



State of Oklahoma

## OFFICE OF JUVENILE AFFAIRS

Board of Juvenile Affairs and Board of Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School

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### Meeting Minutes August 21, 2019

#### Board Members Present

Tony Caldwell  
Amy Emerson  
Janet Foss  
Stephen Grissom  
Jenna Worthen  
Karen Youngblood

#### Absent

Sean Burrage  
Mautra Jones  
Timothy Tardibono

#### Guests

Shawn Ashley, Janet George, Lationna, Derrick Sier, Darla Slipke, Tyler Talley, and Lisa Williams

#### Present from the Office of Juvenile Affairs

Janelle Bretten, Steven Buck, Paula Christiansen, Kevin Clagg, Annette Dozier, Wes Evetts, Darrin Fox, Donna Glandon, Rachel Holt, Jimmy Jones, Janice Kopp, Michael McNutt, Carol Miller, Len Morris, Audrey Rockwell, Kasey Rutledge, Leticia Sanchez, Matt Stangl, Amy Stuart, Jenn Turner, Shelley Waller, and Melissa White

#### Call to Order

Chair Caldwell called the August 21, 2019, meeting of the Board of Juvenile Affairs and Board of Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School to order at 9:01 a.m. and requested roll be called.

#### Presentation on Moore Youth and Family Services

Executive Director Lisa Williams presented about the services offered by Moore Youth and Family Services. Discussed the alternative school program Moore Alternative School and Treatment (MAST) and introduced program coordinator Janet George.

Chair Caldwell asked about how many were on staff and the annual budget. Executive Director Williams responded there are 35 staff with an annual budget of 1.6 million dollars. Chair Caldwell asked how the agency compared in size to other youth services agency. Executive Director Williams felt they were mid-sized. Chair Caldwell looking at population served do you have more resources than the typical agency? Executive Director Williams explained that the agency had no

CIC services, a shelter or detention center and they counted on sister agencies to provide those services to their population. With that perspective and due to diversity of funding, the agency meets the community needs. Rural agencies will struggle due to lack of diversity of funding. Chair Caldwell asked how much of the budget came from state funding just under \$500,000.00. Chair Caldwell asked how many served on the Board of Directors. Executive Director Williams responded there are 10 positions on the board, 8 currently serving with 2 openings and one joining the next month. In terms of MAST, have other agencies adopted the program. Not that she is aware but it is cost prohibitive. Chair Caldwell asked if there was one thing OJA could do to increase level of care what would that be. Executive Director Williams is better communication with the municipal judicial system because she believe that we are losing kids in the municipal system. Referrals to the first time offender program are down and CARS referrals are down and she is not sure where but be. Judge Foss asked when it changed and why. There was a staffing change at the city level and the former staff member was familiar with the program and liaison. Judge Foss asked about the abolishment of the inter-local agreements. Executive Director Williams could not speak to that. Judge Foss asked if concurrent jurisdiction is being driven by the collection of fees and costs. Executive Director Williams investigated and was assured that was not occurring but she felt that maybe it was.

Executive Director Williams introduced Lationna a former MAST student. She presented on her experience with the MAST program. Vice Chair Youngblood thanked her for her bravery in presenting to the Board. Chair Caldwell asked about the expectations discussed within the MAST program and if there was a belief that expansion of MAST or training program for public school educators would help divert away from the juvenile justice system. Executive Director Williams thanked him for the question and clarified that as more information and training becomes available with regards to ACEs will assist with this goal.

Chair Caldwell asked Mr. Secretary that the current system was a "local" level system through juvenile justice in both diversion and treatment. How do we get better at the local level and what can we do to serve youth better in the public school system. OJA needs to engage with other state agencies in diverting youth from the system so that we as a state can stop failing the youth in our state.

#### Public Comment

No public comments.

#### Director's Report

Director Buck ran through his report. Chair Caldwell commented on the discussion with regards to the State Plan for Detention. He finds it disturbing that within the current system some areas lock a child up for money. He says many people avoid speaking directly about it to avoid offending people. He wants people to be offended because locking up a child for money makes you no better than an escapee from Nazi Germany. The current system does not work because we are paying for things we do not get along with empty beds. It is time for a new system and new plan and it is his hope we will remove any incentives for detaining youth for money. He is anxious for the change. Judge Foss asked if there are any problems with alternatives to

detention. Director Buck explained that this would be part of the plan. As an example, the use of an ankle monitor rather than placement in detention. There needs to be a robust plan to consider the needs of public safety within the community. Chair Caldwell acknowledge there are children that need higher level of services. Dr. Grissom is becoming increasingly considered with district attorneys with regards to adult status which leads to youth being placed in jail. Assistant Attorney General Stuart reminded the Board that they needed to stick to the agenda. Director Buck acknowledged the reminder but felt this discussion directly related to his work with the Restore Task Force. There is a bigger conversation being held within the Restore Task Force's work and that information will be taken back to the committee.

