

Youth Justice Committee

Location: **WebEx Meeting**
Date: Friday, 10/15/2021
Time: 10:00 A.M. CDT

Staff Present: Richard Kennedy, Exec Dir., Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir., Kylie Burns, Katie Cannon, Intern, Jeni Davis, Bill Latimer, Melissa McGee, Russette Marcum-Embry, Jerri Moore, Steve Petty, Vicki Taylor, Jill Stott, Zanira Whitfield, Gwen Wright

Commission Members Present: Rob Mortensen, Chair, Amy Jones, Charmaine Kromer, Judge Rob Philyaw, Glenda Terry,

Commission Members Absent: Brenda Davis, Cameron Carver, Judge Sharon Green, Trey Jones, Michael Rediker, Stan Settles, Dr. Altha Stewart

1. **Call to Order – Rob Mortensen, Chair**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Mortensen called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. **Approval of August 2021 Youth Justice Meeting Minutes (ACTION)**

Mortensen asked for a motion to approve the Youth Justice Committee minutes from the August Commission meeting.

Kromer moved to approve the minutes from August 2021. Jones seconded. Unanimously Approved.

3. **Staff Updates**

CASA Grants Management – Russette Marcum-Embry

Marcum-Embry continues to support CASA grantees with technical assistance as needed. All FY 21-22 contracts have been executed. All programs have returned their FY 20-21 annual reports. Title VI surveys are continuing to be submitted. Programs are

MINUTES

beginning to submit their first quarter expense reports for reimbursement. Quarterly reports are coming in via Formstack as well. First quarter invoices and quarterly reports are all due by the end of October.

Kennedy explained to the Committee that we are working to finalize the necessary amendment to the TN CASA Contract. In last fiscal year's budget, TCCY had \$88,000 in unobligated funding for CASA programs. As part of the 12% reduction plan, those dollars were offered and accepted.

During the last legislative session, a budget amendment added those dollars back into the TCCY budget. However, the budget amendment language was incorrect in that it directed TCCY to provide \$88,000 to the Tennessee CASA Association instead of making direct grants to newly created and nationally approved CASA programs. Efforts were attempted to correct this error, but the agency was advised to move forward with the existing language and correct the error next session.

We will attempt to correct the error this session. This contract amendment with the Tennessee CASA Association will hopefully be retroactive to July 1, 2021 to keep it in line with the resources provided to the other CASA programs across the state.

Federal Formula Grant Update- Vicki Taylor

Vicki Taylor reported at the August Commission meeting our 3-year plan was submitted to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). TCCY received our determination letter stating Tennessee is in compliance with required laws and regulations. We are now waiting for the award letter.

The full Commission approved four continuation applicants at the August meeting. The approved applicants have received their executed contracts. Zanira Whitfield and Taylor will be scheduling meetings with each applicant individually to review grant requirements and to get an update on how services are being implemented thus far and address any questions they may have. We had several grantees who completed their 3 year grant cycle on September 30th and they have until the end of October to submit final expenditure and progress reports.

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders Update- Zanira Whitfield

Whitfield provided the DSO update.

Compliance Monitoring Update- Craig Hargrow

The contract monitoring position is currently open. The position will be posted next

MINUTES

week by Department of Human Resources. We hope to fill this position as quickly as possible.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities- Craig Hargrow

Hargrow is working with OJJDP to develop a certificate program for R/ED Coordinators.

Based on what appears to be a decline in the racial and ethnic disparities at several points of contact in Shelby County, Hargrow has had several meetings with Shelby County Juvenile Court staff to review and analyze the data. The purposes of the meeting are to determine if the data is accurate and identify causes for the reduction if the data is accurate.

Hargrow drafted language regarding changes to TCCY's controlling statute the language requires individuals to provide data and information to TCCY staff pursuant to our obligation to implement the federal JJRA

Rutherford County Update – Craig Hargrow

Members of the Committee discussed recent youth-justice related events in Rutherford County.

Covid-19 Challenges

Committee members reported on Covid-19 challenges in their respective parts of the state.

The committee discussed the formation of a convening of youth justice stakeholders that would meet on a quarterly basis. This convening would be similar to other quarterly meetings TCCY hosts such as the Council on Children's Mental Health, Youth Transitions Advisory Council, Young Child Wellness Council and Home Visiting Leadership Alliance. Members discussed the need for a youth justice focused group to discuss systems improvement and have networking opportunities.

Philyaw moved to recommend to the full Commission to form a Youth Justice Collaborative. Terry seconded and all approved.

4) **Motion to Adjourn**

Mortensen moved to adjourn the meeting. Judge Philyaw seconded and all approved.

MINUTES

Meeting ended at 11:10 a.m.

Prepared by: Russette Marcum-Embry