

Children's Services Committee

Location: **Microsoft Teams meeting**
Join on your computer or mobile app

Date: Tuesday, 10/4/2022

Time: 1:00 P.M. CST/2:00 P.M. EDT

Staff Present: Cory Bradfield, Kylie Graves, Jeni Davis, Craig Hargrow, Richard Kennedy, Bill Latimer, Melissa McGee, Steve Petty, Rob Burke, Shaun Noblit, Therese Sipes

Staff Absent: -Russette Marcum Embry.

Commission Members: Amy Jones, Committee Chair, Ella Britt, Kelly Drummond, Steven Neely, Honorable Judge Rob Philyaw, Commission Chair

Commission Members Absent Glenda Terry, Mackenzie Johnston, Rob Mortensen, Charmaine Kromer, Randy Butler

Guests: None

1) **Call to Order – Amy Jones, Chair**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Jones called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Jones identified all members present for the Teams meeting. Jones asked for any new persons to introduce themselves, Therese Sipes, TCCY intern, introduced herself to the group.

2) **Approval of August Children's Services Minutes (ACTION)**

Jones asked for a motion to approve the Children's Services minutes from the August 2022 Committee Meeting.

Drummond moved to approve the minutes from August 2022.
Neely seconded. Unanimously Approved.

3) **Staff Updates**

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA)

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) took place on 9/21/22 as a Joint meeting with Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council (TNYCWC). The meeting was held at the Clarion Hotel with 37 attending in person and 63 attending virtually, for a total of 100 attendees. Updates and presentations were provided in the first half of the meeting by the Department of Health, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, Association of Infant Mental Health in TN (AIMHiTN), Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE), and Early Success Coalition (ESC). After lunch, attendees worked in small groups to define the purpose of HVLA as well as goals for 2023. The information provided at the event will guide the discussion at the next meeting on 12/8/22, which will be held in a hybrid model at Lentz Public Health Center.

Rob Burke, started his role as the Director of HVLA on 7/25/22 and has been reviewing the HVLA contract as well as past meeting notes, agendas, strategic plans, etc. to acclimate himself to his new role. Additionally, he has been attending various TCCY Committee meetings to further familiarize himself with the vast scope of the Agency. Burke has partnered with Department of Health (DOH) to schedule all HVLA meetings for 2023.

Youth Transitions Advisory Council

Cory Bradfield has transitioned away from the Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council and assumed the role of director of the Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC).

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council met August 25th at the Tennessee State Library and Archives and virtually via Microsoft Teams. 13 people attended in person and approximately 15 others attended virtually.

The Office of Independent Living at the Department of Children's Services (DCS) provided information about the Federal Assistance provided youth in Extension of Foster Care Services through the work of DCS and Youth Villages LifeSet program. During the Lifeset update, the council was able to hear from a young man named Brandon to describe his experience with Extension of Foster Care Services.

Earlier this year the General Assembly expanded the eligibility for Extension of Foster Care Services to include youth working up to 80 hours a month or those participating in activities preparing for employment.

The Councils heard the regular updates from the DCS Resource Centers, followed by a

presentation from the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services on a variety of programs for young adults. A presentation on emergency preparedness from the Tennessee Department of Health closed out the agenda.

During general announcements, Omnivisions promoted an upcoming Open House for their new Independent Living Facility in Memphis on August 17th. Bradfield attended the open house and toured the facility. This facility is for males and there is currently one in Jackson, TN for females. Current plans are to open another facility in each city.

The next meeting of YTAC will be held October 6th, featuring the regular presenters.

Building Strong Brains Tennessee

TCCY continues the strong partnership with DCS in leadership of Building Strong Brains Tennessee as it transitions into *Resilient Tennessee Collaborative*, the re-envisioned focus for the next phase of Building Strong Brains, shifting towards emphasis on resilience.

TCCY continues to coordinate meetings of the BSB Coordinating Team as direction support for Resilient Tennessee Collaborative. The Coordinating Team met in early September and is working on identifying the best path for the future use of recurring funds.

Training for Trainers

TCCY will hold three rounds of the two-day Training for Trainers during the Fall of 2022, Applications have been received and evaluated, with 119 participants for the upcoming trainings.

McGee and the TCCY BSB team continue regular meetings and to ensure training material and presentations are accurate and updated.

TCCY is in process of internal conversation, as well as discussion with the Coordinating Team, regarding the future of the Training for Trainers.

Building Strong Brains – Community

McGee recently completed a three-county tour in Northeast Tennessee, through

Greene, Sullivan and Johnson counties, in support of Jill Stott and the collective impact efforts in that region. Stott partners with multiple organizations to move the effort forward, and this tour was in partnership with Bristol's Promise. McGee provided an overview of current Resilient Tennessee Collaborative work, as well as a facilitated discussion.

McGee also attended Stanford Social Innovation Review's Institute focused on Bridging the Divide in building communities working together.

