

## STATE POST ADJUDICATION REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

Date: 1-16-2026

Time: 10-12

### MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

1	Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests	15 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 September 26, 2025, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board meeting <i>Discussion and possible action</i>	5 Min	Sarah Herrian
4	Report from the Foster Care Committee	5 Min	Sarah Herrian
5	Reimagining Foster Care. A Presentation and Discussion on Current Efforts Under way to Address Foster Care Needs.	15 Min	Rachel Goble and Matt Stansberry
6	Funding and other Challenges to the Foster Care Infrastructure	15 Min	Chris Campbell, Executive Director of the 111Project
7	Review of Annual Report Survey Submissions from Local Boards	20 Min	Lisa White
8	Discussion of State PARB Findings and Recommendations to the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth in Accordance with Title 10, Chapter 51, Sect 1116.6 <i>Discussion and possible action</i>	15 Min	Keith Pirtle
9	Report from the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth	5 Min	Dr. Kalie Kerth
10	PARB Year in Review and Program Managers Report	10 Min	Keith Pirtle
11	New Business	5 Min	Sarah Herrian
12	Adjournment		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  
September 26, 2025  
10:00am

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:03a.m. by 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, Cindy Humphrey, Dr. Kalie Kerth, Kristi Thompson, J.J. Waggoner, Amanda Bodine, Sarah Herrian, Liz Nelson, the Honorable Kaitlyn Allen, Brant Bullard, the Honorable Paul Hesse, the Honorable Leah Edwards, Greg Delaney, Adrian Ratke, and Amber Shaw. Members not present: Donna Keller, the Honorable Christine Larson, the Honorable Tom Newby, Lynda Whitney, and Cindy Nocton. OCCY staff members present: Keith Pirtle, Shelbi Tatarian, Caitlin Merritt, Mark James, and Cherra Taylor. Guests present: Lisa White, University of Oklahoma E-TEAM; and Michael Williams, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS)

### 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 May 16, 2025, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board Special Meeting *Discussion and Possible Action*

*Copies of the minutes were provided.*

Dr. Kalie Kerth motioned, and Kristi Thompson seconded to approve the minutes of May 16, 2025, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board Special Meeting. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative. Greg Delaney and the Honorable Paul Hesse abstained from the vote. Motion passed.

### 4. State PARB Proposed 2026 Meeting Dates

The proposed meeting dates for calendar year (CY) 2026 are January 16, May 15, and September 25. Each meeting will begin at 10:00 AM.

*Copies of the proposed dates were provided*

Adrian Ratke motioned, and The Honorable Kaitlyn Allen seconded to approve the 2026 meeting dates of January 16, May 15, and September 25. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

### 5. Presentation of the Nominating Committee Recommendations for the Position of Vice Chair *Discussion and Possible Action*

Daniel Herring, on behalf of the nominating committee, nominated J.J. Waggoner as the vice chairperson for the State PARB Advisory Board.

The Honorable Leah Edwards motioned, and Liz Nelson seconded to accept J.J. Waggoner as vice chairperson of the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

## **6. Recommendations from the PARB Code of Conduct Committee**

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

J.J. Waggoner presented the proposed policy on the grounds for removing current members from PARB, and the process for removal. Ms. Waggoner stated that the question of whether a potential member was involved in a child welfare case does not mean an automatic rejection of joining a PARB, but to gain clarity and understanding of why potential members want to serve. She went through each item that would be grounds for removal including violating confidentiality and falsifying or misrepresenting facts on a member application or during the application process. She also presented the steps outlined in the removal process.

Several members expressed concern with item one, *“Engaging in a general course of conduct, action or behavior evidencing disrespect, disdain, or contempt for child welfare, Tribes, attorneys, Judges, CASA, law enforcement, or any others involved in the child welfare system,”* that it may be considered a violation of First Amendment rights. Other concerns expressed were the potential negative impact to PARB if a member engaged in negative speech. Suggestions were to request an opinion from the Attorney General and remove the item from the list completely. The final suggestion was to remove the item from the list and approve the remaining list with the option to amend once an Attorney General’s opinion is received.

