



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

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Youth Transitions Advisory Council & Council on Children's Mental Health  
June 18, 2015  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Goodwill Industries  
937 Herman Street, Nashville, TN 37208

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Attendees:**

Shirley Abbott	Casunda Cross	Richard Kennedy	Jennifer St. Clair
Dave Aguzzi	Tasha Dayhoff	Sam Lamere	Brian Stephens
Jill Amos	Jan Dick	Kisha Ledlow	Wendy Sullivan
Shiri Anderson	Brenda Donaldson	Mary Lee	Joan Sykora
Elizabeth Ball	Laura Durham	Pam Madison	April Tanguay
Jillian Balsar	Karen Edwards	James Martin	Andrea Thaler
Julia Barlar	Reginald Gilmore	Melissa McGee	Graham Thomas
Bonnie Beneke	Joseph Goldsmith	Angie McKinney-Jones	Keri Virgo
Kathy Benedetto	Tameka Greer	Michele Moser	Will Voss
Cory Bradfield	Brandi Hamilton	Nneka Norman-Gordon	Don Walker
Chelsea Brasher	Vickie Harden	Amy Olson	Jill Watral
Annie Brewster	Ashley Harrington	Linda O'Neal	Sejal West
Samantha Brin	Ginger Harris	Tim Perry	Jude White
Tonya Brown	Rikki Harris	Steve Petty	Ellyn Wilbur
Amy Campbell	Adrienne Holbrook	Clayton Ramsey	Alysia Williams
Rebecca Carmack	Elizabeth Holmes	Kathy Rogers	Cordney Woodard
Dana Casey	Adam Horn	Mary Rolando	
Tasha Chusac	Steve Hornsby	Toni Shaw	
Chad Coleman	Jeremy Humphrey	Pamela Sheffer	
Janet Coscarelli	Karen Jointer	Natasha Smith	
Michelle Covington	Mary T. Jones	Wendy Spence	

## **I. Welcome and Introductions (Linda O’Neal, TCCY Executive Director and Sejal West, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services)**

- O’Neal welcomed and thanked everyone for making attendance a priority. She praised Melissa McGee for her work with CCMH and Steve Petty for his work with YTAC and gave a background on each Council.
- O’Neal also provided an update on CCMH consultation with Cissy Mynatt regarding the strategic facilitation work for CCMH. The contracts have been finalized and Mynatt will begin work this summer, starting with a Survey Monkey type questionnaire that will go to all CCMH participants. She will then conduct focus groups with identified families that have worked with a system of care as well as conduct one-on-one interviews with identified members.
- A strategy team has been created and will work with Mynatt in this endeavor. We will then have a focus at the August meeting on next steps for CCMH.
- Mynatt’s time with CCMH will end by September 30th, but she has been asked to deliver a plan CCMH can self-administer over the next few years to ensure continued forward direction in the overall mission.
- O’Neal addressed a few housekeeping matters before moving through the agenda. She reminded attendees the sign-in sheet is essential for reporting requirements related to the federal system of care grant.
- Introductions were made around the room and O’Neal called for announcements.
- West deferred her remarks until later on the agenda.

## **II. Announcements**

- TAMHO is partnering with TDMHSAS to produce exceptional free conferences in 2015 for Behavioral Health Professionals. Please visit [www.tamho.org/professional.php](http://www.tamho.org/professional.php) for updates and links to important information related to each conference.
- Tennessee Co-Occurring Disorders Collaborative (TNCODC) will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at Vanderbilt University Student Life Center. For more information contact Teresa Fuqua at 615-244-2220 or visit <http://www.tncodc2015secondannualcodsymposium.eventbrite.com>
- Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) Suicide Prevention Symposium is set for Tuesday, July 28, and Wednesday, July 29, at Trevecca Community Church, 335 Murfreesboro Pike in Nashville.
- SAMHSA, TDMHSAS, TCCY and TAMHO are sponsoring the System of Care (SOC) 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference August 28-29, 2015 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Cool Springs. There is no charge to attend this conference. Preliminary program and registration materials are available at [www.tamho.org/professional.php](http://www.tamho.org/professional.php).
- Tennessee Voices for Children presents the 2015 State of the Child Conference: A look into Early Childhood with Keynote Speaker Freddie Scott and featuring Matthew A. Timm,

Ph.D. on Friday, September 11, 2015, at Trevecca Community Church, 335 Murfreesboro Pike in Nashville.

