE MANAGEMENT SOLUTION FOR COURT FILES.

State PARB Discussion:

- We discussed OCIS access for PARB members and how difficult that would be.
- We have PARBS that don't have access to the court file due to items not being filed.

Annual Recommendations from the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board

9-15-2023

As required by statute, the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board annually submits a number of recommendations to the Commission on Children and youth. This year the State PARB identified six requests or areas of focus for the Commissioners to consider. These areas are based off locally identified issues as well as needed changes that were previously identified and remain a priority. These include a new name change, removal from the Open Meetings Act and continued support for ongoing legislative actions to improve the juvenile court system and support youth in foster care.

1. Change the name of the Post Adjudication Review Boards to; “Citizens Review Board for Children in Foster Care”.

The name, Post Adjudication Review Board, is quite descriptive and accurate for the work that PARB does. However, for the average person, not familiar with the Juvenile Court System, Post Adjudication is an unfamiliar and confusing term. The main purpose of PARB is to review cases when children are in foster care. As a result, it is believed that a name change to “Citizens Review Board for Children in Foster Care”, will be better understood by the public and more clearly understood when recruiting volunteers.

2. Eliminate the right to request a jury trial in the termination of parental rights procedures.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court recognizes a right to trial by jury in the termination of parental rights proceedings. Texas, Oklahoma, and Wyoming are the only states that allow the unrestricted use of juries when terminating parental rights. The requirement to hold jury trials significantly delays termination and therefore the resolution of the case and permanency for the child.

In March of 2021, when the Judicial Advisory Committee conducted a report on this subject, Tulsa County had over 400 cases, Oklahoma County had over 350 cases and Comanche and Cleveland County each had over 100 cases pending a

trial for the termination of parental rights. Pottawatomie County had 75 pending cases and Muskogee County had over 50 pending cases.

In many areas of Oklahoma, there is a lack of experienced prosecutors and attorneys to handle these cases or they simply lack the time. One experienced Assistant District Attorney reported in the Judicial Advisory study, that she could only prepare 3 or 4 juvenile cases during a trial docket.

The State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board, based on its experience in the deprived court system, sees the right to a jury trial in the termination of parental rights as an unnecessary barrier to timely permanence of children in foster care.

3. Improve the quality of legal representation for children and parents in the juvenile court system and improve accountability for attorneys representing children and parents. add actual data

Legal representation for children and their parents in the Oklahoma juvenile court system is inadequate and has been for decades. The Interim Report from the Oklahoma Task Force on the Uniform Representation of Children published in June of 2019, stated, "Oklahoma lacks a structure and adequate funding that ensures high-quality representation for parents and children across the state that includes recruitment, contracting, training, adequate compensation, supervision and accountability."

For example, while six hours of CLE, relevant to juvenile law is required for continued publicly funded representation, pre-appointment training is not. A survey of Oklahoma judges and attorneys also found the re-imbusement process to be irregular across the state and at a rate far below industry standard. This same survey found that attorneys consistently failed to meet with their client prior to their court hearing, failed to review the child welfare reports and to generally familiarize themselves to the cases they were representing prior to court.

Through their personal and professional experiences with Oklahoma's juvenile court system, the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board members, have seen these same concerning trends and deficits in the juvenile court system. Therefore, the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board is in full support of the efforts of the Oklahoma Task Force on the Uniform Representation of Children and all efforts to increase accountability funding and general

improvement in quality of representation for children and families in Juvenile court proceedings.

4. Reduce the time to initiation of services and improve the quality of needed mental health services to families engaged within the child welfare system.

Antidotal information from the community. Not sure how to make it otherwise.

At the end of each calendar year, local Boards are asked to identify trends and systemic issues that they see impacting the child welfare system. One of the most common issues perceived by the local Boards and identified in 2022 was the need for earlier initiation of services to families engaged with child welfare. Also identified, based on board members experiences, was the need for additional mental health services for many of these same families. Though no data has been gathered to substantiate these concerns, the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board agrees that earlier initiation of services and additional mental health services are needed.

