



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

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**COUNCILS COMMITTEE**  
Clement B Conference Room  
Montgomery Bell State Park  
Thursday, November 3, 2011  
3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Commission Members Present

Beverly Cosley, Acting Chair  
Phil Acord  
Sidney Bynum  
Cindy Durham  
Erica Gilmore  
Wendy Shea  
Christi Sigler

Commission Members Absent

Kelly Drummond, Chair  
Janell Clark  
Joshua Conner  
Denise Hobbs  
Harold Moses Love

Staff Members Present

Linda O'Neal  
Richard Kennedy  
Dana Cobb  
Lindsey Cody  
Rodger Jowers  
Lauren Kissinger  
Rosalyn Leavell-Rice  
Corey Moore  
John Rust  
April Swoner  
Norma Tolliver  
Elaine Williams  
Diane Wise  
Gwendolyn Wright

I Welcome and Introductions – Beverly Cosley, Acting Chair

Cosley welcomed all present. Introductions were made individually.

II Approval of August 2011 Minutes (ACTION)

**MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (BYNUM) AND SECONDED (SHEA) TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 2011 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.)**

### III National Movement for America's Children – Richard Kennedy

Kennedy recapped a meeting he and O'Neal had with Carla Snodgrass, Director of Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee, regarding the National Movement for America's Children. Voices for America's Children and Prevent Child Abuse America are involved in the creation of the Movement. Handouts were given to all present.

The Children's Movement will encompass a broad range of representatives. At this time, it is not yet cohesive. Strategy, shared goals, public awareness, etc. are still in the formative stage. The President of the National Movement is doing a *listening* tour and will take information back to the office in Washington, D.C. and compile working guidelines. A basic principle of "is this decision good for the children?" is already one of the guidelines. Impact statements were discussed as well.

There was a general consensus that TCCY should wait until there is more definitive information before we sign on and support the National Movement. Staff will continue to be involved in the meetings as appropriate as they move forward and update the Commission as appropriate.

Cosley suggested this could be an Action Item when more information is known. Others agreed.

### IV Jim Pryor Child Advocacy and Youth Excellence Awards – Richard Kennedy

Kennedy explained the above mentioned awards and encouraged nominations.

- The Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award is given for outstanding child advocacy. Some current and former Commission Members have received this award: Acord, Trudy Hughes, Joetta Yarbrow and Tim Perry, and of course Jim Pryor for whom the award is named.
- The primary criteria for the Youth Excellence Award are having had juvenile justice system involvement, be 28 years of age, and having turned their lives around and made a contribution to the community.

These will be presented at Children's Advocacy Days, March 13 and 14, 2012.

### V Review of Regional Coordinators' Activities

Information about individual council and coordinator activities were presented by Dana Cobb, Northwest; Lindsey Cody, East Tennessee; Rodger Jowers, Southwest; Rosalyn Leavell-Rice, Southeast; John Rust, Upper Cumberland; April Swoner, Mid Cumberland; Elaine Williams, South Central; Diane Wise, Northeast; and Gwendolyn Wright, Memphis/Shelby. A detailed report and handouts from all coordinators were submitted to the Commission members.

Cosley thanked all coordinators for the good job they are doing.

VI “Raise Your Hand Tennessee” – Richard Kennedy

Kennedy briefed everyone about the *Raise Your Hand Tennessee* efforts to recruit volunteers across the state. Marketing materials have been developed. This effort is lead by United Way Tennessee and local United Ways. TCCY will work with them to assist with regional launch events. First Lady Crissy Haslam will be the spokesperson for this initiative.

VII Other Business

Durham gave conflict of interest forms to the new commission members and requested they complete and submit them to TCCY staff.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

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Norma Tolliver  
Administrative Secretary

Minutes Approved by:

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Phil Acord  
Chair