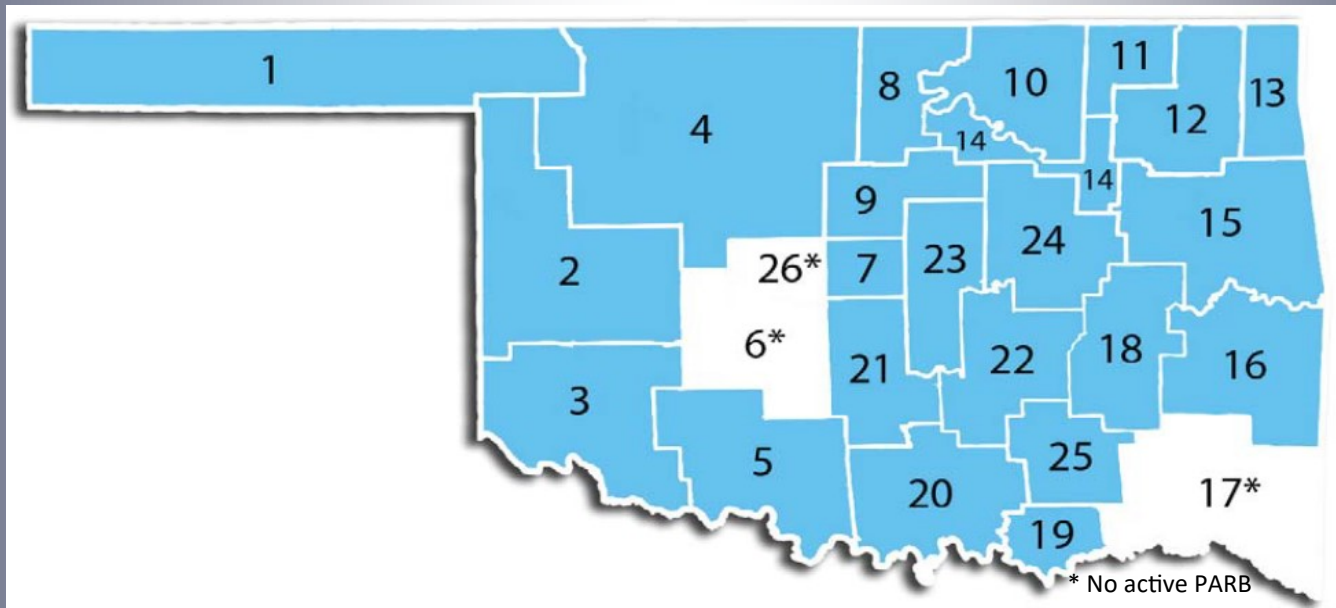


44 PARBS Served 23 Judicial Districts



Local Boards

Even with challenges the local PARB Boards continued to review cases and make recommendations across the state. The chart below lists the local PARB numbers for Calendar Year 2018. These numbers were very similar to 2017.

In addition, local Boards have shared their thoughts on continued recommendations and challenges for the year. These include;

- Getting on time reporting from Child Welfare,
- Needing more volunteer members,
- Needing additional awareness of PARB
- Needing additional services for the kids, especially transition age,
- Terminations filed in a timely manner to facilitate faster permanence,
- Less moving around from placement to placement for kids
- More foster homes and kinship care needed
- The ongoing challenge of the Child Welfare turnover rate.

235	PARB Volunteers
10,139	Volunteer Hours Reported
6,599	Case Reviews Completed
7,782	Children Involved in Reviews
23	Judicial Districts Served

Every day a child is abused in Oklahoma. Every day a family is struggling with their ability to feed, clothe or protect a child in their care. Sometimes the abuse or neglect is so serious that the State of Oklahoma must intervene for the wellbeing of that child. The State becomes their guardian. An overburdened and underfunded system is now responsible for making sure the child is safe, physically and emotionally healthy, educated and supported. Child Welfare workers, CASA, Judges and others must ensure a healthy and permanent home for that child. This process is traumatic for the child, the family, and the foster parents, as well as many others involved with the case.

However, every day in Oklahoma there are also citizen groups that watch the system and protect the child. These Post Adjudication Review Boards read the court files, get reports from child welfare workers, identify problems, and look for resources, resulting in specific recommendations to the Juvenile Court Judge. The juvenile court system is watched and supported. This is what the PARB volunteers do every time they meet.



2018 was a difficult year for the Oklahoma Post Adjudication Board family. In October, we lost Sara Vincent, our State PARB Program Manager. For many months Sara was fighting cancer while continuing to serve the PARB program. With a smile on her face, she tirelessly continued to support existing local boards and work toward the development of new ones. In addition to her work with PARB, Sara managed the Children of Incarcerated Parents work group, served as the liaison to the OKDHS Office of Client Advocacy for the Foster Parent Voices project, and worked with the Office of Juvenile System Oversight. Sara was dedicated to improving the lives of Oklahoma's abused and neglected children. It is a great loss to PARB, OCCY, and our State. Sara was admired, hardworking, and will be missed.



Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth
 1111 N. Lee, Suite 500
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103
 405 606-4900
 www.ok.gov/occy

This publication, printed by the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth and issued by the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board as authorized by 10 O.S. 1116.6 (F.). 50 copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$40.79. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries." [74 O.S. § 3105(B)]

2018 Annual Report



State PARB

Mission Statement

Post Adjudication Review Boards 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.

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

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.

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.

The State PARB was active in 2018. Legislative issues were addressed at the February, 2018 meeting. The Board voted to support Senate Bill (SB) 1066, SB 1081 and HB 3485. SB1066 authorizes the extension of deferral services an additional 180 days for juvenile delinquency cases under certain circumstances. This Bill became law. SB 1081 creates the Children Trust Fund of Oklahoma. Private donations will be deposited into the trust fund and it will be managed by OCCY. Interest accrued from the donated money will be used to fund research and evaluations of programs in Oklahoma and across the U.S. to find best practices and evidenced-based curriculums that could be duplicated across the state. This Bill also became law. HB 3485 allows eligible children in foster care at the age of 18 to receive extended foster care to age 21. This bill did not pass. The State PARB wrote a letter opposing HB 3686. This bill did not pass but would have required a person who reports child abuse and/or neglect to the child abuse hotline to identify him/herself to the hotline operator. In addition to these legislative recommendations, the State PARB also voted to create legislation that would extend the PARB Member terms from three to five years. Legislation to this affect was submitted during the 2019 Session but did not make it out of Committee.



In 2018 the State PARB elected Dr. Greg Parks as the new chair and Greg Delaney as the new vice Chair. Dr. Parks shared information and led a discussion on concerns over dually (OJA and DHS) adjudicated kids. These concerns and discussions have continued and will be discussed further at the 2019 Annual Conference.



A State PARB subcommittee was formed to consider improvements to the quality of data to be collected as part of the annual reporting process. This process will be informed, in part, by PARB evaluation efforts of the University Of Oklahoma Department Of Sociology. Julie Gerlinger, Ph.D and Constance Chapple, Ph.D. from

OU presented their research proposal at the January 2019 State PARB meeting. The Board voted to adopt their proposal and looks forward to their research.