

Oklahoma's Post Adjudication Review Boards

Volunteers supporting, protecting and monitoring the deprived court system

Support, Protect, Monitor

What is PARB?



A group of local, trained and supported volunteers with broad legislative authority that meet regularly to monitor active deprived docket cases and make recommendations to the presiding Judge.

These recommendations are made to ensure the safety of the child, encourage best practices and promote permanency while the child is in state custody.

1. Getting it right is important. Competing priorities
2. Juvenile Court System is complex
3. Local citizen oversight for an important and complex system.

Like a Jury

4. You may be the expert in the room.
5. You don't have to be the expert in the room

Family Court

Delinquent Court

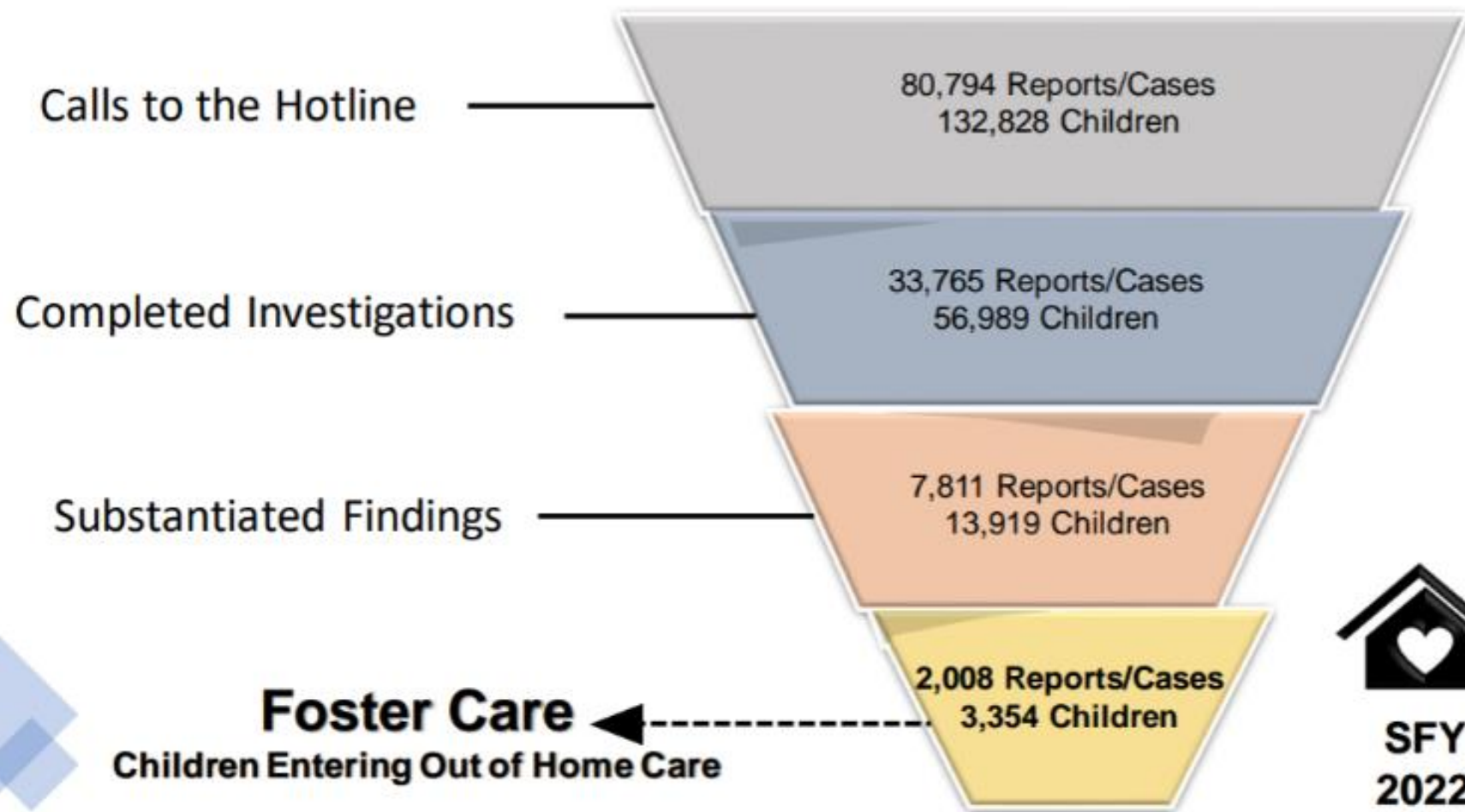
Deprived Court

- The deprived court system is a formal legal system set up to protect dependent children from their legal primary caregivers due to confirmed abuse or neglect. Once the Assistant District Attorney files a deprived petition and the Court rules in favor of that petition, then the child is deemed or adjudicated as deprived. This means that the State of Oklahoma, through Child Welfare and the Courts are now responsible for the child. Hence the term DHS (Department of Human Services) custody or state custody. The number of children in state custody can vary from day to day. In SFY 2019 4,416 kids entered out of home care and 4,889 left out of home care. However, on June 3, 2019 there were 4,525 open DHS Court cases in Oklahoma that represented 8,289 kids.

Who are the players



There are a lot of people involved in these deprived cases representing different interest and different goals. There are the parents, kids, parent's attorneys, kid's attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Assistant District Attorney, Judge, Child Welfare Permanency workers and others. It is the Judges job to sort through all of these competing perspectives and make decisions on the progress and direction of the case.



SFY
2022



State Fiscal Year 2025

Average length of stay statewide=17 months

Number of open cases in December of 2025 =3,523

Number of children in care at the end of FY 2025=6,442

Child Welfare Stats-State Fiscal Year 2024

Child Welfare served 9,660 children in DHS custody in SFY24.

