**Oklahoma Association of Youth Services, Inc.**

**Board of Directors Emergency Meeting Minutes**

**February 27, 2023**

**2:00 p.m.**

An emergency meeting has been scheduled for the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services is being held at:

**Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85768348164**

**Meeting ID: 857 6834 8164**

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The agenda and minutes from this meeting are available on the OAYS website (www.oays.org)

1. Call to order and introduction of guests.

President John Schneider called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. Guests from OJA (Kevin Clagg, Laura Broyles, and Amanda Leonhart) was recognized.

Others present included Dr. Peter Messiah, Steve Lewis, David Jordan, Brandon Sims, Brooks Sawyer, Kenyon Johnson, Mindy Bellack, Hunter Holder, Crystal Stimac, Greg Contreras, Kerrie Matthews, Jennifer Goodrich, Jo Whitney, Lori McGinnis-Madland, Brandy Krohn, ROCMND Area Youth Services, Tree Kelly, Yolanda Cummings, Kristy Cusher, Lisa Williams, Chris Harvard, Jessica Martinez, Janet Fultz, Youth & Family Services of Hughes/Seminole Counties, Kaylyn Weldon-Gary, April Teague, Jerry Beech, Katie Wilson, and Sheila Stinnett.

1. Roll call/establish a quorum

Roll call/establish a quorum. Present: John Schneider, Herb McSpadden, Terri Krebs, Darla Cheek, Shanna Rice, Wendy Swatek, Kody Suanny, Brenda Rose, Erin Brook, and Courtney Dukes. Absent: None.

* A quorum was established.

3. Discussion and/or possible action to approve Board Meeting Minutes, February 1, 2023. Erin Brook requested the meeting minutes be changed to reflect the correct spelling of her name. Motion to Approve (with name change noted). Motion: Herb McSpadden. Second: Courtney Dukes. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Discussion and possible vote to enter Executive Session in accordance with the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services bylaws. Motion to enter Executive Session: Courtney Dukes. Second: Shanna Rice. The motion passed unanimously.
   1. Discussion of the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, evaluation, disciplining, or resignation of any individual salaried public officer or employee:
2. Staff Update

Discussion and possible vote to exit Executive Session. Motion to exit Executive Session: Wendy Swatek. Second: Courtney Dukes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Discuss and/or possible action to approve items on the President’s report as needed. President John Schneider thanked the Cluster Reps and members for being able to meet on short notice last week. John also explained that attendees of this meeting are muted (if not a board member or necessary for meeting functions).

No vote was necessary.

1. Discussion and/or possible action regarding Cluster reports. President John Schneider asked the Cluster Reps to report on recent Cluster meetings.
2. Central Cluster: Cluster Rep Wendy Swatek reported that their cluster had met twice recently. The first meeting was held on February 9, 2023, and discussion regarding Innovation Grants. OJA should be issuing purchase orders soon, and cluster members had questions regarding the twenty-day turnaround for claim billing. The second meeting was held on February 23, 2023, and discussion regarding the legislative process. Cluster members felt there was some miscommunication about what occurred at the Capitol and that emotions were involved. Members want to have a collaborative effort. Members felt that rates versus cost contracts is not a new issue and that some rural YSA’s may be in jeopardy if they do not have a cost reimbursement option. Members want to keep moving forward and assist struggling YSAs. Billing and the rates seem to be a moving target with ongoing changes. Members felt that some trust had been lost and that YSA’s are doing good work that is not always reflected or recognized.
3. NE Cluster: Cluster Rep Erin Brook reported that their cluster had met last week. Erin welcomed Rusty Rankin as the new Executive Director of ROCMND Area Youth Services in Vinita. Regarding HB 1034, they felt improved communication with clusters and the OAYS office needs to be improved. They inquired about reviewing Association bylaws to see what the membership could vote on and if the talking points required a membership vote. They felt the approach regarding rates versus cost has set back the relationship with OJA. They asked for improved communication, and some cluster members felt disconnected. They felt that cluster members should be able to speak for themselves.
4. NW Cluster: Cluster Rep Brenda Rose indicated that there are some common themes with the previous cluster reports. They asked for more transparency and an inquiry into the bylaws to see if the talking points document needs to be approved by the membership. They felt that the talking points should not be on OAYS letterhead. They felt we should not have us versus them mentality, accept our role, stand together, and be careful how we word things. Brenda inquired if members were still attending a day at the Capitol as previously scheduled. John responded that the Board appears split on that at this time. Brenda reported that the cluster felt that rates versus cost should continue to be pursued but that any hurtful language in talking points be removed, and the document should not be on letterhead.
5. SE Cluster: Cluster Rep Courtney Dukes reported that their cluster had met on February 22, 2023, with good attendance from cluster members. President John Schneider and Vice President Herb McSpadden were invited to attend. John was able to participate in this meeting. The cluster members want cluster meetings to be a safe place to talk. They felt it was time to move on from OJA Director Holt’s comments and move to a professional partnership with OJA. They thought it was important to be able to advocate for our services at the Capitol. They felt that most cluster members were okay with rates-based contracts, but it was important to advocate for a choice between rates-based and cost reimbursement. They felt that talking points should not be in a letter format and should be member approved.
6. SW Cluster: Cluster Rep Kody Suanny reported that they had full attendance at their recent cluster meeting and that it’s common to have 75% attendance. They felt that transparency within their Cluster was good due to John (current President) and Shanna Rice (past President) being members of their cluster. They felt that Director Holt’s Rates meeting comments resulted from two to three years of buildup and that it was time to move forward. They wanted YSA’s to have a choice between rates and cost-reimbursed contracts. They valued the committee structure of OAYS. They inquired about notification of project approval with the Innovation Funding project.

