

**Annual Report
2024**

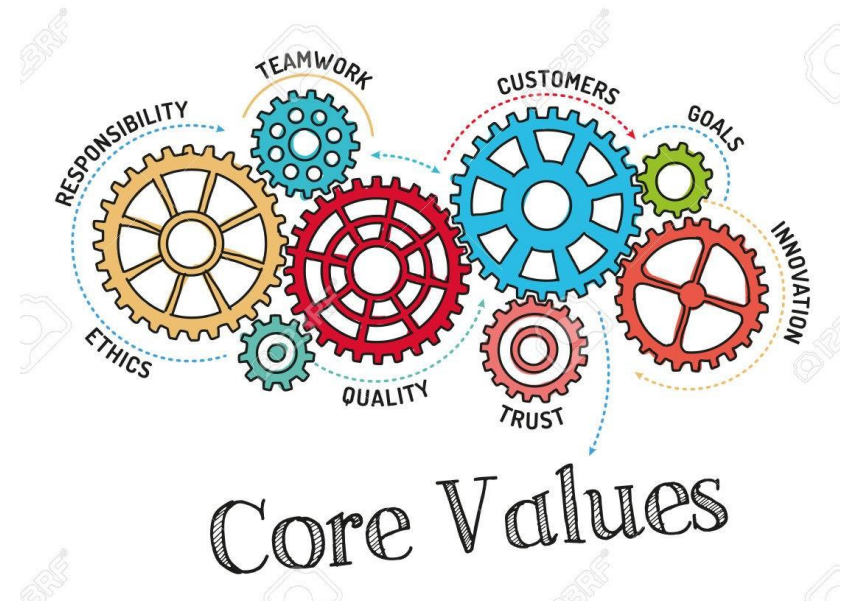
Northern Oklahoma Youth Services

(580) 762-8341
2203 N ASH STREET
PONCA CITY, OK 74601



Northern Oklahoma Youth Services Center & Shelter, Inc. (NOYS) is a private, non-profit agency governed by a local Board of Directors. Services are available to Kay, Noble, Pawnee and parts of Osage Counties. The main location and offices of the agency are located in Ponca City.

NOYS addresses societal problems which directly affect the lives and well-being of the youth and families in the communities that we serve. NOYS provides counseling, prevention, treatment services, and networking with local agencies.



Desired results of our agency involvement is to create a greater public awareness of the problems faced by youth and families in our community, with the goal of enhancing the quality of life of the individuals we serve. We also strive to empower youth and families, to develop adequate coping mechanisms to solve current and future problems.

- ⇒ **Enhanced well-being for all individuals**
- ⇒ **Services that exceeds expectations**
- ⇒ **Respect for every individual**
- ⇒ **Caring, compassion & support for youth and family.**

Facts That Affect the Health & Well-being of *Children & Families* In North Central Oklahoma Daily

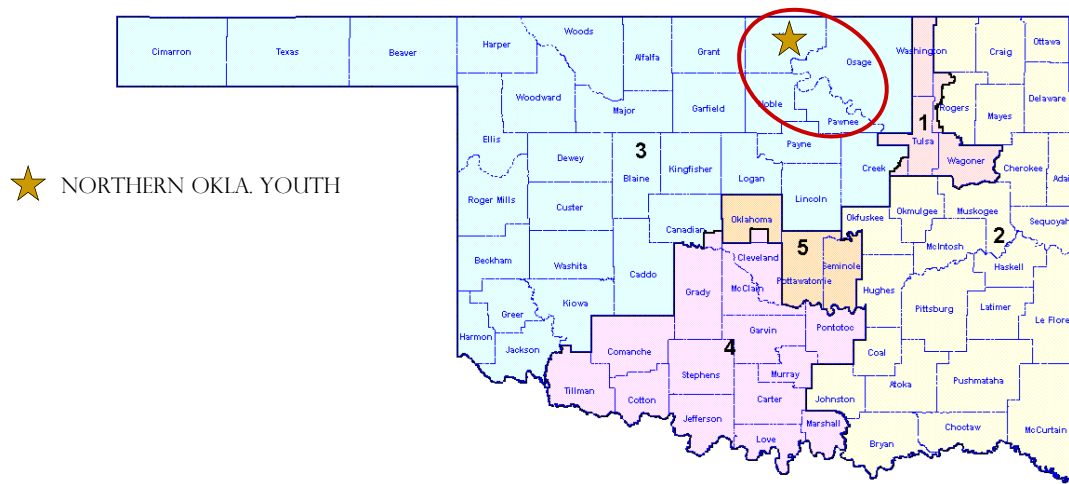
- North Central Oklahoma is a rural area made up of many small communities.
- The largest in the NOYS service area is Kay Co., with a population of approximately 43,700.
- Reliable transportation is often a barrier to families.

