

Council's Committee

Location: **William R. Snodgrass TN Tower**

Date: Thursday, 5/15/2024

Time: 1:00 P.M. CDT

Staff Present: Richard Kennedy, Exec. Dir., Jeni Davis, Jerri Moore, Kristi Paling, Lindsey Cody, Melissa McGee, Steve Petty, Craig Hargrow, Bill Latimer, Carla Walker, Marissa Player – Montgomery, Psasha Taylor, Gabriella Smith, Jordan Walley, Cory Bradfield, Jonquil Newland, Brian Jefferies, Wendy Pickering, Lea Brandon, Marquita Moore, Sujit Das, Kylie Graves, Zanira Whitfield, Russette Marcum- Embry, Dana Cobb

Staff Absent: Rob Burke, Linda Copeland, Bill Latimer, Therese Sipes

Commission Members Present: Ella Britt, Chair, Judge Robert Philyaw, Randy Butler, Matt Marshall, Tracey Siliverman Raymond Jenkins, Charmaine Kromer, Amy Jones, Letecia Rosas, Brandon Smith, Jennifer Donnals. Elaina Francisco, Judge Sharon Greene,

Virtual Attendees: Mayor Allan Sterbinsky, Dr. Altha Stewart,

Commission Members Absent: Billy Worsham, T.J King.

Guests: Alice Rolli,

1) **Call to Order – Ella Britt, Chair**

Britt called the meeting to order at 1:10.

2) **Approval of February 2024 Council's Minutes (ACTION)**

Britt asked for a motion to approve the Regional Council's minutes from the February 2024 Committee Meeting.

Butler moved to approve the minutes from February 2024.

Silverman seconded. Unanimously Approved.

3) **Regional Coordinator Updates**

Lindsey Cody- East Tennessee

1. The ETCCY collaborated with District Attorney Charme P. Allen's office to present and event for Child Abuse Prevention Month titled: "There's No Excuse for Child Abuse" on April 5, 2024, at Calhoun's of the River. The event was presented by the staff of the District Attorney's office, the Knox County Sheriff's Department, and the Knoxville Police Department. The event included components on Prevention, Investigation, and Prosecution and was presented in a way that allowed the participants to be interactive in the presentation and included a Q and A Panel at the end with all the presenters. The event was very well received, and it was the second time the District Attorney's office had partnered with the ETCCY during Child Abuse Prevention month. There were 200 attendees, and the event was sponsored by the District Attorney's Office and Home Federal Bank.
2. The ETCCY will be conducting a "Knoxville Watch Party" for the upcoming Resilient Tennessee Summit to be held on May 8th. The Watch party will be hosted by RA Cody, RC Gabi Smith, and Jordan Walley, CCMH Director at the Metro Drug Coalition Conference Room. There are 29 folks registered so far.
3. The East TN Council will be presenting "The ETCCY Mental Health Month Lunch on the River" on Friday, May 31, 2024, at Calhoun's. The Guest speaker for the event will include Ben Harrington, CEO and Director of the Mental Health Association of East TN who will be presenting "The Social Media Slippery Slope: Consequences for Sleep Loss & Teen Mental Health" and Becky Haas, who will be presenting "Insulating Youth from Adult Mental Health by Promoting Protective Factors." The event is being sponsored by the Jason Foundation and Village Behavioral Health. There are 200 attendees registered for the event.
4. The ETCCY welcomes 35 new Council Members this quarter which include 3 from Blount County, 25 from Knox County, 4 from Sevier County, and an additional 3 members from out of the East area .

Gabriela Smith - Northeast

1. The Northeast Council partnered with the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking for "Family Ties: Detangling the Myths on Familial Trafficking in Northeast

TN” on April 5th, 2024. We heard from Human Trafficking Services expert, Lisa Bolton, and ETSU College of Public Health Researcher, Dr. Mary Brannock, about familial trafficking in the Northeast TN region. There were 46 attendees present.

