

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 388

By: Brown

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

(Children - Child Death Review Board - expanding list of records and reports which may be requested and obtained - modifying number of members and composition of Child Death Review Board -

emergency)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 1991, Section 1150.2, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 31, O.S.L. 1994 (10 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 1150.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1150.2 A. There is hereby re-created until July 1, 2000, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law, Section 3901 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the Child Death Review Board within the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth. The Board shall have the power and duty to:

1. Conduct case reviews of ~~child~~ deaths of children under eighteen (18) years of age in this state;
2. Develop accurate statistical information and identification of ~~child~~ deaths of children under eighteen (18) years of age due to abuse and neglect;
3. Improve the ability to provide protective services to the surviving siblings of ~~abused~~ children under eighteen (18) years of

age who die of abuse or neglected children neglect and who may still
be living in a dangerous environment; and

4. Improve policies, procedures and practices within the agencies that serve children under eighteen (18) years of age, including the child protection system.

B. In carrying out its duties and responsibilities the Board shall:

1. Establish criteria for cases ~~of child~~ involving the death of children under eighteen (18) years of age subject to specific, in-depth review ~~or investigation~~ by the Board;

2. Conduct a specific case review of those cases ~~referred by the Office of Chief Medical Examiner~~ where the cause of death is or may be related to ~~child~~ abuse or neglect of children under eighteen (18) years of age;

3. Establish and maintain statistical information related to ~~child~~ the deaths resulting from child abuse and neglect of children under eighteen (18) years of age, including, but not limited to, demographic and medical diagnostic information;

4. Review the policies, practices, and procedures of the child protection system and make specific recommendations to the entities comprising the child protection system for actions necessary for the improvement of ~~said~~ the system;

5. As necessary and appropriate, for the protection of the siblings of a child ~~whose death is the result of child abuse or neglect~~ under eighteen (18) years of age who dies and whose siblings are deemed to be living in a dangerous environment, refer specific cases to the Department of Human Services or the appropriate district attorney for further investigation;

6. Request and obtain a copy of all records and reports pertaining to a child under eighteen (18) years of age whose case is under review including, but not limited to 7:

a. the medical examiner's report,

- b. hospital records,
- c. school records,
- d. court records,
- e. prosecutorial records,
- f. local, state, and federal law enforcement records,
including, but not limited to, the Oklahoma State
Bureau of Investigation (OSBI),
- g. fire department records,
- h. State Department of Health records, including birth
certificate records,
- i. medical and dental records,
- j. Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Services and other mental health records,
- k. emergency medical service records, and
- l. Department of Human Services' ~~protective service~~
files.

Confidential information provided to the Board shall be maintained by the Board in a confidential manner as otherwise required by state and federal law;

7. All information and records in possession of the Board shall be confidential and not subject to subpoena or discovery in any civil or criminal proceedings. Information, documents, and records otherwise available from other sources are not exempt from subpoena or discovery through those sources solely because they were presented to or reviewed by the Board;

8. Conduct ~~investigations~~ reviews of specific cases of ~~child~~ deaths of children under eighteen (18) years of age and request the preparation of additional information and reports as determined to be necessary by the Board including, but not limited to, clinical summaries from treating physicians, chronologies of contact, and second opinion autopsies. ~~Second opinion autopsies shall be~~

~~requested through the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner as otherwise provided by law;~~

~~8. 9. Recommend alternate, when appropriate, amendment of the cause or manner of death determinations in cases where abuse or neglect as the cause of death is documented but said cause is not shown listed on the death certificate; and~~

~~9. 10. Subject to the approval of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, exercise all incidental powers necessary and proper for the implementation and administration of the Child Death Review Board Act, Section 1150 et seq. of this title.~~

C. ~~The Child Death Review Board may receive, review and discuss, discussion of individual cases of death of a child under eighteen (18) years of age must be conducted in executive session, information on individual child abuse investigations and prosecution; provided, however, that the Child Death Review Board shall assure and in compliance with the confidentiality requirements of Section 846 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Except when discussing individual cases, the Board shall comply All other business shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, Section 301 et seq. of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes. All discussions of individual cases and any writings produced by or created for the Board in the course of its review of any individual case, including any specific action or remedial measure and recommended by the Board as the result of a review of an individual case of the death of a child under eighteen (18) years of age, shall be privileged and shall not be admissible in evidence in any proceeding. The Board shall periodically conduct meetings to discuss organization and business matters and any actions or recommendations aimed at improvement of the child protection system and such meetings which shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, Section 301 et seq. of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Part of any meeting of the Board may be~~

specifically designated as a business meeting of the Board subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, ~~Section 301 et seq. of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes.~~

