



Oklahoma Association of Youth Services, Inc.

Board of Directors' Meeting Agenda

October 8, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown

1 North Broadway Ave, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

Plaza Ballroom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85805131240>

A meeting has been scheduled for the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services and is being held in accordance with the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services Bylaws.

Both the agenda and minutes from this meeting will be available on the OAYS website (www.oays.org) following the meeting.



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1. Call to order and introduction of guests
2. Roll call/establish quorum
3. Discussion or possible action to approve Board Meeting Minutes for September 2, 2026
4. Discussion or possible action regarding the Treasurer's Report
 - i. Financials
 - ii. Office Budget
 - iii. FY2025 Audit
5. Discussion and/or possible action to approve items as needed on the President's Report
6. Discussion and/or possible action to approve items as needed on the Executive Director's Report
7. New business not known at the time of posting this agenda
8. Adjourn



Oklahoma Association of Youth Services, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2026

Virtual Meeting

A virtual meeting was held for the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services and is being held in accordance with the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services Bylaws.

1. Call to Order and introduction of Guests

President Courtney Dukes called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Brandy Pierce of Ardmore attended as a guest for the shelter and child placement discussion.

2. Roll Call and establishment of quorum

Kerrie Mathews conducted roll call.

Board members present: Courtney Dukes, Kody Suanny, Jim Harris, Shanna Rice, Jana Emerson, Amara Lett, Melinda Bellack, Brenda Rose, and Yolanda Cummings.

A quorum was established.

3. Discussion or possible action to approve the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from August 6, 2026

Kody Suanny moved to approve the August 6 Board of Directors meeting minutes. Yolanda Cummings seconded the motion. Jim Harris and Shanna Rice abstained because they were not present at the August 6 meeting. **The motion carried.**

4. Discussion or possible action regarding the Treasurer's Report

Shanna Rice presented the FY2026 year-end financial statements and the July financial report. She reported that the FY2025 audit had been returned to the auditor for corrections and remains pending.

Shanna noted that OAYS concluded FY2026 with a positive year-end position despite the loss of the DHS contract and recognized Peter and David for their financial stewardship. Courtney Dukes joined in recognizing their work.

Melinda Bellack moved to approve the financial statements as presented. Kody Suanny seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

5. Committee Reports

a. Legislative Committee Report

John reported that the recent all-directors legislative meeting established shared priorities and reinforced the importance of developing strong relationships with House and Senate members serving each agency area.

Peter and Steve compiled legislative information by agency service area to support coordinated outreach. The committee continues to monitor proposals affecting the structure of OJA, DHS, and Oklahoma's child-serving system, including potential implications for Title 10A. Cluster representatives were encouraged to make legislative outreach a regular agenda item and report barriers to the Legislative Committee for assistance.

b. Programs Committee Report

Sheila reported that planning continues for the association's training calendar and October 7-8 Quarterly Meeting. The Stop Hate Initiative will provide a featured presentation addressing nihilistic violence, hate groups, and the online targeting of youth. A related preview session, "When Community Meets Cruelty," will be offered during an upcoming Counselor Call. Continuing education hours will be available for both opportunities.

c. Counselor Call Report

Shanna Rice announced a Counselor Call series on substances of abuse beginning October 13 with marijuana, followed by kratom in November and additional topics through February. CEUs will be available for each session. Peter also reported that additional extended CEU opportunities are being developed through his work with OCCY and CATCC.

d. Shelter Committee Report

Kristy reported that two shelter committees are currently operating within OAYS. One addresses policy, legislation, and coordination with OJA and DHS. The second focuses on shelter operations, including staffing, recruitment, and programming.

She emphasized the importance of participation by shelter-operating agencies so that OAYS can enter meetings with state partners with coordinated positions and recommendations. Cluster representatives were encouraged to include shelter issues in regular cluster discussions.

e. Cluster Reports

Kody thanked cluster representatives for their work and encouraged continued attention to legislative and shelter issues. The clusters reported ongoing activity related to legislative engagement, shelter and placement issues, workforce recruitment and retention, fundraising, agency collaboration, and regular cluster meetings.

