

Minutes

STATE ADVISORY GROUP ON JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION MEETING

July 11, 2025
Office of Juvenile Affairs
MC Connor Building
2501 North Lincoln Blvd, Ste 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

Mr. Les Thomas Sr., Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Present: Demetrius Bell, James Edwards, Rep. Emily Gise, Chad Gragg, David Hall, Pray'eon Jackson, Erin Jones-Slatev, Dr. Greg Parks, Jake Roberts, Les Thomas and Brian Wahnee.

Absent: Dr. Jaime Burns, David Grewe, Maureen Guerrero and Jamie Sherman.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Emily Gise and the second was made by Brian Wahnee. All present voted yes, and the motion carried.

III. Delinquency Prevention Back-to-School Transition Grant Applications

The SAG broke down the funding to be awarded as follows: Peaceful Family Solutions - \$49,516, Oklahoma City Public Schools - \$100,000, The Common Good - \$49,935, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma - \$0, Lilyfield - \$49,994, Tecumseh Public Schools - \$70,000, Western Plains Youth & Family Services - \$34,718, Shawnee Public Schools - \$78,000, and Poetry and Chill - \$37,750.

The motion to approve the Title II funding for Back-to-School Training grants as proposed was made by Emily Gise and the second was made by Chad Gragg. All present voted yes. The motion carried.

IV. SAG Retreat Discussion

Mr. Les Thomas, Chair, asked the SAG for their feedback on the annual SAG retreat. Members felt that there was value in spending time together and getting to know one another. They also felt the training would help them to be more productive and to maximize their time at the regular meetings. New members appreciated learning more about the mission of the SAG and what their responsibilities are.

The SAG agreed to hold the next retreat at the Lake Murray Lodge in 2026. A doodle poll will be sent out to determine whether to have the retreat the first week in June or the first week in August.

V. Work Group Assignments

A discussion was held by the SAG regarding work group assignments and determining what ones were no longer needed and if new ones need to be added. Current work group assignments include Bylaws, Grants/Title II, Tribal, Youth Emerging Leaders (YEL) and Membership.

Currently there is no need for assignments like Membership and Bylaws as those are only needed infrequently. This frees up members to serve on other assignments or to create new assignments based on SAG goals.

Rep. Emily Gise, as a legislator, does interim studies between sessions that take a deep dive into a topic with the goal of setting policy. She invited any member who wanted to be involved with “making law” to participate. It would involve looking at complex topics like detention and coming up with solutions.

Ms. Alison Humphrey addressed an ad hoc assignment for the Family Advisory Council of which Ms. Emily Burns is a member. She could be put on future agendas and give a report like we have from YEL, Title II, etc. Assignments could be made with SAG members to address specific issues.

Another committee could be for the 3-Year Plan which needs to be completed by 2027. It has 33 standards and must be updated with what OJA, as the designated agency, and SAG is doing to meet those standards. The plan is submitted and, to apply for Title II funding, it must be updated with new goals/direction we are going or updated with “no change”. The committee could work on sections of the 3-Year Plan each year.

Having a committee for a social media campaign was also addressed and the impact it could have on the community. They could determine the best way to promote the work of the SAG and YEL and showcase accomplishments. It could help with partnerships with other groups.

Work group assignments will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Ms. Erin Jones-Slatev brought up having OJA staff on the committees as well to be a guide for the SAG members as they address issues.

VI. Bylaws Subcommittee Update

The Bylaws Subcommittee proposed the following changes to the bylaws: “Any member attending less than four (4) out of six (6) meetings, including the voting day of the annual retreat, in a calendar year, he/she may have forfeited his/her appointment, and the SAG Chair or Designee and State Juvenile Specialist at their discretion may ask the Governor to declare a vacancy and request a new appointment.”

Attendance is important and there have been several meetings that did not achieve quorum. If meetings are missed, they will be looked at on a case-by-case basis because there are circumstances that may affect attendance and removal is not automatic. In addition, a member may be moved to an ad hoc status so SAG can retain expertise of a member, but it would not hurt quorum.

A motion was made by David Hall and the second by Emily Gise to approve the changes to the Bylaws as proposed. All present voted yes; the motion carried.

VII. Reports

- **OJA's OJJDP Finances – Kimberlee Gray, Comptroller**

Ms. Kim Gray provided the monthly financial report as of July 31, 2025. The Finance Report was handed out to the SAG.

- **Title II – Jennifer Francis**

The SAG participated in scoring the Requests for Proposals (RFPs) in the previous day of the retreat. They submitted Conflict of Interest forms, reviewed scoring guides and then broke into groups of 4 to review the applications for the Back-to-School Transition grants.

Ms. Jennifer Francis presented to the SAG compiled scores. She noted that while some of the budgets submitted were not perfect and included non-allowable items, if they scored high and the SAG approved them on a contingency basis, the applicants could revise their budgets to meet requirements. The amount available for award is \$45,000 but the total requested was \$682,000. The SAG will need to discuss them individually and determine the amounts to be awarded.

The SAG had a lively discussion regarding the applicants. They determined the amount of funding to be awarded to each applicant.

- **Youth Emerging Leaders (YEL) – Pray'eon Jackson**

Mr. Pray'eon Jackson presented the YEL update to the SAG. Recent updates include updating their bylaw. New roles added were Secretary and Parliamentarian as well as 3 new subcommittees.

The Year Roadmap includes growing their membership, having a Voices Unlocked workshop panel, training for members, visiting youth facilities and collaborating with schools, local non-profits agencies, police departments and other committees across the state serving at-risk youth.

YEL handed out a flyer for their Voices Unlocked workshop. This workshop offers the youth a chance to speak, lead and bring change. They will be inviting local leaders and non-profits to attend. It will help to increase the visibility of YEL.

- **Compliance & R/ED – Joshua Holder**

The Compliance and R/ED reports were given by Mr. Joshua Holder. He gave an overview of the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP): Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Separation of Juveniles from Adults (Sight and Sound Separation), Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails and Lockups, and Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) in the justice system.

Mr. Holder also spoke on the purpose of Compliance Monitoring which is to ensure that all facilities in the State of Oklahoma that secure juveniles are adhering to the OJJDP core mandates. This is done primarily through on-site contact, holding logs and documentation, and digital contact. When he assumed his role as Compliance Monitor, the state was deficient in terms of facilities visits. To correct this deficiency a series of steps were taken to come back into compliance and are being done in 3 phases.

During Phase 1, the establishment of a Universe was made by combining all data from spreadsheets, folders, and hardcopies of scattered information and data points and clearing the backlog. A new Juvenile Detention Log was also created and has been distributed to over 36 of our state's facilities.

Completing the first phase has allowed for the expansion of duties for the next phase. Compliance is merging with R/ED and will be taking on the duties of OPT's statewide auditing. Phase 2 represents streamlining the processes and the establishment of standards and practices to ensure peak efficiency. The new Universe will allow for the ability to implement a facilities scheduling to allow the checks to be done on a county-by-county basis. In addition, building relationships and networking will be a prime goal of this phase. That network would not only extend to judges and district attorneys but will include city councils and other members of the communities.

The final phase is estimated to begin in December 2026 with the primary goal will be to maintain the fully established process to ensure consistent compliance with all state and federal mandates.

VIII. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.