STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

TOGETHER

COLLABORATIVE CONVENING

OKLAHOMA HUMAN SERVICES • OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH • OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WELCOME

Joe Dorman
Executive Director
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy

INSTITUTE FOR CHILD ADVOCACY

AGENDA

Welcome & Legislative Updates

Agency Updates

State Plan Review

Innovation Stations

Innovation Station Debrief

Closing Remarks

Relevant Legislation

- HB 2030 By. Rep Archer/ Sen. K. Thompson - Increases foster care maintenance payment for Resources Parents to be at least $22.72 per day or $681.60 per month.
- HB 1848 By Rep. Schreiber/ Sen. K. Thompson Grants a tax credit to employers that provides a childcare subsidy to their employees or operates a childcare facility for their employees. The credit is equal to 30 percent of the subsidy amount or operating cost, limited to $30,000 per employer.
- SB 806 By Sen. Pugh/Rep. Moore - Food is Medicine Initiative. Directs Oklahoma Health Care Authority to implement a financial incentive for contracted entities who improve health outcomes of covered members through nutrition services. And to also seek Federal approval to expand covered nutrition services. Requires the OSDE to provide technical assistance to schools who apply for Farm to School grants.
- HB 1575 By Rep. Lawson /Sen. Seifried - Creates the Streamlined Services Act, which establishes unified and streamlined eligibility and enrollment systems within the Oklahoma Department of Human Services to improve access to and management of services.

Relevant Legislation

- HB 1480 By Rep. T. West/ Sen. Gollihare - Provides that when there are financial obligations (fines, fees) imposed on a child, a guardian or a responsible adult, the court may immediately or at any time until the debt is paid or waived, determine the ability of the child or a responsible adult to pay court financial obligations.
- HB 1493 by Rep. Rosecrants/Sen. Stanley - Growing Minds, Active Kids Act. The bill requires school districts to provide students in grades pre-k – 5 with at least 30 minutes of recess daily.
- HB 1574 By Rep. Lawson / Sen. Stanley - States The Office of Juvenile System Oversight at the direction of Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth shall inspect state operated child facilities. And inspect private operated child facilities on a periodic basis or as needed. The Office of Juvenile Affairs shall also investigate all complaints filed.
- HB 2185 By Rep. Blancett /Sen. Rader - Requires the Department of Human Services to act in due diligence in ensuring action is taken by law enforcement if there is cause to believe that a crime has been committed against a child under DHS authority by an employee or contractor of the Department.
- HB 2892 By Rep. Townley/ Sen. Kern - Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth may direct an investigation into a case where there exists reasonable belief in injurious conduct, neglect, physical or sexual abuse of a child has occurred.

Budget Information

- Federal Funds make up approximately 43.11% of Oklahoma's total state expenditures.
- Recent information based upon the federal budget guideline suggests significant cuts in many social service and health funds; some on the order of 40 to 45%.
- Other programs are on the list for elimination such as Social Services Block Grant, LIHEAP and Head Start.
- Options to reduce Medicaid by $880 billion have yet to be decided.
- State appropriations for FY 26 is looking at a $38 million decrease in available funds and more than $108 million in lost revenue for a .025% rate reduction for all income tax brackets the has passed the Senate.
- Medicaid expansion adopted by the public will complicate this scenario by requiring an increase of approximately $600.
- The State has $1.3 Billion in reserve funds to that can be accessed for emergencies.