6. President's Report

Courtney emphasized the importance of unity, engagement, and mutual support as OAYS responds to legislative, regulatory, and operational issues.

She recognized Rogers County Youth Services for being selected as a new Tulsa Area United Way nonprofit partner and Kerrie Mathews and Marie Detty Youth & Family Services on the opening of their new facility in Lawton. Courtney encouraged members to attend the October 7-8 Quarterly Meeting and bring appropriate staff.

7. Executive Director's Report

Peter recognized Kerrie Mathews and Marie Detty Youth & Family Services on the opening of their new facility and shared a letter from Mahayla to Ms. Lopez as an example of the impact of youth services work.

He emphasized the importance of maintaining a unified statewide youth services system and noted OAYS' statutory role within Title 10A.

Peter reported on ongoing discussions with DHS Director Michael Williams regarding shelter access and child placement and noted that a follow-up meeting is planned. He also reported his nomination to serve as chair of the CATCC Board through OCCY, creating additional opportunities for member training and CEUs.

Courtney announced that Peter was selected for the 2026 class of 55 Over 55 Inspiring Oklahomans.

Office Lease Renewal

The Board considered renewal of the OAYS office lease.

Motion by: Shanna Rice

Second by: Brenda Rose

Motion carried unanimously.

October Board and Membership Meeting Schedule

The Board considered moving the October Board of Directors and Membership meetings from Wednesday to Thursday to accommodate the Quarterly Meeting schedule.

Motion by: Kody Suanny

Second by: Jim Harris

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

8. New Business not known at the time of posting this agenda.

None

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:05am



Oklahoma Association of Youth Services, Inc.

Membership Meeting Agenda

October 8, 2026

**Immediately Following the Board of Director's
Meeting Scheduled for 9:00 a.m. That Same Day**

Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown

1 North Broadway Ave, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

Plaza Ballroom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85805131240>

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Oklahoma Association of Youth Services, Inc.

Membership Meeting Agenda

October 8, 2026

**Immediately Following the Board of Director's Meeting Scheduled for
9:00 a.m. That Same Day**

Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown
1 North Broadway Ave, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
73102

Plaza Ballroom

A meeting has been scheduled for the Membership of the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services and is being held in accordance with the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services Bylaws. Both the agenda and minutes from this meeting will be available on the OAYS website (www.oays.org) following the meeting.

1. Call to order and introduction of guests
2. Roll call/establish quorum
3. Discussion and/or possible action to approve the September 2, 2026, Special Membership Meeting minutes
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Discussion or possible action regarding the Strategic Development Committee Report
 - b. Discussion or possible action regarding the Programs Committee Report
 - c. Discussion or possible action regarding the Counselor Call Report
 - d. Discussion or possible action regarding the Shelter Committee Report
 - e. Discussion or possible action regarding the Legislative Committee Report
5. Discussion and or possible action regarding the Cluster Committee Report
 - i. Central Cluster
 - ii. Northeast Cluster
 - iii. Northwest Cluster
 - iv. Southeast Cluster

v. Southwest Cluster

6. Discussion and/or possible action to approve items as needed on the President's Report
7. Discussion and/or possible action to approve items as needed on the Executive Director's Report
8. New business not known at the time of posting this agenda
9. Adjourn



Oklahoma Association of Youth Services, Inc.

Special Membership Meeting Minutes

Child Placement and Shelter Solutions

September 2, 2026

Meeting Time

Immediately following the OAYS Board of Directors meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m. that same day.

1. Call to Order and introduction of guests Purpose

The Special Membership Meeting was convened to address child placement and shelter solutions requested by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

No guests were present.

2. Roll Call and establishment of quorum

A quorum was established.

