



**BOARD OF JUVENILE AFFAIRS  
MEETING MINUTES**

*April 15, 2016*

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Present: Tony Caldwell  
Dr. Stephen Grissom  
Mark Hixson  
Michael Willis  
Dr. Donnie Nero  
Scott Williams

Absent: Kristin Jarman

**PRESENT FROM THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE AFFAIRS**

Kevin Clagg, Len Morris, Donna Glandon, J'Lynn Hartman, Janelle Bretten, Robert Morey, Paula Christiansen, Anna Kelly, Tammy Kelly, Brenda Caskey, Jim Goble, and Melissa White

**OTHERS**

Linda Shaw – EOYS, Ada Fox, Pittsburg Co. Juvenile Detention, Tyler Talley- eCap, Kim Moormann – Garfield Co. Juvenile Detention Center, Bill Alexander – Canadian County Detention, Bill Puckett – Garfield Detention, Robin McSpadden – ROCMND Youth Services, Stanley Hopkins – Youth Services of Bryan County, Scott Bighorse – Youth Services of Osage Co., Shawn Black – OAYS, Frank Guerrero – YSOC, Austin Goodwin – YSOC, Kami Kuykendall – YSOC, Daniel Owens – YSOC, LaTanya Freeman – Canadian County, and James Johnson – St. Gregory's University

**CALL TO ORDER**

Scott Williams, Board Chairman, called the April 15, 2016 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Affairs to order at 10:02 a.m., at the Centennial Building, Employee Development Center, 3815 North Santa Fe, Suite 170, Oklahoma City, OK 73118.

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING ACT**

Ms. Tammy Kelly, Board Secretary, confirmed that the Board of Juvenile Affairs is in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

**WELCOME GUESTS**

Scott Williams, Board Chairman welcomed all guests to the OJA Board meeting and thanked them for coming.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

## **REPORTS**

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Steven Buck, Executive Director introduced Kami Kuykendall, Executive Director of Youth Services of Oklahoma County (YSOC) and her guest Austin. Mr. Buck stated we want to pause and celebrate the work this young man is doing because it represents the terrific work being done by our partners in our communities.

Ms. Kuykendall stated, like you, we believe that all young people have value, regardless of their background and regardless of choices they may have made. It's our job to come alongside, accompany and support young people through their journey and help them navigate often turbulent waters to help them overcome those barriers and successfully transition into an adult and contributing member of their community.

Ms. Kuykendall introduced Juvenile Re-entry of Oklahoma County (JROC) employees Danny Owens and Frank Guerrero to outline what JROC is and how it works. The program started seven years ago and has developed into a six week program for reintegration back into Oklahoma County for kids coming out of OJA custody. JROC staff teaches basic life skills, cooking skills, job interview skills, job application skills, internet safety skills. Staff tries to fill in the gap for kids that were never taught these skills. That is the main goal, but JROC offers counseling services as well. Every kid who comes into the program has a mentor. They take the skills we teach and apply it in the community and help kids get back into school and teach them how to act in the community. JROC even has a parent section where we bring in the parents and teach them how to help the child reintegrate back into the community. We help them get a driver's license and not to re-offend again. We offer parenting classes, anger management classes; how to be safe with new technology, and make sure they understand it's not ok to hit a woman.

Austin spoke about his background and experience with OJA and YSOC. He came from a background of substance abuse and alcoholism, and at the age of 14 years old, became part of the criminal system. He started using drugs and hanging out with people who smoked and drank. His family and relatives were in and out of jail. Austin started picking up charges at school and getting in fights. When he was sixteen, he got a DUI and UUMV. Then he had a charge for Burglary I and Assault and Battery while on probation. He spent forty days in jail and while he was there, he made up his mind to change his life. After jail, he spent time in detention for a while, and then went to Allaxis Boys Group Home where he had a good experience. His attitude was good and they helped him a lot and worked with him. They treated him and everyone else well. Then he went to YSOC and started the JROC Program.

At JROC, everyone was very helpful to him. They taught him basic life skills he had not learned. He had a personal mentor and still sees his mentor almost every day at the gym. Austin stated the programs are good and they work if we are willing to open up to it.