Start of SFY24 (7/1/23): 6304 Children

Removed in SFY24: 3356 Children

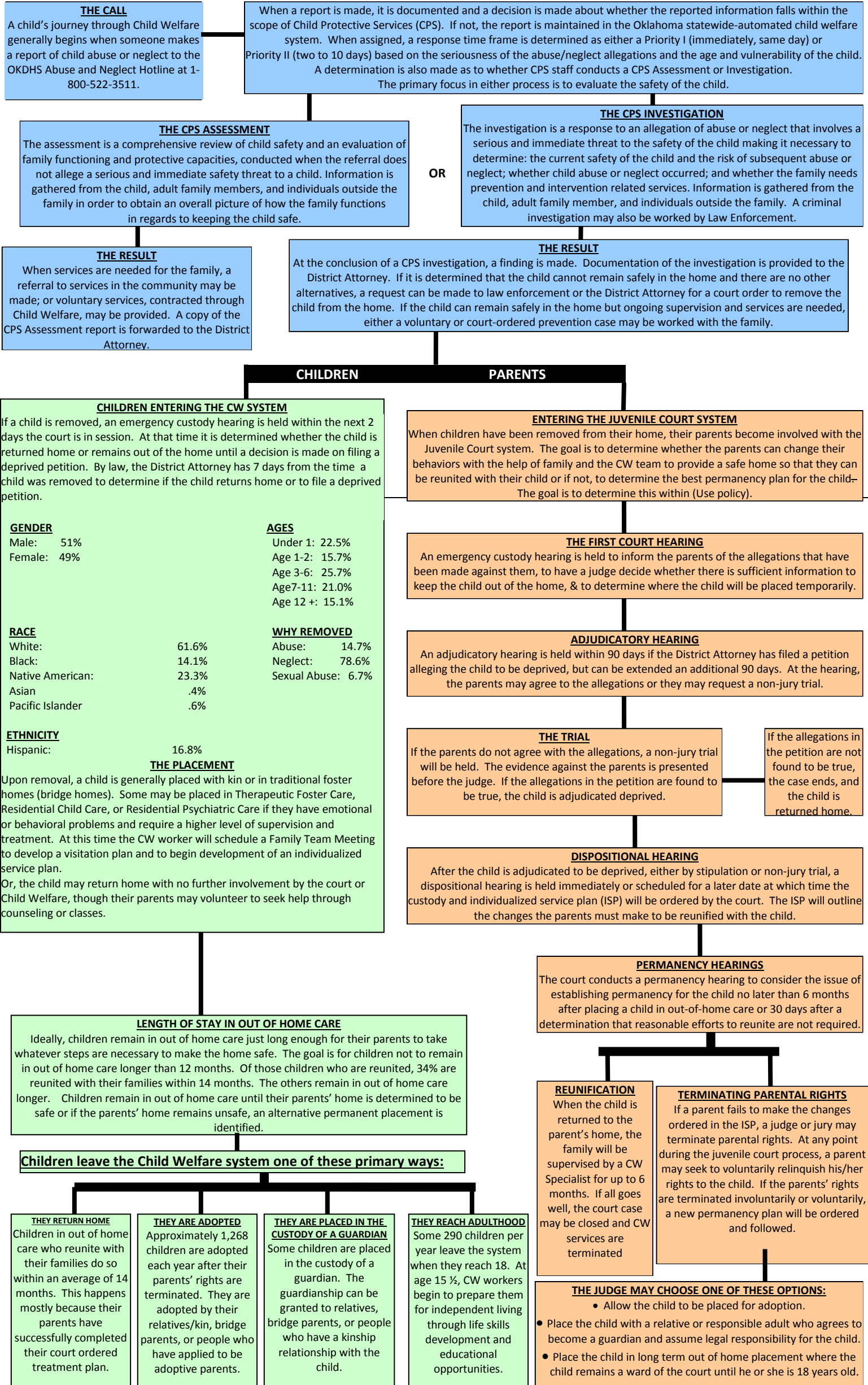
Exited in SFY24: 3820 Children

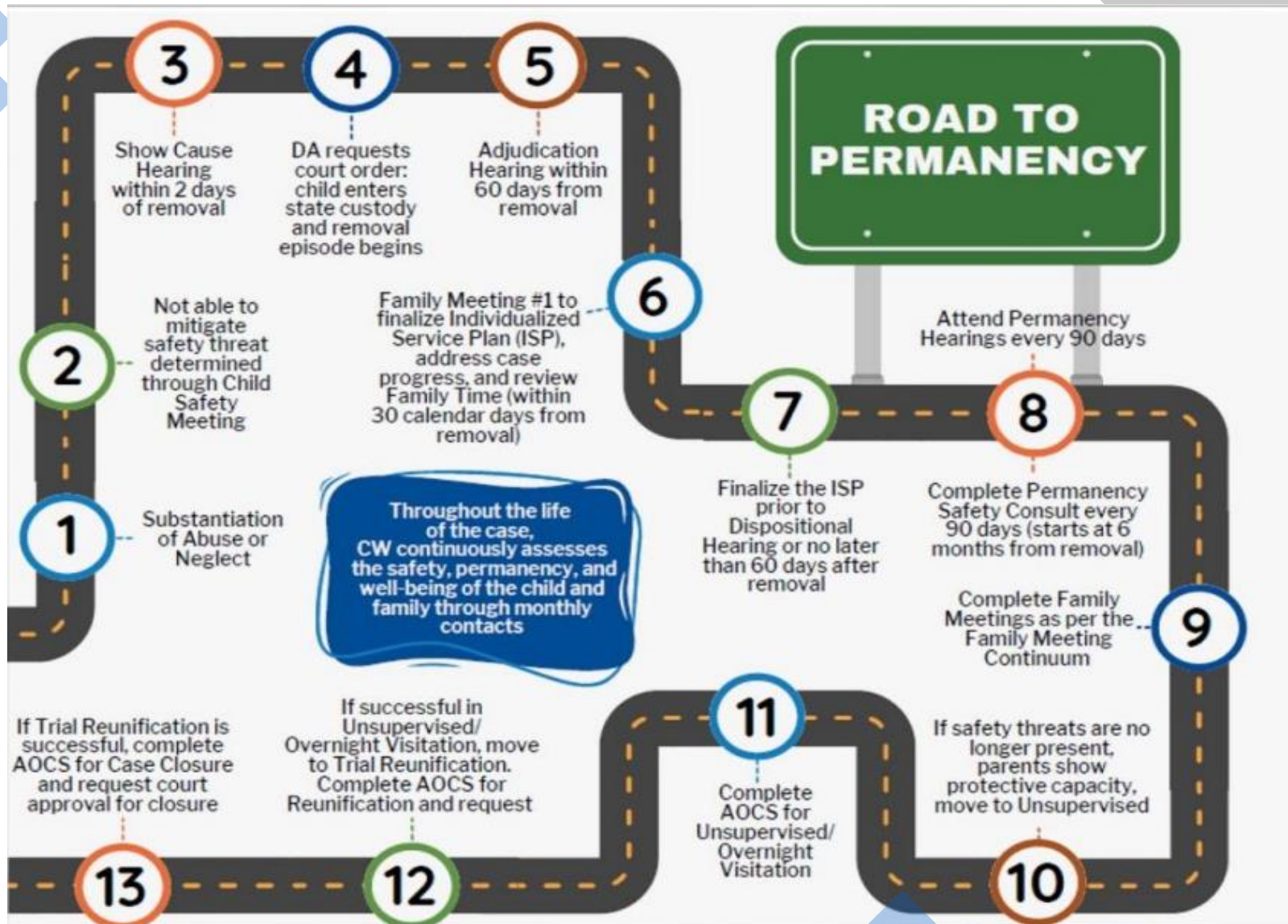
Last day of SFY24 (6/30/24): 5840 Children.

