BOARD OF JUVENILE AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES

June 14, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS
Present: Tony Caldwell
Dr. Stephen Grissom
Jason Nelson
Karen Youngblood
Scott Williams

Absent: Dr. Donnie Nero
Kristin Jarman

PRESENT FROM THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE AFFAIRS
Donna Glandon, Janelle Bretten, Jim Goble, Kevin Clagg, Melissa White, Paula Christiansen, Rachel Holt, Steven Buck, Tammy Kelly, Terry Smith, Tierney Tinnin, and Travis Kirkpatrick

OTHERS
Kevin Evans, Executive Director – Western Plains Youth and Family Services

CALL TO ORDER
Mr. Scott Williams, Board Chairman, called the June 14, 2017 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Affairs to order at 9:03 a.m. at 1116 19th Street, Woodward, OK 73801

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
Mr. Scott Williams, Board Chairman welcomed all guests, and thanked everyone for coming.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Mr. Buck welcomed everyone and recognized Jim Goble and Tammy Kelly who accepted the recent voluntary buyout offered by the agency. Their contributions are noteworthy and should be celebrated.

Jim Goble thanked the Board for getting the right person for the job of Executive Director for the agency. Jim stated that Mr. Buck has a vision for what kids need in Oklahoma and thanked the Board for seeing that in him. Jim thanked the Board for taking away the pepper spray and said that he looks forward to seeing the work that the Board collectively and with Steve in the future.

Chairman Williams stated he appreciates the sentiments and said he has known Jim forever in the agency and it’s good to hear that he is glad to get rid of the pepper spray. Mr. Williams thanked Jim and Tammy for their service and their encouraging sentiments.
Mr. Buck introduced Kevin Evans, Executive Director of Western Plains Youth and Family Services who hosted the meeting.

Mr. Evans welcomed everyone stated he has spoken with Mr. Buck and Mr. Buck has listened. We have some exciting changes coming up and we also run a detention center. Western Plains is a rapidly growing agency right now doing Health Homes which is a huge change for us. We are excited about adding some Health Home type activities to OJA and those kids. Mr. Evans echoed the earlier comments about Mr. Buck and told the Board they picked the right guy!

Mr. Evans introduced Rickay Raymond and Becky. Rickay stated she had been in OJA custody since she was 13 ½ to 14 years old. She was released on her 18th birthday. She stayed at multiple facilities such as detention centers, Whitehorse Ranch, rehab facilities, sanctions, etc. She said probably every program that is offered by OJA and the State which in her opinion are very beneficial. She didn’t think that as a youth, but now as an adult she can say 110% that every program/placement was beneficial. Youth will say they don’t want help or don’t want to work programs and don’t need help. But, all the words of wisdom, the counseling, everything will eventually click, unless you have severe medical problems with your brain. There is success for our younger generation that is rebelling completely at a younger than I was. Please continue making these programs and facilities available, our youth need it. They need our help to function as adults in our society. Two weeks before my 18th birthday, I was very, very strung out on drugs. I said to myself, I am going to be 18 in two weeks. I thought long and hard and thought, I am going to go to jail, they will throw the book at me and I will not have a life. I quit drugs just like that. When I was in rehab, I was placed in a foster home 6 ½ months before my 18th birthday and I ran away after being there for a month. I was on the run until my 18th birthday. I made the choice to quit drugs, but really it was all the programs I had been through that made me realize what I needed to do. If I had not received help from the case workers, the counselors, the judge, everyone, I would probably still be strung out on drugs today. What you are doing for our youth is amazing and they need it. It will fix them.

Mr. Caldwell asked what Rickay is doing today. Rickay said she is taking GED classes and just had a baby. She also has a two year old and two step sons. She is a mom and is working on her school. I hope to attend college and be a drug and alcohol counselor.

Mr. Buck stated, “A lot of wisdom in those words.” Dr. Grissom stated, “We plant seeds.” Mr. Buck stated that we have drawn this magical line of the age of 18 in our State Statute as if for some reason at the age of 18, everything changes. For the developing brain, there is not a whole lot of difference for a 19 year old and a 17 ¾, in some cases the 17 ¾ is further along. So, you never know when it is going to hit, but when it hits, good things can happen. I appreciate her comments very much.