The kickoff meeting for the Resilient Tennessee Collaborative was held as a hybrid event on July 20th with over 250 persons in attendance. Melissa Oomer to provided a refresher course on Collective Impact, as well as groups discussions on current state collective impact efforts. The next meeting will occur on November 1st and offer a hybrid option for presentations, with in-person attendees offered a time of networking.

McGee continues to provide presentations and technical assistance statewide on Resilient Tennessee efforts, as well as other mental health related topics. McGee and Kylie Graves were accepted to present at the Rural Health Association of Tennessee's Fall Conference on "Building a More Resilient Tennessee".

Kennedy reported that he and Hargrow from TCCY, along with Davidson County Juvenile Court Judge Sheila Calloway attended the XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Conference in Denver.

Second Look Commission

The Second Look Commission (SLC) met on August 9, 2022. During the open meeting, SLC members discussed the following agenda items: Proposal to Estimate the Cost of Child Abuse in Tennessee Discussion, Interrupted Caregiving and Trauma Informed Parenting Discussion and Annual Report Discussion.

The investigatory meeting was dedicated to reviewing three cases. SLC members made preliminary findings of facts and recommendations. The findings, observations and recommendations included the following:

- SLC members decided to take a closer look at the civil statute of limitations regarding abuse.
- SLC member discussed the need for child abuse specific training for district attorneys.

- SLC members discussed the possibility of revisiting the recommendation to provide an assistant district attorney dedicated to investigating child abuse cases.
- SLC questioned whether providing a power of attorney to a non-cooperative parent is a good idea.
- Continuity and appropriateness of services continued to be an opportunity for improvement.
- SLC members noted the need for further investigation based on the facts of one case. However, further investigation did not occur.
- SLC members questioned the appropriateness of releasing a child to a parent despite continued concerns about the parent's ability to properly care for the child.
- SLC noted the need to reassess the safety of the child more frequently.

Council on Children's Mental Health (CCMH)

The fourth meeting of the Council on Children's Mental Health was held both in person at the Tennessee State Library and Archives and virtually via Microsoft Teams on August 25th from 10 am – 2 pm. Approximately 50-75 were in attendance in-person and virtually.

The meeting was primarily focused on Youth Justice. After extended introductory remarks including a review of programs from Matt Yancey, Deputy Commissioner at the TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), the meeting featured updates from System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT), Safe Baby Courts, the Rutherford County Family Preservation Initiative, and Youth Villages along with Elizabeth Setty Reeve of TDMHSAS. Finally, the council heard an update from McGee regarding the launch of the Resilient Tennessee Collaborative.

The next meeting of CCMH will be held on October 20th.

Ombudsman Program

Marcum-Embry reported 27 new referrals were received for the months of July, August, and through September 27, 2022. As of the end of September, there were 40 cases open in the Ombudsman Program data base. Please refer to Ombudsman Program graphs for demographic information.

Marcum-Embry attended the United States Ombudsman annual conference in September. The conference was held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. She attended two Foster Care Review Board meetings this quarter, one meeting of the USOA Children and Families Chapter, and three CFTMs.

In August, two interns joined TCCY from the UT College of Social Work. Kate Keese and Therese Sipes are both pursuing an MSSW. Both have already added value to the agency's work through their respective contributions. Kate and Therese will be with TCCY through May 2023. Marcum-Embry is serving as both field instructor and task manager.

Marcum-Embry continues to serve on the Wilson County Foster Care Review Board, the UT College of Social Work Field Advisory Committee, the Children and Families Chapter of the USOA, and as TCCY/Kennedy's representative on the Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council

Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council (TNYCWC) took place on 9/21/22 as a Joint meeting with Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA). The meeting was held at the Clarion Hotel with 37 attending in person and 63 attending virtually, for a total of 100 attendees. Updates and presentations were provided in the first half of the meeting by the Department of Health (DOH), Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, Association of Infant Mental Health in TN (AIMHiTN), Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE), and Early Success Coalition (ESC). After lunch, attendees worked in small groups to define the purpose of TNYCWC as well as goals for 2023. The information provided at the event will guide the discussion at the next meeting on 12/14/22, which will be held in a hybrid model at West Precinct Police Station.

The Steering Committee continues to meet virtually on the first Thursday of the month and met on 8/4/22. This meeting focused on introducing Rob Burke as the new Director of TNYCWC and HVLA, setting the agenda for the September meeting, and discussion around the development of Action Teams.

The Steering Committee met again on 9/1/22 and finalized details regarding the TNYCWC meeting on 9/21/22. There was also discussion about soliciting DCS representation on the Steering Committee, and it was decided that the best approach

may be for the TCCY Executive Director to have a conversation with the newly appointed DCS Commissioner as to if the Commissioner has any recommendations. Executive Director Kennedy agreed to have this conversation with the DCS Commissioner.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for 10/6/22.

4) **Additional Items or Comments**

5) **Motion to Adjourn**

Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Neely seconded and all approved.