

OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
1111 N. LEE AVENUE, SUITE 300
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

RESCHEDULED MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2010

MINUTES

Call to order and roll call

Chairman Bouse called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Members present: Bart Bouse, Darlene Callahan, Ken Couchman, Wanda Felty, Terrica Grunewald, Howard Hendrick, Richard Kirby, Claudette Selph, and Brent Thackerson. Ben Loring arrived at 9:11 a.m., Sid Brown arrived at 9:17 a.m., and Tom Alford arrived at 10:20 a.m. Members not present: Gene Christian, Terry Cline, Mike Fogarty, Sandy Garrett, Lisa Hammond, Mike O'Brien, and Terri White.

Review and approval of minutes from the November 19, 2009, Regular Commission Meeting
Callahan moved, Kirby seconded to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2009, Regular Commission meeting as presented. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report on Agency Activities – Lisa Smith

A written report from the OCCY Director, Ms. Lisa Smith, was included in the Commission packet.

Ms. Smith welcomed all Commissioners, staff and guest to the new offices of the Commission on Children and Youth, and invited them all to join in the tour of the new offices immediately following the Commission meeting.

Ms. Smith recognized the newest employee to join the staff of OCCY; Ms. Raegan Qualls. Raegan comes to us from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Child Welfare division. **WELCOME ABOARD RAEGAN!!!**

Ms. Smith stated that she was asked to announce that the Children's Oral Health Coalition was recently successful in helping get a grant for the Head Start Dental Home Initiative to create dental homes for each Head Start child. This was accomplished due to hard work of Ms. Sally Selvidge, Chairperson of the Oral Health Coalition. **GREAT JOB SALLY!!!**

Ms. Smith distributed copies of two legislative bills that she feels would be of interest to the Commission.

HB 3394 – This is a request bill from the agency. The bill is authored by Representative Dan Kirby and Senator Patrick Anderson. If passed, the bill would extend OCCY Commissioners terms of office from three 2-year terms to four 2-year terms for a total of 8 years. This was requested by staff because several of our long term Commissioners are quickly approaching their 6 year time frame and we would like to see them and other Commissioners be allowed to continue their service to the Commission as long as possible, and because of the vast knowledge that all our long term Commissioners bring to the table. The bill has so far passed on the House floor and is now heading to the Senate.

SB 1612 – This bill would create a Taskforce on Children of Incarcerated Parents, authored by Senators Patrick Anderson and Connie Johnson. The bill would allow for the development of a state plan aimed at the coordination of services for children whose parents are incarcerated. OCCY would provide staff assistance to the Taskforce. Further, this was an agenda item from the OICA Fall Forum in 2009. The bill is currently waiting to be heard on the Senate floor.

The following three legislative bills (not distributed) all have to do with establishing a Children's Cabinet in Oklahoma – SB 1276; SB 697; and HB 1655. Ms. Smith will report on these as information becomes available.

Ms. Smith further reported that the agency continues to hold steady with our budget by not filling certain vacancies; we also are using IV-E funds that have been on reserve as needed to replace what is lost in state funding.

Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy – Meet the New Director (Former OCCY Commissioner)
– Ms. Linda Terrell

Ms. Terrell provided a brief background on herself and OICA. She can be reached by email at lterrell@oica.org, and by phone at (405) 236-KIDS(5437).

Ms. Terrell thanked the Commission for partnering with the OICA on the bill to create a Taskforce on Children of Incarcerated Parents. In addition to this bill, the OICA is working on other legislative bills, (1) addressing the needs of families with children diagnosed with autism; (2) health education in middle schools; and (3) tobacco cessation – providing for smoke free workplaces.

Ms. Terrell distributed several pamphlets, books, etc. that the OICA authors/produces for agencies and the general public on various subject items. One of the most requested and used book is the KidsCount Fact Book. This book is produced once a year and produces the greatest number of hits on the OICA's website.

Ms. Terrell also reported on a number of other programs that the OICA houses at its facilities; (1) Healthy Teens Oklahoma – this program works nationally with the CDC and was recently presented an award for the outstanding work of Ms. Sharon Rodine for her incredible work in the area of teen births; in which Oklahoma is 6th in the nation for the highest rate of teen births. There is a teen pregnancy prevention program that touches the lives of over 700 middle schoolers each year. (2) Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, making sure that children and younger mothers are getting what they need prenatally to help with birth outcomes. (3) The Oklahoma After School Network; this program produces some great information on the importance of out-of-school time. Oklahoma is one of 14 states in the nation that does not pay for out of school time. Oklahoma has partnered nationally with a group; The Forum for Youth Investment. (4) Fit Kids Coalition – while it is a separate non-profit organization, it is staffed by the OICA.

Ms. Terrell announced that the annual Fall Forum will take place in 2010 on October 12-13, at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO).

She further stated that many people here today have in the past been a part of Children's Information Network; however, the OICA Board this year has decided not to produce this report. However, if enough persons sign up for a subscription to this service in 2011, they will revisit the possibility of again producing the report.

Notice of Rulemaking Intent to the Secretary of State to amend OAC 135 Chapter 10 Subchapter 24 [NEW] – Grant Moak

Mr. Moak reported that back in August 2009, the Commission adopted the emergency rules for the certification of licensure of the DHS operated children's shelters. It is now time to make those emergency rules permanent and he is requesting a vote of the Commission today to ratify the Notice of Rulemaking Intent, and then at the next meeting in March, the final language will be brought before the Commission after public comment, to adopt the permanent rules and then submit them to the Governor, Speaker of the House of the Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

Hendrick moved, Kirby seconded for the Commission to ratify the Notice of Rulemaking Intent on permanent rules for the certification of licensure of DHS operated children's shelters. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed unanimously.

