

State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF JUVENILE AFFAIRS

Board of Juvenile Affairs and Board of Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School

Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2020

Board Members Present via Videoconference

Sean Burrage
Sidney Ellington
Amy Emerson
Janet Foss
Stephen Grissom
Timothy Tardibono
Karen Youngblood
Jenna Worthen

Absent

Mautra Jones

Guests

District Attorney Mike Boring, Ada Fox, Alondo Edwards, Angelika Arnold, Brenda Myers, Cortez Tunley, Darla Cheek, Jimmy Jones, John Schneider, Kenni Hawkins, Nicole Spry, Shanna Rice, Twyla Snider, Yolanda Cummings,

Present from the Office of Juvenile Affairs

Jaremy Andrews, Christina Andrus, Blaine Bowers, Rex Boutwell, Janelle Bretten, Laura Broyles, Kevin Clagg, Paula Christiansen, Clayton Cody, Carter Cogburn, Ravon Ellis, Jeremy Evans, Lee Frye, Julie Fryer, Donna Glandon, Tracie Goad, Jesse Gomez, Kim Gray, Kimberly Hayes, Tracy Harrod, Tamar Hinton, Deborah Hogue, Rita Holland-Moore, Rachel Holt, Lys Hulse, Jodell Josserand, Kelli Mahanay, Kim Maher, Jeff Mader, David McCullough, Michael McNutt, Carol Miller, Len Morris, Lisa Perrone, Xhenita Osmani, Audrey Rockwell, Kasey Rutledge, Stephen Saenz, Leticia Sanchez, Kati Schmidt, Stefaie Shaw, Paul Shawler, Kheri Smith, Terry Smith, Matt Stangl, Martin Syring, Paula Tillison, Shelley Waller, Melissa White, Lorraine Willis, Lori Young

Call to Order

Chair Youngblood called the May 12, 2020, Zoom meeting of the Board of Juvenile Affairs and Board of Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School to order at 9:05 a.m. and requested roll be called.

Public Comment

District Attorney Mike Boring: We received notice of this meeting, less than 24 hours ago and frankly we have not had time to prepare an adequate response to the very serious issues with respect to the potential closing of the Hooker facility in Texas County. Three minutes seems

inadequate to address this issue. It appears that you are considering a reduction of beds to 229, which seems to be the number of kids typically held at any given time. If you do this, there will be repeated instance of no beds being available for placement of violent offenders. I am not sure what we are supposed to do in that instance when it happens, and it will happen. The two closest facilities are in Woodward and Enid. Woodward is two hours from Guymon and three hours from Boise City. Enid is three and half hours from Guymon and four and a half from Boise City. The next closest facility with regards to distance, farther from Guymon than the distance between Oklahoma City to Fort Smith, Arkansas. The facility is vital to the community. Closure of the facility will be detrimental to the treatment of juveniles and the safety of the community. Time requirements are many and frequent. The rural sheriff's do not have the resources to transport these kids back and forth. The lack of female officers makes it even more difficult. Placement in distance facilities will disrupt critical and desperately needed mental health counseling. It will make face-to-face contacts with the OJA workers even more difficult. Here in Hooker, we are able maintain all of the previously discussed issues. All lives and communities matter. This is not the time to close vital facilities. We would ask you to please honor OJA's commitments to Texas County, when we built this facility. Localized options are going to become even more critical in this state. We hope you will allow us to work together to continue saving these kids. There is much more I would like to say but I know time is limited. Thank you.

