

# Joint Task Force on Children's Justice/Child Sexual Abuse MEETING MINUTES

**June 20, 2019** – 10:00 AM, UT SWORPS, 193 Polk Avenue, Nashville, TN

## **Attendees**

Allen, Sandra	Murphy, William	Knowles, Catherine
Beckham, Pierce	Neese, Tony	Miller, Stacy
Beneke, Bonnie	Nichols, Jennifer	Rector, Kristen
Bevans, Rebecca	Noblit, Shaun (proxy for Craig Hargrow)	Slessinger, David
Boshears, Marlene	Page, Jacque	Snodgrass, Carla
Bottoms, Delaine	Paisley, Lori	Stodghill, Beth
Coble, Amy	Palmer, Mary (proxy for Perales)	
Cobb, Dana	Pellegrin, Lisa	
Ebert, Jon	Randolph, LaShonda	
Etheridge, Stephanie	Seeman, Larry	
Farrar, Lynne	Sinback, Kathy	
Franklin, Rebecca	Smith, Rae Anne	
Gentry, Annette	Stallworth, Virginia	
Hart, Marjahna	Talley, Jackie	
Iqbal, Haroon	Turner, June	
Karnes, Lanis	Wilkerson, Jason	
Kemper, Korey	Wyatt, Verna	
Keoph, Marie		
Legendre, Charlsi	<b>UT Staff</b>	
Lofquest, Jeremy	Alley, Rory	
Loud, Sarah	Cunningham, Maryanne	
Lowen, Debbie	Forrest-Banks, Shandra	
Maifair, Sammi	Lawal, Toni	
Miner, Thomas	<b>Regrets</b>	
	Conway, Harry	

## **Welcome/Introductions**

President June Turner called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Turner then thanked everyone for coming - special thanks was made to DCS Commissioner Jennifer Nichols for attending the meeting. Introductions followed.

## **Committee Chairs' Report Out**

Each committee chair or designee provided an update on his or her respective committees' goals and shared past and current accomplishments. Following the reports, Commissioner Nichols thanked the JTF for all their hard work and dedication on behalf of abused and neglected children and shared partnership with DCS.

## **General Announcements**

JTF members provided the following announcements:

- June Turner announced that she is retiring from the Nashville Children's Alliance on October 31, 2019. She also announced that Karen Jointer-Bryant resigned from the CAC TN in May to accept a position with the state of South Carolina (child welfare agency).
- Rebecca Bevans of DCS provided an update on the child sexual abuse workshops that she presented on at the last JTF meeting. Bevans reported that the workshops are being offered in Middle Tennessee, and reported that DCS is planning to offer the workshops in the east and west regions soon. Bevans also reported she would send the Middle Tennessee schedule to the JTF coordinator to disseminate to the members.
- Virginia Stallworth reported that the Memphis Child Advocacy Center celebrated the grand opening of its newly expanded facilities on June 10. The expansion now includes additional partner agency staff, a medical clinic operated by the Shelby County Crime Victims and Rape Crisis Center.
- Jason Wilkerson of TBI announced that the Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force has received a grant to address trafficking issues in rural areas.
- Korey Kemper of CAC TN announced that the 2019 Annual Connecting for Children's Justice Conference will be held on October 29-31 at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. The conference is one of the state's largest events for child welfare professionals. Kemper also stated that CAC TN is conducting a national search for the executive director position vacated by Karen Jointer-Bryant on May 31.
- Delaine Bottoms of the Exchange Club Carl Perkins Center announced the opening of new CACs in Crockett, Dyer and Weakley counties. Bottoms also noted that the Center is exploring opening a CAC in Lake and Obion counties.

## **Approval of the Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2019**

President June Turner asked if any members had corrections or comments for the March 14, 2019 JTF Meeting Minutes. None voiced; minutes approved in the present form.

## **DCS Updates**

Haroon Iqbal, DCS OCS Director of Community Partnerships, provided the following updates:

- **JTF court membership vacancies:** The commissioner has approved Judge Michael Meise of Dickson for the civil court required category and a judge for the criminal court is pending.
- **JTF State Plan Recommendations:** Regarding the JTF recommendation (per the 2019 Child Sexual Abuse State Plan) to increase funding for the CACs across the state to support the cost of hiring additional forensic interviewers, Iqbal stated that DCS hopes to increase the amount of money in the grant for this to occur soon. Regarding the JTF other recommendation for increasing funding for the CACs to provide child sexual abuse prevention education to organizational staff and volunteers serving children and youth, Iqbal stated that this concern is being addressed through the child sexual abuse workshops.

In addition, Iqbal reported that there might be opportunities for the JTF to receive additional funding to support the work products pursuant to the Children's Justice Act required categories for use of funds. The state task force projects must support front-end efforts or intake and investigations phases of child welfare cases and those that involve improving the approach and response to child abuse and neglect.

## **DCS Child and Family Service Plan Presentation**

Anthony Nease, DCS Director of Continuous Quality Improvement, delivered a presentation about the department's 2019-2024 Child and Family Service Plan (CFSP). Nease began by reporting that the federal government is requiring states to develop a vision that parallels the Children's Bureau.