Advocates and Programs Visited
Mr. Buck talked about the Leadership OK High School tour. Leadership Oklahoma actually has a young leaders program. Tierney worked very diligently to get us on the adult circuit, but we were late in the process. They did allow us to bring in their young leaders. So, we brought the young Leadership Oklahoma leaders on campus at COJC. The COJC staff was diligent in making arrangements counter to their typical schedule to allow this to happen. There were four young men in our care that had the courage to step forward and participate in a panel and talk to these kids about what their experiences had been. Mr. Buck stated that we got as good, if not better questions from the students about what we do as an organization than we will from reporters. There were some incredibly insightful questions that these young leaders were asking relative to where do we fit into the budget scheme, why is 18 year + 1 different than a 17 year old. All of these interesting questions! I appreciate the work Tierney did and the work of the COJC staff. We were asked to keep the young Leadership Oklahoma on the rotation to come again next year. Maybe, that plants the seed for the adult Leadership Oklahoma track.

Public Relations
Mr. Buck stated he met with Shawn Black, Executive Director of OAYS and wanted to re-emphasize some of the conversation that he and Mr. Black have had, certainly at the Finance Committee level, the importance of us looking very hard at a rate structure. How do we as a purchaser of services move toward a structure that is more fiduciarily manageable, but also assures that we are buying services and not just buying? I have had those conversations with Shawn and his colleagues. Mr. Evans referenced those as new ways to think about doing business. I am pleasantly to report to the board that we have had one Youth Service Agency, the shelter in Duncan that is proposing repurposing their shelter into a
community asset with cooperation of Duncan Public Schools. There has been a vibrant community coalition come around the repurposing of this shelter. So vibrant, that I got an email from Representative McEntire wanting to make sure that I knew there was legislative interest. It appears that based upon our conversations with Stephens County that they will be willing to move to a rate based environment for their service array with a one year transition to prepare for that. I applaud that innovation and appreciate it and hope it becomes the norm moving forward.

Mr. Buck had the pleasure of meeting with Janet Foss, an incoming board member. On July 2, 2017, is the official appointment date, we will be adding Sean Burrage, President of Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and Janet Foss, a retired Judge from Cleveland County, with experience on the juvenile docket. She was also a former prosecutor and a former social worker. So, she will bring a fascinating talent array to the Board. With that stated, we have arranged for a new Board Orientation scheduled on June 20, 2017.

State Agencies

Mr. Buck had the opportunity to have an introductory meeting with Tom Bates, the Governor’s Special Advisor for DHS, Commissioner White, Jamie Ledoux - Child Welfare Director, and Healthcare Authority Director Becky Pasternik-Ikard to talk about one of the areas of contemplation that is critical to our state. A multi-agency response to kids who are so unique that none of our agencies have the economy scale to effectively serve. There may be one or two from DHS, one or two that are mental health kids, or one or two that are ours. These kids have a service array that is so unique that it makes sense for us to have conversations about trying to have a cross-agency collaboration to provide services to these kids. We don’t know yet what that is going to look like but it is important that we continue to have conversations and explore it.

Related to that, Mr. Terry Smith has shared documentation with our programs committee related incorporating programs on Intensive Treatment into our current campus design and thinking about future campus design. We have to understand that a one size fits all approach does not suffice. We have kids who are treatment resistant and we need to figure out ways to engage in that treatment. We have kids who represent public security concerns and we have to figure out ways to preserve their safety and that of the public without compromising the care given to those on the path of rehabilitation.

Dr. Grissom stated the Director of Developmental Disability Services Division (DDSD) Director should be added to those conversations. We get kids who have intellectual deficiencies who if they had received services, might not have come to us. Not enough people know DDSD has a ten year wait list and that is horrible. There are a bunch of different groups of kids that fall through the cracks, some just because as a state, we are not paying attention. They have no political clout so they don’t gain the attention. I applaud this and it is a really important thing that needs to happen.

Mr. Buck stated we have a competency issue as well. The Competency Statute is going to create some kids that were previously OJA bound who now for competency restoration, there is no infrastructure. Dr. Grissom stated that will create another need. Mr. Buck stated he would raise that with Special Advisor Bates. Mr. Nelson added that Education needs to be added to the group but it will be the toughest nut to crack. It won’t work without that piece and we will have to find a way to make that happen.

Mr. Buck spoke about Senator Shaw who was at a church camp near COJC and decided he would tour the campus on the same day Tierney and Terry were escorting our Leadership Oklahoma Youth around. What was important within that conversation was the Senator Shaw stated he came by because as a senator he has a role, but also because of how excited he is about the building project that is before our agency. Senator Shaw stated, “Up until I saw that legislation and heard the debate, juvenile justice was just a thing in the background, but I am kind of beginning to get it and I want to get it more”.