Mr. Alondo Edwards, Tulsa County Detention Center: Good Morning honorable Board Members, thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important issue. Many of you I have met before, for those I have not, my name is Alondo Edwards and I am currently an employee at the Family Center for Juvenile Justice in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and I used to be the superintendent at the Tulsa County Juvenile Detention Center. I am a past president of the Oklahoma Juvenile Detention Association. I share the concerns of the notice regarding such a tremendous change. Even more concerned about the future, as we know, recent Federal legislation has been passed, will require youthful offenders to be placed in juvenile detention centers rather than county jail where they are currently housed. With the cuts, that have been proposed to Tulsa County, average daily population of our youthful offenders in our county jail, where they are currently maintained, is 18 to 20, our average daily population has averaged population has averaged between 36 to 40. If we are asked, to house youthful offenders, who have committed significant, serious crimes and have a higher average length of stay. How are we as an organization to meet the need? I wanted to make sure the future plan would account for the future. I wanted to make sure that current situations do not cloud our decisions. I can talk about juvenile detention all day but with that I will complete my time.

Chair Youngblood: Thank you both for your time and comments.

Interim Executive Director presented the amendments to the State Plan for Detention.

Chair Youngblood: To the board, that is a lot of information, amendment was previously disseminated, we appreciate Rachel presenting and addressing the comments. We do not have until July 1st to make decisions, contracts go out on July 1st.

Dr. Grissom: I have concerns/ questions regarding the data. We know there will be a decrease in 12 to 14 year olds with the change in statute. Do we know, currently, how many 12 to 14 year olds are in the current data?

Interim Executive Director: Requesting those numbers now.

Dr. Grissom: My second question, which was raised by Mr. Edwards, if we are successful in getting YOs out of jail and into detention centers this will be an increase. Did the data presented address this potential increase? If not, do we know those numbers?

Interim Executive Director: On average, Tulsa County has 16 to 20 and Oklahoma County has 15 to 30, some of them are in juvenile detention. If our numbers continue, then we will certainly be able to accommodate the change. Tulsa county juvenile detention is housing 13 kids today.

Dr. Grissom: Are the YO numbers only Tulsa and Oklahoma driven? Or are there YOs elsewhere?

Interim Executive Director: There are YOs elsewhere, Comanche County holds their YOs in jail. However, Comanche County utilizes a bumping system.

Dr. Grissom: The documents we have don't show these numbers but it appears they have been considered.

Interim Executive Director: Yes, that was in the formula you adopted in the fall. Which was applied to create the first new plan. There is a five to ten percent cushion. There was one kid on the wait list for placement last week. We are reviewing implementing a sanctions program and other alternatives detention.

Dr. Grissom: It is comforting to see the forward thinking. I am a numbers guy and we need to have the data. That brings me to number three. Do we need to do some sort of formal review for potential revisions in three to six months? Part of me, is happy the numbers are coming down and we are talking about alternatives to detention, but part of me, wants to make sure we have enough beds. What are the conditions we come together to revise if a problem arises? Does that need to be part of the plan?

Chair Youngblood: We have committed as a board, that this is a living document. We will not repeat past boards actions of leaving this on a shelf. We will hold our amazing staff, Interim Executive Director, Dr. Shawler, Kevin Clagg and Shelley Waller accountable to the plan. We did just amend this plan in December, and the world has changed, so we are already discussing changes to the plan. We will need to continue to change with the world.

Dr. Grissom: I just want to make sure what you just said is on the record. My last point, and I am not sure what to do about it. Texas County is an outlier circumstance due to the travel/ distance issues. I don't think most people appreciate how far that community has to travel. I do, I used to run the mobile assessment unit. I am not comfortable on that front. I am weighing if closing the

facility will cause me to vote no, because that one should not just be driven by the data. It is a completely different circumstances than most.

Dr. Emerson: On table B, on the numbers, with regards to Texas and Woodward counties, can we talk about the current formula. In contrast, to the Woodward County.

Judge Foss: May I interject, something this does not take into account, Regional Detention Facilities allows for some counties take in regional kids, Oklahoma County does not use the regional system. For example, if Cleveland County is full, it sends kids to Texas County to utilize their beds. The biggest complaint, complaint is we can't get their kids in their own facilities. I also know, Cleveland County, screens kids for ankle monitors. The county pays for that not the state. This is a difficult issue. I think, OJA is in between a rock and a hard place. With Covid-19 and looming budget issues people are scared. I am not sure we are making viable decisions or if we are doing the best we can with the circumstances.