Data source: Pinnacle Context Data; Run Date: 7/12/24

Child Welfare Statistics-State

THE OKLAHOMA CHILD WELFARE JOURNEY





Post adjudication review boards shall function in an advisory capacity to the district court

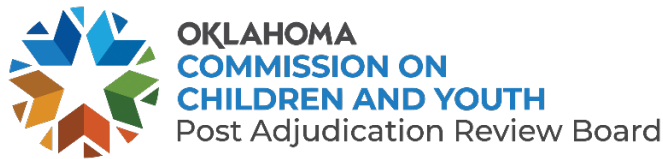
May review juvenile court records and Department of Human Services agency records pertaining to a child.

PARB Boards may conduct interviews or invite to PARB meetings anyone associated with a case they are reviewing. DHS, law enforcement, tribal representatives, CASA, District Attorneys, child's attorney, parents' attorney, foster parents

What do you actually do as a PARB member?



- You meet monthly, or so, as a group
- You review the Judges upcoming deprived court cases
- You get updates from child welfare
- You review the actual court case file
- You hear from anyone else you can
- You make a recommendation to the Judge that becomes a part of the case file and benefits the Judge AND Child welfare and other players.



Policy Regarding Guests Attending Post Adjudication Review Board (PARB) Meetings

Adopted by State PARB on May 16, 2025

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the attendance of official guests at Post Adjudication Review Board (PARB) meetings in Oklahoma. Official guests may be invited for informational, oversight, or collaborative purposes. However, their attendance is contingent upon meeting the criteria and steps outlined in this policy.

Existing Statutes Related to Non-Member Attendance

- **(Title 10, Chapter 51, Section 1116.2)**
“Upon request, members or prospective members of other review boards, students, or researchers may observe, but not participate in, board meetings subject to conditions imposed by the board. Further, members and staff of the State Postadjudication Review Advisory Board who are exercising their oversight responsibilities pursuant to state law may observe, but not participate in, board meetings. All parties shall maintain confidentiality, and the names of the children in placement shall not be published.”
- **(Title 10, Chapter 51, Section 1116.3)**
“The child and the custodian of the child may be present at the review board’s meeting regarding the child.”
- **(Title 10, Chapter 51, Section 1116.3)**
“A review board may solicit the attendance at its meetings of persons known to the board with information concerning the case of any child subject to its review.”

PARB Non-Member Attendance Policy

1. Guests Observing Meetings

Upon request, the following classifications of individuals are eligible to observe, but not participate in, closed board meetings, subject to the following conditions:

Conditions for Attendance:

- **Approval Requirement:** Prior written approval from the designated Board Chair must be obtained **seven (7) business days prior** to the scheduled meeting to ensure coordination and limit disruption.

- The PARB Program Manager must be notified by the PARB Chair of any requests received by State Legislators.
- **Confidentiality Agreement:** A verbal agreement to not share confidential information learned during the PARB case reviews is required, along with a signed and dated PARB Guest Confidentiality Form.
- **Purpose Statement:** A written stated purpose for attending must be provided.

Eligible Guests:

- **Members of Other Review Boards** for training purposes.
 - **Prospective PARB Members** may attend one meeting to learn more about the board they plan on serving.
 - **Students** attending as part of a class assignment (one meeting).
 - **Researchers** conducting approved PARB research.
 - **State Postadjudication Review Advisory Board Members** exercising their oversight responsibilities.
 - **PARB Staff** exercising their oversight responsibilities.
 - **Oklahoma State Legislators** from Health and Human Services committees exercising their oversight responsibilities.
-

2. Guests Presenting Information Attendance Policy

Upon request, the following classifications of individuals are eligible to present pertinent information regarding a PARB case scheduled for review, subject to the following conditions:

Conditions for Presentation:

- The case must be **on that month's PARB agenda** for a scheduled review.
- The case must fit the criteria for a PARB review (post-adjudication and within the board's jurisdiction).
- **Prior written approval** from the designated Board Chair or PARB staff must be obtained **seven (7) business days prior** to the scheduled meeting.
- **Time Limit:** Presentations are limited to **15 minutes**.

Eligible Guests:

- **The Child and the Custodian** of the child in the case being reviewed.
- **Foster Parents** of the child in the case being reviewed.
- **Individuals with Pertinent Information** regarding the case who have been pre-approved by the Board Chair.

Other Considerations:

- Case reviews and subsequent recommendations will not be discussed until all guests have left the meeting.
 - Scheduling of presentations will be at the discretion of the board and will occur during regular board meeting times.
 - Presentations are time-limited and at the discretion of the board. **15–20 minutes** is recommended.
 - Only the **assigned Judge, child welfare personnel**, and parties to the case (such as the ADA and attorneys) will receive a copy of the final recommendation.
-

Expectations for Official Guests

- **Use of Information:** Official guests are prohibited from using information obtained during PARB meetings for personal, political, or public agendas. Any misuse of this information outside their official duties is a violation of this policy.
 - **Conduct:** Guests must conduct themselves professionally and respectfully during PARB meetings. Disruptive behavior and disrespect for the processes and activities of the PARB are not permitted.
 - **Recording Prohibition:** Official guests are prohibited from recording any aspect of the PARB meeting, including audio, video, or photographs, without prior written consent from the PARB leadership.
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This policy is subject to modification and updates as necessary to ensure the proper and respectful functioning of PARB meetings.

