



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

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor Conference Room
Thursday, August 25, 2016
1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Wendy Shea, Chair
Jennie Harlan
Amy Lawrence
Rob Mortensen
Steve Neely 1:10 PM
Destiny Sweeney
Glenda Terry

Staff Present

Jennifer Drake-Croft
Sumita Keller
Richard Kennedy
Melissa McGee
Gerald Papica
Steve Petty
Elizabeth Thomas, Intern (1:27 p.m.)

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Committee Chair Shea called the Children's Services Committee meeting to order at 12:58 PM. There was a quorum for the meeting.
- II. Approval of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (MORTENSEN) AND SECONDED (LAWRENCE) TO APPROVE THE MAY 2016 CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

- III. Home Visiting Leadership Alliance – Sumita Keller

Keller reported the Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) met in June and will be meeting next week on August 31st. The group is reviewing the results of the consensus-building workshop to identify action steps and how to proceed moving forward. She also provided an update on the technical assistance coaching grant from the Institute for Child Success (ICS) for a feasibility study of pay for success (PFS) for evidence based home visiting in Tennessee. Keller stated the Tennessee team included Keller, Kennedy, Drake-

Croft, Naccarato, Townsend, O’Neal, Hargrow, Angie McKinney Jones (TDH) and Loraine Lucinski (TDH). Keller gave a quick summary of the first ICS site visit from early June. ICS spent time with the Tennessee team, but also invited outside stakeholders to an information session on PFS. They also visited two Healthy Families America program sites. The sites visited were Metro Nashville Public Health Department and Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee. Later in June Hargrow, Keller, Drake-Croft, Kennedy and McKinney Jones, attended the ICS PFS Conference in Denver. The team learned a lot from other jurisdictions who have explored PFS and those who currently have PFS projects. There was a heavy emphasis on performance-based and outcomes-based measures needed for the funding for programs.

Keller encouraged the committee approve sending a letter to the Tennessee delegation to support reauthorization of continued and increased funding of MIECHV. Keller detailed that the funds not only support home visiting programs, but also provide flexibility for early childhood infrastructure building. Keller noted half her salary is funded through MIECHV dollars.

IT WAS MOVED (MORTENSEN) AND SECONDED (HARLAN) TO SEND A LETTER TO THE TENNESSEE DELEGATION IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF CONTINUED AND INCREASED FUNDING OF MIECHV. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

IV. Early Childhood Well-being – Jennifer Drake-Croft

Drake-Croft provided the committee with an update on her early childhood work. She explained she would be presenting more detailed information during an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) update at the full Commission meeting on Friday morning. She shared TCCY has experienced an increase in demand for ACEs training, resulting in 38 trainings, reaching over 1500 people. Most recently she and McGee presented at the Tennessee Juvenile Court Services Association. She is scheduled to present on ACEs at the Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC) in October. Drake-Croft is also engaged in the work of the ACE Nashville and the Young Child Wellness Council. She has met with professionals from Child Care and the Department of Education.

V. Council on Children’s Mental Health (CCMH) – Melissa McGee

McGee reported on the System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT) grant proposal, which was in response to a call for proposals for System of Care expansion from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA.) Proposals were due in the spring and TDMHSAS and TCCY are still waiting to hear back on whether or not we will receive the \$12 million in funding over the course of four years. This proposal will work to advance SOC throughout the state and will add three regional CCMH staff. This was presented and approved for application at May Commission meeting.

McGee also shared CCMH has held two meetings since the May Commission meeting. One on June 23rd which was a joint meeting with YTAC on Transition Age Initiatives and a late summer meeting on August 23rd focused on new statewide initiatives, including presentations on Episodes of Care and the new Health Link program from TennCare, the Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee (AIMHiTN), Home Visiting Leadership Alliance and Pay for Success and updates from TNAchieves.

In addition to the two summer meetings, CCMH supported the 4th Annual System of Care Conference, Collaborating for a Bright Future, held in Franklin at the Cool Springs Embassy Suites hotel. The conference was a huge success with over 200 unique participants attending some part of the two day event.

McGee continues to be active in the *Building Strong Brains* initiative, providing presentations on early brain development, adverse childhood experiences and resiliency in a variety of settings.

VI. Youth Transitions Advisory Council/Council on Children's Mental Health – Steve Petty

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council met on June 23 in conjunction with the Council on Children's Mental Health at the Midtown Hills Police Precinct in Nashville. Joint meeting gives the two Councils an opportunity to network and cross train. The meeting provides overview for CCMH participants.