Chair Youngblood: I appreciate the perspective Janet. Where can we continue to move kids, but are they in a place they are safe and waiting for their next step. This entire pandemic has caused everyone to think differently. Think of all the conferences we have not attended or have attended differently. Never let the crisis go to waste. We should use this pandemic, to force us to make the changes we have been looking at making. Utilizing telecommunications for parental visits, court hearings, etc... This will eliminate all day traveling for 15 minute court hearings. We should be getting them through the system faster so they can start their treatment faster. There is a history here but, we also, are now being presented with some new data. The system is broke, we are paying for beds we don't use. We need to do better for the tax payers. We have done some tough work on this plan, but we do need to keep moving forward. Just my two sense. I love these discussions. Rachel, I have a question, if we used all the beds purchased, can we purchase additional beds?

Interim Director Holt: Yes, we license most of these facilities for the number of beds they have. We then contract for a specific number of beds. We could go back and revise the contract if there is a need. As I previously discussed, with Oklahoma and Tulsa counties if the need arises to accommodate YOs. With Beckham County closing and pandemic numbers being what they are, I knew I needed to update you all. I didn't plan to bring this document for amendment 5 months after we approved. This is a living document and this is why I brought it before you. I will continue to bring to you as needed. I want to thank Jeremy Andrews for pumping me with data as questions are being asked. For FY20, for 12 to 14 year olds, 450 out 2295, about 21% of the admissions. This will not be an automatic reduction. Admissions for FY20 44 admissions to Texas County 22 of them were from Texas County the others were from Kay, Garfield, and Woodward.

Chair Youngblood: I appreciate the quick response to our questions so that we can make decisions with the appropriate data.

Mr. Tardibono: Process question, we have another meeting scheduled for June 9th, if we delay a decision, do you all have the capacity to issue contracts by July 1, or what is the best date?

Mr. Clagg: That would be pushing to wait that late, so we need time to finalize and send out contracts. There is a risk we would not have them issued by July 1.

Chair Youngblood: The other option would be to call a special meeting, correct?

Mr. Clagg: Correct.

Mr. Tardibono: Is that because county commissioners have to ratify the contract?

Mr. Clagg: Yes.

Mr. Tardibono: If I am hearing correctly, part of the issue is the length of time individuals are held in detention, is that something we can change or is that determined by the judiciary.

Interim Director Holt: Yes, length of stay has gone down, however, it is at the discretion of the judges. Some of our counties only have one juvenile docket a month. We will continue to work with judges. The field staff along with the judges and DAs have worked hard to work through these issues. A judge can decide not to hold a child in detention.

Mr. Tardibono: In the current situation, are judges using teleconferences for these hearings?

Interim Director Holt: Yes, we have seen judges using technology, releasing kids if they cannot have the hearings in a timely manner.

Mr. Tardibono: On the content, I appreciate the concern the current numbers being less than we normally need. There is concern in the law enforcement community, that there will be a spike. How do you balance today's number with the previous numbers and the fact they may be inadequate in July? I have concerns with viewing the 119 as the new normal.

Interim Director Holt: We know that 119, is a number to be celebrated, is not an adequate number that is why we came up with 229 which is an access of a 100 beds. Most of the graphs run for the full fiscal year, starting July 1, 2019. We know the current numbers but we factored use for the full year.

Mr. Tardibono: You mentioned the sanctions program, did I hear a desire to reinstate?

Interim Director Holt: Yes, throughout my time with OJA, I have heard about the need to reinstate the sanction program. We have lots of community kids, that don't always behave appropriately. OJA, without new charges, cannot make a case removing those youth from their community treatment. We believe a sanction programs would be appropriate to use, but allow a hammer over the head of the kids as a deterrent. We are in the early planning stages so I cannot give any details but we are developing a plan.

Mr. Tardibono: Going back to the process question, on voting, if we were to call a special meeting in a week or two, which will allow us to dig deeper. Does this give OJA and the county commissioners enough time to make a decision by July 1?

