



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor
502 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800
(615) 741-2633 (FAX) 741-5956
1-800-264-0904

COMMISSION

Andrew Jackson 9th Floor Training Room
Thursday, February 11, 2016
3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Rob Mortensen, V.C.
Jennie Harlan, Secretary
Kelly Drummond
Ashley Dunkin
Audrey Taylor Gonzalez
Genesis Hardin
Bill Haynes
Lisa Hill
Amy Lawrence
Steven Neely
Wendy Shea
Christy Sigler
Jill Grayson Stott
Destiny Sweeney
Glenda Terry

Members Absent

Brenda Davis, Chair
Phil Acord
Gary Houston
Amy Jones
Petrina Jones-Jesz
Robert Terrell

Staff Present

Linda O'Neal, Exec. Dir.
Richard Kennedy, Assoc. Dir.
Dana Cobb
Lindsey Cody
Susan Cope
Sujit Das
Fay Delk
Craig Hargrow
Rodger Jowers
Sumita Keller

Bill Latimer
Roselyn Leavell-Rice
Rose Naccarato
Shaun Noblit
Kristi Paling
Gerald Papica
Steve Petty
John Rust
Russette Sloan
Natasha Smith
Vicki Taylor
Nancy Townsend
Zanira Whitfield

Staff Absent

Melissa McGee
Diane Wise
Gwendolyn Wright

I. Welcome – Mortensen, Acting Chair

Mortensen called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and welcomed new members to the Commission.

II. Roll Call – Natasha Smith

Smith called roll. A quorum was established.

III. Approval of October 2015 Minutes (ACTION)

IT WAS MOVED (STOTT) AND SECONDED (DUNKIN) TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 2015 COMMISSION MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

IV. Budget and Data Committee Report – Christy Sigler, Chair

Sigler reported the Budget and Data Committee heard updated information about the TCCY budget, the Resource Mapping project, KIDS COUNT, web statistics, a media update and an overview of *The Advocate*.

Fay Delk continues to collect information on media coverage and stories from across the state. There were over 3,000 tweets based on Audrey Taylor Gonzalez and her press coverage. It was difficult getting data due to the transition of the State's new website, but there is now access to the Google Analytics data. There is still no way to count visits to PDF documents like the Compilation, KIDS COUNT books, reports, newsletters or other publications available on the website. Another update to the State's website is in June.

The new Resource Mapping online database was used for data reporting this year. There were a few issues that have now been resolved, and the report is still on track for the statutory delivery date of April 15th.

Rose Naccarato completed the 18-month Leadership Institute for State-based Advocates (LISA) program through the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Naccarato's final presentation was on the school-to-prison pipeline and the data work she has done with the Davidson County DMC Task Force.

Sigler reported an audit by the Office of the Comptroller is underway. This is the first audit TCCY has had in six years and will cover calendar years 2014-2015. She said the process generally takes three months or so. There are currently three auditors working out of TCCY Central Office. Sigler said she had met with someone from the Comptroller's office as the chair of the audit committee. The auditors will review financial data as well as internal controls.

Sigler highlighted the approved budget expenditures through December 31, 2015, 50 percent of the fiscal year. The agency is 43 percent expended in above-the-line expenditures and 36 percent expended in below-the-line expenditures. State Appropriation expenditures are at 51 percent. This figure will be less once some of the funds are otherwise allocated. Some of the expenditures will be reallocated to federal funds. TCCY will also request reimbursement from the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) for funds related to Council on Children's Mental Health (CCMH) and to the Department of Health (DOH) for the contract for the Home Visiting Leadership Alliance.

The Governor's budget did not include any reduction in the Commission's budget, but it did not include the recommended cost increase for CASA. TCCY will continue to advocate for additional CASA funding.

Jennifer Drake-Croft will fill the open position that focuses on ACEs and early childhood. She has an MSSW from The University of Tennessee College of Social Work and will hopefully start in March.

TCCY had an initial budget hearing in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee on February 10th. O'Neal thanked Christy Sigler and Rob Mortensen for attending the hearing. Sigler said the hearing went very quickly as the Committee was satisfied with the work TCCY is doing. The next hearing will be in the Finance Ways and Means Committee.

