

## Juvenile Justice Committee

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Location: WebEx Address: [Link to Juvenile Justice WebEx Meeting](#)  
Call in number: 415-655-0003  
Date: Friday, 5/1/2020  
Time: 10:00 A.M. CDT

**Present:** Richard Kennedy, Exec Dir., Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir., Zanira Whitfield, Vicki Taylor, Russette Sloan, Jennifer Jones

**Staff Absent:** Latasha Mitchell

**Commission Members:** Rob Mortenson, Chair, Brenda Davis, Sharon Green, Amy Jones, Altha Stewart, Rob Philyaw, Jennie Harlan

1) **Call to Order – Rob Mortenson, Chair**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Mortenson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Mortenson asked Commission Members and staff to introduce themselves.

2) **Approval of February Juvenile Justice Meeting Minutes (ACTION)**

Mortenson asked for a motion to approve the Juvenile Justice Committee minutes from the February Commission Meeting.

***Rob Philyaw moved to approve the minutes from February 14, 2020. Sharon Green seconded. Unanimously Approved.***

3) **Staff Updates**

**CASA Grants Management – Russette Sloan**

Applications for FY 2020-2021 funding were sent to 30 existing CASA programs, representing 55 counties. The applications were emailed April 9 with a due date of April 23. At the time of this report all applications have been returned. Contracts between TCCY and the individual programs will be created once the information has been collected from the completed applications. FY 20-21 CASA contracts are expected to be completed and sent out by the end of May.

## **Federal Formula Grant Update- Vicki Taylor**

Taylor reported the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) FY 2020 Title II Formula Grants application was submitted timely on April 9. The Formula Grants program provides funding to support state and local efforts to address juvenile delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system. Awards are usually made in September.

Taylor thanked everyone who reviewed the draft Title II application and made comments.

## **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) Violations – Zanira Whitfield**

Whitfield reported the total number of DSO violations were four for the reporting period. Detention monitoring travel was suspended for staff due to COVID-19, so county data has not been collected.

## **Compliance Monitoring Update- Craig Hargrow**

### **CPO Plan**

The Grant Contract Monitor has been working with the Deputy Executive Director to make updates to the 2020 CPO Plan that was submitted and approved last year. Some noncompliant subrecipients have expressed interest in fulfilling their 2019 Monitoring Review obligations, which will result in necessary updates. The Grant Contract Monitor has also proposed changes to the CPO Plan that will allow Reimbursement Accounts to be monitored less frequently on a staggered cycle based on risk score. This will help reduce the monitoring burden on these subrecipients, whose award amounts are relatively small. The Grant Contract Monitor hopes to implement this change in the 2020 CPO Plan.

### **2020 Monitoring**

The 2020 Subrecipient Monitoring Review process is currently underway but has experienced delays due to COVID-19 and the extension of the 2019 Monitoring Review process. Three site visits have been postponed with an additional three scheduled at the end of April that may need to be rescheduled as well. Postponed site visits will be rescheduled for June 2020 (subject to any additional work-from-home guidelines set

forth by the Department of Human Resources regarding COVID-19).

The Grant Contract Monitor made a request to CPO to restructure the remaining 2020 site visits and the request was approved.

## **Racial and Ethnic Disparities- Craig Hargrow**

Hargrow reported he completed the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) update to the Three-Year Plan in a timely manner. Whitfield and Taylor submitted the plan and attachments to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention prior to the deadline. Hargrow stated he will be directing more resources to statewide impact and will continue to work with local jurisdictions.

Hargrow thanked Whitfield and Taylor for their work on the Title II application.

Hargrow reported the Juvenile Justice staff plan to have regular updates with DCS and a May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting is scheduled to share JJ issues.

## **COVID-19 Challenges**

Mortenson discussed reopening procedures for the state and precautions to keep everyone safe and asked the committee how COVID-19 is impacting youth in surrounding counties.

Green reported juvenile court judges are submitting proposed reopening guidelines to the Tennessee Supreme Court. Johnson City received their reopening approval under strict guidelines.

