



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
COUNCIL ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH
YOUTH TRANSITIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor
502 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243-0800
(615) 741-2633 (FAX) 741-5956
1-800-264-0904

June 21, 2018
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Midtown Hills Police Precinct
1443 12th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37203

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees:

Jennifer Aitken	Kim Fyke-Vance	Jerri Moore	Julie Smith
Carol Ackley	Deborah Gatlin	Kelli Mott	Sara Smith
Katie Armstrong	Debra Granger	Jessica Mullins	Tabitha Stone
Anna Arts	Criss Griffin	Jill Murphy	Dakota Sullivan
Stephanie Athalone	Tamara Hall	Yolanda Neal	Roger Stewart
Elizabeth Ball	Rachel Hauber	Zack Nitzschke	Joan Sykora
Julia Barlar	Kimberly Holst	Megan Osborn	Latonya Tate
Whitney Barrett	Cheri Holzbacher	Amy Olson	Vicki Taylor
Denise Bentley	Karen Howell	Crystal Parker	Heather Taylor-Griffith
William Bianca	Miracle Hurley	Margaret Payne	Jerresha Tinker
Hope Bond	Brittney Jackson	Steve Petty	Heather Tribble
Hailey Brasher	Ashley Jasinski	Taylor Phipps	Tiffany Turnage
Garla Camarillo	Katherine Kercher	Athena Randolph	Keri Virgo
April Cox	Richard Kennedy	Mary Rolando	Don Walker
Brenda Donaldson	Beth Langston	Willie Ross	James Wilson
Jennifer Drake-Croft	Toni Lawal	Delora Ruffin	Jules Wilson
Joey Ellis	Dallis Lax	John Rust	Tammy Wilson
Kendall Elsass	Pam Madison	Kara Rymar	Lygia Williams
Carey Farley	Melissa McGee	Christina Scott	Kinika Young
Connie Farmer	Christy Martin McNab	Pragati Singh	
Brittany Farrar	Sarah Metter	Lindsay Sinicki	
Laritha Fentress	Terra Miller	Russette Sloan	

I. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements – Richard Kennedy, TCCY Executive Director

Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. He welcomed everyone and commended Melissa McGee for her work with CCMH, Steve Petty for his work with YTAC, and gave a brief background on each Council. Kennedy reviewed the agenda and highlighted some of the programs attendees would be hearing from today.

Kennedy thanked everyone for making attendance a priority and asked for introductions and announcements. He addressed a few housekeeping matters before moving through the agenda. He reminded attendees to sign one of the sign-in sheets, as they are essential for reporting requirements related to the federal System of Care grant.

Announcements included:

- Kinika Young with the Tennessee Justice Center announced they are currently conducting a campaign called Insure our Kids. She said there is in-person training in Memphis on July 19th.
- Skyline Madison Campus is hosting a lunch and learn on Obsessive Compulsive Disorder next Friday, June 29th.

II. Approval of Meeting Summaries

Kennedy thanked Natasha Smith of TCCY for preparing the past meeting summaries for both CCMH and YTAC meetings. He also thanked Russette Sloan of TCCY for filling in today for Smith while she is on annual leave.

Motion to accept the April 5, 2018 meeting summary for CCMH (VIRGO) passed unanimously.

The May 3, 2018 meeting summary for YTAC will be approved at the YTAC meeting in August.

III. Healthy Transitions and OnTrackTN Programs and Evaluations – Heather Taylor-Griffith, Director, Office of Children, Young Adults and Families, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) and Don Walker, SOCAT Lead Evaluator, TDMHSAS

- Taylor-Griffith reported on the Youth and Young Adult Initiatives of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Taylor began her presentation by talking about the importance of brain development. She explained young adulthood is filled with milestones moving toward independence. Some young adults have the opportunity to have a supportive network and others do not.
- Taylor-Griffith said 50 percent of serious mental health conditions develop by age 14 and 75 percent by age 24. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among ages 10-14, and is

the second leading cause of death among ages 15-24. A 2014 study by SMAHSA shows young adults are less likely to access services than adults aged 26 and over.

