
STATE POST ADJUDICATION REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

Date: 5-15-2026

Time: 10-12

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	Lakesha Mackie
3	Review and Approval of the Minutes of the February 27, 2026, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board meeting <i>Discussion and possible action</i>	5 Min	Sarah Herrian
4	Recommendations from the Nominating Committee for Chair and Vice Chair and Elections <i>Discussion and possible action</i>	5 Min	Dr. Kalie Kerth
5	A Review of Senate Bill 1806 and Discussion Regarding the Implications of Extending Foster Care to age 21 for Oklahoma Human Services, the Juvenile Court and the Foster Care System	25 Min	Sarah Herrian Daniel Herring
6	PARB and the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) Conference Report	10 Min	Lynda Whitney
7	Changes within Child Welfare to Address Staff Shortages	5 Min	Daniel Herring
8	A Home for Every Child-Update and Overview	15 Min	Daniel Herring
9	PARB Credentialing Recommendations <i>Discussion and possible action</i>	15 Min	Keith Pirtle
10	Highlights from the 2026 State Legislative Session	10 Min	Marcia Johnson
11	Report from the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth	5 Min	Dr. Kalie Kerth
12	PARB Program Managers Report	10 Min	Keith Pirtle
13	New Business	5 Min	Sarah Herrian
14	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

**Special Meeting
February 27, 2026
10:00am**

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:02a.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, Donna Keller, Cierra White, J.J. Waggoner, Bart Bouse, Sarah Herrian, the Honorable Kaitlyn Allen, the Honorable Christine Larson, Brant Bullard, the Honorable Paul Hesse, the Honorable Leah Edwards, Bryson Paden, and Amber Shaw. Members not present: Adrian Ratke, Dr. Kalie Kerth, Liz Nelson, Amanda Bodine, Lynda Whitney, and Cindy Nocton. OCCY staff members present: Keith Pirtle, Shelbi Tatarian, and Cherra Taylor. Guests present: Lisa White, University of Oklahoma E-TEAM; Rachel Goble, Youth and Family Services of Oklahoma (YFSOK); Matt Stansberry, Redeem Studio; Chris Campbell, 111Project

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 September 26, 2025 Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board Special Meeting *Discussion and Possible Action*

Copies of the minutes were provided.

The Honorable Kaitlyn Allen motioned, and Daniel Herring seconded to approve the minutes of September 26, 2025, State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board Special Meeting. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative. Bart Bouse, Cierra White, and the Honorable Christine Larson abstained from the vote. Motion passed.

4. Report from the Foster Care Committee

Chairperson Sarah Herrian reported that the foster care committee will continue meeting to review issues concerning foster care and find strategies being initiated to address those issues.

5. Reimagining Foster Care. A Presentation and Discussion on Current Efforts Under Way to Address Foster Care Needs

Rachel Goble with Youth and Family Services and Matt Stansberry with Redeem Studio presented on the movement that Oklahoma Care (OKCARE) is working to initiate to create positive changes to the foster care system. Some of the information discussed included:

- OKCARE is a collaborative of child placing organizations, and community partners.

- The national statistic states that 78% of the population are not aware of or engaged in the area of child welfare and foster care.
- OKCARE voted in October to create and house a movement to change the statistics to improve services.
- The framework will consist of discovery (finding issues and opportunities), strategy, and implementation and transformation.
- Surveys will be distributed to different groups throughout the state to collect data on public perception on child welfare and foster care.

Ms. Goble and Mr. Stansberry invited the board members to participate in the process. Goal is to have the strategy formed by April to start the implementation process.

6. Funding and other Challenges to the Foster Care Infrastructure

Chris Campbell, executive director of 111Project, presented on the financial issues that foster care system faces. Some of the information discussed included:

- The 111Project began in 2011 to engage the faith-based communities in supporting the foster care system.
- In 2015, the Oklahoma Fosters campaign was launched to help the foster care system with engagement and recruitment.
- The Care Portal was also launched in 2015 as a platform to connect child-serving agencies with communities to support the needs of children.
- The government shutdown impacted child welfare and other programs with staff furloughs, paused contracts, and organizations closed.
- 111Project elected to participate in the Home for Every Child Initiative to help improve child welfare outcomes.

Mr. Campbell stated that there are concerns there will be more budget reductions further affecting services. He also discussed the legislative bill that would extend foster care to age 21.

7. Review of Annual Report Survey Submissions from Local Boards

Lisa White, University of Oklahoma E-TEAM, presented the results of the 2025 annual PARB member survey. Some of information presented included:

- 28 members completed the survey and the topics discussed were systemic issues, training and development, volunteer recruitment and retention, recommendations for improvements, and building relationships with judges, OKDHS workers, and CASAs.
- PARBs receive most of their case information from child welfare staff and CASA.
- Some of the systemic issues PARBs identified were workforce instability and capacity constraints, and service and support gaps.
- Some of the ways PARBs have strengthened relationships with judges, OKDHS workers and CASA were to invite partners into the process and increase communication and coordination.
- Some of the strategies that PARBs utilized in 2025 to recruit and retain volunteer members as well as challenges experiences were word-of-mouth and social media for recruiting, regular communications with existing members, and challenges with time commitment and report-writing expectations.

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

Discussion and Possible Action

Keith Pirtle presented the requirements of the State PARB Advisory Board to provide findings and recommendations to the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth's (OCCY) Board of Commissioners and other entities. He also presented the expectations of providing the recommendations to the Commissioners and looked over the prior year's recommendations.

The Board members discussed possible recommendations such as more supportive services for kinship foster families. Forming subcommittees to review the needs and issues to find possible resolutions for next year's recommendations. It was suggested to support Senate Bill 1806, which extends foster care for youth up to age 21 years, and support legislative bill which shortens the length of time that a foster parent can utilize another caregiver who was not previously approved by Child Welfare from seven days to three days.

Bart Bouse motioned and the Honorable Kaitlyn Allen seconded for the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board to support Senate Bill 1806, which would extend foster care to age 21 years. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motioned passed.

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

Mr. Pirtle presented the highlights of calendar year (CY) 2025 as well as upcoming events for calendar year 2026. Some of the information discussed included:

- There were 289 PARB members at the end of CY 2025.
- There were 43 active boards across the state, a net gain of two boards from the previous year.
- The PARBs reviewed 2,500 cases and contributed 5,165 volunteer hours.
- Fourteen boards completed credentialing and PARB members completed 243 hours of training.
- The CCAN Conference is March 30 – April 1, 2026, with the PARB Institute scheduled for March 30. There will also be a couple of breakout sessions that PARB is sponsoring.

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 was discussed.

11. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2026.

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

State PARB Nominations: 2026-2028 Term

State PARB Meeting May 15, 2026

Chair Nomination

Sarah Herrian

Vice-Chair Nomination

JJ Waggoner

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT

TO

2 ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 1806

By: Paxton, Nice, and Goodwin
of the Senate

3

and

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Lawson of the House

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7

8 [foster care - foster care services - qualifications
- rules - funding - Oklahoma Adoption Code -
9 applicability - benefits - construction -
codification - effective date -

10 emergency]

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15 AUTHOR: Add the following House Coauthor: Hill

16 AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the stricken title, enacting clause, and
entire bill and insert:

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19 "An Act relating to foster care; directing the
Department of Human Services to implement extension
20 of foster care services; providing that services
shall be voluntary; providing that services shall be
21 available to certain individuals; providing
requirements for receiving extended services;
22 directing the Director to promulgate rules; amending
10 O.S. 2021, Sections 7505-1.1 and 7510-1.5, which
23 relate to children; providing that provisions of
section shall not prohibit the Department from
24 sharing adoptive information in certain

1 circumstances; modifying provisions related to
2 payment to parents; providing for codification;
3 providing an effective date; and declaring an
4 emergency.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

6 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-7-112a of Title 10A, unless
8 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 A. The Department of Human Services shall implement an
10 extension of foster care services to support individuals
11 transitioning into adulthood who meet the requirements provided by
12 this section. Participation in extended services under this section
13 shall be a voluntary election by the qualifying individual.
14 Services shall be available to any individual in this state who
15 meets the requirements of subsection B of this section and who:

16 1. Was in the custody of the Department at the time of the
17 individual's eighteenth birthday but is less than twenty-one (21)
18 years of age; or

19 2. Achieved legal permanency by guardianship or adoption at
20 sixteen (16) years of age or older but is less than twenty-one (21)
21 years of age and the individual does not receive care from the
22 parent or legal guardian.

1 B. Any individual described in subsection A of this section may
2 receive extended services from the Department under this section if
3 the individual is:

4 1. Completing secondary education or a program leading to an
5 equivalent credential;

6 2. Enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or
7 vocational education;

8 3. Participating in a program or activity designed to promote,
9 or remove barriers to, employment;

10 4. Employed for at least eighty (80) hours per month; or

11 5. Incapable of doing any of the activities described in
12 paragraphs 1 through 4 of this subsection due to a medical
13 condition, which incapability is supported by regularly updated
14 information in the case plan of the individual. In such a case, the
15 individual shall be in compliance with a course of treatment as
16 recommended by the Department.

17 C. 1. The Director of the Department of Human Services shall
18 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.

19 2. The Department of Human Services shall seek available
20 funding to implement the provisions of this section.

21 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 7505-1.1, is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 Section 7505-1.1. A. Unless otherwise ordered by the district
24 court exercising jurisdiction over the adoption proceeding, all

1 hearings held in proceedings pursuant to the Oklahoma Adoption Code
2 shall be confidential and shall be held in closed court without
3 admittance of any person other than interested parties and their
4 counsel.

5 B. All papers, records, and books of proceedings in adoption
6 cases and any papers, records, and books relating to such
7 proceedings:

8 1. Shall be kept as a permanent record of the court and
9 maintained in a separate file by the court clerk; and

10 2. Shall be confidential and shall not be open to inspection or
11 copy except as authorized in Sections 7504-1.2, 7505-3.2, 7505-6.6,
12 7508-1.2, and 7508-1.3 of this title or upon order of a court of
13 record for good cause shown.

14 C. Upon application and notice to the person or agency in whose
15 possession the records being sought are held, and for good cause
16 being shown, any court of record may, by written order reciting its
17 findings, permit the necessary information to be released, or may
18 restrict the purposes for which it shall be used. The findings
19 shall include the reasons the information being sought cannot be
20 obtained through the methods authorized by Sections 7504-1.2, 7505-
21 3.2, 7505-6.6, 7508-1.2, and 7508-1.3 of this title.

22 D. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit ~~persons~~:

23 1. Persons employed by the court, the Department of Human
24 Services, a child-placing agency, an attorney participating or

1 assisting in a direct placement adoption or any physician, minister,
2 or other person or entity assisting or participating in an adoption
3 from providing partial or complete identifying information between a
4 biological parent and prospective adoptive or adoptive parent if a
5 biological parent and a prospective adoptive or adoptive parent
6 mutually agree to share specific identifying information and each
7 gives written, signed notice of their agreement to the court, the
8 Department of Human Services, the child-placing agency, or any
9 attorney participating or assisting in the direct placement adoption
10 pursuant to the Oklahoma Adoption Code; or

11 2. The Department from sharing adoptive information necessary
12 to ensure continuity of care for an adoptee who wishes to
13 participate in extended foster care services under Section 1 of this
14 act or sharing adoptive information necessary to carry out the
15 Department's duties under Section 7510-1.5 of this title.

16 E. Any person in charge of adoption records or having access to
17 adoption records or information who discloses any information,
18 including, but not limited to, all records and reports relevant to
19 the case and any records and reports of examination of the minor's
20 parent or other custodian pertaining to an adoption proceeding,
21 contrary to the provisions of this section, upon conviction thereof,
22 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

23 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 7510-1.5, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 7510-1.5. A. 1. When a parent or parents are found
2 and approved for adoption of a child who is determined by the
3 Department of Human Services to be eligible for adoption assistance
4 pursuant to the Oklahoma Adoption Assistance Act, and before the
5 final decree of adoption is entered, there must be a signed written
6 agreement between the prospective adoptive parent or parents and the
7 Department.

8 2. Adoption assistance in individual cases may commence with
9 the adoptive placement or at the time of finalization of the
10 adoption. Adoption assistance may be for special services only, or
11 for monthly money payments, and either for a limited period, or for
12 a long term, or for any combination of the foregoing.

13 Eligibility for and the rate of monthly adoption assistance
14 payments shall be determined by the Department in accordance with
15 rules promulgated by the ~~Commission for~~ Director of the Department
16 of Human Services.

17 B. When an otherwise eligible child is determined to have a
18 causative, preexisting condition which was not identified or known
19 prior to the legal finalization of the adoption and which has
20 resulted in a severe medical or psychiatric condition that requires
21 extensive treatment, hospitalization, or institutionalization, an
22 adoption assistance agreement may be approved by the Department
23 after the final decree of adoption has been entered. In the event
24 an adoption assistance agreement is approved that provides for

1 monthly adoption assistance payments, the adoptive parents may also
2 be entitled to receive retroactive adoption assistance payments for
3 a period not to exceed the two (2) months prior to the date the
4 adoption assistance agreement was approved.

5 C. Any child who met the requirements of the provisions of
6 Sections 7510-1.2 and 7510-1.4 of this title, and was determined
7 eligible for Oklahoma adoption assistance with respect to a prior
8 adoption, and is available for adoption because the prior adoption
9 has been dissolved and the parental rights of the adoptive parents
10 have been terminated or because the adoptive parents of the child
11 have died, shall be eligible for Oklahoma adoption assistance with
12 respect to any subsequent adoption.

13 D. 1. When adoption assistance benefits are for more than one
14 (1) year, the Department shall send the adoptive parent or parents
15 an Adoption Assistance Annual Review request and assure that the
16 child who has attained the minimum age for compulsory school
17 attendance and is eligible for an adoption assistance payment under
18 Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C., Section 670 et
19 seq. is:

20 a. enrolled in an institution that provides elementary or
21 secondary education as determined under the law of
22 this state or other jurisdiction in which the
23 institution is located,

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- 1 b. instructed in elementary or secondary education by any
2 other means legally authorized,
3 c. in an independent study elementary or secondary
4 education program in accordance with the law of this
5 state or other jurisdiction in which the program is
6 located, that is administered by the local school or
7 school district, or
8 d. incapable of attending school on a full-time basis due
9 to a documented medical condition supported by regular
10 updates.

11 2. The adoptive parent or parents shall at all times keep the
12 Department informed of circumstances including, but not limited to,
13 whether the adoptive parent or parents continue to be legally
14 responsible for support of the child which would make them
15 ineligible for such assistance payments or eligible for assistance
16 payments in a different amount.

17 3. The Department is authorized and directed to make a review
18 of each adoption assistance agreement annually to assure that the
19 parents are fulfilling their obligations under the agreement.

20 4. No payment may be made to any parents with respect to any
21 child who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years, except:

- 22 a. with respect to an adoption assistance agreement
23 entered into prior to the effective date of this act,
24 a child may continue to receive assistance until the

1 child reaches the age of nineteen (19) years if the
2 child:

3 ~~a.~~

4 (1) continues to attend high school or pursues
5 General ~~Education~~ Educational Development, or

6 ~~b.~~

7 (2) meets the criteria for an adoption assistance
8 difficulty of care rate as determined by the
9 Department, or

10 b. with respect to all other adoption agreements, an

11 individual who attained sixteen (16) years of age
12 prior to the effective date of the adoption assistance
13 agreement may continue to receive assistance until the
14 individual reaches twenty-one (21) years of age if the
15 individual is:

16 (1) completing secondary education or a program
17 leading to an equivalent credential,

18 (2) enrolled in an institution that provides
19 postsecondary or vocational education,

20 (3) participating in a program or activity designed
21 to promote, or remove barriers to, employment,

22 (4) employed for at least eighty (80) hours per
23 month, or

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1 (5) incapable of doing any of the activities
2 described in divisions (1) through (4) of this
3 subparagraph due to a medical condition, which
4 incapability is supported by regularly updated
5 information in the case plan of the individual.

6 5. Termination or modification of the adoption assistance
7 agreement may be requested by the adoptive parent or parents at any
8 time.

9 6. No payment may be made to adoptive parents if the Department
10 determines that the parents are no longer legally responsible for
11 the support of the child or that the child is no longer receiving
12 any financial support from such parents.

13 E. A child for whom an adoption assistance agreement has been
14 reached with the Department shall remain eligible and receive
15 adoption assistance benefits regardless of the domicile or residence
16 of the adopting parent or parents at any given time.

17 F. All records regarding adoption assistance shall be
18 confidential and may be disclosed only in accordance with the
19 provisions of the Oklahoma Adoption Code; provided, that nothing in
20 this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the Department from
21 disclosing the amount of adoption assistance paid on behalf of a
22 child to:

23 1. A judge presiding over a matter in which support or custody
24 of the subject child is at issue; or

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1806

By: Paxton, Nice, and Goodwin
of the Senate

3 and

4 Lawson of the House

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7 [foster care - foster care services - qualifications
8 - rules - funding - Oklahoma Adoption Code -
9 applicability - benefits - construction -
codification - effective date -
emergency]

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-7-112a of Title 10A, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Department of Human Services shall implement an
extension of foster care services to support individuals
transitioning into adulthood who meet the requirements provided by
this section. Participation in extended services under this section
shall be a voluntary election by the qualifying individual.
Services shall be available to any individual in this state who
meets the requirements of subsection B of this section and who:

1 1. Was in the custody of the Department at the time of the
2 individual's eighteenth birthday but is less than twenty-one (21)
3 years of age; or

4 2. Achieved legal permanency by guardianship or adoption at
5 sixteen (16) years of age or older but is less than twenty-one (21)
6 years of age and the individual does not receive care from the
7 parent or legal guardian.