*Copies of the Grounds and Process for Removal policy were provided.*

The Honorable Kaitlin Allen motioned, and Dr. Kalie Kerth seconded to approve the policy regarding the grounds and process for member removal with the removal of item one of the Grounds for Removal, then seeking the opinion of the Attorney General on item one. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

## **7. Presentation by the Oklahoma Human Services Child Welfare Director: The Next Season of Child Welfare**

Michael Williams, Child Welfare Director of the OKDHS, spoke of his experience in child welfare in other states, presented some positive statistics of Oklahoma’s child welfare, and shared future plans and aspirations to provide a better system for Oklahoma’s children.

- Mr. Williams grew up in Louisiana. He began his career in mental health before moving to childrens services. He served in both Connecticut and Florida before moving to Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma had met or exceeded 9 of the 11 standards administered by the U.S. Children’s Bureau.
- Oklahoma ranks in the mid-20s out of 52 districts in overall child protection.
- Mr. Williams stated he would like to change the narrative of child protection, including changing the mindset that the love of a parent does not equal the capacity of a parent, explaining that most substantiated cases are due to neglect.
- The potential plans or aspirations would be to:
  - Bring programs from other states that have proven success to Oklahoma.
  - Creating or strengthening partnerships with other programs.
  - Recruiting more kinship foster families so children removed from their homes are not placed with strangers, if possible.
  - Providing foster care beyond a youth’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to give youth a better chance in life.

- Getting children out of institutional care as quickly as possible once treatment is completed.

Mr. Williams encouraged members to reach out to him if they have ideas, want to collaborate, or help in any other way.

## **8. Oklahoma Foster Care System: Call to Action**

Chairperson Sarah Herrian expressed the need for more foster homes for school-aged children, sibling groups, and teens. Approximately 684 new homes will be needed to accommodate these groups. Another concern was the distance between the children and their families, with over 60% living outside the original counties of residence. Other concerns included retention issues of foster homes and siblings being separated.

The members shared ideas on recruiting and improving retention including partnering new foster parents with seasoned foster parents and keeping sibling groups in the same community if not in the same home, allowing siblings to be close to each other. The members also discussed how PARB could assist with recruitment efforts, including providing education. A State PARB subcommittee was created to further explore and address this issue.

## **9. E-Team Report: Findings from the PARB Credentialing Focus Group**

Lisa White, Senior Research Associate for the University of Oklahoma's (OU) ETEAM, presented on the results of the focus groups regarding the credentialing process. Some of the information included:

- There were three focus groups with a total of 13 participants, 5 of which were PARB chairs.
- The participants are at various stages of the credentialing process, with some unaware of the process.
- The overall experience of the process was positive, with some opportunities for improvement.
- Recommendations included 30-day grace period for improvement before final scores, offer training to build shared understanding, and more communication around the process.

Overall, the members are optimistic about the credentialing process.

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

Dr. Kalie Kerth reported that the Commission meeting occurred on September 19, 2025. She also reported that she is entering her final term on the Board of Commissioners. Dr. Kerth gave a brief overview of the previous Commission meeting.

## **11. Program Managers Report**

Mr. Pirtle provided updates of activities since the last scheduled State PARB Advisory Board meeting. Some of the updates include:

- Lou Truitt-Flanagan resigned from State PARB and Rogers County PARB where she served for about 23 years.
- There are three vacancies for “Active PARB” members on State PARB. The Governor has requested an entire list of all local PARB members. No appointments from the list have been made at this time.
- State PARB’s annual recommendations were submitted to the Commissioners during the September 19, 2025 meeting.
- Sixteen credentialing visits were conducted since the process began.

Mr. Pirtle requested the State PARB members to assist promoting PARB in their communities and/or to serve on committees such as the outreach or conference planning committees.

