

# Council's Committee

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Location: **Teams Meeting**  
Date: Tuesday, 2/7/2023  
Time: 1:00 P.M. CDT

**Staff Present:** Richard Kennedy, Exec. Dir., Dana Cobb, Gwendolyn Wright, Jeni Davis, Jerri Moore, Jill Stott, Kristi Paling, Lindsey Cody, Kate Gonzales, Carla Walker, Melissa McGee, Steve Petty, Marissa Player-Montgomery, Craig Hargrow, and Rachel Vowell.

**Staff Absent:** N/A

**Commission Members Present:** Ashely Dunkin, Chair, Randy Butler, Ella Britt, Kelly Drummond, Allan Sterbinsky, Steven Neely, Petrina Jones-Jesz, Judge Rob Philyaw, Commission Chair.

**Commission Members Absent:** Glenda Terry, Cameron Carver, Stan Settles

**Guests:**

1) **Call to Order – Ashely Dunkin, Chair**

Dunkin called the meeting to order at 1:03. After roll call a quorum was ascertained.

2) **Approval of October 2022 Council's Minutes (ACTION)**

Dunkin asked for a motion to approve the Regional Council's minutes from the October 2022 Committee Meeting.

***BUTLER moved to approve the minutes from October 2022.***

***Britt, Jones-Jesz seconded. Unanimously Approved.***

3) **Regional Coordinator Updates**

**Lindsey Cody- ETCCY**

- ETCCY, and McNabb Center partnered to conduct the event entitled: **“Building a More Resilient Tennessee”** with guest speaker, Melissa McGee, TCCY Children's

Mental Health Advocacy Director on November 10, 2022, at Jubilee Banquet Facility. This session provided an overview of Tennessee's history of Building Strong Brains and the work to educate, prevent and mitigate early childhood adversity. The presentation also discussed transition towards the Resilient Tennessee Collaborative and the importance and role of community involvement in addressing these issues and how most social problems are complex and cannot be solved with simple solutions. Attendees learned how to move support and expand Collective Impact across Tennessee and strive to bring people and communities together to support and implement community solutions to complex social issues for children and families. The event was a great success and involved attendee participation. There were 125 attendees at the event.

- ETCCY presented **“Ethical Considerations in Treatment of Substance Use Disorders”** with guest speaker Linda Oxford, LCSW, LMFT on November 30, 2022, at Jubilee Banquet Facility. This training event explored the ethical challenges unique to treatment of substance use disorders. The training focused on best practice approaches to navigating ethical issues specific to substance use disorders treatment. Specifically addressed were the effect of stigma, shame, and “stereotype threat” on clients, service providers, and the recovery process; application of ethical principles common to all human service professions to treatment of substance use disorders; practical steps in an ethical decision-making process that support ethical practice; responding to the high risks of burnout, compassion fatigue, and secondary traumatic stress among substance use treatment professionals; and the critical importance self-care as an essential component of ethical practice. There were 120 attendees.
- ETCCY and the University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services are presenting an educational event entitled: **“The Effects of the Opioid Crisis in Tennessee”** with guest speaker Dr. Jennifer, DNP, Executive Director, SMART Initiative Substance Misuse and Addiction Resource for Tennessee, on Friday, January 27, 2023. This event will show how the opioid crisis has not only wreaked havoc on the US, but has disproportionately affected some states, including Tennessee. Fentanyl overdose deaths have been reported as the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18-45 by the CDC. The presentation will include information about how the opioid crisis has become a national public health emergency, the effects it has had on children and families, the current state of affairs, and actions Tennessee leaders are taking to overcome this issue and improve the health of our state. There are 134 attendees registered so far for this upcoming event.

