

Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
*Providing a strong and effective voice
for the needs of Oklahoma's children and youth*

2006 Annual Report

**420 N.W. 13th, Suite 101
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
Phone: (405) 236-KIDS FAX: (405) 236-KIDX
www.oica.org**

Purpose

The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA) is the voice for the needs of Oklahoma's children and youth.

Mission

The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy creates awareness, takes action and changes policy on behalf of children and youth.

Programs and Services

OICA is a broad-based, multi-issue organization that promotes issues, programs and policies designed to improve the health and well-being of our state's children and youth. OICA remains flexible and grass-roots oriented to better respond to the wide array of needs identified across our state. OICA currently operates under four broad programmatic categories:

ADVOCACY:

Ensures that the needs of children and youth are a priority in local and state policy and budgetary decision-making

Programs and Activities:

The Children's Information Network (CIN)

Legislative advocacy, training and technical assistance and publications (alerts, voting records)

The Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Partnership

Annual Factbook, KIDS COUNT leadership class and Child Watch tours

Annual Fall Forum on Children's Issues

Development of the Children's Legislative Agenda

Annual Friends of Children Awards

Recognizing outstanding efforts on behalf of Oklahoma's children

Children's Campaign

To aid in fund development and technical support for the organization

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Addresses the health care needs of children and families through education, outreach and access to health coverage

Programs and Activities:

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition

Public awareness and education, advocacy on health issues, professional training

Hispanic Lead Poisoning Prevention Project

Outreach and education for families to lessen exposure to lead

Children's Behavioral Health Campaign

Generate awareness, conduct research and determine the best practices for care of children and youth in Oklahoma to reduce the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Ensures that Oklahoma's children will be healthy, eager to learn and ready to succeed by the time they enter school, through mobilizing communities, organizations and individuals for young children and their families.

Programs and Activities:

Early Childhood Advocacy Campaign

Policy development and promotion, public awareness and training

FITNESS AND NUTRITION

Reducing childhood obesity in Oklahoma through education, collaboration and advocacy

Programs and Activities:

Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition

Legislative advocacy, community and family outreach, resource and training for schools, media partnerships

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Mobilizes communities, organizations and individuals to help young people grow up healthy, caring and capable, by linking prevention with positive youth development from an asset-based approach

Programs and Activities:

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project

Postponing Sexual involvement (PSI) curriculum, Positive Ways high school peer educators and parent education and involvement.

Teen Outreach Program (TOP)

Outreach to at-risk teens through a school-based program promoting teen pregnancy prevention strategies and positive youth development through an asset-based approach

Healthy Communities – Healthy Youth: Oklahoma

Statewide asset-building training network, community mobilizations, and training and idea sharing.

Youth Asset Survey

Teen interviews, preparation of academic journal articles and dissemination of research findings, linking prevention with youth development.

Refugee Youth Project

Outreach and support to help refugee youth assimilate into school and community and youth leadership development.

Healthy Teens OK (Teen Pregnancy Prevention)

State teen pregnancy prevention work with the state coalition and state/national partner organizations.

Disconnected Youth: Teen Parents

Research and needs assessment and development of program and policy recommendations.

Oklahoma Afterschool Network (OKAN)

Statewide network, program and resource development, training and technical assistance, and linkage with national organizations.

Ready by 21 Initiative

Technical assistance and tools for program and policy development for youth.

2006 Highlights of Accomplishments

Creating Awareness

Lead Poisoning Prevention

OICA led the effort for lead poisoning prevention in 2006. Providing information to churches, immunization clinics, and numerous media outlets and holding lead safe work practices trainings throughout the year.

Healthy and Fit School Trainings

Over 250 people attended trainings, sponsored by the Fit Kids Coalition, in the Tulsa and Oklahoma City areas to provide schools with information and resources to develop effective Healthy and Fit School committees.