**12. 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.

**13. Adjournment**

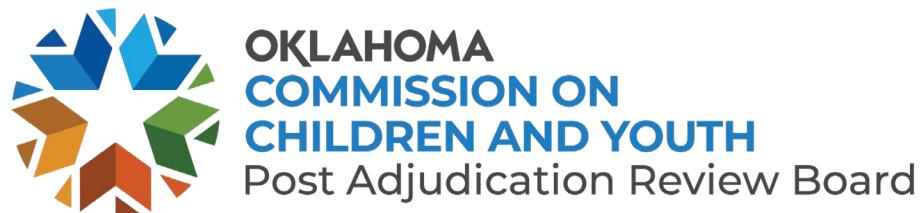
The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2026.

Daniel Herring motioned and the Honorable Kaitlin Allen seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:59am.

# Annual PARB Member Survey 2025

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January 16, 2026



# Overview

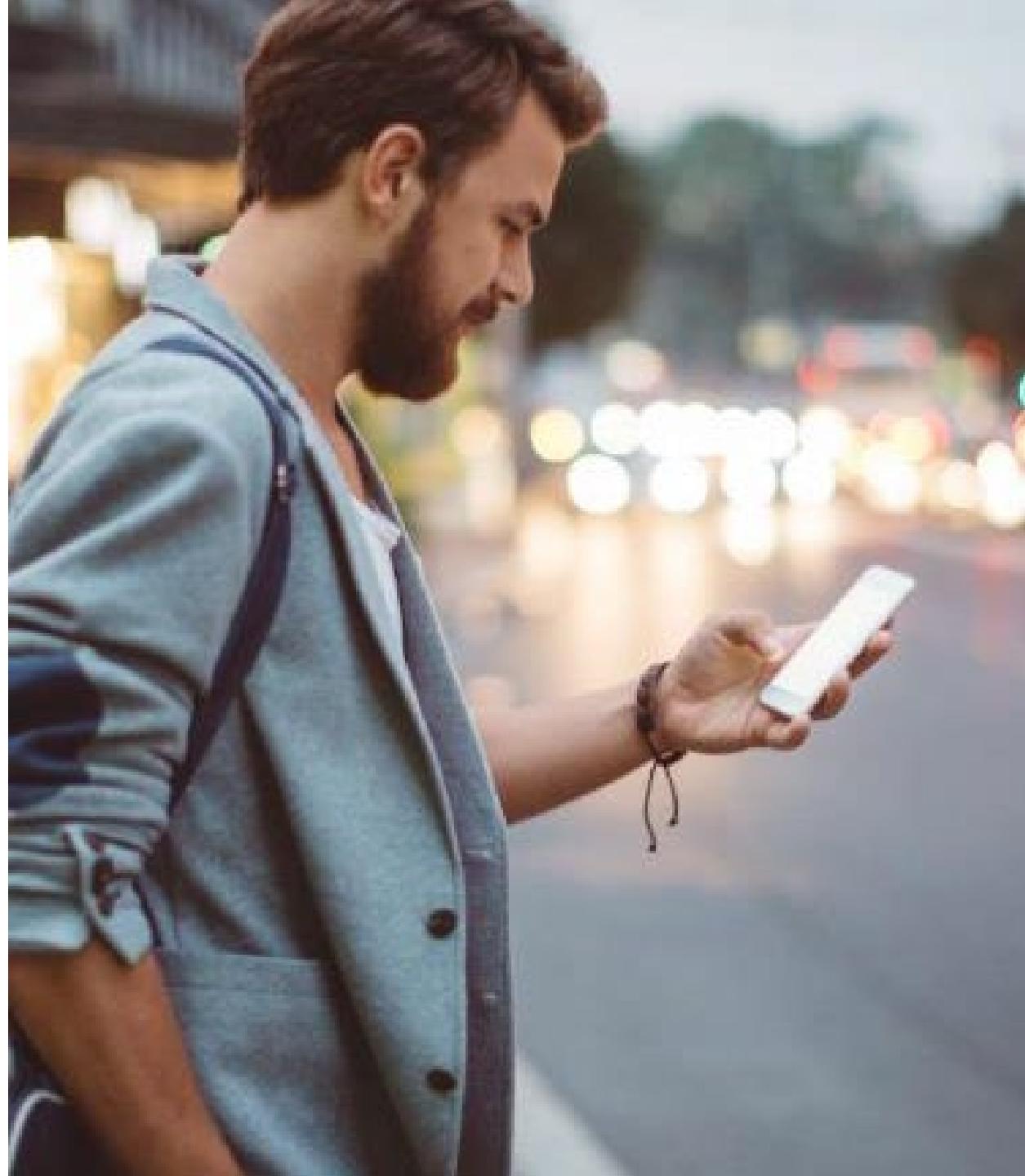
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The **annual survey** was distributed to PARB members at the end of calendar year 2025.

