

Children's Services Committee

Location: **Microsoft Teams meeting**
Join on your computer or mobile app
Date: Tuesday, 05/04/2021
Time: 1:00 P.M. CDT

Staff Present: Cory Bradfield, Jenn Drake-Croft, Craig Hargrow, Richard Kennedy, Melissa McGee, Jerri Moore, Gerald Papica, Steve Petty, Jill Stott.

Staff Absent: Sumita Keller

Commission Members: Randy Butler, Charmaine Kromer, Jennifer Harlan, Steven Neely.

Commission Members Absent: Amy Jones, Chair, Mackenzie Johnston, Wendy Shea, Kelly Drummond, Mackenzie Johnson, Glenda Terry,

Guests: None

1) **Call to Order – Jennifer Harlan, Commission Member**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Harlan called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Commission members and staff introduced themselves. Four Commission members present.

2) **Approval of February Children's Services Minutes (ACTION)**

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

Butler moved to approve the minutes from February 2021.

Neely seconded. Unanimously Approved.

3) **Staff Updates**

Ombudsman Program

Papica reported TCCY has received twenty-nine new referrals from February 1 to April 30. The number of referrals for this reporting period is comparable with the same data for fiscal years 2019-2020 (32) and 2018-2019 (36). Forty cases remain active as of April 30, 2021. Papica joined the Second Look Commission Meetings via WebEx on February 9 and April 13. Papica attended via Zoom Foster Care Review Board #3 on February 3.

Papica joined eleven Child and Family team meetings from February to April. The DHS Daycare licensing Board convened on March 17 and April 1 via Zoom and Papica chaired the two-day hearing.

Lastly, Papica reported the USOA has begun planning for this year's annual conference via Zoom this year. The association has also formed an Ad Hoc Committee on DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion). Papica is co-chairing the ad hoc group. An RFP has been issued and will be reviewed after April 30. The goal is for the organization to develop training as well as awareness that will address implicit bias, discrimination, and other related topics.

Building Strong Brains Tennessee

Building Strong Brains TN Strategic Planning

Drake-Croft continues to coordinate the strategic planning process for Building Strong Brains TN (BSBTN). On April 21st, Strategy & Leadership, the consultants overseeing the development of the plan, conducted a focus group session with the BSBTN Public and Private Sector Groups. Meetings have been scheduled in June with the state department Commissioners/Directors and CEOs/Executive Directors of organizations represented on the Private Sector Group.

Knowledge Mobilization Teams

Drake-Croft convened a meeting with the regional coordinators to discuss the most useful ways to spend BSBTN Knowledge Mobilization Team grant dollars. This meeting led to the development of a Collective Impact Learning series for those interested in addressing ACEs at the community level. TCCY partnered with the TN Department of Health's Office of Strategic Initiatives to expand the target audience to Health Councils across the state, several of which are focused on addressing ACEs or related issue areas. The first part of the series, Collective Impact 101, occurred on April 22nd. Almost 400 individuals signed up for the webinar and approximately 180 attended the live event. The event was recorded and one week later the video has 46 views. Parts 2 – 4 will focus on the following:

- May 11 between 9:30-11:30AM CT -Conditions of systems change strategies and the common agenda
- June 1 between 9:30-11:30AM CT - Structures deep dive, including backbone organizations/staff
- June 22 between 9:30-11:30AM CT - Equity as an imperative for systems change

Building Strong Brains Training for Trainers

McGee has taken over the BSB Training for Trainers and the team completed three two-day training sessions, adding 112 new state trainers to the Learning Collaborative. Several TCCY staff were able to join in the first two training sessions, and then leading the T4T sessions during the third and final training of this round.

Youth Transitions Advisory Council

Petty reported the Youth Transitions Advisory Council met virtually April 29, 2021. There were over 25 participants. The Council received updates from the Department of Children's Services, Office of Independent Living and the Office of Children, Youth and Young Adult Services at the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Three DCS Resource Centers participated. Youth Villages LifeSet's update was provided by two youth who were receiving services in the program. THDA provided information about upcoming housing grant availability for young adults. Oasis' update included information about the Teen Outreach Program and housing services they provide for homeless youth. Provisions in federal law made in December waived the education requirements for Extension of Foster Care Services allowing youth aging out of foster care since January of 2020 who lost their enrollment status or never enrolled to continue to receive services until September of 2021.

Kromer added that Youth Villages LifeSet does case management for DCS Extension of Foster Care Services and have re-assessed and assisted over 100 young people with re-applying for services increasing the number of youth served from 350 to over 400.

Council on Children's Mental Health (CCMH)

McGee reported the CCMH met twice since the last Committee Meeting. The February 11th meeting topics covered the state of children's care in Tennessee and included presentations from TN Department of Health on current COVID statistics, review of the State of the Child and County Profiles, as well as a final report on System of Care evaluation over the years of federal grant funds. McGee also reported the April 22nd meeting topics covered housing and homeless services issues, including opportunities for housing support from TN Housing Development Agency, TDMHSAS Housing & Homeless Services, and presentation on tips when working with persons experiencing homelessness.