Valued for our expertise

Staff members were interviewed by national organizations such as The Harvard Research Project on Early Childhood Systems and “Ounce of Prevention” due to our reputation for expertise in the Early Childhood Field. Staff were singled out to review and edit national publications such as “Copy That,” released by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Executive Director Anne Roberts consulted the Forum for Youth Investment and the National Governor’s Association on Oklahoma’s integration of the Ready By 21 framework into program and policy development.

Friends of Children

On April 18, 2006, OICA honored advocates from across the state during the annual Friends of Children Celebration. Volunteer, Eloise Rose from Yukon; Professional, Kathy Griffin from Sand Springs; Youth, East Central Teens in Action from Tulsa; Philanthropist, Tom Ward from Oklahoma City; Program, Neighborhood Centers from Norman; Corporation, Armstrong World Industries from Stillwater and Lifetime Achievement Honoree, Albert Johnson from Lawton were honored by a crowd of more than 250.

Building Skyscrapers in the Sand

In preparation for their 2006 Town Hall Summit: “Looking Both Ways,” the Academy for State Goals invited OICA to contribute to their “educational document” for the participants. Anne Roberts prepared a piece on the value of investing in childhood and its importance in avoiding adult social problems. The piece titled *Building Skyscrapers in the Sand* points to the current realities of adult remediation at the expense of prevention during childhood and encourages decision makers to invest in young people.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)

Children who experience trauma are far more likely than those who don’t to have chronic health problems as adults. This and other similarly astounding facts are part of the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study published by the CDC and Kaiser Permanente. OICA took the ten indicators from the ACE Study and overlaid them onto available data about Oklahoma. The result was a series of five issue briefs and a KIDS COUNT Factbook with some shocking revelations about Oklahoma’s children. Not content to simply report the problem, the issue briefs take the next step of suggesting possible policy solutions. All five issue briefs and the KIDS COUNT Factbook are available on the OICA website.

Taking Action

Refugee Youth Project

OICA continued to work with youth who have arrived in this country with their families under strenuous and sometimes dire circumstances. Youth participated in programs to learn American culture and socialization as well as time spent in one-on-one tutoring.

Asking Conferences

OICA worked with the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) to plan statewide community meetings to discuss potential changes in the Medicaid payment structure for high-risk obstetrical care. One result of the conferences was the emergence of the need for a larger network of postpartum support for Oklahoma women. OICA's Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies initiative partnered with Postpartum Support Oklahoma to address the issue.

Leading the Maternal and Child Health Initiative

OICA Staff member Bonnie Bellah serves as Chair of the Central Oklahoma Perinatal Coalition (COPC). During her tenure meetings have been restructured to focus on progressing current issues in maternal and child health care and to elicit more active involvement of coalition members.

Valuable Research

For over a decade, OICA has collaborated with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center/CPH to conduct original research and identify innovative strategies that promote teen pregnancy prevention and the prevention of related adolescent health risk behaviors from a strength-based perspective that links youth development science with risk reduction. There have been 26 publications of the Youth Asset Study findings in peer-reviewed journals and presentations have been made at local, state and national meetings and conferences. The research is also being used in required university course work at the University of Chicago. The Youth Asset Study, which interviews and tracks teens and their parents over time, is into the 4th year of this longitudinal study, with a 95% retention rate of teens willing to remain in the program.

New Mental Health Initiative

Oklahoma has one of the highest rates of mental illness in the country. To address this crisis, the Governor sent a delegation of Oklahomans to a Policy Academy in Maryland to begin developing solutions. In 2006 the result has been a deep and deliberate effort between state agencies to collaborate and pool resources in order to determine what steps to take. One of the steps has been the creation of the Partnership for Children's Behavioral Health, and the "Systems of Care" approach to meeting the needs of children with mental illness and their families.