#### Update on the Next Generation Campus Project

Mr. Kevin Clagg gave a brief status of the where the project currently stands.

#### Approval of Minutes for the July 17, 2019, Board Meeting

Vice Chair Youngblood moved to approve with a second by Judge Foss.

Aye: Caldwell, Emerson, Foss, Worthen, and Youngblood

Abstain: Grissom

Absent: Burrage, Jones, and Tardibono

July 17, 2019, board minutes approved.

#### Discussion and/or possible vote to approve the year-to-date OJA Finance Report

Vice Chair Youngblood moved to approve with a second by Dr. Grissom.

Aye: Caldwell, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Worthen, and Youngblood

Absent: Burrage, Jones, and Tardibono

Year-to-date OJA Finance Report approved.

#### Discussion and/or possible vote to approve 2018-2019 year-to-date Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School Finance Report

Dr. Grissom moved to approve with a second by Dr. Emerson.

Aye: Caldwell, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Worthen, and Youngblood

Absent: Burrage, Jones, and Tardibono

2018-2019 year-to-date Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School (OYACS) Finance Report approved.

#### Discussion and/or possible vote to approve 2019-2020 year-to-date Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School Finance Report

Dr. Grissom moved to approve with a second by Ms. Worthen.

Aye: Caldwell, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Worthen, and Youngblood  
Absent: Burrage, Jones, and Tardibono

2019-2020 year-to-date Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School (OYACS) Finance Report approved.

Discussion and/or possible vote to approve modifications to the FY2020 encumbrances for the Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School

Vice Chair Youngblood moved to approve with a second by Dr. Emerson.

Aye: Caldwell, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Worthen, and Youngblood  
Absent: Burrage, Jones, and Tardibono

Modifications to the FY2020 encumbrances for the Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School approved.

Discussion and/or possible vote to approve the 2019-2020 Estimate of Needs for the Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School

Dr. Grissom moved to approve with a second by Judge Foss.

Aye: Caldwell, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Worthen, and Youngblood  
Absent: Burrage, Jones, and Tardibono

2019-2020 Estimate of Needs for the Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School approved.

Discussion and/or possible vote to approve the 2018-2019 Financial Statement for the Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School

Dr. Grissom moved to approve with a second by Judge Foss.

Aye: Caldwell, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Worthen, and Youngblood  
Absent: Burrage, Jones, and Tardibono

2018-2019 Financial Statement for the Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School approved.

School Administration Report

Superintendent White gave a brief reminder of her previous experience that led her to OJA. Superintendent White explained that recently through HB2155, the Individualized Career and Academic Plan (ICAP), coming into effect and staff were here to present on the Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School's (OYACS) program. She introduced Annette Dozier, Jimmy Jones, Janice Kopp, and Kasey Rutledge and explained that Mr. Weaver, as the program supervisor, would be speaking through videos incorporated into the presentation. OYACS has expanded the program and made it ours. Principal Sanchez introduced Mr. Weaver's video. OYACS staff ran through the ICAP presentation.

Ms. Worthen stated she had three questions. First, how many students are currently being served? Superintendent White explained that the OYACS staff started with discharge dates and it will move to all students by December. How are we equipping the students to become their own advocate and continue creating their own goals? Superintendent White explained that she has begun working with current policy makers to amend policy to allow for the growth of interpersonal relationships and building mentorships. Principal Sanchez explained that OYACS is beginning a pilot program on a socialization class. Would it be possible to get a copy of an ICAP. Superintendent agreed to send one to the board and to will create a mentor list for the board.

Dr. Grissom asked if treatment staff were using a specific program it would dovetail nicely in assisting with the plan. Principal Sanchez agreed and it is her belief that the facility is equipped with most of the program needs in specific areas but that needs to be collaborated and noted within the plan.

Discussion and/or possible vote to enter Executive Session

Assistant Attorney General Stuart advised that Executive Session was not necessary.

Announcements/comments

Director Buck explained that on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> SDE is hosting a trauma summit. Chair Caldwell informed staff they could tour the facility and to make sure that quorum was considered.

New business; as authorized by 25 O.S. § 311(A) (9)

No new business.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Youngblood moved to adjourn with a second by Judge Foss.


Aye: Caldwell, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Worthen, and Youngblood

Absent: Burrage, Jones, and Tardibono

Chair Caldwell adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Minutes approved in regular session on the 18th day of September, 2019.

Prepared by:

  
Audrey Rockwell, Secretary

Signed by:

  
Tony Caldwell, Chair