



Oklahoma State Department of Health
Creating a State of Health

Office of Child Abuse Prevention Annual Report November 27, 2018

The Office of Child Abuse Prevention's (OCAP) mission is to promote health and safety to children and families by reducing child abuse and neglect through the funding of direct services; the training of professionals that work in the child abuse prevention and protection arenas; and conducting activities that educate the public about child maltreatment and enhance the infrastructure that supports prevention efforts.

The OCAP was created in 1984 by the Oklahoma Child Abuse Prevention Act, Title 63, O.S. Section 1-227.1. The Act declared prevention of child maltreatment as a priority in Oklahoma. Recognizing child abuse and neglect as a significant public health issue, the legislature placed the OCAP at the Oklahoma State Department of Health – emphasizing the importance of prevention rather than “after-the-fact” intervention. In 1995 the OCAP in partnership with Oklahoma State University began research home visiting as an effective prevention strategy. The Parents as Teachers (PAT) Model was implemented in Oklahoma to provide such services.

On September 1st, 2017 nine contracts were awarded to implement PAT home visitation services across twenty-three counties. On October 16th, 2017 the Contractors were given a thirty-day notice of termination due to a budget shortfall at the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Despite the elimination of funding, Contractors were able to provide at least one home visit to three hundred and twenty-one families. Families who resided in Oklahoma and Tulsa counties were still able to obtain referrals to other home-based parenting services that were federally funded by contacting the ParentPRO hot line.

Under new leadership in 2018, the OSDH restored funding to OCAP in the amount of \$2,014,668 and nine contracts serving twenty-eight counties were awarded. Contracts to provide PAT home visitation services started in October, 2018. The Program anticipates serving approximately 635 families during SFY 2019.

Over the course of the last 10 years, the child abuse prevention fund has steadily decreased and the number of substantiated cases of child abuse has increased. (See table below). A correlation between a decrease in prevention funding and increases in substantiated child abuse cases could be drawn.

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Source: DHS Child Welfare Services

The Institute for Child Advocacy has released the 2019 Policy Agenda which is a collection of policy priorities meant to assist lawmakers as they work to author legislation. The agenda focuses on five core areas, one of them being Prevention Education. The agenda states “Seek additional funding for home visitation programs through the Oklahoma State Department of Health such as the Parents as Teachers program, Children First/Nurse Family Partnership and SafeCare.”

Current accomplishments include the affiliation of five new programs, three Contractors that were accredited and achieved Blue Ribbon Status from the PAT National Center, and an enhanced training schedule including bringing the PAT Model Implementation and Foundational Trainings to Oklahoma.

Due to the disruption of services during SFY 2018, the OCAP does not have data to report. The OCAP anticipates a full annual report for the SFY 2019.

Contact Information

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