Purpose of PARB



- Assure that children do not linger in foster care but receive the support and benefits of a permanent home
- Provide oversight and support of Child Welfare, Judges and foster parents
- Have more eyes on the case
- To be a community resource



Generally...

- Parents have a natural, legal, and moral right to care for and support their children. Title 10A O.S. §1-1-102(A)1.
 - It is presumed that the best interests of a child are ordinarily served by leaving the child in the custody of the parents. Title 10A O.S. §1-1-102(A)1.
 - A child has the right to be raised by their mother and father, free from physical and emotional abuse or neglect. Title 10A O.S. §1-1-102(A)2.
 - The State has duty to protect those who, because of age, are unable to protect themselves. Title 10A O.S. §1-1-102(A)3.
- 

Principles of the Oklahoma Children's Code

Protective/Emergency Custody

- Contrary to Welfare of child
- Reasonable efforts
- ICWA affidavit attached to order
- Written Notice: (parents, legal guardian, or custodian)
 - That an emergency custody hearing within 2 judicial days to determine custody;
 - The date, time, and place for the emergency custody hearing;
 - The nature of the allegation that led to placement of the child into protective or emergency custody;
 - The address and telephone number of the applicable law enforcement agency and the Department; and
 - The right to contact an attorney.
- "FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE OR TO APPEAR AT THE EMERGENCY CUSTODY HEARING MEANS YOUR CHILD WILL REMAIN IN CUSTODY. YOUR FAILURE TO RESPOND OR COOPERATE MEANS YOU MAY LOSE CUSTODY OF THIS CHILD OR YOUR RIGHTS AS A PARENT MAY BE TERMINATED." (1-4-202)

Emergency Custody Hearing

- Hearing within 2 judicial days, all probative evidence
 - Notice of rights
 - Custody
 - Placement/birth certificate/parents' address
 - Reasonable suspicion burden of proof
 - When to file petition





REASONABLE EFFORTS

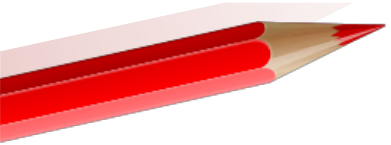
- Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act (AACWA) (Pub. Law 96-272) {1980}
- Must make finding of reasonable efforts to prevent removal and reasonable efforts for safe return, or when not reunifying, reasonable efforts to finalize permanency.
- Must make finding of reasonable efforts to keep siblings together.



Active Efforts



- For foster care placement, or termination of parental rights to an Indian child.
- Active Efforts:
 - Must be detailed in court record
 - Must be affirmative, active, thorough and timely
 - Are tailored to the facts/circumstances of the case



Emergency Removal of Indian Child

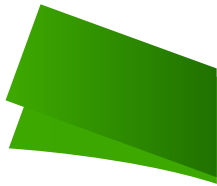
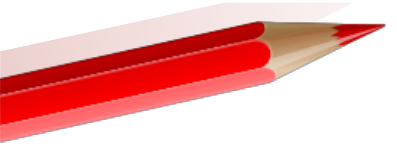
- A. Order accompanied by an affidavit with:
 - 1. The names, tribal affiliations, and addresses of the Indian child, the parents, and Indian custodians, if any;
 - 2. A specific and detailed account of the circumstances that lead to removal; and
 - 3. A statement of the specific actions that have been taken to assist the parents or Indian custodians to safely return child.
- B. No pre-adjudicatory custody order shall remain effective for more than 30 days without a determination by the court, supported by clear and convincing evidence and the testimony of at least **one qualified expert witness, that custody of the child by the parent or Indian custodian is likely to result in serious emotional or physical damage to the child.**
 - For good and sufficient cause shown, the court may extend the order for an additional 60 days.



ICWA Placement Preferences

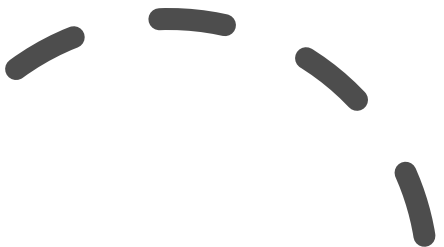


- **Foster Care/Preadoptive Placement:**
 - (1) A member of Indian child's extended family;
 - (2) A foster home licensed, approved or specified by child's tribe;
 - (3) An Indian foster home licensed or approved by other licensing authority; or
 - (4) An institution for children approved by tribe or operated by Indian organization.
- **Adoptive Placement:**
 - (1) Member of Indian child's extended family;
 - (2) Other members of child's tribe; or
 - (3) Other Indian Families.
- **Good cause to deviate (burden of proponent by clear and convincing evidence):**
 - (1) Request of one or both Indian child's parents (after reviewing complying placements); (2) Request of child, if able to understand; (3) Extraordinary physical, mental, or emotional needs of child (not including ordinary bonding/attachment when placed contrary to ICWA); (4) Unavailability of suitable placement after court determines due diligences has been made.





Adjudication

- 
- Rules of evidence
 - Burden: preponderance of evidence/clear and convincing
 - Reasonable/active efforts
 - Qualified Expert Witness
 - Held within 90 calendar days from Petition
 - If supported by evidence and in best interest, adjudicated deprived

Disposition

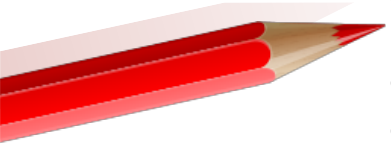
- ISP formulated within 30 days
- Hearing within 40 days
- Must include a statement to the parent that the consequences of non-compliance with court's order including termination of parental rights.