8 B. Any individual described in subsection A of this section may
9 receive extended services from the Department under this section if
10 the individual is:

11 1. Completing secondary education or a program leading to an
12 equivalent credential;

13 2. Enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or
14 vocational education;

15 3. Participating in a program or activity designed to promote,
16 or remove barriers to, employment;

17 4. Employed for at least eighty (80) hours per month; or

18 5. Incapable of doing any of the activities described in
19 paragraphs 1 through 4 of this subsection due to a medical
20 condition, which incapability is supported by regularly updated
21 information in the case plan of the individual. In such a case, the
22 individual shall be in compliance with a course of treatment as
23 recommended by the Department.

24

1 C. 1. The Director of Human Services shall promulgate rules to
2 implement the provisions of this section.

3 2. The Department of Human Services shall seek available
4 funding to implement the provisions of this section.

5 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 7505-1.1, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Section 7505-1.1. A. Unless otherwise ordered by the district
8 court exercising jurisdiction over the adoption proceeding, all
9 hearings held in proceedings pursuant to the Oklahoma Adoption Code
10 shall be confidential and shall be held in closed court without
11 admittance of any person other than interested parties and their
12 counsel.

13 B. All papers, records, and books of proceedings in adoption
14 cases and any papers, records, and books relating to such
15 proceedings:

16 1. Shall be kept as a permanent record of the court and
17 maintained in a separate file by the court clerk; and

18 2. Shall be confidential and shall not be open to inspection or
19 copy except as authorized in Sections 7504-1.2, 7505-3.2, 7505-6.6,
20 7508-1.2, and 7508-1.3 of this title or upon order of a court of
21 record for good cause shown.

22 C. Upon application and notice to the person or agency in whose
23 possession the records being sought are held, and for good cause
24 being shown, any court of record may, by written order reciting its

1 findings, permit the necessary information to be released, or may
2 restrict the purposes for which it shall be used. The findings
3 shall include the reasons the information being sought cannot be
4 obtained through the methods authorized by Sections 7504-1.2, 7505-
5 3.2, 7505-6.6, 7508-1.2, and 7508-1.3 of this title.

6 D. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit ~~persons~~:

7 1. Persons employed by the court, the Department of Human
8 Services, a child-placing agency, an attorney participating or
9 assisting in a direct placement adoption or any physician, minister,
10 or other person or entity assisting or participating in an adoption
11 from providing partial or complete identifying information between a
12 biological parent and prospective adoptive or adoptive parent if a
13 biological parent and a prospective adoptive or adoptive parent
14 mutually agree to share specific identifying information and each
15 gives written, signed notice of their agreement to the court, the
16 Department of Human Services, the child-placing agency, or any
17 attorney participating or assisting in the direct placement adoption
18 pursuant to the Oklahoma Adoption Code; or

19 2. The Department from sharing adoptive information necessary
20 to ensure continuity of care for an adoptee who wishes to
21 participate in extended foster care services under Section 1 of this
22 act or sharing adoptive information necessary to carry out the
23 Department's duties under Section 7510-1.5 of this title.

24

1 E. Any person in charge of adoption records or having access to
2 adoption records or information who discloses any information,
3 including, but not limited to, all records and reports relevant to
4 the case and any records and reports of examination of the minor's
5 parent or other custodian pertaining to an adoption proceeding,
6 contrary to the provisions of this section, upon conviction thereof,
7 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

8 SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 7510-1.5, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 7510-1.5. A. 1. When a parent or parents are found
11 and approved for adoption of a child who is determined by the
12 Department of Human Services to be eligible for adoption assistance
13 pursuant to the Oklahoma Adoption Assistance Act, and before the
14 final decree of adoption is entered, there must be a signed written
15 agreement between the prospective adoptive parent or parents and the
16 Department.

17 2. Adoption assistance in individual cases may commence with
18 the adoptive placement or at the time of finalization of the
19 adoption. Adoption assistance may be for special services only, or
20 for monthly money payments, and either for a limited period, or for
21 a long term, or for any combination of the foregoing.

22 Eligibility for and the rate of monthly adoption assistance
23 payments shall be determined by the Department in accordance with
24 rules promulgated by the ~~Commission for~~ Director of Human Services.

1 B. When an otherwise eligible child is determined to have a
2 causative, preexisting condition which was not identified or known
3 prior to the legal finalization of the adoption and which has
4 resulted in a severe medical or psychiatric condition that requires
5 extensive treatment, hospitalization, or institutionalization, an
6 adoption assistance agreement may be approved by the Department
7 after the final decree of adoption has been entered. In the event
8 an adoption assistance agreement is approved that provides for
9 monthly adoption assistance payments, the adoptive parents may also
10 be entitled to receive retroactive adoption assistance payments for
11 a period not to exceed the two (2) months prior to the date the
12 adoption assistance agreement was approved.

13 C. Any child who met the requirements of the provisions of
14 Sections 7510-1.2 and 7510-1.4 of this title, and was determined
15 eligible for Oklahoma adoption assistance with respect to a prior
16 adoption, and is available for adoption because the prior adoption
17 has been dissolved and the parental rights of the adoptive parents
18 have been terminated or because the adoptive parents of the child
19 have died, shall be eligible for Oklahoma adoption assistance with
20 respect to any subsequent adoption.

21 D. 1. When adoption assistance benefits are for more than one
22 (1) year, the Department shall send the adoptive parent or parents
23 an Adoption Assistance Annual Review request and assure that the
24 child who has attained the minimum age for compulsory school

1 attendance and is eligible for an adoption assistance payment under
2 Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C., Section 670 et
3 seq. is:

- 4 a. enrolled in an institution that provides elementary or
5 secondary education as determined under the law of
6 this state or other jurisdiction in which the
7 institution is located,
- 8 b. instructed in elementary or secondary education by any
9 other means legally authorized,
- 10 c. in an independent study elementary or secondary
11 education program in accordance with the law of this
12 state or other jurisdiction in which the program is
13 located, that is administered by the local school or
14 school district, or
- 15 d. incapable of attending school on a full-time basis due
16 to a documented medical condition supported by regular
17 updates.

18 2. The adoptive parent or parents shall at all times keep the
19 Department informed of circumstances including, but not limited to,
20 whether the adoptive parent or parents continue to be legally
21 responsible for support of the child which would make them
22 ineligible for such assistance payments or eligible for assistance
23 payments in a different amount.

24

1 3. The Department is authorized and directed to make a review
2 of each adoption assistance agreement annually to assure that the
3 parents are fulfilling their obligations under the agreement.

4 4. No payment may be made to any parents with respect to any
5 child who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years, except:

6 a. with respect to an adoption assistance agreement
7 entered into prior to the effective date of this act,
8 a child may continue to receive assistance until the
9 child reaches the age of nineteen (19) years if the
10 child:

11 ~~a.~~ (1) continues to attend high school or pursues
12 General ~~Education~~ Educational Development, or
13 ~~b.~~ (2) meets the criteria for an adoption assistance
14 difficulty of care rate as determined by the
15 Department, or

16 b. with respect to all other adoption agreements, an
17 individual who attained sixteen (16) years of age
18 prior to the effective date of the adoption assistance
19 agreement may continue to receive assistance until the
20 individual reaches twenty-one (21) years of age if the
21 individual is:

22 (1) completing secondary education or a program
23 leading to an equivalent credential,

- 1 (2) enrolled in an institution that provides
2 postsecondary or vocational education,
3 (3) participating in a program or activity designed
4 to promote, or remove barriers to, employment,
5 (4) employed for at least eighty (80) hours per
6 month, or
7 (5) incapable of doing any of the activities
8 described in divisions 1 through 4 of this
9 subparagraph due to a medical condition, which
10 incapability is supported by regularly updated
11 information in the case plan of the individual.

12 5. Termination or modification of the adoption assistance
13 agreement may be requested by the adoptive parent or parents at any
14 time.

15 6. No payment may be made to adoptive parents if the Department
16 determines that the parents are no longer legally responsible for
17 the support of the child or that the child is no longer receiving
18 any financial support from such parents.

19 E. A child for whom an adoption assistance agreement has been
20 reached with the Department shall remain eligible and receive
21 adoption assistance benefits regardless of the domicile or residence
22 of the adopting parent or parents at any given time.

23 F. All records regarding adoption assistance shall be
24 confidential and may be disclosed only in accordance with the

1 provisions of the Oklahoma Adoption Code; provided, that nothing in
2 this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the Department from
3 disclosing the amount of adoption assistance paid on behalf of a
4 child to:

5 1. A judge presiding over a matter in which support or custody
6 of the subject child is at issue; or

7 2. The Department's Office of Inspector General, for purposes
8 of investigating allegations of fraud against the State of Oklahoma
9 or its programs.

10 SECTION 9. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

11 SECTION 10. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
12 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
13 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
14 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

15 Passed the Senate the 24th day of March, 2026.

16
17 _____
18 Presiding Officer of the Senate

19 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
20 2026.

21
22 _____
23 Presiding Officer of the House
24 of Representatives

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2026 PARB Institute Day

The 2026 PARB Institute Day took place on March 30th in partnership with the CCAN Conference at OKANA. Approximately 77 PARB members were in attendance. The Institute focused on PARB's impact and improving child wellbeing.

Program Highlights

- Director Jacobi kicked the day off by welcoming attendees, followed by a **keynote from Judge Edwards** emphasizing PARB's role in strengthening the child welfare system and child wellbeing. Thank you, Judge Edwards!

 - **“The Effects of Trauma and Increasing Empathy with Families”**- J.J. Waggoner (State PARB Vice Chairperson), Saralyn Miller (Tulsa Co. PARB Coordinator), and Tricia Gardner (Chair, OK Co. Board #2). They provided information about trauma and explained ways trauma can present in the children and families PARB serves through case reviews.

 - **“What do you wish you knew when you started? A discussion of the challenges and opportunities of being a PARB member.”** Panelists gave advice to fellow PARB members based on their experience with PARB. It included:
 - Geina Tharp – Oklahoma Co. Domestic Violence Board
 - Taylor Wingo – Haskell Co. PARB
 - Lynda Whitney – Delaware Co. PARB
- “Great topics & speakers. Well organized and prompt on the timing.”*
- **Judges Panel** Facilitated by Judge VerSteege– This is an annual favorite. Each of the judges shared perspectives on child wellbeing, court processes and their collaboration with PARB. Judges included:
 - Hon. Jason Seigars – Garfield Co.
 - Hon. Kaitlyn Allen – Oklahoma Co.
 - Hon. Kim Conyers – Cleveland Co.
 - Hon. Mary Ann Godsby – Tulsa Co.
- “So glad I had the opportunity to learn more about PARB. Great discussion and excited to continue to serve in a greater capacity.”*
- **PARB Conference Awards** - Each year, PARB highlights champions who clearly stand out in the PARB, child welfare & court spaces. Recipient information is included on the following page.

PARB Hall of Fame Award:

- Geina Tharp - Chairperson of the Oklahoma Co. Domestic Violence Board
- Lucinda Myers: Previous Chairperson of the Oklahoma Co. ICWA Board

Child Welfare Partner of the Year Award:

- Kelly Pearce – Tulsa Co. Child Welfare Worker

Judicial Partner of the Year Award:

- Judge Nicholas Lelecas – Delaware County Special Court Judge

- The **Office of Family Representation** provided an overview of their work through a presentation by Gwendolyn Clegg (Executive Director) and Kim Rebsamen (Managing Attorney, Region 5).

The day concluded with a **brief update from State PARB**, delivered by J.J. Waggoner, ensuring local boards remain connected to statewide initiatives.

CCAN Conference Day 2

As part of the PARB/CCAN partnership, PARB hosted two sessions. Both sessions were well attended and well received!

“Foster Care in Oklahoma: A Panel of State Foster Care Leaders and Organizations,”

The panel session aimed at providing attendees with a clearer understanding of how the foster care system operates in Oklahoma and the roles of key partners. Panelists included:

- Sarah Herrian, Executive Director, Foster Care and Adoptive Association of Oklahoma
- Kelly Wyatt, MSW, Oklahoma Human Services, Foster Care Recruitment & Support Services
- Keith Howard, Oklahoma Caregiver Coalition and Circle of Care
- Chris Campbell, 111Project and CarePortal

“The Ins and Outs of a Deprived Case.” Provided a clear and informative overview of the deprived court process.

- Judge Allen (Oklahoma Co. District Judge)
- Judge Conyers (Cleveland Co. Special Judge)

**A Home for Every Child Initiative
Oklahoma PIP**

Oklahoma was presented with an opportunity to shift how states and the federal government monitor and report on practice activities and outcomes related to safety, permanency, and well-being. At the time, Oklahoma had recently initiated its Round 4 Program Improvement Plan (PIP) and was approaching submission of the first required quarterly progress report when the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released Technical Bulletin #14.

Following review of the bulletin, Oklahoma elected to transition to the revised PIP framework and approach to practice improvement. This shift reflects the state’s continued commitment to strengthening outcomes for children and families served by the child welfare system. The overarching goal of the revised PIP process, *A Home for Every Child*, focuses on supporting states in identifying and securing one stable home for every child entering the foster care system.

The following section outlines Oklahoma’s strategy for advancing the goal of *A Home for Every Child*. To guide implementation and support measurable practice improvement, Oklahoma identified four primary pillars of practice: (1) safely maintaining children in their homes whenever possible; (2) reducing placement disruptions and adverse placement experiences; (3) identifying and monitoring risk factors at the time of placement; and (4) strengthening the recruitment and retention of foster families to ensure an adequate supply of family-based placement options.

Pillars	Implementation (How are we going to achieve the pillar?)	Monitoring/Lead Measures (How do we know?)
Children remain safe at home whenever possible.	<p>Complete randomized qualitative reviews of Child Safety Meetings (CSM) outcomes.</p> <p>Improve initial and ongoing in-home safety analysis' by identifying acute and patterned needs, risk, and safety factors present within the family and engage the family with prevention and intervention services coinciding with the identified factors.</p> <p>Complete District Director staffings for any consideration of court involvement.</p>	<p>% of substantiated intakes that did not result in placement.</p> <p>Additional investigations following a substantiation within 365 days of resolution.</p>
Children are placed in homes that support stability and connection.	Utilize the Adverse Placement Chart to serve as a decision support tool to ensure	% of children in adverse placements.

	<p>placement decisions are made in the context of a child's unique needs, history, and vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Use the dashboard to identify gaps in kin/foster parent placement.</p> <p>Complete initial assessments and continual reassessments of kinship throughout the duration of the case, ensuring ongoing engagement with family to identify potential kin caregivers and supports.</p>	
<p>Children are placed in homes that keep them safe.</p>	<p>Utilization of the Risk Identification Report to complete elevated joint staffings to address possible MIC incidents.</p> <p>Complete qualitative reviews of policy violations, resource alerts, and written plans of compliance to identify trends and opportunities to improve utilization and communication.</p>	<p>% of placements reaching 90 days with no safety concerns or have a documented monitoring plan.</p>
<p>Homes are well-supported and remain available for children.</p>	<p>Utilization of the Resource Parent Dashboards to identify opportunities to support foster parents.</p> <p>Strengthen individualized recruitment plan strategies that will support the development of foster homes</p> <p>Utilize the lived experience of foster parents to create resources, training, and community support systems that directly address the needs of foster parents.</p>	<p>Foster parent survey - % of homes respond with an 8 or higher.</p> <p>Net gain of approved (licensed) and unapproved (unlicensed) homes over a rolling 12-month period</p>

	Administer the foster parent survey monthly and utilize results to inform support to foster families and retention strategies.	
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Oklahoma's Strategy for Advancing the Goal of a Home for Every Child

To guide implementation and support measurable practice improvement, Oklahoma identified four primary pillars of practice:

- (1) safely maintaining children in their homes whenever possible;
- (2) reducing placement disruptions and adverse placement experiences;
- (3) identifying and monitoring risk factors at the time of placement; and
- (4) strengthening the recruitment and retention of foster families to ensure an adequate supply of family-based placement options.

State PARB Credentialing Recommendations and Report

State PARB Meeting 5-15-2026

PARB Credentialing Process Overview

1. Site reviews are conducted by staff throughout the year.
2. Boards are reviewed and assessed for credentialing approval once every two years.
3. Review sheets are scored by PARB staff and feedback is shared with each respective board and the assigned Judge.
4. Completed reviews are aggregated and put into a report. The report includes a list of boards reviewed between April 16, of the year prior to the report and April 15, of the year the report is submitted to State PARB. The report will include a list of boards ready for credentialing and those that are put on a probationary status along with their improvement plan.
5. **The report is submitted to the State PARB at their annual May meeting. State PARB makes the final determination if a board is ready for credentialing.**
6. The State PARB submits a list of boards recommended for credentialing to the Commission on Children and Youth at their June meeting.
7. On July 1 of each year, boards that have been credentialed during the current year's cycle will receive their two-year certificate of credentialing.

