

OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

500 N. Broadway, 5th Floor Conference Room

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 19, 2007

MINUTES

Call to order and roll call

Chairman Bouse called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Members present were: Rand Baker, Bart Bouse, Darlene Callahan, Glenn Dale Carter, Gene Christian, Cynthia Meyerson, Becky Reuter, Ann Taylor, and Brent Thackerson. Linda Parker arrived at 9:02 a.m. Members not present were: Tammy Jo Bachman, Mike Crutcher, Mike Fogarty, Sandy Garrett, Terrica Grunewald, Howard Hendrick, Mary Ann Karns, Ben Loring, and Gary Miller.

**Review and approval of minutes from the March 29, 2007, Regular Commission Meeting –
Chairman Bart Bouse**

Reuter moved, Thackerson seconded to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2007, Regular Commission Meeting noting that the minutes should be amended to include the correct meeting location of COJC on the top of page one. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report on Agency Activities and Legislative Update – Janice Hendryx

A written report from Ms. Hendryx was included in the Commission packet.

Chairman Bouse provided a brief summary of his and Ms. Hendryx's recent trip to Des Moines, IA, where a meeting was held among states regarding Children's Cabinets. He spoke at the conference and provided input on the importance of having private sector individuals as part of a Children's Cabinet or Board membership.

Ms. Hendryx made available copies of the Children's Information Network report dated April 13, 2007, from the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy. She reported that **HB 1645**, an OCCY request bill has been signed by the Governor. In addition, **HB 1928** – a bill for a Health Savings Act, was recently amended to include a sentence that would allow only State Department of Health inspectors to go into City/County Jails for inspections including those that house juveniles.

Reports from the Office of Planning and Coordination, Office of Juvenile System Oversight, and the State Post Adjudication Review Board were all included in the Commission packet. Any questions about the content of these reports were welcomed by Ms. Hendryx, or any of the program managers.

Ms. Hendryx announced that the State Post Adjudication Review Board will hold its Annual Conference on April 26 -28, 2007, at the Reed Center in Midwest City, Oklahoma.

Continuation of discussion on the letter from the Honorable Thomas Walker, Judge, Carter County regarding the Child Abuse Prevention State Plan – Thomas Walker, District Judge

Judge Walker indicated that he had nothing further to add to what he previously submitted in his letter and presented at the January Commission meeting; however, he was present today to address any questions or concerns anyone had about his proposal.

The focus of Judge Walker's letter was whether the entity in charge of producing the Child Abuse Prevention State Plan is the proper entity and whether that duty should reside with the Department of Human Services versus the State Department of Health. There is also the concern that the Commission's approval of the plan relies heavily on the reporting of activity or non-activity from district task forces across the state, whom he believes are ill-equipped and ill-suited to accomplish the goals that are set forth by the Legislature.

Ms. Annette Jacobi added that while it is true that the statement "where the rubber meets the road" in reference to child abuse does end up at the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Office of Child Abuse Prevention is about preventing families from ever being investigated by DHS for abuse and neglect and that is what the State Plan is all about. She feels that too much weight is being put on the plan instead of actual prevention services that are available across the state.

Dr. Rhoades added that the SDH recognizes child abuse as a serious problem in Oklahoma, as well as nationally as a public health problem. Interventions that have been shown to be effective tend to be broader in comprehensive approaches and have very positive ways of working with families. As part of the new legislation (SB 787) on this issue, Dr. Rhoades stated that the SDH would like to utilize the Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force (ITF) to keep SDH and OCCY informed on what needs to be addressed in the State Plan.

Judge Walker added that "the Plan in and of itself is a microcosm of OCCY's coordinating efforts; if the problem is that certain districts are too big, then make them smaller. If it is a matter that two of four counties do not participate, make them participate. To say that "these are just volunteers" points to the actual problem being a lack of direction and coordinating abilities. There are some programs that are validated, proven and effective, but there is also an absence of bringing them all together, marshalling the assets, creating synergy at the local level so that when they are all together you actually see results in the reduction of child abuse and children living in squalor."

Chairman Bouse pointed out that in the last paragraph of Judge Walker's letter he recommended OCCY be the forum to look at some change, and options for us would be (1) continue discussion on the issue at future Commission meetings; (2) a motion by a Commissioner to do "something"; or (3) form a committee of entities involved to look at suggestions that may improve where we currently are on this issue.