Individual Service Plan



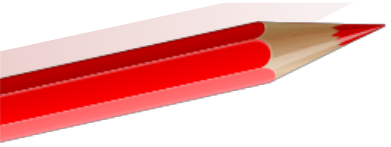
- Based upon a comprehensive assessment/evaluation of child and family.
- Developed with the participation of parent/legal guardian, or custodian, attorney for the child, GAL (if any), the child's tribe, and the child (if appropriate).
- Must Contain:
 - History of the child/family, including problems/conditions leading to adjudication and all changes parents must make so child may be safely returned;
 - Identification of specific services to be provided to child (educational, vocational, medical, treatment, or counseling);
 - Identification and a schedule of time-limited reunification services to be provided to parent, other adult person living in home, or other family members (how often, when, where);
 - Social worker's name assigned to the case;
 - A projected date for the completion of ISP
 - Performance criteria to measure the progress of child/family towards completing ISP (including time frames to achieve directives);
 - Other items

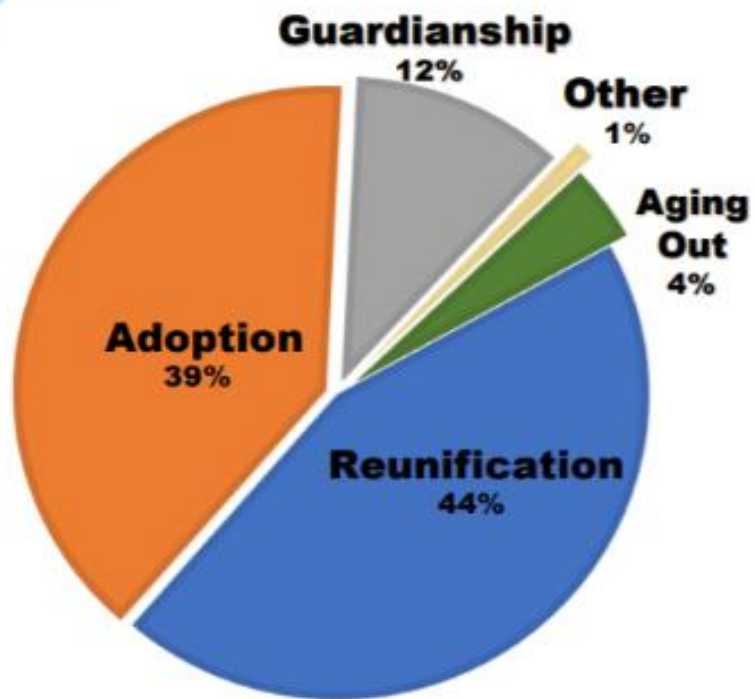


Permanency Plan



- At least one of the following:
 - 1. Reunification with parent/legal guardian when can occur within certain time frame and child can be safeguarded;
 - 2. Adoption after termination of parental rights or filing of a termination petition;
 - 3. Permanent guardianship for the child;
 - 4. Planned alternative permanent placement (if child is over 16 and the court has inquired about the permanency outcome);





Permanency Outcomes (706)

Exit Reason SFY 2022



Review Hearings

- Case reviewed by court no later than 6 months from the date of removal and at least every 6 months thereafter until permanency is achieved or jurisdiction terminated.
- Purpose to review status of case and determine whether conditions have been corrected. (May be held concurrently with a permanency hearing)
- Report to include efforts of parents to correct conditions, and any recommendations, including
 - Services needed in future;
 - Description of placements of child with entry and exit dates;
 - Compliance by the Department and parents with court orders;
 - Timetable for permanency;
 - Appropriateness of current placement, distance from home and whether it is least restrictive; and
 - Any trial reunification recommendation and reasons it should be approved by the court.

Permanency Hearing

- Conducted no later than:
 - (1) 6 months after out-of-home placement and every 6 months thereafter,
 - (2) 30 days after determination that reasonable efforts are not required and every 6 months thereafter; and
 - (3) 30 days after parental rights are NOT terminated at trial.
- Purpose: determine best permanency plan for the child based upon child's individual needs.
- Report submitted not less than 3 judicial days prior to hearing.
- Contents: (1) efforts and progress demonstrated by parent to complete ISP, (2) status of child, including their emotional, behavioral, and physical health, (3) recommendation for permanency plan for the child, and (4) recommendation regarding placement and reasons.
- A transcript shall be made at each hearing OR the hearings shall be memorialized with written findings of fact.
- Written findings: (1) Reasonable/active efforts to finalize the permanency plan, (2) appropriateness of current placement and projected timetable for permanency; (3) Reasonable efforts to place removed sibling together, and if not placed together, to provide for frequent visitation.



Reaching Permanence



- Typically, children are placed in foster homes or kinship homes while the Court is involved in their case and has custody. Kids can leave State custody by returning to their parents after a Judge has determined that the conditions that led to their removal have been corrected. They can also leave custody through adoption after the parent's parental rights have been terminated or by turning 18. This is often called reaching permanence. The amount of time that kids are in state custody before reaching permanence varies greatly from one case to another. The average length of stay in Oklahoma during SFY 2019 is 555 days or 18 months.

Trial Reunification

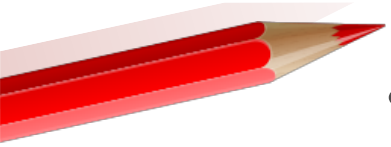
10A 1-4-806

- Court may order a trial reunification not exceeding **6 months (may extend for additional 6 months)**. (After Nov 1, Court may return custody to parent at any time during trial reunification if successful).
- DHS must conduct a criminal background check on any adult in the home, before trial reunification.
- DHS continues to have temporary legal custody of the child and to provide appropriate services to parent and child.
- DHS shall be permitted to terminate the trial reunification, without court order or authorization, to protect the child's health, safety or welfare and to place the child in foster care.
 - **Notice** to court/parties within 3 days of termination of trial reunification.
 - **Hearing within 15 days** of termination of trial reunification.

Purpose of Termination



- Decide whether to break the parental bond. Separate interests:
 - 1. The parent's right to custody and control of a child.
 - 2. The State's responsibility to protect a child under 18 years.
 - 3. The child's right to a wholesome place to live, free from abuse and neglect.
 - 4. The right of the Indian child's tribe to stability and security.
- The parent's right to the child is a fundamental right protected by the Federal and State Constitutions.
- However, the parents' rights must be balanced against the child's rights.
- Where they conflict, the child's rights should be protected.
(Juvenile OUI 1-1)