Mr. Clagg: It would depend on when the special meeting would be held. No more than two weeks would give us time.

Mr. Tardibono: Do we need to impress upon the county commissioners to have a special meeting to address our contracts. I know that would be telling elected officials what to do, but this is an urgent issue.

Mr. Clagg: We do give deadlines when we send the contracts.

Interim Director Holt: The counties that have detention centers, the projected numbers only effect a few contracts, we can move forward with the contracts where the numbers are not changing. I am sure I will be having conversations on those contracts with the weeks to come. I couldn't go in to obligating our agency for those numbers with the current data.

Chair Youngblood: If we are uncertain, we should not act on that one part. If it is just a difficult decision, then we need to just press forward. The beauty is we all have our own opinion but we cannot shy away from being bold and move forward. I am not saying any of us are doing this. We need to do this for the kids, staff and agency.

Judge Foss: I think the hold up, for me, is that I am not sure what we are dealing with in regards to the long term picture. I would like to see a formal review process.

Chair Youngblood: Are you saying we move forward, but we set a date to review in three to six months?

Judge Foss: I believe the numbers we are dealing with but I do not know how permanent they are. I want to set a time to review the document.

Chair Youngblood: Perhaps we move forward, but with an agreement to review in a set time frame.

Judge Foss: Yes.

Mr. Clagg: A couple of things on the process and budget. The formula, we put a lot of thought into development, but we must utilize it and review it continually. It is a living document. With regards to the budget, it would be great if we could afford to have small detention centers across the state and not utilize them, however, that isn't in our budget. Even if we could, it would be better to utilize the funding in prevention.

Dr. Grissom: For detention center, where we are changing their numbers, this requires changes staff ratios, etc.... If Texas County, goes to zero, that is a closure, we cannot just start them from scratch in 6 months. I appreciate your comments Kevin. When I look at a map, Texas County is different, it is called the panhandle for a reason. Woodward County may have the space, but it is a 3 hour transport. There is risk with transport, the family, etc... I hope everyone understands I am on board with reducing use of detention and decreasing beds. However, I am worried about that particular location and those families. It is a hang up for me. I don't know but I understand we have to have 6 beds because we cannot drop them to 3. If we put in the minutes, that we formalize a review date, I can move forward on the other numbers. For Texas County, it is an all or none. I don't feel good about that. I don't know if there is a way to address it. I just need to state I am uncomfortable.

Chair Youngblood: Absolutely, sometimes votes aren't always unanimous.

Interim Director Holt: I share your concerns about Texas County. It was a close call in December. The facility did close for a month. When the reopened, there has been no admissions at this time. Their contract is \$394,000 for 44 admissions in FY2020.

Dr. Emerson: I am having the same concerns as Dr. Grissom. This is tough, I know there has been a few mentions of delaying votes. I would be comfortable with moving forward if we had an alternative plan.

Interim Director Holt: It isn't possible to drop a 6 bed to a 3 bed. That is why it is all or nothing with this type of facility. In the Panhandle, we have great JSU workers and a great youth service agency. If there is a loss of a detention center, we will look at wrapping supports around the community. I understand the kids would be further away from their parents if held in Woodward. If we work with Judges, attorneys, and parents to expedite their hearings. Other counties, are doing the reverse traveling to Texas County.

Ms. Worthen: I have one comment, I just don't want us to miss the good work that has put us in the position to have these conversation. I want the staff to hear from the Board, how grateful we are for your work. I know if we don't have plans for these budget cuts, that the Legislature will make those plans for us. Interim Director Holt, I appreciate you getting ahead of this. I want to celebrate the work of the staff and these facilities. I am grateful for the thoughtfulness in these conversations of redirection of resources not a reduction.

Chair Youngblood: I did manage to figure out how to work my calculator, \$394,000 divided by 6 beds is \$65,667 per bed per year. Other thoughts or comments?