Agency Updates

Annette Jacobi, JD
OCCY Executive Director

Mendy Spohn, MPH
OSDH Deputy Commissioner of Community Health Services

Jeffrey Cartmell
Executive Director of Oklahoma Human Services

OCAP State Plan

Suzy Gibson, MS
OCAP Program Manager
State Department of Health

OKLAHOMA
State Department
of Health

Office of Child Abuse Prevention Responsibilities

Oklahoma Statute
Title 63
Section 1-227.2

1. Prepare and implement a comprehensive state plan for the planning and coordination of child abuse prevention programs

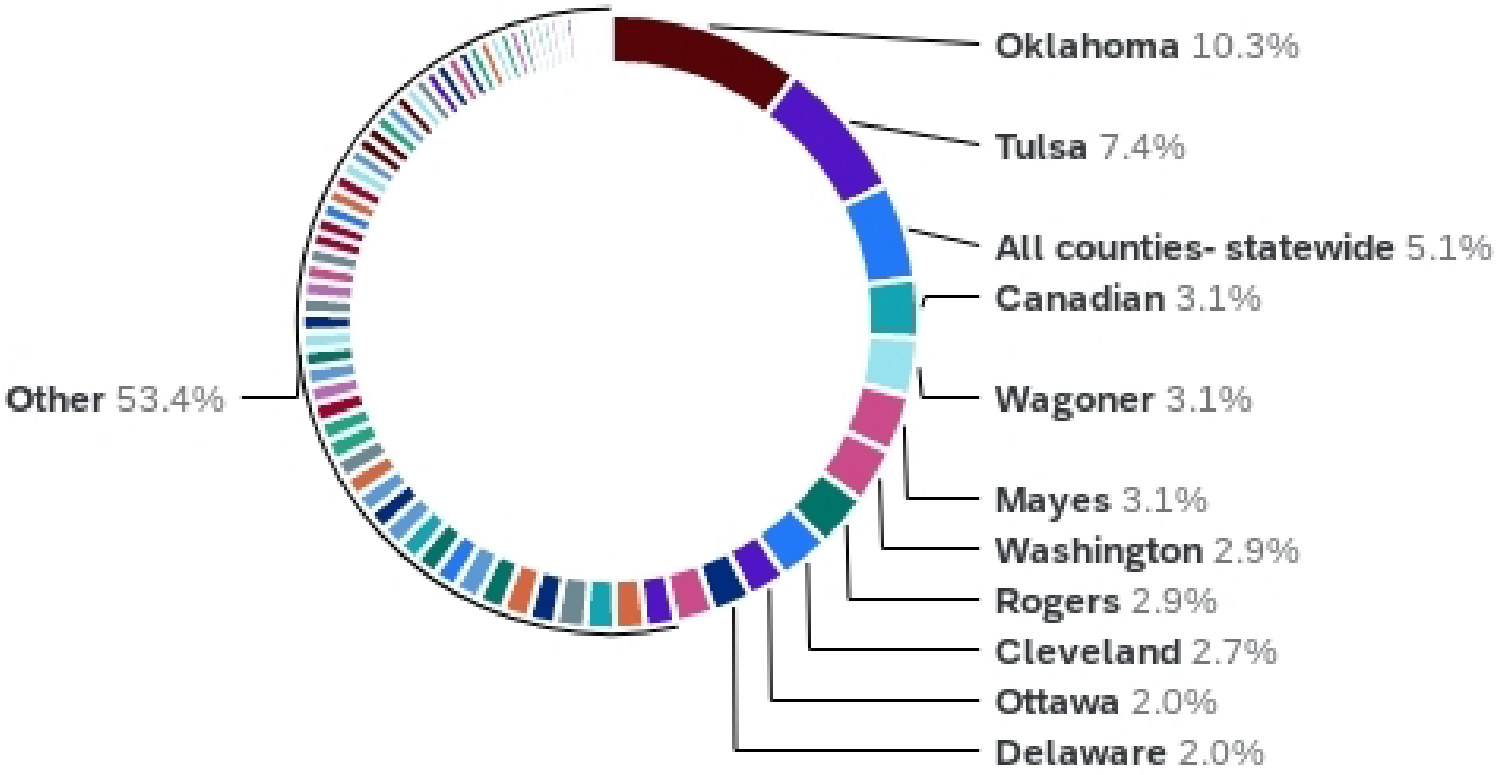
2. Monitor, evaluate and review the development and quality of services and programs for the prevention of child abuse and neglect

3. Publish and distribute an annual report of its findings

Community Involvement

State Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

The Oklahoma State Department of Health in partnership with Oklahoma Human Services and Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth conducted a state-wide survey to collect information from parents and professionals to inform the child abuse prevention plan.



Community Involvement

State Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

Overall, the most noticeable, cross-cutting result of both survey and community café responses is that Oklahoma families experience difficulties Accessing needed supports and services. Parents and families have trouble finding affordable, quality childcare, mental health services, family support services, and services that are appropriate for their culture or language.

