

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2094

By: Braddock

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to children's mental health; amending 10 O.S. 1991, Section 601.6, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 364, O.S.L. 1998 (10 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 601.6), which relates to the duties of the Office of Juvenile System Oversight; requiring Director to hire one employee to serve as liaison for certain purpose if funds become available; stating qualification and duty of employee; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 1991, Section 601.6, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 364, O.S.L. 1998 (10 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 601.6), is amended to read as follows:

Section 601.6 A. The Office of Juvenile System Oversight shall have the responsibility of investigating and reporting misfeasance and malfeasance within the children and youth service system, inquiring into areas of concern, investigating complaints filed with the Office of Juvenile System Oversight, and monitoring the children and youth service system to ascertain compliance with established responsibilities.

It shall be the duty of the Office of Juvenile System Oversight to conduct regular, periodic, but not less than semiannual, unannounced inspections of state-operated children's institutions and facilities and to review the reports of the inspections of the State Fire Marshal and the Department of Health and any agencies which accredit such institutions and facilities.

B. The Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth shall hire, if funds become available, one full-time-

equivalent employee of the Office of Juvenile System Oversight to monitor the availability, accessibility and adequacy of children's mental health services.

The employee named by the Director shall have at least five (5) years of experience working in the field of children's mental health treatment and shall act as a liaison between parents attempting to obtain mental health services for their child and the children and youth service system charged with providing that service.

C. The Office of Juvenile System Oversight shall:

1. Have the authority to examine all records and budgets pertaining to the children and youth service system and shall have access to all facilities within the children and youth service system for the purpose of conducting site visits and speaking with the residents of such facilities;

2. Have the authority to subpoena witnesses and hold public hearings;

3. Issue reports to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma, any appropriate prosecutorial agency, the director of the agency under consideration~~7~~, and such other persons as necessary and appropriate; and

4. Provide recommendations to the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth on or before May 1 of each year.

SECTION 2. 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.