



**Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy**  
**2009 Legislative Agenda for Children, Youth and Families**

Updated: December 17, 2008

**POVERTY**

**1. Reduce the “cliff effect” that penalizes working families (DHS Appropriation)**

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.

Status: This proposal does not require a statutory change; instead it will require an additional appropriation to DHS of \$3.5 million, and a DHS Commission rule change.

**HEALTH**

**2. Provide Health Care Coverage for Autism – SB 1 (Gumm) SB 36 (Anderson) SB 46 (Easley)**

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

Status: SB 1, SB 36 and SB 46 have been introduced.

**3. Support Children’s Behavioral Health – (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: These requests are all a part of the official FY 2010 Agency Budget Requests for the separate agencies in charge.

**4. Require Health Education – HB \_\_\_\_\_ (Rep. Ann Coody)**

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: Currently being drafted by House Staff.

## **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

### **5. Jobs for Kids and Kids for Jobs! SB \_\_\_\_\_ (Senator Harry Coates and Rep. Mike Jackson)**

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. *[OICA is requesting Legislative Task Force be named to study this issue and make recommendation.]*

Status: Currently being drafted by Senate Staff.

### **6. Prevent Youth Access to Alcohol – Attorney General's Opinion / ABLE 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. *[A statutory change will not be necessary;*

Status: OICA is working with the Attorney General, the Tax Commission and the ABLE Commission to determine the necessary steps

## **CHILD ABUSE**

### **7. Reduce Child Abuse – Increased Appropriations**

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: These requests are all a part of the official FY 2010 Agency Budget Requests for the separate agencies in charge.