D. The Board shall ~~make~~ submit an annual statistical report ~~of its findings and~~ on the incidence and causes of the death of children under eighteen (18) years of age in this state during the past calendar year and submit a copy of this report, including its recommendations for the improvement of the child protection system to the Governor, ~~the Oklahoma Public Welfare Commission, the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth,~~ the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives ~~and each agency or organization affected by the report~~ on or before January 31 of each year. The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth shall review the report of the Board and, as appropriate, incorporate the findings and recommendations into the annual Commission report and State Plan for Services to Children and Youth.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 1991, Section 1150.3, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 195, O.S.L. 1993 (10 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 1150.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1150.3 A. The Child Death Review Board shall be composed of ~~twenty-one (21)~~ twenty-eight (28) members, or their designees, as follows:

1. ~~Ten~~ Thirteen of the members shall be:
 - a. the Chief Medical Examiner ~~or his designee,~~
 - b. ~~the~~ Director of the Department of Human Services ~~or his designee.~~ The designee of the Director of the Department of Human Services shall be a person assigned to the Child Welfare Division of the Department,
 - c. the State Commissioner of Health ~~or his designee,~~
 - d. ~~the~~ Director of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention ~~or his designee,~~

- e. the Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth ~~or his designee,~~
- f.—the Chief Child Abuse Medical Examiner ~~or his designee,~~
- g. the ~~Chief~~ Medical Director of Maternal and ~~Child~~ Infant Health Services of the State Department of Health ~~or his designee,~~
- h.—the Director of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services ~~or his designee,~~
- i. the ~~Chairman~~ Chair of the Child Protection Committee of the Children's Hospital of Oklahoma ~~or his designee,~~
- j. the Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs,
- k. the Chief of Injury Prevention Services of the State Department of Health,
- l. a physician from Maternal and Infant Health Services within the State Department of Health, and
- ~~j.~~ m. the State Epidemiologist of the State Department of Health ~~or his designee; and~~

2. ~~Eleven~~ Fifteen of the members shall be appointed by the Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth.—~~They,~~ shall serve for a ~~term~~ terms of two (2) years, and ~~may~~ shall be ~~reappointed~~ eligible for reappointment. ~~Said~~ The members shall be persons having training and experience in matters related to ~~child~~ the abuse or neglect of children under eighteen (18) years of age. The appointed members shall include:

- a. a law enforcement officer selected from a list submitted by the executive board of an organization representing sheriffs and peace officers in this state ~~or such officer's designee,~~

- b.—a member of the judiciary selected from a list submitted by the ~~Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or such member's designee~~ SJR 13 Oversight Committee,
- c. an attorney licensed in this state who is in private practice selected from a list submitted by the executive board of the Oklahoma Bar Association ~~or such attorney's designee,~~
- d. a district attorney selected from a list submitted by the District Attorney's Council ~~or such district attorney's designee,~~
- e.—a ~~pediatric allopathic~~ physician selected from a list submitted by a ~~statewide organization representing physicians in this state or such physician's designee~~ the Oklahoma State Medical Association,
- f.—a ~~pediatric osteopathic~~ physician selected from a list submitted by a ~~statewide organization representing osteopathic physicians in this state or such physician's designee~~ the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association,
- g. a ~~social worker licensed in this state who is not an employee of the Department of Human Services selected from a list submitted by each organization in this state representing social workers in this state or such social worker's designee~~ member of the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board,
- h.—a ~~psychologist licensed in this state~~ social worker selected from a list submitted by ~~each organization representing psychologists in this state or such psychologist's designee~~ the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers,
- i. a ~~representative of the State Foster Care Review Board or such representative's designee,~~

- ~~j.~~ ~~a representative of the Oklahoma Casa Association or such representative's designee~~ an individual selected from a list submitted by an Oklahoma court-appointed special advocate association, and
- ~~j.~~ a psychologist selected from a list submitted by the Oklahoma Psychological Association,
- ~~k.~~ ~~a member of an a Native American Indian Tribe who is a citizen of this state and is involved in the placement area of Indian child protection of Native American children under the Indian Child Welfare Act or such member's designee~~ selected from a list submitted by the Office of Indian Affairs,
- ~~l.~~ an individual selected from a list submitted by the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault,
- ~~m.~~ a physician selected from a list submitted by the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and
- ~~n.~~ a member of the Emergency Medical Technicians Association.

B. ~~The~~ Every two (2) years the Board shall ~~annually~~ elect from among its membership a ~~Chairman~~ chair and a ~~Vice Chairman~~ vice-chair. The Board shall meet at least quarterly and may meet more frequently as necessary as determined by the ~~Chairman~~ chair. Members shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary travel out of funds available to the Commission pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; provided, that ~~said~~ the reimbursement shall be paid in the case of state employee members by the agency employing the member.

C. With funds appropriated or otherwise available for that purpose, the Commission shall provide administrative assistance and services to the Child Death Review Board.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

45-1-0930

KSM