

# Safety Advisory Committee

**Date:** Friday, June 27, 2025

**Time:** 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

**Chair:** K.O. Berger, Youth & Family Advocate, Governor's Office

**Facilitator:** Addie Smith, OYA

## Attendance

### *Present*

- **K.O. Berger**, Youth and Family Advocate, Governor's Office (Chair)
- **Jana McLellan**, Interim Director, OYA
- **Addie Smith**, Government Relations Mgr, OYA
- **Ken Jeske**, Chief Investigator, OYA PSO
- **Winifred Skinner**, Senior Rules and Policy Analyst, OYA
- **Debbi Martin**, Legislative Coordinator, OYA
- **Will Howell**, Communications Director, OYA
- **Valerie Colas**, Public Safety Advisory, Governor's Office
- **Judge Amy Holmes Hehn**, Multnomah County Circuit Court
- **Judge Andrea Janney**, Klamath County Circuit Court
- **Molly Rogers** filling in for **Christina McMahan**, Clackamas County Juvenile Department / OJDDA
- **Mark Cebert**, Lewis & Clark
- **Lisa Kay Williams**, filling in for **Stephanie McGowan**, Youth Rights & Justice
- **Brendan Murphy**, Chief Deputy DA, Marion County
- **Stacey Lowe**, SW Oregon Public Defender Services
- **Annette Majekodunmi**, Family Advocate, POIC
- **Nella Hogberg**, Oregon Judicial Department
- **Vera Stoulil**, The Alliance

### *Not Present*

- **Rep. Will Chotzen**, Oregon House of Representatives
- **Rep. Rick Lewis**, Oregon House of Representatives
- **Lt. Aaron Jackson**, Oregon State Police
- **Dave Manley**, Office of Training, Investigations, and Safety, ODHS/OHA
- **Angey Rideout**, Youth Prevention and Engagement Grants Manager, The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

## Agenda

### *1. Opening Remarks – K.O. Berger*

- K.O. Berger opened the meeting with a welcome and brief overview of the agenda.
- She noted and welcomed new members:
  - Mark Cebert
  - Judge Janney

### *2. Discussion of Scope – K.O. Berger*

K.O. Berger opened a discussion of the committee's scope with a primary focus on whether the committee should concern itself with all matters of youth safety and complaints or focus more narrowly on the work related to the Professional Standards Office.

**Judge Amy Holmes Hehn** reiterated her desire, previously expressed, for a broader scope, with particular interest in understanding why youth are making so many complaints.

It was determined that the group would start its work focused on PSO and in October, or upon the "completion," of that work turn to other important matters of safety oversight for the agency.

With this caveat, the discussion ended with the committee approving the proposed charter for its first section of work.

### *3. Reporting and Response Mechanisms Overview & Discussion – Winifred Skinner and Addie Smith*

Winifred Skinner presented several reporting pathways used at OYA, including:

- The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Governor's Office for handling PREA-related letters.
- Internal staff reports and mandatory child abuse reporting pathways.
- Use of voicemail reporting lines, online complaint forms, and facility grievance processes.
- The distinct procedures for youth in close custody versus youth on parole or probation.
- Flowcharts detailing steps for PSO investigations, including referrals to law enforcement or HR, and timelines for complaint resolution.

Discussion among committee members emphasized:

- Confusion between the terms “grievance” and “complaint.”
- Concerns about the accessibility and user-friendliness of the reporting process for youth and families.
- The need for clearer language and timelines in materials, especially for youth navigating business vs. calendar days. And helping youth understand the timelines for required agency responses.
- Suggestions to improve support for youth, such as offsite reporting support and more direct verbal pathways.
- Ensuring youth and family are consistently educated about their rights and the reporting process.

#### ***4. Progress Updates from OYA – Jana McLellan and Ken Jeske***

**Jana McLellan** provided updates on several key areas:

- A grievance was filed against OYA by the Oregon Board of Pharmacy regarding medication administration at two facilities. OYA is preparing a formal response.
- Two new plaintiffs have joined the existing class action lawsuit related to past staff sexual abuse.
- Ten agency policies linked to frequent investigative findings have been prioritized for retraining across all facilities.
- PREA refresher training was accelerated; as of the meeting date, over 100 staff had yet to complete it, with enforcement expected next week.
- Recent PREA audits for MacLaren and Oak Creek/JWTP identified findings, with a 30-day correction window underway.

**Ken Jeske** reported on PSO case closures and data trends:

- 213 pre-existing cases have been closed since January, including all from 2018 and nearly all from 2019.
- 376 chief reviews from a backlog of 3,500 have been closed, with around 70 cases reopened due to inadequacies.
- PSO has seen a 20% increase in reports from Q1 to Q2, signaling improved responsiveness.
- A new investigator starts July 1, with more recruitment in progress.

#### ***5. Conclusion – K.O. Berger***

KO Berger closed the meeting by reflecting on the committee’s work and expressing appreciation for OYA’s efforts toward “radical transparency.” She encouraged members to reach out with feedback and confirmed that follow-up materials (including state-by-state comparisons, training logs, and updated documents) would be provided before the next meeting.

## Resources Shared

- [OYA Youth Grievance Internal Audit Recommendations - Response Status](#)
- [OYA Response to Complaints and Reports Flowcharts](#)
- [OYA Youth Grievance Internal Audit and Response 2024](#)
- [Comparison of Reporting Processes](#)

## Next Steps

### By Next Meeting:

OYA will:

- clarify how youth and families are informed of their rights
- explore and report on options for improving the accessibility and tracking of reports by youth and families, including the possibility of offsite adult assistance for filing complaints
- share the ten most frequently cited policies that are currently being used in facility retraining