Below are some other highlights of the presentation:

- The CFSP require approval by the Children's Bureau.
- CFSP outcomes are safety, permanency and well-being.
- CFSP is reshaping child welfare – more focus on supporting the well-being of children/families and community-based collaborative programs that support families.
- Foster care is a support to families, not a substitute for parents.
- There will be an emphasis on using foster parents as mentors.
- There will be an emphasis on placing children in their home county/communities.
- The CFSP report will address reducing employee turnover.

Nease also shared some of the findings from the department's focus groups and surveys with stakeholders to solicit their ideas for incorporating into the new CFSP. Some of the key takeaways were as followed:

- Stakeholders feel that DCS and schools need to have stronger communication due to barriers that affect the children they served.

- Stakeholders reported on the challenges of finding services in their communities.
- Stakeholders talked about employee turnover for both DCS staff and service providers and the affect that it has on providing quality services for children.

In addition, Nease briefly talked about the Family First Prevention Service Act (FFPSA), noting that there is no new money for this new federal program; rather it allows states to realign dollars. FFPSA requires states to provide evidence-based in-home visitation and mental health services. Nease noted that Tennessee is opting out of FFPSA until 2021.

### **Committees Report Out**

The committee chairs or designee report out included the following:

- **CPIT:** Amy Coble reported that the committee continued to engage in discussion about the Tennessee’s statute that deals with how CPITs should function. For example, what are some of the definitions of CPIT and who has “ownership,” noting that the latter will require opening the statute and that any changes to it might disturb the balance. Coble also added that the “owner” of CPIT is the person responsible for solutions to problems. The committee also discussed the ramifications of changes to the statute, noting that it might affect law enforcement and CACs roles/responsibilities. The committee determined there is a need to review the statue in depth and obtain input from each stakeholder prior to making any supported changes. Additionally, the committee was informed of DCS suggestion to merge the Statewide CPIT Advisory Board that is managed by DCS with the JTF CPIT Committee.
- **Court Improvement:** Chair Lynne Farrar reported that the committee reviewed their new goals and discussed next action steps:
  - **Pro Se Petition** – Legal Aid consultant, Dinah Robertson is reviewing the instructions for the document to ensure the language is appropriate and at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. Committee member Stephanie Etheridge and AOC attorney Leslie Kinkead will develop the instructions and circulate for approval, then submit to the JTF for approval (the AOC approval process will take 6 to 8 months).
  - **CPIT Survey Workshop Results** – the committee reviewed the notes from the fall 2018 Connecting for Children’s Justice Conference CPIT Survey Workshop and would like to discuss with the CPIT Committee ways to address some of the concerns that came out of the workshop. For example, DCS attorneys providing training about the ramifications and collateral consequences of a substantiation, especially when there is no prosecution and the need for more discussion and trainings around minimal facts interviewing. The committee discussed background checks for volunteers for DCS substantiation.
  - **Booklets for Preparing Children and Youth for Court** – the committee plans to work with Davidson County youth to develop age appropriate booklets for children and youth that deals with court issues. The committee also discussed ways to distribute them once developed (via CASA, JTF, AOC, DCS, CACs, TCJFCJ, etc.).
  - **Self-Care and Vicarious/Secondary Trauma** - Davidson County Juvenile Court (DCJC) is working with Brad Palmertree of the Family Center around the issue of resilience. The Family Center Community Resilience Program is supporting DCJC in becoming a trauma-informed

court and workplace and sensitive to colleagues and the public. The Center team created a Fostering Resilience Committee, which consists of DCJC staff, and their task is to foster an environment that empowers staff to become more capable of meeting the needs of youth and their families.

- **Outreach and Awareness:** Rebecca Bevans reported that the committee discussed next steps related to the action step of offering child welfare training to students at four-year universities, especially those majoring in social work and education. The committee discussed the important role colleges/universities can play in preparing graduates with resources and training to deal professionally with issues such as “knowing how to appropriately report child abuse, acts that constitute abuse or neglect and recognizing indicators of child sexual abuse and exploitation.” The committee considered a few options to recommend to universities – offer a certificate or minor in child welfare, require trainings for students related to child sexual abuse, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and state child abuse mandated reporting laws. Several members agreed to survey universities about this subject matter – Bevans agreed to develop the survey assessment. Additionally, the committee plans to invite representatives from Belmont and MTSU to the JTF September 19 meeting to learn more about the work they conducted on ACEs.
- **Treatment:** Lisa Pellegrin reported the committee continued to discuss their goals. For the goal of exploring current practice for therapeutic interventions for youth who have been sex trafficked, the committee is generating estimates via the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool and Tennessee Family and Child Tracking System (TFACTS) – Pellegrin added that William Murphy is beginning a draft of the document. Regarding the goal for addressing children with sexual behavior problems (CSBP), the committee is developing a DCS document that establishes appropriate language (labels), types of assessment, and treatment, Jacque Page is looking at what type of assessments are appropriate and how they are termed. Additionally, William Murphy, Jacque Page and Bonnie Beneke are focusing efforts on DCS training child, adolescent, adults and sibling.

