



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor
502 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800
(615) 741-2633 (FAX) 741-5956
1-800-264-0904

COMMISSION
The Tennessee Tower
Conference Room D
Thursday, August 15, 2019
3:40 p.m.

Members Present

Brenda Davis, Chair
Rob Mortensen, V.C.
Jennie Harlan, Secretary
Ashley Dunkin
Kelly Drummond
Sharon Green
Amy Jones
Petrina Jones-Jesz
Steven Neely
Wendy Shea
Christy Sigler
Allan Sterbinsky
Altha Stewart
Glenda Terry

Members Absent

Hailey Brooks

Staff Present

Richard Kennedy, Ex. Dir.
Craig Hargrow, Dep. Ex. Dir.
Dana Cobb
Lindsey Cody
Susan Cope
Sujit Das
Fay Delk
Jennifer Drake-Croft
Craig Hargrow
Sherry Isom
Sumita Keller
Bill Latimer

Rosalyn Leavell-Rice
Latasha Mitchell
Rose Naccarato
Kristi Paling
Gerald Papica
Steve Petty
John Rust
Russette Sloan
Jill Stott
Vicki Taylor
Zanira Whitfield
Gwendolyn Wright

Staff Absent

Melissa McGee
Shaun Noblit
Laritha Fentress

Welcome – Brenda Davis, Chair

Davis called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m.

Roll Call – Russette Sloan

Sloan called roll. A quorum was established.

I. Approval of May 2019 Minutes (ACTION)

**IT WAS MOVED (MORTENSEN) AND SECONDED (JONES) TO APPROVE THE
MAY, 2019 COMMISSION MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

V. Budget and Data Committee Report – Ashley Dunkin, Acting Chair

Dunkin asked Petty and Kennedy to talk about the TCCY Budget Recommendations for fiscal year 2020-2021. Kennedy explained to the Commission that we reviewed the process for developing the TCCY Budget Recommendations this year, and decided to do the publication differently. The Recommendations have historically been very lengthy with over 40 recommendations covering a wide range of subjects. This year, we decided to prioritize recommendations and compile the information in a format that is easily consumed. We also included a one-page executive summary. The aim was for the document to be concise, impactful, and to align with the Governor's stated priorities.

Petty reviewed the highlights of the FY 2020-2021 Budget Recommendations with the Commission. The Recommendations are broken in to essentially seven different areas with several requests in each area:

1. The first request is for the Governor to create a Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census so we can ensure all children are counted. Tennessee is highly dependent on federal revenue to support children's programs.
2. For early childhood, we requested additional resources for evidenced-based home visiting, an increase in availability of pre-K classrooms, and an increase in affordability and accessibility to quality childcare.
3. In K-12, we requested more resources to fully integrate trauma-informed mental health and substance abuse services into K-12 schools. We also requested funding for social workers in every school, additional funding for Family Resource Centers and additional funding for coordinated school health related to school nurses.
4. Regarding child welfare, we requested increased placement resources at all residential levels and additional funding to support the cost of hiring and training additional forensic interviewers to assist in the investigation of child sexual abuse as recommended by the Children's Justice Task Force.
5. Related to Juvenile Justice, we requested funds to implement the Juvenile Justice Reform Act that was passed in 2018. Additional resources are needed to begin collecting the data that was part of the legislation. We requested resources for legal representation of youth in juvenile court. We also asked for additional funds for training judges, juvenile court staff, law enforcement, Department of Children's Services (DCS) and schools on the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act.

6. For transition age youth, we requested additional resources to expand eligibility for extension of foster care services to youth working at least 80 hours per month or participating in activities to prepare for work.
7. Lastly, we requested sustainable funding needed to implement and expand System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT) statewide.

DAVIS TOOK A VOTE TO ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE TCCY BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Dunkin updated the Commission on the Office of the Comptroller's performance audit of TCCY. There were no findings. There were two observations. One observation was related to grant monitoring and the other was around records management. The agency is taking steps to address each of these areas.

Kennedy reviewed the 2019 Capacity Indicator Report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. This tool looks at how we as an organization compare to other KIDS COUNT organizations across the country. The report indicates we perform slightly better than or very comparable to the other organizations. Our 2019 results did not differ significantly from the 2016 results. The Commission was provided a handout that details all the results for their reference.

Dunkin asked Isom to update the Commission on the TCCY financial report. Isom reported on the closing of fiscal year 2019. We have a savings of \$125,000 largely due to unexpended Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) funds. In FY 2019, we had funding for 56 counties, but only had 53 counties in operation. Isom said she was pleased to report that we did not have to access the Annie E. Casey reserve funds in order to close this fiscal year. We also had payroll savings. Isom reported that Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) will be funding the printing of the Tennessee Compilation of Selected Laws on children, Youth and Families in FY 2020. Isom said the 2016 award will close at the end of September, and we will not be reverting anything back to the federal government. Improvement requests are due to Finance and Administration (F&A) on the 26th of September. F&A is asking for a budget reduction plan of 1 percent. We do not have the actual number yet, but Kennedy will reach out to the members of the Commission once we have the numbers to finalize a plan.