IT WAS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE TCCY BUDGET REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Sigler said there were three people nominated for the KIDS COUNT Awards and the Committee voted to approve all three. The recipients are David Waters from the Commercial Appeal, Kristin Farley from WATE Knoxville and Lori Tucker from WATE Knoxville.

V. Children's Services Committee – Wendy Shea, Chair

Shea gave updates on the work of the Second Look Commission, the Ombudsman program, the Council on Children's Mental Health and the Youth Transitions Advisory Committee. There was one action item from the committee regarding the Home Visiting Technical Assistance Proposal.

The Ombudsman Program received a total of 48 referrals from October 1, 2015 to January 31, 2016. Dr. Gerald Papica's participation in Child and Family Team Meetings increased between October and January and he is receiving more referrals from CASA volunteers after meeting with the CASA management team in Nashville. Dr. Papica continues to represent TCCY in the Department of Human Services Childcare Licensing Board of Review hearings. He is also the newly elected chair of the United States Ombudsman Association's (USOA) Conferences and Training Committee.

The Council on Children's Mental Health (CCMH) has been actively working on finalizing the Report to the General Assembly. The Report was a collaboration of members, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) and TCCY staff to reflect the progress made in furthering statewide implementation of the values and principles of a System of Care. The next meeting will be on February 25th.

Steve Petty continues to staff the activities of the Youth Transitions Advisory Council. The next meeting is April 28th. Tennessee is a leader among states in providing services to young people aging out of foster care. Legislation for a Reasonable and Prudent Person Standard relative to foster children has been introduced to place an emphasis on normalcy for youth in foster care by allowing caregivers to make more decisions about the daily extracurricular and social activities of young people in their care.

Shea highlighted findings from the Second Look Commission 2015 Annual Report to the General Assembly. Craig Hargrow reported in some cases child abuse prevention and intervention stakeholders, including law enforcement and schools, failed to contact the Department of Children's Services (DCS) when a child was potentially in danger. Other findings included

appropriate case file documentation, kinship placements adhering to the “No Contact” orders and the continued need to stress the importance of issue-driven investigations as opposed to incident-driven investigations.

Shea reported the Committee had one action item and turned it over to Sumita Keller, Home Visiting Leadership Alliance Director to explain. Keller explained in collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH), TCCY is interested in applying for Pay for Success Technical Assistance grant by the Institute for Child Success (ICS). Tennessee is interested in exploring Pay for Success (PFS) for evidence-based home visiting programs and TCCY is willing to commit to at least \$35,000 in non-federally funded staff time.

IT WAS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE’S PROPOSAL TO APPLY FOR THE PAY FOR SUCCESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT BY COMMITTING AT LEAST \$35,000 IN NON-FEDERALLY FUNDED STAFF TIME. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

VI. Councils Committee - Jill Grayson Stott, Chair

Stott gave a brief overview of the Councils Committee meeting. She gave an update on the progress of CAD 2016 scheduled for March 8-9, 2016. The theme this year is “Under Construction: Building Tennessee’s Next Generation.” Stott reviewed the agenda and announced the confirmed speakers.

Commission members can register through Eventbrite. This year’s networking reception is in collaboration with Children’s Hospital Alliance of Tennessee and will be held from 5:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Commission members planning to attend need to contact Natasha soon so she can reserve a hotel room for them.

Stott was pleased to introduce the Commission to Kristi Paling, Upper Cumberland Regional Coordinator effective January 17th. Stott highlighted the regional council reports. Each of the reports included council activities that have occurred since the last meeting of the Commission, as well as information about special projects and upcoming council meetings and events. Detailed information regarding activities in each region was included in materials distributed.

There was one action item from the committee regarding Regional Council Funds Administration Guidelines. These guidelines will need to be reviewed annually at the Winter Commission meeting.

IT WAS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FUNDS ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

VII. Juvenile Justice and Minority Issues Committee – Jennie Harlan, Acting Chair

Harlan provided an overview of the information presented to the Juvenile Justice Committee. There was an update on Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) violations, the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Task Forces, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) and Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.

She reported the Three Year Plan was submitted and TCCY was awarded \$722,756 from Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP); \$217,000 is available for new grantees. Federal Formula Grant Request for Proposals (RFPs) was distributed in December for three categories: System Improvement, Delinquency Prevention and Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC). TCCY received nine grant applications: seven were Delinquency Prevention and two were System Improvement.