**28 members** completed the survey.

**Members discussed topics, including:**

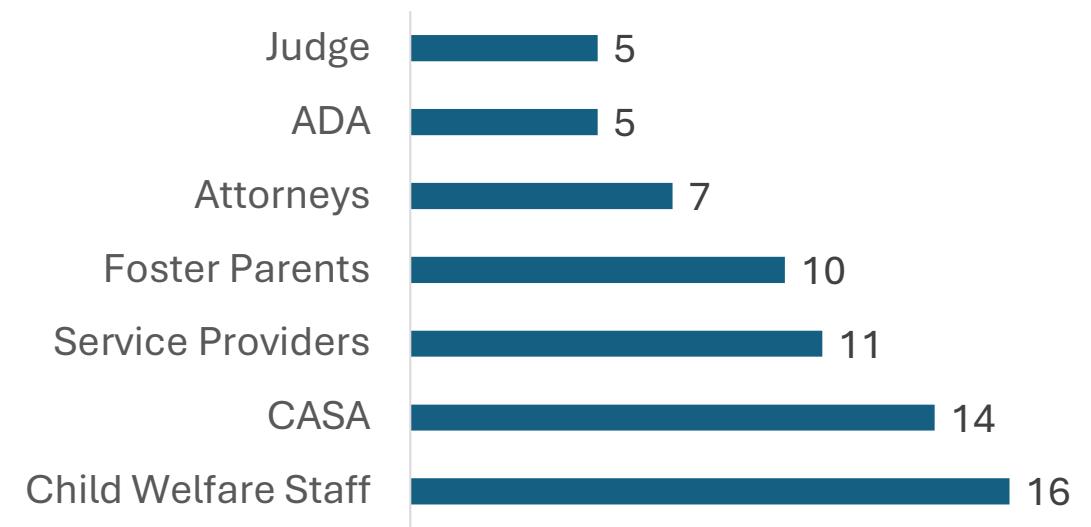
- Systemic issues
- Building relationships with judges, DHS workers, and CASAs
- Recruitment and retention of volunteers
- Training and development
- Recommendations for improvements





**Child welfare staff, CASAs, service providers, and foster parents were among the most utilized sources to provide case information to PARBs in 2025.**

## Members Used Various Sources to Gather Case Information (n = 28)



*Respondents could choose multiple sources.*

**Are there any systemic issues, concerns, or barriers related to the juvenile court system that your board has identified over the past year ?**

(n = 18)

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- **Workforce instability and capacity constraints:** High turnover/vacancies (DHS/child welfare/OHS) disrupt continuity, increase overload, and contribute to missed follow-through.
- **Communication and information issues:** Delayed/inconsistent reporting from DHS, discrepancies with provider info, withheld/incorrect details, and poor notification of schedule changes undermine coordination.
- **Delays to permanency and case progress:** Prolonged cases and service delays slow progress and reduce stability for children.
- **Service and support gaps:** Limited therapeutic/behavioral health services (including delinquent docket) and insufficient practical supports hinder case plan success; barriers noted for adjudicated teen parents.
- **Court/legal decisions and ICWA/Tribal engagement:** Boards raised concerns about criminal no-contact orders affecting families and the need for stronger ICWA/Tribal practices (*Active Efforts*, timely notice, placement preferences) and domestic violence training.