PARB Credentialing Report 2025

Credentialing Site Reviews Conducted between April 16, 2024, and April 15, 2025. Reports were completed and sent to the presiding Judge and Board Chair.

1. Rogers County, November 19th, 2024.
2. Cleveland County, January 23rd
3. Creek County, February 13th
4. Wagoner County, February 14th
5. Bryan County, February 27th
6. Garfield/Grant Counties, March 4th
7. Oklahoma County-Domestic Violence, March 5th
8. Delaware County, March 21
9. Tulsa-Transitional Youth, March 21

Board Scores

County	Raw Score	Percentage	Notes	Ready for Credentialing
Bryan	41	93		Yes
Cleveland	34	90		Yes
Creek	41	93		Yes
Delaware	39	89		Yes
Garfield/Grant	34	77		Yes
Oklahoma-4, DVs	32	73		Yes
Rogers	33	73		Yes
Tulsa-Transition Youth	38	86		Yes
Wagoner	37	84		Yes

PARB Credentialing Report 2026

Credentialing Site Reviews Conducted between April 16, 2025, and April 15, 2026.

Reports were completed and sent to the presiding Judge and Board Chair.

1. Nowata/Washington Counties, April 17, 2025
2. Muskogee County, May 22, 2025
3. Payne County, July 1, 2025
4. Pontotoc County, July 10, 2025
5. Pittsburg County, August 18, 2025
6. Okmulgee County, August 21, 2025
7. Latimer and Leflore Counties, September 9, 2025
8. Haskell County, September 29, 2025
9. Custer County, February 10, 2026
10. Tulsa County Birth to 13, February 24, 2026
11. Oklahoma County Board 7, February 28, 2026
12. Beckham and Roger Mills Counties, March 3, 2026
13. Oklahoma Mental Health, March 25, 2026
14. Tulsa, Transitions, April 7
15. Major County, April 10

Board Scores

County	Raw Score	Percentage	Notes	Ready for Credentialing
Nowata/Washington	22	50	Inconsistent communication, and the Judge reports not receiving the recommendations	No
Muskogee County	36	82		Yes
Payne County	35	80		Yes
Pontotoc County	40	91	Below the required 5 members	No
Pittsburg County	39	89		Yes
Okmulgee County	31	70	Below the required 5 members	No
Latimer/Leflore	37	84		Yes
Haskell County	40	91		Yes
Custer County	31	94		Yes
Tulsa County Birth to 13	28	97		Yes
Oklahoma County Board 7	24	83		Yes
Beckham and Roger Mills Counties	28	85		Yes
Oklahoma Mental Health	27	93		Yes
Tulsa-Transition Youth	26	90		Yes
Major	25	76		Yes

Boards who will be put on a 6-month probationary period after this meeting.

1. Okmulgee County:

The Okmulgee PARB is a small but very dedicated Board. They meet more often than any other board in the State. There are currently only three active members in Okmulgee.

2. Nowata/Washington:

The PARB members of Washington and Nowata Counties are clearly committed to supporting children in child welfare custody through their case review efforts. However, there is a need for additional board members, and it appears Judge Franks has not been receiving PARB recommendations. To address this, it is essential that recommendations be completed in a timely manner and submitted to the Court. Additionally, all recommendations must now be entered

into and managed through the PARB database. I am encouraged that Rebecca Wright has agreed to assist with this process. Continued recognition of the Washington County PARB depends on meeting these requirements.

3. Pontotoc County:

The Pontotoc County PARB is a well-organized and managed board. They review all of Pontotoc Counties deprived cases every 6 months and review submitted information from child welfare, the Chickasaw Nation and foster parents. The total board membership is one fewer than the required 5.

Boards that have not received a Credentialing visit (16)

1. Atoka
2. Canadian
3. Comanche
4. Garvin/McClain
5. Mayes
6. Oklahoma-13
7. Oklahoma-3, ICWA
8. Oklahoma-5, Transitions
9. Oklahoma-Substance Abuse Board
10. Osage
11. Pushmataha
12. Seminole
13. Tulsa Domestic Violence and Mental Health
14. Tulsa-Children of incarcerated parents
15. Tulsa-ICWA
16. Woodward

Support Protect Monitor

Post Adjudication Review Boards of Oklahoma Program Managers Report May 15, 2026

Cindy Nocton Resignation. Cindy was appointed to State PARB in June 2009 by Governor Brad Henry and served through two more governors. She was chairperson from 2015-2018 and supported several key pieces of legislation. She has also served as State PARB's representative to the State Child Death Review Board.

PARB Child Death Review Board Nomination

- A. Cindy Humphrey is our alternate. She is doing a great job.
- B. We need nominations for our next meeting

Introducing Saralyn Miller, LCSW, our new Tulsa PARB Coordinator. She started in May of 2025 and doing a great job

Tulsa PARB Report

- A. Five active boards
- B. Membership is growing

Boards that are in desperate need of additional members

- A. Comanche-2 members
- B. Pontotoc-3 members
- C. Seminole-2 active members
- D. Okmulgee-3 members
- E. Woodward-3

PARB Budget remains the same again in SFY2027 at \$242,000

- A. 2 FTE at \$180,000 total. Including FICA and Retirement
- B. \$30,000 for half time PARB Coordinator in Tulsa. Contracted through the Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau.
- C. \$26,000 for the Annual Conference
- D. \$5,000 for Travel Reimbursements, including staff and State PARB

Annual Report for SFY 2024 is out

There are currently four "Active PARB" member vacancies on State PARB.

Next Month

How Oklahoma PARB Compares to other States Foster Care Review Boards.



**OKLAHOMA
COMMISSION ON
CHILDREN AND
YOUTH**

**Post Adjudication
Review Board
SFY 24 Annual Report**

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History and Purpose of PARBs

Postadjudication Review Boards (PARB) promote child safety, access to services, and timely permanency for children in state custody by conducting regular case reviews and making informed, independent recommendations to the court and other stakeholders. While PARB does not provide direct services to children and families or make legal decisions, it plays a critical role in reviewing case progress, documenting key details and findings, and offering recommendations to courts that identify concerns and inform actions in the best interests of children and families.

In 1982, the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) was created as a result of a lawsuit brought by seven teenage plaintiffs then in state custody against the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). The case brought to light the unacceptable living conditions of many children in state custody and initiated a complete reform of Oklahoma's child welfare system. For many years, the OCCY has created accountability measures to ensure that children in state custody have supports and services in place to keep them safe (OCCY, 2023). The PARB is a special project supported and funded by the OCCY.

PARB members are not randomly selected volunteers; everyone must apply, sign a commitment statement, and undergo a background check before being appointed by

the OCCY in collaboration with local juvenile court judges. Once appointed, PARB members serve as community representatives within their judicial district, reviewing cases to support the best interests of children involved in the child welfare system. Currently, 42 local PARBs serve 20 judicial districts across Oklahoma, with each board comprising at least five members who meet a minimum of twice per year.

PARB members routinely review active, deprived docket cases, those involving the abuse or neglect of a minor and provide recommendations to the presiding judge. The recommendations assist the court in enhancing children's safety, promoting best practices, and providing vital information to establish a permanent placement for children in state custody.

By statute, PARB is to review the case of every adjudicated deprived child at least every six months. Following the case review, PARB members enter their findings and recommendations into the PARB database. These findings are distributed to the court, the child's attorney, the parents' attorney, the Assistant District Attorney, and OKDHS. PARB members review case information before each proceeding and base their recommendations on that review (Oklahoma Statutes, 2023).

PARB State Advisory Board

As per statute (10 O.S. § 1116.6), the State Postadjudication Review Advisory Board comprises twenty-three members appointed by the Governor, including judges, local PARB members, representatives from the foster care community, and public members. Additionally, the heads of relevant divisions within the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) and the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA), or

their designees, serve as ex officio members. Board meetings are open to the public, and local PARB members are welcome to attend and encouraged to share their ideas and concerns with the PARB program manager or any Board member (Oklahoma Statutes, 2023). See Figure 1 for a full description of State Statute 10 O.S. § 1116.6.

Figure 1. State Statute 10 O.S. § 1116.6

The State Postadjudication Review Advisory Board is established to oversee the State Postadjudication Review program in coordination with the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY). The Board must meet at least twice a year.

Board Composition

The board consists of 23 members appointed by the Governor, including:

- 8 members from local review boards
- 5 district court judges
- 5 members at large (may include foster parents)
- 3 foster parents representing different foster care stakeholders
- 2 agency representatives

Additionally, the heads of the OKDHS and the OJA divisions responsible for foster care (or their designees) serve as ex officio members.

Duties of the Advisory Board

The Board is responsible for:

1. Overseeing the PARB Program in partnership with OCCY
2. Training review Board members
3. Serving as a clearinghouse for foster care review reports and information
4. Making policy recommendations to courts, agencies, and government officials regarding child welfare, foster care, and permanency planning
5. Promoting public awareness about the need for foster and adoptive homes
6. Identifying and solving issues within the foster care system
7. Encouraging foster parent involvement in child welfare planning
8. Developing foster care training recommendations

The board may also create local multidisciplinary committees to advocate for foster parents and resolve complaints.

Training & Reporting

- Training Development: OCCY, with the Board's help, develops and administers training and rules for the post adjudication review system.
- Annual Report: By May 1 each year, the board submits a report to OCCY detailing:
 - Review board locations
 - Members
 - Number of cases reviewed
 - Categories of recommendations made

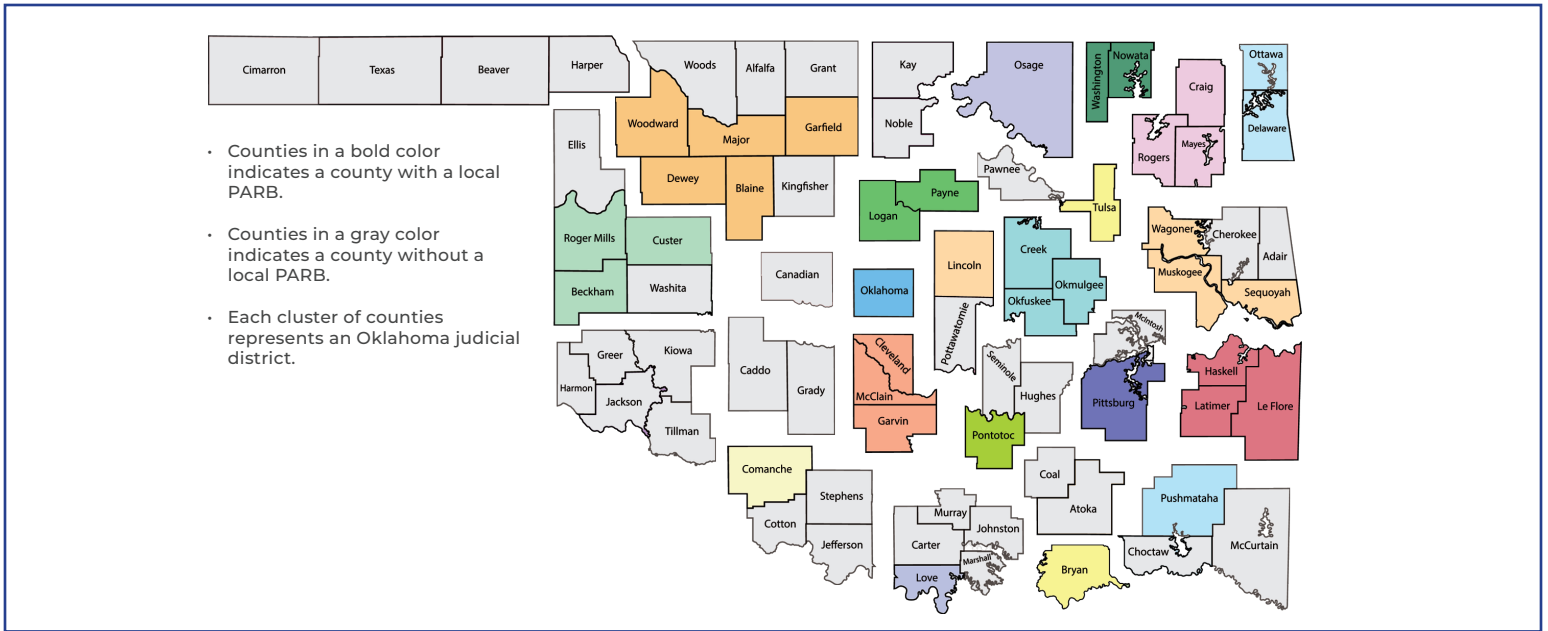
OCCY incorporates these findings into its annual report as required by law.

Educational Training, Evaluation, Assessment and Measurement (E-Team) Department

The Educational Training, Evaluation, Assessment, and Measurement (E-TEAM) department at the University of Oklahoma designs research and evaluations to help organizations understand and use data to solve real-world problems and continuously improve services and programs. The E-TEAM partnered with OCCY in 2020 to evaluate the PARB review and recommendation process.

Since partnering with OCCY, E-TEAM has worked with OCCY and PARB staff to build and employ a PARB database to collect, store, and report PARB review and recommendation data. The database allows PARB staff to track data to discern patterns and trends. The database includes both quantitative

and qualitative fields. It provides a comprehensive picture of PARB cases, including demographics, placement information, review and recommendation details, and specifics of each case (i.e., tribal information, OKDHS worker information, attorney information, court information). E-TEAM is continually working with PARB staff to improve data collection by adding new fields and gathering user feedback. E-TEAM also provides technical assistance and training to PARB members across the state. This report provides findings and recommendations for SFY24 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024) based on data entered in the PARB database, data collected following the annual PARB Pre-Institute, and data collected from the Annual PARB survey.



PARB Members and Review Process

PARBs are citizen review boards composed of volunteers who live or work in the judicial district in which they serve. They come from a variety of backgrounds and professions, and some have lived experience and/or child welfare experience. Boards have designated chairs, vice chairs, and general members. Members must first complete an application and a commitment to serve statement; members are also subject to a background check (See Appendix A for the PARB volunteer application).

Although the review process varies slightly from one board to another, PARB members typically meet in person at the county courthouse or another designated location, often monthly. The PARB chair and staff select cases for review, which the court clerk then pulls. Once the hard copy files are gathered, cases are distributed among members, who are assigned to review both new and repeat cases. Members read through the case files and take notes in preparation for discussion. Child welfare staff attend the meetings to share relevant case information that supports informed recommendations. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

may also participate, offering additional insights and services to help guide the board's recommendations to the court.

After all pertinent information has been reviewed and PARB members have discussed each case, members document their findings and recommendations in the PARB database. Then, reviews are distributed to the appropriate parties, including the parent and child's attorneys, OKDHS, tribal workers, and CASA. A case may be reviewed as many times as needed until the youth has reached permanency.

Two hundred eighty-eight PARB members served across 42 Boards during SFY24 (See Appendix B for all Board Members by Board). A total of 7,028 volunteer hours were logged for SFY24. PARB members engaged in a total of 440 training hours during SFY24. The New PARB Member Training and the Annual PARB Pre-Institute Training, sponsored by the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) Annual Conference, accounted for a notable portion of the training hours, making up 80% of all training hours (**Table 1**).

Table 1. PARB Trainings for Members

Training	Hours
2024 Fatherhood Summit	7
Autism Foundation of Oklahoma Autism Training	3
Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) Conference	24
PARB Chair Training	2
PARB Database Training	1
Girl Scouts Behind Bars (GSBB) - Active Efforts for Incarcerated Parents	10
ICWA Best Practices Training	18

Table 1. PARB Trainings for Members (Continued)

Training	Hours
Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma (LASO)- Juvenile Law Section	1
Lunch & Learn Mind Matters: A Culturally Relevant Approach to Mental Health & Wellness	1
New PARB Member Training	52
Oklahoma Parent Center Conference	8
PARB Annual Conference (Pre-Institute for CCAN Conference)	300
PARB Document Refresher Training	6
Parent-Child Center of Tulsa (PCCT) Services Overview	5
Oklahoma Family Resource Coalition (OFRC) October Lunch and Learn	1
Webinar: Civil Justice for Crime Victims in Arkansas and Oklahoma	1
Total Training Hours	440

PARB Member Demographics

Documenting PARB member demographics is essential in understanding the overall demographic profile of members. It can be particularly helpful in identifying areas of focus and in developing diverse boards representative of the population under PARB review.

PARB members are predominantly female, with women making up 84% of the total membership (**Figure 2**). Members range in age from 19 to 89 years, with the largest representation in the 61-70 (15%) and 71-80 (15%) age groups, indicating an older volunteer base. While participation is widespread across all age groups, younger individuals, particularly those under 40, are underrepresented. Members aged 20-30 account for only 6% of the total, and those aged 31-

40 make up 21% (**Figure 3**). Racially, most members are White (81%), followed by American Indian (8%), Black (5%), Asian (1%), and Other (1%) (**Figure 4**).

