

Children's Services Committee

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Date: Tuesday, 02/02/2021

Time: 1:00 P.M. CDT

Staff Present: Richard Kennedy, Exec. Dir., Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir., Cory Bradfield, Kylie Burns, Jennifer Drake-Croft, Sumita Keller, Bill Latimer, Russette Marcum-Embry, Melissa McGee, Jerri Moore, Gerald Papica, Steve Petty, Jennifer Jones, Megan Easterling- Intern, Tristine Nguyen - Intern, Mary White - Intern

Staff Absent: None

Commission Members: Amy Jones, Chair, Ella Britt, Steven Neely, Glenda Terry, Randy Butler, Charmaine Kromer

Commission Members Absent: Jennie Harlan, Rob Mortensen, Mackenzie Johnston, Kelly Drummond

Guests: None

1) **Call to Order – Amy Jones, Children's Committee Chair**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Jones called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Jones identified all members present for the Teams meeting. Members and staff introduced themselves.

2) **Staff Updates**

Ombudsman Program

Papica reported that TCCY has received eighteen new referrals from October 1 to January 31, 2021. The number of referrals for this reporting period is lower compared with the same reporting for fiscal years 2019-2020 (32) and 2018-2019 (42). COVID-19 has caused the decline beginning in mid-March 2020. From October 1 to January 31, 25 cases were closed. At the end of January, 20 cases remained open or active. Two United

States Ombudsman Association Trainings (USOA) were held via Zoom in November and December. The first training had 26 participants which increased to 55 participants in December.

Building Strong Brains Tennessee

Drake-Croft reported that the TCCY Building Strong Brains (BSB) team solicited applications for an upcoming Spring 2021 Virtual Training for Trainers event. The team then reviewed applicants and made selections. The upcoming virtual Training for Trainers events will be held on February 9th and 10th, March 23rd and 24th, and April 13th and 14th. Drake-Croft and McGee are currently making minor revisions to the Building Strong Brains TN curriculum. Burns will help develop new graphics and update the facilitator's guide. Melissa McGee will be taking over the Training for Trainers coordination and the Learning Collaborative. Burns, Marcum-Embry, and Bradfield will join the TCCY team of master trainers to execute these events. The Building Strong Brains Coordinating Team determined that the BSB TN strategic plan needed to be updated to reflect the needs of a new administration and the changed landscape resulting from COVID-19. The team has decided to work again with Strategy and Leadership to update the plan. To kick off the strategic planning, the BSB Coordinating Team invited Commissioners from the State child-serving agencies to engage in a facilitated discussion about department goals and ways in which BSB TN could support these goals. A fruitful discussion resulted in Commissioners not only reflecting on the relevance of BSB TN, but also communicating an interest in being actively involved in the strategic planning process after legislative session. The BSB Coordinating Team will continue to complete strategic planning work in preparation for the subsequent Commissioner's Meeting. In addition to the weekly BSB Coordinating Team meeting TCCY oversees planning for, TCCY staff coordinates the convening of the BSB TN Public and Private Sector workgroups. On December 9th, the groups came together to receive updates from the Coordinating Team on Strategic Planning, Training for Trainers, and other noteworthy topics. Also, the TN Department of Education provided an overview on the Trauma-Informed Schools work they oversee. To improve communication and free up time in the meetings, Drake-Croft has begun to solicit updates from both state departments and private sector members to distribute electronically before the meeting. TCCY staff were approached by Amerigroup with an opportunity to fund "ACEs Champions" in pediatric clinics. The pilot would educate pediatricians on ACEs and Trauma-Informed care and incentivize assessment and referral to mitigate the impact of ACEs. TCCY connected Amerigroup with the Tennessee Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics (TNAAP). TNAAP had already been working with pediatricians in California

practicing this work to explore adoption in TN. TCCY and TennCare will continue to support the effort now led by TNAAP.

Kennedy provide an update on DCS' proposed 12% budget reduction, then 2% reduction plan, eliminating part of the Building Strong Brains allocation. Kennedy will present a proposal to the full Commission advocating keeping funds to support Building Strong Brains work statewide.

Youth Transitions Advisory Council

Petty reported that the Youth Transitions Advisory Council has not met since the November Commission meeting. The next meeting of YTAC is scheduled for April 29, 2021 at 12:30. It appears that due to the low availability of vaccines it will continue to be virtual. We will send out additional information when that determination is made. The Youth Policy Advocate has participated in meetings of the Tennessee Transportation Workgroup and the Employment Roundtable. Both groups work to assist people with disabilities accessing services including transition-age youth. If you would like more information contact Steve Petty, Steve.Petty@tn.gov

Council on Children's Mental Health (CCMH)

McGee reported that the title for this position has been adjusted to better reflect the scope of work it encompasses and is now known as the Children's Mental Health Advocacy Director. CCMH will continue to be a main part of the work of this position. This year CCMH will begin its transition into two groups. One will be CCMH Governance, which will be comprised of those persons identified in T.C.A. 37-3-111 and aims meet three times in 2021. The other will be the CCMH Network, comprised of statewide advocates, providers, caregivers, professionals, and others who wish to attend, with five planned meetings for 2021.

