



# Oklahoma Parents Center

Statewide Parent Training and Information

*Advocating for Children with Disabilities to Build a Better Future*



**Tulsa Area Conference ...  
Building Relationships...  
Creating Successful Change...**





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*Advocating for Children with Disabilities to Build a Better Future*



## ABOUT THE OPC...

- The Oklahoma Parents Center is statewide project funded by the United States Department of Education, Office Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) that focuses on the educational needs of children with disabilities. We work to support families in their efforts to help their children with disabilities learn and reach their goals.

# What are Parent Centers?

**Staff-likely  
to be a  
parent or  
sibling**

**Funded by the US  
Department of  
Education under  
IDEA**

**Approximately  
105 Parent  
Centers in the  
United States  
and Territories**





Special  
Education  
Police?





**Why  
Parents  
Call?**

A close-up photograph of a person's hand cupping their ear, with a person's face in the background. The hand is on the left side of the frame, and the ear is the central focus. The background shows the side of a person's face with dark skin. The text "THEY SAID WHAT?" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

THEY  
SAID  
WHAT?

Common themes we hear...





We are the experts



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- Without a paper trail
- Thinking and feeling
- Where's the data?
- Child Find
- Forced or added signatures
- ESY
- Waiting list?
- IEE
- Full Continuum of Placement



We are the experts



HikingArtist.com

- Forced medication
- Knowledge is power
- We are the experts
- Full team
- What Part of Part B
- What about Virtual and Charter Schools?
- Other than home
- Pick your battles



I'M NOT SURE WHY MR. BARTH  
ALWAYS FEELS COMPELLED  
TO BRING AN ADVOCATE TO  
THE IEP MEETING.



OUTNUMBERED?



MR. GREEN PREPARES FOR HIS  
CHILD'S IEP MEETING



# JUST THE FACTS...

- **4727 Parent Advising**
- **112 IEP's Attended**
- **108 Workshops/Trainings**

# OUR AWESOME BOARD

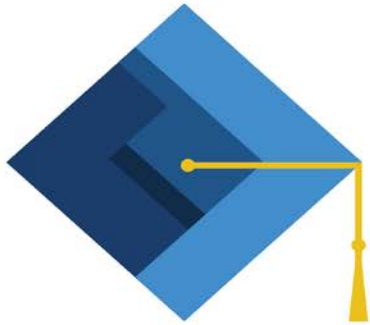
- JoAnne Pool Blades
- Mark Sharp
- Jacqueline Devereaux
- Jill Grady
- Emma Sherry
- Glynis Coleman
- Kristi Prince
- Andrea Kunkel



# OUR INCREDIBLE STAFF

- **Ellen Kimbrell**
- **Beth Miranda**
- **Kristal Chambers**
- **Amy Synar**
- **Deidra Edwards**
- **Nancy Garner**
- **Melissa Davis**
- **Melanie Berry**
- **Latisha Coats**

THANK YOU...



OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
— CHAMPION EXCELLENCE —





**For Attending !**