

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2013-14 Performance Report

OFFICE OF JUVENILE AFFAIRS

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

The Office of Juvenile Affairs Mission Statement:

The Office of Juvenile Affairs is a state agency entrusted by the people of Oklahoma to provide professional prevention, education, and treatment services as well as secure facilities for juveniles in order to promote public safety and reduce juvenile delinquency.

The Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) was created on July 1, 1995, as a result of legislation enacting the Oklahoma Juvenile Code [House Bill 2640 (2004)]. Jerry Regier, Executive Director, and David Dennis, Deputy Director adopted the mission statement.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Keith Wilson, Executive Director, (405) 530-2806, (405) 530-2857.

GOVERNANCE:

The Board of Juvenile Affairs was created February 1, 1995, which shall consist of seven (7) members who shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. One member shall be appointed from each congressional district and any remaining members shall be appointed from the state at large. All members shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years. Current membership is as follows:

Board Members

Deanna Hartley-Kelso, Chair
Donnie L. Nero, Vice Chair
Ben Brown
George W. Lindley
T. Hastings Siegfried
Edward L. Smith
Janice E. Smith

Term Expires

March 15, 2013
March 15, 2013
July 1, 2013
July 1, 2013
March 15, 2013
March 15, 2014
March 15, 2014

Finance Committee

George W. Lindley, Chair
Donnie L. Nero
Janice E. Smith

Future Programs/Facilities Committee

Donnie Nero, Chair
Hastings Siegfried
George Lindley

Rates and Standards

Edward L. Smith

Rules

Donnie L. Nero, Chair
Deanna Hartley-Kelso
Hastings Siegfried

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GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

The minutes from the Board of Juvenile Affairs meetings are attached for the following dates:

2011 – January 21, February 25, March 25, April 15, June 17, July 22, September 29, October 6, and December 2.

2012 – February 17, April 20, May 18, June 8, June 22, August 10, August 24, September 27, October 25, and December 14.

The Board of Juvenile Affairs shall hold meetings as necessary and a majority of members serving on the Board shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

Due to the drastic cuts in the OJA budget over the last several years, OJA has been operating without a maximum secure facility and an Intensive Treatment Program. Over time, institutions have experienced an increase in the age of the youth they house, an increase in youth with serious mental issues, an increase in the percentage of youth who have committed serious violent crimes, an increase in youth who are gang members, and an increase in youth who commit violent acts against other youth and staff in the institutions. OJA is looking for ways to deal with this difficult population; however, it is apparent that any long-term solution will require significant additional resources.

OJA's budget reductions have eliminated the Thunderbird Academy, a Level E facility, Sanction programs, and reduced funding for Restitution Program, Multi-Systemic Treatment Program, Specialized community group homes, Level E and D beds, Regional Secure Detention, Local graduated sanctions programs, gang intervention services, and Therapeutic Foster Care. Reductions have been made to all Community-based Youth Services agencies for prevention services across the state.

Due to the rise in the number of youth who have been held for long periods of time in detention while awaiting placement in an OJA institution, OJA has developed the Juvenile Upward Movement Program (JUMP). JUMP brings the orientation phase of institutional placement into a detention facility, which reduces the "dead time" between a youth's adjudication by the court and his or her placement in an OJA institution. JUMP will also shorten a youth's length of stay in institutional placement. This program will be implemented on January 7, 2013, as a pilot in the Oklahoma County detention center.

Worker's compensation costs are projected to rise for the immediate future. OJA expended \$2.9 million for workers' compensation for FY-2012 and has budgeted the same amount for FY-2013. In addition, OJA has exceeded the workers' compensation retainage for three of the last ten years, which has resulted in OJA's workers' compensation premium to experience the following increases:

Fiscal Year	Total Premium and Administrative Costs	Increase
FY-2010	\$580,400	
FY-2011	\$682,200	\$101,800
FY-2012	\$868,000	\$185,800
FY-2013	\$889,600*	\$21,600

*To minimize the premium increase, OJA established a higher claims retainage, which resulted in a \$675,000 increase in exposure to medical costs.