2. The Northeast Council will hold its second quarterly meeting on May 7th, 2024. We will be joined by Director of Youth Justice, Linda Copeland, to learn more about the Youth Justice division of TCCY, youth transfer laws, TCCY grant opportunities, and to form our Youth Juvenile Justice Subcommittee. We will also be voting on new executive committee nominees.
3. The Northeast Council will be co-hosting the Resilient TN Watch Party in the East with the East Council in Knoxville on May 8th, 2024.
4. The Northeast Council has partnered with Rob Burke’s HVLA to provide a Home Visitor Safety Workshop for all home visiting agencies in the Northeast on May 21st, 2024.
5. We’ve continued to distribute our monthly Newsletter; May will be our 10th edition.
6. The Northeast Council continues to expand! We now have 87 registered members, and over 280 contacts.
7. The Council is gearing up for the “Our Children, Our Future: A Foster Care Summit” on May 30th. This will be a community showcase for all child-serving agencies in the East TN region, with the purpose of recruiting foster placements.

Marissa Player-Montgomery – Southeast

1. Regional Coordinator Marissa Player-Montgomery conducted an ACE overview for parents and staff at Red Bank Middle School on February 13th. 30 individuals learned about brain development and how to best support their child while dealing with middle school and life pressures.
2. Regional Coordinator Marissa Player-Montgomery participated in a meeting to discuss the need for low cost or free mental health services with the office of Community health and First Baptist Cares a local non-profit that provides free mental health counseling in the Hamilton County Area.

3. Regional Coordinator Marissa Player-Montgomery completed a walk through and program overview with the ED of YCAP Andy Smith. Marissa was able to talk with some of the children that attend the programs and meet some board members and listen to their perspective on why Y-CAP should be in every county in my region.
4. Regional Coordinator Marissa Player-Montgomery attended Hamilton County Juvenile Court- Safe Baby Court Training. Roughly 80 people attended to learn more about how to keep the urgent developmental needs of infants and toddlers at the center of decision making and work to promote healing and resilience for very young children and their families while in the court system.
5. Regional Coordinator Marissa Player-Montgomery and the SETCCY Council and TCCY presented “Leaders of the Pack” on April 17th. TCCY directors participated in a panel where SETCCY council members received answers from the questions presented. We had 50 registered 34 attended due to the success of the event SETCCY gained 3 new members.
6. Regional Coordinator Marissa Player-Montgomery attended the Middle TN Rural Health Conference on April 23rd. Marissa was able to learn about the needs that the Rural communities face especially in health care and addiction.
7. Regional Coordinator Marissa Player-Montgomery and the SETCCY Council along with DCS Commissioner Margie Quinn presented “The New DCS”.

Russette Marcum-Embry – Mid – Cumberland

1. Marcum-Embry met virtually with the Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth Board monthly since the February Commission Meeting. The March and April meetings focused on 2024 membership and event planning. The open Board positions for Davidson and Rutherford County representatives were filled. The Board continues to seek a representative from Williamson County. Marcum-Embry engages with the MCCY Board consistently, keeping them informed with updates and information. The MCCY kicked off the 2024 membership drive in January with over 40 paid members renewing or joining the Council.
2. The Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth and the South Central Council on Children and Youth co-hosted the event **“Is this Going to Happen at My School? How to Talk to Kids About School Shootings”**, on March 22nd. Information was presented by Dr. Kristen Dean with the Graduate School of Medicine, UT Center of

Excellence. There were 45 in attendance at the venue in Williamson County. Very positive feedback was received on post-training surveys.