### **Closing**

Vice-President Conway thanked everyone for participating in today's meeting and closed by noting that the next JTF meeting is **Thursday, September 19, 2019** at UT Nashville, 193 Polk Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee.

# Joint Task Force on Children's Justice/Child Sexual Abuse MEETING MINUTES

**September 19, 2019** – 10:00 AM, UT SWORPS, 193 Polk Avenue, Nashville, TN

## **Attendees**

Adams, Nichole	Randolph, LaShonda	Stackens-Anderson, Tina
Allen, Sandra	Seeman, Larry	Talley, Jackie
Alexander, Denise	Smith, Rae Anne	Wade, Pat
Beneke, Bonnie	Snodgrass, Carla	
Boshears, Marlene	Turner, June	
Bottoms, Delaine	Wilkerson, Jason	
Casha, Connie	Wyatt, Verna	
Cason, Angelika	<b>UT Staff</b>	
Coble, Amy	Alley, Rory	
Cobb, Dana	Hadjiharalambous, Sissie	
Conway, Harry	Lawal, Toni	
Cooper, Tim (proxy for Lisa Pellegrin)	<b>Regrets</b>	
Davis, Kristen	Beckham, Pierce	
Ebert, Jon	Bevans, Rebecca	
Etheridge, Stephanie	Franklin, Rebecca	
Farrar, Lynne	Gentry, Annette	
Kemper, Korey	Hargrow, Craig	
Knowles, Catherine	Hart, Marjahna	
Lowen, Debbie	Keoph, Marie	
Maifair, Sammi	Murphy, Bill	
Miller, Stacy	Page, Jacque	
Miner, Thomas	Reed, Kamrie	
Palmer, Mary (proxy for Perales)	Sinback, Kathryn	
	Slessinger, David	
	Snodgrass, Carla	

## **Welcome/Introductions**

President June Turner called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. Turner then thanked everyone for coming. Introductions followed.

## **General Announcements**

JTF members provided the following announcements:

- Catherine Knowles of Metro Nashville Public Schools announced that a new law passed in Tennessee requiring all post-secondary institutions to designate a staff member already employed at Tennessee higher education institutions, including community colleges, to serve as a homeless student liaison. The bill defines homeless students as those under 25 years old who have been verified as homeless under the federal McKinney-Vento Assistance Act before enrolling in the university or during their time there. Additionally, the CJA grant that supports the JTF required memberships category include an individual serving homeless youth.
- Lynne Farrar of Tennessee CASA announced that the organization is having their annual meeting on October 22, 2019 at Nashville Pubic Library. At the event, three Tennesseans will receive awards for their work on behalf of children - former DCS Commissioner Jim Henry, Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally and Mackenzie Johnston.
- Delaine Bottoms of Exchange Club of Carl Perkins Center announced a new initiative in rural west Tennessee called **Prevent 360°**, a comprehensive approach, giving both adults and children the skill they need to prevent abuse. The program is being piloted in Fayette County.
- Carla Snodgrass of the Department of Health (DOH) announced that DOH launched the Community Health and Navigation Tennessee program in all 95 counties, noting that each team includes a medical director and other healthcare professionals who look at services that are beneficial to the client/patient and their family. The program officially rolled out in 2018.

## **Approval of the Meeting Minutes for June 20, 2019**

Vice President Harry Conway asked if any members had corrections or comments for the June 20, 2019 JTF Meeting Minutes. None voiced; minutes approved in the present form.

## **2020 JTF Meetings**

The JTF 2020 meetings are:

- March 12
- June 11
- September 10 (retreat)
- December 3

**DCS Updates:** Amy Coble, DCS OCS Director of Investigations, provided the following updates:

- **Safe Baby Courts:** Five (5) additional baby courts have rolled out in the following counties - Jefferson, Henry, Dickson, Rutherford, and Anderson.
- **Domestic Violence Program:** The East Region & Hamilton County now have a domestic violence liaison as part of the Domestic Violence Partnership model to provide a multi-disciplinary approach to enhance services and advocacy for families experiencing domestic violence. The partnership model includes TDCS, Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs, Domestic Shelters, and Prevent Child Abuse of Tennessee.
- **Child Sex Abuse Workshops:** The department is partnering with CACs in the East & West regions to expand the Child Sex Abuse Workshop. Sessions will begin in 2020.
- **Crimes against Children Conference:** The department sent 30 staff to Dallas for this conference. Major takeaways included the following:
  - The importance of collecting and documenting evidence around grooming behaviors related to corroborating the child's disclosure (national data shows that it increasing conviction numbers because it helps juries feel confident beyond reasonable doubt),
  - Child sex abuse victims' needs access to services/support around spirituality after experiencing abuse – staff was given a pediatric asphyxiation interviewing guide that they feel will help CPIT teams in these types of investigations.

### **Ad hoc Nomination Committee Appointments**

President June Turner appointed a three (3) member ad hoc Nomination Committee to solicit and review nominations for Executive Committee positions – Catherine Knowles, Larry Seeman, and Verna Wyatt. President Turner also reported that the JTF coordinator would support the ad hoc committee.

