



## Mission Statement

Post Adjudication Review Boards (PARB) of Oklahoma ensure the best interests of Deprived/Delinquent children are being met through external citizen review, to monitor the efforts of the children services programs and to make recommendations for system improvement in order to enhance the management of individual children's cases as well as the administration of the system. As a result, children will achieve safety, stability and permanency without undue delay; enjoy continuity of relationships; and have the opportunity to develop their full potential.

## A Message From the Chair

PARB is a very useful and valuable tool to the court system. It is the responsibility of the local PARB volunteers across the state to write educated and timely reports regarding each child who is found to be deprived. This can be a difficult task due to time constraints, changes in court dates and lack of communication between parties involved. At times, local PARB volunteers feel that their voice is not heard however, most if not all of the judges consider the PARB recommendations when making a decision concerning children and families that appear in their court. Collectively, the local PARB members across the state make a difference in the lives of Oklahoma's most vulnerable children.

The State PARB Advisory Board collaborated with legislators to modify HB 2483 which dealt with the process of termination of parental rights. Subsequently, HB 2483 was amended to include "waiving the right to jury trial if party fails to appear in person after notice and without good cause." This modification allows the judge the ability to terminate parental rights without the costly jury trial. This also allows the children to achieve permanency in a timely manner. This bill went into effect on November 1, 2016. The State PARB Advisory Board members are extremely pleased by the outcome of the collaboration and modification of the House Bill. It is an illustration of how the PARB program can positively impact the lives of the most defenseless children in the State of Oklahoma.

*Cindy Nocton, Chairperson - State Advisory Board*

## What is Reviewed and How is a Review Completed?

PARB members examine each child's court file and may request additional information from the social worker, foster parent(s), court officials, and other people involved in the case to decide whether the child and the child's family are receiving the necessary and appropriate services to correct the conditions in the home which led to court intervention.

## How it Works

A PARB is composed of at least five volunteers (members) who live or work within the local judicial district. The volunteer board members have a desire to help our children create a brighter future for themselves. The volunteers are appointed by the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth through the recommendation of the local judge with the juvenile court responsibility. The primary responsibility of a PARB is to be an advocate for children who live within the local PARB's judicial district. In addition, the PARB reviews encourage interagency coordination and cooperation.

## Why Do We Need PARB?

PARB emphasizes preventive services and permanent placement. In the 1980's federal and state laws created PARB out of a concern for the welfare of children and each child's right to live in a stable and nurturing home.

The PARB evaluates the goals stated in the case plan and the progress made toward these goals. By written recommendation, the PARB advises the Court whether these goals and services support the best interests of the child.

## 2016 PARB Data

- 6,013 Reviews Completed
- 8,978 Children Reviewed
- 10,742 Volunteer Hours
- 221 Volunteers
- 22 Judicial Districts Served

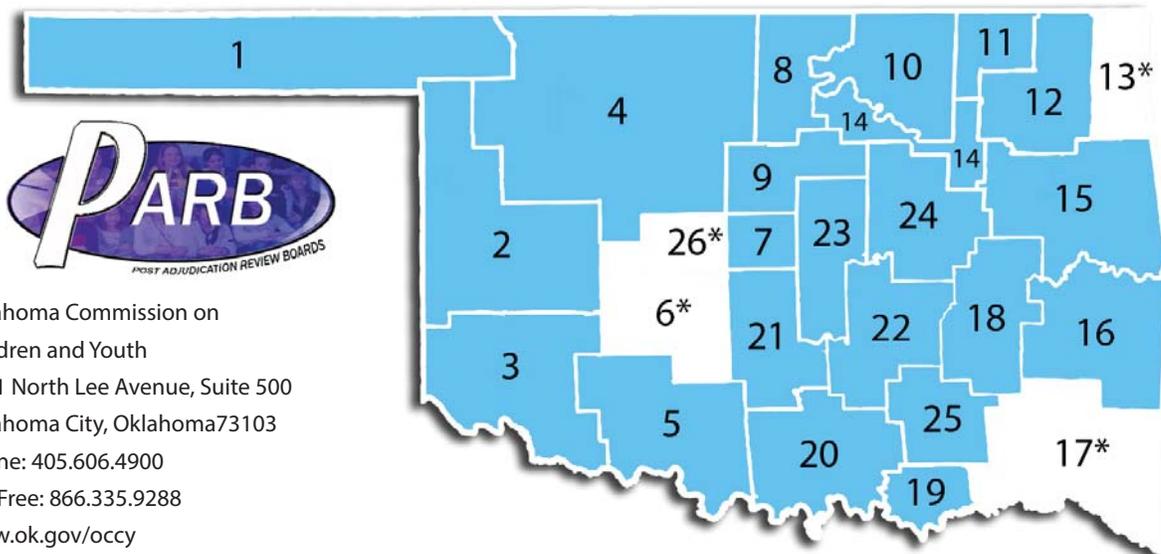
In 2016, PARB volunteers reviewed an average of 27 cases, donating an average of 49 volunteer hours.

## 2017 State Advisory Board Recommendation

**OKDHS be required to include educational information about the Post Adjudication Review Board (PARB) program in all Pre-Service training for Foster Parents.**

Post Adjudication Review Boards are required to operate in all judicial districts in Oklahoma (10 O.S. § 1116.2). As a part of their duties the board members are expected to review juvenile court records and OKDHS records pertaining to children adjudicated Deprived (10A O.S. § 1-6-103 & 10 O.S. § 1116.3). A critical component in completing this mandated service is communication between the review board and the foster families caring for the children. Too often foster parents are unaware of PARB's role and purpose and do not contribute to the review process.

## 42 PARBS Served 22 Judicial Districts



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*PARB Coverage  
by Judicial District  
\*not covered*