3. Discussion or possible action to Approve June 3, 2026 Membership Meeting Minutes

Shanna Rice moved to approve the June 3, 2026 Membership Meeting minutes. Kody seconded the motion. Kerrie Mathews, Amara, Chris Harvard, Terri Krebs, Jill Neeley, and Kristy abstained because they were not present at the June 3 meeting. The motion carried with 19 affirmative votes and six abstentions.

4. Child Placement and Shelter Solutions

Peter provided background regarding discussions with DHS Director Michael Williams concerning children spending nights in state offices and DHS's request that OAYS identify potential solutions.

Members discussed the need for OAYS to respond proactively and develop recommendations grounded in the operational experience of youth services agencies. Discussion included shelter capacity, moment-of-care placements, staffing, regional or specialized placement models, transportation, intake processes, training, contractual expectations, and appropriate funding.

Members also emphasized the need for additional data from DHS regarding the children currently spending nights in state offices, including numbers, ages, geographic origin, and placement needs.

The membership agreed that proposed solutions should be developed through a focused working group and returned to the full membership for consideration.

Motion to Establish Working Group

Shanna Rice moved that President Courtney Dukes appoint a chairperson to lead an intense working group to develop solution to child placement needs across the state. Committee members would agree to the labor intensive process and to pursuing and integrating feedback from all YSA's who could be affected by the proposal and to bring a final proposal to the full membership for approval.

Kristy seconded the motion. The motion carried with 19 affirmative votes.

Members were asked to submit questions for DHS to Peter by Thursday for inclusion in his upcoming meeting with Director Williams and to begin developing practical, financially supported solutions for consideration by the working group.

5. New business not known at the time of posting this agenda.

None

6. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:13pm



OAYS Guide to the Oklahoma Legislative Process

Education for the 2026 interim and the 2027 session

Decisions made at the Oklahoma State Capitol affect the resources available to youth services agencies and the work we do with children and families. OAYS members bring firsthand knowledge of community needs and the practical effects of public policy. Understanding how the Legislature works helps us share that knowledge while decisions are still being discussed and decided.

The legislative process begins with an idea. Legislative proposals can come from many sources, including constituents seeking solutions to problems, state agencies, the Governor, unexpected court rulings, advocacy organizations, service providers, and legislators themselves, to name a few.

Sometimes a legislator may request an interim study to present information about an issue to the members of a relevant committee. Usually this is done to educate and garner support from fellow legislators before introduction of a bill. At other times, when a bill has failed to make it through the process a legislator will ask for an interim study to refine the proposal and try to find a compromise that will pass in the next legislative session.

The chair of the committee to which an interim study has been assigned determines the date and length of the hearing. Two to four hours is typical; some last all day or several days. With the chair's permission, the requesting member generally manages the agenda.

Most legislative ideas bypass an interim study and go directly to bill-drafting staff, who convert the proposal into legal language and place it in the appropriate location in the statutes. After the bill is drafted it will be introduced by the legislative author. After introduction, it must be "read" on the floor in the chamber of origin three times.

After the second reading the bill is assigned to a committee. If the committee chair schedules a hearing, members vote on the bill. A majority of members present must approve the bill before it can advance to the floor of its originating chamber. If the Majority Floor Leader schedules a floor hearing, the bill will be read for the third time and voted on. It must receive a majority vote of the chamber's full elected membership to pass. A bill with an emergency clause, meaning the bill goes into effect immediately after becoming law, requires a two-thirds vote.

Both chambers must agree on the same text before the bill goes to the Governor. If a bill is amended in the second chamber, the first chamber can agree to the amendments or reject the amendments and ask for a conference committee where the differences can be worked out. If agreement is reached by the conference committee, the new language must be passed in both chambers, starting with the chamber of origin. A bill can stop without a final vote if it is not scheduled before the deadline for any stage of the process.

If the bill passes both chambers it is presented to the governor for signature. During the legislative session the governor has five days (Sundays excepted) within which to sign or veto the bill. If he fails to do either, it becomes law without his signature. If the legislature adjourns before the expiration of five days after the bill is presented to the governor, he has 15 days within which to sign or veto the bill. At this stage, if he does not sign the bill, it cannot become law. This is called a "pocket veto." If the governor vetoes a bill, it can become law notwithstanding the veto if two-thirds of both chambers vote to override the veto.