**Over the past year, what has your board done to strengthen relationships with court partners such as judges, DHS workers or CASAs?**

(n = 25)

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- **Build rapport and trust:** Intentional relationship-building, appreciation, and a “we’re here to help” partnership approach.
- **Increase communication and coordination:** Regular check-ins, direct conversations, and collaborative problem-solving with DHS/CASA/judges.
- **Invite partners into the process:** DHS/CASA/OJA/OHS (and sometimes Tribes) invited to PARB reviews; follow-up when they can’t attend.
- **Improve timeliness and information sharing:** Reports shared quickly and in time for hearings; streamlined processes to reduce burden on partners.
- **Provide practical supports and resources:** Help locating services/supports and sharing tools/training to help cases move forward.

*“Our board strengthened relationships with court partners by maintaining regular communication with judges, DHS, CASA, and other stakeholders. We provided consistent opportunities for dialogue. With child welfare, we support them by collaboratively problem solving. We also supported shared learning through training and resource sharing, and we prioritized appreciation and relationship-centered collaboration to build trust and improve coordination across the child welfare court system.”*

*-PARB Member*

**In what ways, if at all,  
have you helped court  
partners better  
understand the purpose  
and value of PARB?**

(n = 20)

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- **Explain PARB during routine case contact:** Reintroduce PARB to new workers via calls/emails/staffing, especially with turnover.
- **Reinforce a partnership, solutions-focused role:** Emphasize PARB supports better outcomes and collaboration (not fault-finding).
- **Use dialogue and outreach to court partners:** Share the statute; meet with judges/attorneys/DA to clarify PARB's role and improve usefulness.
- **Show value through actionable recommendations:** Provide clear rationales and practical service/resource suggestions that help cases move forward.
- **Model ICWA practice where applicable:** Write recommendations through an *Active Efforts* lens, offer culturally relevant resources, and highlight strengths.

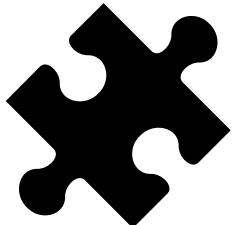
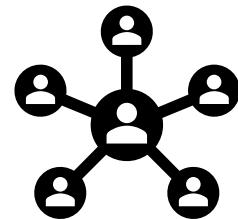
***“Each time I work with a new caseworker, I try to explain the what/why of PARB. I stress that the review is done in partnership with them - not to criticize or find fault. It would be helpful, for both sides, to have a series of forums (in person or online) to inform and establish a better relationship between PARB members and the DHS workers in their county.”***

***-PARB Member***

**What strategies has your board used in the past year to recruit and retain PARB volunteers? What has worked well, and what challenges have you experienced?**

(n = 21)

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**What worked well:** Word-of-mouth recruiting, networking with partners (judges/DHS/CASA), outreach to civic/church groups, social media, conference presentations

**Retention strategies:** Strong team culture, regular communication, flexibility with schedules/roles, early case assignment, emphasizing impact and volunteer voice

**Challenges:** Time commitment and report-writing expectations, unpaid role, conflicts of interest, recruitment pipeline limitations/public awareness



**25 out of the 28 respondents reported their board members participated in sponsored trainings during 2025.**

**What stands out as the most useful aspect of the trainings?  
(n = 28)**

- **System understanding:** Better grasp of how DHS and the courts function, and what happens “behind the scenes.”
- **Law and policy:** Clearer understanding of statutes, child welfare law (e.g., child support, TPR), and how requirements align with PARB responsibilities.
- **Better PARB practice:** Improved case selection/review processes and clearer guidance on what information to gather from partners.
- **Stronger recommendations:** More concise, actionable reporting that is more likely to be read (by judges) and used.
- **Resources and perspectives:** New resources/strategies for supporting families and greater value placed on teamwork and multiple viewpoints.