Upcoming CCMH Network Meetings 2021

- a. 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) Network

McGee provided an update on the CCMH Governance Structure. Funds from the federal SOCAT Network grant through TDMHSAS are allocated to TCCY to support the design and implementation of the CCMH Governance Structure according to T.C.A. statute. This will allow for collaborative work across all child serving systems in furthering the expansion, scope and sustainability of a statewide system of care.

Harlan stated that many homeless have funds for first month's rent, but are being asked to provide the last month's rent as well. She asked about getting assistance with last month rent. Kennedy responded that THDA provides some housing assistance but knows DCS has funds available for families at risk of losing housing placing a child at risk of coming into custody.

Kennedy said CCMH is up for Sunset next year. We have to submit responses from the Comm Controller office. TDMHSAS will have an opportunity to respond as well. The first sunset hearing is anticipated in June.

Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council

Bradfield reported the last general meeting of the Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council (TNYCWC) was held via WebEx on 03/25 and featured a presentation from the Director on the ZERO TO THREE *Building Strong Foundations for Families* project, a presentation on the Tennessee Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Financing Policy Team, and a legislative update from TCCY's Youth Policy Advocate. The Steering Team continues to operate as the Core Team of the *Building Strong Foundations For Families* project. The Steering Team met on 02/04, 03/04, and 04/22/2021. The next meeting is scheduled for 05/06. Bradfield shared the TNYCWC Newsletter continues to be issued monthly. The newsletter features upcoming webinars, job postings, issue spotlights, and profiles of participating agencies.

Bradfield reported the council's work with the 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. Bradfield participated in a virtual meeting with the other state team leads on

03/30, and individually with the ZTT technical assistance provider on 03/04 and 04/21. Bradfield submitted the required Goals Worksheet to ZTT on 02/15. This working document identifies short and long term goals and action steps that will guide the project going forward. He reported he submitted a budget amendment reflecting the new goals on 03/05, which was approved by ZERO TO THREE. Bradfield, with assistance from the Budget Director, submitted the required Interim Financial Report to ZERO TO THREE on 03/19.

As the result of collaboration stemming from the ZTT project, Bradfield and other members of the TNYCWC entered into a project with Building Strong Foundations for Families counterparts in KY, examining cross-border services, focusing on birthing hospitals. The teams from KY and TN met on 03/17 and 04/01. Another meeting is scheduled for 05/25.

Kennedy reported that the Department of Health funds the TNYCWC and has committed to at least two years of funding. Tennessee will receive significant federal funding for childcare.

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA)

Hargrow reported for Keller stating that the Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) has not met since the last Commission Meeting. The meeting originally planned for April was cancelled because of two conflicting events, the Home Visiting Summit hosted by partners at Health and the AIMHiTN Conference. Both events were great learning opportunities for the HVLA. The next HVLA meeting is scheduled for June. Hargrow reported that Keller and Snodgrass (Deputy Director at Tennessee Department of Health) were invited by Early Start to present twice to a national audience on the work that led to Tennessee's significant investment of TANF funds in evidence-based home visiting. The investment that started in January, expanded services to all 95 counties and essentially doubles the number of families now able to access the services. Keller and Snodgrass were able to discuss the important role the HVLA played in positioning Tennessee to leverage the funds. Home visiting providers and advocates participated in the presentations and were eager to learn from "lessons learned" in Tennessee.

Second Look Commission

Hargrow reported the Second Look Commission (SLC) met virtually on February 9 and April 13, 2021. During the February 9 open meeting, the SLC members checked-in with each other and reviewed the meeting dates for the rest of the calendar year. Hargrow

informed the SLC the 2020 report was submitted pursuant to statutory requirements. The report was a collaborative effort with several partners. SLC members set criteria for case selection for the rest of the calendar year. SLC members discussed bringing in presenters to talk about topics of interests to the SLC and its responsibilities. The presentations would be made during the open portions of the SLC meetings. Additionally, Hargrow provided an update regarding the SLC sunset status. During the February 9 investigatory meeting, SLC members reviewed cases and made preliminary findings, observations and recommendations. The SLC reviewed three death abuse/neglect cases.

Hargrow reported pursuant to an invitation by Sen. Ed Jackson, he provided brief testimony on February 10, 2021 before the Senate Health and Welfare Committee about how behavioral health issues impact child abuse cases based on data received through the SLC.

In April, SLC has their open meeting and a member presented on sentinel child abuse injuries and who needs to be trained on providing services.

SLC has been recommended for four more years in the Sunset hearing.

Kennedy added that Hargrow provided a training for Memphis Police Department on the SLC.

4) **Additional Items or Comments**

Kennedy said the Commission would move towards in person meetings in August. Brenda Davis' term as chair ends in July but will serve until the governor appoints a new chair

5) **Motion to Adjourn**

There being no further business before the committee, Harlan asked for a motion to adjourn.

Neely moved to adjourn the meeting. Butler seconded and all approved.

Prepared by: Steve Petty

MINUTES