

OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center

700 West 9th

Tecumseh, Oklahoma

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 29, 2007

MINUTES

Call to order and roll call

Chairman Bouse called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Members present were: Rand Baker, Bart Bouse, Darlene Callahan, Glenn Dale Carter, Gene Christian, Mike Fogarty, Mary Ann Karns, Cynthia Meyerson, Linda Parker, Becky Reuter, Ann Taylor, and Brent Thackerson. Howard Hendrick arrived at 9:20 a.m., Terrica Grunewald arrived at 9:25 a.m., and Ben Loring arrived at 9:35 a.m. Members not present were: Tammy Jo Bachman, Mike Crutcher, Sandy Garrett, and Gary Miller.

Review and approval of minutes from the January 19, 2007, Regular Commission Meeting – *Chairman Bart Bouse*

Baker moved, Taylor seconded to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2007, Regular Commission Meeting as presented. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed unanimously.

Office of Juvenile Affairs Presentation – *Gene Christian, Director*

Mr. Christian began his presentation by introducing staff that were with him: Donna Glandon, Advocate General for OJA, Elizabeth Stewart, Division Administrator for the Institutional Services Division, and James Johnson, Superintendent of COJAC.

Mr. Christian stated that indeed OJA has some issues that he and other staff are working to correct. OJA and OCCY have established a task force to look specifically at issues concerning the L.E. Rader Center physical facility. A video was shown which gave a brief glimpse of the work and life of staff and residents at the L.E. Rader facility. One such resident, Chris, talked about how he came to be at Rader and how it helped to shape his life now as an adult. Residents learned how to be responsible adults in classrooms designed to teach them to live on life's terms. The L.E. Rader Center boasts a 70-75% success rate in giving troubled juveniles a second chance at life.

Mr. Christian further stated that OJA has sent its first two institutionalized juveniles to the Thunderbird Youth Academy and neither one of the juveniles in performance of their duties have had any negative write-ups; furthermore, some had increased grade levels, and one of them received a leadership award.

Ms. Glandon added that her primary duties are to monitor the grievance process and act as advisor to the OJA. She and her staff of four other advocates handle both formal and informal grievances.

Mr. James Johnson began his presentation with a power point about the girls program at COJAC. One of the programs is the Girl Scouts program where "girls come first". They have weekly meetings with groups of 10 girls where they talk about anything the girls wish to know or learn.

Mr. Johnson then provided a power point on the girls programs at COJAC. COJAC received a grant from the State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to develop gender

specific programming for 40 female residents. Funds from this grant were used to purchase an array of products for implementing programs that specifically meet the needs of today's young ladies. Some of those products include kitchen supplies for cooking classes, furniture for two female residential units, exam table and supplies for women's medical clinic, a fetal monitor for pregnant residents, women's health books and curriculum materials designed to improve self esteem and encourage positive lifestyles.

Services performed by the nurse practitioner at COJAC include gynecological exams, teaching self breast examinations, and testing, treatment and counseling for sexually transmitted diseases. Electronic baby dolls were purchased to simulate babies who are hungry and need attention. The dolls can only be deactivated with the resident's (mother) key after a certain period of time.

A fitness incentive program is also offered for the young ladies and it is a program that was created separate from the boys programs. It offers residents the opportunity to earn points through accomplishments and they can trade these points in at the recreation store for prizes.

Program principles for all the programs developed for the ladies are based on developing healthy self-esteem in all areas of life: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual; building individual, personal worth (not needing a gang or special relationship with another person to feel valued); developing healthy relationships with others; learning social skills; and exploring careers.

Some of the grant money was also used for training. Staff members attended the 11th National Workshop on Adult and Juvenile Female Offenders in Bloomington, MN. Two social workers attended the 16th Minnesota Conference on Adolescent Females in Plymouth, MN. Workshops included topics on: Girls Who Bully, Healthy Adolescent Sexuality, and Program Evaluation Basics. The COJAC nurse and psychological clinician attended a conference on eating disorders.

Some of the other programs available to the ladies at COJAC include: pilates, water aerobics and swimming lessons, religious services, trauma groups, anger management, and visits to the beauty shop for "girl time".

Two youth (one female, one male) spoke to the Commission about their experiences while at COJAC and what their plans are for the future.

Director's Report on Agency Activities – Janice Hendryx

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

Ms. Hendryx thanked those Commissioners who have recently served on and met with the Oversight Committee (Bart Bouse, Tammy Jo Bachman, Gene Christian, Brent Thackerson, Darlene Callahan, and Howard Hendrick) and the Nominating Committee (Bart Bouse, Brent Thackerson and Glenn Dale Carter) reviewing CATCC and ITF nominations.

Ms. Hendryx reported that OCCY's request bill (HB 1645) before the Legislature has passed in the both the House and Senate committees and is now on its way to the Senate floor for review. The only new thing added to this bill was the requirement of OCCY to report to the Legislature annually the monies it expends to Community Partnership Boards.

Director's salary increase to maximum level as per State Statute – Chairman Bart Bouse

Chairman Bouse stated that state statute calls for the Director of OCCY to make \$700 more per year that technically should have been approved a few years ago. He is asking that the Commission approve the increase for the Director today.

Loring moved, Callahan seconded for the Director's salary to be increased by \$700 annually, effective April 1, 2007. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and possible action to adopt new and amend permanent rules:

OAC 135: Chapter 1, Subchapter 1 - General Course and Method of Operation

135:1-1-1.2 Official office [AMENDED]

OAC 135: Chapter 10, Subchapter 22 - Child Abuse Training and Coordination Council

135:10-22-1 Creation - Child Abuse Training and Coordination Council [NEW]

135:10-22-2 Appointment of members - Child Abuse Training and Coordination Council [NEW]

135:10-22-3 Rescinding an appointment - Child Abuse Training and Coordination Council [NEW] – Grant Moak

Mr. Moak stated that a public hearing on the adoption of new and amended permanent rules was held on March 19, 2007. The proposed rules and minutes from the hearing were included in the Commission packet.

Mr. Moak is requesting approval by the Commission to adopt new and amended permanent rules, with a correction to the OAC 135:10-22-2 (see Attachment A).

Carter moved, Christian seconded to approve the adoption of the new and amended rules of OAC Chapters 1 and 10 as presented and amended. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed unanimously.

Report from the Nominating Committee on appointments to the Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force (ITF) and the Child Abuse Training and Coordinating Council (CATCC)

– Brent Thackerson (Chairman), Bart Bouse and Glenn Dale Carter

Mr. Thackerson reported that the Nominating Committee on appointments to the ITF and the CATCC recently met to discuss and review an array of nominations for various entities to the ITF and CATCC. They are recommending and seeking approval by the Commission for the attached list (Attachment B) of individuals seeking to fill seats on the ITF and CATCC.

Thackerson moved, Hendrick seconded to approve the recommendations of the Nominating Committee as presented (Attachment B). All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed unanimously.

Report on the work of the Title 10 Reform Committee – Judge Gary Miller

In Judge Miller's absence, Janice Hendryx stated that this Title 10 Reform Committee was established as part of the Kelsey Smith Briggs Act. There are 4 or 5 working sub-committees meeting regularly. One of the committee's that is working in the deprived child area has developed recommendations for improving Title 10.

Public Comment

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

Chairman Bouse adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Immediately following the meeting a tour of the Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center was held. No official business of the Board was conducted during this time.