- The ETCCY and CAMELOT will present the **“ETCCY Legislative Lunch on the River”** on Friday, February 24, 2023, at Calhoun’s on the River. Guest speakers and attendees will include Members of the TN General Assembly for whom 9 have confirmed to far, Knoxville City Mayor Indya Kincannon, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, Senator Becky Massey, TCCY Chair and Judge Rob Philyaw, TCCY Executive Director Richard Kennedy, and Judge Tim Irwin. Registration will begin in early February.
- ETCCY and Council Member Carri Russell presented a Building Strong Brains presentation on October 21, 2022, for 50 employees at the Sevierville Boys and Girls Clubs. TCCY Children’s Mental Health Advocacy Director Melissa McGee met with members of the Knox County Schools system Coordinated Health and Trauma Informed Schools Director Janice, Cook, along with Cindy Sanford, Gina Byrd, and Rob Burke-Director of TN Young Child Wellness Council and Home Visiting Leadership Alliance on the morning of November 10, 2022.
- The ETCCY welcomes 46 new Council Members which include 2 from Anderson County, 6 from Blount County, 2 from Claiborne County, 1 from Hamblen County, 30 from Knox County, 3 from Loudon County, 1 from Sevier County, and an additional member from out of the East area.

## **Jill Stott- NE**

- Regional Coordinator Stott delivering the new Juvenile Law Compilations to the Northeast Region. The books are delivered to the following: Juvenile judges and staff, DCS, CASA, Children’s Advocacy Centers, District Attorney offices, Juvenile Detentions, Law Enforcements (as requested) and other child advocates as needed or requested.
- Regional Coordinator Stott conducted the annual OJJDP Compliance Monitoring in the Northeast Region and completed reports for all.
- Regional Coordinator Stott has been planning an East Region Mental Health Lunch and Learn Series and will be every Tuesday in February. This series will be offered to the four East Region councils (Northeast, Southeast, East, and Upper Cumberland). The Lunch and Learn series are a collaboration with Mental Health Association of East Tennessee.
- Regional Coordinator Stott announced she would be leaving her position with TCCY at the end of February. Commission members expressed disappointment and

wished her luck.

## **Marissa Player-Montgomery – SE**

- Regional Coordinator Marissa Player-Montgomery completed the Southeast Region Compliance Annual Monitoring on October 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Regional Coordinator Marissa completed a radio interview on WNOO on 10/17/2022 and met with the Citizen Review Panel on 10/20/2022.
- Southeast Regional Coordinator Marissa Continues to coordinate and collaborate with community partners in the planning of the upcoming Girls Leadership Summit (HEAR US) scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, she also assisted with the planning and creating of the DV summit Committee on 11/14/22 and 11/28/2022.
- Montgomery competed a news interview with WDEF news 12 and WTVC News 9 for the Girls leadership Summit (HEAR US) on 12/5/2022, 12/28/2022 and 01/12/2023 and participated on a career panel in collaboration with Rise UP and the FJC.
- Southeast Regional Coordinator Marissa met with the City of Chattanooga, Police Chief Murphy, and various members of Hamilton County School Board to discuss activities and to reduce crime and gun violence for our youth on 01/12/2023.

## **Kate Gonzales - MC**

- Gonzales completed site visits and Compliance Monitoring reports for her ten (10) assigned facilities in the Mid-Cumberland Region. Gonzales shadowed the Youth Justice Director, Noblit, in the Mid-Cumberland Region and her supervisor, Cobb, in the NW Region. Gonzales worked hard to understand the Juvenile Justice Reform Act compliance monitoring procedures, required paperwork, and report deadlines.
- Gonzales distributed over 200 copies of the 2022 Tennessee Compilations of Selected Laws on Children, Youth and Families Compilation books to Mid-Cumberland Judges and Juvenile Court staff, Department of Children Services Administrative and Legal Staff, Juvenile Detention Centers, District Attorneys,

Public Defenders, and others. Gonzales also contacted several agencies and arranged for the pick-up of Compilations at Central Office.

- Gonzales held three (3) Virtual and two (2) in-person Board meeting with the executive leadership of the Mid-Cumberland Council Board on 11/3, 11/4, 11/8, 11/10, and 11/29. Gonzales held two (2) Legislative Committee meetings to plan an upcoming Legislative Forum. Gonzales and Board leadership discussed upcoming training opportunities, Council membership dues, and the direction of the Council.
- The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Regional Councils hosted the virtual training, **“The OJJDP (New) Requirements Governing the Use of The Violation of The Valid Court Order Exception for Status Offenders”**, on January 20, 2023, with Shaun Noblit., TCCY Youth Justice Director, providing the training. Gonzales shared the training announcement with each of the Mid-Cumberland Juvenile Courts. She followed up with phone calls to each of her Regional Courts encouraging their attendance.
- Gonzales facilitated meet and greets with council members, community partners and representatives of the counties she serves. She has attended thirteen (13) community meetings throughout her Region. Examples of these meetings include County Health Councils, Community Advisory Boards and Montgomery County Citizen Review Panel. Gonzales distributed information and TCCY materials at the meetings.