Timing matters when proposing legislation or providing information about a bill under consideration. Share new bill ideas as early as possible. For an introduced bill, provide information close to the decision point at each stage of the process. Because Oklahoma legislative committees do not customarily hear testimony during committee meetings, approach committee members beforehand.

The interim study request window is usually brief and falls in June. OAYS members seeking a study should approach a legislator before the deadline. To offer testimony on an approved study, contact the requesting legislator before the hearing is scheduled.

Dates below come from the published 2027 calendar. Procedural details elsewhere use the 2025–2026 House and Senate rules. The 61st Legislature can adopt different rules for 2027–2028.

Date	Official milestone	What must happen
December 4, 2026	Bill request deadline	The legislator requests drafting. This occurs before the session begins.
January 5, 2027 Noon	Organizational Day	The Legislature organizes for the new two-year Legislature.
January 14, 2027 By 4 p.m.	Bill introduction deadline	The proposed legislation must be filed under the published schedule.
February 1, 2027 Noon	Regular session begins	The session begins its regular legislative work.
March 25, 2027	Third reading in the house of origin	A covered bill must pass the chamber where it began.
May 6, 2027	Third reading in the opposite house	A covered bill must pass the other chamber.
May 28, 2027 By 5 p.m.	Sine die adjournment	The regular session must end. It may adjourn earlier.

Sources: [House Legislative Deadlines for 2027](#) | [Senate Legislative Calendar](#)

Committee cutoffs are separate from floor-passage deadlines. Use the applicable chamber’s committee schedule; March 25 and May 6 are not promises that committees can wait until those dates.

Interim studies before a bill is written

An interim study is an authorized examination of an issue while the Legislature is between sessions. It can inform a bill, but does not enact a law or guarantee that legislation will be introduced.

2026 milestone	House	Senate
Request deadline	June 26, 2026	June 26, 2026
Who approves	Speaker of the House	President Pro Tempore, commonly called the Pro Tem
Approval timetable	July 24, 2026 reported deadline for approval or disapproval	July 9, 2026 approval deadline; approvals announced that day
Who sets a hearing	Assigned committee chair	Assigned committee chair; scheduling is discretionary
Hearing period	Usually August through October. Confirm the applicable completion cutoff with House staff.	All 2026 studies must be completed by October 30, 2026.
Advance notice	Generally at least 10 days. The rule has an exception for an assigned joint study meeting with a Senate committee.	Follow the posted meeting notice and agenda under Senate Rule 7-7.

From an idea to a vote in the first chamber

The house of origin is the chamber where the bill starts. An HB starts in the House; an SB starts in the Senate. Those letters and the bill number remain attached to the bill as it moves between chambers.

Stage and plain meaning	Who decides and what follows	Deadline or time rule	OAYS member action
Bill request and drafting A legislator asks staff to turn a proposed change into bill language.	The author develops the proposal with staff. A drafting request is not passage or a promise of a hearing.	2027 bill requests: December 4, 2026.	Explain the specific problem and the change sought before drafting closes.
Filing and first reading The bill enters the formal record and receives its legislative identity.	The legislator files it. First reading is an introduction step, not approval of the proposal.	2027 introduction: January 14 by 4 p.m.	Read the introduced text and identify the principal author in each chamber.
Second reading and referral The bill is routed for review, usually to a committee.	Chamber leadership controls referral. Assignment alone does not secure a hearing.	Senate second reading is the next legislative day after first reading.	Identify the assigned committee and any second assignment.
Committee consideration Members examine the bill and may amend it before recommending action.	The chair schedules it. Do Pass recommends advancement; Do Pass as Amended advances revised text.	Committee cutoffs and advance-notice rules apply. See the time-limit table.	Provide information before the hearing and ask permission if seeking to testify.
General Order and floor calendar The bill is available for consideration by the full chamber.	Floor leadership controls scheduling. Calendar placement does not guarantee a vote.	Senate bills generally need at least one legislative day on General Order before being heard.	Monitor the calendar and proposed amendments.
Third reading and passage The full chamber votes on whether to pass the bill.	Ordinary passage requires 51 House votes or 25 Senate votes. Passage sends the bill to the other chamber.	2027 house-of-origin deadline: March 25.	Confirm the vote and the exact version that passed.