In addition to demographic diversity, experience and professional background are also key considerations in recruitment. While not always available, data show that 16% of PARB members have child welfare experience, and 11% have experience in foster care, either as former foster youth or foster parents. PARB members with child welfare and lived experience bring valuable perspectives that enhance the quality of case reviews, support more informed recommendations, and reflect the experiences of the populations under PARB review.

Figure 2.

PARB Members' Gender (n = 288)

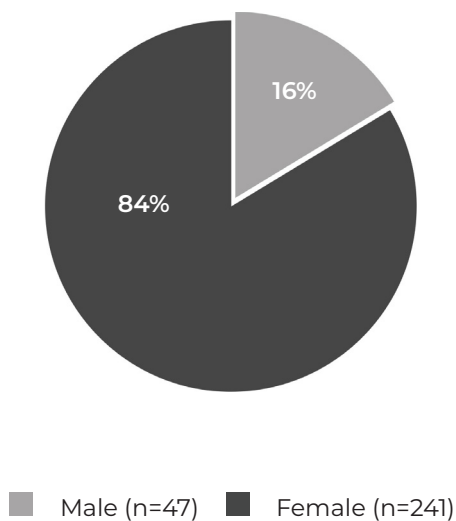


Figure 3.

PARB Members' Age (n = 283)

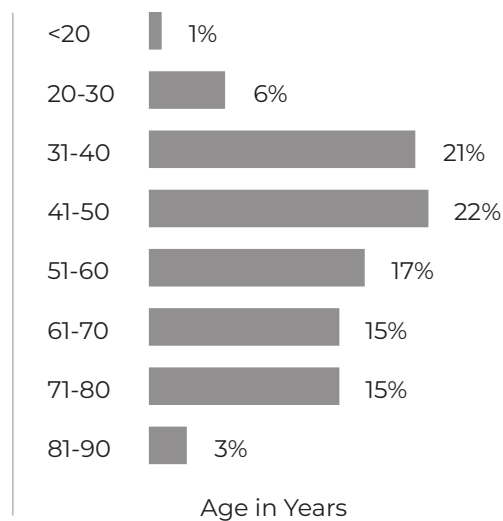
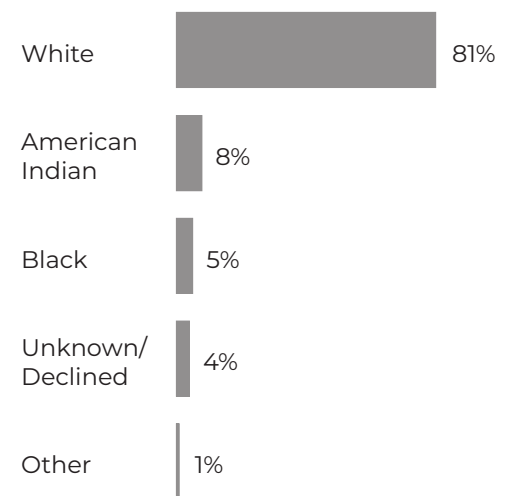


Figure 4.

PARB Members' Race (n = 291)¹



¹Due to rounding, percentages are not equal to 100%; 4% of members' race information was unknown.

PARB Case Reviews

In SFY24, PARB conducted 2,526 reviews of 1,500 cases involving 2,531 children. Oklahoma County had the most case reviews at 230, followed by Comanche County at 226 (See

Appendix C for all reviews by the board and county). Cases were most frequently reviewed once or twice, yet many cases were reviewed multiple times (Table 2).

Table 2. Frequency of Reviews by Case

Number of Cases Reviewed a Single Time	813
Number of Cases Reviewed Twice	451
Number of Cases Reviewed Three Times	150
Number of Cases Reviewed Four Times	72
Number of Cases Reviewed Five Times	12
Number of Cases Reviewed Six Times	1
Number of Cases Reviewed Seven Times	1

Child Demographics

Reporting child demographics in aggregate helps PARB staff and stakeholders understand population trends, identify shifts in age groups and other characteristics over time, and assess whether system-level policies and supports align with the needs of children in care. Sharing this information publicly promotes transparency and can help inform state-level decisions about child welfare resources and priorities. Most children reviewed by PARB were in the younger age groups, particularly those aged 1-4 (36%) and 5-9 (26%), which together accounted for 62% of all cases. The percentage steadily declined with increasing age, with only 10% of cases involving teenagers ages 15 to 17, as shown in **Figure 5**. The

distribution between male and female children was nearly equal, with males slightly outnumbering females, 42% compared with 40%, respectively, as shown in **Figure 6**. National data show that children under age 10, especially those under 5, represent the largest proportion of foster care entries, highlighting their heightened vulnerability due to developmental needs and limited ability to self-advocate (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2022). By focusing review efforts on these age groups, PARBs help elevate critical concerns about early childhood safety, stability, and developmental well-being, ensuring that recommendations account for the heightened risks and specific needs of this population.

Figure 5.

Age of Children under PARB Review (n = 2,531)²

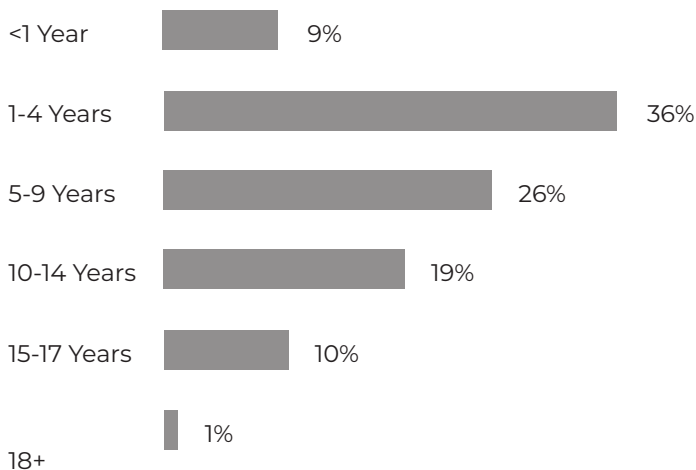
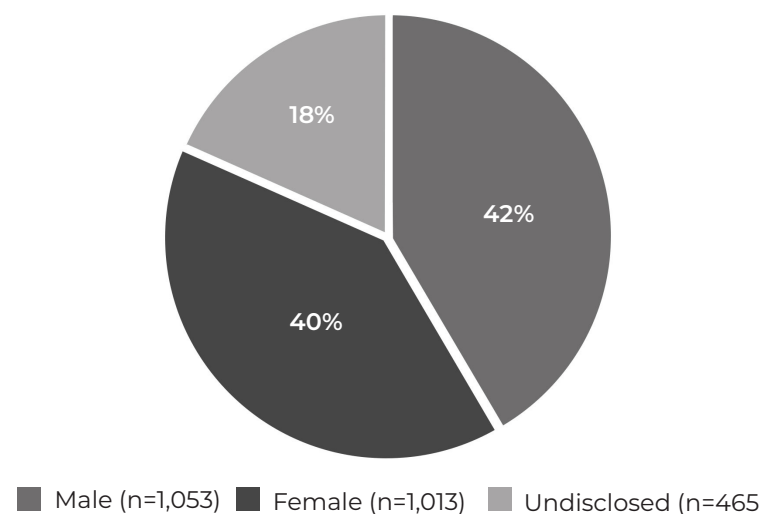


Figure 6.

Gender of Children under PARB Review (n = 2,531)



²Due to rounding, percentages do not equal 100%.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

The **Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)** is a federal law enacted in 1978 to protect the rights of Indian children, families, and tribes during child welfare proceedings. The law was developed in response to a long history of Indian children being unnecessarily removed from their homes and placed in non-Indian foster or adoptive placements. ICWA sets minimum federal standards for child custody cases involving Indian children, with the goal of preserving tribal connections and family integrity (Oklahoma Department of Human Services [OKDHS], 2025).

ICWA applies to involuntary state custody proceedings involving an Indian child—defined as an unmarried person under age 18 who is either a member of a federally recognized tribe or eligible for membership and the biological child of a tribal member. It does not apply to divorce, juvenile delinquency, or cases handled in tribal courts. In ICWA cases, parents have specific rights, including involvement in case planning, input into service decisions, and the ability to request a transfer to tribal court (OKDHS, 2025).

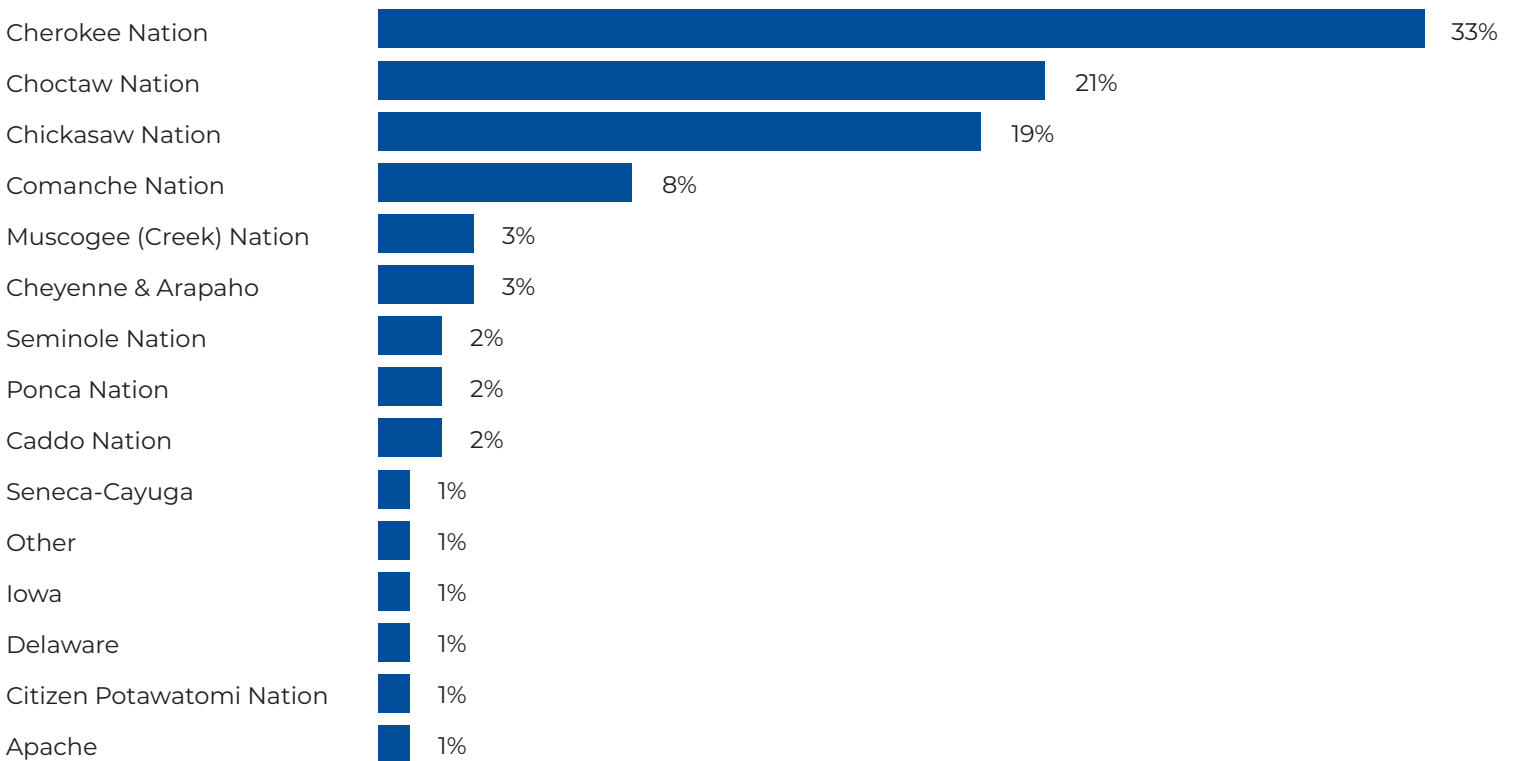
One key component of ICWA is the requirement for active efforts, meaning that caseworkers must go beyond “reasonable efforts” to help families stay together or reunify. Active efforts may involve directly helping families access services, not just providing referrals. Placement preferences under ICWA prioritize the child’s family and tribe, followed by other members of the child’s tribe or other tribes when the

child’s family is unavailable. Tribes have the right to intervene in any ICWA case, regardless of whether they choose to do so; ICWA protections still apply throughout the process (OKDHS, 2025).

PARB applies the principles of ICWA during its case reviews by recognizing the unique legal protections afforded to Indian children and families. While PARB does not enforce ICWA directly, members document whether ICWA applies in each case and assess whether active efforts have been made to preserve family connections and support reunification. When gaps are identified—such as lack of culturally appropriate services, placement with non-relative caregivers, or insufficient coordination with tribes, PARB may include these observations in its recommendations to the court and child welfare professionals, helping to promote compliance with ICWA and protect the rights of Indian children and families.

Thirty percent of children (753) were identified as subject to ICWA, and 69 tribal workers were assigned to SFY24 cases. Two hundred twenty-two cases documented tribal membership. Cherokee Nation, Choctaw Nation, and Muscogee (Creek) tribes accounted for 73% of all tribal memberships by case (**Figure 7**). It should be noted that if a child is identified as subject to ICWA, tribal representatives may be part of the review process, helping ensure compliance with ICWA guidelines and the consideration of tribal customs and traditions.

Figure 7. Tribal Affiliation per PARB Case (n = 222)





Child Placement

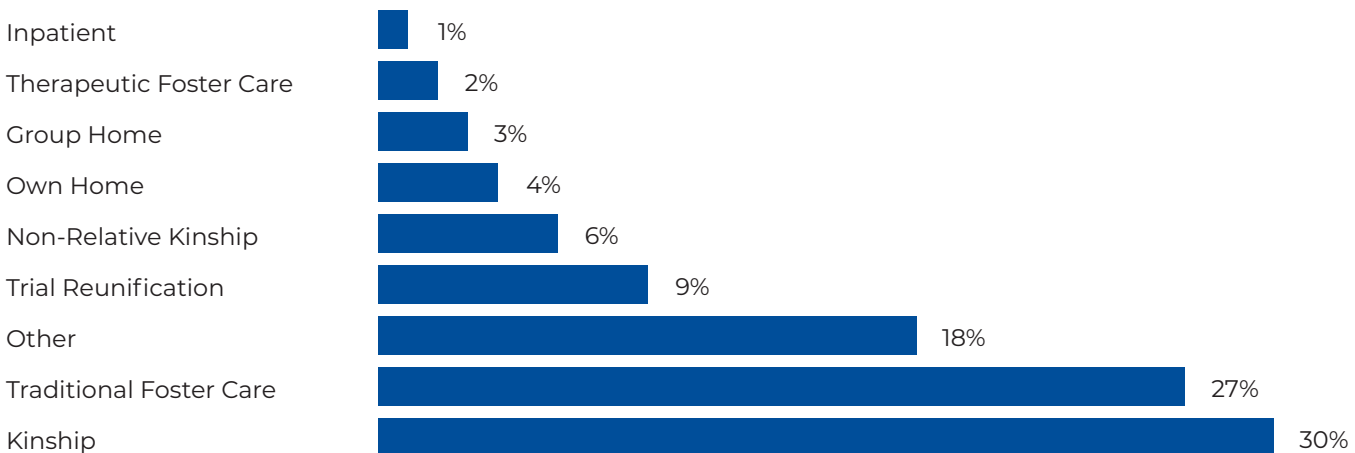
Placement type plays a critical role in assessing whether children in out-of-home care are placed in stable, supportive environments that minimize trauma and reinforce family or cultural continuity. Kinship care, placing children with relatives or close extended family, often reduces separation stress, maintains sibling and community ties, and leads to better emotional and behavioral outcomes compared to non-relative foster placements (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2020).

In SFY24, kinship foster care and traditional foster care comprised 57% of all placements. Less common types included non-relative kinship (6%), placement in the child’s own home (4%), therapeutic foster care (2%), and inpatient settings (1%). Notably, 18% of placements were labeled

as “other” (**Figure 8**), suggesting a need for clearer data classification, perhaps via an open-text field for more precise placement reporting.

The SFY24 data show that a majority of children are placed in either kinship or traditional foster care settings, reflecting continued support to prioritize family-based care. The proportion of kinship placements suggests a promising trend toward leveraging familial and community connections when children must be removed from their homes. These patterns are consistent with research showing that kinship care improves stability and promotes stronger outcomes for children (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2020).

Figure 8. Placement Type per PARB Case (n = 2,524)



PARB Review Findings and Recommendations

During each case review, PARB members document observations and recommendations to inform and promote children’s safety, support family stability, and guide decisions regarding permanency. In addition to written comments,

members select from predefined recommendation categories in the database, allowing key themes to emerge across reviews. These categories reflect best practices in child welfare and highlight areas where support is most needed.

Child Safety

Promoting children’s safety is a core purpose of PARB. Across 1,323 reviews, 99% of children were believed to be safe in their current placement. This finding suggests that most children

reviewed by PARB are in environments that meet basic safety expectations (**Figure 9**)³.