- Nashville Region CLC Training Summit will take place Wednesday, September 16, 2015. Registration will open August 1, 2015.
- Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organization (TAMHO) Annual Conference will be held December 2-3, 2015 at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Murfreesboro. Visit [www.tamho.org](http://www.tamho.org) for forthcoming details.
- Tennessee Voices for Children and NAMI Tennessee will offer several three-day Family Support Specialist Competency Courses (FSSCC) in East, Middle and West Tennessee. There are scholarship opportunities available for individuals who meet qualification standards associated with the CFSS Certification Program of TDMHSAS. Scholarship funding is provided through the Tennessee Department Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. To receive additional information please contact Brenda Donaldson at [Brenda.Donaldson@tn.gov](mailto:Brenda.Donaldson@tn.gov) or 615-770-1788.

### III. Approval of Meeting Summaries

- O'Neal thanked Vicki Pillow with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and Natasha Smith of TCCY for collaborating on the summary for the April meeting. She said Pillow has been a tremendous support for the CCMH in providing meeting summaries and with the arrival of Smith at TCCY, Pillow is able to return to her duties at TDMHSAS. CCMH shared a small token of thanks with her already. If you see Vicki, please share your thanks for her great work for CCMH.
- April 23, 2015 Meeting Summary Acceptance (**CORY BRADFIELD, MOTION, RIKKI HARRIS, SECONDED, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**)
- O'Neal introduced Sejal West.

### IV. TDMHSAS Child and Youth Updates (Sejal West, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services)

- West reported her staff is hard at work to complete the end of the fiscal year contracts.
- She gave an update on the reorganization at TDMHSAS and announced Sarah Sanders is the new Program Manager at the Office of Children and Youth.
- West referenced a flier detailing the several free conferences TDMHSAS is sponsoring in cooperation with TCCY, TAMHO and other partners this year.
- She thanked O'Neal, McGee and Petty for their collaboration and partnership with TDMHSAS.
- West transitioned through the DMHSAS initiatives – TRY Grant, Healthy Transitions, First Episode Psychosis and K-Town.

## V. Transition Age Initiatives – Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

- **Treatment and Recovery for Youth (TRY) Project (April Tanguay, TDMSSAS, Ashley Harrington, Centerstone and Clayton Ramsey, Pathways)**
  - Ramsey reported about the Jackson site where three youth graduated from high school with fully accredited diplomas, two enrolled in college and one is attending Tennessee Technology Center and has a job. Another female youth has two jobs and another young man is working on his GED. The youth also attended a drug-free event.
  - Harrington reported enrollment is on track for year two of the grant. There are 43 enrolled and they have two months left to reach 50. Last year there were four or five transitional-aged youth while this year the number doubled due to referrals. She added since referrals tend to slow in the summer, they will focus on training.
  - Tanguay talked more specifically about the types of trainings they will be conducting. She said they are wrapping up year two of the grant and preparing for year three by meeting all their SAMHSA grant goals for the most part. Tanguay said they are working on improving the follow-up surveys.
  