- Taylor-Griffith reviewed statistics on outcomes for young adults with mental illness. In terms of education, high school graduation is delayed and they are less likely to have high school diploma or GED. They are less likely to be employed and less likely to have stable housing. Young adults with mental health conditions are also more likely to be involved in the justice system.
- She reviewed the Youth and Young Adult Initiatives impact statement.
- The Office of Children, Young Adults and Families includes support for early childhood, school-aged children, youth and young adults, and families. Intervening with young adults is having a multigenerational impact.
- Youth and Young Adult Initiatives include:
 - Healthy Transitions – youth and young adults age 16 -25 at risk for mental health conditions. Services are available in seven counties.
 - First Episode Psychosis Initiative (FEPI): OnTrack TN – targeted for youth and young adults age 15-30 that have experienced a first episode of psychosis.
 - Certified Young Adult Peer Support Specialist (CYAPSS)
 - Young Adult Leadership Council – a statewide council consisting of young adults that have lived experience with mental health conditions and juvenile justice. This council works to provide input and improve these systems.
- Youth and Young Adult Initiatives Updates:
 - Creating an Open and Affirming Culture of Care Training – Carryover funds were used to partner with Oasis Center last year to develop training for providers on best-practices in serving individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer. Trainings have been held in Hamilton County as well as Nashville.
 - Young Adult Leadership Academy was held last August. This event aimed to enhance participants’ leadership skills and educate them on how to be advocates.
 - Transitions to Independence Process (TIP) Model – The Healthy Transitions teams continue to participate in trainings in the TIP Model, an evidence-informed approach for effectively engaging youth and young adults. Currently there are four individuals working to become Certified Site Based Trainers.
 - First Episode Psychosis Conference was held in September of 2017 with 183 participants. Excellent feedback was received on the conference.
 - OnTrackTN and Healthy Transitions Sustainability – when funds are received, the Department strives to explore ways to develop programs that are sustainable.
- Youth and Young Adult Initiatives Coming Soon
 - FrameLabs – the team will be partnering with TCCY to conduct three FrameLabs across the state. The FrameLabs will train community partners on the importance of using effective messaging strategies around youth and young adult mental health.
 - Expansion of Certified Young Adult Peer Support Specialist (CYAPSS) Workforce - Through the use of MH Block Grant funds and an Announcement of Funding

- process, they will be launching a new initiative that will expand the CYAPSS workforce by employing three CYAPSS in community agencies across the state.
- Peer Leadership Academy – A peer leadership academy will be held in August 2018 that will include trainings for youth, young adults, and families.
 - Expansion of OnTrackTN – Beginning July 1, the program will expand to Helen Ross McNabb Center in Knox County.
 - OnTrackTN Technical Assistance Support Expansion - TDMHSAS is currently exploring ways to further support current OnTrackTN sites in implementing and sustaining the coordinated specialty care model.
- Taylor-Griffith reviewed Health Transitions Data through March 21, 2018:
 - Outreach and Engagement – Since the Healthy Transitions Initiative started, local sites have contacted approximately 1,087 people one-on-one to discuss the HTI.
 - Total Referrals – 331, Total Screenings – 228, Total Enrollments – 124
 - The majority of participants identify as male at 61 percent. Thirty seven percent identify as female, and one percent identify as transgender.
 - Eleven percent of young adults enrolled identify as LGBTQ.
 - Most participants are in the 18-21 age range at 56 percent.
 - Most young people identify racially/ethnically as white at 56 percent.
 - Sixty-six percent of participants have experienced violence or trauma.
 - Eighteen participants report having been arrested within 30 days prior to enrollment.
 - Participants rated their overall health higher at discharge than at intake.
 - They also reported social connectedness had improved.
 - Don Walker provided an Introduction to First Episode Psychosis (FEPI).
 - OnTrackTN serves young people aged 15-30 that have experienced symptoms of psychosis within the past 24 months. Symptoms can include having unusual thoughts or behaviors, and hearing or seeing things other people do not.
 - Services are provided at Alliance Healthcare Services in Shelby County, and Mental Health Cooperative in Davidson County. Services are also provided through Carey Counseling Center in seven rural counties: Benton, Carroll, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion and Weakley
 - Caseloads do not exceed 35. Services include coping strategies, medication/treatment, education/employment support, substance abuse treatment, social skills training, housing support, and peer support.
 - Walker reviewed the demographics of participants including gender, race and age. Overall, the majority of youth and young adults identified as male. The majority also identified as African American.
 - Walker discussed results from all sites. A total of 99 intake forms were completed from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017. Alliance had 25 participants, Carey Counseling had 13, and MHC had 36 participants. One hundred percent of OnTrackTN participants have a crisis plan. Thirty-six percent participate in educational activities, and 32 percent were employed in competitive work.