3. MCCY held the first Mid-Cumberland Youth Service Officer Roundtable on April 25th. Linda Copeland, TCCY's Youth Justice Director, provided youth justice updates and invited participants to attend the Council on Youth Justice quarterly meeting on May 23, 2024. TCCY's Director of Data, Communications and Policy, Kylie Graves, presented a legislative wrap-up and shared highlights from the State of the Child Report at this virtual meeting. There were 23 attendees, representing 10 counties and 13 agencies.
4. The Mid-Cumberland and Upper Cumberland Councils co-hosted an event titled **"Emotional CPR"** on May 2-3, 2024, at The Thomas House in Macon County. This two-day interactive certification event, presented by the Tennessee Mental Health Consumers Association, is a public health education program designed to teach people to assist others through an emotional crisis. The event was limited to 30 participants.
5. Marcum-Embry continued to lead sponsorship efforts for TCCY's Children's Advocacy Days, **"Bee the Change: Create a Buzz for Children and Youth"** receiving over \$20,000 monetary and in-kind sponsorships. This two-day event had numerous speakers, over 550 attendees and 17 vendors.

Carla Walker- South Central

1. The South Central Council on Children and Youth (SCCY) and the Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth (MCCCY) co-hosted the event **"Is this Going to Happen at My School? How to Talk to Kids about School Shootings"**, on March 22, 2024. Information was presented by Dr. Kristen Dean with the Graduate School of Medicine, UT Center of Excellence. There were 45 attendees at the Williamson County venue. Very positive feedback was received on post-training surveys.
2. Walker alongside the Maury County Prevention Coalition sponsored a table at the Columbia State Community College Resource Fair held on March 13, 2024. The event allowed Walker to talk with the college students regarding community resources, the work of the Maury County Prevention Coalition and the South Central Council. The vendor table was visited by over 100 students.
3. Walker and a DCS Case Manger organized a meeting on March 27, 2024, with Maury

County Commissioner (Gary Stovall) regarding transportation issues for youth that are required to attend the alternative school. Walker and the DCS Case Manger shared how having no access to transportation was impacting student attendance and education success. They expressed their desire that these students be allowed access to the bus system to help ensure these youth can get to school and on time. Mr. Stovall was engaging and stated that he would follow up with local officials as well as discuss with the local state legislator.

4. Walker continues to participate in the OJJDP Compliance Monitoring Cohort Series 1. This series has provided very specific training and information regarding why and how we are to monitor those facilities in our monitoring universe like the juvenile detention centers and jails. This cohort meets every two weeks with approximately 25 members from all over the USA.
5. Walker hosted the quarterly South Central Youth Service Officer Roundtable on April 26, 2024, at Henry Horton State Park. There were 16 attendees representing six counties (Lincoln, Bedford, Marshall, Maury, Giles and Coffee). The presenters were Linda Copeland, TCCY Youth Justice Director and Cheryl Campbell with DCS. Walker gave Council updates and invited attendees to the May 8, 2024, statewide Resilient TN Collaborative Summit in Nashville.

Kristi Paling- Upper Cumberland

1. Regional Coordinator Paling held the *UCCCY Annual Legislative Breakfast* event on April 5th. Seventy-six attendees were present. Representatives Ryan Williams and Ed Butler addressed the group, along with Bonney Warren Constituent Services Representative with Senator Haggerty's office. Speakers included Richard Kennedy, Kylie Graves, and Former Representative Diane Black. Mini grant recipients from the Relative Caregiver Program, Children in Disasters, and the TTU Child Family Sciences club shared how they spent the grant funds. A special recognition and certificate presentation was held for the Prescott Middle 5th grade student Eliana Page who was the first-place statewide award winner of the Secretary of States 2023 essay contest (Why Civility Matters). Participants enjoyed lively rounds of Civic's Trivia in between speakers.
2. Regional Coordinator along with other agencies participated in planning and participating in the Putnam County Blue Ribbon Committee's annual event. Our group set up a booth at the Firefly Festival on Sunday April 14th. Games and prizes were available for children and informational packets were distributed to accompanying parents/adults with various resources in Putnam County and the

Upper Cumberland Region.