- 85-90% of families being served that are pregnant or with young children, parents have admitted to the use/abuse of illegal drugs during pregnancy and after.
- Because of the generational drug abuse cycle, more children are being affected before birth, as infants, and as school aged children.
- Meth accounted for 41% of all drug related arrests
- The female vs. male drug arrests in Kay Co. shows that 52% of drug related arrests were female again with METH being #1 in those arrests.

ODMHAS—Oklahoma Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
OSBI—Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation State of Oklahoma Official Website

- ⇒ Area children that live in poverty 23.6%
- ⇒ Families on TANF 236
Ranked: 8/77
- ⇒ High School Drop-out 1%
Ranked: 11/77
- ⇒ Child Abuse & Neglect
3rd Highest in State
- ⇒ Arrest of Juveniles
5th highest in state

*KIDS COUNT FACTBOOK 2023



NORTHERN OKLAHOMA YOUTH SERVICES

*Is determined not to let these evil issues destroy the children and families
we serve!!*

Improving current skills and learning new skills allows them to take a more positive direction for their future.

- ♦ **COMMUNICATION**
- ♦ **DECISION MAKING**
- ♦ **SELF-ESTEEM**
- ♦ **POSITIVE DISCIPLINE**
- ♦ **ANGER MANAGEMENT**
- ♦ **PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH**
- ♦ **PARENT/CHILD INTERACTION**
- ♦ **PEER RELATIONS**

Our Staff and Board of Directors are committed to the level of services and teamwork along side our Partnering Community Agencies, to bring Individuals & families

- ♦ **HOPE**
- ♦ **SUPPORT**
- ♦ **ENCOURAGEMENT**



EMERGENCY YOUTH SHELTER

Our mission is to provide care and supervision for youth who do not have a more appropriate place to live.

The shelter is not a detention center or a mental health facility.

It is a well-known “safe-haven” for THOUSANDS of children from all over the State of Oklahoma that have needed care, support, food and shelter until family or another caregiver could have them safely at home.

The Youth Shelter provides 12 beds for temporary, emergency care and supervision for children and youth from 6-17 years of age who are in crisis.

Our mission is to provide care and supervision for youth who do not have a more appropriate place to live.

In 2024 NOYS was able to provide shelter to 115 youth, who comprised a total of 2,372 shelter days. The youth were provided 5,115 hours of treatment, education, recreation, and case management services as well as 3,689 hours of supervision.



COUNSELING SERVICES

Professional level counseling for youth & families

Through the Counseling & Community At-Risk Services (CARS), NOYS is able to provide both prevention and outpatient treatment. Counseling services are offered in Kay, Noble and Pawnee Counties.

This is possible due to a contract through the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs. NOYS has been nationally accredited by CARF, the Accreditation since May 2001.

In 2024 youth and their families received 3,492 hours of individual, group and family counseling services.

We were also able to provide 10,707 hours of related supportive services to the families we served.

NOYS has a number of other youth and family focused programs that are funded through competitive grants and other funding. Being able to receive on-going funding from all of the sources that make up the NOYS total budget has not been a given every year, it has been a result of the continued quality and quantity of service provided by the Staff of NOYS through each individual program. NOYS programs have received State and National recognition that reflects on the entire agency.

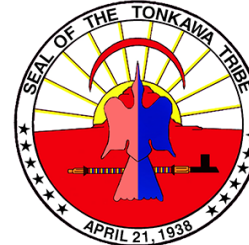


Northern Oklahoma Youth Services shares a close relationship with the six Native American Tribes that have a significant presence in this part of Northern Oklahoma. Collaborations happen all year long through annual Health Fairs, school activities, and special events hosted by the Tribes. We also partner through the government and social service agencies such as

- Tribal Domestic Violence Shelters
- Youth Substance Abuse
- Delinquency Prevention Programs
- Indian Child Welfare
- GED programs sponsored by the Tribes.



