

OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
500 N. Broadway Ave., 5th Floor Conference Room
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

REGULAR MEETING

March 27, 2009

MINUTES

Call to order and roll call

Chairman Bart Bouse called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Members present were: Bart Bouse, Darlene Callahan, Ken Couchman, Wanda Felty, Howard Hendrick, Ben Loring, Claudette Selph, and Terri White. Judge Tom Alford arrived at 9:07 a.m., Judge Lisa Hammond arrived at 9:14 a.m., and Mike O'Brien arrived at 9:19 a.m. Members not present: Gene Christian, Mike Fogarty, Jerry Fry, Sandy Garrett, Terrica Grunewald, and Rocky McElvany.

Review and approval of minutes from the January 16, 2009, Regular Commission meeting

Hendrick moved, Loring seconded to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2009, Regular Commission meeting as presented. 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 was included in the Commission packet.

Ms. Verity reported that during the reporting period of January 8 through March 13, 2009, the OJSO completed a total of 31 oversight reports. In the previous reporting period, the OJSO completed 14 oversight reports and 2 public releases, an increase of 15 for roughly the same amount of time. Ms. Verity reported that 7 of the 31 reports included in the OJSO report cited issues with facility grievance processes. She said that two additional issues that appeared frequently were room restriction/room confinement issues in detention centers and insufficient service/individual plans for residents. In the coming year, they will watch for these issues and provide training if necessary and make any necessary recommendations.

Beginning on page 4 of the OJSO report, you will note the field activities that have occurred during the reporting period. A referenced position paper was prepared regarding the risks of using pepper spray in juvenile detention centers; this paper was sent to the OJA Executive Director and OJSO staff attended the OJA Board meeting where the issue was presented and discussed.

OJSO staff also presented for the National Resource Center for Youth Services Juvenile Personnel Training Program on reporting responsibilities for staff, confidentiality responsibilities, individual responsibilities of staff at facilities depending on which type of facility they were at, as well as general oversight expectations.

A report was also delivered to OJA concerning the overpopulation issues at the Oklahoma County Juvenile Detention Center. OJSO staff conferred with OJA administration in this regard and right now the overpopulation issue has been, at least temporarily, taken care of.

In regard to complaints, Ms. Verity reported that the OJSO closed a total of 75 complaints during the report period of January 8 through May 13, 2009, as compared to 42 during the previous reporting period.

The OJSO reports that the Child Welfare unit will perform a statewide review of two issues: (1) substance abuse in the home and how it may affect the safety of the children in the home and (2) reluctance among district attorney's offices to file deprived petitions even though families may have extensive child welfare histories.

Director's Report on Agency Activities and Legislative Update – *Lisa Smith, Director*

A written report from Director Smith was included in the Commission packet.

Director Smith began her update thanking Janice Sharp for filling in for Debbie McCowan who was on vacation. **Thank you Janice for doing such an outstanding job in my absence!!!**

Director Smith presented on some legislative activities the Commission has been involved in since the legislative session began in February.

SB 659 - Authored by Senator Justice and Representative Steele. This is a request bill by the Post Adjudication Review Board that will allow PARB members to go into existing local PARBs doing case reviews in executive session. This was needed so that more experienced PARB reviewers could help the less experienced in reviewing cases. This bill also strengthens the civil immunity protection for PARB members when conducting reviews. The bill also allows the Director of OCCY to create temporary local PARBs where needed. The bill is currently on its way to the House Judiciary Committee for review. (A copy of this bill was distributed.)

HB 2032 – Authored by Representative Steel and Senator Justice. This bill was recently sent to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee where it passed. The bill clarifies language for the Office of Juvenile System Oversight; it allows OCCY discretion to decide whether or not a state-operated facility should be visited one or two times unannounced in a year. Currently, statutes dictate that the OJSO visit, unannounced, state-operated facilities twice a year. The bill also clarifies a systemic oversight requirement for facility visits and strengthens the authority of the OJSO in conducting facility oversight and complaint investigations. (A copy of this bill was distributed.)

HB 1734 – This bill pertains to the DHS audit recommendations. It is currently being reviewed by the Senate and is expected to be heard by the judiciary within the next week.

Presentation on “Recovery is Reality” in Oklahoma – *Jeff Dismukes, Public Information Director, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services*

Mr. Dismukes indicated that “Recovery is Reality in Oklahoma” is a public outreach effort by the ODMHSAS who is working with various organizations to get people talking about behavioral health issues.

A State of the State Children's Behavioral Health Report was recently released (copies distributed). This report sums up the state of children's behavioral health in Oklahoma. It makes recommendation on the need to focus more on prevention issues and services for this population.

Commissioner White added that while Oklahoma's numbers in this area are very dismal, there are some reports that rank Oklahoma much higher, i.e. a report by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) states that Oklahoma is only one of six states in the nation that received a "B" grade in how it deals with mental illness in Oklahoma, the nation as a whole received a "D". However, this report was very clear on the fact that the biggest challenge we face is that we are 47th per capita in funding for mental health issues. While Oklahoma knows what it needs to do in evidenced-based practices, only a small group of people in Oklahoma who are in need actually get the services because of the lack of available funding.