Dr. Ellington: This has been very information. Thanks to everyone for their hard work. Across the state we have about 100 bed cushion. If there is a surge, we have some cushion, correct?

Chair Youngblood: At the current proposed number, from the numbers today, we have a cushion of 110 beds. Before pandemic, we had 215 beds, there is still a cushion. Tell me if I have that wrong.

Interim Director Holt: You are correct.

Chair Youngblood: I also expect, that if the numbers change significantly this will be brought back to us.

Interim Director Holt: Correct. I pledged when I took this position, that I would bring these issues to you. We are using the formula adopted from the fall. Which is why we brought you the new numbers today. If we see increases, I will pledge to you to make the necessary judgements with or without the Board.

Dr. Ellington: With regards to Texas County, \$344,000 that is about \$942 a day, we had 44 admits of those, which were not all from that community, how many of them were Texas county juveniles, what were the total number of nights occupied.

Interim Director Holt: In Texas County, 44 admits, 22 were from Texas County and 22 were from Kay, Garfield, Woodward and Woods.

Dr. Ellington: How many nights was the facility used? Or average length of stay?

Interim Director Holt: I am going to ask Jeremy Andrews to get me those numbers.

Dr. Ellington: If we have to move to transporting, where does that cost go? Does Texas County absorb? Or does OJA pick up the cost. DA Boring spoke to the limit of female officers. If this is all or nothing. Is there an accommodation?

Interim Director Holt: Sheriff's provide transportation and OJA reimburses.

Dr. Ellington: So the cost to the County should be covered by reimbursement.

Interim Director Holt: There was an interim study done on this issue years ago. With no results. The cost is reimbursed from OJA.

Dr. Ellington: It seems to me, if it is an all or nothing, the piece to be overcome, would be to be provide additional supports to the community. Would we consider at all providing staff to offset that burden?

Interim Director Holt: Jeremy Andrews replied with length of stay of 16 days. A reminder, we paid to transport 22 of those kids into and out of Texas County. In the past, we have had conversations with counties about providing transportation relief. Dr. Ellington now that you have charged me with that. I will begin working with Kevin to open those dialogues.

Chair Youngblood: Any other questions or comments? We had some great dialogues. If we cut from 266 to 229, I know I am asking you to crystal ball an entire Legislature, do we get credit or will we have to find more. We are trying to be responsibility to the kids, the counties, etc...

Interim Director Holt: I will have Kevin answer that.

Mr. Clagg: Yes, we will get credit. For FY2021 we have to reduce our budget by \$4 million. We are looking at all our service areas. However, this isn't just a budget issue but a utilization issue.

Chair Youngblood: I am glad that we are using data to make these tough decisions. This is a hard decision. Any further comments? Does anyone want to make a motion? I realize, if we make a motion, and it isn't a motion you like, you have an aye or a nay vote, and this may take multiple motions. Dr. Emerson, your motion is to vote on the plan as presented without a review date.

Dr. Emerson: Yes, as presented. I believe that we have been reviewing regularly. So no to the review date.

Dr. Ellington: Aye, but with the note we address the transportation piece at a later date.

Judge Foss: Make sure I understand the motion, are we looking at this at every board meeting?

Chair Youngblood: Not as a formal part of the motion. However, you always have the right to have it addressed or speak to Interim Director Holt.

Judge Foss: I am a no.

Dr. Grissom: Regretfully an aye.

Mr. Tardibono: With Judge Foss, I am a no.

Discussion and/or possible vote to update the State Plan for the Establishment of Secure Detention Services

Dr. Emerson moved to vote on the plan as presented, approve with a second by Mr. Burrage

Ayes: Burrage, Ellington, Emerson, Grissom, Worthen, and Youngblood

Nay: Foss and Tardibono

Absent: Jones

The State Plan for the Establishment of Secure Detention Services has been amended.

Director's Report

Interim Executive Director briefly ran through her report. We will add a monthly report to the board on the utilization of detention.