- **Healthy Transitions Initiative (Kisha Ledlow, Healthy Transition Project Director, TDMHSAS)**
  - It is a five year SAMHSA grant and they are in year one. It provides \$1 million each year. West thanked Ledlow for her hard work.
  - Ledlow is the State Project Director and explained the Healthy Transition Initiative assists Tennessee youth and young adults ages 16-25 with or at risk of developing a serious mental health condition or co-occurring disorder.
  - She said the three populations targeted are the general public, youth and young adults with identified mental health needs, and youth and young adults at risk of mental illness or co-occurring disorders.
  - In addition to the three populations of focus, Ledlow said there were three sub-populations: those who have been in contact with the criminal justice system, those who are aging out of foster care and those who are homeless or becoming homeless.
  - She talked about their goals and explained the ideal statewide infrastructure and local implementation of the Office of Children and Youth Mental Health to reach those goals. McGee will email the PowerPoint presentation after the meeting.
  - At the statewide infrastructure level, Ledlow is the in-house project director with oversight of the grant. Through a partnership with Tennessee Voices for Children, there will be a Youth Coordinator and Media Specialist to implement the statewide youth engagement strategy and outreach efforts. They are also working on putting together a State Transition Team that will consist of key decision makers across child and adult serving systems as well as youth and young adults and their families.

- Ledlow further described the two local sites, a rural site in Northwest Tennessee through a partnership with Carey Counseling Services serving seven counties and an urban site in Hamilton County through a partnership with Volunteer Behavioral Health Care Services. These sites will have local transition teams, Youth M.O.V.E. Councils Project Coordinator Outreach Specialists, Employment and Education Specialists, and Transition Specialists.
- Centerstone Research Institute will oversee the data reporting, Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and evaluations.
- Ledlow’s contact information is [Kisha.Ledlow@tn.gov](mailto:Kisha.Ledlow@tn.gov) or 615-770-0460

➤ **OnTrackTN (Tonya Brown)**

- Brown gave a brief overview of the First Episode Psychosis program that came from a five percent set aside in the SAMHSA mental health block grant about a year and a half ago.
- She said SAMHSA strongly encourages states to look at the Recovery After Initial Schizophrenia Episode or RAISE model, but Tennessee decided to implement a version of OnTrackNY as a rural model to serve the following counties: Benton, Carroll, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion and Weakley. Each team can service 30 people.
- Brown said they try to use terms like “experiencing unusual thoughts or behaviors” or “hearing or seeing things that other people do not” to avoid the stigmas associated with mental health.
- She said this model is very client focused and driven. The goals of OnTrackTN are to improve outcomes for youth and young adults diagnosed with a psychosis spectrum disorder, provide rapid access to treatment include the preferences of the client in the recommendations for available treatments and increase community awareness and early detection of psychosis.
- The age group serviced is age 15-30 and services are provided for up to two years based on the individual’s need.
- Tennessee is the only state including Affective Psychosis.
- Those not eligible for the program are youth and young adults whose primary diagnosis of substance induced psychosis or psychosis secondary to a general medical condition and those diagnosed with mental retardation and those with serious or chronic medical illness significantly impairing function independent of psychosis.
- For inquiries about the program or to make a referral please email your OnTrackTN team at [ontrack@careyinc.org](mailto:ontrack@careyinc.org) or calling 1-800-611-7757.

➤ **K-Town Empowerment Network (Adam Horn, TN Voices)**

- Horn filled in for Brenda Beverly due to car trouble.
- He reported K-Town is no longer taking enrollments for new families into the program because the grant closes out at the end of September. The focus has been

transitioning the families to continue their services and support through partnerships and community connections like Connect Ministries, Knox Area Rescue Ministries (KARM) and Helen Ross McNabb.

- During this transition, K-Town has secured a part-time volunteer receptionist through the Community Action Senior Aide Program.
- K-Town has less staff and services at this time, but they are in a good place with the transition to provide support to the families and youth they currently have.
- Horn said K-Town is focusing on sustainability efforts and looking forward to a no cost extension year hoping the community will continue to provide needed support.