### **Committees Report Out**

The committee chairs or designee report out included the following:

- **CPIT:** Stacy Miller reported that the committee is talking on a new role – to serve as an advisory board to the CPITs across the state. The committee deemed this as an important role as the committee current work focus involves having healthcare professionals at the table during CPIT meetings. The committee also discussed the need to establish a medical/pediatric protocol for CPITs and address other issues including children with sexual behavior problems (work on an MDT best practice approach). Additionally, the committee see the need to establish a subcommittee for developing a medical protocol – the committee will consist of Dr. Lowen, Dr. Palmer, Delaine Bottoms, Amy Coble, Korey Kemper, and Denise Alexander.
- **Court Improvement:** Chair Lynne Farrar reported that the committee reviewed their new goals and discussed next action steps:
  - **Pro Se Petition** – Leslie Kinkead of AOC reviewed the petition; she provided one suggestion for improving the petition. The committee updated the petition. Next step is to send it to Adinah Robertson to ensure the language is at 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. Leslie Kinkead and Stephanie Etheridge will develop the instructions for the petition.
  - **Booklets for Preparing Children and Youth for Court** – The committee is reviewing the outline of the children's book, which will focus on dependent and neglect in juvenile court specifically. The books will target three age ranges – 0 to 7; 8 to 12; and 13 and over.

- **Self-Care and Vicarious/Secondary Trauma** – Every DCS attorney has been trained on vicarious trauma with instructions to have self-care plans in each region. There are plans for meetings of TBA Juvenile Children’s Law Section.
- **Outreach and Awareness:** Carla Snodgrass reported that the committee met with Connie Casha of MTSU about the ACEs innovation grant her employer received from DCS. Casha reported that MTSU used the fund through the Building Strong Brains grant to develop an early childhood education Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Toolkit. The purpose of this toolkit is to provide a resource for faculty to integrate current information about ACEs into their curriculum. The intent is for students to be equipped with information on ACEs so that they can mitigate and prevent the effects of ACEs in their future professions as they interact with children and families. The toolkit provides faculty with recommended resources, lesson plan outlines, in-class and out-of-class assignment suggestions, and visual aids to use in their classrooms. The toolkit also contains five-lesson plan Modules that address various topics relating to ACEs. For example, Module I provides an overview of ACEs, while Modules II through IV address deeper and more complex topics. Module V provides topics that are specialized for particular disciplines: Community and Public Health, Early Childhood Development, Elementary and Special Education, Public Policy, and Library Sciences. The modules were designed for easy integration into almost any higher education classroom, across a broad range of disciplines. During the discussion, JTF member Dana Cobb noted UT Martin offers an elective course on ACEs. It was also noted that MTSU and other universities came together to develop a curriculum to train Department of Health employees and council members. Casha reported there are plans to develop a curriculum for parents.

Following the presentation, the committee discussed how the group can take ACEs beyond training, how to build community resilience, policy implications, the lack of resources to support families in rural areas, and how to integrate ACEs work for child-care and pediatric staff. One next step for the group is to review the child care curriculum developed by Prevent Child Abuse of Tennessee nearly 40 years ago, which was developed before best and evidence-based practices.

- **Treatment:** Dr. Ebert reported the committee continued to discuss their goals but placed action steps on hold due to small group (5 members were absent). For the goal of exploring current practice for therapeutic interventions for youth who have been sex trafficked, the committee is generating estimates via the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool and Tennessee Family and Child Tracking System (TFACTS). Regarding the goal for addressing children with sexual behavior problems (CSBP), the committee is focusing efforts on ongoing DS training child, adolescents, adults, and siblings. Jacque Page is looking at what type of assessments are appropriate and how they are termed.

## **Closing**

President Turner thanked everyone for participating in today’s meeting and closed by noting that the next JTF meeting is **Thursday, December 5, 2019** at UT Nashville, 193 Polk Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee.

# Joint Task Force on Children's Justice/Child Sexual Abuse MEETING MINUTES

**December 5, 2019** – 10:00 AM, UT SWORPS, 193 Polk Avenue, Nashville, TN

## **Attendees**

Allen, Sandra	Seeman, Larry	Snodgrass, Carla
Beneke, Bonnie	Spence, Wendy (proxy for Farrar)	Stackens-Anderson, Tina (military leave)
Bevans, Rebecca	Stallworth, Virginia	Talley, Jackie
Boshears, Marlene	Turner, June	
Bottoms, Delaine	Vassar, Caitlin	
Coble, Amy	Wade, Pat	
Diaz, Lisa (proxy for Boshears)	Wyatt, Verna	
Etheridge, Stephanie	Wilkerson, Jason	
Gentry, Annette	Wyatt, Verna	
Graham, Ryan	<b>UT Staff</b>	
Hargrow, Craig	Alley, Rory	
Hart-Curry, Marjahna	Hadjiharalambous, Sissie	
Johnson, Anthony	Lawal, Toni	
Karnes, Lanis	<b>Regrets</b>	
Keoph, Marie	Alexander, Denise	
McGee, Melissa	Boshears, Marlene	
Murphy, William	Cobb, Dana	
Miner, Thomas	Farrar, Lynne	
Page, Jacque	Franklin, Rebecca	
Paisley, Lori	Maifair, Sammi	
Palmer, Mary (proxy for Perales)	Miller, Stacy	
Pellegrin, Lisa	Perales, Marymer	
Randolph, LaShonda	Sinback, Kathryn	
Reed, Kamrie	Smith, Rae Anne	

## **Welcome/Introductions**

President June Turner called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Turner then thanked everyone for coming. Introductions followed.