Approval of Minutes for the March 10, 2020 Board Meeting

Dr. Grissom moved to approve with a second by Mr. Burrage

Ayes: Burrage, Ellington, Foss, Grissom, Tardibono, Worthen, and Youngblood

Absent: Jones

March 10, 2020 board minutes approved.

Update on the Next Generation Campus Project

Video presented to the Board. Mr. Clagg gave a short update on the change orders.

Dr. Ellington: If we are at 40% of our capacity for change orders, are there any worse case scenarios in the pipeline?

Mr. Clagg: If we choose to use the current contract for the renovations on the gymnasium and the admin building, estimate is \$500 to 600 thousand. A small change order for tree removal for \$11,000. For part of phase 2 will be an upgrade to temporary fencing, no set amount, but estimate is \$200 to \$300 thousand. There are fewer unknowns as we start building the units. It is more about improving rather than taking care of unforeseen circumstances.

Judge Foss: In regards to item D, why is this a change order rather than an add-on?

Mr. Clagg: It is basically the same thing. OMES treats them as the same thing. We could start a bid process to bring in another entity to do the evaluation. We thought, the on-site contractor, is better equipped to do the evaluation due to their knowledge of the current project.

Judge Foss: This was not originally contemplated on the original project, correct?

Mr. Clagg: We knew that it was needed. As we move forward, as the unknowns are decreasing, we thought this was the best time to do this.

Judge Foss: DO we have the money to do the renovation project along with the original project?

Mr. Clagg: Yes, we have one-time monies set aside for this project.

Judge Foss: On this exhibit, with all the change orders to-date, are these monies included in this?

Mr. Clagg: Yes. The document that went out, has been updated and the full leak has been addressed and the pool leak has been addressed.

Dr. Grissom: As I understand it, we have discovered and corrected the pool leak, which eliminates any further expenditures on that issue. I think that is important to be noted.

Chair Youngblood: I really appreciate Judge Foss and Dr. Grissom for their work on this project.

Discussion and/or possible vote to approve change order NGF-017 to Flintco contract – Replace East Drive FCO#12 - \$446,942 increase

Dr. Grissom moved to approve with a second by Judge Foss

Ayes: Burrage, Ellington, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Tardibono, Worthen, and Youngblood
Absent: Jones

Change order NGF-017 to Flintco contract – Replace East Drive FCO#12 - \$446,942 increase approved.

Discussion and/or possible vote to approve change order NGF-019 to Flintco contract – Detention Hardware Upgrade for Intake Building FCO#19 - \$202,833 increase

Mr. Burrage moved to approve with a second by Dr. Grissom

Ayes: Burrage, Ellington, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Tardibono, Worthen, and Youngblood
Absent: Jones

Change order NGF-019 to Flintco contract – Detention Hardware Upgrade for Intake Building FCO#19 - \$202,833 increase approved.

Discussion and/or possible vote to approve change order NGF-020 to Flintco contract – Install Light Poles for East Parking Lot FCO#20 - \$10,337, covered by credit from McNatt contract

Dr. Grissom moved to approve with a second by Judge Foss

Ayes: Burrage, Ellington, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Tardibono, Worthen, and Youngblood
Absent: Jones

Change order NGF-020 to Flintco contract – Install Light Poles for East Parking Lot FCO#20 - \$10,337, covered by credit from McNatt contract approved.

Discussion and/or possible vote to approve change order NGF-021 to Flintco contract – Renovation of Gym and Administration Buildings (evaluation and design) FCO#21- \$92,338 increase

Mr. Burrage moved to approve with a second by Ms. Worthen

Ayes: Burrage, Ellington, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Tardibono, Worthen, and Youngblood
Absent: Jones

Change order NGF-021 to Flintco contract – Renovation of Gym and Administration Buildings (evaluation and design) FCO#21- \$92,338 increase approved.