CCMH Network Meetings 2021

- a. February 11, 2021 – Virtual
- b. April 22, 2021 – Format TBD
- c. June 17, 2021- Joint meeting with YTAC, format TBD
- d. August 26, 2021- Format TBD
- e. October 21, 2021- Format TBD

System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT)

CCMH continues to partner with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) to support further expansion of system of care values and principles across Tennessee through SOCATN. TDMHSAS provides 49% of the Children's Mental Health Advocacy Director's salary through these federal funds.

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA)

Keller reported that the Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) has met twice since the last commission meeting, on November 17, 2020 and January 26, 2021. Due to COVID-19, the HVLA continues to meet virtually. Our partners at the Department of Health (TDH) provided a detailed update at the November meeting, including information regarding the expansion of evidence-based home visiting to all 95 counties in Tennessee, thanks to TANF funds. Current home visiting providers were assigned new counties based on their locations by identifying adjacent/close counties. Their current contracts will be amended to include the new TANF funds. This process was used to expedite the use of funds and implementation of new services. TDH also provided an important update regarding COVID-19, including highlighting the spread and prevalence across the state, including both rural and urban counties. The majority of the January meeting was spent checking in with service providers and discussing the many challenges (and some successes) of providing home visiting services virtually. Challenges include zoom/phone fatigue and inability to observe parent/child interaction. Agencies continue to be creative and flexible to ensure continuity and quality of services. The next HVLA meeting will be June 29, 2021.

TDH is centralizing the Healthy Families America model programs and will be required to create a Healthy Families Tennessee (HFT) Advisory Group to support the work. The first HFT Advisory Group meeting was immediately following the January HVLA meeting and included the TCCY Regional Coordinators along with HFA program sites and other stakeholders.

Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council

Bradfield reported that the last general meeting of the Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council (TNYCWC) was held via WebEx on 12/03 and featured the council's technical assistance providers from national nonprofit ZERO TO THREE (ZTT). After reviewing ZTT's annual State of Babies Yearbook, including data specific to Tennessee, the Steering Team identified subject areas meriting a deeper dive by ZTT consultants in this presentation to the council. The next meeting will be held later this quarter, date TBD. The TNYCWC Newsletter continues to be issued monthly. The newsletter features

upcoming webinars, job postings, issue spotlights, and profiles of participating agencies. The Steering Team continues to operate as the Core Team of the Building Strong Foundations For Families project. The December meeting was supplanted by the full TNYCWC meeting due to the scheduling needs of the meeting's presenters. The January meeting was replaced by a series of individual meetings between the Director and the individual members of the team over the course of the month. The team is finalizing policy priorities to submit to ZTT in February and will meet in full on 02/04.

The council's work with ZTT on the Building Strong Foundations for Families project continues. The goal of the project is to support a cohort of states in building and strengthening comprehensive policies, programs and systems that ensure families with infants and toddlers have the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. The Director participated in a virtual meeting with the other state team leads on 01/12, and individually with the ZTT technical assistance provider on 11/18 and 12/15. The Director submitted the required interim report to ZTT on 12/15.

Second Look Commission

Hargrow reported that the Second Look Commission (SLC) met virtually on November 10 and December 8, 2020. During the November 10 meeting, the SLC members checked in with each other. Hargrow updated the members regarding the sunset audit and discussed filling SLC vacancies. Most of the meeting was devoted to preparation of the annual report. During the December 8 meeting, SLC members introduced themselves and Hargrow introduced the recently appointed SLC members. Hargrow reminded the SLC members about the sunset hearing set for December 9, 2020. The SLC scheduled meetings for 2021. Most of the meeting was devoted to completion of the annual report. With the help of Steve Petty, Kylie Burns and others, Hargrow submitted the report in a timely manner.

On December 9, 2020, Hargrow participated in the SLC sunset hearing before the Education, Health and General Welfare Joint Subcommittee of Government Operations. The subcommittee recommended the SLC be extended for 4 years. Hargrow provided names of new appointees to the SLC.

3) Approval of November Children's Services Minutes (ACTION)

Jones asked for a motion to approve the Children's Services minutes from the November Commission Meeting.

Butler moved to approve the minutes from November 2020.

Britt seconded. Unanimously Approved.

4) **Additional Items or Comments**

None noted.

5) **Motion to Adjourn**

Butler moved to adjourn the meeting. Neely seconded and all approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:44 pm.

Prepared by: Melissa McGee