OSAGE



TONKAWA



OTOE-MISSOURI



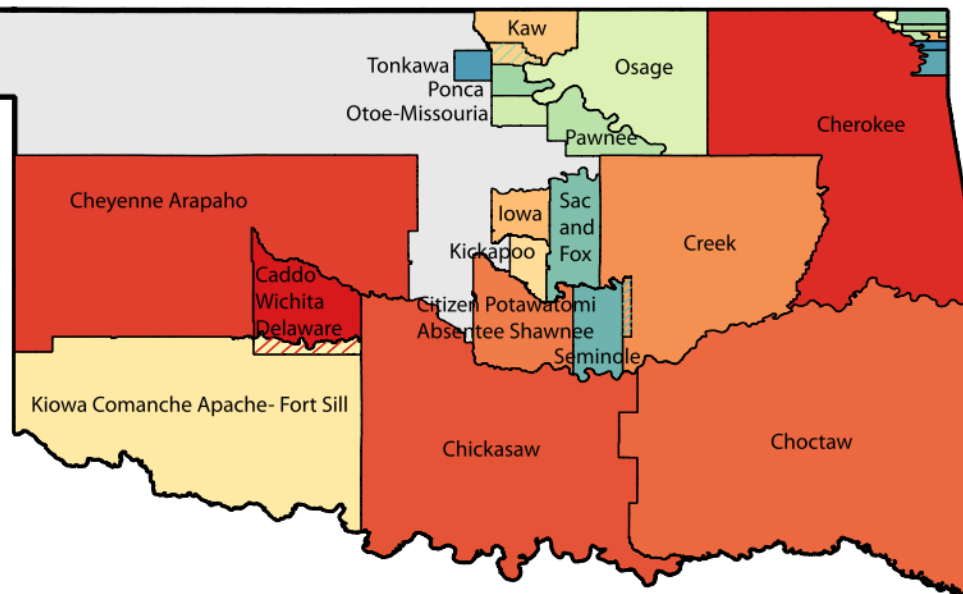
PAWNEE



KAW



PONCA





ISSUES IN OUR COMMUNITY...



As generations pass, some issues tend to remain

- financially supporting a family
- providing appropriate shelter/ food/clothing
- experiencing the personality/ temperament changes as children grow into pre-teens and through the teenage years.
- parents fearing what the world *MIGHT* throw at them and will their young adult be prepared.
- parents that grow apart
- families that separate and the children that are caught in the middle.

It has always been **paramount** to Northern Oklahoma Youth Services that our services keep with the changing social trends the issues that are affecting children, youth and their families today. So as the world around us changes, so does our community's needs, and those of our schools and our families.

Sadly, another issue that has seemed to spread like wildfire has been bullying. Kids and teens bullying not only in person, but also on social media. It has spread so quickly that we have been seeing deaths from suicide among teens and children as young as 8 years old.

Things have gotten so out of control that everyone involved is caught off guard as to how serious the bullying had gotten. Everyone is working hard to address this serious problem.

We are teaching kids to speak up and tell an adult if they suspect bullying is happening or if a friend is being bullied.

In recent years we have seen a steady increase in the problems with drug use/ abuse, and most recently with the changing laws concerning marijuana.

Adult drug arrests are at an all time high and women make up over half of the drug arrests!

As serious as this is, it's even more tragic to realize that in a large majority of these homes where the drug busts and arrests are being made, there are children in the home.

Children are subjected to drugs to ingest, subjected to lab fumes, situations of buy/sell/trade of drugs, the abuse that can come from a drug user, a child or teen that could be the victim of a sexual assault, and in most cases firearms are found when busts are made.

Services at NOYS have shown that drug use/abuse can be generational. youth have reported getting drugs from their parents or friends of their parents.



ANNUAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In order to determine the best use of resources and where to target agency efforts for the coming year, Northern Oklahoma Youth Services conducts an assessment.