Philyaw reported there has been a decrease in juveniles detained since mid-March, but an increase in domestic assaults, car thefts and joyriding. Recently there were three juveniles in detention in Hamilton County which is the lowest ever and the current census is six. Magistrates are providing staggered detention hearing hours to avoid traffic in the courts, and they continue to rely heavily on WebEx and Zoom hearings. Philyaw reported his plan to increase in-person hearings was submitted to the Supreme Court and he is waiting on approval.

Kennedy reported the Friday, May 8, virtual commission meeting will include state child serving department updates on their responses to COVID-19 and how they have adapted and what challenges and opportunities they are seeing.

Kennedy discussed the economic and financial impacts on state departments and

prioritizing funding for children, young adults and families. Kennedy reported on a discussion with Rose Naccarato, TCCY Data and Communication Director, about developing a series of policy briefs focused on maintaining investments and infrastructure and Kennedy has asked several TCCY staff to participate.

Kennedy reported on the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Council's plan to seek funding for a statewide data system.

Kennedy asked the judges how the Department of Children's Services (DCS) has responded to courts during this time. Green discussed no issues with Child Protective Services (CPS) as they provide assessments and investigations, but there has been a lack in family support and family crisis intervention services in Johnson City. Green reported on the lack of prevention services for youth and the increase in runaways in Johnson City. Parents are refusing to let runaway youth come back home for fear of COVID-19 exposure to other family members. Philyaw reported DCS has been responsive to needs in handling COVID-19 in Hamilton County.

Jones reported encountering youth ages 16-22 in Madison County not knowing how to access and file for unemployment and her colleagues providing educational assistance on the process.

Mortenson discussed taking the opportunity to meet with legislators to educate them on the impact COVID-19 is having on youth and letting them know TCCY is available to help.

Stewart discussed it being imperative to help legislators understand the effects the shutdowns have had on communities and schools. Stewart reported issues of frustrated parents and grandparents who are caregivers not being equipped to handle homework assignments or youth behavioral challenges and desperate for services. Stewart discussed the lack of diversion programs, a decreased access to mental health services and family supports and the ripple effects.

Kennedy discussed looking at protective factors for children and mentioned Tennessee Education Commissioner Schwinn announced the creation of a Child Wellbeing Task Force. Kennedy has asked for a representative from TCCY to be apart of the task force. Details of the task force are still in the planning phase.

Mortenson asked how to get data on the statewide impact or challenges COVID-19 has had on kids. Kennedy mentioned opportunities to request resource mapping numbers more frequently to look at where funds are being spent and where funds should be

invested.

Stewart asked about standardizing how we collect data or having the capability to coordinate getting individual data in order to have a useful tool to present to legislators.

Hargrow discussed the need to first think about what data points to collect before we begin to educate legislators and making sure courts have the availability and resources to collect good data to help us advocate for children and youth.

Hargrow discussed legislation that was presented, but not passed, for standardized key data points to be included in the statute for consistency and data being reported to AOC.

Hargrow suggested a plan to come up with certain data points and reach out to key courts to see if they are willing to collect data to look at the immediate impact and start planning for future impact of the pandemic and advocate for children and youth moving forward.

Stewart explained collecting this data makes a strong case for when we appeal to the legislators for why we need certain things done. Stewart expressed concerns of cities rebounding, parents going back to work and youth getting back out into the communities. Stewart hopes we will be proactive in our thinking to identify trigger points and critical areas we need to pay attention to as we direct our work specifically to the response of COVID-19 and the impact on children and families.

Hargrow suggested as individuals of the committee have thoughts of certain data points, send him an email and he will compile and submit a list to the JJ committee to formulate key data points and then we seek to gather this information from the courts.

Philyaw reported the courts willingness to assist with this process and taking this opportunity to work with AOC who already has pertinent court information to expedite the process.

4) **Additional Items or Comments**

5) **Motion to Adjourn**

***Mortenson moved to adjourn the meeting. Philyaw seconded and all approved***

***Meeting ended at 11:15 a.m.***

Prepared by Vicki Taylor