## **General Announcements**

JTF members provided the following announcements:

- Jon Ebert of Vanderbilt announced a new initiative at Vanderbilt University, a paid research study that is addressing stress and emotions in the lives of families. The study is designed to help a parent/caregiver of a child between the ages of 10 – 15 learn more about communicating with his/her child. For more information about the study, contact the Vanderbilt Stress and Coping Lab at 615-322-8290 or vuselfstudy@gmail.com.
- June Turner who recently retired as the President/CEO of Nashville Children’s Alliance announced that she is resigning from the Joint Task Force; however agreed to lend her expertise to the group if needed.

## **Approval of the Meeting Minutes for June 20, 2019**

President June Turner asked if any members had corrections or comments for the September 19, 2019 JTF Meeting Minutes. None voiced. Bonnie Beneke motioned to accept the minutes and William Murphy seconded.

## **Committees’ Goals/Action Steps Progress/Updates**

- **CPIT** – Delaine Bottoms reported that the committee has aligned its’ efforts with the DCS Statewide CPIT Advisory Board to reduce duplication. The JTF CPIT Committee is looking at convening subcommittees to work on specific projects or engage the expertise of other child welfare professionals who do not regularly attend general membership meetings.
- **Court Improvement** – Stephanie Etheridge reported on one of the committee’s projects - a book for children who have experienced abuse and neglect called **“What Happens in Court?”** The book cover the following topics: 1.) What is Juvenile Court; 2.) Why Am I in Court; 3.) What is Dependency & Neglect; 4.) Who are All the People; 5.) Where is the Jury; 6.) What is Court; 7.) How Should I Act in Court; 8.) What is a Witness; 9.) What do I do as a Witness; 10.) When will I know what is going to happen to me; 11.) When can I go home; 12.) Permanency Plan; 13.) How does the Judge decide; 14.) What is CASA; 15.) What is Adoption?

The committee’s other progress includes the following:

- Review annually, update as necessary, and continue to distribute and present the “Social Workers as Witnesses at Court” curriculum to ensure consistency with current rules and laws

- Communicate with juvenile court judges' executive committee about suggestions for conference topic(s).
- Facilitate CASA/GAL child welfare training for placement and other transition planning for utilization of Community Advisory Boards, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY), Systems of Care Across Tennessee, and Centers of Excellence in order to strengthen families and reduce trauma (This action step is temporarily deferred awaiting information for the implementation of Family First Prevention & Services Act).

In addition, for the goal of addressing secondary trauma and self-care for judges, court staff, attorneys, and child advocates for the purpose of increasing resilience and decreasing turnover, it was noted that there has been a lot of discussion about what is happening throughout child welfare about utilizing self-care and addressing secondary trauma for professionals. Davidson County Juvenile Court has a very comprehensive program. DCS has implemented a program throughout the department for both caseworkers and attorneys. The bar associations are also implementing programs and juvenile judges have had extensive content about secondary trauma.

- **Outreach and Awareness** – Rebecca Bevans reported that the committee has made the following progress include : 1.) Developed a Child Welfare Information Database with a variety of topics related to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), child safety, mandated reporting, signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect, and other related child welfare topics. The information has been sent to DCS communications department for review and approval. The objective is to help provide a variety of educational materials for DCS staff, community partners, and the public. 2.) Assisting DCS with promoting awareness of DCS Child Sexual Abuse Workshops in Middle, East, & West regions in 2020. The targeted audience for the training is DCS staff, CPIT partners, and those who work with child sexual abuse victims. An online training request form can be found on DCS website (<https://www.tn.gov/dcs/program-areas/child-safety/reporting/faqs.html>). 3.) Gathered contact information from deans and leaders at post-secondary institutions across the state; then survey these universities' deans and leaders about what is currently being offered to students in relation to child welfare education. 4.) Reviewed the child abuse mandated reporting online training to update information and include modules specific for audiences who commonly use the training (i.e., child-care providers, schools, and youth-serving organizations).

In addition, Bevans reported DCS has begun reaching out to local universities in attempt to provide child abuse and mandated reporter trainings for university students. DCS OCS staff recently delivered training to Tennessee State University (TSU) students, thus resulting in a partnership - DCS will provide monthly trainings at TSU during the school year and it will be open to university students as well as local social workers and other community partners.

- **Treatment** – Jon Ebert reported that the committee is looking at best practices for children involved in trafficking. Ebert noted that there was not much research on prevention and intervention related to this issue. Some of the completed action steps includes reviewed a plethora of articles about the subject matter, created a network of partnerships with providers who are serving this population, and interviewed providers about what is working well and not working. The committee next step is to create a document to serve as a guideline for best practices.

