

Youth Justice Committee

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

Date: Thursday, 5/16/2024

Time: 3:30 P.M. CDT

Staff Present: Richard Kennedy, Executive Director; Craig Hargrow, Deputy Executive Director, Wendy Pickering, Zanira Whitfield, Cory Bradfield

Staff Absent: Therese Sipes, Linda Copeland

Commission Members Present: Chair Charmaine Kromer, Judge Sharon Green, Judge Robert Philyaw, Amy Jones, Dr. Altha Stewart, TJ King, Raymond Jenkins, Brandon Smith

Commission Members Absent: Stan Settles

Guest:

1. **Call to Order –**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Kromer called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

2. **Approval of February 2024 Youth Justice Meeting Minutes (ACTION)**

Kromer asked for a motion to approve the February minutes.

Ella Britt made a motion and Amy Jones seconded the motion; all approved.

3. **Staff Updates**

Federal Formula Grant Update – Zanira Whitfield

Title II of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act (JJDP A) provides federal funding to states to promote delinquency prevention and assist them to comply with federally mandated core requirements. TCCY is awaiting the release of the 2024 Title II

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Solicitation from OJJDP in order to work on and complete the new Three-Year Plan. The solicitation to apply for funds should be received sometime this summer. Once released a grant review committee will need to be convened.

TCCY is in ongoing discussions on how to collect compliance monitoring data and implement 11B of the JJDPA as amended in 2018, which will have to be reported to OJJDP on the FY 2024 Annual Compliance Report.

Whitfield has been conducting site visits with current Federal Formula subgrantees to observe their TCCY grant-funded program.

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders Update - Zanira Whitfield

Whitfield is working on the compliance monitoring FY 2022-2023 data to enter into the online OJJDP Compliance Monitoring Tool once OJJDP opens it up for data entry. There were 23 DSO violations for the compliance monitoring cycle (10/1/22 to 9/30/23). There are 6 DSO violations so far for the current compliance monitoring cycle (10/1/23 to 9/30/24). The Youth Justice team and Regional Coordinators continue to monitor facilities and provide technical support.

Compliance Monitoring – Wendy Pickering (reporting for herself and Therese Sipes)

Pickering continues to monitor facilities as assigned and provide technical assistance. She has submitted all compliance monitoring reports thus far.

Sipes participated in both a Juvenile Justice Specialist and a Compliance Monitoring training cohort provided by the Centers for Coordinated Assistance to States (CCAS) and American Institutes for Research (AIR). Sipes shadows Pickering during on-site compliance monitoring and completes monitoring as assigned. Sipes provides technical and research assistance as requested and continues to update monitoring universe data.

Sipes received 170 surveys from youth in detention statewide and will work with Sujit Das in completing a youth crime analysis, which is a requirement of the 3-year plan under 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(7).

Sipes joined Foster Care Review Board of Sumner County, the TN chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and facilitated TCCY's membership in

the Tennessee Sheriff's Association. Sipes continues to attend the Council on Autism Spectrum Disorder meetings as the TCCY designee. The April 30th meeting focused on the adoption of Council by-laws, the state health plan for 2024-2026, and wage increase for direct service providers. Concerns were raised regarding affordable housing, congregate care, and the passage of HB2497; specifically, on the institutionalization of individual with disabilities.

Ombudsman Update - Cory Bradfield

Bradfield received 9 new Ombudsman referrals meriting an open case in the months of February, March, and April of 2024, and closed 12 outstanding cases during this time. As of the end of April, Bradfield was working 11 open cases. Please see the Ombudsman Program handout/graphs for more detailed demographic information.

Bradfield attended two Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTMs). He continues to serve on the Children and Families Chapter of the United States Ombudsman Association (USOA), and as the agency's representative on the Tennessee Department of Human Services' Child Care Board of Review.

During the week of April 22nd-27th, Bradfield completed Rule 31 Family Mediation Training.

Grant Monitoring Update - Wendy Pickering

Pickering has completed all 2024 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) grant Monitoring Reviews, including approval of all Corrective Action Plans thus far. Pickering has completed all introductory calls with new 2024 Federal Formula Grantees and has started 2024 Federal Formula Grant Site Visits.

Pickering continues to represent TCCY as a board member of Equally Created – a nonprofit childcare center with a vision of making quality, early childcare accessible to all in the Greater Nashville area, regardless of income.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities - Craig Hargrow

The primary methods of addressing R/ED disparities in the Tennessee youth justice system include funding grants that address disparities, working with partners to equitably implement the TN Juvenile Justice Reform Act and the Council on Youth Justice (CYJ). TCCY is currently funding two programs designed to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the youth justice system. Copeland continues to serve on the

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monthly DCS Racial Justice Policy Workgroup. Copeland has secured reservations at Family & Children's Service in Nashville for quarterly CYJ meetings throughout the remainder of the year. The next meeting is scheduled for May 23rd, from 12pm-3pm CST, with a focus on Diversion Programs.

Copeland, Pickering, Sipes, and Whitfield will attend the 2024 Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference in Washington, DC in May. The conference theme is Engaging Youth to Turn Passion into Policy. Whitfield will be honored with the Tony Gobar Outstanding Juvenile Justice Specialist Award while at the conference.

4) **Motion to Adjourn**

Commission Member Kromer asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Amy Jones made a motion to adjourn, and T.J. King seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Prepared by: Jeni Davis and Wendy Pickering