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# PARENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD OVERVIEW



## BACKGROUND

In 2019, the Children’s Endowment Fund of Oklahoma was created in statute. These funds are to be administered by OCCY, at the direction of the OCCY Commissioners, through a grant process to “stimulate a broad range of innovative programs, activities or research or evaluation that will improve the well-being and reduce the adverse childhood experience of Oklahoma’s children.”

Professionals in the social service sector

increasingly recognize the importance of consumer voice in decision-making at the individual, local, state, and national levels in order to improve policy and practice. For that reason, when the Children’s Endowment Fund was enacted, so too was the OCCY Parent Partnership Board (PPB). The aim of the PPB is to connect individuals with lived experiences with OCCY Commissioners for the purpose of advising the OCCY in its Endowment grant-making process as well as assist OCCY and its partnering agencies in improving Oklahoma’s child-serving systems.

## PPB PLANNING COMMITTEE

The OCCY is currently seeking several parents or guardians who are interested in serving on the PPB Planning Committee. Planning committee members will serve alongside staff and be asked to share their thoughts, ideas, and recommendations for the development of the PPB and the time commitment is estimated to be four months. Serving on the Planning Committee does not mean that one will automatically serve on the PPB. Sample topics to be addressed by the Planning Committee include:

- Detailing the purpose the of the PPB to ensure consumer voice is included in decision-making
- Determining the membership size of the PPB
- Determining the tentative PPB operations: date/time/locations of meetings
- Developing in the PPB membership orientation
- Defining the role and expectations for PPB members
- Developing a recruitment plan for PPB members
- Developing an application process for PPB members

If you know of a parent or guardian who might be interested in serving on the Planning Committee, please contact Isabel Rodriguez for an application.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## PPB MEMBERSHIP



The OCCY Commission is comprised of 19 Commissioners that represent state agencies as well as individual disciplines and private stakeholders. The areas of work addressed by OCCY and the Commission is broad and stems from “light touches” of prevention or support to intervention and court involvement. Therefore, the Parent Partnership Board would like to have five to 13 members that fit into the following categories:

- Parent with child with special needs;
- Parent with child impacted by criminal or juvenile justice system;
- Parent with child who has been in the custody of, or who have received services from, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Office of Juvenile Affairs, Oklahoma State Department of Health or other child-serving entity including nonprofits; or
- Parent with child who has received services including, but not limited to, home visiting, local county health department child guidance services, parenting support groups or education classes, TANF, SNAP, WIC, and SoonerCare.

OCCY will commit to selecting well-qualified members, striving for diversity in the areas of race, ethnicity, culture, gender identity, age, religion and religion status, caregiver status, sexual orientation, and geography. In addition, the membership should represent varied life experiences and those with negative as well as positive experiences with a child-serving system should consider applying.



## CONNECTION TO COMMISSIONERS

Once the actual PPB members are chosen, we hope to be able to match each member with a Commissioner by homing in on the PPB members' most salient child-rearing experiences with services to guide ongoing improvement and quality. Perhaps Commissioners could utilize their matched PPB member in other activities specific to their agency or discipline of work. For example, PPB members could attend special events, review educational materials/policies/forms or serve as a speaker at public event. Regardless, we want to assure that each PPB feels valued and connected to the Commission as well as the Commissioners and that their knowledge, experiences, and skills are utilized to the fullest extent.

## BUILDING A NETWORK

OCCY recognizes that there are parent/family advisory boards and councils already in existence across the state. Some are focused on a particular program or topic. Others may serve at the pleasure of an agency or organization. We are also aware of some advisory groups that are just being formed. The goal of the OCCY PPB is to serve as a hub and connect all boards/councils in much the same way as the Commission connects agencies and other stakeholders. So, every effort will be made possible to recruit proven leaders from existing groups who are ready to serve in a broader role. We will also share opportunities, trainings, and resources with other related advisory groups so that leadership capacity grows throughout the state.



## PARENT PARTNERSHIP BOARDS & FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCILS

Over the years, the Alliance has seen council members take on a variety of tasks and efforts. Below are a few examples: some suggested roles that council members could complete collectively or as individuals:

- Review and help develop requests for proposals, policies, written publications/brochures, needs assessments, etc. (e.g., written family friendly/ easy to read materials, etc.)
- Represent the parent perspective on other organizational or community-based committees, task forces or workgroups
- Assist with strategic planning for the organization and community
- Serve as a member of the organization's board of directors
- Share their families' stories about the organization's services to their community via social media, public media, and other media campaigns
- Share the parent's perspective in front of governmental bodies (e.g., council meetings, commissions etc.)
- Mentor, coach, or train other parents to take on leadership roles within the organization
- Help design community and state campaigns (e.g., National Foster Care Month, National Reunification Month, National Parent Leadership Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Campaign in April, Children's Mental Health, etc.)
- Promote awareness about the organization's services and resources available to families
- Utilize parent council members as co-trainers with organizational leaders and staff (e.g., Protective Factors training, hosting Community Cafes, professional development of staff, etc.)

To learn more about the Children's Trust Fund Alliance, go to: <https://ctfalliance.org/>