The Grant Review Committee (GRC) and Juvenile Justice staff met February 10, 2016 to discuss, score grants and make recommendations to the full commission.

The Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) grant project period ended December 30, 2015. The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) submitted their final invoice and TCCY will close out this award in March. A small amount of money remains and Central Accounting plans to charge the amount towards Planning and Administration of the grant.

The total number of Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) Violations from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, was 42 with zero jail removal violations and zero jail separation violations, way below the number allowed for compliance.

The Hamilton County DMC Task Force met on November 16, 2015 and was chaired by Rosalind Leavell-Rice, Southeast Regional Coordinator. The task force will look at each point of contact with Hamilton County Police. Hargrow will be going back to provide technical assistance.

On November 17, 2015, the Davidson County DMC Task Force met and decided to work with Napier Elementary School as a DMC pilot for restorative discipline practices. The task force met with teachers, students, principals and families to kick off the pilot project on January 26, 2016. The pilot project will provide support and guidance to ensure students do not enter the juvenile justice system.

On November 19, 2015, Hargrow participated in a Shelby County JDAI steering committee meeting. He continues to provide technical support to Shelby County DMC Task Force.

On January 6, 2016, Hargrow met with the Madison County DMC Task Force and presented an analysis of the data collected by the task force for the years 2013 and 2014. The task force chose to address the Arrest point of contact to further analyze why minority youth are overrepresented at that particular point of contact.

Hargrow reported Knox County has been removed from the list of DMC task forces due to lack of activity.

Blount County is in the process of gathering data from juvenile court. Hargrow has made himself available to Knox and Blount County tasks forces for technical assistance.

Hargrow continues to serve on the Steering Committee for the Positive and Safe Schools Advancing Greater Equity (PASSAGE), an initiative that aims to lower racial and other disparities in school discipline through creating school and community partnerships. On November 20, 2015,

Hargrow attended a presentation and Steering Committee meeting where national data was presented on the School-to-Prison Pipeline and how Nashville compares to the national data.

There are no action items from the committee.

VIII. Grant Review Committee – Amy Lawrence, Chair

Lawrence reported the Grant Review Committee reviewed nine grant applications and \$217,000 is available for new grantees. Seven were delinquency prevention grants and two were system impact/technical support grants. Five grants are recommended for approval. The grant period will be from March 1, 2016, to September 30, 2016. The full commission will need to vote on the recommendations on Friday.

IX. Legislative Committee – Rob Mortensen, Chair

Mortensen gave a brief overview of the Committee meeting and passed out a handout. The Commission will vote on the recommendations on Friday.

X. Other Business

O’Neal welcomed and introduced Lisa Hill and Destiny Sweeney, two new members. Robert Terrell is another new member not present. She reminded members to complete a Conflict of Interest statement.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

Natasha Smith
Director of Operations & Special Projects

Rob Mortensen
Acting Chair



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COMMISSION

Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor Training Room
Friday, February 12, 2016
8:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Rob Mortensen, V.C.
Jennie Harlan, Secretary
Kelly Drummond
Ashley Dunkin
Audrey Taylor Gonzalez
Genesis Hardin
Bill Haynes
Lisa Hill
Amy Jones
Petrina Jones-Jesz
Amy Lawrence
Steven Neely
Wendy Shea
Christy Sigler
Jill Grayson Stott
Destiny Sweeney
Glenda Terry

Members Absent

Brenda Davis, Chair
Phil Acord
Gary Houston
Robert Terrell

Staff Present

Linda O'Neal, Exec. Dir.
Richard Kennedy, Assoc. Dir.
Dana Cobb
Lindsey Cody
Susan Cope
Sujit Das
Fay Delk
Craig Hargrow
Sumita Keller
Bill Latimer
Rosalyn Leavell-Rice
Melissa McGee
Rose Naccarato
Shaun Noblit

Kristi Paling
Gerald Papica
Steve Petty
John Rust
Russette Sloan
Natasha Smith
Vicki Taylor
Nancy Townsend
Zanira Whitfield

Staff Absent

Rodger Jowers
Diane Wise
Gwendolyn Wright

Guest

Bonnie Hommrich, DCS
Sirena Bragg, DCS
Chris Peck, ACE Awareness
Denise Bentley, Youth Courts

I. Welcome and Introductions – Rob Mortensen, Acting Chair

Mortensen called the meeting to order and thanked members, staff and guests for attending.

