

Youth Justice Committee

Location: WebEx Address: [Click to Join WebEx Meeting](#)
 Call in number: 415-655-0003
 Date: Friday, 10/23/2020
 Time: 10:00 A.M. CDT

TCCY Staff			Absent		Commission Members	Absent
1	Executive Director	Richard Kennedy		1	Rob Mortensen, Chair	
2	Deputy Executive Director	Craig Hargrow		2	Brenda Davis	
3		Bill Latimer		3	Sharon Green	
4		Russette Sloan		4	Amy Jones	
5		Melissa McGee		5	Rob Philyaw	
6		Latasha Mitchell		6	Altha Stewart	
7		Steve Petty		7	Glenda Terry	
8		Vicki Taylor		8		
9		Zanira Whitfield		9		
10				10		

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

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Mortensen called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Mortensen asked Commission Members and staff to introduce themselves.

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

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

Judge Rob Philyaw moved to approve the minutes from August 2020. Judge Sharon Green seconded. Unanimously Approved.

3. **Staff Updates**

CASA Grants Management – Russette Marcum-Embry

Marcum-Embry informed the committee that despite uncertainty around budget reductions and other difficulties related to the pandemic, the FY 20-21 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) contracts have been executed. Most FY 19-20 annual reports have been submitted by grantees as well. Fiscal year 19-20 Title VI surveys have been sent to grantees and are being returned now. As we are at the end of the first quarter, reimbursement claims and quarterly reports are coming in for processing. Marcum-Embry continues to maintain contact with CASA program directors and provide technical assistance when necessary.

Federal Formula Grant Update- Vicki Taylor

Taylor and Whitfield successfully navigated the federal formula grants application process during the pandemic. Taylor and Whitfield facilitated the grant review process and provided substantial support to the Grant Review Committee. Other Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth team members, including Isom, Jones, Mitchell and Marcum-Embry provided support as well. Taylor and Whitfield conducted grantee orientation for all the new grantees and existing grantees as needed. Federal formula grant contracts have been signed.

Taylor, Whitfield and Hargrow are developing requests for proposals with potential statewide impact.

Lastly, the reimbursement grant contracts have been signed and returned to Whitfield and Taylor for filing.

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) Violations – Zanira Whitfield

Whitfield stated with the detention monitoring reports received to this point for FY 2020 there are 29 DSO violations.

TCCY Compliance Monitoring audit from OJJDP has been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. OJJDP has not told TCCY when it will be rescheduled.

MINUTES

Mortensen asked if anyone is seeing challenges within the youth justice system over the last several months. Whitfield said she has observed the numbers are down as far as judges detaining youth. Judge Philyaw said in the beginning of the pandemic numbers were down, but unfortunately numbers are now increasing. He said they have sent approximately six committals to DCS in the last thirty days or so. The number of shootings is up in Chattanooga. Whitfield said she has observed the same thing in urban areas. Judge Green reported in the Northeast, detention numbers are down. Amy Jones said in Jackson, numbers are on the rise. Jones said in terms of the education system, there is a mix of when children are reporting to school. Traffic in detention has picked up. They did have one child in detention who tested positive. Youth who are already frequently involved in the youth justice system are spending more time outside of school without supportive measures and are coming through detention.

Judge Philyaw suggested committals are down because DCS is sending them back more quickly than ever and there seem to be placement issues as well. He said they are not dealing with incidents while in custody. As a result, youth are returned before they are ready to be back in the community. Judge Green said there are fewer aftercare violations.

Jones expressed frustration because youth are going from detention center to detention center rather than treatment facilities when necessary.

Jones sat in on a call with her judge and Chapin Hall regarding a study being done on both juvenile justice and foster care placements. The study is looking at quality of placements as well as number of placements. Currently, evaluations of placements are not taking place. The focus seems to be more dependency/neglect children.

Mortensen asked whether the Committee wanted to see if a call could be scheduled with the DCS Juvenile Justice Deputy Commissioner to discuss trends, issues, and opportunities. David McGriff is currently serving in an interim capacity. Hargrow said he was very comfortable with the Committee connecting on a quarterly basis to meet with him. Mortensen asked Hargrow to facilitate that connection once an outline of talking points has been drafted. Mortensen asked the Committee to begin an email discussion detailing the trends we want to discuss. Once a comprehensive list is created, Hargrow can facilitate. Dr. Stewart said she would interface with the court and see what their observations are. Judge Philyaw added that the executive committee feels as if there are a lack of step-down placements and would like this to be a topic for discussion. Jones added that COVID testing continues to be a stumbling block. All placements require a negative test prior to placement. Beds become

occupied before tests come back. Mortensen said he just had a call with the Governor's office and the state is preparing to distribute millions of rapid COVID tests. Dr. Stewart said she did not see justice-involved youth being prioritized in funding efforts. Whitfield said this list would be good information to incorporate into the three-year plan. Mortensen asked Judge Philyaw to start the email discussion.

Compliance Monitoring Update- Latasha Mitchell

CPO Plan

Mitchell submitted the 2021 CPO Plan on October 1, and the plan was approved on October 2. The requirements for the 2021 CPO Plan mirrored those of the 2020 CPO Plan. Mitchell will update the Subrecipient Population and the Summary of Findings and Corrective Actions attachments and resubmit those documents to CPO once 2020 monitoring is complete.

2020 Monitoring

Mitchell also reported that the subrecipient monitoring for 2020 is still in progress due to delays related to the pandemic. Subrecipients have been submitting their Annual Reports this year, which is marked improvement. The process of submitting Annual Reports has been streamlined using standard templates. Details for 2021 monitoring, including monitoring schedules and timelines, will be established between December 2020 and May 2021.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities- Craig Hargrow

Hargrow stated none of the local task forces have met since the last Commission meeting. Hargrow continues to work individually in Shelby, Madison and Davidson counties to address racial and ethnic disparities. Additional information is in the Director's Report.

Dr. Stewart asked about the RED project in the Memphis Shelby County area. Hargrow said it is building on what Dr. Stewart's program began, but not necessarily a continuation. Hargrow said he would like to connect with Dr. Stewart before the project gets started.

Jones thanked Hargrow for assisting in getting the Reimagine Juvenile Justice project started in Madison.

MINUTES

Hargrow said he was asked to serve on a rule-making committee with DCS. He asked Dr. Stewart and Judge Philyaw to look at some of the proposed revisions to get their input.

COVID-19 Challenges- Open Dialogue

Mortensen said revenue wise, the state is doing well in terms of hospitality and is ahead of projected revenue. Mortensen asked Hargrow what we are hearing from Finance and Administration. Hargrow said we are cautiously optimistic that they are not going to touch the 12 percent we were asked to propose as a reduction. We believe the CASA dollars will likely not be touched. We also believe that the positions we offered will not be touched. Lastly, we do not think they will take the field space we offered as part of the reduction proposal. We will not know for sure until budget hearings are held.

4) **Motion to Adjourn**

Dr. Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Judge Green seconded and all approved

Meeting ended at 11:00 a.m.

Prepared by: Russette Marcum-Embry