

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**April 11, 2025****9:30 a.m.**

Commissioners Present in Person: Jacqueline Aaron, Ellen Buettner, Melinda Fruendt, Jason Hicks, Bryan Larison, Timothy Michaels-Johnson, John Schneider, Timothy Tardibono, Mike Warren, Hannah Whipp

Commissioners Attending Virtually: None

Guests Present In-person and Virtually: Cierra White (OCCY PPB), Carolyn MacAllister (Healthy Children Healthy Communities), Sarah Herrian (Foster Care and Adoptive Association of Oklahoma), Maria Maule (Oklahoma Attorney General Office), Ty Mowdy (Assistant Attorney General)

Staff Present: Annette Wisk Jacobi, Lakesha Mackie, Rob Agnew, Ellen Hardy, Caitlin Merritt, Isabel Rodriguez, Danielle Dill, Cherra Taylor, Mahboob ul Haq, Richard Yahola, Keith Pirtle, Madison Wingate

Welcome, Introductions, and Determination of Quorum

– *Chairperson John Schneider*

- Chairperson John Schneider called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with a quorum present.
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Public Comment

– *Chairperson John Schneider*

- No public comment.
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Review of the Minutes of January 24, 2025, Commission Meeting

– *Chairperson John Schneider*

Commissioner Michaels-Johnson made note that on page one of the minutes the date was incorrectly cited as January 24, 2025, instead of November 22, 2024.

Judge Warren moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Aaron seconded the motion. Judge Warren, District Attorney Hicks and Commissioners Aaron, Buettner, Larison, Michaels-Johnson, and Schneider voted in the affirmative. Director Fruendt, Commissioners Tardibono and Whipp voted to abstain. The motion passed.

- A handout was provided.

Presentation and Approval of OCCY Finance Report

– Mahboob ul Haq, OCCY Business Manager

Mr. ul Haq provided updates on financial status, including budget utilization and cash balances. Some of the highlights of the report include:

- FY2025 total budget: \$6,015.792.00.
- Amount spent by March 31, 2025: \$4.295.761.00 (70% of full-year budget).
- Cash balance as of March 31, 2025: \$91,216.90

Judge Warren moved to approve the OCCY finance report. Commissioner Tardibono seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

- A PowerPoint presentation was shown.
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OCCY Parent Partnership Board (PPB) Report

– Cierra White, OCCY PPB Member

Ms. White shared she is a foster and biological mother to eight children. She is active with CASA and PARB. Some of the highlights of the report include:

- Shared contrasting DHS cases
 - Concerns: Inconsistent application of child welfare policy across countries; lack of responsiveness from CPS and failure to collect evidence; vulnerable children face re-traumatization from returning to unsafe homes.
 - Recommendations: Uniform enforcement of child welfare policies; Escalation pathways for professionals reporting abuse; inclusion of families in decision-making; continuous program evaluation and climate checks.
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Discussion and Possible Vote Regarding House Bill 2030

– Sarah Herrian, Executive Director Foster Care and Adoptive Association of Oklahoma

Ms. Herrian presentation highlights include:

- Proposed increase of daily foster care maintenance rate by \$5.00 (from \$22 to \$27).
- HB2030's original fiscal impact: \$18 million covering foster and adoptive families.
- Alternative approaches considered: targeted support for sibling placements or teens; DHS support informally expressed, not a formal budget request from DHS.
- Challenges: Legislative uncertainty regarding future appropriations.

There was mixed comfort among the commissioners about endorsing unfunded mandates. No formal vote was taken, but the discussion expressed broad support for increased compensation.

- A PowerPoint presentation was shown.
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Report and Discussion on Senate Bill 364: Prohibit the Use of Corporal Punishment on Students Identified with a Disability in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

– Dr.Carolynn MacAllister, DVM, OSU Emeriti Associate Professor

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Oklahoma law currently allows corporal punishment unless specifically prohibited.
 - Data: 455 incidents in 63 school districts involving students with disabilities.
 - Methods include slapping, hair pulling, choking—beyond paddling.
 - Students with disabilities are overrepresented in corporal punishment statistics.
 - Arguments in favor: Ineffectiveness and trauma of corporal punishment; parents are often coerced into giving consent; alternative training exists for positive behavior management.
 - Opposition concerns: parents' rights and local control.
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Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Annual Performance Review of the Executive Director Annette Wisk Jacobi, Including, but not Limited to, Possible Change in Salary

– John Schneider, OCCY Commission Chairperson

Judge Warren moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Fruendt seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Commissioner Hicks moved to return to regular session. Commissioner Aaron seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Assistant Attorney General Ty Mowdy asked the record to reflect that it was voted to enter the Executive Session at approximately 10:40 am and exit Executive Session at approximately 11:11 am and that no matters were voted on and the Board only discussed agenda item number eight; no votes or actions were taken.