President John Schneider asked for feedback from the Board regarding the Cluster reports:

Shanna Rice requested further discussions regarding the 20-day billing submission requirement. John Schneider asked if OAYS could run a test to see if YSA’s were not receiving Friday updates or if emails were going to junk/spam at those YSA’s. Wendy Swatek suggested that more members attend meetings or contact your Cluster Rep. Brenda Rose felt that it was important to get along with OJA. Herb McSpadden stated that when a YSA has a concern, we must reach out to the OAYS office, John, and move forward to helping kids and getting better. He encouraged YSAs to speak up; we can’t fix what we don’t know is broken. He recalled that the word from the September Quarterly meeting was “Unity.” Shanna Rice stated that some YSA’s mentioned the legislative process and recommended that a legislative process be developed for how we roll things out in the future. Wendy Swatek suggested we ask OJA’s perspective on rates versus cost to understand their viewpoint. Herb McSpadden stated that communication is a two-way street and suggested that members not check out or unplug.

No vote was necessary

President John Schneider suggested that the agenda item order be changed to skip item 7 (Treasurer’s Report) and address item 8 (Legislative Committee Report).

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the Legislative Committee report. Committee Chair John Schneider referred to Steve Lewis. Steve stated that he could not attend the OJA Rates meeting but understood that some comments were made regarding the OAYS relationship at the Capitol. He said he spoke with Senator Rosino and Representative Lawson regarding this statement. Steve felt that these were the two most informed legislators concerning HB 1034. Steve stated that Representative Lawson was 100% behind youth services and hoped he was okay since Senator Rosino did not support the proposed bill. Steve stated that Senator Rosino was happy that YSA’s were advocating for themselves. Steve stated that Senator Rosino did not support the proposed legislation because he felt that a State Agency could determine contractor requirements. Steve stated that Senator Rosino inquired if OJA was working with YSA’s, that his intentions were for the two groups to work together, and that he is not upset with YSA’s. Steve felt that Senator Rosino was possibly upset with how additional funding was released last year but had no hard feelings toward YSA’s or OJA.

President John Schneider asked if the Board had any questions for Steve:

Wendy Swatek thanked Steve for getting the pulse of the legislature and that they want us to advocate for ourselves. Steve replied that Senator Rosino felt we, as contractors, should not say how we get paid.

John asked Board to consider we continue with the Day at the Capitol as planned:

Wendy Swatek supported we go as long as we have a plan and focus. Steve Lewis endorsed that we go, but not necessarily on March 1 as planned. Shanna Rice felt it was important for us to go (but not as rates versus cost). Brenda Rose felt that we scheduled our meetings in Oklahoma City during the legislative session to have a presence during session. Steve Lewis agreed with Wendy Swatek that we have a focus and that a postponement would not necessarily hurt us. Peter Messiah stated that OAYS has talking points outlined and ready; a Room at the Capitol has been secured. As initially planned, we could meet legislators in the morning and have the Membership meeting in the afternoon at the Capitol.

Discussion: Shanna Rice expressed concerns about delaying the Membership meeting. President Schneider asked for a motion regarding meeting legislators Wednesday, March 1, 2023, and the status of the Membership meeting at the Capitol. Herb McSpadden made a motion to meet legislators Wednesday morning but postponed the Membership meeting. Second: Kody Suanny. Erin Brook made an amended motion to have Capitol Day in the morning and the Membership meeting at the Capitol as initially planned. Second: Wendy Swatek. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and/or possible action regarding the Treasurer’s report. Treasurer Darla Cheek gave the report. Darla stated that the Finance Committee had not met in February due to not receiving the January financial statements in time. OAYS has received the February 2023 financial statements, and Darla will forward them to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will review January and February 2023 financial statements in March. Darla reported that OAYS had submitted claims to OJA and that OJA had questions regarding the documentation submitted for the July 2022 claim. OAYS will send additional information and an FY 23 Budget to OJA this week. Darla reported that the office is in a stable financial position compared to previous years. No action was taken.

9. Discussion and/or possible action regarding the Peer Review report. President John Schneider reported that one YSA peer review report was recommended for approval and deferred to OAYS staff David Jordan. David Jordan reported that Logan Community Services (Guthrie) had successfully passed the peer review process. Dr. Peter Messiah stated that he and OAYS staff Brandon Sims and Brooks Sawyer would be included in the peer review process and selected Cluster Reps before submission for Board approval. President John Schneider entertained a motion to approve Logan Community Services’ Peer Review. Motion: Darla Cheek. Second: Kody Suanny. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and possible action regarding the Executive Director’s report. Dr. Peter Messiah stated that he was appreciative to be in attendance after a recent health issue. Dr. Messiah thanked the membership for the plants, cards, thoughts, and prayers. Dr. Messiah stated that the TSET would include additional funding for grant implementation. A preparation week for the first two weeks in May 2023 will include travel reimbursement, lunch, and an additional $5,000.00 for YSA’s to fine-tune. Participating YSAs can have a primary and secondary service provider trained. The timeline will be finalized pending receipt of the signed contract. Dr. Messiah stated that he planned to visit ten YSA’s this spring but may not be able to attend those meetings for health reasons. No action was taken.

11. Discussion and possible action regarding new business not known at the time of posting of this agenda. President John Schneider asked External Funding Chair Herb McSpadden for any updates. Herb stated that he felt Peter covered everything in his Executive Director’s report and encouraged members to stay engaged and involved. No action was taken.

12. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn: Darla Cheek. Second: Shanna Rice. President John Schneider adjourned to meeting at 4:03 p.