OCAP State Plan Strategic Areas Child Abuse Prevention Efforts

Infrastructure Investment

An accessible and responsive child abuse prevention system requires strong infrastructure that supports a highly-trained, trauma-informed workforce, invests in community-based solutions and capacity building, and takes evidence-based programs to scale.

Alignment & Coordination

Cross-systems alignment and coordination reduces duplication and inefficiencies, streamlines access to services and supports and maximizes system resources and funding streams.

Family Support & Resource Connection

Partnerships with families that build trusting, strength-based relationships lead to positive parenting practices, promote resiliency and protective factors and connect families with services and supports that are easy to access.

Public Awareness & Engagement

Consistent communication that educates multiple audiences on the power of prevention, an upstream mindset and a sustained investment for prevention efforts is critical for an accessible and responsive prevention network.

Community Action & Empowerment

Inclusive community-driven action leads to local and neighborhood prevention practices and creates positive change for communities and their families.

OCAP State Plan
Strategic Area
Family Support & Resource Connection

Family Support & Resource Connection

Partnerships with families that build trusting, strength-based relationships lead to positive parenting practices, promote resiliency and protective factors and connect families with services and supports that are easy to access.

OCAP State Plan

Strategic Area Goals

Goal 1	Strengthen economic supports and financial security for families.
Goal 2	Connect families and children to support resources early to avoid crisis and intervention.
Goal 3	Advance implementation of the national Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support.
Goal 4	Ensure parent leadership and family voice in child abuse prevention efforts.

Professional: What do you think are the most significant barriers to accessing resource programs?

Some felt that the process to receive help from a resource program was too burdensome.

- Eligibility
- Length of application
- Issues with computer literacy

Many described inadequate customer service as a barrier to accessing resource programs.

- Lack of personal interaction
- Poor communication from staff

"Specific programs seem to change frequently and the only way we know about things to spend a lot of time looking them up and finding out all the details. Our parents are not going to look online and try to find things."- Burdensome

Parent: What do you think are the biggest challenges that prevented you from being able to use resource programs?

Income Gap

- Financial struggle, but too much income to qualify.

Many described inadequate customer service as a barrier to accessing resource programs.

- Feeling unwelcomed by staff
- Poor communication from staff

"I had a full-time job and couldn't make ends meet but yet was told that the year of my vehicle was keeping me from obtaining benefits". –Income Gap

Parent: What resources and services in your community are the most effective in meeting your community's needs?

"With my sons, OKSA was such an incredibly valuable lifeline, and so was my foster agency."

"Right now - public schools, DDS, DHS, SoonerCare. I have a teen in public schools and an adult disabled son living at home."

"Education is most effective, however we have needs that are unmet in our community, specifically mental health."

INNOVATION STATIONS

- Small groups have been assembled based on the Color Card you received at registration.
- The Color Card indicates the Innovation Station where you will begin the rotation.
- Small groups will have 10 minutes with the presenter(s) at each Innovation Station.

INNOVATION STATIONS DEBRIEF

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Innovation Stations Resource Guide

Family Thrive Lab: Enhancing Financial Stability for Families

Across Oklahoma, communities are working to strengthen economic supports for children, youth, young adults, and families through various targeted strategies. These efforts include advocating for family-friendly work policies such as paid family and sick leave, launching initiatives that offer tangible support like meals, diapers, or gas cards to encourage family participation, and improving access to affordable child care through stronger connections to subsidy programs. These approaches aim to reduce financial stress and promote stability, helping families and young adults thrive in the face of economic challenges.

Programs & Contacts

- **Work Ready Oklahoma**
  Lacy Pennington, Senior Manager (Statewide)
  lacy.pennington@workreadyoklahoma.com
- **Forge Your Trail** – Mobility Mentoring Model by Empath
  forgeyourtrail@ou.edu
- **Oklahoma's Credit Union (OKCU)** – Youth Financial Literacy Program
  Amanda Kirby, Community Relationship Specialist
  amanda.kirby@okcu.org

Pathways to Support: Connecting Families Early

Early connection to services can have a lasting impact on the well-being of children and families. Oklahoma communities are focusing on improving cross-agency coordination and streamlining referral networks to ensure families don't fall through the cracks. Expanding school-based initiatives—like the OKDHS service worker model—also allows support to reach families sooner, meeting their needs before challenges escalate. These efforts aim to create a more responsive and connected system of care that meets families where they are.