DAVIS TOOK A VOTE TO ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT THE TCCY BUDGET REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2019. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Dunkin reported Tennessee dropped to 36th in the national KIDS COUNT Data Book ranking. We believe this is related to the Health indicator, specifically to child and teen deaths including the high number related to firearms and safe gun storage issues.

Dunkin asked Commission Members to subscribe to TCCY's new podcast, "Roots and Wings". Dunkin reported kidcentraltn numbers continue to increase.

Dunkin reported briefly on TCCY web stats, the media report and *The Advocate*.

VI. Children's Services Committee – Amy Jones, Chair

Jones gave updates on the work of the Council on Children's Mental Health (CCMH), Ombudsman Program, Second Look Commission (SLC), Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC), Early Childhood Well-Being, Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council (TNYCWC), Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA), and the System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT) expansion grant.

CCMH met jointly with YTAC on June 20th. The focus of the meeting was on youth transition-age initiatives and had 91 people in attendance. The next meeting is August 22nd and will focus on immigration issues with Tennessee Immigrants and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) presenting. The final meeting of the year is October 10th at Family and Children's Services' new facilities. CCMH continues to work with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) to ensure engagement of other state agencies in the work of further statewide expansion and financial support for care and coordination of services.

The 7th annual System of Care Conference, *Inviting Everyone to the Table*, is September 17th - 18th at Embassy Suites in Franklin. In the western part of the state, Moore continues to participate in community events. Moore will be presenting at the Rural Health Association of Tennessee (RHAT) conference in November. In Middle Tennessee, Fentress continues to support SOCAT expansion and knowledge. In conjunction with the Putnam County Advisory Board, she has developed a Children & Youth Mental Health Resources manual for their county. Fentress will also be a panelist on Parent Encounters with the Juvenile Justice System at the upcoming SOC conference. In the East, Murphy continues to work with Cody to share *Building Strong Brains Tennessee* and SOCAT information to the 16 counties in the East Tennessee Region.

The Second Look Commission met Tuesday, June 11th and had a discussion regarding SLC membership appointments. Hargrow asked the SLC House of Representatives members to work with the Speaker to make sure the appropriate representatives are serving on the SLC. Jones said the following members need to be reappointed or replaced: Brenda Davis, Debra Quarles Mills, Cynthia Wyrick, and Trudy Hughes. Jones reported the Governor's office contacted Hargrow regarding gubernatorial appointments. Hargrow made some recommendations and is waiting to receive information about the appointments. The Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Tennessee (CACTN) is a member of the SLC. This individual has resigned from their position with CACTN, and we are waiting on another person to be hired to fill that vacated spot. The SLC members discussed the

benefits of having someone with a mental health background to serve on the Committee. The co-chairs agreed to take this into consideration while making appointments. Jones reviewed the preliminary observations, findings and recommendations from the last SLC investigatory meeting.

The Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council (TNYCWC) held a full meeting on June 13th. Attendees reviewed the strategic plan and conducted an exercise with the consultants to determine next steps. The strategic planning process has concluded. The steering team had their initial meeting July 2nd with another scheduled in August. The next full TNYCWC meeting will be September 10th. Three action teams have formed: data, communications, and policy. Bradfield presented to HVLA on August 6th and summarized the strategic planning process. The quarterly report was submitted to the Department of Health on July 16th.

The Ombudsman program received 42 new referrals. Along with managing Ombudsman referrals, caseloads, and the relatively new database system, Papica has participated in conference planning for the United States Ombudsman Association (USOA), Child and Family Team Meetings and other meetings. He was re-elected as one of the USOA Board of Directors and will likely continue to serve as vice president. He will attend the 2019 Annual USOA Conference in Hawaii later this year.

In the *Building Strong Brains Tennessee* (BSBTN) update, Jones announced that in June TCCY wrapped up the last of the four trainings entitled “Brain Frame: How to Talk about Development.” Also in June, the team delivered training-for-trainers to 16 Blue Cross/Blue Shield employees. The BSBTN curriculum is being revised to make it more accessible for those with disabilities. TCCY is working with the Council on Developmental Disabilities to make these revisions. Drake-Croft is overseeing the execution of a webinar series to further the professional development of the BSBTN learning collaborative. Jones reported she worked with Drake-Croft to conduct a webinar on trauma in May. July 24th, Becky Hass with Ballad Health and Dr. Andi Clements with ETSU presented on a toolkit created to support the development of Trauma-Informed Community Systems of Care. August 8th, Jared Elzey with Meharry Data Science Center and Jen Trail with Metro Public Health Department presented on All Children Excel Nashville. Drake-Croft continues to oversee the BSBTN social media campaign. Jones reported the Twitter posts have made over 148,000 impressions, and Facebook posts have reached 48,726 people. Lastly Drake-Croft continues to support advancement of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health practices throughout the state. She supported AIMHiTN in the development of their strategic plan and emceed the Infant Mental Health Summit in June.