KIDS COUNT Leadership

Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Leadership graduated its 13th class in 2006 with leader projects ranging from a Legislative Listening Forum in Tulsa on children's behavioral health to Youth Empowerment and Educational Equity. KC Leadership is a nine-month leadership academy designed to train advocates from across the state the elements child advocacy. Leaders develop skills in media relations, legislative advocacy, message framing and data advocacy and make lasting connections with their classmates. Class XIII began in August with a record high 25 leaders.

Oklahoma Afterschool Network

In 2006 with funding from the Mott Foundation and the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Oklahoma Afterschool Network (housed at OICA) was officially born. A committed group of afterschool advocates had been working for years to formalize the initiative and OKAN hit the ground running. In its first year OKAN developed a comprehensive website, completed a branding process, recruited a leadership team of committed and influential advocates and began planning for sustainability in order to achieve their mission to ensure that every child in this state has access to safe, enriching learning opportunities during their out-of-school time. OKAN places a special emphasis on ensuring that children from low-income, underserved or hard-to-reach populations in Oklahoma have access to such opportunities. Through this work, they seek to help Oklahoma's children—and Oklahoma.

Fit Kids

Housed at the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, the Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition is a positive solution to childhood overweight and obesity. The statewide coalition works to ensure a robust future workforce through education, legislative change and advocacy. Their mission is to improve the health and well being of Oklahoma youth and families by reducing childhood obesity.

In 2006 the OK Fit Kids Coalition held their inaugural conference in collaboration with Oklahoma Turning Point. During the conference four individuals and one school were honored for their work in improving the health and well being of Oklahoma's youth.

Positive Ways and Postponing Sexual Involvement

OICA coordinated another stellar year for this science based program. Utilizing high school students as peer educators for middle school students on a proven curriculum of postponing sexual involvement and teen pregnancy prevention, the program continues to be successful.

Changing Policy

Policy Matters Publication

OICA provided leadership and collaboration on a national publication comparing how states are doing with regard to enacting effective policies in the areas most important to a family's opportunity and stability: employment, income and asset growth, health, education, and healthy family relationships. The document was developed and published by the Center for The Study of Social Policy. In addition to the national report, an eight page report was developed for each state. The Oklahoma report, along with the entire document, is on the OICA website.

Smart Start Policy Committee

OICA works in partnership with the policy committee for Smart Start Oklahoma, which is working to study current state policies impacting young children and their families, and to make recommendations for change. In 2006 it was determined that five of the ten items on the OICA Legislative Agenda for Children and Youth were directly related to the strategies contained in the Oklahoma Early Childhood System Model including; access to prenatal care, expansion of teen pregnancy prevention programs, services for child abuse prevention, funding for substance abuse services for pregnant and parenting mothers, funding for the DHS Child Care Subsidy program.

Task Force on Reactive Attachment Disorder

Anne Roberts served as an appointee to the Governor's Task Force on Reactive Attachment Disorder. The implications of this disorder are enormous – especially for foster parents and adoptive parents who bring home a baby who may have suffered from RAD without understanding the special challenges they will face. The Task Force is charged with preparing a state plan outlining how Oklahoma can better identify and serve this population.

Task Force on Underage Drinking

Anne Roberts served as an appointee to the Governor's Task Force on Underage Drinking. The group worked to develop a state plan to address this difficult problem.

2006 Legislative Agenda for Children and Youth

For the first time in over 80 years, the Oklahoma Legislature adjourned without appropriating funds for the operations of state government. The crux of the problem lay in differing philosophies of how to deal with almost \$1 billion in surplus revenue. One side offers that there can be no budget until the level of tax cuts is agreed upon. The other side offers that there can be no tax cuts until a budget is agreed upon.