STEP 1

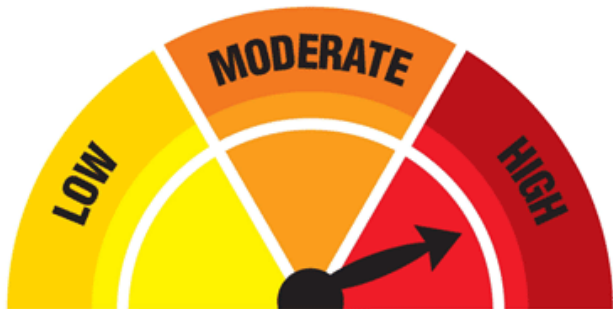
DATA IS COMPILED FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES.

- ♦ THE MOST RECENT KIDS COUNT FACTBOOK©
- ♦ OPNA SURVEYS
- ♦ VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES (OJA, OKDHS, OCCY, ETC.)
- ♦ NOYS CLIENTS & FAMILIES SURVEYS
- ♦ FUNDING SOURCES
- ♦ REFERRAL SOURCES
- ♦ COMMUNITY LEADERS
- ♦ ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

STEP 2

THAT DATA IS THEN USED TO DETERMINE HOW TO BEST DIRECT SERVICES & RESOURCES OF THIS ORGANIZATION. THE MOST RECENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT RESULTS IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF ISSUE/CONCERN:

- ♦ JUVENILE CRIME, ESPECIALLY VIOLENT CRIME
- ♦ CYBERBULLYING
- ♦ SUBSTANCE ABUSE
- ♦ BEHAVIORAL ISSUES IN SCHOOL
- ♦ TEEN PREGNANCY



RISK FACTORS:

ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF BEHAVIORS THAT CAN AFFECT A YOUNG PERSON'S HEALTH OR WELL-BEING, MAKING THEM MORE VULNERABLE TO MANY NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES.

- ♦ POVERTY
- ♦ GROWING UP IN A SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLD
- ♦ UNSUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT
- ♦ IDLE TEENS
- ♦ ENGAGED IN ALCOHOL/DRUGS
- ♦ DELINQUENT BEHAVIORS
- ♦ EARLY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Programs offered at NOYS...

Parenting Classes:

Parent Education classes done in a group setting utilizing a recognized evidenced-based curriculum.

Parents develop communication skills, learn appropriate/positive discipline techniques, and a basic understanding of age appropriate behavior. Classes are provided through OKDHS and local funds. Classes are free of charge to parents. In 2024, 11 families attended Parenting Assistance Center (PAC) classes. 6 families completed the program successfully.



The Family Resource Program:

Provides home-based parent education using Parents As Teachers® model and curriculum. All services are free. Funded through a competitive grant from the Oklahoma State Dept. of Health/Office of Child Abuse Prevention.

The Family Resource Program is a PAT Affiliate that carries rigorous standards. Families can enroll and receive services for anytime during pregnancy until the start of kindergarten. In 2024 we served 67 Families and 85 children (over 100%) of the families we were contracted to serve. We served families with 469 home visits. 45 health, vision, and hearing screenings were provided as well as 74 developmental screenings.

The Parent Educator talks with the parent/caregiver about:

- ♦ Bonding and Attachment
- ♦ Milestones and typical development
- ♦ Language skills
- ♦ Motor skills
- ♦ Social– Emotional skills
- ♦ Cognitive skills
- ♦ Nutrition
- ♦ Positive Discipline
- ♦ Resources in their county (employment, housing, education, counseling, etc.)
- ♦ Providing support to all parents



Programs cont...

First Time Offenders:

When children and youth commit a minor offense, they are often court-ordered to complete an FTO education group with their parent or guardian present. The classes focus on decision making/impulse management, peer pressure/bullying, cultural diversity, responsibility and positive communication skills. They learn respect for authority and about the court system with the goal of discouraging this type of continued behavior, as well as better understanding between parent and youth.