## **VI. Transition Age Initiatives – Department of Children’s Services**

### **➤ Office of Independent Living or IL (Dave Aguzzi and Ginger Harris)**

- Aguzzi provided an overview of the procedures DCS uses to transition youth into adulthood from state custody.
- He said they use life skills and clinical assessments and talk directly to the youth to get their perspective on their individual plans to ensure relevant information is included.
- Aguzzi said they are always working on legal permanency and “relational permanency.” Legal permanency refers to transfer of legal custody to an appropriate caregiver from DCS custody, or adoption. Relational permanency refers to the availability of supportive adult connections that promote healthy relationships.
- He said the single biggest predictor of success for youth who age out of foster care is the connection to a caring adult.
- Young people age 17 and older in state custody must have a Transition Plan developed that must be reviewed by the court within 90 days before exiting into adulthood. This is a formal process and a formal plan reviewed by the juvenile court.
- The Transition Plan requires nine topics to be completed and additional topics like parenting and immigration should be included as needed.
- All youth 14-16, regardless of permanency goals, will have an Independent Living Plan. Unlike Transition Plans, only life skills and social skills are required in an IL Plan, but other issues should be covered as needed.
- Aguzzi said the biggest aspect of a Transition Plan is that it is projecting forward. He said they want to make sure they are implementing planning and services focused on what is going to happen for that young person when they exit state custody.
- He said when creating a Transition Plan, they make sure youth are aware of supports that may be available to them as adults. This can include DCS Extension of Foster Care Services and scholarships. Services from other state agencies such as Food Stamps, TennCare and child care assistance, as well as community-based support.

- Youth should know if they age out of care and refuse Extension of Foster Care Services, they can return to a regional DCS office to request those services before age 21 and may still be eligible.
  - There are Independent Living Specialists in each region and they ensure youth, families and community partners understand the planning process.
  - He estimated around 700 youth will be served by the end of FY15.
  - Aguzzi gave an overview of the extension of foster care services.
  - He said in FY14, about 1,000 young people turned 18 and aged out of foster care. About 700 of those were eligible for extension of foster care.
  - IL can serve youth who turned 18 in Foster Care (not a YDC) and who meet one of three following criteria: need to complete high school or GED/HiSET; enrolled in post-secondary or vocational institution; or have a serious disability that prevents them from pursuing education or full-time employment.
  - Services under Extension of Foster Care Services are housing support, monthly face to face with FSW and court oversight every six months.
  - Aguzzi said in an effort to make sure the youth have the essential documents they will need as an adult, they have an essential documents list of items like state issued identification or driver's license, Social Security card, birth certificate, etc.
  - He said there are two official policies and procedures that specifically address transitioning youth with intellectual or serious psychiatric disorders. DCS Policy 19.7 is for Transitional DCS Youth with Serious Psychiatric Disorders into Adult Behavioral/Mental Health Services and Policy 19.8 is for Transitioning Youth to the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) Adult Services.
  - Harris spoke about the youth engagement efforts and youth boards. She said the youth leadership boards help young people in foster care connect to other young people with similar experiences. These boards also serve as a vehicle for hearing the voices of young people currently or formerly in foster care on policy and practice matters. The next Youth Board Meeting is September 15-16.
  - Aguzzi added, they plan to include the youth leadership board in the data analysis.
  - O'Neal reminded service providers they can refer youth back to DCS even if they aged out of the system.
- O'Neal said DCS supports resources centers and had Steve Petty introduce the Resource Centers.

➤ **Resource Centers**

- **Youth Connections at Monroe Harding (Pam Madison)**
  - Madison gave a brief overview of Youth Connections. She said they are located in downtown Nashville and are on Church Street two blocks from the Bus Station, making them more accessible to the youth they serve.

