



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
COUNCIL ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH**

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Council on Children's Mental Health

August 22, 2019
10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
2400 Clifton Avenue
Nashville, TN 37209

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees:

Jennifer Aitken
Joel Alex
Gwendyle Armengol
Naadzama Ashby
Courtney Bane
Carole Beltz
Melissa Binkley
Amy Blackwell
Hope Bond
Cory Bradfield
Downing Burke
Christine Butler
Kelli Celsor
Judith Clerjune
Amy Conard
Timothy Cooper
Carl Counts
Katie Daugherty
Brenda Donaldson
Kristin Dunn
Anjanette Eash
Kendall Elsass
Carey Farley
Connie Farmer
Brittany Farrar
Laritha Fentress
Kaela Fett
Randi Finger
Julie Flannery
Krystal Fortney
Kirby Fye

Kim Fyke-Vance
Deborah Gatlin
Mackenzie Goodwin
Debra Granger
Dwan Grey
Daniel Haile
Tamara Hall
Amber Hampton
Laura Hones
Crystal Hutchins
Cheryl Johnson
Donna Johnson
Jacqueline Johnson
Sumita Keller
Richard Kennedy
Diana Kirby
Toni Lawal
Melissa McGee
Sean McPherson
Jeri Moore
Jessica Mullins
Kayla Mumphrey
Jill Murphy
Yolanda Neal
Frank Ogilvie
Amy Olson
Cara Parker
Hope Payne
Linda Powell
Athena Randolph
Mary Rolando

Sharon Ross
Wendy Shuran
Lindsay Sinicki
Steven Sluder
Alysia Smith Knight
Drew Smith
Jamie Smith
Garrett Spurlin
Rebecca Swift
Joan Sykora
Scarlett Taylor
Dawartha Tyler
David Thomas
Eric Valinor
Joseph Valinor
Keri Virgo
Don Walker
Townley White
Zanira Whitfield
Megan Wilkerson
Bianca Williams
Ron Wilson
Brittany Willis
Jules Wilson
Tammy Wilson
Tonya Wood
Layla Wright
Kinika Young
Charisa Yusi
Matt Yancey

Welcome/Introductions – Richard Kennedy (TCCY) and Matt Yancey (TDMHSAS)

- Kennedy welcomed the group and invited attendees to introduce themselves.
- Kennedy introduced Yancey. Yancey reported it is the 50th Anniversary of the Regional Intervention Program (RIP), a program for families with children 2-6 years old with behavioral challenges. He added a new RIP facility is being built in the Crieve Hall neighborhood in Nashville. There will be a ribbon cutting and open house. The program is free and currently has space available in the morning program. For more information, contact Melissa Binkley (melissa.binkley@tn.gov) at TDMHSAS.
- Yancey shared on September 17th and 18th the SOC Conference will be at Embassy Suites in Cool Springs. The conference is free and a wonderful training opportunity to learn more about SOC. This year the conference shares a joint focus on system of care and juvenile justice issues. Capacity is 400-500. Please visit <https://socacrosstn.org/> for more information.
- September 19th the CHIRP and FEPI and Healthy Transitions programs will host a roundtable for young adults. If you are a young adult and/or work with young adults, please let them know about the opportunity to participate in the discussion.
- Yancey shared the Department of Education (DOE) was recently awarded a second AWARE grant. As part of this continued work, TDMHSAS will hire a part time AWARE project manager focused on mental health awareness and supports in schools and asked the group to encourage people to apply. Yancey shared, DOE Commissioner Schwinn mentioned the number one priority she has heard from school districts across the state is student behavioral health. Additionally, TDHMSAS doubled the investment in the school based mental health liaison program last year. TDMHSAS will also partner with DOE on three *Building Strong Brains* Regional Trainings.
- The Governor has prioritized youth and young adult suicide this year and Yancey reported the budget included over \$1 million for suicide prevention. TSPN has nearly doubled their staff with the additional funding and resources to further address this need. Yancey encouraged the group to reach out to TSPN Executive Director Scott Ridgway to learn who the local coordinator is for the different parts of the state and to connect with them for a great partnership opportunity.

Approval of Meeting Summary

- Kennedy thanked Jerri Moore for completing the meeting summary for the last meeting.
- Kennedy asked the group if there were any corrections to the summary.

Motion to accept the June 10, 2019 CCMH Meeting Summary – Rolando motioned, Virgo seconded, motion passes unanimously.

Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) – Judith Clerjeune, Policy Officer

- Clerjeune introduced herself and the work of TIRRC.
- Clerjeune shared pieces of her personal path to citizenship as part of an immigrant family from Haiti and highlighted reasons on why it matters to have this discussion. She shared the challenges and lack of pathways for immigrant families to reach citizenship (see graphic in PowerPoint).

- She provided information on the difference between:
 - Refugees (protected group who are fleeing country for humanitarian reasons, e.g. war, persecution, etc.), one of the most vetted options where the country determines how many they will accept (President makes the decision in the U.S.). Historically, the U.S. number has been 95,000/year. During the first year of the Trump administration he dropped the number to 45,000, the following year it decreased to allow 30,000 with 20,000 in the status currently, and remains this number at present. There is concern that the number will be lowered again in the near future.
 - Asylum seekers are fleeing unsafe situations, like gang or domestic violence or other unsafe situations in their home countries and currently the U.S. is seeing a lot from South America.
 - Other types of visas are available depending on the country of origin.
- US Immigration System was last updated in the 1960s and was centered around the ideas of reuniting families, increasing the number of highly skilled workers, and humanitarian reasons.
- Types of Immigration Status include:
 - Lawful permanent residents – these are persons who are green card holders, one step from becoming U.S. citizens.
 - Humanitarian visas – include those visas for asylees, refugees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Deferred Action, etc.
 - Survivors of domestic violence, trafficking and other crimes.
 - Nonimmigrant for those who don't intend to stay long-term, such as tourists or temporary workers.
 - There are many others that don't fit neatly into a category but have federal authorization to be here.
- Clerjeune provided a snapshot of immigration in Nashville and Tennessee.
 - 12% in Nashville are foreign born;
 - 5% in Tennessee are foreign born;
 - 54% of immigrants in Nashville have been here 10+ years; and
 - More than 40% of immigrants in Nashville are undocumented.
- Clerjeune described mixed status families, defined as different members of the family having different immigration status.
- 71,155 children in Tennessee live with undocumented parents, 1 in 9 live in a mixed status family.
- More than a third of Nashville public school students speak a language other than English at home, with 140 languages spoken in Nashville Public Schools.
- Over 50% of undocumented people in Tennessee have been here for 10+ years. Almost a quarter of undocumented immigrants in Tennessee are under the age of 25.
- A member of the group asked what sources are available for data on undocumented people. Clerjeune provide the resource – Migration Policy Institute and Census Bureau.
- Clerjeune talked about the concentration of immigrant families in farms and factories in rural communities, like Morristown where there was recently an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid.
- Clerjeune also described a current dual culture of “Kick people out and Keep people out”
- The “kick people out” culture is seen in:

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. This program is for children who often did not know they were undocumented until they applied for driver's license or went through another government process. The current administration has introduced policies to end the DACA program and current status is under review of several courts.
- Temporary Protective Status (TPS) exists to address massive humanitarian disaster needs. An example would be the earthquake in Haiti and ability for Haitians to come to the U.S. The current administration want to close TPS, which impacts families who have lived in US for years, work and own homes here.
- Recently there has been increased enforcement of immigration policies, including an ICE raid in Mississippi, where 600 people were arrested at their factory jobs. Children of these families were at school when they learned their parents have been arrested. Schools had to address immediate logistics, as well as address the trauma, for these students. In Morristown, Tennessee, 600 children did not attend school the day following a raid when 97 people were arrested. Families are living in fear of the uncertainty.
 - One meeting attendee shared about her own personal experience as a resident of Morristown and how it impacts everyone in the community.
 - Another attendee shared about the impact on businesses and how many have closed.
 - And yet another shared of friends who were personally impacted and are still going through immigration proceedings a year after the raid
- The “keep people out” culture may be seen in policies such as:
 - Family Separation;
 - Asylum Bans (by excluding domestic violence);
 - Muslim Bans; and
 - Cuts to Refugee Resettlement.
- If working with children and families, it is important to be aware and understand what people may be experiencing. Even if families are not directly affected, there is a climate of fear and there is an impact on the entire community.
- “Public Charge” is a term used in immigration law to refer to a person who is primarily dependent on the government for support. Current discussion around Public Charge centers on a proposed new rule to broaden the definition of who is to be considered a public charge to include immigrants who use one or more government programs listed in the proposed rule. As a result of the proposed rule change, children who are legally here are not accessing services. Clerjeune explained because the policy is so complicated, they recommend referring people to talk to their attorneys before making any decision. Kennedy asked what benefits undocumented people can access. Clerjeune said some who have legal status have limited access, undocumented people (unless they have been able to get refugee or another legal status) do not have access to public benefits but do pay taxes and thus are contributing to the public benefits.
- As noted above with children, challenges in immigration work include fear to access health care for any family members, which puts the family and the community at risk
- The Tennessee General Assembly passed a law that prohibited Tennessee from being a sanctuary city/state and allows public officials to ask people about immigration