Sources: [House Legislative Deadlines for 2027](#) | [House Rules 2025–2026 Rules 6–8](#) | [Senate Rules 2025–2026 Rules 8-20–8-25](#) | [Oklahoma Constitution Article V Section 34](#)

The House’s 2025–2026 structure includes policy committees and oversight committees. A bill can move from a policy committee to its oversight committee before reaching the floor. The Senate can also assign a bill to more than one committee. One committee vote may therefore leave another committee step.

The second chamber and agreement on the text

Passage in one chamber leaves the other chamber free to amend or reject the bill. The second chamber normally uses its own readings, committee process, and floor vote. The published 2027 deadline for its third-reading passage is May 6.

What happens	Who acts	What it means for the bill	OAYS member action
The opposite chamber passes the same text.	The second chamber votes; staff prepare the agreed bill for final processing.	The bill can proceed toward enrollment and presentation to the Governor.	Confirm both chambers passed identical language.
The opposite chamber passes an amended version.	The bill returns to its house of origin.	The chambers have passed different texts. The differences must be resolved.	Compare the amendments with the earlier version.
Concurrence or acceptance of amendments.	The house of origin agrees to the other chamber's changes and completes required final passage.	Agreement can resolve the differences without a conference committee. A later final-passage vote is called fourth reading.	Read the accepted version, including its effective date.
Nonconcurrence and conference.	The originating chamber rejects the amendments and requests conference; leaders appoint conferees.	A smaller group from both chambers tries to reach agreement. It may succeed or report no agreement.	Track the conference report and contact the appointed members about specific provisions.
Conference committee report or CCR.	A majority of each chamber's conferees must sign the report before Senate consideration. Both chambers must complete the required approval and final-passage steps.	A signed report is a proposed resolution of differences. It is not yet a law.	Read the report itself; earlier bill summaries may no longer describe the proposal.
Enrollment and presentation.	Staff prepare the final agreed text; presiding officers sign it and it is presented to the Governor.	The Governor's decision period begins with presentation, subject to adjournment rules.	Track the presentation date and Governor's action.

Sources: [House Rules 2025–2026 Rules 7.14–7.16 and 8](#) | [Senate Rules 2025–2026 Rules 8-26–8-28](#) | [House Legislative Deadlines for 2027](#) | [Oklahoma Constitution Article VI Section 11](#)

Engrossed means the official version incorporates amendments adopted in the chamber's proceedings. Enrolled means the final agreed bill prepared after legislative passage. A committee substitute is replacement text offered for consideration. Each version can materially change what the bill would do.

Sources: [Senate Legislative Glossary](#)

Votes needed to move legislation

The Oklahoma House has 101 seats and the Senate has 48. For final passage, the ordinary threshold is a majority of all members, not merely a majority of the members who cast a vote. An absence does not lower the usual 51-vote or 25-vote requirement.

Action	House	Senate	What the vote accomplishes
Ordinary bill passage	51	25	Passes the bill in that chamber. Both chambers must pass the same text.
Emergency clause	68	32	Separately authorizes eligible legislation to take effect earlier than the usual waiting period.
Override of an ordinary veto	68	32	Enacts the vetoed bill over the Governor's objection when both chambers meet the threshold.
Override of an emergency measure veto	76	36	The Constitution requires the higher three-fourths threshold for an emergency measure.
Revenue bill without a statewide vote	76	36	Meets the three-fourths requirement for this route under Article V, Section 33. Governor action is still required.
Reconsider final passage	51	25	Reopens the decision; it does not itself pass the bill.
Exempt a measure from cutoff dates under the published calendar	68	32	Requires two-thirds of the membership of both chambers. This does not suspend the Constitution.