Mr. Buck stated as you see in my report, I had many legislative meetings over the last month as we close out session. But, this was a very noteworthy year for our agency. First and foremost is the unique opportunity to rethink how we do our juvenile justice campus. Over the next few months we will become engaged aggressively in what that will look like. You might recall the Statute creates a 180 day planning period starting July 1st for us (the Board of this agency) to identify the best option. I am enthused about that and look forward to many vigorous conversations.
We also had a late session bill that gave this agency permission to begin paying providers for demonstrative performance. A move from changing our template of payment from being one that pays for maintenance that actually rewards those providers that are able to demonstrate results that stick. I am very appreciative of that and you will see that in the budget presentation.

The other two pieces of legislation SB632 which created the educational compact for State Custody kids as well as SB229 which provided for a bridge of continuing mental health treatment for those young people who are leaving our care that have significant mental illness. I believe the Capitol demonstrated an agency that is thinking about its big picture role and not just maintaining what we are doing. I am very excited and appreciative about that.

One last item regarding the budget, when Kevin reports to you our 2018 proposed budget, our administrative costs will be just shy of 3.9%. Two years ago, the administrative costs in the proposed budget were 6.2%. I am very proud of the hard work of all my colleagues to do what we can to prioritize services to kids.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM MAY 10, 2017 BOARD MEETING**

Motion to approve from Tony Caldwell with a second from Dr. Grissom

Voting Aye: MOTION PASSED

Tony Caldwell
Dr. Stephen Grissom
Jason Nelson
Karen Youngblood
Scott Williams

Absent: Dr. Donnie Nero
Kristin Jarman

**DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE MAY 2017 OJA FINANCIAL REPORT**

Motion to approve by Tony Caldwell with a second by Karen Youngblood

http://www.ok.gov/oja/2017_Board_Document.html

Voting Aye: MOTION PASSED

Tony Caldwell
Dr. Stephen Grissom
Jason Nelson
Karen Youngblood
Scott Williams

Absent: Dr. Donnie Nero
Kristin Jarman

**DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY18 BUDGET**

Motion to approve by Tony Caldwell with a second from Karen Youngblood

http://www.ok.gov/oja/2017_Board_Document.html

Voting Aye: MOTION PASSED

Tony Caldwell
Dr. Stephen Grissom
Jason Nelson
Karen Youngblood
Scott Williams

Absent: Dr. Donnie Nero
Kristin Jarman
DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY19 CAPITAL OUTLAY REQUEST
Mr. Buck stated that up until this point, the Governing body never voted on the Capital Outlay Request, that was something done at the staff level. In working with the Finance Committee we thought it appropriate that this be vetted through the process. Mr. Buck thanked the Finance Committee for their work and contribution.

Motion to approve by Tony Caldwell with a second from Karen Youngblood

http://www.ok.gov/oja/2017_Board_Document.html

Voting Aye: MOTION PASSED
Tony Caldwell
Dr. Stephen Grissom
Jason Nelson
Karen Youngblood
Scott Williams

Absent: Dr. Donnie Nero
Kristin Jarman

DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE MAY 2017 OYACS FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion to approve by Tony Caldwell with a second from Karen Youngblood

http://www.ok.gov/oja/2017_Board_Document.html

Voting Aye: MOTION PASSED
Tony Caldwell
Dr. Stephen Grissom
Jason Nelson
Karen Youngblood
Scott Williams

Absent: Dr. Donnie Nero
Kristin Jarman

DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE ENCUMBRANCES FOR OYACS 2016-17

Motion by to approve Tony Caldwell with a second from Karen Youngblood

Voting Aye: MOTION PASSED
Tony Caldwell
Dr. Stephen Grissom
Jason Nelson
Karen Youngblood
Scott Williams

Absent: Dr. Donnie Nero
Kristin Jarman

DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE ENCUMBRANCES FOR OYACS 2017-18

Motion by to approve Tony Caldwell with a second from Dr. Grissom

Voting Aye: MOTION PASSED
Tony Caldwell
Dr. Stephen Grissom
Jason Nelson
Karen Youngblood
Scott Williams

Absent: Dr. Donnie Nero
Kristin Jarman
DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES UNIVERSAL SERVICES (E-RATE) FOR 2017-18, AUTHORIZING FILING OF THE FORM 471 APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING YEAR 2017-18 AND THE PAYMENT OF THE OYACS’ SHARE UPON APPROVAL OF FUNDING AND RECEIPT OF SERVICES