- Percent of youth or young adults visiting the ER showed a reduction of over 90 percent.
- Average days per youth or young adult in the hospital showed a reduction of over 75 percent.
- Walker discussed further results from Carey Counseling. Out of 36 clients served, 29 had data from intake and either discharge or follow-up interviews (refer to slide for overview). The Clinical Global Impression score for participants had a significant reduction of illness severity.

IV. Certified Young Adult Peer Support Specialist Program – Jules Wilson, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS)

- Wilson provided a brief history of the peer support in Tennessee. In 1990 peer-run drop in centers began to open in Tennessee, and the first peer staff members were hired. In 1999 The Parent Peer Model (for Parent Support Providers) was initiated as part of the first System of Care project in Tennessee. In 2005, the Drop-In Centers became Peer Support Centers with a strong focus on recovery. More behavioral health professionals began to understand and value peer support. In 2007, peer support services were identified by Medicaid as an evidenced-based mental health model of care opening the door for TennCare to fund peer support. In 2008, Tennessee began its certification for program for people with lived experience of mental illness or co-occurring disorders. They were called Tennessee Certified Peer Specialists. The development of a competency course training allowed Family Support Specialists to establish certification for Parent Peers in Tennessee in 2011. In 2016, work began to create a similar peer support program but for the unique population of young adults. The Statewide Young Adult Leadership Council also began meeting monthly in Nashville. Youth Move Oregon/Youth ERA is contracted to create the Young Adult Peer Support Training in 2017. TDMHSAS also hired a Youth and Young Adult Coordinator to oversee the new program.
- Wilson said the biggest difference from other programs is eligibility. There is an age limit requiring specialists to be between the ages of 18 and 30. There is also a broader eligibility for lived experience with mental health, substance abuse, co-occurring disorder, and/or involvement with other systems such as juvenile justice, foster care and homeless services. If in recovery from substance abuse, specialists are required to have maintained abstinence for at least 12 months.
- Wilson gave an overview of the population receiving services.
- She reviewed the requirements for certification and the length of the certification. One difference in the requirements for CYAPSS, is that professional references are not required.

V. Juvenile Justice Reform Act Update – Steve Petty, Youth Policy Advocate TCCY

- Petty provided an update on the 2018 Juvenile Justice Reform Act. This legislation was drafted by the Governor’s administration and sponsored by Senator Mark Norris. The bill as

filed had no opposition in the Senate. The House implemented significant changes in the bill. Petty highlighted a few critical aspects of the legislation.

- The bill requires school personnel who file petition with juvenile court to provide information on efforts made to address problems in school and facts showing the need for court intervention.
- Petty mentioned the changes in financial obligations. The bill prioritizes restitution over all other financial obligations. It eliminates the imposition of all financial obligations other than restitution against children, while allowing imposition against parents who are able to pay.
- The bill prohibits use of detention as a disposition and precludes attorneys from waiving that prohibition.
- The bill requires Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Department of Children’s Services (DCS), and the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth to issue a report assessing statewide data to be submitted to the Governor, the speaker of senate and the house speaker by January 1, 2019.
- Kennedy thanked Petty for his work on behalf of youth in Tennessee and the summary he provided for the legislation.

