



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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**COUNCILS COMMITTEE**  
TCCY Conference Room, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Thursday, May 19, 2011  
1:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present

Phil Acord, Chair  
Sidney Bynum  
Beverly Cosley  
Denise Hobbs-Coker  
Diane Neighbors  
Timothy A. Perry

Commission Members Absent

Janell Clark  
Joshua Conner  
Erica Gilmore  
Harold Moses Love  
James Roland Reid

Colonel Robbins

Staff Members Present

Richard Kennedy  
Dana Cobb  
Lindsey Cody  
Rodger Jowers  
April Swoner  
Norma Tolliver  
Elaine Williams

Staff Members Absent

Diane Wise  
Gwendolyn Wright

I Welcome and Introductions – Phil Acord, Chair

Acord welcomed all present. Introductions were not required.

II Approval of February 2011 Minutes (ACTION)

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

### III Children's Advocacy Days – Richard Kennedy

More than 600 child advocates from across the state joined forces at the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Children's Advocacy Days on March 15-16, 2011, at War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville. Participation by both First Lady Crissy Haslam and Governor Bill Haslam highlighted the event. The theme of this year's event was *The Art of Children's Advocacy*. During her opening remarks, Cindy Durham, TCCY chair quoted John Ruskin, the English artist, poet, art critic and social thinker, by saying "Fine art is that in which the hand, the head, and the heart of man go together," which, she said, also describes the work of child advocates.

The goal of Children's Advocacy Days was to 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.

Youth art was incorporated into the entire event, ranging from visual to performing arts. Young people involved with YouthSpeaks Nashville were a hit with their spoken word poetry presentations. Artists from the Oasis Center in Nashville and Carroll Academy in Huntingdon provided amazing visual art pieces. The Nashville Ballet School was highlighted through short performances and Very Special Arts Tennessee provided a youth dulcimer choir. The youth performances are always very well received at Children's Advocacy Days. They are not only entertaining, but serve as a visual reminder of why advocates do the work they do.

The Reverend Dr. Jerome Del Pino kicked off the event. Linda O'Neal presented an overview of the state and federal issues impacting children, youth and families. State Senator Jamie Woodson spoke about her proclamation designating March 2011 as "Youth Art Month."

TCCY council members and other advocates also heard the new commissioners of child serving departments or their representatives, many of whom had previously been involved with TCCY. Davidson County Juvenile Court Judge Betty Adams Green, a former TCCY staff member, rounded out the first day.

As is tradition at Children's Advocacy Days, TCCY presented numerous awards. Dr. Timothy Perry, LPCMHSP of Frontier Health, and a member of the Commission, was the 2011 Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award winner. Making KIDS COUNT Media Awards were presented to:

- Nashville Public Television and its CEO Beth Curley for its documentary, series *NPT Reports: Children's Health Crisis*;
- Bruce Moore and WREG News Channel 3 Memphis were honored for work

with the Memphis Child Advocacy Center's child abuse prevention and intervention efforts;

- Joel Washburn, editor of the family-owned *McKenzie Banner* and Shirley Nanney, editor of the *Carroll County News Leader*, for community journalism.

Numerous participants stayed and participated with the Networking Reception, which included participation by more than 60 members of the General Assembly.

On Wednesday morning, Governor Bill Haslam introduced his wife, Crissy, who used Children's Advocacy Days to announce her initiative as first lady. The first lady wants to get parents more involved in their child's education, something she knows about firsthand from raising her own children. She believes improving early childhood reading is a key component to improving education across the board. Other presentations included an overview of the "Strategies for Social and Emotional Development" and of the early results from the Tennessee Pre-K Study by Dr. Dale Farran of Vanderbilt University. Sam Davidson, co-founder of Cool People Care, concluded the two day event by delivering a powerful presentation, "How to Save the World in 24 Hours."

Thanks to the support of numerous co-sponsors, TCCY uses minimal state dollars to fund CAD. The Tennessee Juvenile Court Services Association sponsored the luncheon. The Breakfast sponsors were Omni Visions, Inc. and Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies Child and Family Policy Center.

Our Platinum sponsors were:

- Tennessee Head Start Association;
- Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network;
- Tennessee Voices for Children; and
- Youth Villages.

Our Gold sponsor was:

- Centerstone.

Our Silver sponsors were:

- Camelot Care Centers;
- Governor's Books From Birth Foundation;
- Monroe Harding, Inc.;
- Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee;
- Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Our Bronze sponsors were:

- Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Inc.;
- Children's Home/Chambliss Shelter;
- CoverKids;
- Education Networks of America;
- Holston United Methodist Home for Children;

- JACO – Tennessee Teen Institute;
- Moms In Touch International;
- Mule Town Family Network;
- National Association of Social Workers, Tennessee Chapter;
- Northwest Parenting Resource Center;
- Rolling Hills Hospital; and
- Tennessee Court Appointed Special Advocate Association.

The TCCY staff is already working and planning to ensure Children’s Advocacy Days 2012 will be even bigger and better. CAD 2012 will be March 13-14, 2012.

#### IV Grant Monitoring Update – Rodger Jowers

Jowers updated all present regarding grant monitoring. The EUDL and Title V grants are being reviewed at this time. Swoner and Cobb have completed 24 CASA desktop reviews. All monitors continue to learn how to complete the reviews and are proceeding to accomplish their efforts more effectively.

#### V 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; and Rodger Jowers, Memphis/Shelby. Richard Kennedy provided a brief update for Gwendolyn Wright, Memphis/Shelby County, and Diane Wise, Northeast in their absence. A detailed report and handouts from all coordinators were submitted to the Commission members.

Kennedy reported on the status of the vacant positions for Upper Cumberland and Southeast regional coordinators. Procedures are being followed with the State of Tennessee Department of Human Resources. The projected waiting period before interviews can begin is at least two months. Patty Ray, previous Upper Cumberland regional coordinator, has continued to aid the council in that region. There has been interest expressed for both vacant positions.

Kennedy explained Diane Wise’ absence is due to her facilitation of the Northeast Council Quarterly Legislative wrap up meeting which was scheduled at this time. He passed on an apology from Wise for her scheduling error.

Kennedy explained Gwen Wright’s absence was due to a car accident on Tuesday, May 17, this week. Wright went to the emergency room and is experiencing some arm and neck pain.

#### VI Other Business

There is no other business at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

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Norma Tolliver  
Administrative Secretary

Minutes Approved by:

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Phil Acord  
Chair