**What additional training topics would be most helpful to your board in the coming year (e.g., content areas, formats)?**

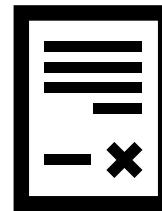
(n = 22)

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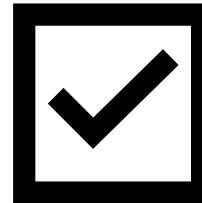
#### **System Partners**

- Communication with DA/court
- PARB authority and file access
- Court process navigation



#### **Practice and Quality**

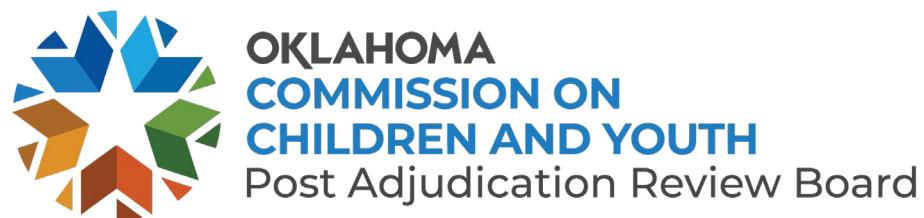
- Report writing refreshers
- Reading case documents
- Capturing court outcomes



#### **Content Priorities**

- Trauma and bias
- DV/trafficking/drug trends
- Policy updates
- ICWA/Tribal policies

***Preferred formats: lunch and learns, online/hybrid, short modules***



## How can the state PARB staff and the State PARB Board better support your efforts? (n = 21)

- **Training and learning support:** Continue trainings; expand online/self-paced options to increase access and reduce travel.
- **Local partner engagement:** Help strengthen connections with DHS/CASA/mental health providers to improve collaboration and case updates.
- **Role clarity & verification tools:** Provide member ID/verification and a standard script/handout to explain PARB's neutral role.
- **Statewide growth and ICWA support:** Support expansion into more counties and strengthen ICWA-specific resources (*Active Efforts*, Tribal notice, placement guidance).

# The University of Oklahoma E-TEAM

## Designing Solutions, Delivering Results: Your Partner in Transforming Information into Action

The Educational Training, Evaluation, Assessment, and Measurement (E-TEAM) department at the University of Oklahoma Outreach/College of Continuing Education is a multidisciplinary team comprised of senior evaluators and researchers, research assistants, data analysts, graphic designers, and web and database developers who work collaboratively to support organizations in using data to inform decision-making and improve outcomes.

At the heart of our work is a commitment to rigorous, insightful program evaluation and research. We partner with state agencies, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and community service providers to evaluate programs in areas such as education, mental health, child welfare, criminal justice, public health, and substance use treatment and prevention. Our work is shaped by what matters most to our partners – relevance, results, and alignment with their goals and objectives.

E-TEAM recognizes that factors such as community history, social conditions, and local context matter fundamentally in evaluation. In addition to evaluation, we conduct applied and participatory research to explore emerging issues, inform policy and practice and drive continuous improvement. By translating complex data into clear, actionable insights, we help our partners demonstrate impact, enhance service delivery, and build capacity for sustained success.



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## **PARB statutes regarding recommendations**

Make recommendations to the courts, the Commission, the Governor, the Legislature, the Department of Human Services, the Office of Juvenile Affairs, and other state agencies providing services to children regarding proposed statutory revisions and amendments to court rules and procedures, and review and make recommendations on permanency planning, foster care and child welfare service delivery policies, guidelines, and procedures;

*The Advisory Board shall submit a report of the activities, findings and recommendations of the review boards to the Commission on or before May 1 of each year.*

## **Annual Reporting Expectations of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth**

It is OCCY's expectation that every state level board and department follow these standard procedures. Through the ongoing efforts of the department's boards and staff, they identify issues that negatively impact the lives of children and their families. Then define the issue in a way that can be measured, collect data to further examine the issue and compare information with what other states and entities are currently doing.

- I. Background and Problem Statement
- II. National Context and Comparison
- III. Why This is a Problem
- IV. Recommendation: Statute, Policy or Practice Change
- V. Expected Outcomes
- VI. Conclusion

## **What was presented to the Commission in September of 2025**

In SFY 24 there were 291 PARB volunteer members who conducted 2,526 foster care reviews and collectively logged 7,027 volunteer hours.

