



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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COUNCILS COMMITTEE
TCCY Conference Room, 9th Floor
Thursday, February 24, 2011
1:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present

Phil Acord, Chair
Sidney Bynum
Janell Clark
Joshua Conner
Beverly Cosley
Cindy Durham
Erica Gilmore
Timothy A. Perry
James Roland Reid

Commission Members Absent

Denise Hobbs-Coker
Harold Moses Love

Diane Neighbors
Colonel Robbins

Staff Members Present

Richard Kennedy
Dana Cobb
Lindsey Cody
Rodger Jowers
April Swoner
Norma Tolliver
Elaine Williams
Diane Wise
Gwendolyn Wright

I Welcome and Introductions – Phil Acord, Chair

Acord welcomed members and facilitated introductions of everyone present. He announced the promotion of Richard Kennedy to the position of Associate Executive Director with TCCY.

II Approval of July 2010 and November 2010 Minutes (ACTION)

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (PERRY) AND SECONDED (BYNUM) TO APPROVE THE JULY 2010 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

III Grant Monitoring – Rodger Jowers

Jowers reported on the Department of Finance and Administration's Policy 22. Policy 22 outlines procedures to regulate oversight of state grantees. Fiscal reviews are a primary component of the monitoring process.

Training for all staff involved in the Policy 22 monitoring process was conducted in December. There have been changes in the risk levels assigned to grantees which ultimately determines whether a review is conducted onsite or as a desktop review.

Electronic archiving began on July 1, 2010 for Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) and Title V grants.

The Comptroller's Office recently completed a follow-up audit of TCCY. The audit focused on previous findings, one of which dealt with program monitoring. All previous findings had been addressed. The auditors found nothing wrong and there were no findings or observations.

IV Children's Caucus – Richard Kennedy

Kennedy summarized the recent Children's Caucus. The purpose of this caucus was to identify suggestions and/or make recommendations focused on children and family issues to submit to the new administration. The event was initially scheduled for December, but due to inclement weather was rescheduled to January 20, 2011.

The caucus was well attended and productive.

Participants self selected one of four discussion groups: Early Childhood Programs; Health and Mental Health; Children In or At Risk of Custody; and Policy and Budget.

The two themes and recommendations, which were consistently at the top of all discussion groups, were:

- Apply System of Care principles across all disciplines, and
- Need for increased collaboration, coordination and cooperation.

TCCY staff are currently working on an issue of *The Advocate* dedicated to recommendations and suggestions made at the event.

V Children's Advocacy Days – Richard Kennedy

Kennedy stated Children's Advocacy Days (CAD) is TCCY's annual, signature children's advocacy event. The theme for this year's event is *Children's Advocacy Days: The Art of Children's Advocacy*. Children's Advocacy Days 2011 will provide a forum for those working with and on behalf of children and families across the state in order to gain new information and facilitate their efforts to improve the lives of children and

families in their communities. The event, through key speakers and networking, is intended to:

- Promote greater knowledge and understanding of current issues confronting children and their families in Tennessee.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to become more effective advocates for children both in the public policy arena and in their communities.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to interact with Tennessee legislators on critical children's issues.
- Provide an opportunity to hear perspectives on children's issues.

CAD will be March 15 – 16 at War Memorial Auditorium. The Commission members will stay at the Doubletree Hotel.

The registration site has been created and is active for registration. Commission members were encouraged to register at www.cad2011.eventbrite.com

The Networking Reception will again be in the lobby of War Memorial Auditorium from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15. The reception is open to all registered participants and all members of the General Assembly have been invited. The reception provides an opportunity to interact with legislators in a more casual environment.

CAD is funded primarily with co-sponsor financial and in-kind contributions. Sponsor forms have been mailed to numerous partners and we are starting to receive financial contributions for the event.

VI Review of Regional Coordinators' Activities

Information about individual council and coordinator activities were presented by Lindsey Cody, East Tennessee; April Swoner, Mid Cumberland; Elaine Williams, South Central; Dana Cobb, Northwest; Rodger Jowers, Southwest; Gwendolyn Wright, Memphis/Shelby. Richard Kennedy gave a brief update for Upper Cumberland and Southeast regions in the absence of coordinators. A detailed report and handouts from all coordinators were submitted to the Commission members.

Kennedy praised the coordinators for their participation on many boards, their program monitoring organization and the many varied duties they perform for TCCY.

Kennedy reported Patty Ray resigned her Upper Cumberland position to accept the Director of the Upper Cumberland Area Council on Aging. Kathy Daniels retired as Southeast Regional Coordinator in January. This leaves two vacant coordinator positions. He is uncertain as to when the process will be started to fill these positions.

Durham stated she started her tenure as Commission chair by attending an event hosted by each of the councils. She would like to end her tenure by doing the same. She would like notice of the coordinators' events, so she can add them to her calendar.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Norma Tolliver
Administrative Secretary

Minutes Approved by:

Phil Acord
Chair