

Youth Justice Committee

Location: **Teams Meeting**
Date: Friday, 2/4/2022
Time: 10:00 A.M. CDT

Staff Present: Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir., Jeni Davis, Bill Latimer, Russette Marcum-Embry, Steve Petty, Wendy Pickering, Vicki Taylor, Jill Stott, Zanira Whitfield,

Commission Members Present: James Butler, Kelly Drummond, Judge Sharon Green, Rob Mortensen, Chair, Amy Jones, Petrina, Jones-Jesz, Judge Rob Philyaw, Dr. Altha Stewart

Commission Members Absent: Cameron Carver, Trey Jones, Michael Rediker, Stan Settles, Glenda Terry

1. **Call to Order – Rob Mortensen, Chair**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Mortensen called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Mortensen announced Philyaw is the new Commission Chair. Pickering, new Contract Monitor, introduced herself.

2. **Approval of October 2021 Youth Justice Meeting Minutes (ACTION)**

Mortensen asked for a motion to approve the Youth Justice Committee minutes from the October Commission meeting.

Butler moved to approve the minutes from October 2021. Green seconded. Unanimously Approved.

3. **Staff Updates**

CASA Grants Management – Russette Marcum-Embry

Marcum-Embry reported CASA programs are in the process of submitting their quarterly reports and invoices for the second quarter of this fiscal year. Marcum-

Embry will review the supporting financial documents to ensure programs are invoicing according to the contract specifics. Quarterly reports are reviewed to ensure programs are recording demographics needed for contract monitoring and, that programs are meeting goals set forth in the application process. The invoices are then submitted to TCCY Accounting for processing. Marcum-Embry is also currently training with Dr. Papica in preparation for his retirement at the first of March. She will be assuming the Ombudsman responsibilities after his retirement.

Marcum-Embry reported that the Governor's State of the State proposed budget included an additional 5.4 million dollars increase to CASA for expansion and increased funding for existing counties.

Federal Formula Grant Update- Vicki Taylor

Taylor stated Youth Justice Staff received notification due to OJJDP's determination that compliance manuals do not align with JJRA 2018 statutory requirements TCCY's Determination letter received is void. On December 15, 2021, OJJDP provided a template to states to align compliance manuals with statutory requirements. States have up to 180 days (June 13, 2022) to revise and resubmit compliance manuals to OJJDP. Manuals will be reviewed and OJJDP will notify states of its eligibility and compliance determination and make the FY 2021 award to eligible states.

OJJDP is currently working on the 2022 Title II solicitation to distributed to states.

OJJDP recently provided guidance to states about complying with a JJRA 2018 requirement, 34 U.S.C. §11133(a)(11)(B) regarding detention of minors transferred to the adult criminal justice system. Minors transferred to the adult criminal justice system and held in a jail or lockup for adults or permitted to have sight or sound contact with adult's inmates, must meet certain statutory requirements. Additionally, the minor's matter must be reviewed by the court every 30 days or 45 days in the case of a rural jurisdiction to determine if it is in the minor's best interest to remain in the jail or lockup for adults. The minor cannot be held in such facility or be permitted to have sight or sound contact with adult's inmates for more than 180 days unless the court decides there is good cause for an extension.

OJJDP provided guidance for monitoring and collecting data from court holding facilities under the jail removal requirement at 34 U.S.C. §11133(a)(13). States must monitor to ensure that jails and lockups for adults, including court holding facilities, document, at or near the time of detention, appropriate information on all juveniles detained or confined, including date of birth, date/time in, date/time out and most

serious offense. States just also ensure that there is sight and sound separation between detained juveniles and adult inmates, including when the juveniles and adults are moved within a secure court holding facility.

Jones asked if the juvenile or adult court judges would conduct the reviews mentioned. Hargrow reported from OJJDP guidance it will be the court that hears the child's case.

Stewart asked if the hold of funding until manuals are approved will have an impact on TCCY's funding. Taylor reported funds are available from previous awards for grantees to be funded this year.

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders Update- Zanira Whitfield

Whitfield reported she is in the process of aggregating compliance monitoring data to complete and submit the Annual Compliance Monitoring Report to OJJDP in February 2022. Thus far there are 36 DSO violations, 1 Sight and Sound Separation violation and 18 Jail Removal violations. Youth justice staff and regional coordinators continue to monitor facilities and provide technical support. Whitfield thanked Stott and Kristi Paling for stepping in to conduct compliance monitoring in the Southeast region while interviews are being conducted for the position.

Compliance Monitoring Update- Wendy Pickering and Craig Hargrow

Pickering reported she is working with Hargrow to bring 2021 contract monitoring up to date beginning with Federal Formula grants. Hargrow reported Pickering will be taking over some of the compliance monitoring responsibilities from Taylor and Whitfield to allow them more time for youth justice issues.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities- Craig Hargrow

Hargrow, Whitfield and Taylor have had several communications with Dr. Andrea Joseph, Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee, and Kara James-Johnson, Co-Founder and CEO of FIND (Families in Need of Directions) about a new reducing racial and ethnic disparities grants related to black and brown school-age girls. Hargrow reported Joseph and James-Johnson decided they would be unable to submit a proposal due to time constraints. The funds earmarked for R/ED proposals need to be spent by September 30, 2022. Hargrow solicited the aid of the Youth Justice Committee to provide guidance on known evidence-based programs to fund before September 30, 2022.

MINUTES

Stewart mentioned a joint program with Shelby County schools, DCS and juvenile court for gender specific or gang intervention programming. Hargrow will send information to the Youth Justice Committee regarding grant qualifications.

Mortensen mentioned being approached regarding the Rutherford County issues and being asked how to make the youth justice system better. Mortensen will schedule a meeting with Senator Gardenhire and Philyaw to discuss further. Hargrow reported working with AOC on a data committee team and AOC is working on rolling out a statewide integrated data management system to report data and share among juvenile courts in Tennessee. Not all courts are using the Quest system.

Petty reported on upcoming legislation.

Philyaw inquired about moving forward with the Youth Justice Collaborative meeting voted on at October meeting. Hargrow reported the new Youth Justice Director will start in March and be responsible for implementing the collaboration.

4) **Motion to Adjourn**

Mortensen moved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting ended at 11:04 a.m.

Prepared by: Vicki Taylor