



## OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

# Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Overview

Since 1982, OCCY has helped create quality systems for children, youth, and families by bringing accountability and oversight into the child and youth service system.

In the early 1980s, a lawsuit was brought forward by seven teenage plaintiffs in the custody of the Department of Human Services known as the “Terry D. Case.” The lawsuit discovered instances of abuse and generally horrific conditions faced by Oklahoma children in state custody and cared for by institutions. Along with the lawsuit, local Gannett news aired a series of reports called ‘Oklahoma’s Shame,’ which helped lead to massive changes in the child welfare system.

Part of the changes included the creation of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth – an independent agency charged with overseeing and supporting Oklahoma’s child serving systems.

Many years later, the “Terry D. Case” was dismissed, federal judicial oversight ended, and significant improvements

were made. Yet, the role that OCCY plays in the protection and well-being of children is as important as ever.

OCCY is charged in statute with:

1. Improving services to children by planning, coordinating and communicating with communities and between public and private agencies
2. Providing independent monitoring and investigating of the children and youth service system
3. Preparing and publishing reports
4. Establishing services for children of incarcerated parents
5. Providing professional training for those serving children
6. Testing models and pilot programs for effectiveness.



## OCCY PROGRAMS AND ADDITIONAL STATUTORY TASKS

### Child Death Review Board (CDRB)

The CDRB submits a report annually that includes information and recommendations aimed to reduce the number of child-related deaths in Oklahoma. Since its beginning, the CDRB has reviewed more than 7,000 cases involving the deaths of Oklahoma’s children all aged 18 years and younger.

### Freestanding Multidisciplinary Teams (FSMDT)

The FSMDT program enhances the effective functioning of teams, respective disciplines, community partnerships, as well as maximizing the professional development of those in the field of child maltreatment.

### The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO)

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) has the responsibility of investigating and reporting wrongful or unlawful acts (willingly or unwillingly) within the children and youth service system, inquiring into areas of concern, investigating complaints, and performing issue-specific system monitoring to ascertain compliance with established responsibilities.

### Post Adjudication Review Board (PARB)

The PARB program is tasked with reviewing the appropriateness of treatment goals, permanency plans, as well as services for children and families in deprived and delinquent court cases. The boards develop recommendations following each review and serve in an advisory capacity to the district court.

### Office of Planning and Coordination (P&C)

P&C provides technical assistance, training and support to community partners to advance innovation, address complex issues, and implement workable solutions. By facilitating joint planning and coordination among the stakeholders of child/youth serving systems, P&C accomplishes its mission by identifying and establishing goals, outcomes, as well as priorities that ensure the safety and well being of children and youth.

### ADDITIONAL STATUTORY TASKS

- Board of Child Abuse Examination
- Children’s Endowment Fund
- Homeless Children and Youth Committee
- Oklahoma Children of Incarcerated Parents
- Oklahoma Foster Parent Voices
- Oklahoma Foster Youth Matters
- The Children’s Justice Act Grant
- Credentialed Forensic Evaluators

## OFFICE OF JUVENILE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT (OJSO)

OJSO conducts independent monitoring and investigations of children’s services and residential facilities. In addition to investigating individual complaint cases, OJSO is charged with discovering systemic issues ripe for improvement by analyzing trends within the child serving systems. OJSO is also to publish public reports about child deaths and near deaths due to abuse or neglect when related criminal charges are filed.

### SFY20 OUTCOMES:

1. 19 child facility inspection and complaint response visits
2. 335 new oversight complaint investigations
3. 2,419 children involved in oversight complaint investigations
4. 7 public child death or near death reports

### BUDGET SNAPSHOT

SFY21 Appropriations	\$664,207
Revolving	\$129,587
Carryover	\$98,000
SFY22 Request	\$57,000
Current Number of Staff	7.5
Requested Additional Staff	1

**OJSO is charged with inquiring into areas of concern and investigating wrongful or unlawful acts within the children and youth service system. If you or a constituent would like to file a complaint, please call:**

# 405.606.4936



## CHILD DEATH REVIEW BOARD (CDRB)

In 1991, the Oklahoma legislature recognized the need for a multidisciplinary review of how Oklahoma’s children were dying and created the Child Death Review Act. As a result, the Child Death Review Board (CDRB) was created. The reviews have allowed the CDRB to collect statistical data and system failure information. This process has led to the development of recommendations to improve policies, procedures, and practices within child and youth service-based agencies.