Mr. Dismukes stated that this initiative is really about bringing in different organizations to talk about mental health and addictive disorder issues. There are three main steps for organizations to become involved in the initiative and start to look at these issues: (1) organizations volunteer to become a part of the initiative and support the issues, and agree to regularly receive updates from the initiative; (2) organizations agree to receive targeted information, i.e. speakers, electronic materials, interviews, etc., and (3) organizations agree to help people seeking services, pointing them in the right direction.

Report from the Nomination/Recession Committee on appointments to both the Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force (ITF) and the Child Abuse Training and Coordinating Council (CATCC), as well as reinstatements to CATCC – Howard Hendrick, Jerry Fry and Ben Loring

A written report from this Committee was included in the Commission packet. The committee is seeking approval of the following nominations:

To the Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force (ITF):

Ms. Lenae Clements – representing the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

To the Child Abuse Training and Coordinating Council (CATCC):

Mr. Eric S. Eissenstat – representing the Oklahoma Bar Association

Ms. Tracy Shivers – representing the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training

Ms. Gwen Downing – representing the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Ms. Nena Newman – representing the Oklahoma Department of Human Services

The committee also seeks approval for the following reinstatements to the Child Abuse Training and Coordinating Council for an additional two year term:

Mr. Kenny Holloway – representing the Department of Corrections

Mr. Tracy Haney – representing the Ok. Advisory Task Force on Child Abuse Neglect

Ms. Donna Glandon – representing the Office of Juvenile Affairs

Ms. Barbara Smith – representing the Oklahoma State Department of Health/Maternal and Child Health

Ms. Mary Womack – representing the Oklahoma State Department of Health

Dr. Ramona Paul – representing the Department of Education

Ms. Sherri Snyder – representing the Children's Advocacy Centers of Oklahoma

Ms. Brenda Gentry – representing the Ok. Advisory Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

Hendrick moved, Callahan seconded to approve the nominations and reinstatements as presented above. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on changing date of the OCCY Retreat in 2009; possible dates to consider would be August 13-14, 2009; August 27-28, 2009; and September 3-4, 2009 - Chairman Bart Bouse

Director Smith stated that the original dates for the OCCY Retreat (August 20-21, 2009) were in conflict with the Administrative Office of the Courts training for judges on August 20th, and therefore needed to be changed.

Chairman Bouse suggested that an email be sent to all Commissioners asking for their preferential dates, and upon review of the responses, Director Smith will set the dates accordingly and notify all Commissioners.

Report from the Committee working on issues and topics for the 2009 OCCY Annual Retreat – Lisa Smith and Jack Chapman

Director Lisa Smith stated that included in the Commission packet was a sheet listing several possible retreat topics. She is asking that Commissioners review this list and provide to the office their top 3; the subcommittee will then take these and work the retreat agenda around what was chosen.

Discussion and possible action on proposed Planning and Coordination Committee – Dr. Gary Theilan and Brandy Smith

Director Lisa Smith provided an introduction about this new Planning and Coordination Committee on how they would like to become more active in developing the annual State Plan for Services to Children; developing new ideas, etc.

Dr. Theilan distributed an outline of a proposal that the Office of Planning and Coordination has developed. It is a service delivery approach that identifies needs in communities and increased technical assistance services from the Office of Planning and Coordination in addressing systemic issues.

Ms. Brandy Smith stated that initially seven to eight community sites were selected to participate in the intensive technical assistance process; staff would dedicate 20-30 hours per month with each site to provide them with consultation on organizational development, identifying needs, developing solutions; identifying funding sources and then implementing identified solutions to make sure that they were successful. Planning and Coordinating staff have been working with these communities in the intensive technical assistance process for about two years now, and it has proven to very successful.

Ms. Brandy Smith stated that the Office of Planning and Coordination is proposing to the Commission today that a Planning and Coordinating committee be established that would serve two primary functions; (1) strengthening the infrastructure of community partnership boards; taking on more intensive technical assistance sites, and (2) assist in the development of the State Plan for Services to Children and Youth. She is asking that this committee help the Office of Planning and Coordination with service delivery by identifying solutions and plans that communities can implement that relate to a specific systemic issue, i.e. expanding behavioral health services.

Ms. Brandy Smith stated that the proposed committee would meet approximately 4 times a year, immediately following a Commission meeting to avoid the need for any additional travel by Commissioners. Those agreeing to serve on this committee are: Ben Loring, Ken Couchman, Terrie Fritz from the OHCA, Terri White or designee (ODMHSAS), and Howard Hendrick or designee (DHS).

Public Comment

None

New Business

A written report from the Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board was included in the Commission packet.

Also included in the packet was a budget report up through April 2009. Director Smith added to the budget report that the agency has been asked to develop a budget plan on what the agency's 2009 budget would like if it were to be cut by 1% (approximately \$26,000), and 5% (approximately \$155,000) and 10% (approximately \$284,000) cut in the 2010 budget.

More information on the budget will be presented at the May and June Commission meetings.

Adjournment

Chairman Bouse adjourned meeting at 10:09 a.m.