Austin's future goals are to be a personal trainer and work at home with clients, then maybe purchase a home or own his own gym.

Director Buck expressed appreciation to Ms. Kuykendall for facilitating the presentation and thanked the Board for allowing him to share stories like this with regularity. Director Buck stated, it's important to celebrate our successes.

Mr. Buck stated under Advocates and Programs visited, there are several items listed that relate to detention rates. He stated he is continued to be impressed and enthused by the provider partner community and their willingness to invite him into their organization and have dialog.

In the area of public relations, with partnership from Paula Christiansen we are trying to improve our media involvement and the way we have a discussion. Director Buck stated, as a note, he had the opportunity to do the Chad Alexander Show again last week. Typically, Chad invites him to talk for thirty minutes, but Chad was kind enough to extend his commentary into the "Chad Alexander Power Hour". It was appreciated to have some drive-time conversation about matters concerning the services we provide.

Under State Agencies, Director Buck highlighted two agencies. The first was Julie Cox-Kain with the Oklahoma Department of Health. We have been working diligently with Jeff, Kevin, and Jim on this idea for our district offices. We can repurpose, redesign, and realign those to think differently about how we engage in our community. We are looking at sites where city/county health departments have available lease space. The Oklahoma Department of Health is offering a very generous lease and we are negotiating what that will look like. It would certainly save us money, but for the young people we serve, their environment instead of a strip mall or something like that, would be an environment of health. When they are coming in, they could make sure their vaccines are in order. If they are a parent, they can also help get young child-care.

Also, the Department of Health also has a significant warehouse presence in this city that is completely paid for and we are renting a warehouse. The Department of Health will offer us the opportunity to move whatever we have from our warehouse to their warehouse. It allows us to vacate a lease and it allows us to keep up with record retention requirements.

Mr. Buck spoke with President/Senator Sean Burrage of Southeastern Oklahoma State University and President Burrage is preparing to offer for us, space on his campus for which we can house our Bryan County office. President Burrage runs a criminal justice education program and he also has a behavioral health program on the campus. The partnership would be that we would be able to get really nice, affordable lease space on his campus, provide our young men and young women a very positive environment from which to receive services and let them dream that maybe college is their future. But, for President Burrage, it's a chance for him to have meaningful mentorship and internship opportunities. That's a dual win. We will have similar conversations across the state that are financially responsible, lowering our exposure as an agency, but also beneficial in turning the metric.

In the area of others, Mr. Buck highlighted four items. Tim Tardibono with the Family Policy Institute, who is a former employee of this agency is interested in partnering with us in unique and creative ways.

Dr. Deb Shropshire with DHS, is the community relations person for child welfare, but Dr. Shropshire also has the career experience of being one of the lead pediatricians at OU Medical Center and handles a lot of the really hard child welfare cases as far as medical involvement and situations of abuse and neglect. So, she is uniquely positioned to help us in terms of community engagement but also understanding from a medical side the types of services and supports that might be helpful.

Mr. Buck stated he had the chance to visit with a young man named Jeremiah Tshimanga who just finished graduating in May. He is currently a student athlete at Oklahoma State University. He came to America from the Congo. He has been in seven different foster care placements. His mother has had to relinquish custody of him twice, yet he has been a remarkably resilient young man. He is now beginning to publicly tell his story about everything he endured on his path to graduating with a degree in political science. He is fluent in five different languages and is currently in the job market for some good and unique opportunities. Tom Bates who is the Governor's Designee for DHS, a consultant, went with me to visit Jeremiah. We wanted to figure out what factor of resilience was so important in Jeremiah's life and how can we replicate that same factor in the young people we serve.

Myron Pope is the Vice-President of University of Central Oklahoma and is very interested in figuring out ways that we can partner specifically here in the metro area. Seventy-five percent of UCO's enrollment comes from the five contiguous counties. That is a significant amount of people from this geographic region. He has a higher enrollment for people of color than do Oklahoma or Oklahoma State University. He has a strong interest in figuring out ways to bridge college opportunities for people we serve here in the metro area.