VI. Tennessee Youth Courts – Denise Bentley, J.D., Youth Court Director

- Bentley began her presentation talking about the importance of understanding brain development and maturity needed to make good decisions. Bentley reported on trends that support Tennessee Youth Courts. Youth do not always understand the risks and impact of their poor decision making. The U.S. Supreme Court is now beginning to make decisions based on science around brain development. Bentley commended TCCY on the policy paper on Therapeutic Approach.
- Bentley highlighted three U.S. Supreme Court cases crucial to juvenile justice reform.
- Data from the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges show only 10.6 percent of juveniles referred are considered violent or dangerous. Research shows that outcomes are better for youth who are not involved in traditional juvenile court. Research suggests that once involved with traditional juvenile court, youth are up to 40 percent likely to return.
- Bentley said one way to use a therapeutic approach to juvenile justice for teenagers is the teen court process. Youth courts and teen courts add resilience and reduce recidivism. Youth justice programs are rapidly expanding local juvenile justice diversion programs in which youth are sentenced by their peers in collaboration with adults. Restorative justice provides accountability, competency development, and community safety. Restorative justice also gives victims an opportunity to participate. This type of justice also enables offenders to understand the harm caused and its impact. The process builds upon the offender’s strengths and competencies. Restorative justice practices protect the public through a process in which individual victims, the community, and offenders are all stakeholders.

- Tennessee follows the national trend in Youth Justice Program models. Forty-one percent use the adult judge model, 31 percent use the peer jury model, 18 percent use the youth judge model, and 10 percent use the tribunal model.
- Bentley said approximately 2,000 youth are served per year. Fewer than four percent are involved in the system a second time.
- Bentley shared a video with the group called “Youth Court: Giving Kids a Second Chance”.

VII. Department of Children’s Services, Independent Living – Brian Stephens, Director of Independent Living, Dave Aguzzi, Assistant Director and Jerresha Tinker, Youth Engagement Coordinator, Department of Children’s Services

- Stephens announced Courtney Matthews is now the Director of Independent Living. He will be moving into a new role in DCS with Program Accountability Review.
- Stephens gave an overview of the Office of Independent Living. The office prepares youth in foster care and young adults who age out of foster care for a successful transition to adulthood to become confident and productive individuals in society. Youth population includes age 14-16 custodial youth in the Independent Living Plan, age 17 and up custodial youth in the Transition Plan, and 18-21 aged-out youth in Extension of Foster Care (EFCS). Eligibility for the voluntary program includes completing a high school or equivalent program, enrolled in college or a vocational education program, and unable to work or participate in a secondary program because of a medical condition. Stephens reviewed the scope of services included with Extension of Foster care Services. He encouraged providers to reach out if there are items or services needed.
- Dave Aguzzi provided attendees with EFCS data report. More young people are accepting extension of foster care services. The retention rate has been improving year-to-year. In FY 2017, there were a total of 714 EFCS episodes. In FY 2018, there were a total of 780 episodes. Acceptance rates for FY 2017 is as follows: aged out total is 935, aged out eligible is 793, and aged out acceptance is 349.
- Tinker gave an update on the youth engagement work. The Jim Casey Youth Convening was recently held, and a Young Adult Accountability Council was created in order to ensure the work is more youth driven. Next week, the first Glam Camp Leadership Academy Camp will be held at Camp Montvale. Activities include yoga, wall climbing, cooking and many more. This is a statewide camp held in Blount County.
- Stephens reported on the EFC Eligibility Expansion Project. An analysis meeting will be held in July to provide strategy recommendations for expanding to include two new criteria.
- The Family First Prevention Services Act extends eligibility for Education and Training Voucher (ETV) for youth to age 26 and amends the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence program by extending independent living services to assist former foster youth up to age 23.