## Carla Walker- SC

- Walker and the South Central Council on Children and Youth (SCCCY) Board held an in-person meeting on 10/24/2022, to discuss priorities for the year. There was a total of 15 in attendance. The Board chose two priorities: promoting equality in childhood experiences and educating the community on effects the of human trafficking. Strategies were discussed how best to disseminate information about human trafficking in the school systems throughout the region and to provide education to the teachers and administration. On November 28, 2022, SCCCY held a follow up meeting with a total of 20 in attendance. At this meeting, attendees discussed how to engage the community in getting information into the Maury Co school system concerning human trafficking.
- Walker helped with Christmas in two capacities. First, Walker went to Huntsville,

AL to help load gifts at Kids to Love Headquarters for the foster kids in South Central Region. A total of 806 kids received gifts. Secondly, the Community Toy Store is a community event which is held every year by the family of Walker and community partners. The event helped any family within the region that was in need of Christmas for their youth. With this event, 423 youth were served.

- Walker attended an event at The Church of Station Hill that promoted and increased the moral of the Department of Children's Services case managers and leadership. The church asked Walker to give words of encouragement to the workers as well as the church.
- Walker held a Youth Service Officers (YSO) Roundtable on December 16, 2022. There was a total of 15 in attendance. The Roundtable had the pleasure of having Elizabeth Reeves, director of Juvenile Programming at Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services as the speaker. The discussion was held concerning the new diversion protocols. There was an open conversation of how each county deals with the issues of vaping.
- The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Regional Councils hosted the virtual training, "**The OJJDP (New) Requirements Governing the Use of The Violation of The Valid Court Order Exception for Status Offenders**", on January 20, 2023, with Shaun Noblit., TCCY Youth Justice Director, providing the training. Walker shared the training announcement with each of the South Central Juvenile Courts. She followed up with phone calls to each of the Courts encouraging their attendance.

## Kristi Paling- UC

- The UCCCY Council hosted an all-day event on December 2, 2022, entitled, "Understanding Neurodivergence". Participants enjoyed the day gaining information about autism, resources in the Upper Cumberland such as Rising Above Ministries and the Center of Development, along with a wonderful presentation regarding disability pathfinders and navigating resources for youth and those transitioning to adult services. The day concluded with a fun interactive session with the director of the Imagine Foundry who provided information on sensory play and led the group in making their own fidgets.

- Regional Coordinator Paling along with Richard Kennedy were guests on 94.7 Talk Radio with StoneCom Communications for an interview on December 1, 2022. Issues discussed pertained to Child Welfare as a whole, and those specific to the Upper Cumberland, as well as the work TCCY does to benefit children and families.
- Regional Coordinator Paling participates in a multi-agency collaborative group, UC Children in Disasters (CID). We are planning two upcoming events. The first event is scheduled for February 3, 2023, from 9:00am-12:00pm and will be a region wide gathering of county Emergency Management Association Directors. The purpose is to share information about CID, licensed daycare provider's emergency plans, and develop action plans for continued collaboration between the groups. We will be targeting three specific disaster topics at this initial meeting, floods, tornados, and active shooter scenarios/plans. The second event is a targeted training for childcare providers and is scheduled for April 1, 2023, from 9:00am-12:00pm "Weather Spotter" training with meteorologist Kristi Hurley.
- The four East Regions have partnered with the Mental Health Association of East Tennessee to host four Lunch and Learn Events in February (7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>).
- Regional Coordinator Paling set the date for the Annual UCCCY Legislative Breakfast Event as April 14, 2023, and will be held at the Upper Cumberland Development District. The theme will be "Challenges Facing Youth" and planning is underway.
- Regional Coordinator Paling is partnering with several local agencies in planning a Putnam County three-hour Blue-Ribbon event commemorating Child Abuse Awareness on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-12:00pm.