## **DCS Updates**

Amy Coble, DCS OCS Director of Investigations, provided the following updates:

- **CPS Redesign – Shelby County Pilot:** The objectives for the CPS Redesign is to create a more comprehensive and responsive approach to child protection and prevention; laying the groundwork for the Families First Prevention Services Act. CPIT members are included in the decision making process.

In addition, Coble's presentation covered the following:

- Why Shelby County was chosen for the pilot?
- Response to physical abuse involving a child 8 years or younger and the Triage team involved in these cases
- The Rapid Response, CPS, CPIT, and Drug Unit teams' roles and responsibilities
- Regional Support Services and Resource Linkage supports
- Implementation date (January 2020)
- Support for the pilot from OCS senior leadership staff

Rebecca Bevans, DCS OCS Director of Training, provided training updates. Bevans' presentation covered the following:

- Training timeline for new hires
- Pre-service, CPS Skills Enhancement (5 – 6 months), and CPS Master Certification (1 year)
- Allegations Certifications for Drug Exposed, Sexual Abuse, and Child Death/Near Death cases
- Specialty trainings for CPIT, Rapid Response and Triage teams
- CPS Leadership Academy (a 3-day program required for all new CPS supervisors)
- Efforts involving engaging universities across the state to offer child abuse and neglect trainings for current students in conjunction with the JTF Outreach and Awareness committee

In addition, Bevans' shared information about additional programs:

- Domestic Violence liaisons working in Madison, Hamilton, and Anderson counties, noting that OCS is assessing data collection at DCS and working towards strengthening policy and protocols around domestic violence cases.
- Workplace Trauma Initiatives (i.e. engaging Optum)
- Tennessee's Partnership in Child Sexual Abuse Prevention
- Families First Prevention Service Act, workgroups identified and will begin meeting in January 2020

## **Discussion and Vote on the JTF Executive Committee**

Larry Seeman reported out on behalf of the Ad hoc Nomination Committee, which also included JTF members Catherine Knowles and Verna Wyatt. Seeman reported the committee conducted its business via conference call and emails. Seeman also reported that after a thorough discussion of potential nominees for each office, the committee contacted the potential nominees about interest in leadership.

UT SWORPS staff coordinated the tabulation of the votes. The ballots were collected and prior to concluding the meeting, President June Turner announced the names of the new JTF executive committee members

and noted they will begin their two-year term on March 19, 2019. : The executive committee members are as follows:

- **President** - Lynne Farrar
- **Vice President** - Pat Wade
- **CPIT** - Tom Miner
- **Court Improvement** - Kathy Sinback
- **Outreach and Awareness** - Sandra Allen
- **Treatment** - Jon Ebert

### **Committees Report Out**

The committee chairs or designee report out included the following:

- **CPIT:** Delaine Bottoms reported that the committee discussion included the following: 1.) Secondary Trauma CPIT action plan that include ways to prevent secondary trauma for CPIT members. 2.) Updating the CPIT Best Practice Manual. 3.) Children with sexual behaviors protocol and case reviews.
- **Court Improvement:** Stephanie Etheridge reported that the committee reviewed the outline for the booklets for preparing children and youth for court, which targets three age ranges – 0 to 7; 8 to 12; and 13 and over.
- **Outreach and Awareness:** Rebecca Bevans reported that the committee reviewed the mandated reporting child abuse online training and determined that it needs updating. The group proposed several modules following the general information on reporting child abuse and neglect – information specific for educators (child-care providers, schools, and youth serving organizations), signs and symptoms, and additional training information. The committee also plan to make the training available in Spanish and develop a proposal to fund this project
- **Treatment:** Jon Ebert reported the committee continued to discuss their goals and placed action steps on them, including addressed challenges as it relates to data.
  - **GOAL 1:** Explore current practice for therapeutic interventions for youth who have been sex trafficked.  
*Challenges: the need for data and the reliability of the data and the definition of "trafficking."*

#### **The document structure for this project is as follows:**

- TN number of kids that need this type of approach [info needed]
- What are the treatment **needs** of this population?
- What types of treatment? Trauma/A&D/Motivational Interviewing/CBT
- Continuum level of care? Flight Risks
- What **lifestyle skills** are needed for support? [going beyond technique]
- Recommendations: treatment provider / continuum

The timelines for this: March 2020 (Initial Draft); March 2020 - June 2020 (Continue Revisions); and June 2020 (Final Product)

- Hopper, E.K. (2017). The Multimodal Social Ecological (MSE) Approach: A Trauma-Informed Framework for Supporting Trafficking Survivors' Psychosocial Health. In Chisolm-Straker, M & Stocklosa, H. (Eds). *Human Trafficking is a Public Health Issue: A Paradigm Expansion in the United States*. Springer.
- Hopper, E.K. (2017). Trauma-Informed Treatment of Substance Use Disorders in Trafficking Survivors. In Chisolm-Straker, M & Stocklosa, H. (Eds). *Human Trafficking is a Public Health Issue: A Paradigm Expansion in the United States*. Springer.
- Hopper, E.K. (2016). [Trauma-Informed Psychological Assessment of Human Trafficking Survivors](#). Special Issue on Human Trafficking, *Women and Therapy*.
- Hopper, E.K. (2016). [Polyvictimization and Developmental Trauma Adaptations in Sex Trafficked Youth](#). *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*.
- Hopper, E.K. & Hidalgo, J. (2006). [Invisible chains: Psychological coercion of human trafficking victims](#). *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review*, 1, 185-209.
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- **GOAL 2:** Children with Sexual Behavior Problems (CSBP) - DCS document that establishes appropriate language (labels), types of assessment, and treatment (*The action steps for this goal are ongoing DCS training for child, adolescent, adults, and siblings and to look at what type of CSBP assessments are appropriate and how are they termed.*)

### **Closing**

President Turner thanked everyone for participating in today's meeting and closed by noting that the next JTF meeting is **Thursday, March 19, 2020** at UT Nashville, 193 Polk Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee.

