

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**June 20, 2025****9:30 a.m.**

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

Commissioners Attending Virtually: None

Guests Present In-person and Virtually: Alice Jeffrey (OCCY PPB), Ty Mowdy (Assistant Attorney General), Michael Williams (OHS Director of Child Welfare Services)

Staff Present: Annette Wisk Jacobi, Lakesha Mackie, Rob Agnew, Ellen Hardy, Danielle Dill, Cherra Taylor, Mahboob ul Haq, Richard Yahola, Mark James, Amoreena Kilough, Marcia Johnson

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 April 11, 2025, Commission Meeting

– *Chairperson John Schneider*

Judge Warren moved to approve the minutes. District Attorney Hicks seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

- *A handout was provided.*
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Introduction of New Oklahoma Human Services Child Welfare Director

– Director Jeffrey Cartmell, Oklahoma Human Services

Director Cartmell introduced Michael C. Williams as the newly appointed Child Welfare Director for Oklahoma Human Services. Mr. Williams has over 25 years of progressive leadership experience in child welfare and behavioral health services. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Williams served as the Deputy Commissioner of Operations for the Department of Children and Families in Hartford, Connecticut. Mr. Williams officially assumed his new role on June 16, 2025.

OCCY Parent Partnership Board (PPB) Report

– Alice Jeffrey, OCCY PPB Member

Ms. Jeffrey shared her personal story of child welfare involvement including her experience of housing instability and lack of prenatal care. Some of the highlights from the report include:

- The support received from programs such as Hope for the Future, Catalyst, Homeless Alliance, and Hope Community Services.
 - Emphasized the long-term value of organizations like Hope for the Future and encouraged Commissioners to consider the impact of funding cuts to services.
 - Ms. Jeffrey thanked the Commissioners and urged continued use of the Parent Partnership Board as a parent voice resource.
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Discussion and Possible Vote Regarding the Finance Report

– Mahboob ul Haq, OCCY Business Manager

Mr. ul Haq presentation highlights include:

- Total FY2025 budget: \$6.152 million.
- As of May 31, 2025, \$4.968 million (81%) has been expended.
- Spending trends peaked in December-February due to disbursement of funds to the multidisciplinary teams.
- Cash balance remains sufficient for fiscal year-end closing and planning for FY2026.

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

- A PowerPoint presentation was shown.
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Discussion and Possible Vote Regarding the State Fiscal Year 2026 OCCY Budget

– Annette Wisk Jacobi, OCCY Executive Director

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Director Jacobi presented the FY2026 budget with an overview of reduced funding and the need for strategic limitations.
- Noted a 2% reduction in total funds compared to FY2025 due to lower federal reimbursements and shrinking grants.
- Discussed shortfalls in contracts for Big Brothers Big Sisters (\$16,000 short), Juvenile Competency Evaluations (\$11,200 short), and homeless youth projects (\$35,000 short).
- Outlined cost containment measures including: no salary increases, 50% reduction in Chief Child Abuse Examiner contract, restricted travel, canceled office expansion, and potential postponement of the PARB conference.
- Shared concern over risk management costs increasing due to revised liability assessments.
- Indicated potential for delaying hiring for vacancies to manage cash flow.
- Legislative mandates were highlighted as unfunded, increasing workload without additional staffing or budget.

Commissioner Fruendt moved to approve the State Fiscal Year 2026 OCCY Budget.

Commissioner Cartmell seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Discussion and Possible Vote Concerning Provisional Candidates Who Have Met the Established Criteria to be Credentialed Evaluators for Juvenile Competency in Accordance with OAC 135: 10-26-3

– Richard Yahola, OCCY Juvenile Competency Coordinator

Mr. Yahola presentation highlights included:

- Provisional candidates, Sonya Cornwell, Ph.D., and Paulette Pitt, Ph.D. completed training and post-assessment and were recommended for provisional approval.
- Acknowledged staff dedication to navigating unfunded mandates and increasing demands with limited resources.

Commissioner Tardibono moved to approve the provisional appointments. Commissioner Kerth seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

- A Powerpoint presentation was shown.
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Discussion and Possible Vote Approving Fully Credentialed Candidates in Accordance with OAC 135:10-26-3 and Recommended by the OCCY Juvenile Competency Professional Committee

Mr. Yahola presentation highlights included:

- Presented candidates Dr. Jennifer Lancaster, Ph.D. and Oyeyemi Adeyiga, Ph.D. for full credentialing after completing provisional requirements.
- Both candidates were approved by the Juvenile Competency Evaluation Professional Committee following case evaluation and reporting.

Commissioner Fruendt moved to approve the credentialing appointments. Commissioner Cartmell seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

- A Powerpoint presentation was shown.
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Discussion and Possible Vote to Elect Commission Officer

–Chairperson John Schneider

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary

Chairperson Schneider turned this agenda item over to Commissioner Fruendt to conduct.

Commissioner Fruendt opened the nominations for Chairperson with a motion for John Schneider to continue his position as Chairperson of OCCY Commission. It was seconded by Commissioner Aaron. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Commissioner Fruendt made a motion to nominate Kalie Kerth to continue her role as the Vice Chairperson of OCCY Commission. Commissioner Fruendt mentioned that in these positions all have done an outstanding job and it takes a lot of work to keep up with what happens at OCCY. Motion was seconded by District Attorney Hicks. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Lastly, Commissioner Fruendt nominated Jonathan Hall to continue his role as the OCCY Commission Secretary, but due to his absence, Assistant Attorney General Mowdy stated it would be best if he was present to accept the nomination. Commissioner Tardibono moved to cease nomination pending Johnathan Hall's acceptance once he returns. It was seconded by Director Cartmell. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Presentation Regarding the OCCY Legislative Report

– Marcia Johnson, OCCY Legislative Liaison

Highlights from the presentation include:

- A high volume of bills passed without Governor's signature (299) and 47 veto overrides.
- Key OCCY-related legislation included: HB 1574 (facility inspections); HB1863 (MDT

- roles and database use); SB799 (text communication-vetoed); and HB2892 (pending).
 - SB870 was vetoed, but later overridden, requiring OJSO to investigate suspected sexual misconduct and notify multiple parties.
 - Commission received approval via HJR1035 for database rule alignment with HB1863.
 - *A Powerpoint presentation was shown.*
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Presentation of the Director's Report Regarding Agency Activities and Personnel Changes

– *Annette Wisk Jacobi, OCCY Executive Director*

- Update to Executive Order 2024-19 implementation, including in-office staffing requirements for state employees and OCCY's office space limitations.
 - Commended Richard Yahola's success in increasing the number of Juvenile Competency evaluators from 1 to 3, with 2 more anticipated.
 - It is likely the Commission retreat scheduled for August 2025 will not occur due to funding limitations.
 - Shared a story regarding a kitten named "Commissioner Biscuit" that was found abandoned in the OCCY parking lot and adopted by a staff member. The events surrounding the rescue and adoption brought humor and a positive morale to the staff.
 - *A handout was provided.*
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Chairperson Remarks

– *Chairperson John Schneider*

Chairperson Schneider commended OCCY Executive Director Annette Wisk Jacobi for her strategic leadership amid financial constraints and expanding responsibilities. He also acknowledged the staff's dedication to navigating unfunded mandates and increasing demands with limited resources. OCCY Commission Board presented Director Jacobi with a certificate of appreciation.

Announcements

– Chairperson John Schneider

- None
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Adjournment

– *Chairperson John Schneider*

- Chairperson Schneider adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.