- She said McKendree United Methodist Church has allowed them to use their facilities for a variety of services.
  - They recently had a full graduation ceremony for the 15 youth who received the HiSET in May. They have a donor who gives each graduate \$650 for receiving their HiSET.
  - Madison said they have a great career center and an internship program. Being in Downtown Nashville has allowed them to form new partnerships.
  - They have interns currently at Crossroads Pets in the Germantown area, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Rocket Fizz Candy store, Monroe Harding, Tennessee Alliance, McKendree and TSU. Partners work with the young people and give them opportunities to learn.
  - Madison said they have a financial literacy program called Opportunity Passport. US Bank is their banking partner and they are located a few blocks from the center allowing the young people to go to the bank and learn how to interact with the banking staff. US Bank representatives also come to the center and teach the youth the “do’s and don’ts” of banking where the youth learn how to open a checking account and manage money.
  - Opportunity Passport will match their checking account up to \$3,000.
  - Youth Connections now has a partnership with a financial service provider allowing the youth to learn how to invest into a Roth IRA, pull their credit reports and budget.
  - Madison said they received a small grant from THDA for housing, but are having difficulty because most young people are not “rent ready” and landlords will not rent to them.
- **Dream Seekers/South Memphis Alliance (Tameka Greer)**
- Greer gave a background and overview of the program. She said South Memphis Alliance (SMA) serves youth in foster care and families in crisis throughout the city in Memphis.
  - Even though they specifically seek youth in foster care, anyone can use their services.
  - She said the Dream Seekers program targets teenagers, both male and female, who are parenting or expecting a child. Participants are connected to Early Success Partners and earn “bucks” by engaging in SMA Dream Seekers classes as well as maintaining their prenatal care and making good academic progress. They “spend earned bucks” at the SMA Hope Chest baby store to purchase diapers, car seats, high chairs and much more.
  - SMA enrolls a minimum of 40 new current or former foster youth in their Opportunity Passport Dream Seekers program each year. They also provide assistance with psychoeducational therapies, employment, locating housing and

have a financial education and entrepreneurial program to teach youth how to write a business plan.

- Greer reported SMA acquired a laundromat and turned it into the Social Suds Resource Center (SSRC) to provide a place for other organizations to come and educate and/or provide services to the patrons of the laundromat. All proceeds from the SSRC go to fund SMA programs to make up for the loss of funds.
  - Email Tameka Greer at [daniel@smaweb.org](mailto:daniel@smaweb.org) or call 901-774-9582.
- Petty made a reference to two resource centers that were unable to attend the meeting: Project NOW! In Knoxville (see handout) and I AM Ready in Chattanooga.

## **VII. Culturally and Linguistically Competency (CLC) Conference Promo – Tasha Chusac**

- Chusac gave an overview of the cultural competency concept and passed out a handout detailing the Nashville Region CLC Training Summit scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2015. Registration opens August 1, 2015.
- The principle standard of cultural competency is to provide effective, equitable, understandable and respectful quality care and services that are responsive to diverse cultural health beliefs and practices, languages and health literacy in order to eliminate health care disparities.
- Chusac referred to her handout showing the 15 National Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards categorized in four sections intended to advance health equity, improve quality and help eliminate health care disparities by establishing a blueprint for health and health care organizations.
- Chusac said everyone wants to implement the standards, but most do not know how to get started. She said this training summit should give providers a blueprint.
- These trainings will also take place in East Tennessee in Johnson City and they are looking for a partner to host one in West Tennessee. The next planning meeting will be Tuesday, June 30.

## **VIII. KidCentral TN – Jude White, Executive Director, Governor’s Children’s Cabinet**

- White gave an overview of the website <https://www.kidcentraltn.com/> and promoted specific articles and content within the website like health, development, education, support and life skills to assist families in finding available resources specific to their needs.
- White also highlighted the related services feature to redirect traffic to services directly related to individual needs.
- KidCentral TN is Tennessee’s only centralized service directory for children and family services.

