

OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
PASTEUR MEDICAL BUILDING
1111 N. LEE AVENUE, SUITE 500
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2011

MINUTES

Call to order and roll call

Chairman Bouse called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Members present were: Bart Bouse, Gene Christian, Ken Couchman, Wanda Felty, Lisa Hammond, Howard Hendrick, Ben Loring and Brent Thackerson. Members not present were: Tom Alford, Janet Barresi, Jay Scott Brown, Sid Brown, Darlene Callahan, Terry Cline, Mike Fogarty, Richard Kirby, Michael O'Brien, Claudette Selph, and Terri White.

Review and approval of minutes from the November 18, 2010, Regular Commission Meeting
Loring moved, Hendrick seconded to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2010, 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 Ms. Smith was included in the Commission packet.

Ms. Smith distributed to Commissioners and guests a copy of a legislative bill being proposed by Representative Peters that would establish a Foster Care System Task Force. She also distributed a list of other legislation being proposed as it relates to children and families.

Update report on the Certification of DHS Shelters – Sara Vincent

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

In the absence of Ms. Vincent, Lisa Smith provided a brief overview of the report that was included in the packet.

Report from the Office of Juvenile System Oversight – Lisa Smith and Jack Chapman

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

The OJSO report is now being presented in a new format. Mr. Chapman stated that OCCY has been regularly visiting with facilities on how we might improve the way in which we conduct and subsequently report on visits to facilities, as well as how we investigate and report on child welfare cases.

One of the recommendations was that since the OJSO report is a public document that is published on the OCCY website; if a facility contests what is found during an investigation/oversight visit, as part of the summary the facilities asked that we acknowledge what

part(s) of the report are contested by the facility; i.e. the Oklahoma County Juvenile Bureau disagreed with an assessment on using room confinement and whether or not it met criteria. This is also being done with child welfare complaints.

Mr. Chapman reported that during the reporting period of this meeting and the last meeting of the Commission in November, 2010, the OJSO worked cases affecting over 600 children. The OJSO is also continuing its work on systemic issues that were identified in the 2009-10 State Plan for Services to Children and Youth.

Status Report on Systemic Oversight

The report on room confinement/seclusion issues is currently in its final draft state and will be presented to the Oversight Subcommittee, to later be released and reported on to the full Commission. The report will highlight the struggles facilities go through with kids who sometimes get out of control or are hard to handle; particularly those coming into facilities without their needed medications, etc.

The report on screen-outs in Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties; information is still being gathered and will be reported on to the full Commission sometime in late spring.

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

A written report from the Office of Planning and Coordination was included in the Commission packet. Dr. Theilen highlighted some of the information included in this report as follows:

Jackson County (Altus) – They have been working diligently with both the Office of Juvenile Affairs and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; working on a transition program. They have made a lot of progress in securing housing and are now at the point that some housing is ready for transitioned youth to move in to. They have also been working with private-sector employers to assist with placement for work-study and on-the-job training type employment programs.

In Texas County, Dr. Theilen reported that County Commissioners agreed to help fund a new shelter in their area. P&C is working very closely with Western Plains Youth and Family Services to gather some host homes or some other alternative housing for children and youth until such time the shelter is built.

Increasing Access to Healthcare Services

Dr. Theilen reported that Canadian County, one of three Health Care Authority pilot projects in the state that has a primary focus of improving the quality of care to SoonerCare patients and to involve the community in developing some case management services to compliment what physicians do in their respective practices. The long term hope for this is to improve not only quality of care, but cost.

Strengthening Custody and Transitioning Services

Dr. Theilen reported that the Strengthening Custody and Transitioning Services Advisory Team reviewed the proposed changes in the Oklahoma State Plan for Community Based Youth Services.

Gene Christian reported that because many of the shelter beds are being lost due to budget cuts; and since the majority of the beds are used by DHS and are mostly provided by Youth Service

agencies, whose funding comes from OJA; OJA has made application to amend the Oklahoma State Plan for Community Based Youth Services and they are asking the OJA Board to review this draft and vote on this application at their February meeting.

Dr. Theilen further reported that the P&C staff is also working on a self-study of the department and the services they provide to other agencies and communities. Interviews have been held with staff, some Commissioners, some Community Partnership Board members, other state agency personnel, etc. The questions asked centered around how they felt about the kind of job P&C does? How well they feel P&C does their job? What improvements are needed? The State Plan process.

Report on the nomination to the Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force (ITF) from the Nomination/Recession Committee – Commissioners Hendrick, Loring, and Thackerson
Hendrick moved, Loring seconded to approve the nomination of Mr. Jimmy Arias to the ITF representing the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

Chairman Bouse adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.