### SFY20 OUTCOMES:

1. 48 child death cases reviewed
2. 85 child near death cases reviewed
3. 31 public policy and/or legislative recommendations developed

### BUDGET SNAPSHOT

SFY21 Appropriations	\$191,157
Revolving	\$6,856
Carryover	\$76,980
SFY22 Request	\$69,000
Current Number of Staff	2
Requested Additional Staff	1

The CDRB strongly believes that through the implementation of their recommendations, lives will be saved, families will be strengthened, and agencies who serve to safeguard Oklahoma’s children, are supported in a manner that assists them in performing their duties.

## THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND COORDINATION (P&C)

Resulting from budget reductions over the past few years P&C has not had dedicated staff until this current year.

The work of coordinating services across public and private child serving agencies as described in statute (10 O.S. 601.6a et. seq.) will resume. Creating a State Plan for Services to Children and Youth which will examine budgets and services for children across agencies is an important task the agency will be reimplemented.

OCCY is preparing to reengage with communities and partnering agencies to support communities as they develop and implement community plans for children and youth supports and develop and coordinate those services in communities.

The P&C supports the following special projects:

- Board of Child Abuse Examination
- Strengthening Custody and Transition Services Advisory Team
- Homeless Children and Youth Committee
- Oklahoma Children of Incarcerated Parents

### BUDGET SNAPSHOT

SFY21 Appropriations	\$184,220
Revolving	\$66,916
Carryover	\$202,000
SFY22 Request	\$88,000
Current Number of Staff	2
Requested Additional Staff	1

The P&C is also charged with developing the State Plan for Services to Children and Youth annually and to issue reports regarding the development of services, progress toward effective joint planning and service coordination, as well as ensure compliance with established state policies/goals.





## OCCY COMMISSIONERS

### Lindsay Laird (OCCY Chairperson)

A member with a demonstrated interest in improving children services who is not employed by a state agency or a private organization that receives state funds  
Appointed by the President Tempore of the Senate

### Secretary Justin Brown

Director, Oklahoma Department of Human Services

### Colonel Lance Frye, M.D.

Commissioner, Oklahoma State Department of Health

### Carrie Slatton-Hodges

Commissioner, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

### The Honorable Joy Hofmeister

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

### Kevin Corbett

Chief Executive Officer, Oklahoma Health Care Authority

### Melinda Fruendt

Director, Oklahoma State Department of Rehabilitation Services

### Judge Mike Warren

Chair of the SJR 13 Oversight Committee

### Rachel Holt

Executive Director, Office of Juvenile Affairs

### John Schneider

Representing a statewide association of youth services  
Appointed by the Governor

### Bradley J. Wilson

Representing the Oklahoma Bar Association  
Appointed by the Governor

### District Attorney Angela Marsee

Representing the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council  
Appointed by the Governor

### Jacqueline Aaron

Representing a statewide court-appointed Special Advocate Association  
Appointed by the Governor

### Brenda Myers

Representing the metropolitan juvenile bureaus  
Appointed by the Governor

### Jonathan Hall

Representing Business or Industry  
Appointed by the Governor

### Angela Donley

A parent of a child with special needs  
Appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives

### Vacant

A member who represents a community partnership board  
Selected pursuant to the guidelines established by the OCCY

### Dr. Kalie Kerth

Representing the Post Adjudication Review Boards  
Appointed by the Governor

### Jason T. Charles

Oklahoma Children's Agencies and Residential Enterprises  
Appointed by the Governor

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**To Receive a Copy of the OCCY Commission Meeting Notices and Packets Please Contact:**

**Amanda Jett, OCCY Executive Assistant**  
Amanda.Jett@occy.ok.gov  
405.606.4900



## OCCY • IMPORTANT NUMBERS & RESOURCES

To file a complaint regarding wrongful or unlawful acts (willingly or unwillingly) conducted by a private or state-managed child/youth-based system, please call the Office of Juvenile System Oversight:

# 405.606.4936

### OKLAHOMA CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE:

Every person in Oklahoma who has reason to believe that a child under 18 has been abused or neglected (or is in danger of being abused or neglected) is **required by law** to promptly make a report. If you suspect abuse, please call:

# 1.800.522.3511

### FOSTER CHILDREN COMPLAINT LINE

#### OK FOSTER YOUTH MATTERS

OKFOSTERYOUTHMATTERS.ORG  
405 982-3842

### FOSTER PARENTS COMPLAINT LINE

#### OKLAHOMA FOSTER PARENT VOICES

OKFOSTERPARENTVOICES.ORG  
405 522-2720



OKLAHOMA  
COMMISSION ON  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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