Report from the Office of Juvenile System Oversight – Joanne Verity

A written report from the Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) was included in the Commission packet.

Ms. Verity briefly went through the report as follows:

During the reporting period of November 7, 2009, through February 5, 2010, the OJSO issued 13 oversight reports and received responses to concerns addressed in each report. All the reports and their responses are available to Commissioners for review by calling/emailing the OJSO offices.

Pages 5-7, of the first section of the OJSO report to the Commission, Ms. Verity noted that updates on systemic reviews by the OJSO were outlined.

Regarding complaint investigations, Ms. Verity noted that the OJSO completed/received a total of 59 inquiries (complaints (54), requests for assistance, and information/referrals) during the same reporting period. A summary of the allegations in the complaint reports was included in the OJSO report to the Commission.

Ten (10) public releases were made, and one of those concerned the death of a child and another on a near death of a child.

The last section of the OJSO report to the Commission contains information on visits to facilities, along with a summary of any concerns/violations that were found during the visit.

In reference to the systemic review section of the OJSO report, Howard Hendrick suggested the OJSO look at lead indicators that can be identified, tracked and monitored that would help in producing better outcomes.

Update on the certification of the DHS operated children's shelters – Sara Vincent

Included in the Commission packet was also an Activity Summary report on OCCY's certification of DHS operated children's shelters.

Ms. Vincent added that average daily census, July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, at the Pauline Mayer shelter was 35, and at Laura Dester the number was 30. The month of the January 2010, the average daily census was 11 and 20 at each center respectively.

Report from the Office of Planning and Coordination – Brandy Smith and Dr. Gary Theilen

A written report from the Office of Planning and Coordination was included in the Commission packet.

Ms. Smith provided a brief overview on the contents of this report noting that a total of 43 CPB meetings were attended by P&C staff, as well as seven additional meetings attended with ITA (Intensive Technical Assistance) sites.

The remaining content of the report contained information on what local communities are doing in the area of our State Plan adopted goals and recommendations.

Howard Hendrick questioned how P&C staff was able to keep with the work and services they provide with budget cuts that have been passed along to agencies statewide, and Brandy Smith responded that when they go into communities they immediately are looking for local community partners that can sustain some of the planning services that P&C staff offer and can provide to CPB in between visits from P&C staff and long term.

Ms. Smith further stated that they are working on an agreement with Turning Point through the State Department of Health whereby they will provide assistance to some communities thereby reducing travel time and dollars for P&C staff to go out to the various locations.

Public Comment

None

New Business

Howard Hendrick stated that with recent budget cuts across the board to state agencies; he'd like to know how other agencies are doing with their delivery of services to children and families; specifically those programs/services that do not receive any federal funding. He stated that DHS has looked and continues to look at all of their programs and services, and is basically getting down now to cuts affecting people and their jobs. He does not see it as being appropriate to take big staffing cuts when you consider that 2008 was the biggest year ever in state history in the demand for services and 2009 turned out to be 18% greater than that of 2008 in terms of Medicaid services. He stated that on an average day, every business day in 2009, there were more than 600 new clients that they hadn't seen before, coming through their doors for services.

He stated that he felt that if the state leaders do not look at some other areas in which costs can be cut, agencies will needlessly begin to cut staff through layoffs when really their services are needed more now than ever before.

Chairman Bouse stated that he has heard more people talk about privatization of some of the services offered by or through DHS or OJA; he wanted to know what Commissioner Hendrick' thought on that was.

Commissioner Hendrick responded that DHS privatizes a lot of its services; mostly service delivery activities. He stated that it really comes down to case management, is the state going to privatize case management? It is his opinion that other state's that have done just this have not really gotten much out of it.

Commissioner Selph added that another possible problem with privatization is the work of a contractor never meeting the true expense of what they do; getting quality work done. She does not feel that the state can really save any money by privatizing services.

Commissioner Hendrick stated that he'd really like to know what is going on with SoonerStart. Treasa Lansdowne reported that she and members of the Interagency Coordinating Council are highly concerned about budget cuts and about the services that are currently being delivered to families. They have been supported in the last year and so far this year by stimulus dollars; however, no positions have been filled. They are currently at the position level that they had back in 1993 when services were being provided to approximately 6,000 children, whereas now services are being provided to over 13,000 children with no additional staff. She stated that they are now looking at their service delivery model to determine whether or not services are being appropriately delivered. One of the things the Council is considering is family cost participation and whether or not it will be beneficial to having parents contribute some dollars for the services they receive.

Commissioner Felty added that one of the things she hasn't heard discussed is the possibility of proposed co-pays for Medicaid and for SoonerStart; working with families who have a baby diagnosed at birth, convincing them that services really are in place and they will and can get help.

Commissioner Hendrick stated that one of the things he was curious about was the possibility of shared advocacy activities that all agencies could participate in to gather some constructive ideas on how to address service delivery of programs and services to children and families.

Commissioner Selph reported that Ms. Lynn Peterson who established the Utah Foster Care Program will be coming to Tulsa, OK, April 29th to speak on how foster care is done in Utah. When available, more information will be sent out to all Commissioners and others as needed.

Linda Terrell wanted Commissioners to know that she would be very interested in part of any discussions regarding shared advocacy activities amongst agencies and organizations serving children and families.

Adjournment

Chairman Bouse adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Immediately following the Commission meeting, a brief tour was held of the new office space. No official business of the Commission took place during this tour.