Commissioner Buettner made a motion to authorize Chairperson Schneider to negotiate a salary increase of up to 5% for Executive Director Annette Wisk Jacobi, contingent on FY2026 budget. District Attorney Hicks seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Before proceeding to the next agenda item, Chairperson Schneider took a moment to formally recognize and express the Commission's appreciation for the outstanding contributions of Director Jacobi. He commended her dedication, tenacity, and consistent pursuit of excellence in advancing the Commission's mission. Chairperson Schneider emphasized that the Commission deeply values her hard work and leadership.

Discussion and Possible Vote Credentialing Provisional Candidates for Juvenile Competency Evaluation

– Richard Yahola, OCCY Juvenile Competency Coordinator

Mr. Yahola started his presentation off by giving an overview of the Juvenile Competency Division and what its functions are. Mr. Yahola presentation highlights include:

- Two new candidates presented for provisional status as evaluators: Jennifer Lancaster, Ph.D., and Oyeyemi Adeyiga, Ph.D.

Commissioner Whipp moved to approve provisional candidates. Commissioner Fruendt seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

- A PowerPoint presentation was shown.

Before we moved forward with the next agenda item, Chairperson John Schneider informed the Board that two of the Commissioners (Aaron and Buettner) had to leave, but quorum was still established.

Discussion and Possible Vote to Create a Committee Comprised of OCCY Commissioners to focus on Quality Improvement of the Office of Juvenile System Oversight

– John Schneider, OCCY Commission Chairperson

- Proposal: To establish a commissioner-led committee to evaluate and improve OJSO operations.
- Members with potential conflicts (e.g., agency directors) may advise, but not lead.

Commissioner Tardibono moved to authorize Chairperson Schneider to appoint members to said committee. Commissioner Whipp seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Report and Discussion: Results of the Second Chance Families Collaborative Project relating to Children of Incarcerated Parents

- Clint Castleberry, Chief Administrator, Department of Corrections
- Shannon Luper, Program Director, Girls Scout of Eastern Oklahoma
- Denise Daniels, Executive Director, OK Messages Project
- Amanda Maxwell, Program Access Navigator, New Hope Oklahoma

Each of the presenters talked a little about the purpose and strengthening connection between incarcerated parents and their children. Some highlights of the presentation include:

- Partner programs: Girl Scouts Beyond Bars (parenting classes); OK Messages Project (video messages and books); New Hope Oklahoma (support for caregivers and children).

- Key Outcomes: 201 parents recorded video messages, impacting 42 children
 - Community-based troop participation for children without access to incarcerated parents.
 - Reunification and mental health support with measurable improvements in engagement and family well-being.
 - Notable story: A father reunited with his daughter in person for the first time in 15 years through this program.
- *A PowerPoint presentation was shown.*

Before moving forward to the next agenda item, it was noticed there was virtual participant who was not identified. Chairperson John Schneider asked the caller to identify themselves several times and the caller never responded. The meeting moved forward.

Report and Discussion: Legislative Update

– *Marcia Johnson, OCCY Legislative Liaison*

Executive Director of OCCY Annette Wisk Jacobi filled in for Marcia Johnson on the legislative update. Highlights of the report include:

- House Bill 1574: Unannounced site visits at private facilities receiving state funds.
 - House Bill 2982: Clarifies OSBI authority to act on referrals from OCCY.
 - Senate Bill 799: Regulates text message communication between staff and students.
 - House Bill 1863: Clarifies MDT roles, terminology, and OCCY's access to confidential data for oversight.
 - OCCY to maintain access to full data for quality assurance, despite external pushbacks.
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Director's Report and Discussion: A Report Regarding Agency Activities and Personnel Changes

– *Annette Wisk Jacobi, OCCY Executive Director*

Director Jacobi's report is a follow-up to Executive Order 2024-29. Highlights of the report include:

- Staff now require at least one day per week in the office.
 - The agency is exploring options for additional space due to limited desk capacity.
 - Some challenges include additional space is not budgeted for; rotating workspace currently used.
- *A handout was provided.*
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Chairperson Report and Discussion: Policy Regarding the Practice of Public Comment during OCCY Commission Meetings

– *Chairperson John Schneider*

Highlights from Chairperson John Schneider's report include:

- The Executive Team, which is Chairperson Schneider (Chairperson), Commissioner Kerth (Vice Chairperson) and Commissioner Hall (Secretary) will discuss public comment practices.
 - No changes recommended; the current system viewed as adequate.
 - Commissioners encouraged to submit suggestions if they have preferences.
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Announcements

– Chairperson John Schneider

- Commissioner Tardibono invited Commissioners to tour the Oklahoma Juvenile Authority secure care facility in Tecumseh, Oklahoma.
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Adjournment

– Chairperson John Schneider

- Chairperson Schneider adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.