Termination of Parental Rights

- Who may file? (Section 1-4-901)
 - Child's attorney
 - Assistant District Attorney
- When mandated? (Section 1-4-902)
 - 1. Child in foster care 15 of the most recent 22 months;
 - 2. Not less than 60 days after abandoned infant;
 - 3. Not less than 60 days after reasonable efforts to reunite not required due to parent's felony conviction for: child pornography; rape, or rape by instrumentation; lewd molestation; child abuse or neglect or enabling; causing the death of a child (or sibling) from abuse, chronic abuse, chronic neglect; or murder (aiding, abetting, attempting, conspiring, soliciting murder of any child/sibling/parent); voluntary manslaughter (any child/parent); serious bodily injury to child/sibling; or
 - 4. No later than 90 days after ISP and parent has made no measurable progress.
- Exceptions?
 - Cared for by relative
 - DHS documents compelling reason NOT to terminate
 - DHS has not provided necessary services

Reasons for Termination 1-4-904

No termination unless: (1) Adjudicated
deprived, and (2) In best interest

- 1. Written Consent
- 2. Abandonment
- 3. Abandoned Infant
- 4. Noncompliance with placement agreement
- 5. Failed to correct conditions
- 6. Previously terminated rights and failed to correct those conditions
- 7. Failed to support
- 8. Convicted of certain crimes: child pornography, rape, lewd molestation, child abuse/neglect or enabling, death of child/sibling, murder, voluntary manslaughter, or serious bodily injury
- 9. Abused or neglected child or failed to protect from heinous or shocking
- 10. Previously abused/neglected child/sibling and subjected to subsequent abuse
- 11. Conceived from rape
- 12. Incarcerated parent, and continuation of rights would harm child
- 13. Cognitive Disorder, Incapacity, or Medical Condition
- 14. Conditions from Previous Adjudication re-occurred
- 15. Substantial Erosion of Parent-Child Relationship
- 16. Child (4 years or older) in foster care 15 out of last 22 months
- 17. Child (less than 4) placed 6 out of last 12 months.

Permanent Guardianships

- Only DA, or child's attorney may petition; *but DA, guardian, or child's attorney may seek to Modify or Terminate (NOT PARENT).*
- Adoption not the permanency plan, and termination not legally possible or not in best interest of child;
- Parent has consented, rights have been terminated, failed to substantially correct conditions, adjudicated incompetent/incapacitated, abandoned the child, failed to be identified with diligent efforts made, or died;
- Proposed guardian will not return child to care of parent/person from who child was removed or allow visitation without court approval;
- The child must have been placed with the proposed guardian for at least six (6) months, **UNLESS** the proposed guardian is a relative.
- If granted, must order the parents to pay child support pursuant to child-support guidelines.
- May enter following orders, if in the best interest of child: Visitation with parents/siblings/relatives and any other provision or condition necessary to provide for the child's continuing safety and well-being.
- Must be reviewed within 1 year after order approving the permanent guardianship.

Aging OUT



- More than 23,000 youth age out of foster care every year.
- 40 % report experiencing homelessness within 5 years.
- 1 in 5 report being incarcerated between ages 17–19; 60% of boys will have a criminal record.
- 84% will become parents; 7 in 10 girls become pregnant before age 21.
- 1 in 4 will not graduate from high school or obtain a GED.
- 1 in 2 will develop a substance dependence.





OKLAHOMA SUCCESSFUL ADULthood (OKSA) PROGRAM

Judicial
Bench Card

THE OKSA PROGRAM SEEKS TO SERVE YOUTH:

- Ages 14-17 who are in legal custody of the Oklahoma Human Services (OKDHS) or a federally recognized tribe;
- Ages 18-20 who were in OKDHS or tribal custody and living in an out-of-home placement on their 16th birthday, and who have not reached their 21st birthday; and
- Who entered a permanent guardianship or adoption after the age of 16 to achieve permanence, and have not yet reached their 21st birthday
- OKSA also serves young adults ages 21-26 who participate in the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program



Eligibility Ages 18+

- Voluntary Care Youth may request placement and services from OKDHS on a voluntary basis as long as they are: participating in an approved school or educational program to obtain a GED or high school diploma; or needing out-of-home care during the months following graduation prior to the youth entering college or a vocational program
- If youth exited OKDHS or tribal custody on or after their 16th birthday, they may qualify for extended services, including OKSA Helpline aftercare services and ETV
- Youth Development Funds to assist with the transition to adulthood
- Educational assistance, such as scholarships and tutoring

Eligibility Ages 14-15

- OKSA Assessment
- OKSA Plan
- Tutoring
- Youth Development Funds to assist with education and employment related items
- Assistance with transitional planning
- Assistance with purchasing essential documents
- Monitoring of credit report annually

Eligibility Ages 16-17

- OKSA Assessment
- OKSA Plan
- Tutoring
- Youth Development Funds to assist with education and employment related items
- Assistance with transitional planning
- Assistance with purchasing essential documents
- Monitoring of credit report annually

Additional Opportunities for Youth

- Attend teen specific events such as Teen Conference, Page Week and various life skills groups;
- Participate in Oklahoma Foster Youth Advocates (OKFYA)

Regarding young people in custody with an undocumented status, OKSA resources and Youth Development Funds can only be issued to youth who have a status of Citizen or Qualified Alien, and meet the above criteria for eligibility.



OKLAHOMA SUCCESSFUL ADULthood (OKSA) PROGRAM

Judicial
Bench Card

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR YOUTH 14-17:

- Is the young person or OKDHS in possession of their **essential documents** (original certified birth certificate, original certified Social Security Card, state ID, Certificate Degree of Indian Blood Card)
- Has the youth accessed **OKSA funding**? If so, what for? If not, what are the barriers to accessing these funds?
- Are there monthly discussions with the young person surrounding **relational permanency** and identification of their permanent connections? Who are the young person's **permanent connections**, not including OKDHS staff?
- Is a **referral** to any of the following services needed for this youth: Mental Health Consultants, Social Security Income, Developmental Disability Services or other behavioral health services? Has a referral been made?
- Has the young person completed the **OKSA Life Skills Assessment**?
- Has the young person's **OKSA Plan** been created with the youth and their support system?
- Is the **OKSA Plan** updated at every visit and attached to each court report? Is OKSA involved?
- What is the young person's **educational goals**? Are they on track for these goals?
- Are there monthly discussions with the young person surrounding **legal permanency**? What does that look like?
- If the case plan goal (CPG) of the young person is **Planned Alternative Permanent Placement (PAPP)**, what other permanency options are being explored?
- Has the young person signed the **Foster Youth Bill of Rights** and been provided the grievance process information? (The basic rights of youth in the custody of the State of Oklahoma per Section 1-6-103(c))

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR TRANSITION YOUTH 17 YEARS OF AGE:

- Is the young person or OKDHS in possession of their **essential documents** (original certified birth certificate, original certified Social Security Card, state ID, CDIB) If not, what are the barriers to obtaining these documents? What is the plan to ensure the young person receives these documents before exiting care?
- Has the **OKSA Transition Plan** been scheduled and/or completed as directed per policy to include the young person, their permanent connections, support system, and OKSA? What was the outcome? When is the next follow-up meeting going to occur with the young person and OKSA?
- What is the young person's **housing plan** after turning 18? What is their alternate housing plan?
- Has the youth been provided the **OKSA Helpline** contact information for them to open their after-care case

For additional assistance, please contact:

OKSA Helpline at **1-800-397-2945** or by e-mail at **oksas@ou.edu**.