Despite this intractable problem, enormous progress was made on behalf of Oklahoma's children and youth! The 2006 Legislative Agenda for Children and Youth contained three substantive items and seven funding requests. All three of the substantive measures passed successfully through the process, along with a myriad of other child-friendly measures. The three Agenda measures are:

HB 3056 – The Prevention of Youth Access to Alcohol

HB 2655 – Creating the Farm to School Program to help reduce child obesity

HB 2097 – Requiring teacher training in reporting Child Abuse

2006 Electoral Advocacy Tool Kit

During an election year, advocates have questions about how they can engage candidates while not stepping over the line of what might be allowed by their employers. The Electoral Advocacy Tool Kit, contains a Resource Guide for Voters, the “Do's and Don'ts” for non-profit organizations, fact sheets on various children's issues, sample questions for candidates, and a brochure suitable for printing off and using as a conversation-starter between a candidate and a voter. The entire Tool Kit was developed by OICA for Oklahoma voters and is available on the OICA website.

Fall Forum 2006

Although the Taxpayers Bill of Rights or “TABOR” failed to petition enough voters to merit a ballot initiative in 2006, it remains a serious issue that will no doubt surface again. OICA invited Kathleen Gebhardt, director of Colorado's Child Advocacy organization, to speak about the effects of a similar measure on the children of Colorado. Other speakers at the forum included Dr. Bud Hodgkinson, past Director of the Center for Demographic Policy in Washington, D.C. and Captain John Herrington, NASA astronaut and member of the Chickasaw Nation.

The over 400 participants at our largest Fall Forum to date created a 2007 Legislative Agenda for Children and Youth.

2007 Legislative Agenda

Created by the participants at the Fall Forum, OICA seeks Senators and Representatives to author legislation to address these issues during the 2007 Legislative Session.

Protect Children from Abuse

1. Expand child abuse prevention / intervention and parent education services to families by increasing funding and supporting agency budget requests for: Office of Child Abuse Prevention, Children First, Child Guidance, OK Parents as Teachers, SafeCare (prevention for high risk parents) urban and rural pilots, and expand comprehensive home-based services (CHBS).

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies

2. Enhance quality of prenatal care by supporting the OHCA budget request for prenatal support systems, including developing outreach services, expanding SoonerCare benefits to include oral health and social work services, and providing pay-for-performance incentives to improve early and on-going care.

Enhance Quality of Childcare through Increased Provider Rates

3. Increase childcare provider reimbursement rates to respond to new market rate data, enhanced quality criteria and the need for improved teacher salaries.

Address School-aged Health Needs

4. Provide funds to implement the CDC's coordinated school health model, which includes comprehensive school health education, physical education, school health services, nutrition services, counseling services, healthy school environment, health promotion for staff, and family and community involvement.

Expand Children's Behavioral Health Services

5. Expand implementation of Systems of Care statewide by funding new communities and through effective partnerships, including positive behavioral intervention services (PBIS), early intervention through child guidance services, and wraparound services.

Increase Workforce for Children's Behavioral Health

6. Provide financial and educational incentives to increase the workforce specializing in children's behavioral health, with an emphasis on underserved areas.

Restrict Youth Access to Alcohol

7. Reduce youth exposure to alcohol by restricting placement and access in retail establishments and requiring clerks selling alcohol to be 18 years of age.

Target Substance Abuse

8. Provide substance abuse treatment services for juvenile justice youth, including residential substance abuse treatment facilities, substance abuse outpatient services, and substance abuse prevention services.

Oppose the so-called "Taxpayer's Bill of Rights"

9. Oppose measures to restrict the growth of state revenues and expenditures that would have negative consequences on the health, education and social services for Oklahoma's children, youth and families.

2006 Major Contributors

In 2006, hundreds of advocates across the state and nation played a crucial role in the work of the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy through their membership contributions. In addition, OICA welcomed the financial support of individuals, foundations, businesses and government to help fulfill our mission. Many thanks go to those who supported our work in 2006:

Donations up to \$500.00

Albertson's
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
Attorney General and Mrs. Drew Edmondson
Church Women United
Construction Building Specialties
Control Fire Systems Company
Dr. and Mrs. Floyd Skarky
Dr. Leah D. Dick
Dr. M. Andrew Glenn
Early Childhood Association of Oklahoma
FinderBinder of OK
Governor David and Rhonda Walters
Heritage Hall Middle School
IBC Bank
Ms. Ann S. Alspaugh
Mr. and Mrs. David Ames
Ms. Colleen Ayres-Griffin
Mr. and Mrs. John Belt
Mr. and Mrs. Lester Branch
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Brandon
Ms. Mary Bright
Ms. Danielle Burnette
Ms. Karen R. Carothers
Mr. Joel Carson
Mr. Doug Collett
Ms. Helen Copp
Mr. Peter Correia
Ms. Jan Creveling
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Curry
Mr. and Mrs. Ed DeCordova
Mr. Richard Dermer
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Dover
Ms. Kellie A. Eastham
Mr. and Mrs. Clay Farha
Ms. Amy Fleske
Ms. Marjorie Greer
Ms. Lyn Hester
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Horner
Mr. and Mrs. James A. Huff
Mr. Harold Johnson
Mrs. Ruth Ann Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Johnstone
Ms. Dianne Juhnke
Mr. Jay Keel
Ms. Jean Kelsey
Mr. Jack Kimbler
Ms. Christine Kirby
Mr. Robert J. La Fortune
Mrs. Linda Manaugh
Ms. Julia Matejee
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Matlock
Mr. and Mrs. Tom McDaniel
Ms. Dorothy C. Messenger
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Miller
Ms. Barbara Morgan
Ms. Barbara L. Munneke
Ms. Linford Pitts
Mr. and Ms. Forrest W. Reece, Jr.
Ms. Eloise Rose
Mr. Robert Rose
Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Salazar
Mrs. Claudette Selph
Ms. Barbara W. Sessions
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Shdeed
Mr. Joe Shockley
Ms. Cynthia Shuberg
Ms. Tracey Strader
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Taylor
Ms. Linda Terrell
Ms. Ann Tiedeman
Mr. David Timberlake
Ms. Sylvia Trachtenberg
Ms. Linda Truong
Ms. Patricia Tweedie
Mr. Robert White
National Association of Social Workers
OK Business & Education Coalition
OK State School Boards Assoc.
Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians
Oklahoma Child Care Resouce & Referral
Association
Sebastian Davis
Senator Ben Robinson
Senator Bernest Cain
Senator Mike Morgan
Stock Exchange Bank
The Honorable and Mrs. Tim Leonard
The Honorable Tom Walker

Donations \$500 and up

Blue Cross Blue Shield
Calverts Plant Interiors
Children's Clinic
Crowe & Dunlevy
Dr. Roger and Dr. Carol Sheldon
Eagle Ridge Institute
EP & RL Kirschner Foundation
Ms. Anne Calvert
Mr. Bill Doenges
Mr. Doug Fox
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harbison
Mr. Terry Harryman
Ms. Donna Huey
Ms. Garbara Gish
Mr. Albert C. Kelly
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCormick
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rogers
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Simons
Mr. Ken Young and Ms. TeRessa Kaemerling
Stillwater Chamber of Commerce

Donations over \$1000

BancFirst
Bartlesville United Way, Inc.
Caring for Children Federation
Maccini Construction
MedImmune
Ms. Kathy Cronemiller
Mr. Ronald J. Rocke
Ms. Anne M. Roberts
Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Stringer
Pfizer
United Way of Central OK

Donations over \$2,500

Allied Steel Construction, Inc.
Hansen Masonry Contractors, Inc.
Oklahoma Gas & Electric
ONG/ONEOK
Sonic Corporation
Stillwater National Bank

Donors over \$10,000

Chickasaw Nation
Integrus Health
Mr. and Mrs. John Linehan
Oklahoma Partnership for School
Readiness Foundation
Tom Ward