## Joint Task Force on Children's Justice and Child Sexual Abuse

**The March 19, 2020, meeting of the Joint Task Force's Four Committees' Meetings were conducted virtually or via conference line due to public meeting restrictions imposed as a result of concerns regarding the spread of COVID 19**

### CPIT Committee Minutes

**Present:** Pierce Beckham, Brandon Galloway, Dawn Harper, Amy Koslick, Tom Miner, Mary Palmer, Virginia Stallworth, and Jason Wilkerson. **Regrets:** Stacy Miller

Chair Tom Miner reported the meeting began with a discussion regarding the effect that efforts to contain the COVID 19 outbreak were having on the manner in which CPIT partners were conducting their duties and the efforts being made by said partners to protect their clients and employees from exposure to the virus. Dawn Harper and Virginia Stallworth discussed how they were handling forensic interviews and CPIT meetings with an eye toward minimizing exposure risks at their CACs. Amy Koslick shared with the committee the efforts formed for DCS workers to continue their investigative work. Koslick also discussed concerns about the declining number of referrals to the Child Abuse Hotline, noting that the under reporting of cases is probably due to children are not in contact with persons outside their family who might typically report abuse.

Amy Koslick and Pierce Beckham discussed the progress of the roll out of the Department's new referral response protocol in the Upper Cumberland Region. They reported on the modifications to the protocol for addressing different circumstances that applies in rural areas as opposed to urban areas. Additionally, the roll out in the Upper Cumberland current schedule is June 14, 2020.

In regards to CPIT ongoing projects, Dr. Palmer reported that a number of CAC's have responded to her survey about how various teams are handling vicarious trauma issues. Dr. Palmer reported she plans to contact JTF CPIT member Delanie Bottoms regarding vicarious trauma programs in place in the CACs that are associated with her employer - the Carl Perkins Center about recommendations for programs elsewhere. Dr. Palmer also advised that she would follow up with those centers that have not yet responded to the survey and that she would make any additional information obtained available to the Committee by email.

In regards to the CPIT Best Practice Manual, the Committee agreed to defer updating the manual pending the establishment of the new DCS referral response protocol so information concerning what is working well and how it would relate to the work of the CPIT teams could be incorporated into the manual.

In addition, regarding the issue of how CPIT should classify cases regarding children with sexual behavior issues and the ramifications of such classification, the Committee agreed to defer discussion of this matter until the next meeting as members most involved in that discussion were unable to attend this meeting.

## **Court Improvement Committee Minutes**

**Present:** Kathy Sinback, Marlene Boshears, Stephanie Etheridge, Lynne Farrar, Craig Hargrow, Lanis Karnes, Sammi Maifair, and Rae Anne Smith

Chair Kathy Sinback thanked everyone for joining the virtual meeting and proceeded with review of previous work discussions and next action steps.

- The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the December 5, 2019 meeting.
- Stephanie Etheridge updated the Committee on the draft Pro Se Petition for Adjudication of Dependency/Neglect and Custody. The petition has been submitted to the plain language expert at the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for review. The Committee will work on finalizing the Petition so it can be rolled it out statewide.
- The Committee worked on the Children's Book entitled "What Happens in Juvenile Court (Abuse and Neglect Cases)". Rae Anne Smith shared some helpful tips for how to write materials in plain language. The Committee went through the first section of the book and suggested updates. Craig Hargrow made all of the updates and sent out the latest draft to the Committee. Some Committee members will be given sections of the book to work on before the next meeting. These Committee members will have a separate meeting prior to our next Committee meeting to go over the latest draft of the book.
- Kathy Sinback forwarded the Committee members documents about Davidson County's Fostering Resilience Committee to review prior to the next meeting. These documents will be a starting point for the Committee's work on providing resources to Courts and child welfare staff on secondary trauma and self-care.
- The Committee discussed the "Social Workers as Witnesses" training curriculum developed previously by the Committee. Rae Anne Smith recently updated the curriculum for a training she conducted. The Committee will add Rae Anne's updates to the curriculum on the website. The Committee will also work on a plan to publicize the training, as it does not appear that the training is being used as much as it could be.
- The Committee will continue to communicate with the Juvenile Court Judges' Executive Committee about suggestions for conference topics. The Committee will continue to coordinate these suggestions through Stephanie Etheridge.