Sibling Placement

Placing siblings together when appropriate is important because it preserves critical family bonds, reduces trauma, and improves emotional well-being. According to child welfare research, siblings who remain together are more likely to experience stability and a sense of continuity in care (Children’s Home Society of North Carolina, 2025).

Sibling placement data were available in 1,133 reviews. In 41% of those cases, siblings were placed together; in 28%, they

were not; 27% of reviews involved children with no siblings (**Figure 10**)⁴. This suggests that when sibling relationships are preserved in placement decisions, it reflects alignment with research-informed best practices. While not all sibling placements are appropriate or possible, the fact that over half of the children with siblings were placed together underscores ongoing efforts to support family connection and continuity in care.

Figure 9. Perceived Safety of Children Under PARB Review (n = 1,323)

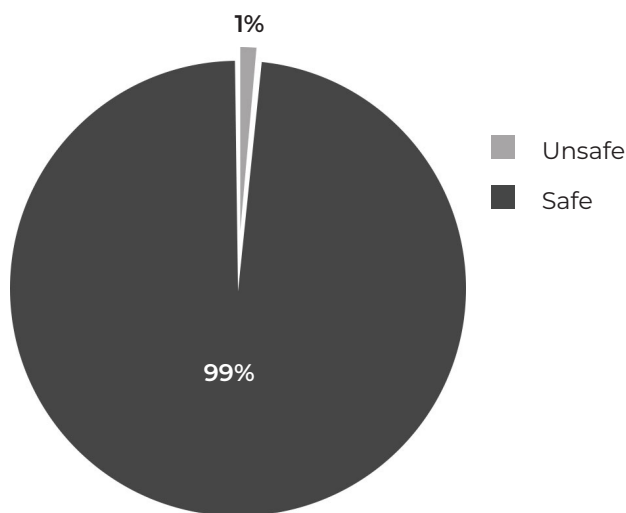
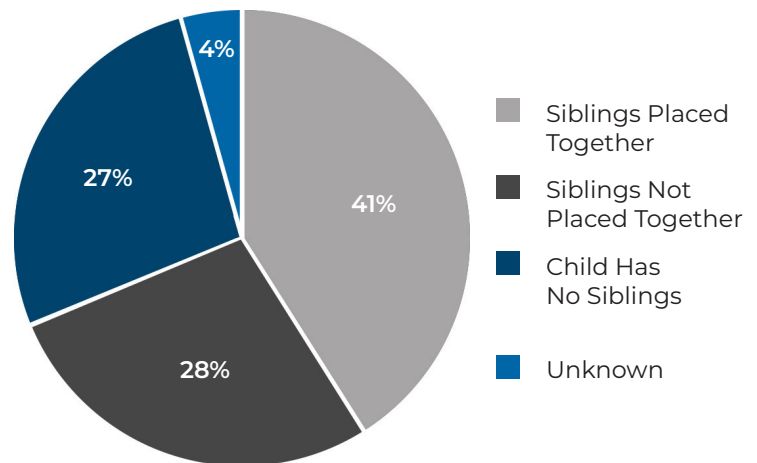


Figure 10. Siblings Placement (n = 1,133)



³Members may not have had enough information to determine if children were safe in their current placement, therefore, a field labeled “not enough information” was recently added as a choice for members to choose, which may help to explain why only 1,323 out of 2,526 SFY24 reviews contained safety information.

⁴Sibling placement is still a newer field, so completion numbers for that data field are expected to increase.

Previous Adjudications

PARB members recently began documenting whether children involved in reviews have previous adjudications. This information can help identify risk factors, inform early interventions, improve case planning, and evaluate whether services are addressing the root causes of repeated system involvement. Although the data are limited due to the recent addition of this data collection field, continued documentation will improve the ability to monitor trends and support better outcomes for children.

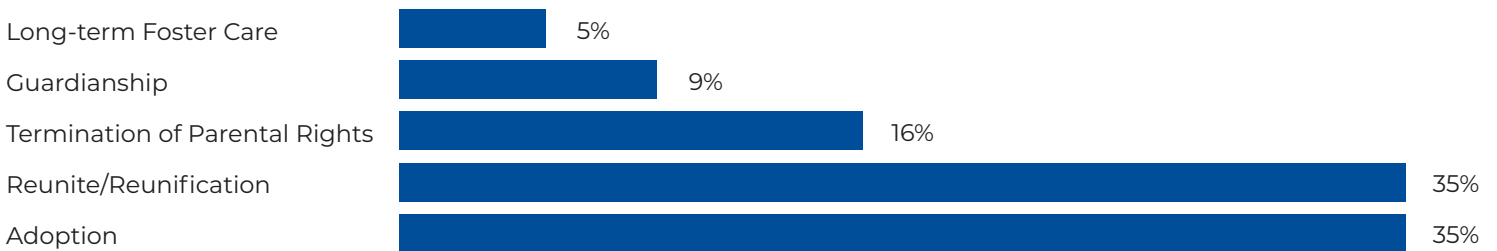
During this reporting period, previous adjudication data were available for only 26% of reviews (n = 2526). Among those with data (n = 658), 16% involved children with previous adjudications, 42% involved children without, and in 42% of cases, it was unclear whether previous adjudications had occurred.

Recommendations Related to Permanency

Forty-six percent of reviews documented PARBs' recommendations regarding permanency. Of this subset, the main recommendations for permanency were adoption and

reunite/reunification, accounting for 35% of recommendations each (**Figure 11**).

Figure 11. Recommendation Related to Permanency (n = 1,158)



PARB Recommendation Trends by Category

After documenting recommendations, PARB members also select relevant categories that align with the focus of their review. These checkable categories help organize recommendation trends across key domains such as

placement, sibling visitation, parental rights and supports, and mental health services (see Appendix D for full list and definitions):

- Placement
- Mental Health Services
- Parental Rights and Supports
- Visitation-Sibling
- Visitation-Parental
- Community Resources
- Tribal Supports
- Educational Supports
- Healthcare Services
- Individual Service Plan (ISP) for Parents
- Individual Service Plan (ISP) for Children
- Assignment of Worker/Advocate
- ICWA Findings
- Active Efforts
- Reasonable Efforts
- Permanency Plan

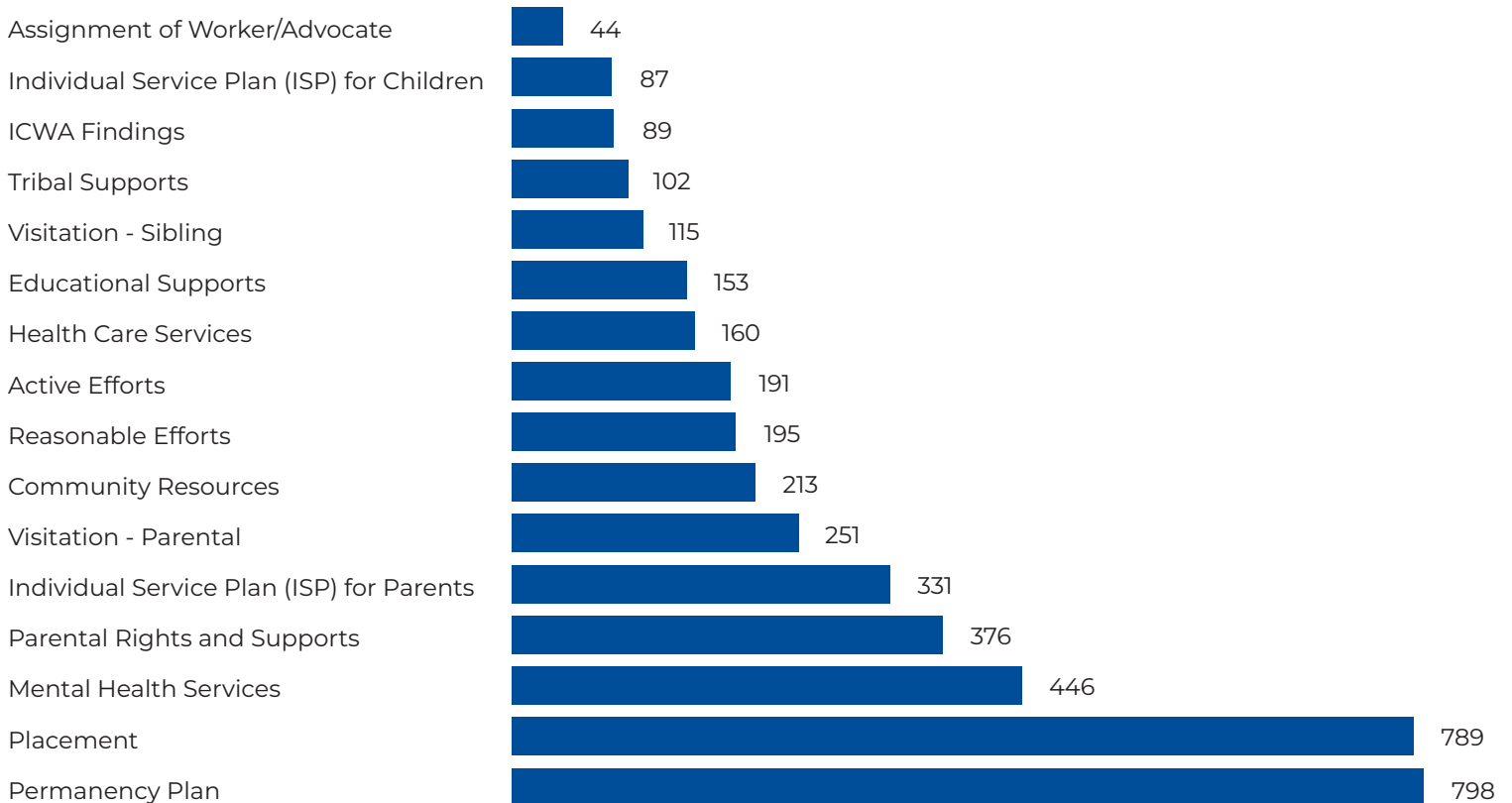


In SFY24, Permanency Plan (n = 798), Placement (n = 789), and Mental Health Services (n = 446) were the most frequently selected recommendation categories, reinforcing PARB's dedication to ensuring long-term stability and to addressing mental health needs as primary concerns in cases reviewed. Parental Rights and Supports (n = 376), Individual Service Plan (ISP) for Parents (n = 331), and Parental Visitation (n = 251) were also frequently checked recommendation categories, emphasizing the importance of structured plans and

resources to support parental involvement, and reunification efforts when possible (See **Figure 12**, for the frequency of all recommendation categories).

Overall, the data suggest that PARB members are placing strong emphasis on long-term child welfare planning, stability, and parental engagement, while also recognizing the need for support services, such as mental health care and community resources.

Figure 12. Frequency of Recommendation Categories per Review (n = 2,526)⁵



⁵ PARB members may choose as many recommendation categories as applicable to a review.

Closed Cases and Time Out of Home

Cases are considered closed when a child reaches permanency through reunification/returning home, adoption, guardianship placement or aging out, which occurs when a child reaches adulthood. Tracking the number and closing circumstances provides insight into whether the system is helping children achieve stable, long-term placements. In SFY24, 583 children's cases were closed. Half of these children were reunified with their families, making reunification the most common reason for case closure, followed by adoption, which was the case-closure reason for 30% of children (Figure 13). These outcomes suggest that many children are ultimately returning to their families or finding permanency through adoptive placements, both of which align with the purpose of PARB.

The length of time a child remains in out-of-home care can also be an important indicator of system performance and flag cases that may need attention. For children whose cases closed in SFY24, the average time in out-of-home care was 28 months. Children with open cases at the end of the fiscal year had been in care for an average of 22 months.⁶ While time in care can vary by case complexity and legal requirements, extended stays in out-of-home placements may increase a child's exposure to instability, underscoring the need to monitor these trends and promote timely pathways to permanency.

Figure 13. Closing Circumstances per Closed Case by Child (n = 583)



2024 Annual Oklahoma Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) PARB Pre-Institute

The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) hosted the 2024 Postadjudication Review Board Pre-Institute on April 15, 2024, as part of the Oklahoma Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) Conference. The event was held in person at the Hilton Garden Inn in Edmond, Oklahoma, bringing together PARB volunteers from across the state.

The conference featured two key panels: a Parent Panel and a Juvenile Judges Panel. The judges shared insights into how they use PARB recommendations in case reviews, while the parent panel offered perspectives on the reunification process and provided helpful resources. Additionally, attendees participated in peer table discussions and a presentation titled "Where Have We Been and Where Are We Going," which covered the history and expansion of PARB, database usage, and potential legislative changes affecting PARB operations.

An evaluation survey distributed following the PARB Pre-

Institute gathered feedback from 46 attendees. The results showed high satisfaction:

- **100%** of respondents enjoyed the group experience.
- **97%** found the networking opportunities and Judge's Panel useful to their work.
- **96%** learned something new to bring back to their Boards and valued the Peer Table Discussions.
- **93%** found the presentation on PARB's past and future useful to their work.
- **92%** reported increased knowledge about fellow PARB members, State PARB members, and PARB staff.
- **89%** found the Parent Panel useful to their work.

⁶ Only the closed cases with both removal data and closing data entered (447 cases) were used to calculate average length of time closed cases remained open; likewise, of those cases that remained open, only those cases with a 'date of removal' date entered into the database (1522 cases) were used to calculate average length of time placed out of home.

Open-ended survey feedback highlighted key takeaways, including a better understanding of judges' expectations, peer learning opportunities, and insights into best practices from other PARBs. Participants planned to use the information to improve their local Board processes, refine recommendations, and enhance case investigations.

Suggestions for improvement included extending panel discussions, improving sound and visibility, increasing engagement with interactive elements, and soliciting

panel members' questions in advance. Respondents also recommended adding child welfare specialists to future panels and providing more specific training on court processes and terminology.

Overall, the conference successfully fostered networking, knowledge sharing, and practical learning, thereby strengthening the effectiveness of PARB members in their roles

PARB Lunch and Learn Sessions

PARB Lunch and Learn sessions began as a quarterly event to provide members with education on various services and topics, with the goal of better equipping them to handle case reviews and recommendations. The program has evolved over time, and Lunch and Learn sessions now occur at least once a month. These sessions provide PARB members with the opportunity to come together via Zoom at noon, at their convenience. Various topics are explored, including mental health and wellness, human trafficking, and training on the PARB database.

During a conversation with E-TEAM, PARB program staff shared that participants have provided positive feedback on the Lunch and Learn sessions, describing them as valuable

learning opportunities that support their work. They also outlined their planning process, which includes coordinating with community partners to offer relevant sessions that help PARB members improve and inform their recommendations.

Also, part of the Lunch and Learn series is the Bio Parent Panel, which meets monthly and consists of 3-5 parents with lived experience who share insights with PARB members on navigating the Child Welfare system as parents. One of the panel's intents is to provide community resources and support to PARB members. This panel is expected to increase PARBs' material capacity by developing a resource guide for members that can be updated and expanded over time.

PARB Annual Member Survey

The PARB program manager distributes an annual survey to PARB members at the end of the calendar year. The survey consists of several open-ended questions, allowing members to share their perspectives. The purpose of the survey is to

gather insights from PARB members on key issues affecting the board's operations and effectiveness. Specifically, the 2024 survey aimed to:

- **Determine where members are getting information for reviews and recommendations (i.e., CASA, OKDHS/OKDHS, CW)**
- **Uncover systemic barriers and recommendations for addressing them**
- **Assess court partners' understanding of PARB**
- **Identify gaps in mental health services**
- **Examine issues related to aging out of care**
- **Gather feedback on PARB staff support**

The following is a summary of the survey results.

What new systemic barriers have emerged in the past year, and what recommendations would you make to address these?

Several PARB members said they did not have new systemic barriers to report and that everything was running smoothly, with one member stating that they had a good working relationship with their Child Welfare staff.

Others did note some systemic barriers related to child welfare staff and systems that impacted PARB's work over the past year, including:

- Reduced in-office contact and lack of access to Child Welfare supervisors/district managers.
- Lack of OKDHS staffing and high turnover.
- Cases frequently move between counties, making them difficult to review due to the lack of jurisdictional continuity.
- Lack of understanding of PARB's purpose among newer case workers.
- Perceived misuse of parental termination as punishment for parents impacts children negatively.
- Lack of trial reunification and safety plan details in OKDHS reports.
- A need to reinforce the visitation rights of children.
- Lack of resources, including barriers to services like housing, mental health, and substance use treatment.
- ICWA issues, including:
 - limited staff knowledge of the ICWA, leading to inconsistent compliance and a lack of tribal referrals, and
 - late identification of Native children, delaying ICWA protections and support.

Members also provided some recommendations to address systemic issues, which included:

- Addressing Child Welfare staffing shortages to improve retention and ensure consistency of assigned workers.
- Utilizing new OKDHS reports, which will include detailed information on trial reunifications and safety plan cases to enhance decision-making.
- Reinforcing the importance of visitation as a child's right.
- Providing additional information to attorneys and judges on the purpose of PARB and how families may be positively impacted.
- Addressing ICWA issues by increasing ICWA training, improving early screening for indigenous heritage, and establishing Tribal emergency placement agreements.

How well do court partners (e.g., judges, OKOKDHS workers, CASA) understand the role and value of PARB? How can your Board and PARB staff make improvements in this area?

