

- 1 1. The Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and
2 Youth, or designee;
- 3 2. The Director of the Department of Human Services, or
4 designee;
- 5 3. The Executive Coordinator of the District Attorneys Council,
6 or designee;
- 7 4. A child welfare worker employed by the Department of Human
8 Services to be appointed by the Director of the Department of Human
9 Services;
- 10 5. Three presiding judges of courts having juvenile law
11 jurisdiction, one from Tulsa County, one from Oklahoma County and
12 one from a district other than Tulsa and Oklahoma Counties to be
13 appointed by the President of the State Judicial Conference;
- 14 6. Eight members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
15 Oklahoma House of Representatives as follows:
- 16 a. one shall be the president of a state foster parent
17 association,
- 18 b. one shall be an individual who has recent experience
19 providing foster care for a child placed in the home
20 for more than six (6) months,
- 21 c. one shall be a representative of a child-advocacy
22 organization,
- 23
24

- d. one shall be a member of an Oklahoma Indian child welfare association,
- e. one shall be a court-appointed special advocate for deprived children,
- f. one shall be a representative of a faith-based organization that is actively involved in working with the foster care system,
- g. one shall be a member of a local multidisciplinary coalition of children's services providers that works to improve and strengthen the child protection system, and
- h. one shall be a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives; and

9. Eight members shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate as follows:

- a. one shall represent a statewide association of therapeutic foster care agencies,
- b. one shall be a former foster youth,
- c. one shall represent a statewide association of youth services agencies,
- d. one shall be a child welfare worker employed by the Department of Human Services selected from a list submitted by a statewide public employee association,

- 1 e. one shall be a public defender with experience
2 representing the interests of deprived children,
3 f. one shall be a member of a statewide association
4 representing psychiatric hospitals,
5 g. one shall be a representative of a nonprofit
6 organization comprised of agencies that provide child
7 care to deprived children, and
8 h. one shall be a member of the Oklahoma State Senate.

9 C. 1. Members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing
10 authorities. A vacancy on the task force shall be filled by the
11 original appointing authority.

12 2. Appointments to the task force shall be made within thirty
13 (30) days of the effective date of this act.

14 3. A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute
15 a quorum. A majority of the members present at a meeting may act
16 for the task force.

17 4. The Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and
18 Youth, or designee, and task force member who represents a child-
19 advocacy organization shall serve as cochairs of the task force and
20 shall hold an organizational meeting no later than July 1, 2011.

21 D. Staff assistance for the task force shall be provided by the
22 Oklahoma House of Representatives, the Oklahoma State Senate and the
23 Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth.

1 E. All departments, officers, agencies and employees of this
2 state shall cooperate with the task force in fulfilling its duties
3 and responsibilities including, but not limited to, providing any
4 information, records or reports requested by the task force.

5 F. Members of the task force may, as necessary, seek the advice
6 and input of professionals who are not members of the task force and
7 the services of experts in furtherance of their duties.

8 G. The Foster Care System Improvement Task Force may divide
9 into subcommittees in furtherance of its purpose.

10 H. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for
11 their service, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

12 1. Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed
13 for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their
14 duties in accordance with the provisions of Section 456 of Title 74
15 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

16 2. Nonlegislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed
17 by their appointing authorities or respective agencies for necessary
18 travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in
19 accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

20 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
21 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

22 A. The purpose of the Foster Care System Improvement Task Force
23 shall be to:

24

- 1 1. Compare Oklahoma's foster care system outcomes to the
2 Federal Children and Family Services Review standards;
- 3 2. Review current practices in the state's foster care system;
- 4 3. Study best practices that may assist in improving the
5 system; and
- 6 4. Identify specific areas for improvement in the state's
7 foster care system.

8 B. The task force shall issue a report to the Legislature and
9 to the Governor by March 15, 2012, that includes:

- 10 1. The indentified areas of the state's foster care system that
11 require improvement;
- 12 2. A delineation of desired outcomes that should occur for
13 children who become a part of the foster care system;
- 14 3. A compilation of best practices to assist in achieving the
15 desired outcomes for children and families;
- 16 4. The accountability standards that will be used to measure
17 the state's success in meeting the desired outcomes; and
- 18 5. A reporting of the estimated cost for implementing the
19 recommendations.

20 C. As used in this section:

- 21 1. "Foster care system" means the services and practices
22 related to children who have been removed from their home due to
23 abuse or neglect and who are alleged or found to be deprived. The
24

1 meaning shall encompass regular, kinship and therapeutic foster care
2 and more complex levels of care including group homes and
3 residential treatment centers. "Foster care system" shall also
4 include foster parent recruitment and retention, certification and
5 training and related services including case management; and

6 2. "Best practice" means a practice that has been rigorously
7 researched through at least three independent clinical trials and,
8 upon implementation according to specified guidelines, the practice
9 can be systematically replicated in a way that renders statistically
10 significant outcomes "Best practice" shall also mean a practice
11 that has expert consensus or other support or utilizes very specific
12 approaches to problems that result in high rates of consumer or
13 clinician satisfaction, but which may not be widely known.

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

18
19 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RULES, dated 02-17-2011 - DO PASS,
20 As Coauthored.

21
22
23
24