**IX. Family & Youth Engagement Advisory Group Presentation (Wendy Sullivan and James Martin)**

- Martin gave a brief overview of the Advisory Group. They recruit and engage families and youth in the design, development and implementation of system of care (SOC). They educate stakeholders, providers and communities on family-driven, youth-guided approaches and involvement at all levels.
- Sullivan reported the last meeting was June 11<sup>th</sup> and four out the ten participants were new.
- Martin encouraged all to go see the new Pixar movie “Inside Out.” The movie is about an 11-year-old girl and the feelings in her own mind: Fear, Anger, Sadness, Joy and Disgust as she adjusts to a major life transition when her family moves.

**X. Transition Age Initiatives – Tennessee Housing and Development Agency (Toni Shaw)**

- Shaw shared funding opportunities available to agencies through Tennessee Housing and Development Agency (THDA) for serving youth transitioning out of foster care.
- Shaw referred to a handout detailing each funding opportunity. She clarified that many of the grants requiring a match did not necessarily mean money. It could be in the form of services.
- She encouraged agencies to reach out to the banks and financial institutions because there are tax credits offered to them against franchise and excise tax liability for low interest loans, grants or contributions to eligible housing entities.
- Toni Shaw can be contacted at [tshaw@thda.org](mailto:tshaw@thda.org) or 615-815-2034.

**XI. Transition Age Initiatives – TN Achieves/TN Promise (Graham Thomas)**

- Thomas gave an overview of the program. In Knoxville in 2008, a program called Knox Achieves was started by Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale, Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam, and fellow Knox Achieves Board of Directors members Randy Boyd, CEO of Radio Systems Corporation; Rich Ray, CFO and Tim Williams, CEO of 21st Mortgage Corporation; and Chris Woodhull, Knoxville City Councilman and Executive Director of TRIBE ONE.
- Knox Achieves had two objectives: to enhance the local workforce and to pique local students’ interest both in graduating high school and in attending college. More than 70 percent of the initial applicants came from families making less than \$50,000 per year and 58 percent were first generation college students. Mayor Haslam became Governor Haslam and wanted to take the program statewide, renaming it TNAchieves.
- TNAchieves is a post-secondary access and success program with the mission of increasing higher education opportunities for Tennessee students by providing last-dollar scholarships with mentor guidance. This means tuition cost should no longer be an obstacle when a student is deciding to attend a community or technical college. While all public high school students are eligible for TNAchieves, the program focuses primarily on first generation college, low-income students.

- The program has experienced substantial success utilizing volunteers in business and community-based organizations to guide its students through the college access and success processes.
- Beginning with the Class of 2015, TNAchieves will be a partnering organization with Tennessee Promise, a scholarship program providing two years of tuition-free community or technical college to Tennessee high school graduates. The TN Promise scholarship will be administered by Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC), while the mentoring and community service components will be coordinated by local, non-profit partnering organizations. County mayors will select which organization will partner with their counties.
- This year 58,000 students applied for the program and more than 32,500 met all requirements. The biggest problem is increasing the number of volunteers to work with them. They are a staff of 15.
- Mentors fill three goals: to help students meet the deadlines for applications; serve as encouragement; and help eliminate barriers.
- They need 9,100 mentors across the state. Go to [www.tnachieves.org/mentor-application](http://www.tnachieves.org/mentor-application) to sign up. Each mentor will have about four to five students. Mentors get to choose the county and school.
- All students are required to complete eight hours of community services each semester.
- Tennessee’s Drive to 55 Alliance is an active alliance of private sector partners, leaders and non-profits working together in support of the state’s Drive to 55 initiative to equip 55 percent of Tennesseans with a college degree or certificate by 2025. The goal of the Drive to 55 Alliance is to help generate greater private sector awareness, ownership and support for the long-term steps needed in college entry and completion, adult education and training, and identifying and closing skills gaps to better prepare our workforce and our state for the future.
- Thomas left mentor applications for those interested.