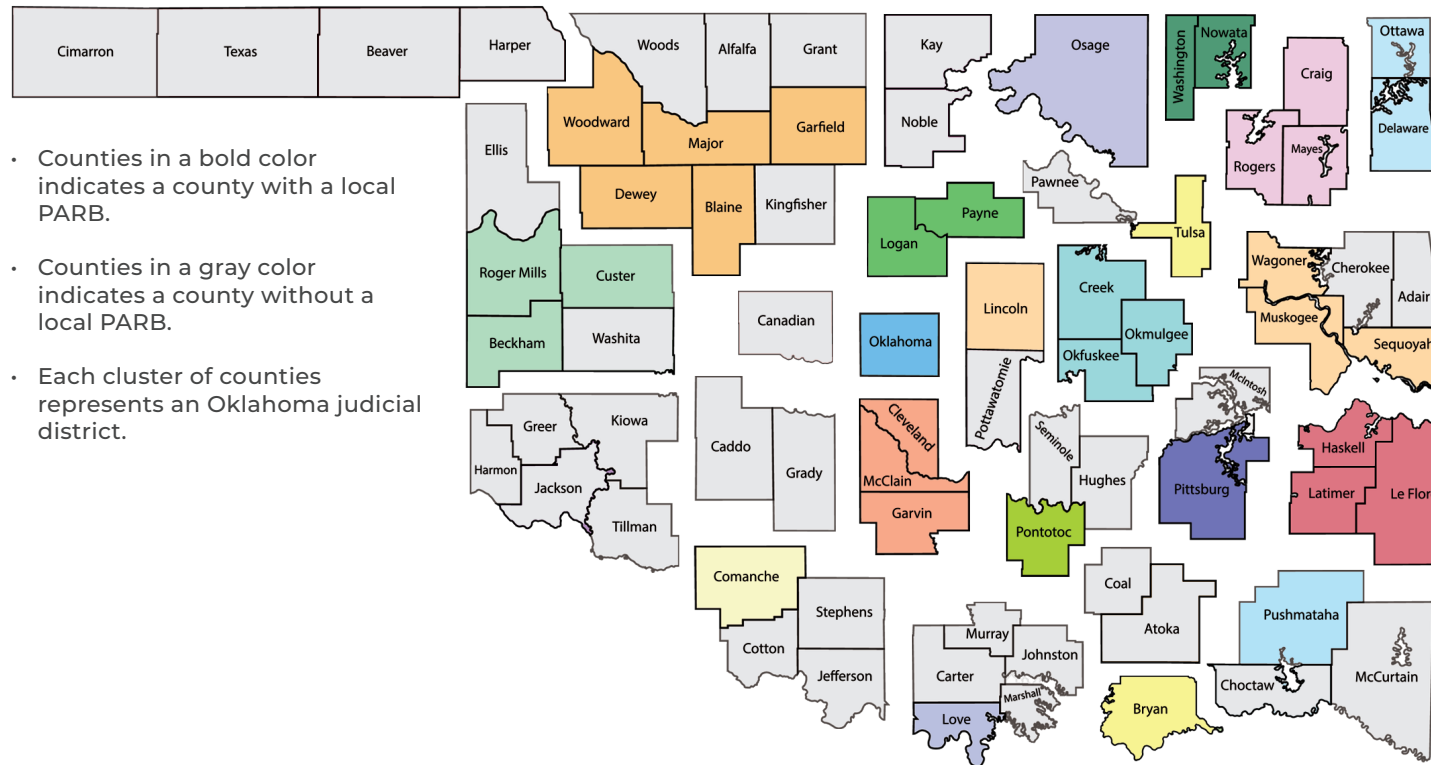
The Oklahoma Successful Adulthood Program website is located at **www.OKSA.ou.edu** and is a valuable resource accessible to young people in and out of care, child welfare specialists and staff, foster and adoptive parents, as well as community agencies and providers.

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Establishing PARB



- There is hereby established a post adjudication review board in each judicial district (26) in the state.
- The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth may establish additional post adjudication review boards as needed for each county within a judicial district.



- Counties in a bold color indicates a county with a local PARB.
- Counties in a gray color indicates a county without a local PARB.
- Each cluster of counties represents an Oklahoma judicial district.

District 1:	Beaver, Cimarron, Harper, Texas	District 4:	Alfalfa, Blaine, Dewey, Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher, Major, Woods, Woodward	District 8:	Kay, Noble	District 16:	Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore	District 21:	Cleveland, Garvin, McClain
District 2:	Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	District 5:	Comanche, Cotton, Jefferson, Stephens	District 9:	Logan, Payne	District 17:	Choctaw, McCurtain, Pushmataha	District 22:	Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole
District 3:	Greer, Harmon, Kiowa, Jackson, Tillman	District 6:	Caddo, Grady	District 10:	Osage	District 18:	McIntosh, Pittsburg	District 23:	Lincoln, Pottawatomie
		District 7:	Oklahoma	District 11:	Nowata, Washington	District 19:	Bryan	District 24:	Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Creek
				District 12:	Craig, Mayes, Rogers	District 20:	Carter, Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray	District 25:	Atoka, Coal
				District 13:	Delaware, Ottawa			District 26:	Canadian
				District 14:	Pawnee, Tulsa				
				District 15:	Adair, Cherokee, Muskogee, Sequoyah, Wagoner				

To volunteer contact:

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For more information visit: https://oklahoma.gov/occy/parb_volunteer

The Scope of PARB in Oklahoma?