Motion to approve by Tony Caldwell with a second from Karen Youngblood

Voting Aye: MOTION PASSED

Tony Caldwell
Dr. Stephen Grissom
Jason Nelson
Karen Youngblood
Scott Williams

Absent: Dr. Donnie Nero
Kristin Jarman

DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE VOTE ENGAGE OYACS AUDITOR

Motion to approve by Tony Caldwell with a second from Karen Youngblood

Voting Aye: MOTION PASSED

Tony Caldwell
Dr. Stephen Grissom
Jason Nelson
Karen Youngblood
Scott Williams

Absent: Dr. Donnie Nero
Kristin Jarman

DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE ADJUNCT TEACHER STATUS FOR GARY POULTON AS AUTHORIZED BY 70 O.S.2016, § 6-122.3 (F) AND RULES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IF APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OJA FOR EMPLOYMENT PURSUANT TO 10A O.S.SUPP.2016, § 2-7-616 AS AN ART TEACHER AT THE OYACS-SWOJC CAMPUS

Motion to approve by Dr. Grissom with a second from Tony Caldwell

Voting Aye: MOTION PASSED

Tony Caldwell
Dr. Stephen Grissom
Jason Nelson
Karen Youngblood
Scott Williams

Absent: Dr. Donnie Nero
Kristin Jarman
DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE ADJUNCT TEACHER STATUS FOR LORRAINE WILLIS AS AUTHORIZED BY 70 O.S.2016, § 6-122.3 (F) AND RULES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IF APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OJA FOR EMPLOYMENT PURSUANT TO 10A O.S.SUPP.2016, § 2-7-616 AS A PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT THE OYACS-SWOJC CAMPUS

Motion to approve by Dr. Grissom with a second from Tony Caldwell

Voting Aye: 
Tony Caldwell 
Dr. Stephen Grissom 
Jason Nelson 
Karen Youngblood 
Scott Williams

Absent: 
Dr. Donnie Nero 
Kristin Jarman

DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE VOTE TO REVISE 2017-18 OYACS CALENDARS

Motion to approve by Tony Caldwell with a second from Karen Youngblood

http://www.ok.gov/oja/2017Board_Document.html

Voting Aye: 
Tony Caldwell 
Dr. Stephen Grissom 
Jason Nelson 
Karen Youngblood 
Scott Williams

Absent: 
Dr. Donnie Nero 
Kristin Jarman

DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE REVISIONS OF OYACS POLICY MANUAL

Motion to approve by Karen Youngblood with a second from Dr. Grissom

Voting Aye: 
Tony Caldwell 
Dr. Stephen Grissom 
Jason Nelson 
Karen Youngblood 
Scott Williams

Absent: 
Dr. Donnie Nero 
Kristin Jarman

DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE REVISIONS OF OYACS FACULTY HANDBOOK

Motion to approve by Dr. Grissom with a second from Karen Youngblood

Voting Aye: 
Tony Caldwell 
Dr. Stephen Grissom 
Jason Nelson 
Karen Youngblood 
Scott Williams

Absent: 
Dr. Donnie Nero 
Kristin Jarman
DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE REVISIONS TO OYACS STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

Motion to approve by Dr. Grissom with a second from Karen Youngblood

Voting Aye:  
Tony Caldwell  
Dr. Stephen Grissom  
Jason Nelson  
Karen Youngblood  
Scott Williams  

MOTION PASSED

Absent:  
Dr. Donnie Nero  
Kristin Jarman

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session Needed

DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE VOTE ON ITEMS ARISING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ANNOUNCEMENT/COMMENTS

Mr. Williams complimented the work of Mr. Buck and the Leadership Team. The work you do is noticeable.

Mr. Caldwell thanked Tammy and Jim for their service. He appreciated Jim’s comments but was concerned that Jim hasn’t felt free to make comments in the past. Mr. Caldwell recognized that is reality but found it distressful. Moving forward we all want to see that people in leadership for this agency as well as rank and file employees should feel free to speak their minds in a professional way. There isn’t anybody in this agency that has all the knowledge to make perfect decisions. We all have to contribute our brains. Mr. Caldwell stated that he thinks everybody that works here does so because they share a concern and a passion for helping children who are in distress. It is important for us, as a board, to positively and affirmatively state that we welcome, encourage, and protect those people who want to make a contribution of their thoughts. We shouldn’t have an atmosphere or a culture in which people feel that if they speak their minds that they will somehow face repercussions that are negative to them professionally or personally. Jim’s comment infers that that was not always the case. But we have a new day here, with new leadership and I welcome and appreciate that but it is incumbent on me as a board member and us as an organizational body to say that we need that.