VIII. Youth Villages LifeSet – Heather Tribble, YV LifeSet Coordinator-Tennessee, Christina Scott, YV LifeSet, and Angela McCrady, YV LifeSet

- Heather Tribble provided an overview on Multi-Systemic Therapy for Emerging Adults (MST-EA). MST-EA is designed for young people age 17-23 at the highest risk for negative outcomes. Referrals have included juvenile and adult justice system-involved clients, youth aging out of foster care, and prison re-entry populations, as well as young adults in supported housing programs.
- Emerging adults collaborate with therapists in designing a treatment plan that will be carried out over approximately seven to eight months. Services generally range six to 12 months depending on individual client needs.
- MST-EA blends cognitive behavioral therapy, behavioral interventions, motivational interviewing, affective education, and extensive skill building to address the array of issues associated with the emerging adult’s mental health symptoms and other problems.
- MST-EA includes paraprofessional “coaches” who help teach concrete life skills.
- Published outcomes include significant reductions in criminal charges and mental health symptoms, reduced substance abuse, and improved rates of employment.
- Oregon Social Learning Center and University of Massachusetts are partnering with Youth Villages to conduct a randomized control trial in Tennessee. Tribble reviewed the eligibility for participation in the clinical trial. She also reviewed the incentives to participate in the trial as well as the research procedures of the clinical trial.
- Geographic Service Delivery is in Shelby Fayette, Tipton, Lauderdale, Sullivan and Washington Counties.
- Tribble presented national statistics on youth who age out of state custody at 26.
- Participants in the LifeSet program are age 17-22. Specialists are available twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. Specialists assist with education, housing, employment, life skills. Success at one year post discharge is significant.
- Tribble also provided an overview of the YV Scholars Program. The mission is to provide the opportunity for young adults in transition from foster care with support to advance in the areas of education, technical skills, employment and community service.
- YV Scholars may reside in foster homes, independent living, with birth families, or adoptive/parent homes.

XI. Resource Centers, Pam Madison, Youth Connections-Monroe Harding, Christy Martin, Project Now – Helen Ross McNabb, Tiffany Turnage, Dream Seekers-South Memphis Alliance

- Pam Madison with Youth Connections reported on the Opportunity Passport Program which provides budgeting, bi-monthly asset education classes and matched savings for youth up to \$3,000.00.
- Youth Connections also has the HISET/High School Equivalency Program. They hold two graduations per year. This program includes flexible class time for students.

- They also provide post-secondary education planning.
- Madison said the Workforce Development program assists students with resume writing, interviewing skills, and sometimes coordinates paid internships.
- The Sexual Health Education Program is designed for young women, and covers information like pregnancy prevention. The Sisterhood provides a peer support group for young women to discuss what is happening in their lives.
- Additional services and activities include a food pantry, provision of hygiene, clothing, and small household items, yoga, accessibility to computers and a safe place.
- Christy Martin with Helen Ross McNabb reported on Project NOW! She said they had 58 youth who have completed the Jim Casey financial program. Currently there are 48 youth active in the program. They secured eight new partners in the last few months. Plans for next year include increasing stipends. The program will be relocating later this week.

IX. Closing

Kennedy thanked attendees for being present until the end.

Next CCMH Meeting Dates:

Thursday, August 16, 2018 – TBD

Thursday, October 18, 2018 – Midtown Hills Police Precinct

Next YTAC Meeting Date:

Thursday, August 9, 2018 – Goodwill Industries

Thursday, October 4, 2018 – Goodwill Industries

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Council on Children’s Mental Health Purpose Statement

Design a comprehensive plan for a statewide System of Care for children and families that is family-driven, youth-guided, community-based, and culturally and linguistically competent.