

Youth Justice Committee

Location: **Teams Meeting**
Date: Friday, 5/6/2022
Time: 10:00 A.M. CDT

Staff Present: Richard Kennedy, Exec Dir., Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir., Jeni Davis, Bill Latimer, Melissa McGee, Russette Marcum-Embry, Jerri Moore, Shaun Noblit, Steve Petty, Zanira Whitfield

Staff Absent: Vicki Taylor, Wendy Pickering

Commission Members Present: Mortensen, Chair, Amy Jones, Judge Sharon Green, Charmaine Kromer, Judge Rob Philyaw, Stan Settles, Altha Stewart, Glenda Terry,

Commission Members Absent: Cameron Carver, Trey Jones, Michael Rediker,

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

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Mortensen called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. **Approval of February 2022 Youth Justice Meeting Minutes (ACTION)**

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

Philyaw moved to approve the minutes from February 2022. Stewart seconded. Unanimously Approved.

3. **Staff Updates**

CASA Grants Management – Russette Marcum-Embry

Mortensen asked Kennedy to give an update on CASA Grant funding. Kennedy reported there is an additional \$200,000 for CASA to use for expansion programs.

Marcum-Embry continues to support CASA grantees with technical assistance as needed. Programs are beginning to submit their third quarter expense reports for reimbursement. Quarterly reports are coming in via Formstack as well. Third quarter invoices and quarterly reports were all due by the end of April.

Marcum-Embry assisted in conducting Building Strong Brains Tennessee Training-for-Trainers in both March (geared toward general population) and April (business community). She will be assisting again for the May (faith-based) session. Marcum-Embry serves as field coordinator for 2 interns: Katie Cannon from the UT College of Social Work and SaVone Cole from Union University. Marcum-Embry provides both task management and social work supervision for Cannon and supervision for Cole. They will wrap up their time with TCCY in May. Two interns from the UT College of Social Work have confirmed field placement with us for Fall and they will begin in August.

Marcum-Embry has transitioned to the role of Ombudsman Program Director for TCCY. She is learning/navigating these responsibilities while maintaining those of the CASA Grants Manager, at least until the end of this fiscal year.

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.

Federal Formula Grant Update- Vicki Taylor

Noblit reported provided the Federal Formula Grant Update on behalf of Taylor. Taylor and Whitfield have been working on revising the compliance manual to align with JJRA 2018 statutory requirements. In December, OJJDP provided a template to states and we have until June 13, 2022, to resubmit compliance manuals. Whitfield submitted a draft copy of the compliance manual to Center for Coordinated Assistance to State (CCAS) for technical assistance. A meeting with CCAS was held on April 20, 2022, to discuss recommendations for manual. Taylor and Whitfield will continue to update manual and submit timely to OJJDP. OJJDP will notify states of eligibility and determination and make the FY 2021 awards.

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

OJJDP provided guidance to states about complying with a JJRA 2018 interest of justice

(11)(B) requirement regarding detention of minors transferred to the adult criminal justice system. Hargrow sent a letter to Circuit Court Judges explaining the (11)(B) requirement and how it will impact the way we monitor facilities to remain in compliance with the federal JJRA.

Taylor and Whitfield will revise grant applications and prepare for a June distribution.

Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Annual Conference is May 18-21, and their focus is on improving juvenile justice and delinquency prevention systems, practices, and policies. Hargrow, Kromer, Noblit and Taylor will attend.

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders Update- Zanira Whitfield

Whitfield reported being in the process of completing compliance monitoring data in order to complete and submit the Annual Compliance Monitoring Report to OJJDP once they open the Compliance Monitor Reporting Tool website. For the current compliance monitoring cycle there are 6 DSO violations. Youth justice staff and regional coordinators continue to monitor facilities and provide technical support.

Compliance Monitoring Update- Wendy Pickering

Noblit gave the Compliance Monitoring Update on behalf of Pickering. Pickering continues to work to bring grant monitoring current. Pickering has completed the majority of Federal Formula Grant Monitoring for FY 2020-2021. Pickering's goal is to have all Federal Formula Grant Monitoring completed by May 2, 2022.

Pickering is currently working on Reimbursement Grants for FY 2020-2021. Over half of subrecipient reviews have been scheduled. All subrecipients have been contacted regarding required documentation to complete reviews. Pickering's goal is to have all Reimbursement Grant reviews completed by June 1, 2022.

Pickering will begin FY 2020-2021 subrecipient reviews for CASA organizations once Federal Formula Grant Monitoring for FY 2020-2021 is completed.

Pickering has accompanied Taylor on compliance monitoring site visits in order to better understand the process since eventually compliance monitoring will become Pickering's responsibility.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities- Craig Hargrow

Hargrow, Whitfield and Taylor continued to work 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) to determine whether they would produce a grant proposal to meet the R/ED requirements within the allotted timeframe. Dr. Joseph and Kara James-Johnson determined their grant proposal would not meet the needs to TCCY. Hargrow announced available funding to the Youth Justice Committee and received one proposal. The agency is moving forward with the submitted proposal.

Hargrow connected Shaun Noblit to R/ED stakeholders in Shelby County. Noblit went to Shelby County to view programs of the Shelby County Juvenile Court that could impact racial and ethnic disparities.

Hargrow serves on the DCS Racial Justice Workgroup and is a member of the Policy Committee. Currently, the committee is analyzing the use of waivers as they relate to the appropriateness of placing children with family and friends.

Hargrow serves as a mentor in the OJJDP R/ED Certificate Program.

Hargrow is in the process of transitioning R/ED duties to Noblit.

4) Motion to Adjourn

Terry moved to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved

Meeting ended at 11:04 a.m.

Prepared by: Russette Marcum-Embry