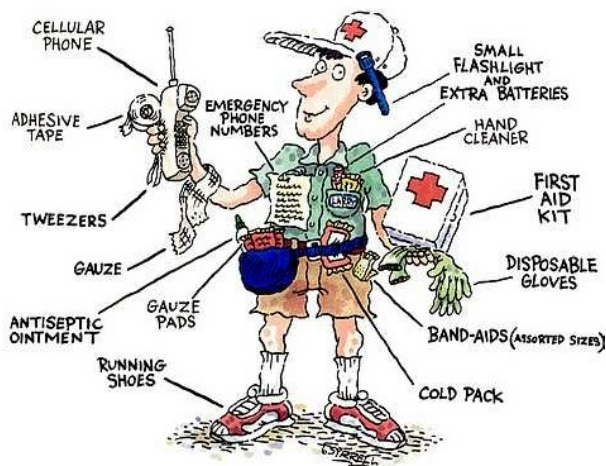
In 2024 59 youth and their parents/ or guardians attended this 12 hour course.



Life Skills:

In addition to helping kids resist drug, alcohol, and tobacco use, the Life Skills Training also effectively supports the reduction of violence and other high risk behaviors. This program has had more than 30 years of scientific research and is one of the most effective, evidence-based programs used in schools in the U.S. today. In 2024, 765 youth attended this evidenced-based classroom presentation. 14 youth participated in identified small group presentations.

Programs Cont.



ESG

Emergency Solutions Grant assists clients to transition into permanent housing and live self sufficiently. This is done by having a stable source of income, working a budget, and finding a place to live within their means.

The qualifications for this program are to be over 18 years old, homeless, or being evicted from your home, with no violent crime record, and within 30% of poverty with your income. There have been 86 calls from referral sources and 32 fulfilled applications.

The ESG contract runs Oct-Sept. in FY 2024 there were 18 families rehomed in Kay Co. and living successfully.

Voca Trauma Counseling:

Trauma occurs when we become overwhelmed by the impact of events and struggle to use our usual coping skills. A child may personally experience the event or be a witness to an incident that could occur one time or many times.

There are many ways a child may react to trauma, from nightmares to changes in appetite, headaches, anger, sadness, isolation, struggle at school, trouble getting along with family or others. If these responses last for more than a few weeks, it's time to reach out for help. The benefits of child and family therapy are immense.

- ⇒ Participants learn new skills for dealing with stress,
- ⇒ teaches the child a way to talk about the trauma,
- ⇒ builds child's personal safety skills,
- ⇒ resolves parental distress about the child's trauma,
- ⇒ parents learn how to be more supportive of their child,
- ⇒ prepares children to cope with traumatic and loss

Trauma counseling is designed for children and adolescents between the ages of 4 and 18 who have significant emotional and behavioral problems related to trauma they have experienced. In FY 2024 42 children/ youth and their families were provided roughly 1260 hours of trauma counseling.



TRAUMA INFORMED

OTHER SERVICES OFFERED THROUGH NOYS CONT.

Recreation and Education Activities

Designed to replace idle time with positive activities aimed at building team work, self-esteem and communication skills. In 2024 a total of 2,740 hours of recreation were provided for youth through NOYS, in addition to 1027 hours of educational activities provided by NOYS staff that included nutrition, health & hygiene, communication, interview/job skills, anger management, bullying, first-aid, as well as other age-appropriate topics.



Community Education and Referral

Services provided by NOYS staff to local families and stakeholders including assessment, screening, and professional training. In 2024 over 542 hours of services were provided.

General Public Information

Public awareness activities including health fairs with area schools, tribal facilities and other collaborative agencies and organizations as well as other opportunities to share prevention and awareness materials and information within our community, county and surrounding area. In 2024 well over 3000 individuals were served (some activities were unable to give a count).



NOYS QUALITY ASSURANCE

The NOYS Quality Assurance Program is designed to systematically monitor and evaluate the quality of the persons who receive care and services provided by the agency. The “QA” Program insures that clinically established standards of persons receiving care are achieved and maintained within the agency. The purpose of the Program is to assess and enhance the maintenance of quality care for all persons served by determining if those services provided meet accepted standards and if the agency’s services and faculties are utilized appropriately, efficiently and safely. The QA Program provides an on-going mechanism for the identification and correction of problems or opportunities to improve persons receiving care and treatment. QA records and reports will be maintained for five (5) years.

This policy establishes a framework for the survey projects conducted by NOYS for the purpose of soliciting persons service input and insuring quality of care through the investigation of Treatment Outcomes and Persons Served Satisfaction. NOYS provides for the protection of persons served when persons served generated data is utilized in agency research. No information will be gathered without person’s served consent.