- status. An example of this would be a parent being asked when going to pick up child from school, creating a climate of fear that impacts entire families and communities.
- Clerjeune shared the following as potential responses of what can be done:
 - Development and implementation of safe zone policies;
 - Training and preparation of service providers;
 - Sharing of resources and opportunities for immigrant and mixed status families;
 - Advocate for families and communities; and
 - Join rapid response networks in the event of a raid.
 - Bradfield asked what makes a warrant an official warrant. Clerjeune responded it is only official if it is signed by a Judge (not by an ICE officer). Clerjeune referred to a recent event in Hermitage when the ICE agents did not have an official warrant. The warrant must be signed by a Judge to be a legitimate official warrant. Images of example official warrants are available on the TIRRC website.
 - <https://www.tnimmigrant.org/contact>

Census Bureau –Naadzama Ashby and Ron Williams (ASK RK about data point he shared)

- Ashby shared the mission of the Census Bureau.
- She discussed the US Decennial Census Survey with the first one administered in August 1790 by Thomas Jefferson and a requirement that one be completed once every 10 years. More than 5,000 people are hired to complete the survey and count process during a Census year. The Census counts every single person living in the U.S. and this is used to determine the allocation of funding, federal, state, local and tribal governments.
- Specifically, census data is used to:
 - Distribute \$675 billion in federal funds annually;
 - Planning and implementing programs and services;
 - Redistricting legislative districts;
 - Transportation needs; and
 - Housing assistance and rehabilitation loans.
- Census information is required by law to be confidential and records are protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code and cannot be shared with law enforcement or other public officials. Census officers are required to take two oaths, one of which is a lifetime oath, and are not mandated and cannot share anything they witness or learn through the census process, including issues considered “mandated reporting” by other professionals.
- The 2020 Census environment is experiencing distrust of government and hostility around the census. To address this, the Census Bureau strategy is to:
 - Establish where to count by working with local governments to get the most updated addresses possible. The Bureau is now trying to verify addresses (address canvassing) and will until the end of October.
 - Motivate people to respond by providing education on the importance and impact of responding to the Census and will continue doing this until the count takes place. 2020 will be the first time for online response option, which allows people to complete the survey electronically (mobile, computer). The questionnaire can still be completed by telephone or mail.
 - Count the population.

- Release counts for redistricting by April 1st 2021 and when the data will be available to the public.
- The questionnaire takes 10 minutes to answer, is easy, secure and important to complete.
- The Census Bureau partners with different organizations to get accurate information distributed. They will train and facilitate complete count committees in every county, working with highest official in the community to create the complete count committees. Ashby encouraged anyone in this group was encouraged to participate. At present, all but five or six counties in Tennessee have a complete count committee. Next month will be the first training for the state complete count committee.
- Other ways to partner are to link census website to organization website, provide training space, and/or provide printed materials.
- For those communities that are more difficult to obtain an accurate count on, such as children under 5, education about the process is one of the biggest barriers. Lack of an accurate count impacts services and resources available to families. It is estimated in 2010, 1.4 million children went uncounted. Additionally, persons who are homeless are a more difficult community to obtain an accurate count as this population is counted by administrative record using a point in time count with different local homeless coalitions. People with mental health and behavioral challenges are also hard to count, often because they do not know or understand the importance of completing the survey.
- For more information on working with the 2020 Census, an online job application is now available at www.2020census.gov/jobs.
- Spurlin asked about availability of a social media toolkit. Ashby said she would be happy to share the social media toolkit with the group so the language and infographics can just be copied and pasted.
- Ashby introduced Ron Williams, the Data Dissemination Specialist. He is not a part of the Decennial Staff and is a permanent employee of the Census. He is available to assist with data for needs like grants, etc. He reviewed his role and the opportunities to use the data from the census.
- Williams shared some of the types of data he can make available. Between each census, all the data is an estimate, including:
 - Age and nativity of children under 18;
 - Health insurance coverage and status by citizenship status; and
 - Disability characteristics – 15.4% of population in Tennessee has a disability – this determines availability of handicap parking, etc.
- Williams shared about the Census Data Training Academy. Agencies can request free data training and individuals can subscribe to www.Census.gov/academy to join the Census educational hub and to receive updates.
- Williams invited the group to request data at census/askdata@census.gov. Responses should be received in 24-48 hours. Williams also shared his contact information Ronald.l.williams@census.gov.
- Williams also shared the University of Tennessee has a state data center Tennessee State Data Center located on campus. <http://tndata.utk.edu/>