Dr. Grissom thanked Jim for what he said and Dr. Grissom recalled in past administration, not being able to attend mandatory supervisor meetings because if he went, he would speak and would be fired. That was a repressive regime. We have had other groups of folks running the show where it was just more a matter of insecurity. We have had insecurity and ineptness and quite frankly some that were evil. But, when you have folks whose focus is doing good things for kids, then you want people speaking up. I think it is incumbent on us to make sure that the Board needs to make sure we have folks running the show whose focus is kids and doing good things for kids. Then, we don’t have to worry about insecurity and ineptness because that attitude is going to bring in the best people.

Mr. Nelson added that the only thing that upsets him is if someone doesn’t say something. Whether we agree or disagree, if you know something you should speak up. Ultimately the Board and the Director make the decisions and execute, but if you keep quiet, that is when bad things happen.

Two other things, there will be a task force looking at the school funding formula and I think it may be worthwhile as it gets moving, that we give some thought to how the kids in our custody might be represented in the formula in terms of the weights and things, it is an opportunity to do something.

Then lastly, I think from initial reading from the tax credit scholarship act, if there is a non-profit that can raise money for innovative educational projects, I think it might fit. We might want to pursue that.

Tony Caldwell stated that when he started on this board, he read all the minutes that were published to understand what was going on in the agency and I know that other policy makers read those minutes as
well. I want to put it on the record my personal appreciation to the legislative leaders who worked with us over the past year to get the bill passed which makes it possible for us to replace our facility. We have talked over the last two years about taking advantage of the fiscal crisis that the State finds itself in to improve our position. I think when you say things like that, people are puzzled at first and yet there was tremendous engagement in leadership and risk-taking on the part of a number of legislators to work with us to do that. What we have actually accomplished here is remarkable in a couple of respects. In a time of great fiscal crisis, they actually gave us the ability, even though our State bond rating has been somewhat jeopardized and there are a lot of issues around that and there was a great reluctance on the part of many a legislator to consider increased bond indebtedness first of all from the philosophical point of view and second of all because of the bond rating, but to give us the opportunity and secondly to do something that I am not sure has been done before, which is to give us the ability to make a decision without further legislative micro-management or involvement in terms of whether we are going to use bonds or use a private contracting facility to build this facility, I don’t know if it’s ever been done before. It is remarkable that they gave us the ability. It was a great vote of confidence to us and I just want to say thank you for giving us that vote of confidence and giving us the opportunity and for taking the risk politically, because it was not an easy thing for those folks who work with us in the legislative process to do. There were a lot of competing priorities. We are very fortunate we have friends in the Legislature that really helped us get that done. It wouldn’t have happened without Steve’s direct, personal involvement and relationships and hard work. He has been lauded today for a variety of things, but among those, I told him yesterday that I was delighted and surprised that we were able to get this done and to get it done in a year. It is very rare, good ideas take a number of years to get accomplished in the Legislature. I think it is remarkable and I don’t want it to go unnoted. I hope that anyone who reads the minutes understand that not only do we appreciate not only Steve, but those Legislators who really went out of their way to help us and the compliment that they gave this Board in giving us authority, which is also very unusual.

Mr. Buck added that it appears likely that Governor Fallin is interested in potentially doing a ceremony, a bill signing on the grounds at COJC. Should that develop, we will make sure that you receive invitations to participate in that. We should know more by the end of this week.

Mr. Buck stated there have been some very kind comments made and echoed the fact that it is an honor to serve this agency, but the work I do is driven by a commitment to the kids and reinforced by an incredible staff and a gifted set of private partners. You have seen one of them in action today. They are a good partner for this agency. Oklahoma has a very, very good core people that care about kids and I will continue to do my best to work with that core group of people to make sure that we are accountable to all four million people who call this home that our kids have the absolute best!

**NEW BUSINESS**

None
VOTE TO ADJOURN
Motion by Karen Youngblood with a second from Tony Caldwell to adjourn

Voting Aye:        MOTION PASSED
Tony Caldwell
Dr. Stephen Grissom
Jason Nelson
Karen Youngblood
Scott Williams

Absent:  Dr. Donnie Nero
         Kristin Jarman

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Minutes approved in regular session on the 13th day of June, 2017.

Prepared by:      Signed by:
Tammy Kelly, Secretary
Signed By:

Audrey Rockwell, Secretary                        Tony Caldwell, Chairman