## Dana Cobb- NW

- The NW Council on Children and Youth held the NW Council Fall Conference and Provider Fair on November 10, 2022, at UT Martin. There were 169 attendees and 22 vendors. Presentations and Presenters included: **"Equity 101: Ethics Training"**, with Dr. Danny Pirtle, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice, UT Martin and **"Not for Sale: Human Trafficking in Tennessee"**, with Amber Lawrence, TN Bureau of Investigation, Julianne Stone and Adriana Kee, Scarlet Rope Project.

- The NW Council on Children and Youth held **“Grant Writing 101: Show Me the Money”** on December 2, 2022, at UT Martin. There were 57 attendees representing over 40 agencies.
- Cobb, Moore, and Wright continue to partner to present quarterly West Tennessee Youth Service Officer Roundtables. On December 9, 2022, the West TN YSO Roundtable was held as a Hybrid event at the Region 4 Transportation Department Building in Jackson, with 57 youth justice advocates in attendance from across West Tennessee. Attendees heard presentations and program updates from mental health professionals including Youth Villages Mobile Crisis, Youth Villages Thrive and LifeSet, Carey Counseling’s Juvenile Justice Reform Local Diversion Program, and System of Care Across Tennessee services. Cobb, Wright, and Moore also worked diligently to update and present a West Tennessee Juvenile Courts Facilities Directory as an extra resource aid to all interested parties.
- The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Regional Councils hosted the virtual training, **“The OJJDP (New) Requirements Governing the Use of The Violation of The Valid Court Order Exception for Status Offenders”**, on January 20, 2023, with Shaun Noblit., TCCY Youth Justice Director, providing the training. Cobb shared the training announcement with each of the Northwest Juvenile Courts. She followed up with phone calls to each of the Courts encouraging them to attend.
- Cobb completed in-person Compliance Monitoring and Reports on sixteen (16) NW facilities. The facilities included County Jails, Police Department Lockups, Court Holding Rooms, the NW Correctional Complex (Prison) and Juvenile Detention Center. Cobb also shadowed retiring Shelby County Regional Coordinator Wright, during her Compliance Monitoring visits in order to become familiar with Wright’s assigned facilities and contacts. Cobb distributed 170 copies of the 2022 Tennessee Compilations on Selected Laws on Children and Families to NW facilities.
- The West TN Legislative Forum and Networking Breakfast, **“Children’s Mental Health in Focus”**, will be held on Friday, February 24, 2023. The Forum will be a Hybrid event, with participants meeting in-person at UT Martin. The Forum is hosted by the Northwest, Southwest, Memphis-Shelby County Councils, United Way of West TN, and the Urban Child Institute. The Forum’s Keynote Speaker will be Allison Peak, CEO, Allied Behavioral Health. There will be presentations by



TCCY's Kylie Graves, an illustrious Children's Mental Health Panel, Bright Start West TN update, Blue Oval City Foundation, and a legislative update by Representative Tandy Darby. Registration to date exceeds 236.

## **Gwen Wright- Memphis Shelby**

- Wright, Cobb, and Moore continue to partner to present quarterly West Tennessee Youth Service Officer Roundtables. On December 9, 2022, the West TN YSO Roundtable was held as a Hybrid event at the Region 4 Transportation Department Building in Jackson, with 57 youth justice advocates in attendance from across West Tennessee. Attendees heard presentations and program updates from mental health professionals including Youth Villages Mobile Crisis, Youth Villages Thrive and LifeSet, Carey Counseling's Juvenile Justice Reform Local Diversion Program, and System of Care Across Tennessee services. Wright, Cobb, and Moore also worked diligently to update and present a West Tennessee Juvenile Courts Facilities Directory as an extra resource aid to all interested parties.
- Wright completed in-person Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitoring and Reports on twenty-one (21) Shelby County facilities throughout the months of October through December. The facilities included area 5 County Jails, 13 Memphis Police Department Precincts and Bureaus, the Shelby County Court Holding Facility, Shelby County Jail East pod which is designated for youth who have been remanded to adult court and the Shelby County Juvenile Detention Center.
- Wright distributed the 2021 Compilation of Selected Laws to Shelby County area Jails, Juvenile Court Staff, Department of Children Services Leadership and Legal Staff and others.
- Wright convened a meeting of the Memphis/Shelby County Children and Youth Council's Executive Committee. The Council also adopted three children from the DCS Angel Tree and Wright made the purchases of their requested gifts and delivered them to DCS staff.
- Wright continued to participate in Memphis/Shelby County Community Advisory Boards, Councils, Coalitions, and Boards and continues to serve as chair of the Tennessee Community Services Agency Board of Directors and the Memphis/Shelby County Juvenile Justice Board.