NOYS is incorporating some new outcome measures for Trauma Screening and Assessment data as well as client data core information. However since these measures were just implemented and data is currently being collected, no outcome results are yet available.



1. Assessment

- A. Community Survey— 57 surveys were completed by stakeholders & referral sources.
- B. Client Satisfaction Surveys—Goal is an average score of 4 on a 5 point scale. For 2024 we averaged a 4.6

2. Effectiveness Measure

- A. GAF Scores—Global Assessment of Functioning Goal is an increase of 2 points. For 2024 93% of persons served improved 2 or more points compared to 91% in 2023
- B. Follow-up Data—84% of respondents said they were no longer experiencing difficulties that brought them in for services. Goal is 70%

3. Efficiency Measures

- A. In 2024 counselors spent 85% of time with clients families on tasks specifically for clients. This is compared to 86% in 2022
- B. 100% of individuals requesting services from NOYS were contacted within 10 days.

NORTHERN OKLAHOMA YOUTH SERVICES

Northern Oklahoma Youth Services Center & Shelter, Inc. (NOYS) is a private, non-profit agency that exists through State funding, competitive grants, local support and in-kind donations.

State and Federal grants are awarded through a competitive bid process.

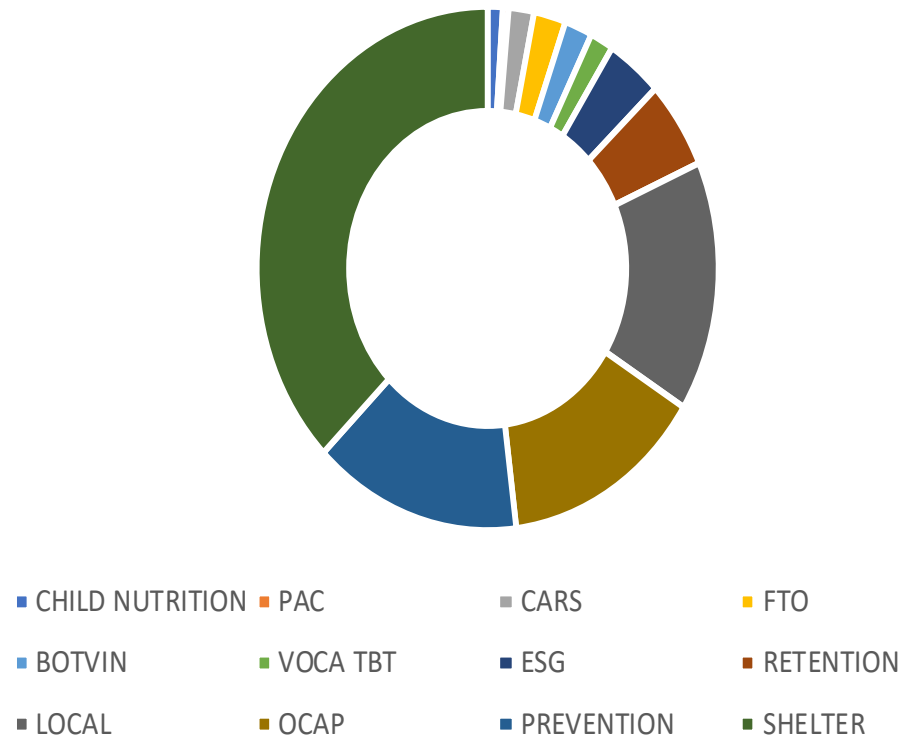
Once a grant has been awarded, the full term of the grant may be one to five years, each year the programs must report:

- the program activities,
- If the program met contracted service numbers
- review financial records showing how the money was spent throughout the year within each program,
- and then financials for each year of the grant

If all measures do not meet requirements, or if funding at the State or Federal level is cut, then the programs often suffer funding cuts or lose their funding entirely.



REVENUE



There is no way that NOYS could have existed for 52 years without the support and generosity from the communities we serve. We've been blessed by the community and we commit to doing our best for you.