Programs & Contacts

- **Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR)** – Family Support
  Emma Bigheart, Community and Tribal Relations Specialist

okschoolreadiness.org
ebigheart@okschoolreadiness.org

- **OKDHS – School-Based Program Model** - Program Overview
  Monica Brumnett
  monica.brumnett@okdhs.org
- **Pay for Success Agreement to Fund Rural Community Health Workers** — MetaFund New
  Ed Long
  elong@metafund.org

Strengthening Families Together: Promoting the National Family Support Network's (NFSN) Standards of Quality

Oklahoma organizations are embracing the National Family Support Network's Standards of Quality to ensure families, youth, and young adults receive high-quality support. These standards serve as a framework for planning, delivering, and evaluating family strengthening services. Efforts are underway to expand training opportunities, integrate the standards into funding and monitoring processes, and elevate the Oklahoma Family Support Network (OFSN) visibility. By embedding these principles into practice, agencies build a more consistent, practical approach to supporting families statewide.

Programs & Contacts

- **Legacy Parenting Center**
  Lacey Holt
  director@legacyshawnee.com
- **Northern Oklahoma Youth Services Family Resource Center**
  Jeremy Jones
  jeremynoys@gmail.com
- **Sunbeam Family Services**
  Kathleen Espinoza
  kespinoza@sunbeamfamilyservices.org

Parent Power: Amplifying Family Voice in Prevention

Embedding family voice and lived experience into decision-making transforms programs from service providers to true partners. Oklahoma is working to move beyond traditional engagement by integrating parent and youth/young adult leadership into policy, program design, and evaluation. Through partnerships with initiatives like OCCY's Parent Partnership Board and peer-led models such as Circle of Parents, organizations are centering lived experience and building structures that recognize and compensate parent and youth/young adult leaders. This approach strengthens families and ensures services are informed, relevant, and truly impactful.

- **Circle of Care, Inc.** – Parent-to-Parent Peer Mentoring Model
  https://circleofcare.org/contact/
  Keith Howard
- **Birthright Living Legacy, Inc.**
  Marquess Dennis, Founder/Executive Director
- marquess@brlivinglegacy.org

- **Center for Children and Families, Inc.** – Family Resource Center Parent Advisory Committee **CCFI**
  Carla Garcia
  cgarcia@ccfinorman.org

Aligning for Impact: State Plan Implementation & SMART Goals

The Office of Child Abuse Prevention is continuing to collect SMART Goals to support the implementation of the state plan and the development of subcommittees for each of the five strategic areas outlined in the plan: Infrastructure Investment, Alignment and Coordination, Community Action and Empowerment, Family Support and Resource Connection, and Public Awareness and Engagement. If your organization has not yet established a SMART Goal related to a family support program or prevention effort, we still welcome information about the work currently being carried out across Oklahoma.

We encourage you to submit a SMART Goal aligned with one or more strategic areas and indicate interest in participating in a subcommittee. This will help us align our efforts, foster collaboration, and move forward together to support Oklahoma's children and families.

The next opportunity to engage with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention about the State Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect will be at the upcoming Family Support and Prevention Service Regional Meetings, which will take place across five regions between July 9 and August 6.

Secure your seat for Regional Meetings, HERE.

Closing Remarks

SAVE THE DATE

- Fall 2025

STAY CONNECTED

- OCCY
  https://oklahoma.gov/occy.html
- Family Support and Prevention Service
  https://oklahoma.gov/health/health-education/children---family-health/family-support-and-prevention-service/office-of-child-abuse-prevention.html
- Family First Prevention Services Act
  https://oklahoma.gov/okdhs/services/cws/ffspa.html
- OKDHS.org
  https://oklahoma.gov/okdhs/services/child-welfare-services.html
- Resilient Oklahoma
  https://resilientoklahoma.com/

THANK YOU

Feedback Survey