Networking Lunch

Statewide Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC) - Jules Wilson, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

- Wilson introduced herself and YALC members, Garrett Spurlin and Crystal Hutchins.
- Wilson reported on recent discussions with YALC and who had experiences/lived experiences with immigration issues and support from YALC for continuing to focus on and find resources and solutions for immigrant needs and concerns.
- Spurlin noted the SOC guiding principles include immigrants and their needs. He said it is important to SOC as well as everyone in the room.

Tennessee Justice Center - Kinika Young, Director of Children's Health

- Kennedy introduced Young and explained the mission of the Tennessee Justice Center.
- Young gave an overview of immigrant eligibility for public health insurance in Tennessee and discussed public benefits available including, SNAP
- Young noted the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA of 1996) passed by Congress, begun during the Clinton Administration. This act created two categories of immigrants for federal benefit eligibility purposes: qualified or not-qualified.
- Young mentioned a note on how the Public Charge proposed rule change will impact immigrants, but *also* non-immigrants too. Medicaid, SNAP, (not WIC), CHP, public housing, and cash assistance programs could be impacted by this change because funding from the Federal Government is based on how many people are enrolled. With less people enrolled, there could be less money made available for benefit programs.
- To be identified as “qualified” means a person can receive federal benefits, but many are barred from receiving federal benefits until they have had a qualified status for five years.
- Young noted that “qualified” immigrants including: Lawful Permanent Residents, (LPR/Green Card), refugees, asylees, aliens paroled in the U.S., aliens whose deportation is being withheld, battered immigrants and children, Cuban/Haitian entrants, aliens granted conditional entry, and victims of a severe form of trafficking/human trafficking.
- Young referenced eligibility qualifications for TennCare & CoverKids for the following groups - Amerasian Immigrants, aliens who are members of a federally-recognized Indian tribe, American Indians born in Canada, aliens who are honorable discharged veterans or active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces, plus their spouse and dependent children, Afghani and Iraqi aliens granted Special Immigrant Status, and aliens who are victims of a severe form of trafficking.
- Young noted that “qualified” immigrants are potentially eligible for TennCare, CoverKids, and other public benefit programs such as TANF (Families First) and SNAP (food stamps). Some qualified immigrants are subject to time-related requirements.
- Young discussed Time-Related Requirements including the 5-year bar and the 7-year bar and those who could be exempt from the 5 and 7-year bar. The 5-year bar is a period of ineligibility for all federally-funded benefits, including full TennCare and CoverKids. The 7-year bar is a period of eligibility granted to qualified aliens with a specific humanitarian status and who are exempt from the 5-year bar.
- Exemptions from the 5-year bar must still meet all other eligibility standards. (List of those exempt from 5-year bar are in the slides.)

- Young explained how immigrants can access TennCare and CoverKids during the 5-year bar. Detailed eligibility is included in the slideshow (refer to slides).
- Qualified aliens exempt from the 5-year bar must meet all categorical and financial requirements for an open TennCare program. Refugees, asylees, and other humanitarian groups of immigrants, veterans, active duty military and their spouses and children, and certain other immigrants can get CoverKids without a 5-year waiting period.
- Those included in the 5-year bar are Legal Permanent Residents (LPR) that are admitted on or after 8/22/1996, aliens paroled for at least 1 year, and battered immigrants and children.
- Some can access TennCare and CoverKids benefits during the 5-year bar in emergency situations: Emergency TennCare may be accessed if categorical and financial requirements for an open TennCare program are met. Pregnant women can get maternity benefits through CoverKids as an unborn child counts in the mother's household. Access is limited to prenatal, delivery, and 60 days postpartum.
- TennCare accessibility after the 5-year ban expired on the 5-year anniversary of the individual received "qualified alien" status. Once expired, the individual "may apply for Medicaid benefits as if he/she was a U.S. citizen." They must meet categorical and financial requirements for an open TennCare program to be eligible.
- After the 5-year ban, CoverKids may be accessible if eligible: 18 or younger or pregnant, a Tennessee resident, within 250% FPL, ineligible for TennCare, uninsured or insured without maternity benefits, or if child held a qualified status for at least five years. If a person is pregnant they do not have to hold a qualified status for any amount of time.
- Young noted the definitions in the Immigration and Nationality Act, Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, and the Foreign Operation, Export, Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1988 to explain how qualified aliens are potentially eligible for TennCare for the first seven years after refugee, asylee, or other humanitarian status is granted.
- Young said veterans, active duty members of the Armed Forces of the U.S., and spouses and children of veterans or active duty military personnel are excluded from the 7-year period. Refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, aliens whose deportation is being withheld, aliens admitted as an Amerasian immigrant, and Afghani and Iraqi aliens granted Special Immigrant Status are included in the 7-year period. To access TennCare during the 7-year period, one must meet categorical and financial requirements of an open TennCare enrollment.
- Young explained that anyone who is not a citizen or "qualified" immigrant, including those who are lawfully present and those who are undocumented is considered "not-qualified."
- Individuals who enter and reside in the U.S. without notification or proper permission from the U.S. government (undocumented) or individuals admitted for a temporary purpose (i.e. foreign students, visitors, foreign government representatives, temporary workers, or members of foreign press) are considered "not-qualified."
- Immigrants that are categorized as "not-qualified" are not eligible to receive full TennCare benefits, but may be eligible for limited emergency medical services. "Not-qualified" immigrants do not have to be documented, but must be otherwise eligible for TennCare except for immigration status. Hospitals are required to give emergency care to everyone in crisis and cannot report people to ICE.