5. Make PARB exempt from the Open Meeting Act on the local level.

Since it's establishment in 1981, PARB has been subject to the Open Meeting Act (OMA) as outlined in statute. However, a strong argument can be made that the Judicial District based boards should never have been subject to the OMA. The boards are not in charge of any public funds, they cannot act on their recommendations, and they do not administer public property. In addition, all their work is done in executive session. PARB is a volunteer driven program and compliance with the OMA creates an unnecessary burden for the volunteers who are not experts on all the requirements needed for compliance.

6. 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.

We all know how important it is for all children to successfully navigate from a dependent youth living at home to an independent and successful adult meeting their own needs and able to function in society. This transition can be especially challenging for youth involved in the child welfare system who may not have had

sufficient support and role modeling from a caring adult. Between July 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021, 96 youth aged out of child welfare custody. Many of these youth lack housing, employment skills and legal documents such as a birth certificate or social security card. Although the Oklahoma Department of Human Services strives to implement strategies to address these barriers, the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board believes there is always additional opportunities to improve connections and resources for this vulnerable population.

Support Protect Monitor

Post Adjudication Review Boards of Oklahoma

Program Managers Report May 30, 2024

The PARB One Day Conference and CCAN Conference (April 15, 16 and 17) Highlights

Keynote: Sarah Herrian

PARB awards:

- PARB Hall of Fame: Carol Bridges, Lee Inbody, Sara Vincent Spain (Posthumously)
- Child Welfare Partner of the Year: Mary Bozarth (Cleveland County)
- Judicial Partner of the Year: Judge Laura Farris (Creek County)

State PARB Greeting: Dr. Kalie Kerth

Judges Panel: Dawn Leemon, Facilitator. Panelist: Pat VerSteeg (Roger Mills), Laura Farris (Creek), Rebecca Gore (Mayes), Kaitlyn Allen (Oklahoma and State PARB), Theresa Dreiling (Tulsa).

Parent's Panel: Gail Stricklin, Facilitator. Panelist: James Ray, Alice Jeffrey, Mitch Sutter, Mikayla Woods.

Oklahoma County PARB Coordinator Position Update

- After serving for 10 years as the Oklahoma County PARB Coordinator, Christina left PARB in February to join the Child Death Review Board staff at OCCY. We wish her the best.
- Let me introduce Shelbi Tatarian who started on Tuesday May 28. Shelbi has been working with Circle of Care and has volunteer and caseload management experience.

State PARB Resignation: Madisyn Abbe. Foster parent filling a member at Large position.

LOFT Report and discussion at the Capitol April 4, 2024

Legislative Office of Fiscal Transparency: Priority Evaluation on Human Services Adoption and Parent Support Programs. With this evaluation, LOFT examined the programs administered by DHS to support successful reunification of families or adoptions out of foster care, as well as the resources available to non-parental caregivers operating outside of the State's system. This evaluation resulted in four key findings

Family Representation Advocacy Program (FRAP) Questions and Answers Document

100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoyed being together as a group today (n=46).

97% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they found the networking opportunities and the Judge’s Panel useful (n=45).

96% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they learned something new to take back to their board (n=45); and also found the Peer Table Discussion useful to their work (n=46).

93% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they they found the presentation “Where have we been and where are we going,” useful to their work (n=44).

92% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the learning experience, they have more knowledge about their fellow PARB members, State PARB members, and PARB staff (n=46).

89% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they found the Parent Panel useful to their work (n=46).

“I would like to see an email soliciting questions from general members pre-conference.”

-survey respondent

“The parent panel and judges panel were very enlightening. Loved seeing how other counties do PARB.”

-survey respondent

“The parent panel was so impactful!”

-survey respondent

“Hearing what the judges liked/needed most in the recommendations helps me to write better recommendations.”

-survey respondent

“My board was operating inadequately!”

-survey respondent

“Maybe have some child welfare staff in attendance, so if someone has questions in PARB.”

-survey respondent