Overall, there was a range of perspectives on how well court partners understand PARB's role and value. While many felt that judges, OKDHS workers, and CASA staff have a solid understanding, others saw gaps in awareness and opportunities for improvement. The following is a description of what members said was going well and areas of focus for improvement:

- A strong understanding among some partners – Judges, OKDHS supervisors, and CASA are generally seen as knowledgeable and supportive of PARB. Some members reported strong collaboration with their court partners.
- Need for additional education and outreach – Many respondents said that additional education and outreach efforts are needed, particularly for attorneys, ADAs, and newly elected officials unfamiliar with PARB, as there may be a lack of understanding or engagement from CASA, attorneys, ADAs, or OKOKDHS frontline workers.
- Desire for more feedback – Some PARB members said they wanted more information on how their recommendations are used in court and how they can better tailor reports for clarity and impact.
- Challenges with turnover – Members said that high turnover among child welfare professionals and court personnel creates ongoing challenges in maintaining a consistent understanding of PARB's role.

Members also shared some ideas on how their Board and PARB staff could make improvements in this area, including:

- Hosting meetings or organizing meet-and-greet sessions with judges, OKOKDHS, and attorneys to discuss PARB's role and impact.
- Increasing outreach and education, including training sessions with court partners.
- Fostering stronger connections through informal gatherings and court attendance.
- Seeking feedback from judges and attorneys on how PARB reports can be more effective.
- Addressing communication gaps, particularly with CASA and attorneys unfamiliar with PARB.

Have you noticed any gaps in mental health services for children or their parents in your county?

The most common concerns identified by PARB members involved wait times for mental health services, provider shortages, service inconsistencies, and lack of access to specialized or culturally competent care. The following is a description of members' concerns:

Long Wait Times and Limited Availability and Accessibility of Providers

- Many responses highlighted significant delays in accessing mental health services, with waitlists lasting months, which is especially problematic for children with urgent needs, such as those experiencing sexual abuse or severe behavioral challenges.
- Respondents also said that gaps exist when children must switch providers, leading to service disruptions.

- One member said that rural areas face unique challenges, such as limited access to specialized care, which requires families to travel long distances.

Shortage of Qualified and Specialized Service Providers

- Members said that some service areas have many general mental health professionals (e.g., LPCs) but lack specialists in substance abuse, domestic violence, problematic sexual behaviors, or cognitive/intellectual challenges.
- Some members also said that there are not enough providers offering evidence-based treatments.
- One member said that many therapists are under supervision and lack experience.

Gaps in Service for Native Children and Families

Closely related to a shortage of specialized services, one member discussed at length issues impacting Native families, saying,

“I’ve noticed significant gaps in mental health services for Native children and their families. There is often limited access to culturally relevant mental health care that incorporates Tribal traditions, values, and practices, leaving families feeling disconnected from available resources. Also, Tribal mental health programs and community-based supports are frequently underutilized due to a lack of referrals or awareness among caseworkers and court partners. These gaps result in unmet mental health needs, exacerbate trauma, and prolong families’ involvement in the child welfare system, ultimately impacting efforts at family preservation and reunification.”

How do you feel about the current practices around aging out of care? Do you believe there are adequate efforts to prevent children from aging out without a permanency plan?

While programs and efforts are in place, responses suggest inconsistent policy application, gaps in long-term planning, and insufficient resources to support youth aging out of care fully. Stronger life skills training, better caseworker consistency, and earlier, more proactive interventions could improve outcomes for these youth. The following is a summary of the responses.

Several responses highlighted the positive aspects of efforts to prevent children from aging out without a permanency plan, which included the following:

- Several respondents noted that Child Welfare Services (CWS) and judges are doing well in moving cases along and preventing children from aging out without a permanency plan.
- Some believe CWS does a good job of connecting youth aging out with supports and resources.
- One noted the Oklahoma Successful Adulthood (OKSA) Program as a Resource: The OKSA program is recognized as a valuable resource for helping youth transition out of care.

Members also documented their concerns and areas for improvement:

- Many respondents suggested that the support provided varies widely depending on the assigned worker, with some youth being well-prepared while others feel lost and underprepared when they turn 18.
- Several comments emphasized the importance of preparing youth with essential life skills, such as resume building, financial literacy, college/vocational guidance, and obtaining necessary documents (e.g., ID, shot records).
- Many respondents said there are not enough efforts to ensure permanency before aging out. They also said that some children fall through the cracks, especially those with behavioral challenges or those who resist participation in services.
- Several responses highlighted that improvements require more funding and staff to ensure adequate support for aging-out youth.
- Some members said that there is difficulty ensuring youth engage with available services like OKSA, and many youth do not take full advantage of the support systems in place.
- Some members noted that youth aging out without a solid foundation often struggle with housing instability, lack of resources, and even early parenthood, leading to further involvement in the child welfare system.
- One member shared their experience with some youth who were unwilling to take advantage of the available help and resources.

How can PARB staff better serve and support your board?

Overall, respondents expressed strong satisfaction with PARB staff, highlighting their responsiveness, support, and dedication. Key areas for improvement suggested by members included:

- Ensuring members are trained on ICWA compliance.
- Enhancing direct communication with Board members and the judges.

- Continuing to refine the database by eliminating unnecessary fields and streamlining the lock/unlock/edit/reopen process to save time.
- Increasing outreach and resource sharing in rural and southern Oklahoma.
- Strengthening relationships with Tribes and Tribal representatives for better ICWA compliance.
- Addressing barriers to in-person attendance at PARB meetings.
- Providing updated OSH forms.
- Scheduling an annual Zoom meeting for updates and introductions.

Looking Ahead: PARB Developments Coming in SFY25

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen and expand its impact, the Oklahoma PARB continues to evolve and introduce innovative approaches that enhance members' capacity to provide high-quality reviews and

recommendations. While the following two developments are scheduled for SFY25, they are included here to highlight the next steps in PARB's commitment to growth and improvement.

The Children of Incarcerated Parents Board (CIP)

The Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) Board is a specialty PARB Board in Tulsa that is set to launch in SFY25, in response to the growing number of child welfare cases involving incarcerated parents. Initiated and led by Malayna Hasmanis (Tulsa PARB Program Manager), the board was formed to address gaps in knowledge and resources regarding the needs of children with incarcerated parents. The board brings together individuals with lived experience, professional expertise, and advocacy backgrounds to provide informed recommendations that support children, caregivers, and other stakeholders in the child welfare system. E-TEAM talked with Malayna Hasmanis about the CIP Board. The following is a summary of that conversation.

A significant challenge identified regarding parents who are incarcerated is the misconception that incarcerated parents forfeit all parental rights, leading to miscommunication, disengagement, and increased trauma for children. The CIP Board will seek to educate caseworkers and stakeholders about maintaining parent-child relationships with incarcerated parents when appropriate, thereby reducing long-term negative impacts on children. By incorporating lived-experience perspectives, the board offers practical, trauma-informed recommendations.

Additionally, the board will emphasize the need for targeted resources and programs, such as the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars initiative, which provides structured visitation opportunities and support for children. The board will play a pivotal role in aggregating information on available services, ensuring stakeholders have access to them, and holding them accountable for implementing best practices.

The CIP Board is expected to have a transformative impact by improving systemic responses to children of incarcerated parents. By advocating for meaningful connections between children and their incarcerated parents when beneficial, the board fosters stability, minimizes trauma, and promotes rehabilitation. Furthermore, the board's work is likely to contribute to policy changes by identifying trends, tracking case outcomes, and providing data-driven recommendations to state and national organizations.

One long-term goal is to expand CIP Boards across Oklahoma, mirroring the success of other specialty Boards, such as those focused on transitional youth and the Indian Child Welfare Act. Given the state's high incarceration rates, particularly for failure-to-protect cases, scaling this initiative statewide could lead to more consistent and informed case recommendations across counties.

The CIP Board will collaborate with various organizations, including the OCCY, to strengthen its impact. Expanding partnerships and leveraging data collection will be crucial in raising awareness and influencing broader policy discussions. Additionally, incorporating data fields within the PARB database to track parental incarceration status could provide valuable insights into trends and resource needs.

In the future, the CIP Board plans to increase outreach efforts, recruit more members, and advocate for policy changes that support incarcerated parents' engagement in their children's lives. Their efforts align with a larger shift towards a more trauma-informed and rehabilitative approach to child welfare and criminal justice. The CIP Board represents a



critical step toward addressing the unique needs of children with incarcerated parents. Through education, advocacy, and strategic partnerships, the board is positioned to influence not only individual case outcomes but also broader systemic

changes. As awareness grows and data-driven insights become available, the board's work could serve as a model for expansion across Oklahoma and beyond.

The Credentialing Process

The Postadjudication Review Board (PARB) Credentialing Process is designed to ensure that local Boards meet established standards for membership, organization, case management, child welfare involvement, recommendation quality, database use, and community engagement. This process establishes a checks-and-balances system, ensuring that Boards operate effectively and consistently across

the state. Since this process was recently developed, with implementation beginning in February of 2025, any scores and improvements will be included in the FY25 annual report.

The following are key areas the credentialing process will focus on:

- **Maintaining the required number of members**
- **Establishing and following a consistent meeting schedule**
- **Ensuring timely and thorough case reviews**
- **Documenting collaboration with Child Welfare professionals**
- **Generating clear, specific, and well-justified recommendations**
- **Utilizing the database to organize and track reviews and recommendations**
- **Building strong relationships with the courts and the broader community**

To quantify each board's performance, a credentialing score is assigned based on the number of the 12 possible criteria it meets. A higher score indicates strong compliance with best practices, while a lower score highlights areas needing improvement. This scoring system helps identify strengths and weaknesses, guiding boards in refining their processes and enhancing their effectiveness. A technical assistance plan will be developed as needed for boards that are failing in critical areas.

The credentialing process aims to improve PARBs' effectiveness by standardizing expectations, enhancing accountability, and promoting best practices. It ensures that Boards maintain strong communication with child welfare professionals and judicial officials, while also improving their case review procedures and the quality of their recommendations. By implementing this credentialing process, PARBs can ensure they meet the highest standards of oversight, organization, and care for children in the judicial system (See Appendix E for the PARB Credentialing Form).

Annual Recommendations from the State Post Adjudication Advisory Board

As required by statute, the State Postadjudication Review Advisory Board annually submits numerous recommendations to the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY).⁷

1. Reduce the time to initiate mental health services and improve the quality of services for families engaged in the child welfare system.

One of the most common issues perceived and identified by the local Boards is the need for earlier initiation of mental health services for families engaged with child welfare. Though no data has been gathered to substantiate these concerns, the State Postadjudication 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.

This recommendation reflects the board's support for legislation that would strengthen foster care by addressing a well-documented barrier: the financial strain on foster families. Adequate compensation can help retain qualified caregivers, reduce placement disruptions, and improve the consistency and quality of care provided to children in custody.

3. Improve Oklahoma's Promise for youth aging out of child welfare custody.

Children in state custody should automatically qualify for Oklahoma's Promise. Eliminate the requirement that foster youth provide their parents' adjusted gross income or other financial documentation. A child in state custody often cannot reasonably obtain this information. We all know how important it is for all children to successfully navigate from a dependent youth living at home to an independent, successful adult who meets their own needs and functions 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 a Social Security card. Although the Oklahoma Department of Human Services strives to implement strategies to address these barriers, the State Postadjudication Review Advisory Board believes there are always additional opportunities to improve connections and resources for this vulnerable population.

4. State PARB supports the efforts of child welfare and other court partners to modernize the state's approach to individual service plans.

Individual service plans (ISPs) are a key tool for guiding progress toward family reunification or other permanency outcomes. The board discussed several concerns about how ISPs are currently developed and used in practice.

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
- Some cutting and pasting is going on with ISP.
- By improving the clarity, specificity, and accessibility of ISPs—and ensuring they are tied to meaningful safety goals—child welfare professionals and courts can better support parents in achieving reunification and improving outcomes for children.

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Strategies to Optimize PARBs: Recommendations from E-Team

As PARBs continue to refine their processes and enhance their ability to support children and families through their review and recommendation processes, targeted strategies can help improve training, data collection, and overall effectiveness. Strengthening ICWA training, streamlining documentation of volunteer hours, evaluating learning experiences, and assessing gaps in mental health services are key areas for optimization. By focusing on these strategic improvements, PARBs can ensure their recommendations are informed, data-driven, and reflective of best practices in child welfare. The following sections outline actionable steps to enhance PARB operations and support members in their critical role.

Continue Offering ICWA Trainings to Increase Knowledge and Understanding across PARBs

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Best Practices Training was an important part of PARB's training initiatives in SFY24, totaling 18 hours. With 30% of reviewed cases falling under ICWA and 69 tribal workers involved in cases, ensuring that PARB members are well-versed in ICWA compliance is critical. The annual PARB survey highlighted ongoing challenges related to ICWA, including inconsistent compliance, lack of tribal referrals, and delays in identifying Native children. Expanding ICWA training opportunities will help address these gaps, ensuring that all children receive the protections and support to which they are entitled under the law.

Research highlights the importance of ICWA compliance in preventing cultural bias in child welfare decisions. Low (2019) discusses how courts often struggle to interpret and apply ICWA provisions consistently, which can lead to a disproportionate placement of Native children in non-Native foster care settings. The study emphasizes the need for properly trained individuals who understand tribal sovereignty, cultural values, and legal protections to ensure ICWA is implemented effectively. By continuing to offer ICWA training, PARB members can deepen their understanding of these critical areas and improve advocacy efforts for Native children. Strengthening relationships with tribal representatives and increasing collaboration between PARBs and tribal agencies will enhance members' ability to make well-informed recommendations to the court, ultimately leading to better outcomes for children and families.

Support Members in Documenting Volunteer Hours

Recent database enhancements now allow volunteers to enter their own service hours. This new field may require additional training and technical support. However, member feedback has been positive, and users report that the system is easy to navigate. With any new field, it will be beneficial for PARB staff and E-TEAM to work together to ensure that members enter their own data once a month or following each meeting. This new development has enabled PARB staff and Board Chairs to track volunteer hours in real time and make adjustments or corrections as needed to ensure more efficient, accurate tracking.

Launch Evaluation of Trainings and Learning Experiences

To ensure that PARB trainings effectively enhance members' knowledge and capacity to make well-informed recommendations, it is essential to implement a structured evaluation process. Capturing increased understanding of key topics, such as ICWA compliance, mental health services, and best practices in child welfare, will help assess the impact of trainings and identify areas for improvement. By launching a post-training feedback survey, PARB staff can gather valuable insights into how training sessions contribute to members' ability to navigate complex cases and provide high-quality recommendations to the court. This data will help refine future training, ensuring it remains relevant, practical, and impactful.

Collect Additional Data to Assess Gaps or Delays in Mental Health Services for Children and Families

Developing a survey for PARB members to complete on the topic of access to mental health services for children and families under PARB review could yield valuable data for PARB staff and the PARB State Advisory Board. Members provided feedback on this topic through the annual survey, saying that gaps in mental health services exist due to a shortage of mental health providers and limited access to providers in rural areas of the state. Additional data exploring this gap could provide insight into, and support for, needed improvements in the access and quality of mental health services for children and families.

Conclusion

During SFY24, PARB conducted 2,526 reviews of 1,500 cases involving 2,531 children. A total of 294 PARB members served on 42 boards, collectively logging 7,027 volunteer hours. Additionally, 55 members participated in a total of 440 training hours, with key trainings including the PARB Annual Conference - Pre-Institute for CCAN Conference (300 hours), New Member Training (52 hours), and the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Best Practices Training (18 hours). Several SFY24 trainings were offered during the monthly Lunch and Learn Sessions, which have provided additional opportunities for volunteers to attend at convenient times.

Data collected from PARB members through the annual survey offers valuable insights into targeted improvements. Members highlighted high caseworker turnover and staffing shortages that impact service delivery and case consistency. Members also felt that improvements could be made in serving Native children, as 30% of cases fall under ICWA, and ICWA compliance and delays in identifying Native children were noted as an area of concern. PARB staff provide ICWA training to PARB members, thereby increasing their capacity to better serve this population.

A new PARB Board has been developed and will strengthen PARB's impact. The Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) Board, launched in FY25 in Tulsa County, is a specialty Board designed to address the unique challenges faced by children with incarcerated parents. This board will focus on maintaining parent-child relationships when appropriate and advocating for targeted resources and services.

Another key initiative is the PARB Credentialing Process, which began in February 2025. This process was established to standardize criteria for Board operations, including membership, training, case management, and data reporting. Credentialing will provide a structured framework to ensure consistency and accountability across all PARBs in Oklahoma.

The data collected in SFY24 reflects the substantial amount of work PARB members do and their role in supporting child welfare efforts in Oklahoma. In SFY24, 583 children had their cases closed, with 50% returning home and 30% being adopted. With new initiatives and developments in place and a continued commitment to data-driven decision-making, PARB is well-positioned to enhance its impact.