As reported previously, YTAC met jointly with CCMH in June. The councils heard presentations from Middle Tennessee State University’s Next Steps program. Next Steps has been working with youth who aged out of state custody for over ten years. Next Steps has also been leading the way of late on efforts to ease access to higher education for homeless youth. Legislation passed this year in Tennessee requires state colleges and universities to provide a

homeless student liaison to work with homeless youth to assist them in finding housing and financial aid and adjusting to the nuances of college life. The Councils received updates from DCS Office of Independent Living, three of the four Resource Centers, Youth Villages and the Department of Health and Family Voices of Tennessee's Council on Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services also provided a presentation from their Statewide Young Adult Leadership Council entitled "Emerging Identities." YTAC created a subcommittee in May to review the YTAC Annual Report. The subcommittee chose to focus on the YTAC recommendations first. At the meeting in July, the subcommittee reviewed the 64 recommendations and narrowed them down to ten. YTAC met again on August 8th. Attendees heard from Tennessee Housing and Development Authority (THDA). The next meeting is October 3rd at Goodwill Industries.

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance met August 6th. At this meeting, the Tennessee Department of Health provided an update that included information on the needs assessment they are completing in order to meet MIECHV grant requirements. Jones reported almost all of the counties that are emerging as high risk currently have home visiting programs. The Department plans to continue all current programs. Bradfield and Newland also presented on their work. The next HVLA meeting is October 29th.

VII. Councils Committee – Ashley Dunkin, Chair

Dunkin reported on the work of the regional councils. Each council is working hard on knowledge mobilization efforts. In the East Tennessee region, Cody is working meeting with city and county mayors in the counties throughout his region. Cody is also working with an organization called Save Our Sons which is an initiative that encourages entrepreneurial skills and pathways to success for urban young men.

In the Mid-Cumberland region, Cope held knowledge mobilization meetings that included the sheriff's departments in Madison, Rutherford and Wilson Counties. She also held a learning event at Stewart County Middle School which provided BSBTN training for all teaching and school staff.

In Memphis, Wright is working with the Rotary Club to train on ACEs. She also talked about the upcoming learning opportunity she is hosting about Historical Racism, ACEs and Trauma with Dr. Gregory Washington from the University of Memphis.

In the Northeast, Stott participated with other stakeholders to host a learning opportunity that was a regional call to action. The event had over 500 attendees.

Noblit did a screening of *Paper Tigers* at a movie theater in the South Central region. There were many educators and school staff in attendance. The school backpack program Noblit initiated has grown exponentially. This year, he delivered two truck-loads of backpacks.

Leavell-Rice hosted a knowledge mobilization summit that included Becky Hass with Ballard Health, Chief David Roddy of Chattanooga Police Department, Judge Robert Philyaw and several others. Leavell-Rice was also instrumental in providing ACEs training to parents of upcoming kindergarteners at Camp K.

In the Upper Cumberland region, Paling is co-hosting an upcoming event called “Pillars to Recovery.” She also shared information about suicide prevention and human trafficking events.

Cobb is hosting a lunch and learn for local landlords to educate about these community members about extension of foster care services. She also provided follow-up information about the May Rural West ACEs knowledge mobilization summit.

VIII. Juvenile Justice and Minority Issues Committee – Rob Mortensen, Chair

Mortensen reported on DSO violations, which he said are average and do not reflect any major issues. Mortensen also reported on the grant monitoring process, and said Mitchell is doing a great job with her efforts in this area. Mortensen said there are good things going on in Shelby County. Hargrow is working with the courts there and we are seeing positive movement in Shelby County and how they are treating youth.

Dr. Stewart reported on the new youth advocacy center that will be going live September 6th. It is a variation on the McArthur model of juvenile assessment centers. Given the decades-long battle around how youth are treated in the courts, the model was modified to focus on services and supports for youth at the point of contact in the community with law enforcement or at school. Ideally, this will be a better intervention before the point of contact for kids. Dr. Stewart said she is looking forward to this making an impact in racial and ethnic disparities, and how to better meet the needs of youth.

Kennedy gave an update on the 2019 Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference in Washington DC. TCCY staff that attended the conference included Kennedy, Hargrow, Taylor and Whitfield. Davis went as Chair of the Commission and Dr. Stewart was there attending in the capacity of one of her many professional roles. Kennedy said the conference was a good opportunity to be with other State Advisory Groups. Davis and Kennedy attended a Congressional picnic on the lawn of the White House. Davis said the conference was good, and added that this Congress seemed engaged in interested in what constituents are doing in our area.

IX. Other Business

Kennedy gave a brief overview of what to expect for Friday’s Commission meeting. We will meet at 8:30 am in the Nashville Room together, to hear from Dr. Trish Holliday with Department of Human Resources (DOHR) about strategic planning. Staff and Commission

Members will then separate for strategic planning work. We will then reconvene to hear other items of business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

Russette Sloan
EAA1

Brenda Davis
Chair