The Councils heard presentations from the Oasis Center about the Teen Outreach Program (TOPS). TOPS is an evidenced-based teen pregnancy prevention program for youth in state custody being implemented across the state in congregate care centers. They also received an update from Youth Move, a system of care expansion site serving Hickman, Williamson, and Rutherford Counties. Youth Village's staff made a presentation about the YV LifeSet program serving transition-age youth in Tennessee and an update on the ongoing longitudinal study being conducted by MRDC.

The DCS Office of Independent Living staff provided an update and stated fewer children were in state custody in FY 2016. The rate of retention in extension of foster care services increased from 235 to 255 days in FY 2016. This is equivalent to two college semesters. The number of high school and college graduates decreased slightly, but stayed at roughly the same rate since there are fewer children in custody. DCS has begun training for the new Reasonable and Prudent Parent policy based on legislation enacted in 2016. All four DCS Resource Centers, Nashville's Youth Connections, Project Now in Knoxville, the I AM READY Center in Chattanooga and South Memphis Alliance, were on hand to provide updates. All the programs continue to provide Opportunity Passports, Sexual Health Education, and tutoring for high school equivalency testing.

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council met again August 4, 2016 at Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee. Thirty-nine people from all over the state were in attendance.

The Council heard a presentation from the Superintendent, Treatment Manager, and Accreditation Manager at the newly created Gateway to Independence (GTI) Youth Development Center. Also presenting information were staff from Get Covered TN discussing assistance available to former foster youth enrolling in TennCare under the Affordable Care Act. Even though former foster youth remain eligible for TennCare until age 26, they often need assistance in the reverification, re-enrollment process

DCS Office of Independent Living provided an update. Data indicates DCS continues to grow the number of youth served by extension of foster care services. Training on the new Reasonable and Prudent Parent policy continues and DCS hopes to have all staff trained by the end of September. The Council also heard from two of the Resource Centers funded by DCS, Helen Ross McNabb and Dream Seekers/South Memphis Alliance (SMA).

VII. Youth Second Look Commission – Craig Hargrow

Hargrow reported the Second Look Commission (SLC) held two meetings since the last Commission meeting. The SLC met on May 17 and June 28. Hargrow used the May 17 quarterly meeting to discuss issues identified in the Next Steps section of the 2015 SLC Report, including protecting children when the perpetrator cannot be identified, using more reliable drug screen tools and noncompliance with No Contact orders. SLC members agreed to request an opportunity to present these issues to law enforcement, juvenile court judges and other child abuse prevention stakeholders in an effort to provide feasible solutions to the appropriate person or agency. Hargrow reported he spoke to the judges at the Annual Joint Conference on Juvenile Justice about issues identified in the Next Step section of the 2015 SLC Report. Hargrow also presented the issues to the Administrative Offices of the Court's Court Improvement Program. Hargrow reported he is working on speaking to other child abuse prevention stakeholders.

During the investigatory meetings held on May 17 and June 28, the SLC made several preliminary findings and recommendations. One of the preliminary recommendations is Tennessee should make efforts to ensure the proper individuals are interviewing children who are alleged victims of sexual and severe child abuse. Hargrow reported, when age appropriate, children should be receive forensic interviews in severe child abuse and sexual abuse cases. Improper interviews could have a negative impact on the investigation and potential criminal prosecution. The SLC also made a preliminary recommendation regarding the need to identify and address emotional neglect. Hargrow reported investigators must not overlook potential emotional neglect while investigating severe child abuse and child sexual abuse allegations. The SLC discussed the possibility of promoting or recommending the increased use of extended forensic interviews when appropriate. The SLC continues to identify the need for better documentation by those involved in investigating severe child abuse.

Hargrow reported he continues to provide training in the Child Protective Services Training Academy. He presents the juvenile court section of the training.

VIII. Ombudsman Program – Gerald Papica

From April to July, the Ombudsman Program received a total of 39 new referrals. The type of cases documented is as follows: 24 Open/Active Cases, 12 Information-only Cases, and 3 Tracking Cases (foster parents' complaints).

Dr. Papica continues to provide Ombudsman Program classes at Mountain View Youth Development Center, John S. Wilder Youth Development Center and Gateway to Independence. From May to July, he provided five classes to 38 new Children's Services Officers (CSOs) in-training.

TCCY has a statutory responsibility to participate in DHS childcare licensing reviews and Dr. Papica serves as the primary TCCY representative. There were three cases heard by the Department of Human Services (DHS) Childcare Licensing Board of Review on April 6, June 1 and June 29. Dr. Papica participated in all these hearings.

IX. Other Business

IT WAS MOVED (NEELY) AND SECONDED (LAWRENCE) TO ADJOURN. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:53 PM.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes approved by:

Gerald R. Papica
Ombudsman

Wendy Shea
Committee Chair