3. Regional Coordinator as part of the Drug Endangered Children's committee with the Power of Putnam assisted in the planning of the *Child Abuse Awareness Training* on April 16th. Paling set up a resource table during the event.
4. Regional Coordinator Paling participating in the Drug Endangered Childrens Awareness Day Proclamation signing with the Cookeville City and Putnam County mayors on April 15th.
5. Regional Coordinator partnered with Nora Anderson with the Power of Putnam (the UC Rural Health Ambassadors) to host a lunch and learn on April 17th entitled *Rural Health Disparities Across Tennessee & the Upper Cumberland*. Jacy Warrell the CEO of the Rural Health Association was the keynote speaker. The discussion topics included substance use disorder, maternal health, emergency preparedness, and access to care in rural Tennessee.
6. Regional Coordinator Paling attended the Middle Tennessee Rural Health Training on April 23rd and set up a resource table along with fellow coordinators Marisa Player-Montgomery and Russette Marcum-Embry.
7. Regional Coordinator Paling attended the Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children & Handle with Care statewide conference on April 24th – 26th.
8. Regional Coordinator Paling received the Board Member of the Year Award at the Power of Putnam's annual Night of Champions Banquet on March 22nd
9. Regional Coordinator Paling and MC Regional Coordinator Marcum-Embry will be hosting a joint event on May 2nd and 3rd, *Emotional CPR* in Red Boiling Springs. The two-day certification training will be provided by trainers from the Mental Health Consumers Association.
10. Regional Coordinator Paling is partnering with Upper Cumberland Action Committee to present Trauma Informed Facilitation on May 23rd. Speakers will be Dr Mark Loftus and Dr. Tony Michaels from Tennessee Tech University.
11. Regional Coordinator is also partnering with Volunteer Behavioral Health and TSPN to host our annual collaborative spring event on May 29th during Mental Health Awareness Month, *Identifying and Managing Anxiety in Children and Youth*. Dr Atkinson with Volunteer Behavioral Health will be a presenter. We will provide a Question,

Refer, Persuade (QPR) suicide prevention training with a focus on the effects of anxiety. Additionally, Shirley Jennings LPC, Cindy Putnam educator with the Putnam County School district and RC Paling will present various strategies to address anxiety.

12. The Upper Cumberland (UC) Children in Disasters group of which UCCCY is a part will be hosting a *Fire Safety Training* on June 15th for early childcare educators and provider agencies throughout the UC.

Dana Cobb- Northwest

1. Cobb hosted the annual NW Council on Children and Youth **“Legislative Forum and Networking Breakfast”** on February 23, 2023, at UT Martin. DCS Commissioner Quin presented updates on DCS staffing, new building and refurbishing plans and program updates and NW Regional Director, Donna Lorhorn, shared the need for foster homes, number of kids in custody in the NW Region and ways partners can help. Kylie Graves gave a Legislative update and provided an overview of the State of the Child report. Heather Foster, Carroll County Prevention Coalition, gave an informative presentation on Vaping Challenges Among Youth and the dangers from vaping. There were 68 attendees, who were very engaged and asked numerous questions.
2. Cobb presented an ACEs presentation and screening of the film, **“Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope”**, Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences, on March 8, 2024, at the Park Theatre in McKenzie. The event sponsors were the Mayor of McKenzie and Miss Bethel University Volunteer, Chloe Amick. Ms Amick’s pageant platform is educating others on the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences. There were approximately 35 students, professionals, and community attendees. Cobb was assisted by Jennifer Vinson, Child Care Resource and Referral, and a Building Strong Brains Trainer and Heather Foster, Carroll County Prevention Coalition Director. An invitation was extended to Ms. Amick to present at the West TN Resilient TN Summit, which she accepted.
3. Cobb and Moore partnered to host the quarterly Rural West Youth Service Officer Roundtable which focused on the **“Youth Vaping Crisis.”** On March 22, 2024, the Rural West YSO Roundtable was held in Jackson at the TDOT Regional Office auditorium, as a Hybrid event, with 55 youth justice advocates in attendance, representing 14 counties, 8 school districts, 4 prevention coalitions, and 20 organizations from across West Tennessee. Attendees heard presentations from