Discussion and/or possible vote to approve change order NGF-023 to Flintco contract – Adjustment to FCO#05, increase due to licensing fees for security cameras FCO#23 - \$11,000 increase

Dr. Grissom moved to approve with a second by Judge Foss

Ayes: Burrage, Ellington, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Tardibono, Worthen, and Youngblood
Absent: Jones

Change order NGF-023 to Flintco contract – Adjustment to FCO#05, increase due to licensing fees for security cameras FCO#23 - \$11,000 increase approved.

Mr. Clagg ran through the OJA finance report.

Discussion and/or possible vote to approve the year-to-date OJA Finance Report

Mr. Burrage moved to approve with a second by Dr. Emerson

Ayes: Burrage, Ellington, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Tardibono, Worthen, and Youngblood
Absent: Jones

Year-to-date OJA Finance Report approved.

Discussion and/or possible vote to approve 2019-2020 year-to-date Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School Finance Report

Dr. Emerson moved to approve with a second by Ms. Worthen

Ayes: Burrage, Ellington, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Tardibono, Worthen, and Youngblood
Absent: Jones

2018-2019 year-to-date Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School (OYACS) Finance Report approved.

Discussion and/or possible vote to approve modifications to the FY2020 encumbrances for the Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School

No modifications for consideration.

Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter (OYACS) School Administration Report

Ms. White and Sanchez ran through the school administration report.

Mr. Tardibono: Do you get the students get the sense the students are engaging?

Ms. Sanchez: In the beginning they were reluctant, but after initiating the brain breaks it got better. It got better when they realized they had more access to their teachers. We still have struggles with the kids that we would struggle with the kids that do not want to be there.

Ms. White: Our kids, are getting a better opportunity than most of the public school kids at the moment. Public schools had to struggle with the equity issue when deciding how to move forward. Whereas, we had the equipment and tools in place to be able to move forward.

Vote to enter Executive Session

It was determined executive session was not necessary.

Dr. Ellington: For future meetings, if we need to have Zoom meetings, will we be able to mute and unmute ourselves?

Chair Youngblood: I was going to ask that question myself. Yes, we can make changes to make it easier and as we learn.

Announcements/comments

Mr. Tardibono: Just wanted to echo Jenna's comments earlier, about the great opportunities to have these amazing conversations. Thanks to the staff. Juveniles are innocent until proven guilty and due process rights are important. I really want to commend the staff to be going through two months and not have a positive case is really great. It is not going so well in other states. I know Rachel and the staff have lost sleep over these issues. I appreciate the work to keep the facilities clean and protect the kids. I applaud all the staff for their work. In respect, to Drs. Emerson, Ellington, and Grissom I am just a J.D..

Dr. Emerson: I echo what Tim said. A huge thank you to interim Executive Director, though she is doing the work of three directors right no. I want to publically thank the youth service agencies work during this time. Specifically, the work done to address youth's mental health during this time.

Chair Youngblood: I appreciate this Board for making bold and tough decisions. We haven't had to discuss the coming budget because we are all educated. Therefore, we have moved forward with civil discussions to address the tough issues. I love the dissenting votes. This work is about the kids in our care. There is no more low hanging fruit, so we are working together to make the hard decisions. New committees will be coming. I applaud Rachel and her entire time for the amazing job you are doing for these kids. Rachel has never treated this as an interim position. I appreciate the frontline staff for thinking different and doing the hard work. I don't apologize for the length of the meeting. I appreciate all the time you committed.

New business; as authorized by [25 O.S. § 311\(A\) \(9\)](#)

No new business.

Adjournment

Dr. Grissom moved to adjourn with a second by Mr. Burrage

Ayes: Burrage, Ellington, Emerson, Foss, Grissom, Tardibono, Worthen, and Youngblood


Absent: Jones


Chair Youngblood adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Minutes approved in regular session on the 9th day of June, 2020.

Prepared by:

Signed by:


Audrey Rockwell (Jun 30, 2020 12:19 CDT)
Audrey Rockwell, Secretary


Karen Youngblood (Jun 30, 2020 12:15 CDT)
Karen Youngblood, Chair