Sources: [Oklahoma Constitution Article V Sections 33, 34 and 58](#) | [Oklahoma Constitution Article VI Sections 11–12](#) | [House Legislative Deadlines for 2027](#) | [House Rules 2025–2026 Rule 9.10](#) | [Senate Rules 2025–2026 Rule 8-32](#)

Committee voting uses different numbers. Ordinary House committee recommendations require a majority of those voting, with a quorum present. Senate Do Pass recommendations require a majority of members present and voting, with the number present and voting meeting the quorum requirement. A tie does not approve the motion.

A quorum is the minimum attendance required to conduct business. It is different from the number of yes votes needed to approve a proposal. Committee membership and attendance therefore matter; there is no single statewide committee vote count.

Sources: [House Rules 2025–2026 Rules 7.4 and 7.7](#) | [Senate Rules 2025–2026 Rule 7-7](#)

Revenue raising is a specific legal category, not a label for every bill involving money. Revenue bills must originate in the House and cannot be passed during the session's last five days. The three-fourths route cannot use an emergency clause and carries its own 90-day effective-date rule after legislative approval and Governor action.

Sources: [Oklahoma Constitution Article V Section 33](#)

For OAYS, a policy change and its funding may travel in different bills. An appropriation provides legal authority to spend state funds. Track the amount and administering agency as well as the program language.

Sources: [Oklahoma Constitution Article V Section 55](#)

Notice requirements and shorter procedural clocks

These are rules of the 60th Legislature for 2025–2026. Apply the rules adopted for the relevant Legislature and watch for authorized waivers. A waiver of one requirement does not automatically extend other deadlines.

Action	Time requirement	Who controls it or what to check
House interim committee meeting	At least 10 days' published notice.	Rule 13.4 excludes an assigned joint-study meeting with a Senate committee from this 10-day requirement.
House session committee meeting	Generally 48 hours' notice; oversight committees generally 24 hours.	The Speaker may waive the notice requirement. A previously listed but unheard bill must appear on the later meeting notice.
Senate committee agenda	Provided to committee members and bill authors at least 24 hours before the meeting.	The Pro Tem may approve otherwise. Public notices are also governed by Rule 7-7; this agenda requirement should not be confused with the House's 10-day interim rule.
House committee amendment	Electronic submission to the chair by 4:30 p.m. on the legislative day before the meeting.	The chair may waive the deadline or set a later deadline.
Senate committee substitute	Written or electronic submission to the chair by noon on the legislative day before the meeting.	The chair may waive the deadline. The rule specifically identifies committee substitutes.
House main floor amendment	Generally within 24 hours after initial publication on the Floor Calendar.	The principal author has a later-filing route if the amendment is filed at least 48 hours before consideration.
Amendment to a House main floor amendment	Generally within 48 hours after initial Floor Calendar publication.	An amendment to a principal author's later-filed amendment must be filed 24 hours before consideration.
Counting the House floor amendment cycle	Calendar days that are not also legislative days are excluded from the calculation.	Use the actual publication time and the chamber's legislative calendar.
Senate General Order	At least one legislative day on General Order before a bill or joint resolution is heard.	Calendar placement creates eligibility; leadership still determines when it is taken up.
House conference report presentation	Generally no earlier than the next calendar day after electronic publication.	Rule 7.15 has exceptions for reports only restoring the title or enacting clause, or reporting inability to agree.

Sources: [House Rules 2025–2026 Rules 7.5–7.6, 7.15, 8.8 and 13.4](#) | [Senate Rules 2025–2026 Rules 7-7 and 8-22](#)

An amendment changes proposed language. A committee substitute offers replacement text. Germane means related to the subject allowed by the applicable rule. Members cannot assume that any desired policy can be added to any bill.