II. Department of Children's Services Committee Update and Presentation on Human Trafficking – Commissioner Bonnie Hommrich and Sirena Bragg

Commissioner Hommrich reported that DCS is spending a lot of energy related to making juvenile justice more treatment oriented while being mindful of community safety. She also updated the Commission on an innovative In Home Tennessee pilot project that will focus on instilling better parenting skills and enhanced foster-parent training made possible by the federal IV-E waiver. The initiative allows the state more flexible use of a portion of federal funding for children and families. She said DCS started with four regions in East Tennessee – Northeast, Smoky, Knox County and East. The program will now move to Middle Tennessee – Upper Cumberland, Tennessee Valley, Mid-Cumberland and Davidson.

Commissioner Hommrich spoke about the work using the Family Advocacy Support Tool (FAST), a family planning and outcome tool for understanding family circumstances and assisting in planning for services and reunification. She said DCS is learning to connect the dots so staff cannot only hear, but feel the relevancy of the work being done. The work around In Home Tennessee/IV-E waiver is very exciting. She said Tennessee is one of the strongest states implementing the waiver out of 30 states and large counties that have applied for the waiver.

She gave an update on the Brian A. case. After DCS went to court in October, there were 12 out of 136 provisions in the settlement agreement. DCS is now down to 12 more provisions. The last monitoring report was submitted to the court on February 8th. There will then be a negotiation period with a mediator between February and April. If DCS is successful, there will still be two monitoring reports however those will be prepared by DCS. DCS goes back to Federal court on February 17th and is hoping to petition the court to be released showing compliance.

Rob Mortensen commended the Commissioner for her long-time work with DCS and the Brian A. case.

Commissioner Hommrich reported Debbie Miller is the new Deputy Commissioner of Juvenile Justice for DCS. She had been so instrumental in the work to obtain accreditation for the Youth Development centers. She was a logical choice for the position. Commissioner Hommrich commented DCS will look at systems on the front and back end to see the best ways to use federal dollars. She said DCS will look at what really works and will look at every stage.

Sirena Bragg, Program Manager for the Office of Quality Control at DCS, has been working diligently to ensure the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act is

properly executed within the department. President Obama signed the act into law September 29, 2014. The act provides various changes to existing law regarding child welfare, including some required state actions in areas of foster parenting, adoption incentive payments and others. In addition, the bill requires certain data collection and reporting by states regarding sex trafficking, including the identification of children who may be at high-risk of becoming sex trafficking victims, particularly current and former foster children.

She explained the law also allows foster parents to support the foster child's emotional and developmental growth through the following activities: extracurricular, cultural, enrichment and social activities in order to promote "normalcy" and the ability to engage in healthy developmentally, appropriate activities that promote well-being for all children/youth in care. She referred to the Protocol for Reasonable and Prudent Parenting for additional guidance on activities and opportunities for children/youth in foster care.

She explained the new federal regulations and the funding opportunities associated with the legislation. Bragg highlighted various programs DCS implemented to comply with the regulations. She talked about the Open Line as a way to communicate DCS activities.

Bragg pointed out the Policy Development listed in the handout provided and said these policies are either already online or will be by September 29, 2016.

Mortensen thanked Commissioner Hommrich and Ms. Bragg for a wonderful presentation.

III. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) – Chris Peck, ACE Awareness Foundation, Memphis

Chris Peck thanked Linda O'Neal for inviting him to speak at the Commission meeting. He used to be a journalist in Memphis and gave a brief overview of the good and bad of living in Memphis. When he moved to Memphis, he came to the realization there was a lot of tragedy and hardships. He learned about brain science and early childhood trauma after reading two books from Robin Karr-Morse: *Ghosts from the Nursery: Tracing the Roots of Violence* and *Scared Sick: The Role of Childhood Trauma in Adult Disease*. The first years of human life are more important than we ever realized. Robin Karr-Morse connects psychology, neurobiology, endocrinology, immunology, and genetics to demonstrate how chronic fear in infancy and early childhood— when we are most helpless—lies at the root of common diseases in adulthood. These books unveiled a major public health crisis. Highlighting case studies and cutting-edge scientific findings show how our innate fight-or-flight system can injure us if overworked in the early stages of life. Persistent stress can trigger diabetes, heart disease, obesity, depression and addiction later on.