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Following the last round of personnel voluntary retirement buyouts, there were three one-worker OJA county offices that were closed and the services provided in those counties were consolidated with larger, neighboring counties. This saved the cost of the personnel, office rent and phone/computer services. OJA Staff from Bryan County now provides services for Atoka County and staff from Pittsburg County provides services for Coal and Latimer Counties. The downside to this restructuring is there are no local workers in Atoka, Coal or Latimer Counties, which results in a longer response times and additional mileage expenses.

OJA has joined together with ten (10) other states and the University of Maryland's Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings to form a consortium for the purpose of improving the quality and cost efficiency of the education provided to the youth in the OJA institutions. OJA is in the first year of a three-year project commitment.

OJA is authorized and designated to collect and distribute restitution payments to court ordered victims. The OJA Restitution Program was redeveloped and updated to provide better efficiency and effectiveness in the collection, safeguarding and disbursement of restitution monies to the court ordered victims. The restitution process was centralized and fully developed within the computer software programs supporting the OJA finance division and the JOLTS. This will solidify OJA internal controls and provide timely and accurate restitution payments to victims.

OJA has implemented the use of network scanning for all locations statewide, as well as the use of electronic signatures, which allows for faster communication by increasing the flow of information within the agency and reduced paper usage. OJA is in the process of installing a VOIP phone system to provide assistance in staff functionality and reduce overall agency long distance costs.

OJA has implemented video hearings with Tulsa County youth who are in secure facilities. Benefits include the transportation time saved for both personnel and youth, fuel savings, vehicle mileage and use, and retaining juveniles at the secure facility. Expansion projects will include Oklahoma County and other counties who obtain courtroom video conferencing capabilities.

OJA will update two forms of surveillance systems within the secure facilities:

First, the current security surveillance systems at both OJA secure institutions consist of outdated equipment, which have blind spots and bad coverage areas. The security equipment will enhance the safety of both staff and residents.

Second, the Digital Video Recording devices (DVR's), which provides storage, enhanced quality, and establishes a hardware standard for OJA Institutions. These systems will also include capabilities for wireless cameras, access control and motion detection, installation of additional cameras across the campus at both secure institutions to provide better coverage, established electronic access controls where appropriate, install motion detection devices in areas where cameras are not allowed to detect movement of residents, replace stationary cameras with PTZ (pan-tilt-zoom) where necessary to increase coverage and utilize officer-worn video cameras in conjunction with stationary cameras for additional coverage and documentation when incidents occur.

OJA will develop an agency specific, computer-based training (CBT) program. All OJA employees have extensive training requirements ranging from 16 to 160 hours per year. OJA's CBT program will reduce employee travel, improve delivery consistency, provide needed flexibility for 24-hour facilities and will match essential curriculum to individual training needs.

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OJA will implement a Payroll Conversion this year to process payroll from monthly to biweekly, which has the potential to reduce the number of payrolls processed, as well as eliminate overpayments and underpayments. The conversion will achieve a goal of OMES to convert state agencies to biweekly payroll, but is dependent on securing the estimated cost of \$1.2 million. The estimated cost is projected to cover the cost of leave (40 hrs. sick, 40 hrs. annual) used by employees to bridge the first two-week pay cycle.

CORE MISSION:

There are no services that are required for OJA to provide which are outside of our core mission. There are no services OJA provides that are duplicated or replicated by another agency. There are no services which are core to our mission which OJA is unable to perform because of requirements to perform non-core services elsewhere.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

OJA has privatized many functions, some of which were once provided by the agency. The largest of these functions, which consist of approximately 48% of OJA's budget, include: all Level D & E residential group homes, regional detention beds, and emergency shelter beds. In addition to emergency shelter beds, Community-based Youth Services agencies provide prevention, intervention, and counseling services.

The largest of these services are:

Residential Level D & E Group homes,
Regional Detention Centers,
Community-based Youth Services Shelters,
Community-based Prevention Services,
Community At-Risk Services, and
Community Intervention Centers (CICs).