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Appendix A. PARB Volunteer Application

PARB Form 2

POST ADJUDICATION REVIEW BOARD
VOLUNTEER APPLICATION



Name _____ Applying for what board? (County Name) _____
 How did you become aware of PARB? _____

ADDRESS _____ (CITY) _____ (ZIP) _____ (COUNTY) _____
 HOME PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

EMPLOYER _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____
 WORK PHONE _____ May we call you at work? _____ How long have you worked for this employer? _____
 Position: _____ Work hours: _____
 PROFESSIONAL/CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS YOU BELONG TO: _____


EDUCATION AND LIFE EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD AID YOU IN REVIEWING CASES:

REFERENCES:

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP	PHONE
NAME	RELATIONSHIP	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP	PHONE

Revised October 2025

POST ADJUDICATION REVIEW BOARD
COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE



I agree to serve as a member of the Post Adjudication Review Board (PARB). In doing so, I make the following assertions:

- I will serve a five-year term;
- I will participate in at least one training session per year as designated by the Commission on Children and Youth
- I understand that information contained in case records as well as that which is conveyed during the review is confidential; and
- My participation will be guided by my understanding of the best interest of the child, in accordance with Oklahoma law.

I agree not to disclose any of the information I receive in connection with my participation in a Case Review to any person not a member of the Review Board. I further acknowledge that a violation of this part of the agreement may result in a civil or criminal action against me for unlawful disclosure of confidential information.

Finally, I understand that my board membership may be terminated if there is reason to believe that:

- My participation during a review is inappropriate or insensitive to clients or service providers; or
- I have breached the confidentiality regulations, as specified above.

I have read the above and agree to abide by all provisions.

Review Board Member Date

This agreement will expire three years from the date of appointment.

PLEASE RETURN ONE SIGNED COPY
 TO: Keith Pirtle, PARB Program Manager
 Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth
 2915 North Classen Blvd, Suite 300
 Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Office: (405) 606-4922
 Cell: (405) 885-5806
 Fax: (405) 528-0455

Revised October 2025

THE REVIEW BOARD MAY MEET DURING THE DAY AT THE COURTHOUSE. ARE YOU WILLING AND ABLE TO ATTEND REVIEW BOARD MEETINGS AND CARRY OUT ASSIGNED DUTIES AS A BOARD MEMBER? _____

ARE YOU WILLING TO ATTEND TWO HOURS OF TRAINING ANNUALLY? _____

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT ALL INFORMATION CONCERNING CASE REVIEWS AND CHILDREN INVOLVED WITH THE COURT IS CONFIDENTIAL? _____

ARE YOU WILLING AND ABLE TO ABIDE BY THE LAWS REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY? _____

HAVE YOU OR ANY MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD BEEN INVOLVED IN A SUBSTANTIATED CHILD WELFARE CASE? YES _____ NO _____

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CHARGED AND/OR PLEAD GUILTY/NO CONTEST/CONVICTED OF A CRIME? _____ IF YES, PLEASE EXPLAIN: _____

ARE YOU WILLING TO CONSENT TO A BACKGROUND CHECK? _____

WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE REVIEW BOARD?

 APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE JUDGE'S SIGNATURE


 DATE DATE

PLEASE RETURN ONE SIGNED COPY TO:
 Keith Pirtle, PARB Program Manager
 Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth
 2915 North Classen Blvd, Suite 300 Oklahoma
 City, OK 73106
 Fax: (405) 528-0455

All applications are subject to the approval of the Commission on Children and Youth

Revised October 2025

POST ADJUDICATION REVIEW BOARD
CONSENT FOR RELEASE OF
BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION



I hereby authorize the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and its duly authorized agents and employees to receive and/or furnish to the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth for the purpose of becoming or renewing membership on the **Post Adjudication Review Board** information obtained from a criminal background check.

I understand that my records cannot be disclosed without my written consent and that information obtained under this release may not be re-disclosed.

This consent expires six (6) months from date of signature.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Name: _____
 Last First Middle

Date of birth: _____ Sex: _____ Race: _____
 Month Day Year

Social Security Number: _____

Address: _____
 City, State, Zip code

Signature

PLEASE RETURN ONE SIGNED COPY
 TO: Keith Pirtle, PARB Program Manager
 Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth
 2915 North Classen Blvd, Suite 300
 Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Office: (405) 606-4922
 Cell: (405) 885-5806
 Fax: (405) 528-0455

Revised October 2025

Appendix B. PARB Member List by Board SFY24

First Name	Last Name	Board	First Name	Last Name	Board
Ann	Merritt	Beckham and Roger Mills	Cindy	Honeycutt	Cleveland
Becky	Dugger	Beckham and Roger Mills	Ellen	Cole	Cleveland
Dianna	Butler	Beckham and Roger Mills	Jason	Smith	Cleveland
Glenna	Kirk	Beckham and Roger Mills	Jennifer	Waggoner	Cleveland
Margaret	Roesch	Beckham and Roger Mills	Lisa	Tomas	Cleveland
William	Roesch	Beckham and Roger Mills	Millie	Carpenter	Cleveland
Alexia	White	Blaine	Aushlie	Coles	Comanche
Carrie	Compton	Blaine	Carol	Dally	Comanche
Christi	Park	Blaine	Cindy	Nocton	Comanche
Ronda	Bizzell	Blaine	Jessica	Grant	Comanche
Brittany	Brower	Board 13 (OKC)	Ashley	Morrison	Craig
Christy	Horn	Board 13 (OKC)	Cynthia	Spurgeon	Craig
Jennifer	McCain	Board 13 (OKC)	Deann	Johnson	Craig
Kaila	Nickel	Board 13 (OKC)	Holly	Lankford	Craig
Tony	Sellars	Board 13 (OKC)	Irene	Conine	Craig
Dawn	Leemon	Board 2 (OKC)	Kenneth	Bailey	Craig
Ghezal	Pitt	Board 2 (OKC)	Mary	Gail Ruark	Craig
Judy	Icke	Board 2 (OKC)	Rusty	Rankin	Craig
Marcia	Johnson	Board 2 (OKC)	Ruth	Irving	Craig
Tricia	Gardner	Board 2 (OKC)	Becky	Pugmire	Creek
DeeAnn	Paisley	Board 2 (Tulsa)	Bridget	Madden	Creek
Gwendolyn	Winford	Board 2 (Tulsa)	Cynthia	Soares	Creek
Jose	Marino	Board 2 (Tulsa)	Dennis	Chaffin	Creek
Kendra	Cutsinger	Board 2 (Tulsa)	Joe	Hill	Creek
Paul	Clark	Board 2 (Tulsa)	Karen	Sontag	Creek
Saralyn	Miller	Board 2 (Tulsa)	Laureen	McKenzie	Creek
Susan	Mensching	Board 2 (Tulsa)	Lee	Inbody	Creek
Kristen	Rader	Board 7 (OKC)	Rhoda	Thompson	Creek
Krystal	Murer	Board 7 (OKC)	Amanda	Hines	Custer
Margaret	Butler	Board 7 (OKC)	Amy	Martin	Custer
Nicole	Chasteen	Board 7 (OKC)	Canda	Mueller	Custer
Rebecca	Mints	Board 7 (OKC)	Carolyn	Heerwald	Custer
Cheryl	Jackson	Bryan	Celeste	Justice	Custer
Chris	Marcy	Bryan	Dawn	Keller	Custer
Jacki	Jones	Bryan	Melanie	Benson	Custer
John	Hoffpauir	Bryan	Michelle	Sorter	Custer
Laura	Caston	Bryan	Rachel	Hensley	Custer
Leslie	Jacox	Bryan	Shandi	Coleman	Custer
Raye	Mickle	Bryan	Sheryl	Vandever	Custer
Skylar	Logan-Jones	Bryan	Torrey	Curtis	Custer
April	Pinion	Cleveland	Alicia	Ward	Delaware
			Leigh-Anna	Miller	Delaware
			Linda	Foster	Delaware
			Lynda	Whitney	Delaware
			Marijo	Napier	Delaware
			Michelle	Hooper	Delaware

First Name	Last Name	Board	First Name	Last Name	Board
Tanya	Blessing	Delaware	Sarah	Espinosa	ILS Independent Living Services (Tulsa)
Anita	Rydberg	DV Board (OKC)			
Annie	Gullo	DV Board (OKC)	Tony	Willis	ILS Independent Living Services (Tulsa)
Gail	Stricklin	DV Board (OKC)			
Geina	Tharp	DV Board (OKC)	Tayllor	Rogers	ILS Independent Living Services (Tulsa)
karen	Cunningham	DV Board (OKC)			
Kristine	Johnson	DV Board (OKC)	Jordan	Ryan	ILS Independent Living Services (Tulsa), Tulsa Domestic Violence and Mental Health Board
Kyndal	Kleman	DV Board (OKC)			
Lauren	Black	DV Board (OKC)	Maurisa	Mahan	Jackson
Melissa	Van Duyne	DV Board (OKC)	David	Mcgee	Kay and Noble
Sarah	Samples	DV Board (OKC)	Kelli	Morgan	Kay and Noble
Carole	Wade	Garfield and Grant	Lennis	Ailey	Kay and Noble
Cindy	Humphrey	Garfield and Grant	Melanie	Gartside	Kay and Noble
Leslie	Klamm	Garfield and Grant	Bethany	Black	Latimer and Leflore
Loretta	Ore	Garfield and Grant	Cary	Whitman	Latimer and Leflore
Patricia	Stevenson	Garfield and Grant	Deanna	Chancellor	Latimer and Leflore
Sheila	McHenry	Garfield and Grant	Greg	Russell	Latimer and Leflore
Lana	Mayhall	Haskell County	Jeannie	Thompson	Latimer and Leflore
Taylor	Wingo	Haskell County	Jennifer	Figari	Latimer and Leflore
Traci	Highfill	Haskell County	Kathy	Fesperman	Latimer and Leflore
Kim	Rose	Haskell County	Laurie	Bandy	Latimer and Leflore
LaNeil	Price	Haskell County	Linda	Lee	Latimer and Leflore
Carly	Dunn	ICWA (OKC)	Brandi	Perkins	Lincoln
Jonette	Dunlap	ICWA (OKC)	Elizabeth	Moore	Lincoln
Lucinda	Myers	ICWA (OKC)	Jill	Bashorun	Lincoln
Myra	Swager	ICWA (OKC)	John	Cobb	Lincoln
Scott	Drabenstot	ICWA (OKC)	Kim	Hyden	Lincoln
Amy	Lovelle	ICWA Tulsa	Tamatha	Mosier	Lincoln
Barbara	Sears	ICWA Tulsa	Trinity	Tinsley	Lincoln
Christina	Tolomeo	ICWA Tulsa	Codi	Canning	Logan County
Cloee	Graham	ICWA Tulsa	Darian	Bennett	Logan County
Jacob	Scott	ICWA Tulsa	LeeAnn	Bennett	Logan County
Jason	Melton	ICWA Tulsa	Maegan	Wiss	Logan County
Allison	Rose	ILS Independent Living Services (Tulsa)	Michelle	Weston	Logan County
			Tracy	Thornton	Logan County
Amanda	Aunko	ILS Independent Living Services (Tulsa)	Vicki	Jones	Logan County
			Christine	Perry	Love
Cedrick	McGee	ILS Independent Living Services (Tulsa)			
Dylan	Kinser	ILS Independent Living Services (Tulsa)			
John	Weidman	ILS Independent Living Services (Tulsa)			
Ronna	Eddins	ILS Independent Living Services (Tulsa)			

First Name	Last Name	Board
Cindy	Colston	Love
Deborah	Miller	Love
Jenna	Escobedo	Love
Ron	Beach	Love
Sharon	Hall	Love
Stacy	Sconce	Love
Barbara	Walton	Major
Sharla	Worley	Major
Sheri	Martens	Major
Stefanie	Mueller	Major
Vicki	Woods	Major
Alicia	Osborne	Mayes
Becky	Boston	Mayes
Kim	Sisk	Mayes
Paula	Cantrell	Mayes
Teresa	Franklin	Mayes
Amy	Foster	McClain and Garvin
Cierra	White	McClain and Garvin
Clifford	McManus	McClain and Garvin
Lana	Freeman	McClain and Garvin
Larry	Winn	McClain and Garvin
Liz	Nelson	McClain and Garvin
Mandy	Reed	McClain and Garvin
Steven	Freeman	McClain and Garvin
Tara	Brown	McClain and Garvin
Andrew	Kelly	Mental Health (OKC)
Brittni	Ware	Mental Health (OKC)
Hannah	Worlitz	Mental Health (OKC)
Melanie	Johnson	Mental Health (OKC)
Steven	Fairclough	Mental Health (OKC)
Angela	Garner	Muskogee
Cindy	Perkins	Muskogee
Eric	Wells	Muskogee
Keri	Spencer	Muskogee
Leslie	Arnold	Muskogee
Nicholas	Schornick	Muskogee
Ronald	Mayes	Muskogee
Taylor	Mills	Muskogee
Tess	Swaim	Muskogee

First Name	Last Name	Board
Abbie	Ellis	Okfuskee
Cheyenne	Cheatwood	Okfuskee
Elayne	Evans	Okfuskee
Kim	Hinkle	Okfuskee
Kim	King	Okfuskee
Morgan	Henry	Okfuskee
Robyn	Custar	Okfuskee
Vicky	Landers	Okfuskee
Candy	Sadler	Okmulgee
Harvey	Fields	Okmulgee
Linda	Sadler	Okmulgee
Regina	Thompson	Okmulgee
Carolyn	Johnson	Osage
Criss	Blackwood	Osage
Eileen	Halverson	Osage
Randa	Bloomfield	Osage
Terry	Hazen	Osage
Shirley	Roberts	Osage
Alaina	Hilliard	Ottawa
Becca	Austin	Ottawa
Jennifer	Barger-Enyart	Ottawa
Megan	Berga	Ottawa
Michelle	Shield	Ottawa
Brandi	Watts	Payne
Brandi	White	Payne
Carla	Odom	Payne
Greg	Miller	Payne
Jennifer	Smith	Payne
Kelly	Griffith	Payne
Lindsay	McKee	Payne
Lisa	Smith	Payne
Carol	Blansett	Pittsburg
Jesseka	Whitman	Pittsburg
John	Cotton	Pittsburg
Kristi	Thompson	Pittsburg
Kristy	Cusher	Pittsburg
Carol	Bridges	Pontotoc
David	Gray	Pontotoc
Khrystal	Blankenship	Pontotoc
Mylinda Sunshine	Fox	Pontotoc
Alison	Cannon	Pushmataha County
Candice	Steele	Pushmataha County
Dionne	Frankum	Pushmataha County
Jessica	Watts	Pushmataha County
Kristi	Beddo-Carswell	Pushmataha County
Sally	Sutton	Pushmataha County

First Name	Last Name	Board
Taylor	Dunn	Pushmataha County
Angie	Graves	Rogers
Caitlin	Hendrex	Rogers
Deborah	Butler	Rogers
James	Anderson	Rogers
Lori	Goldizen	Rogers
Lou	Truitt-Flanagan	Rogers
Roxanne	Bilby	Rogers
Amy	Edwards	Sequoyah
Heather	Silva	Sequoyah
Holli	Reherman	Sequoyah
Holly	Dominguez	Sequoyah
Micki	Kimble	Sequoyah
Summer	McGarrah	Sequoyah
Taylor	Chadwell	Sequoyah
Todd	Long	Sequoyah
Alain	Pumphrey	Transition (OKC)
Alex	Corbitt	Transition (OKC)
Crystal	Stewart	Transition (OKC)
Kim	Behrens	Transition (OKC)
Robert	Phillips	Transition (OKC)
Toni	Berry-Travis	Transition (OKC)
Bailey	Hammitt	Tulsa Domestic Violence and Mental Health Board
Christine	Marsh	Tulsa Domestic Violence and Mental Health Board
Kalyn	O'Malley	Tulsa Domestic Violence and Mental Health Board
Kristi	Self	Tulsa Domestic Violence and Mental Health Board
Kay	Leslie	Tulsa Domestic Violence and Mental Health Board, Board 2 (Tulsa)
Janelle	Semore	Wagoner
Jason	Grewe	Wagoner
Jill	Elliott	Wagoner
Kristen	Cook	Wagoner
Kristi	Wann	Wagoner
Maryleta	Ayers	Wagoner
Naomi	Kelly-Bates	Wagoner
Rhea	Hanover	Wagoner
Stephanie	Norsworthy	Wagoner

First Name	Last Name	Board
John	Foote	Washington and Nowata
Kattie	Anderson	Washington and Nowata
Laura	Dixon	Washington and Nowata
Michelle	Brooks	Washington and Nowata
Rebecca	Wright	Washington and Nowata
Audry	Stewart	Woodward
Bart	Bouse	Woodward
David	Hughes	Woodward

Appendix C. Number of Cases and Reviews by County SFY24

County	Board	Number of Reviews	Number of Cases
Beckham	Beckham and Roger Mills	50	36
Bryan	Bryan	118	49
Cleveland	Cleveland	35	33
Comanche	Comanche	226	147
Craig	Craig	21	13
Creek	Creek	195	117
Custer	Custer	92	43
Delaware	Delaware	25	17
Garfield	Garfield and Grant	109	66
Garvin	McClain and Garvin	22	16
Haskell	Haskell County	51	16
Kay	Kay and Noble**	22	22
Latimer	Latimer and Leflore	20	5
LeFlore	Latimer and Leflore	81	31
Lincoln	Lincoln	12	10
Logan	Logan County**	8	8
Love	Love	33	18
Major	Major	20	7
Mayes	Mayes	75	36
McClain	McClain and Garvin	15	10
Muskogee	Muskogee	139	78
Noble	Kay and Noble**	4	4
Okfuskee	Okfuskee*	8	8
Oklahoma	Board 13 (OKC)	20	15
Oklahoma	Board 2 (OKC)	83	54
Oklahoma	Board 7 (OKC)	69	38
Oklahoma	DV Board (OKC)	31	26
Oklahoma	ICWA (OKC)	27	24
Oklahoma	Mental Health (OKC)	22	22
Oklahoma	Transition (OKC)	22	21
Okmulgee	Okmulgee	223	97
Osage	Osage	44	34
Payne	Payne	74	51
Pittsburg	Pittsburg	154	57

Pontotoc	Pontotoc	44	36
Pushmataha	Pushmataha County	20	14
Roger Mills	Beckham and Roger Mills	5	3
Rogers	Rogers	24	23
Sequoyah	Sequoyah	23	16
Tulsa	Board 2 (Tulsa)	42	42
Tulsa	ICWA Tulsa	13	13
Tulsa	ILS Independent Living Services (Tulsa)	13	13
Tulsa	Tulsa Domestic Violence and Mental Health Board	3	3
Wagoner	Wagoner	185	104
Washington	Washington and Nowata*	4	4
Woodward	Woodward*	0	0

*Okfuskee, Woodward, Washington and Nowata Boards were active in SFY24, but did not enter all cases into the PARB database, resulting in only partial or no cases or reviews being reported.

