



Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
2009 Legislative Agenda for Children, Youth and Families
Updated: June 8, 2009 – FINAL REPORT

Provide Health Insurance Coverage for Autism; SB 1 (Gumm), SB 36 (Anderson), SB 46 (Easley), HB 1312 (Brown), HB 1841 (Collins); Expand services for Autism - SB 135 (Steele/Justice)

Require private health insurers to include coverage of expenses associated with the treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

- Status: **SB 1, SB 36, SB 46, HB 1312 and HB 1841** (all the bills related to insurance coverage for autism) were killed – making the subject **DEAD** for the entire 2-year legislative session.
- SB 135** increases the pool of qualified therapists through a five-part approach, including creating a state licensure process for therapists, enhancing SoonerStart, increasing training, recruiting professionals to the state and expanding an outreach and intervention program. CCR for SB 135 passed the Senate 40/6 and the House 67/0. **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.**

Require Health Education – HB 1530 (Coody / Jolley)

Require health education in grades 6-8 in accordance with the PASS (Priority Academic Student Skills) guidelines. Topics of instruction should include, but not be limited to, physical activity, nutrition, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, behavioral health, oral health, environmental health, growth and development, injury prevention and wellness. Topics will be determined by each local school district.

- Status: **HB 1530** was scheduled to be heard in the House Common Education Committee, but the opposition to the bill was so overwhelming that the author removed it from the Agenda in order to keep it alive for next year. Rep. Coody will call for an Interim Study to bring all the stakeholders to the table to develop a plan that all parties can support. **LAID OVER until next Session.**

Assist Youth Transitioning into Adulthood - SB 283 - replaced with SCR 32; (Coates/Jackson) SB 595 (Anderson/Johnson); HB 1220 (Miller/Johnson)

Through a collaborative and coordinated effort of committed stakeholders, increase the workforce of Oklahoma's youth transitioning into adulthood through education, behavioral health, social services and employment.

- Status: **SB 283** creates the Task Force on Youth Transitioning into Adulthood. *SB 283 passed the Senate 44/0, but ran into difficulties in the House and was not heard by the deadline. It is therefore dead.* The language from SB 283 was amended into the CCR for **HB 1741** (Peters/Burrage) but the bill died in Conference. **SCR 32 was introduced during the final week of Session with the same language. It passed the Senate, but was not heard in the House. DEAD**
- SB 595** creates the Juvenile Justice Public Works Act to provide labor for community service projects and reduce recidivism for juvenile offenders by aiding in their transition between institutions and the community. HB 595 passed the Senate 43/0. *Passed the House 65/23. The Senate accepted the House amendments 43/0.* **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**
- HB 1220** appropriates \$500,000 to the Office of Juvenile Affairs for the construction of a Specialized Reintegration Group Home in the former Butler Public School facility in conjunction with Southwestern Oklahoma State University. **AWAITING GOVERNOR'S ACTION**

Prevent Youth Access to Alcohol – Attorney General’s Opinion / ABLÉ Commission Ruling

Appropriately reclassify flavored alcoholic beverages (Alco-Pops) as distilled beverages, as currently defined in Oklahoma law, thereby requiring such beverages to be sold only in liquor stores.

Status: OICA worked with the Attorney General, the Tax Commission, the ABLÉ Commission, and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to determine the necessary steps to accomplish our goal. It remains a **WORK IN PROGRESS**.

APPROPRIATION REQUESTS – DEAD

The FY10 Budget Agreement had to include both a state revenue shortfall and an infusion of federal stimulus dollars, resulting in an overall budget increase of 1.5%. However, most state agencies had to absorb substantial cuts. None of the items in the Children’s Agenda were funded; yet other areas of children’s services saw small increases.

Provide assistance to low-income working families (\$3.5 million to DHS)

Reduce the “cliff effect” that results in an abrupt loss of all work-support benefits when a low-income family earns a small increase in wages by increasing the income eligibility limits for child care subsidies and phasing out benefits more gradually. (*Budget request: \$3.5 million to DHS*)

Status: **Not funded**

Support Children’s Behavioral Health – (\$11,590,000 Appropriation to DMHSAS / OHCA / OJA / DHS)

Support the Coordinated Budget Request of the Children’s Behavioral Health Partnership that addresses the substance abuse and mental health needs of children 0-21 through a comprehensive, multi-agency collaboration, encompassing prevention, early intervention, community-based services, therapeutic foster care, group homes, residential and inpatient treatment. *The budget request for Year-One of this five-year plan is \$11,590,000, with the following components:*

- Prevention: \$2,300,000 to ODMHSAS
- Early Intervention: \$ 500,000 to ODMHSAS
- Community-Based Services: \$5,860,000 to ODMHSAS / DHS / OHCA
- Group Homes: \$1,000,000 to OJA
- Residential Treatment: \$1,930,000 to ODMHSAS and OHCA

Status: **The only piece funded was \$250,000 to ODMHSAS for the state match for Systems of Care**

Reduce Child Abuse – (\$8,078,000 appropriation to OSDH / SDE)

Reduce child abuse and neglect in Oklahoma by increasing funding for the existing continuum of prevention services offered by the Oklahoma State Department of Health (Children First, Office of Child Abuse Prevention, Child Guidance, Sooner Start), Department of Human Services (Safe Care); and Department of Education (Parents as Teachers). *Total request if \$8,078,000 with the following components:*

State Department of Health:	\$219,000 for Children First \$402,000 for Child Guidance Services \$326,000 for the Tulsa and OKC Health Departments
State Department of Education:	\$2,000,000 for Parents as Teachers \$5,131,000 for Sooner Start

Status: **Not funded**