local Prevention Coalitions and Coordinated School Health Directors on current vape trends and combined efforts to combat vaping. Attendees then participated in Roundtable discussion on collectively working to reduce vaping problems in youth. TCCY Regional Coordinators gave Council updates and discussed upcoming events, shared links to area Resource Directories, and discussed updates to the West TN Juvenile Court/Facilities Directory. These Roundtables allow juvenile court and other youth justice advocates to receive timely information, interface and connect with other Court staff and build a support system.

*The Memphis/Shelby Council's Board requested that they host their own local Roundtables to address specific concerns and issues related to Shelby County.

4. Cobb, Moore, and Taylor helped McGee host the West TN Resilient Collaborative Summit called **"Building Bridges 2024: West Tennessee's Path the Resilience and Empowerment"** on April 4th in Jackson with about 155 in attendance. Participants received TCCY updates, a refresher on adverse childhood experiences and gained more information on Positive Childhood Experiences from Melissa McGee, learned about trauma-informed care from Becky Haas, increased their awareness on building resilience within local communities from West TN community helpers who are doing the work, and networked with other advocates to continue the collective impact. Our own Richard Kennedy closed out the day with inspiring words from Sesame Street. Planning partners at West TN Healthcare, UT SWORPs, and United Way of West Tennessee helped make the event a success.
5. Cobb hosted its annual Ethics training, **"Prepared, Prompt, and Present: Our Ethical Responsibility to Those We Serve"**, on April 26, 2024, at UT Martin. Lori Hendon, Carey Counseling Center, was the presenter. Her interactive, multi-media training approach kept attendees engaged and focused. There were 152 attendees. This training was approved by NASW-TN Chapter for 3.0 CEU hours to meet yearly licensing requirements.

Psasha Taylor- Memphis - Shelby

1. Taylor held five Memphis-Shelby County Council Board Meetings on the following dates: February 23rd, March 25th, April 8th, April 18th, and April 25th. Business included: reviewing Council financials and planning and confirming two learning opportunities, the Memphis/Shelby County Youth Service Officer Roundtable, and the Memphis/Shelby County Youth Empowerment Legislative Forum. The Board will

confirm vacant Board officer positions during the June meeting for the next council year.

2. Taylor attended and participated in the Reflect, Reset and Restore Conference on March 8, 2024, hosted by Memphis Shelby County Schools Student Equity Enrollment and Discipline Department (S.E.E.D). The conference focus was reflecting on the past, resetting our perspectives, and restoring our community. The keynote speaker was Dr. Joy Degruy, Academic Researcher and Author of Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome.
3. Taylor attended and participated in the Breakthrough: Recharge, Realign, and Reimagine Conference hosted by Memphis Allies on March 26-27, 2024. This conference brought national experts and local leaders together to focus on how community violence intervention (CVI) programs can be part of the solution. There were roundtable discussions and networking time so that local stakeholders can learn from each other and build new partnerships. Panel discussions with national experts and local leaders focused on violence intervention and public health. Small group breakout sessions featured community health, youth mentoring, lessons from the field, substance use and violence and trauma-informed care.
4. Taylor, Moore, and Cobb helped McGee host the West TN Resilient Collaborative Summit called **“Building Bridges 2024: West Tennessee’s Path the Resilience and Empowerment”** on April 4th in Jackson with about 155 in attendance. Participants received TCCY updates, a refresher on adverse childhood experiences and gained more information on Positive Childhood Experiences from Melissa McGee, learned about trauma-informed care from Becky Haas, increased their awareness on building resilience within local communities from West TN community helpers who are doing the work, and networked with other advocates to continue the collective impact. Our own Richard Kennedy closed out the day with inspiring words from Sesame Street. Planning partners at West TN Healthcare, UT SWORPs, and United Way of West Tennessee helped make the event a success.
5. Taylor hosted the **“Memphis/ Shelby County Youth Service Officers Roundtable”** on April 24, 2024, at the Methodist LeBonheur Community Outreach auditorium. There were 36 attendees present representing Shelby County Juvenile Court, Memphis Shelby County Schools S.E.E.D, Memphis Recovery Center, Youth Villages Mobile Crisis, Youth & Family Resource Center, United Way of the Mid South, Shelby County Sheriff Office, Youth Justice & Educational Center, and Childcare Resource and Referral. Attendees heard presentations from Linda Copeland, Youth Justice Director and Kylie Graves, Director of Data, Communications and Policy with TCCY