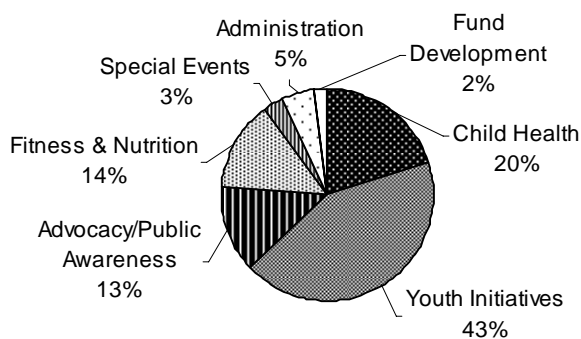
Fiscal Management / Operational Budget

The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy is governed by a 25-member Board of Directors, who bring a wealth of expertise to their service on the Board. In 2006, OICA operated on a budget of \$1.26 million. Approximately 44% of the income was provided by government grants; the other 56% was provided through the generosity of individuals, corporations, organizations, tribal entities and foundations.

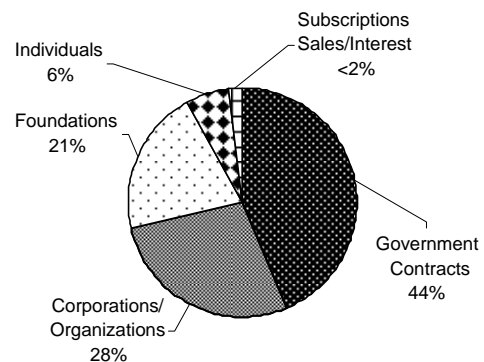
The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy is a non-profit organization, and all contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Funds raised by OICA are used to improve the lives and life-chances of Oklahoma's children and youth. In 2006, 7% was used for administration and fund development.

At the end of 2006, the staff included 12 full-time employees, 5 part-time employees, and numerous consultants and volunteers. OICA has partnered with the local universities and services providers, who continually send us excellent practicum students and interns. We are especially pleased with this opportunity to train young people in the practical aspects of child advocacy, and build new relationships within our community.

Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy 2006 Financial Report



2006 Expenditures: \$1,252,355



2006 Revenues: \$1,237,606

2006 Board of Directors

Dean Stringer, *Oklahoma City*, President
Terry Harryman, *Oklahoma City*, President-Elect
Anne Calvert, *Oklahoma City*, Vice President Director
Ben Robinson, *Muskogee*, Vice President Public Policy
Caroline Linehan, *Oklahoma City*, Vice Presidents for Development
Cindy Shuberg, *Oklahoma City*, Secretary/Treasurer

Veda Bush, *Chickasha*
Bill Doenges, *Tulsa*
Doug Fox, *Tulsa*
Kimberly Francisco, *Oklahoma City*
Barbara Gish, *Stillwater*
Lyn Hester, *Oklahoma City*
Dianne Juhnke, *Enid*
Jay Keel, *Ada*

Dr. Ed Legako, *Lawton*
Amber McNeil, *Elgin*
Kent Meyers, *Oklahoma City*
Thad Satterfield, *Bartlesville*
Dr. Roger Sheldon, *Oklahoma City*
Vionette Torres-Miles, *Okla. City*
Linda Veazey, *Edmond*
Ken Young, *Oklahoma City*

Staff

Anne Roberts, Executive Director

Lindsay Ames Gibson
Dong Bui
Bonnie Bellah
Bonnie Clements
Blair Cornish-Lanning
Tree Currier
Jamie Dunnington
Shante Fenner
Katie Fitzgerald

LaDonna Marshall
Kelli McNeal
Lizzette Norris
Sharon Rodine
Ann Patterson Salazar
Ameyka Pittman
Melissa White
Keli Wright

Consultants:

Sandy Ingraham, KIDS COUNT Data Analyst and Writer
Julianna Osuna, KIDS COUNT Project
Michelle Kegler, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
420 N.W. 13th, Suite 101
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
Phone: (405) 236-KIDS FAX: (405) 236- KIDX
Website: www.OICA.org
Email: info@OICA.org