PARB is housed at the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth. A state agency tasked with providing accountability, oversight and systemic improvement to Oklahoma's child and youth service system.

OCCY is an agency and a leadership board

See OCCY's Website for more information

<https://oklahoma.gov/occy.html>

Board Authority Beyond Case Reviews



- Promote and encourage all child placement agencies to maximize family stability and continuity for a child by discouraging unnecessary changes
- Review the efforts of agencies and institutions to find permanent placement for eligible children and report to the court
- Encourage a meeting between the various responsible public and private agencies
- Assess community resources

Case Review Philosophy



We believe that any review helps the case by keeping an eye on what is going on and reporting to the Judge and child welfare

We believe that there is always room for improvement

The Case Review: What do our Statutes say?



1. The appropriateness of the goals and objectives of the treatment and service plan.
2. The appropriateness of the goals and objectives of the permanency plan and permanency planning.
3. The appropriateness of the services provided to the child, and to the parent, stepparent, or other adult living in the home of the child, or legal guardian, or custodian.
4. Such review shall include, but not be limited to, consideration and evaluation of: a. whether the continued out-of-home placement is in the best interests of the child in light of the child's need for permanency and recognizing that permanency is in the best interests of the child.

Overarching themes to remember when reviewing cases



Ask your Judge how you are doing

Slow Down

Look at cases only every 6 months

Know your community services and resources

Know what typical services are available (CHUBS), Community Mental Health Center, OKSA

Call providers and learn about community resources

Know what requirements are for certain services. IE
DDS

Make a list of services, see manual

Attend Court (Someone on the board)

Read your recommendation out loud for the rest of the
board to give ideas

How Do You Start?



- **Things to know**
 - What conditions did the court tell the parents to correct? (see adj order)
 - Requirements and progress on the ISP
 - Progress is judged behaviorally and not just focused on ISP completion
 - Visitation/FTP
 - Parents and siblings
 - Permanency Plan
- **Ask Questions**

Writing the Recommendation



- **Formulate Concerns:** what is the board concerned about?
 - EX: the board is concerned natural mother is only having 1 hour of visitation per week.
- **Give Supporting Details** EX: the board is concerned natural mother is only having 1 hour of visitation for the following reasons:
 - 1) the child is 1 year old and best practices recommend multiple, short weekly visits
 - 2) per the DHS worker, natural mother has made substantial progress on her treatment plan and has demonstrated sobriety for 3 months
 - 3) and both FM and DHS report natural mother does very well with the child during visitation.

Writing the Recommendation Cont'd



- **Provide a Solution (use the “Recommendations” Box):**
 - **EX:** The board is concerned natural mother is only having 1 hour a week of visitation for the following reasons:
 - 1) the child is 1 year old and best practices recommend multiple, short weekly visits
 - 2) per the DHS worker, natural mother has made substantial progress on her treatment plan and has demonstrated sobriety for 3 months
 - 3) and both FM and DHS report natural mother does very well with the child during visitation.
 - **Therefore, PARB recommends:**
 - 1) the Family Time Plan be amended to move to monitored visitation and increase visitation to 3 times a week for 1 hour.
 - 2) Have at least 1 visitation a week in natural mother’s home to start familiarizing the child with the space

- **Be Advisory, Do NOT Dictate**
 - Wrong: DHS did not make reasonable efforts
 - Right: PARB is concerned DHS has not made reasonable efforts
- Be professional (watch spelling and punctuation)
- Do not restate history of the case
- Use facts to support your recommendation
 - Wrong: DHS did not make reasonable efforts
 - Right: PARB is concerned DHS has not made reasonable efforts BECAUSE...
- Be accurate

Petition

Initial Court Report From DHS

Individualized Service Plan (ISP)

Review Hearing minutes/Orders

CASA Reports

Other Reports submitted to the court (school, therapist, etc...)

General Advice for Reviews



1. Look at the Deprived Petition submitted by the DA to understand the conditions that led to removal from the home.
2. Look at the ISP. Is it doable? Does it address the deprived conditions?
3. Does the ISP also state what the kids need or should be doing?
4. Look at the visitation plan. Is it frequent, with siblings, with other caring adults in the kids life, FaceTime, phone calls and regular contact. Visitation for younger kids should be all the time.

General Advice for Reviews



5. Kinship placement. Is every effort being made to put that kid with someone they know and love and that loves them?
6. Look and see if it is an ICWA Case
7. Is disposition (placement) looked at every time.
8. Incarceration of a parent is not in and of itself sufficient to deprive a parent of parental rights
9. Transition age youth. Has lots of implications

Copies of the findings and recommendations must be submitted to the:

Court

Attorney representing the parents

Attorney representing the child

Assistant District Attorney

OKDHS and any other party as determined by the court

Acting In Good Faith



- There is rebuttable presumption that a person participating in a judicial proceeding as a PARB member is acting in good faith and shall be immune from any civil liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed
- Each Board shall meet a minimum of twice a year

- Names shall not be published on the agenda
- Cases are only to be discussed with board members or those who are party to the case
- Any member who has a professional or personal connection (worker, therapist, teacher, etc.) to a case is not to be a part of developing the Board's recommendations

- Twenty three members appointed by the Governor, plus ex-officio members from OKDHS and OJA
 - Eight local PARB members
 - Five Judges
 - Five representing the general public
 - One foster parent representing foster parents with a current contract with the OKDHS
 - One foster parent representing child-placing agencies which have current contracts with the OKDHS to provide foster care services
 - One foster parent nominated by any local or statewide foster parent association

The new online recommendation system



A. How it works

1. Users get a username and password to log into the URL

B. What the database allows us to do?

1. Office staff can log on and look at recommendations as soon as they are saved.
2. We can track information
3. Look at recommendation categories
4. Eventually cross reference with DHS Data
5. E-mail recommendations
6. Have an easier to read recommendation
7. Auto populate the demographic information past the initial review.

- You have a State Staff that can help you with
 - Training
 - Technical Assistance/regular visits
 - Forms
 - Judicial Relationships
 - DHS Relationships
 - Being the bad guy or gal
 - Asking for your paperwork

1. Website: <https://oklahoma.gov/occy/programs/post-adjudication-review-board.html>
2. Your Chair
3. Your Judge
4. PARB Staff
5. There is a form, manual and video for everything