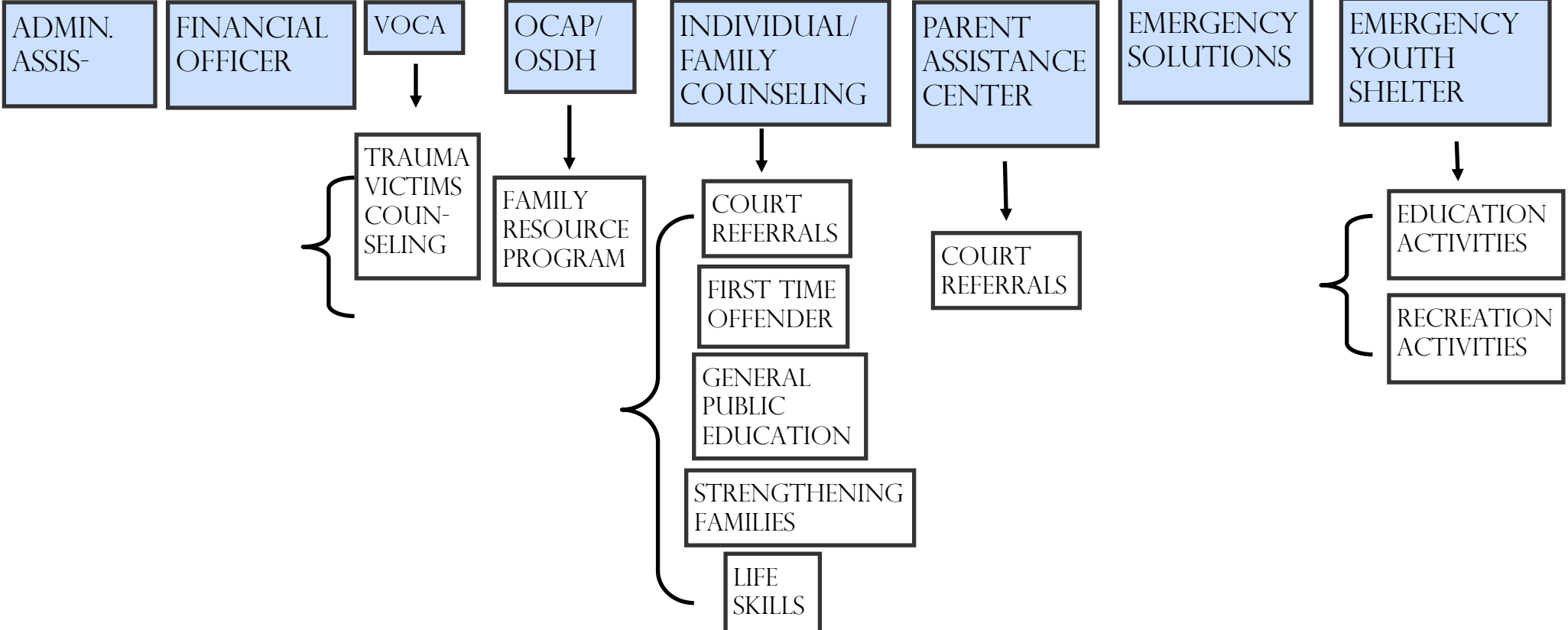


NOYS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...



This is my chance to congratulate the staff and key stakeholders of Northern Oklahoma Youth Services for a great year. In the existence of this agency (over 50 years) and in my time here, there have been many changes and services have evolved. We have even lost people that were important parts of our lives.

But what has never changed has been the dedication of staff and our community supporters. It is with great pride that I consider the number of lives we have touched in meaningful ways.

In this report we talk about hundreds and thousands of people served with tens of thousands of hours of service, but those are not numbers those are faces and smiles and tears of children, and their parents. It is hard for me to imagine spending my career doing anything else.

James Carter



**NOYS CANNOT EXIST OR BE SUCCESSFUL IN
HELPING THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF NORTH
CENTRAL OKLAHOMA WITHOUT OUR SUPPORTIVE
COMMUNITY PARTNERS!**



UNITED WAY OF PONCA CITY
BLACKWELL UNITED OUTREACH FOUNDATION
PERRY UNITED FUND
NEWKIRK COMMUNITY CHEST
COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

NOIS



2203 N. Ash Street Ponca City OK 74601