## **SFY 2024 Annual Recommendations from the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board- As voted on at the State PARB Meeting on 1-17-2025**

As required by statute, the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board annually submits a number of recommendations to the Commission on Children and Youth.

- 1. Reduce the time to initiate services and improve the quality of needed mental health services to families engaged within the child welfare system.*

One of the most common issues perceived by the local Boards and identified by them is the need for earlier initiation of mental health services to families engaged with child welfare. 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.

- 2. Support HB 2030, which increases payments to foster parents.*

Oklahoma's foster care system provides a lifeline for children, but the financial support for foster parents has not increased since 2018, remaining at an average of \$20 per day despite a 25% rise in the cost of living. This stagnant rate is no longer sufficient to cover necessities such as food, clothing, and school expenses, much less extracurricular activities that build confidence and resilience. Increasing the daily reimbursement by \$5 is a modest but critical adjustment that will help foster families meet children's needs, attract and retain more foster parents, and improve stability and permanency for children in care—ultimately reducing disruptions and long-term costs to the state.

- 3. Improve Oklahoma's Promise, for youth who are aging out of child welfare custody.*

Children in state custody should automatically qualify for Oklahoma's Promise without being required to provide parental income or financial documents, which are often impossible for foster youth to access. With many aging out of care lacking housing, job skills, or even basic identification, removing this barrier would provide vital educational opportunities and better support their transition into stable, independent adulthood.

- 4. State PARB supports the efforts of child welfare and other court partners in their efforts to modernize the states approach to individual service plans.*

Improving Individual Service Plans (ISPs) is critical to better child welfare outcomes in Oklahoma. Many ISPs are repetitive, hard to read, and not tailored to the reasons for involvement, leaving parents confused and goals unclear. With more training on partnering with parents, clearer formatting, and measurable goals tied to safety plans and local resources, ISPs can become practical tools that truly support family success and child safety.

#### **State PARB Action Step**

Determine one issue that is easy to define and works well within this new format. PARB staff and State PARB members will then create a recommendation following the annual reporting expectations and submit it to the Commission by May 1, 2026.

# **Support Protect Monitor**

## **Post Adjudication Review Boards of Oklahoma**

### **PARB Year in Review and Program Managers Report** **January 16, 2026**

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#### **Highlights from 2025**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Members</b>	287	279	300	282	289
<b>Boards</b>	42	42	41	41	43
<b>Case Reviews</b>	3,710	1,816	2,544	2,626	2,500
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	7,277	6,499	7,087	7,345.75	5,165.80

#### **Local Board Changes:**

##### **New in 2025**

Atoka County-Laura Melton Chair-Established May 2025  
Canadian County-Connor Reece Chair-Established November 2025  
Seminole County-Established December 2025  
Oklahoma County-Substance Abuse-Established December 2025

##### **Disbanded in 2025**

Sequoyah County February 2025  
Okfuskee February 2025

#### **PARB Highlights**

<b>Total Training Hours in 2025</b>	243
<b>Credentialing Visits Completed</b>	14
<b>New Tulsa PARB Coordinator:</b> Saralyn Miller	

**PARB Conference:** Te'Ata Loper Keynote, Child Welfare Panel, Judges Panel, PARB awards: PARB Hall of Fame: Gail Stricklin, David Hughes Child Welfare Partner of the Year: Micheal Carrington (Cleveland County) Judicial Partner of the Year: Judge Kim Conyers (Creek County)

## **State PARB Highlights**

### **Members retired from State PARB in 2025.**

Keri Spencer, Lou Flanagan, Deanna Chancellor, Judge Tom Newby, Greg Delaney

### **New members**

Bryson Paden, (Ex-Officio OJA), Cierra White, Garvin and McClain, (Active PARB), Bart Bouse, Woodward, (Active PARB)

## **Plans for 2026**

**2026 PARB conference:** March 30, 31 and April 1. It will be at the OKANA in Oklahoma City. State PARB members are once again invited to attend.