Peck retired from the newspaper and went to work at Pyramid Peak Foundation. He used to

go into the schools and discovered the teachers could not teach kids who are socially dysfunctional. The first 1000 days wire your brain. Experiences and toxic stress changes the trajectory of a person's life as the brain responds to situations based on previous experiences. This led to the creation of the ACE Awareness Foundation.

Peck talked about the ACEs Summit in November 2015 hosted by Governor Bill Haslam and First Lady Chrissy Haslam. Dealing with ACEs upfront has a political and economic impact down the line. Now there is a three-year plan for a Tennessee ACEs project. The aim is to make Tennessee a leader in addressing ACEs early to shift resources and focus to see what can be done in a collective and preventive way to address this serious issue effecting future generations. Peck pointed out Deputy Governor Jim Henry's point about making investments on the front end and being proactive instead of being reactive causing more money to be spent on the back end.

Peck explained the purpose of FrameWorks Institute. He said FrameWorks find ways to simplify complex issues so everyone can hear and understand the message.

The story about ACEs is ultimately very localized and comes down to building a community of support. Peck said O'Neal has been an important ally and has actively engaged the regional coordinators in participating in upcoming FrameLabs and Symposiums. She talked about the importance of continuity of the ACEs work after the current Administration ends. There will be serious efforts to shift the paradigm and thinking to help people heal and move beyond these experiences. O'Neal gave examples of FrameWorks involvement in ACEs by listing phrases and concepts developed by FrameWorks.

Amy Lawrence asked about good studies to use when researching. O'Neal pointed to the TCCY website <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/article/tccy-ac-advocacy> to find a list of helpful resources regarding ACEs.

O'Neal said some of the challenges and changes made will be difficult because it will require a shift in thinking and action.

Audrey Taylor Gonzalez asked a question about the first 1000 days and going beyond as it relates to adolescents. Peck said there is another window of opportunity in adolescence and a need to partner with juvenile justice reform efforts. He said developing the message is a real important piece to achieve those results.

Mortensen reiterated it will be a big shift in the way we think and will be a challenge, but not impossible.

IV. Introductions

Mortensen asked for each person to introduce themselves instead of a roll call. A quorum was established.

V. Legislative Committee – Rob Mortensen, Chair

MORTENSEN MOVED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE 2016 LEGISLATIVE PACKET (ATTACHED). UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

VI. Grant Review Committee – Amy Lawrence, Chair

Lawrence informed the Commission the Grant Review Committee received nine applications and there is \$217,000 available for new grantees.

LAWRENCE MOVED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE TO AWARD LEAP ORGANIZATION \$60,000 FOR THE HEALTHY CHOICES PROGRAM. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

LAWRENCE MOVED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE TO AWARD JIFF, INC. \$59,624 FOR JIFF DELINQUENCY PREVENTION. 17 APPROVED, 0 OPPOSED, TAYLOR GONZALEZ RECUSED.

LAWRENCE MOVED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE TO AWARD GILES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT \$17,021 FOR STUDENTS TO BE PEACEMAKERS DELINQUENCY PREVENTION. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

LAWRENCE MOVED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE TO NOT AWARD OVERTON COUNTY ANTI DRUG \$54,426 FOR COALITION CHOOSE 2 CHANGE. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

LAWRENCE MOVED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE TO NOT AWARD MADISON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT SERVICES \$20,179 FOR INTENSIVE TRUANCY INTERVENTION. 17 APPROVED, 0 OPPOSED, JONES RECUSED.