Legislatively we submitted as part of the packet an update of status on legislation. The one thing I do want to add is there was considerable fanfare this last week when Governor Fallin released the Governor's Budget 2.0, I believe it is being coined as. In that budget, I want to note there were four or five agencies recommended for increase, there were one or two to be held flat and other agencies projected for another 4.5% reduction. What is important to note that she did not recommend any additional cuts for our agency. There is nothing binding to that, but I was pleased and I look forward to

the day we are one of the plus agencies. But, I feel it is significant that we were one of the hold harmless agencies.

Chairman Williams expressed thanks again for the type of report that Mr. Buck gave. It helps tell the story at the Capitol as far as these partnerships that will turn into other things. You are being a good steward by partnering with other agencies. The Chairman gave kudos to Mr. Buck and his team for thinking differently.

Board Member Dr. Nero echoed that there are opportunities in our community with higher educational institutions for partnership, and he would be glad to join Mr. Buck in visiting or contacting them. Mr. Buck thanked Dr. Nero and also thanked him for his attendance at the recent graduation ceremony at Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center for five young men who have a new outlook on their future.

Board Member Dr. Grissom stated that he is a faculty member at another university and it has three campuses and he would be willing to plan a trip with Mr. Buck. Dr. Grissom also stated that it is a pleasure to look at the Director's report and find that all of the single line entries of contacts can barely fit onto one page. He thanked Mr. Buck for that.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2016 BOARD MEETING**

Motion by Tony Caldwell with a second by Dr. Stephen Grissom to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2016 Board Meeting

Voting Aye: Tony Caldwell  
Dr. Stephen Grissom  
Michael Willis  
Dr. Donnie Nero  
Scott Williams

MOTION PASSED

Abstain: Mark Hixson  
Absent: Kristin Jarman

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18, 2016 BOARD MEETING**

Motion by Tony Caldwell with a second by Dr. Stephen Grissom to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2016 Board Meeting

Voting Aye: Tony Caldwell  
Dr. Stephen Grissom  
Mark Hixson  
Dr. Donnie Nero  
Scott Williams

MOTION PASSED

Abstain: Michael Willis  
Absent: Kristin Jarman

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Kevin Clagg, Chief Financial Officer, presented the year to date Financial Report as of March 31, 2016, using a PowerPoint presentation. <http://www.ok.gov/oja/2016 Board Document.html>

Motion by Tony Caldwell with a second by Mark Hixson to approve the monthly financial report

Voting Aye: Tony Caldwell  
Dr. Stephen Grissom  
Mark Hixson  
Dr. Donnie Nero

MOTION PASSED

Michael Willis  
Scott Williams

Absent: Kristin Jarman

Mr. Michael Willis, Finance Committee Chairman made a recommendation that we defer any action concerning the modification of Detention Rates and Standards until our next meeting.

**OKLAHOMA YOUTH ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL - ACTION ITEMS**  
**DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE FY16 ENCUMBRANCES FOR OKLAHOMA YOUTH ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

Motion by Mark Hixson with a second by Michael Willis to approve FY16 Encumbrances for Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School

Voting Aye: Tony Caldwell  
Dr. Stephen Grissom  
Mark Hixson  
Michael Willis  
Dr. Donnie Nero  
Scott Williams

MOTION PASSED

Absent: Kristin Jarman

**POSSIBLE VOTE TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Information was furnished to the Board in advance and no executive session was required.

**POSSIBLE VOTE ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURN**

Motion by Dr. Stephen Grissom with a second by Tony Caldwell to adjourn the Board of Juvenile Affairs Meeting

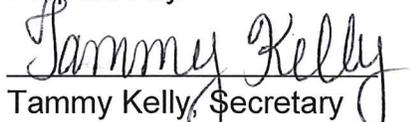
Voting Aye: Tony Caldwell  
Dr. Stephen Grissom  
Mark Hixson  
Kristin Jarman  
Michael Willis  
Dr. Donnie Nero

MOTION PASSED

Absent: Kristin Jarman

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m. Minutes approved in regular session on the 15th day of May, 2016.

Prepared by:

  
Tammy Kelly, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Affairs

Signed by:

  
Kristin Jarman, Vice-Chair