Dr. Rhoades suggested that perhaps the Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force could serve as the group to review this issue and make recommendation(s) back to the Commission, since this is an existing group that is already charged with looking at child abuse issues.

Janice Hendryx added that she feels it would be in the best interest of everyone to have some Commissioners as part of the process of developing this Plan; really delving into all the issues and report back to the full Commission with recommendations for improving the Plan.

Carter moved, Taylor seconded for the Commission Chair to appoint a sub-committee of persons involved in the process of developing the State Plan on Child Abuse Prevention. Meyerson voted no. All other members present voted yes. Motion passed.

Chairman Bouse requested that OCCY staff send the issue for review to the Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force as well as this new sub-committee. He and Ms. Hendryx will also begin working on who will be part of the sub-committee and make contact with those persons to set up an initial meeting date and time. He asks that the ITF and the sub-committee report back to the Commission in 60 – 90 days with findings and recommendations.

Update on the work of the Children's Behavioral Health Development Team – Jackie Shipp, Director of Children's Services at DMHSAS

Ms. Shipp reiterated the vision of the Children's Behavioral Health Development Team (BHDT) that "all of Oklahoma's children will have early and easy access to the services and supports they need in order to remain in their own homes, in their own communities, being stable and successful without medications."

While a lot of work is going on and studies are being conducted, children's mental health and substance abuse services continue to be grossly underfunded and highly fragmented.

Those entities/agencies that are part of the BHDT are OCCY, DMHSAS, OJA, SDE, DRS, HCA, DHS, SDH, and the Federation of Families. They currently meet every two weeks on Tuesday afternoons.

During the past year Systems of Care (SOC) has continued to expand; there are 26 local SOC sites serving 33 Oklahoma counties. In the last three years SOC has increased its services to children, they added some mobile crisis teams, as well as two new regional crisis centers for children, one in Muskogee and one in Tulsa. The idea of these teams is that no matter where a family is in the state, within one hour, a crisis team can be available to them if needed.

In the area of prevention, Ms. Shipp stated that prevention workshops are being planned to educate pediatricians and to get them doing the necessary screening for mental health issues. The DMHSAS, DHS, and OJA are all pursuing implementation and training in evidenced-based practices.

Ms. Shipp further reported that she and her staff have been working on a coordinated budget request that covers the next five years, as well as a FY'09 list of priorities. When completed, it will be brought back before the Commission for its review.

Update on the Children's Oral Health Coalition – Sally Selvidge, Family Outreach Coordinator, OASIS/OU Health Sciences Center

Ms. Hendryx reminded Commissioners that the Children's Oral Health Coalition (COHC) resulted from a recommendation to increase oral health services for children with disabilities that the Commission voted to adopt some three years ago.

The partners involved with COHC include the Oklahoma Dental Association, Oklahoma Dental Foundation, the O.U. College of Dentistry, the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies Headstart Collaborative, the Oklahoma Primary Care Association, the Chickasaw Headstart, the SDH, HCA, DHS, Tulsa City-County Health Department, Central Oklahoma United Way, Turning Point, Oklahoma County D-Dent, Delta Dental, OCCY, ICC/SoonerStart, Family Perspectives Committee, Sooner Success Project, SDE, Oklahoma Developmental Disability Council, Oklahoma City Housing Authority, SmartStart Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Dental Hygienist Association.

Ms. Selvidge distributed a copy of the July 2005 COHC Strategic Plan. The COHC received a grant from the Samuel Harris Fund to partner with the Oklahoma City Housing Authority to hold community housing fairs at five Oklahoma City housing projects where families were screened for oral health issues. The fairs were all held in the summer of 2006 and had huge participation. In addition, they also received a grant from the State and Territorial Dental Directors to conduct a forum last fall on children with special health care needs. A full report on this forum is being developed and will be provided to the Commission at a later date.

Ms. Selvidge reported that last year, legislation was passed to provide loan repayment dollars up to \$25,000 a year, for five years, to graduating dentist who are committed to working in rural areas of the state. There is a huge shortage of dentist available to serve children and families in these areas.

Public Comment

None

New Business

OCCY has received approximately 25 applications for the Programs Manager position in the OJSO. Interviews will be held in the next week or two.

The next meeting date for the Commission is Friday, May 18, 2007.

Adjournment

Chairman Bouse adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.