LAWRENCE MOVED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE TO AWARD METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS \$40,000 OUT OF THE \$60,000 REQUESTED FOR PATHWAY TO CHANGE. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

LAWRENCE MOVED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE TO AWARD NEW VISIONS \$39,449 FOR LIFE-SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

LAWRENCE MOVED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE TO NOT AWARD OVERTON COUNTY ANTI-DRUG COALITION \$60,000 FOR YOUTH POWER. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

LAWRENCE MOVED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE TO NOT AWARD METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE/JUVENILE COURT OF NASHVILLE \$49,728 FOR JUVENILE COURT ASSESSMENTS. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VII. Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award Selection Committee – Rob Mortensen, Chair

ON BEHALF OF THE JIM PRYOR CHILD ADVOCACY AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE, MORTENSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOMINEES, BONNIE BENEKE AND JAN DICK. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VIII. Young Excellence Award Selection – Amy Lawrence, Chair

ON BEHALF OF THE YOUTH EXCELLENCE AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE, LAWRENCE MOVED TO APPROVE ROMAN CONER AS THE 2016 RECIPIENT. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

IX. Senator Douglas Henry Public Official Award – Richard Kennedy

IT WAS MOVED (STOTT) AND SECONDED (HARLAN) TO APPROVE DEPUTY GOVERNOR JIM HENRY TO RECEIVE THE SENATOR DOUGLAS HENRY PUBLIC OFFICIAL AWARD. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

X. Federal Formula Grant Presentation – Christina Baker-Smith, Boys and Girls Club

The Boys and Girls Clubs are strategically located in areas to reach the most children. There is even a location in the youth detention center.

Baker-Smith spoke about the Skills Mastery and Resistance Training (SMART) Girls program, a small group evidence-based intervention program for girls. SMART Girls offers young women, ages 8 to 17, guidance toward healthy attitudes and lifestyles, eating right, staying fit, getting good health care and more.

Encouraging young women to have healthy attitudes and lifestyles, SMART Girls helps them reach their full potential. Through dynamic sessions, group activities, field trips, etiquette training and mentoring opportunities with adult women, Club girls enjoy the opportunity to build skills for eating right, staying physically fit, getting good health care, and developing positive relationships.

Other topics addressed include how the media influences attitudes about females; date rape and sexual harassment; sexually transmitted diseases; sexual myths and truths; getting regular gynecological care; and physical and emotional changes girls' experience.

The girls also learn social skill through "The Friend-terview" activity for about 35 minutes. They go on field trips to restaurants and other outings to learn how to behave in various settings.

In January to September 2015 the program received funding and served 200 girls ages 8 to 18 with 60 percent completion. Goals continued through a supplemental program to support girls' development. They work with Knox County Public Defenders' Office to make sure kids do not commit crimes or commit the same crimes repeatedly.

She said the Boys and Girls Club is looking to expand the program.

XI. Second Look Commission – Craig Hargrow

Hargrow gave an overview of the purpose of the Second Look Commission and went over the report submitted to the legislature in December 2015. He explained the reasons behind the findings and recommendations and gave examples.

There was discussion from the Commission members about how Tennessee can share our work with other states to figure out how to prevent these unfortunate incidents in other states.

Destiny Sweeney asked about the purpose of the Second Look Commission and what happens with the data collected. Hargrow further explained systemic issues are the focus of the Second Look Commission and recommendations are made to attempt to prevent further incidents.

XII. Council on Children's Mental Health 2016 Report to the General Assembly – Melissa McGee

McGee said the Council is in the final stages of preparing the report. It is currently on the desk of Commissioner Varney, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, for final approval. She explained the mission of the Council and the recent strategic restructuring.

The next meeting will be February 25th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Midtown Hills Police Precinct in Nashville. Anyone may attend.

XIII. Dashboard – Richard Kennedy

Kennedy handed out two dashboards, a year-end and the current. He highlighted the budget information is now added to the top of the dashboard showing the total funds and operating funds. He pointed out specific changes since the last meeting.

Drummond suggested adding a section on ACEs to the dashboard to keep the focus on it as a priority.

XIV. Director’s Report – Linda O’Neal

O’Neal welcomed the newest Commission members and highlighted several staff accomplishments and participation in leadership academies. She said the legislative guidance report will be finalized and posted on the agency website.

The Casey Foundation now requires all the KIDS COUNT grantees to participate in a Capacity Survey measuring operational functions. An email will be sent to Commission members and staff with a link to the survey.

O’Neal thanked staff for preparation related to the meeting.

XV. Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

Natasha Smith
Director of Operations & Special Projects

Rob Mortensen,
Acting Chair