- Young further explained emergency benefit services for those “not-qualified.” Emergency coverage is not retroactive and will not begin prior to date of application. Application for Emergency TennCare occurs on the day of admission to ER. TennCare recommends faxing the streamlined application to Tennessee Health Connections. Applications to the federal Marketplace can also be made.
- Young also explained how Emergency Medical Services or CoverKids can be accessed for Not-qualified Pregnant Women and for babies under one year of age as presumptive eligibility.
- Young gave some immigrant eligibility scenarios for the audience to illustrate how members of the same family can have various degrees of eligibility for further understanding.

Serving the Immigrant Population – A Panel of Providers – Amber Hampton, Mental Health America; Rebecca Swift, Siloam Health; and Donna Johnson, Family & Children’s Services

- Kennedy introduced the panel guests and allowed each panel member to give background information on their services.
 - *Mental Health America* - Hampton discussed Offices on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) hotline, which services immigrants that have been victims of human trafficking. Hampton explained how immigrants with T-Visa, U-Visa, or under other circumstances can receive help through their services and can be connected with lawyers.
 - *Siloam Health* - Swift told about the Primary Health Clinic in Nashville that provides medical screenings, vaccines, and other health services to immigrant populations in the Nashville area without risk of reporting to ICE.
 - *Family & Children’s Services* - Johnson discussed how many services their agency provides including Community-based services, MMPS Schools, Family Resource Centers, Building Strong Brains and a health-access pillar that helps people enroll in TennCare, provision of health navigators to navigate insurance marketplace. Victims of Crimes Act (VOCAT) funding helps to support bilingual, multi-cultural counselors to provide free counseling services to help with the immigrant populations. Families-first recipients can receive mental health services from 10 different locations. Johnson also discussed their Warm Line for Crisis.
- McGee asked about privacy issues concerning ‘sharing’ information. Swift said HIPPA laws keep them from disclosing anything, unless by subpoena. Johnson also noted HIPPA. Hampton said because of federal funding, release forms are given and signed so that they can report information that the federal government requires.
- Wells asked about disclosure of illegal activities from patients. Panelists discussed how many of their forms do not require social security numbers or other identifiers to protect them and help them get services without noting their immigrant status.
- Spurlin asked how the panelists would recommend everyone in the room to assist with helping immigrants. Panelists answered varied. Hampton mentioned being knowledgeable enough to help persons in crisis and dispel fear. Swift mentioned being kind, understanding, and getting to know your immigrant community. Swift recommended a local Food Crawl to experience different cultures. Johnson mentioned being involved with your community and helping inform others of resources you know. Kennedy recommended voting in elections. McGee

recommended passing out and sharing Know Your Rights literature. Bradford expanded on the Know Your Rights point.

- Kennedy thanked the panelists for their time.

Closing

Kennedy opened the floor to announcements.

- Binkley gave announcements for Regional Intervention Program (RIP) openings for children under age six.
- Sinicki mentioned the SOCAT Training and Technical Assistance Center for free trainings and resources.
- McGee reminded everyone to sign-in if they have not already done so. She reminded everyone about the SOC Conference on September 17th and 18th.

Meeting adjourned at 2:22.