- The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Regional Councils hosted the virtual training, **“The OJJDP (New) Requirements Governing the Use of The Violation of The Valid Court Order Exception for Status Offenders”**, on January 20, 2023, with Shaun Noblit., TCCY Youth Justice Director, providing the training. Wright shared the training announcement with the Memphis/Shelby County Juvenile Court. She continued to send reminders encouraging their attendance.
- Committee Chair Duncan expressed well wishes to Wright on her upcoming retirement.
- The West TN Legislative Forum and Networking Breakfast, **“Children’s Mental Health in Focus”**, will be held on Friday, February 24, 2023. The Forum will be a Hybrid event, with participants meeting in-person at UT Martin. The Forum is hosted by the Memphis-Shelby County, Northwest and Southwest Councils, United Way of West TN, and the Urban Child Institute. The Forum’s Keynote Speaker will be Allison Peak, CEO, Allied Behavioral Health. There will be presentations by TCCY’s Kylie Graves, an illustrious Children’s Mental Health Panel, Bright Start West TN update, Blue Oval City Foundation, and a legislative update by Representative Tandy Darby. Registration to date exceeds 236.

### **Jerri Moore- SW**

- Moore, Cobb, and Wright continue to partner to present quarterly West Tennessee Youth Service Officer Roundtables. On December 9, 2022, the West TN YSO Roundtable was held as a Hybrid event at the Region 4 Transportation Department Building in Jackson, with 57 youth justice advocates in attendance from across West Tennessee. Attendees heard presentations and program updates from mental health professionals including Youth Villages Mobile Crisis, Youth Villages Thrive and LifeSet, Carey Counseling’s Juvenile Justice Reform Local Diversion Program, and System of Care Across Tennessee services. Moore, Cobb, and Wright also work diligently to update and present a West Tennessee Juvenile Courts Facilities Directory as an extra resource aid to all interested parties.
- Moore completed Compliance Monitoring of 15 facilities and delivery of 112 TN Juvenile Law Compilations in the Southwest counties
- The Southwest Council gifted Walmart Gift Cards to 3 Southwest DCS teenagers

for Christmas this holiday season.

- Moore and Cobb both co-chair the Rural West TN Bright Start Committee. After a year of strategic planning on this committee, Rural West TN Bright Start continues to prepare for execution of this strategic plan. Moore and Cobb helped plan and lead the Rural West TN Bright Start Summit on January 27, 2023, at the Region 4 Transportation Department Building in Jackson to kick-off the plan to increase and improve early childhood education efforts across Rural West Tennessee.
- Moore attended the annual Rural Health Association of Tennessee Conference in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee in November 2022 to gain more information about Collective Impact efforts happening across Tennessee.
- Moore and Cobb provided information on the upcoming West Tennessee Legislative Forum. Rep. Darby is on the agenda to speak.
- The West TN Legislative Forum and Networking Breakfast, **“Children’s Mental Health in Focus”**, will be held on Friday, February 24, 2023. The Forum will be a Hybrid event, with participants meeting in-person at UT Martin. The Forum is hosted by the Southwest, Memphis-Shelby County and Northwest Councils, United Way of West TN, and the Urban Child Institute. The Forum’s Keynote Speaker will be Allison Peak, CEO, Allied Behavioral Health. There will be presentations by TCCY’s Kylie Graves, an illustrious Children’s Mental Health Panel, Bright Start West TN update, Blue Oval City Foundation, and a legislative update by Representative Tandy Darby. Registration to date exceeds 236.

## **Children’s Advocacy Days**

Kennedy provided the Committee updates on Children’s Advocacy Days.

### 4) **Motion to Adjourn**

***Ashley Dunkin, Chairperson asked for a motion to adjourn.***

***Strabinsky moved, Butler seconded, the meeting adjourned at 1:57 P.M.***



# MINUTES

Prepared by: Steve Petty