## **Outreach and Awareness Committee Minutes**

**Present:** Sandra Allen, Rebecca Bevans, Dana Cobb, Kristen Davis, Annette Gentry, Marjahna Hart, Catherine Knowles, Sissie Hadjalaralambous, Toni Lawal, Lori Paisley, Carla Snodgrass, and Verna Wyatt

Chair Sandra Allen thanked everyone for joining the meeting and then proceeded with the agenda items.

- **Online mandated reporter training:** Rebecca Bevans reported all of the feedback provided by the Committee is being incorporating in the revision of the training; and leadership staff within the Office of Child Safety have reviewed and approved the changes. Currently, the training is being recorded & converted into an interactive format to be

uploaded onto the DCS website later this year. Additionally, DCS OCS will be looking at recording it in Spanish as well.

- **Child Welfare/Universities Work Focus:** Rebecca Bevans reported on the Zero Abuse Project, which offers free technical assistance for helping states partner with universities to develop majors, minors, or certificates to better prepare students for careers where they will engage with children and families. Posting the program interdisciplinary will help get more than just future social workers to take the programs. Marketing and engagement of students and universities is going to be crucial for buy in. For more information, please visit <https://www.zeroabuseproject.org/education-training/cast/>
- **National Child Abuse Prevention Month:** Verna Wyatt reported on the meetings she and Toni Lawal had with Jennifer Donnals and Tiffany Jackson of DCS about activities to increase awareness of child abuse prevention in April. Representative Williams issued a proclamation from the legislators and governor; however, due to the current virus concerns, this may not happen. Other ideas discussed were lighting the State Capitol blue for child abuse awareness, a PSA from the Governor and First Lady, and asking Tennessee Department of Transportation to promote information about reporting on highway signs. Tiffany Jackson is working on a series of social media examples for dissemination to child welfare professionals around March 31.
- Kristen Davis, Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee (PCAT) executive director, reported that PCAT has had to reschedule all large community events including those scheduled this fall. Davis reported other state prevent child abuse agencies are rolling out activities now to help parents who are stressed; and at home with their kids. PCAT is going to launch some parenting videos this month that focus on interaction activities and will forward information to the JTF to share with their listserv. Carla Snodgrass of the Department of Health (DOH) suggested the information be parent positive with simple and practical tips. Snodgrass also noted that the DOH website visits have increased amid COVID-19. Lori Paisley of the Department of Education (DOE) shared that her agency has been sending out tool kits to districts to give to parents. Dana Cobb of Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) reported TCCY is offering free online trainings related to Building Strong Brains and ACEs
- **Data around Erin's Law:** The Committee discussed the need to conduct a follow up survey to the schools with 3 to 4 questions regarding familiarity with Erin's Law, Practice Guidelines for Implementing Erin's Law, developed by this Committee about five years ago. Lori Paisley reported that DOE has an auditing team but it does not review every single school district and/or schools every year for compliance. Paisley reported DOE receives a self-reported compliance report and there was only one school district reported being out of compliance with Erin's Law. Paisley also noted due to the coronavirus crisis, schools are currently on overdrive trying to plan virtual lessons for the rest of the school year, ensuring children get food, and addressing concerns of children's mental health from having to be at home and disconnected from their classmates, routines, and teachers.

After much discussion about who needs to be surveyed and possible survey questions, it was noted that the newly formed Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Taskforce is addressing this issue as well. Following the discussion, the Committee agreed to let the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Taskforce take the lead on this effort and update the committee on their findings since this taskforce is currently developing & delivering programs that support Erin's Law.

- The Committee's final discussion was concerning the September 2019 meeting with Connie Casha of MTSU about the ACEs innovation grant her employer received from DCS. The Committee agreed to follow up on this discussion at the next meeting in June.

### **Treatment Committee**

**Present:** Jon Ebert, Melissa McGee, William Murphy, Jacque Page, Kamrie Reed, Larry Seeman, Jackie Talley, Pat Wade, and Toni Lawal

Chair Jon Ebert began the meeting by checking in on everyone amid COVID-19 crisis.

- Pat Wade provided a summary of the JTF updates to the Children and Families Legislative Subcommittee, including addressing the recommendations from the 2019 State Plan about increasing funds for the CACs.
- The Committee reviewed and discussed the goal for exploring current practice for therapeutic interventions for youth who have been sex trafficked.
  - William Murphy discussed the update of the document draft, which is currently 20-25 pages in a rough draft. Murphy is focusing on surviving sex trafficking and the exchange of sex involving parents. Murphy also noted that the research is showing that what gets them out of this is having an alternative such as life skills.
  - Discussion about prioritizing life skills/independent living vs. trauma treatment at the beginning. **Engagement**
  - Reminder of resource focus: description of population and what are interventions..
  - Observation by Kamrie Reed that this population is going straight to residential /detention - taking away from autonomy & voice/choice (Trauma Informed Care)
  - Larry Seeman highlighted the **heterogeneity** of the population.
  - Murphy and Seeman will take the document to next steps with the document.
- The Committee also reviewed and discussed their goal regarding addressing Children with Sexual Behavior Problems (CSBP) - DCS document that establishes appropriate language (labels), types of assessment, and treatment.
  - Brief document 1-2 pages.
  - Focus of next meeting.