about the work that the agency does around youth justice, state of the child report and the latest legislative update. Taylor also discussed future topics the attendees would like to hear and gave council updates, upcoming events, and membership.

6. Taylor hosted the **Memphis/ Shelby County Youth Empowerment Legislative Forum** on May 2, 2024, at the Methodist LeBonheur Community Outreach Auditorium. This inaugural event allowed professionals and citizens to meet and network with their legislators. Legislators served on a panel and was given time to make comments and respond to questions about childcare, community safety, youth justice, and presentations from youth focused organizations. There were 65 registered attendees representing 10 agencies.

Jerri Moore- Southwest

1. Southwest Council on Children and Youth hosted the Southwest Legislative Forum on February 28, 2024, in partnership with United Way of West Tennessee. The event included speakers presenting on the 2024 State of the Child and legislative reports, childcare access, child poverty, and a virtual visit from Senator Walley with updates on rural healthcare efforts and live legislative updates. About 65 attendees participated from across West Tennessee to learn more about data, early childhood and economic issues impacting children and families in Tennessee.
2. Moore and Cobb partnered to host the quarterly Rural West Youth Service Officer Roundtable which focused on the **"Youth Vaping Crisis."** On March 22, 2024, the Rural West YSO Roundtable was held in Jackson at the TDOT Regional Office auditorium, as a Hybrid event, with 55 youth justice advocates in attendance, representing 14 counties, 8 school districts, 4 prevention coalitions, and 20 organizations from across West Tennessee. Attendees heard presentations from local Prevention Coalitions and Coordinated School Health Directors on current vape trends and combined efforts to combat vaping. Attendees then participated in Roundtable discussion on collectively working to reduce vaping problems in youth. TCCY Regional Coordinators gave Council updates and discussed upcoming events, shared links to area Resource Directories, and discussed updates to the West TN Juvenile Court/Facilities Directory. These Roundtables allow juvenile court and other youth justice advocates to receive timely information, interface and connect with other Court staff and build a support system.

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4. Moore continues to serve on the statewide Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee (AIMHiTN) Advisory Council in the Child/Family Advocate seat and served on the conference planning committee for 2024. TCCY was a statewide sponsor at this year’s conference. Moore attended the annual conference in Jackson with about 150 in attendance in-person and over 200 in attendance virtually and in-person in Knoxville. Moore was also a guest at the special conference Luncheon as part of the Madison County Children’s Cabinet.
5. Moore helped with planning and participated in the statewide 2024 Children’s Advocacy Days and Resilient Tennessee Collaborative Summit events. During this quarter Moore also attended many events including the West Tennessee Day of Hope, the Rural Health Regional Conference in West Tennessee, the Department of Health’s Community of Practice event in West Tennessee, and the Blue Zone Project Stakeholder event.
6. Kennedy report that there had been requests from statewide organizations for a statewide membership to TCCY Regional Councils. Staff are currently working to develop a single fee to be distributed among all Councils.

Prepared by: Steve Petty