** Kay, Noble and Logan Boards entered FY24 data, but stopped before the end of the reporting period, resulting in partial cases or reviews being reported.

Appendix D. Recommendation Category Definitions

Placement

The **placement** category should be selected if anything related to placement is mentioned in the recommendation. The recommendation may directly reference placement, such as placing all siblings together, or indirectly reference placement, such as trial reunification, which is a placement recommendation but does not use the term placement. Examples include:

- Placing all siblings together
- Reunification
- Trial reunification
- Pursuing adoptive placement
- Reunification
- Trial reunification
- Pursuing adoptive placement
- Continuing with the current placement
- Locating ICWA-compliant placement
- Continuing with the current placement

Parental Rights and Supports

The **parental rights and supports** category should be chosen if the PARB recommends anything regarding parental rights or parental supports. This includes recommendations in favor of advocating for parental rights and supports, as well as recommendations in favor of terminating parental rights and supports. Examples include:

- Termination of parental rights
- Delaying termination of parental rights
- Enforcing/collecting child support payments
- Issuing a protective order

Community Resources

The **community resources** category should be selected if the PARB recommendation guides the resources needed and available from a community organization. Examples include:

- Clothing resources
- Housing resources
- Mentoring services
- Financial resources

Educational Supports

The **educational supports** category should be selected if the PARB recommends any educational supports, such as an IEP, specific educational training for youth or parents, or extracurricular activities. Examples include:

- Tutoring
- Individual Education Plan (IEP)/504 Plan
- Career planning/training

- Specialized program (i.e., parenting class, adult transition planning, OSKA)
- Extracurricular activities

Individual Service Plan (ISP) for Parents

The **ISP for parents** category should be selected if the PARB recommends actions related to the parents' ISP plan, including updates on progress or engagement with the plan. Examples include:

- Documentation of parents' progress on ISP
- Proof of engagement in ISP
- Completion of ISP within a specified timeframe

Individual Service Plan (ISP) for Children

The **ISP for children** category is similar to the ISP for parents and should be selected if the PARB recommends an ISP for a child. Examples include:

- Documentation of the child's progress on ISP
- Proof of engagement in ISP
- Completion of ISP within a specified timeframe

Assignment of Worker/Advocate

The **worker/advocate** category should be selected if the PARB recommends any action regarding the assignment of a worker or advocate. Although CASA workers and Guardian ad Litem are among the most common workers/advocates who may appear in this category, any formal advocate may appear in this category. Examples include:

- CASA worker
- Guardian ad Litem (GAL)
- Educational Guardian ad Litem (Ed GAL)

Reasonable Efforts

Reasonable efforts should be made if the PARB volunteer's recommendation notes the presence or absence of reasonable efforts by the permanency worker to facilitate the court-ordered permanency plan. Reasonable efforts must be evaluated and determined by the court every six months while the child remains in an out-of-home placement. Reasonable efforts consist of available, accessible, and causally related services targeted to help a family provide a safe and stable home. A good indicator of reasonable efforts is whether OKOKDHS is assisting the family in removing the specific barriers preventing the child/ren from achieving the permanency plan.

Active Efforts

The assignment of **active efforts** should be chosen if the

PARB volunteer's recommendation notes the presence or absence of active efforts by the state to provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs designed to prevent the breakup of the Indian family, and that these efforts have proved unsuccessful. This finding must be made prior to a party seeking a foster care placement or termination of parental rights. Active efforts consist of affirmative, active, timely, and culturally appropriate efforts to prevent the breakup of the Indian family. Active efforts are more than reasonable efforts.

Healthcare Services

The **healthcare services** category should be assigned if the PARB recommends any healthcare services other than mental health services; otherwise, the mental health services category should be assigned. Healthcare services include:

- Medical checkups
- Specialized medical services
- Medical evaluations/assessments
- Dental services
- Vision screenings

Mental Health Services

The **mental health services** category should be assigned if the PARB recommends anything related to mental health services. This could include locating mental health services, recommending a specific type of mental health service or facility, or recommending certain types of mental health assessments. Examples include:

- Counseling/therapy
- Psychological evaluation
- Inpatient treatment
- Specialized program (Youth Villages, HOPE, Palamor)
- Trauma treatment/evaluation

Sibling Visitation

The assignment of the **sibling visitation** category should be chosen if the PARB member recommends anything related to visitation between siblings. This could include scheduling a new visitation schedule so that siblings can spend time together. It could also include times in which a PARB member recommends that visits between siblings be stopped. Examples include:

- Sibling visitation
- Termination of sibling visitation

Parental Visitation

The **parental visitation** category should be assigned if the PARB recommends any visitation between a parent and a child. This could be scheduling or establishing a new visitation schedule. It could also include times when the PARB recommends that visits between parents and children stop or be delayed. Examples include:

- Therapeutic visitation

- Supervised visitation
- Delaying visitation
- Overnight visitation
- Termination of visitation
- Delaying termination of visitation

Tribal Supports

The **tribal supports** category should be assigned if the PARB makes recommendations regarding tribal supports. This could be when PARB recommends that a child's enrollment into the tribe be verified or completed. It could also be chosen in instances where PARB recommends engagement in cultural activities. Examples include:

- Ensuring tribal enrollment
- Engagement in tribal activities

ICWA Findings

ICWA findings are those that are specific to cases in which the court has determined that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) applies. ICWA-specific findings include:

1. Active efforts (see above)
2. Notice
 - a. Should be chosen if the PARB volunteer can determine that notice to the parent, custodian, or tribe has not been provided. In a deprived case, where the court knows or has reason to know that an Indian child is involved, the party seeking the foster care placement of, or termination of parental rights for an Indian child shall notify the parent or Indian custodian and the Indian child's tribe, by registered mail with return receipt requested, of the pending proceedings and their right of intervention.
3. Good Cause
 - a. Pursuant to federal and state ICWA statutes, the state and courts are obligated to follow ICWA placement preferences for both foster care and adoptive placements. If a child is in a non-ICWA home, the court must find good cause to deviate from each placement preference level for both foster care and adoptive placements. If the volunteer is unable to clearly determine the court's good cause findings from the legal records, the volunteer should consider addressing them.

Permanency Plan

The **permanency plan** category should be assigned if the PARB member makes recommendations regarding the permanency plan, including updating or establishing a plan. Examples include:

- Solidifying permanency plan
- Updating permanency plan
- Continuing with the permanency plan
- Permanency planning with the current foster family

Appendix E. PARB Credentialing Form

PARB Assessment Form

1. Date of Assessment: _____
2. Reviewer: _____
3. Board Name: _____
4. Board Chair: _____
5. Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: _____

State Requirements

1. Is there a minimum of 5 official members that attend on a regular basis? (Chair and board interview) (Statute)
a. Yes / No
2. Does each active member attend at least 2 hours of PARB training per year? (Database Training Record) (PARB Manual)
a. Yes / No
3. Has each member completed their new member training? (Database Training Record and discussed with the board) (PARB Manual)
a. Yes / No
4. Are volunteer hours submitted to the state PARB office every quarter? (Not in manual) (IV-E Requirements)
a. Yes / No
5. When members resign, is this information communicated with the State PARB office and Judge? (Chair Interview) (PARB Manual)
a. Yes / No
6. Are all members up to date on their membership? (5 years or less since last approved application or reapplication). (Database Check) (Statute)
a. Yes / No
7. Is there at least one member of the board that who has training or experience in issues concerning child welfare? (Chair and Board Interview) (Statute)
a. Yes / No

1

a. Yes / No

6. *Effective November 1, 2024.* Are meetings canceled when a minimum of three current members are not present in person for the meeting? (Board interview) (New PARB Standards, 11-1-2024)
a. Yes / No
7. Are meeting dates for the year established and submitted to court staff and the PARB office by December 15 each year? (Judicial Interview) (Best Practices)
a. Yes / No
8. Is the minutes sheet completed at each meeting and retained? (Record Review) (OMA Guidelines)
a. Yes / No
9. Are volunteer hours recorded at each meeting? (Record Review) (IV-E Requirement)
a. Yes / No
10. Are any potential new members and any other guests required to sign a guest confidentiality form? (Record Review) (Best Practices)
a. Yes / No
11. *Effective November 1, 2024.* Does the board chair or their designee possess the knowledge and equipment necessary to allow for the participation of members in the meeting by video conference? (Board interview) (Best Practices)
a. Yes / No
12. *Effective November 1, 2024.* Are board members aware that they may participate by video conference up to half of their total meetings per year? (Board interview) (New PARB Standards, 11-1-2024)
a. Yes / No

Total Yes (11) _____

Case Management and Organization

1. Are county juvenile court cases managed and organized by the chair or their designee to prepare for the case review? (Board interview) (Best Practices)

3

8. Is there no more than one person employed by any child welfare agency or juvenile court? (Chair and Board Interview) (Statute)
a. Yes / No
9. Are all members residents of or employed within the judicial district in which the board serves? (Chair and Board Interview) (Statute)
a. Yes / No
10. Have all members been appointed by the Judge and the OCCY Director? (Application Reviews) (Statute)
a. Yes / No
11. Is the complete and up to date membership list shared with the presiding Judge every year? (Chair and Board Interview) (Statute)
a. Yes / No
12. Has every deprived case been reviewed? (Compared to KIDS Data) (Statute)
a. Yes / No

Total Yes (12) _____

Organization

1. Are elections held for the chairmanship position every year? (Board interview) (Statute)
a. Yes / No
2. Are any changes in membership shared with the presiding juvenile court Judge and PARB staff? (Judicial interview) (Statute)
a. Yes / No
3. Are the meeting dates, times, and location communicated with members, court staff, PARB staff and partners such as child welfare? (Board interview) (Best Practice)
a. Yes / No
4. Are at least two meetings held per year? (Board interview) (Statute)
a. Yes / No
5. *Are meetings canceled when a quorum is not present? (1 more than half of the active members)* (Board interview) (Statute)

2

a. Yes / No

2. Is a list of cases to be reviewed at each meeting created by the chair or their designee? (Board interview) (Best Practices)
a. Yes / No
3. Is the database used to help organize and inform the meeting case review list? (Chair interview) (Best Practices)
a. Yes / No
4. Is the upcoming deprived docket obtained and reviewed as part of the meeting case list preparations? (Chair interview) (Best Practices)
a. Yes / No
5. Is the time since last review considered when organizing the meeting case list? (Every 6 months minimum) (Chair interview) (Best Practices)
a. Yes / No
6. Are all adjudicated cases reviewed at least once every 6 months? (Database Review compared to docket list) (Statute)
a. Yes / No
7. Are recommendations submitted to the court within 10 days of the meeting in which the review was completed? (Board and chair interview) (Statute)
a. Yes / No
8. Is a review conducted for every child alleged to be deprived and held in an out of home placement for 6 months or more? (Database Review compared to docket list) (Statute)
a. Yes / No
9. Does child welfare provide input into preparing the meeting case list? (Chair interview) (Best Practices)
a. Yes / No
10. Are ICPC cases identified and added to the meeting case list? (Chair interview) (Statute)
a. Yes / No

Total Yes (10) _____

4

Child Welfare Involvement

1. Is there regular and positive communication between the board and a designated county child welfare staff person? (Chair and board interview) (Best Practices)
 - a. Yes / No
2. Do child welfare staff report information to PARB members on each case? (Chair and board interview) (Best Practices)
 - a. Yes / No
 - A. Non-Metro Boards Only: Please list the names and titles of the child welfare staff that regularly attend your meetings.
B. _____
3. What is the typical method your board uses for communicating with child welfare regarding case information? Please select all that apply: (Chair and board interview) (Best Practices)
 - A. Members reach out ahead of the meeting to individual workers regarding the cases they are assigned to review.
 - B. Child Welfare court reports are submitted at each meeting for each case being reviewed.
 - C. Child Welfare submits PARB-specific reports at each meeting for each case being reviewed.
 - D. Verbal reports are given by child welfare staff at each meeting for each case being reviewed.
 - b. Yes / No Please mark yes if at least one letter was circled.

Total Yes (3) _____

Recommendation Process

1. Are recommendations written by individual members or does the chair write them on behalf of the board? (Chair and board interview) (Best Practices)
 - a. Individual / Chair

5

Please choose:

- a. The bare minimum required to save a case.
- b. More than the minimum but not every field.
- c. Every field that applies to the case is completed.

Total Yes (1) _____

Recommendation Quality

1. Do the recommendations provide specific suggestions that are unique to the case being reviewed? (Judicial interview and staff database review) (Best Practices)
 - a. Yes / No
2. Do the recommendations provide justification as to why the recommendation was made? (Judicial interview and staff database review) (Best Practices)
 - a. Yes / No
3. Is the recommendation clear and easy to understand? (Judicial interview and staff database review) (Best Practices)
 - a. Yes / No

Total Yes (3) _____

Court File Information Review

1. How is Court file information reviewed? Please choose:
 - a. Court files, matching those scheduled for review, are gathered from the court clerk and distributed among the members present at the meeting for individual case reviews.
 - b. Members review the files they are assigned at the courthouse prior to the regular PARB meeting.
 - c. File information, on the cases to be reviewed, is shared through a secure file sharing system by staff ahead of the meeting.

7

2. Are recommendations entered into the database? (Staff database review) (New PARB Standards, 11-1-2024)
 - a. Yes / No
3. Do individual members log into the database and enter their own case information or is that done by another board member? (Chair and board interview) (Informational)
 - a. Members / Another Member
1. Are recommendations printed from the database? (Chair and board interview) (New PARB Standards, 11-1-2024)
 - a. Yes / No
2. Are hard copies submitted to the Juvenile Court Judge's Bailiff, the lead child welfare staff, ADA, and any attorneys that represent the child or parents in the case reviewed? (Judicial Interview) (Statute)
 - a. Yes / No
3. Are all adjudicated cases reviewed by the board at least once every 6 months? (Database review and Chair and board interview) (Statute)
 - a. Yes / No
4. Are hard copies of the review submitted to the court within 10 days of the review? (Judicial Interview) (Statute)
 - a. Yes / No

Total Yes (5) _____

Database Usage

1. Do all members know how to log into the PARB database and report case information? (Chair and board interview) (Best Practices)
 - a. Yes / No
2. What amount of detailed case information is reported in the database? (Chair and board interview and staff database review) (Best Practices)

6

- d. Court file information is not reviewed.

Community Relationships

1. Is there a professional relationship between the PARB chair or their designee and the current child welfare district director with jurisdiction for the county? (Chair interview) (Best Practices)
 - a. Yes / No
2. What type of relationship does the board have with the presiding Judge? (Judicial and board interview) Please choose one of the following:
 - a. The Judge checks on the board members before or after their meeting and communicates with the chair or members monthly.
 - b. The judge provides occasional feedback to members regarding their recommendations and makes themselves available to answers questions.
 - c. Communication between the members and the judge is rare to non-existent.
3. Do members regularly attend juvenile court proceedings? (Judicial and board interview)
 - a. Yes / No

Total Yes (2) _____

Additional Efforts

1. Do PARB community outreach efforts take place such as participation in community events?
 - b. Yes / No

Total Yes from Form (38) _____

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Judicial Interview

1. What aspects of your board do you think are going well?

2. What areas do you think need improvement?

3. How can OCCY-PARB staff better support PARB efforts?

Board Interview

1. What aspects of your board do you think are going well?

2. What areas do you think need improvement?

3. How can OCCY-PARB staff better support PARB efforts?

Additional Comments:

Recommendations for Improvement:



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