## **XII. Transition Age Initiatives – Community**

### **➤ Oasis Center (Pamela Sheffer)**

- Sheffer gave an overview of the Oasis Center and its programs.
- The Oasis Center provides at risk youth a connection to a caring adult, a safe and secure environment, and empowerment to make better choices. They intentionally target youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning or intersex (LGBTQI).
- The program “Just Us” is a youth empowerment program designed specifically for high school students who identify within the LGBTQI spectrum. There is room for 60 youth in the program. The youth did not want to be labeled. They wanted to be themselves, hence the name “Just Us.”
- Students of Stonewall is another program Sheffer highlighted. It is a youth leadership team comprised of 10 youth and two college mentors. They work towards creating climate change for LGBTQI youth within the Nashville community through research projects and community service initiatives.

- Paige Regan is the Program Specialist and has been wonderful working with the youth. The number of applications has increased since she has been with the Center.
- Trans Youth Meet to Empower (TYME) is a monthly youth empowerment meeting specifically for middle and high school students who identify as transgender, gender queer, gender non-conforming, gender fluid, et. al.
- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a support group for parents of LGBTQI children. Parents from all over Tennessee have utilized this program.
- Sheffer said 42 percent of LGBTQI youth have a counselor and 37 percent do not have a counselor but have requested one.
- She said they have two full-time staff members and one part-time counselor. They want to increase the part-time counselor to full-time, create a statewide presence for LGBT youth and connect with youth agencies willing to expand services to LGBT youth.

➤ **Park Center (Julia Barlar)**

- Barlar is the Emerging Adults Services Director for Park Center. She gave an overview of the program. Park Center has been around for 31 years and expanded its services over the years based on the needs of the community.
- Park Center provides various outpatient services for persons diagnosed with mental illness and co-occurring disorders. Programs and services include: Residential Services, Co-Occurring Services, Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Emerging Adults Services, Supported Employment and Homeless Outreach Services.
- The Emerging Adults program is designed to assist youth adults ages 18-24, especially those exiting foster care, in successfully making the transition to adulthood. The program provides opportunities for each person to pursue their individual goals in the areas of education, vocation, living situation and community living skills.
- Park Center is committed to recovery of mental health. The TDMHSAS has provided a grant allowing Park Center to house young people with mental illness while providing them life skills.
- Barlar said there are two types of housing programs available for Emerging Adults: Supported Living with 24-hour staff for females and Therapeutic Community Living with staff supervision provided for four hours each evening for males.
- There is also a free family support program once a month.
- Barlar said all levels of Park Center Residential Services have a wait list. This includes Safe Haven Homeless Shelter, Supported Residential Services and Independent Residential Services. Despite waiting lists for housing, Park Center has to balance the placement based on severity of issues.

➤ **Youth Villages-YV LifeSet (Joseph Goldsmith and Mary Lee)**

- O'Neal introduced YV LifeSet presenters and informed the attendees Lee was recently recognized by the White House for her work.
- Goldsmith gave a brief overview and reported from the handout included in the packet.

- Lee reported about the YV LifeSet clinical study by MDRC, a nonprofit, nonpartisan education and social policy research organization dedicated to learning what works to improve programs and policies that affect the poor. To read the full report, visit <http://www.mdrc.org/publication/becoming-adults>.
- The study assessed whether the program affected key outcomes during the first year after young people enrolled in the study. It showed that the Transitional Living program improved outcomes in three of the six domains that it was designed to affect. The program boosted earnings, increased housing stability and economic well-being, and improved some outcomes related to health and safety. However, it did not improve outcomes in the areas of education, social support or criminal involvement.
- Lee reported the study reported a decline in homelessness, but an increase in intimate partner violence.
- She said they are continuing to gather information and are currently working on a two-year impact analysis using administrative data.
- Youth Villages is looking for partnerships across the country and the opportunity to train others to use the YV specific model.

### **XIII. System of Care Initiatives (Elizabeth Ball and Keri Virgo)**

- Ball, Project Director for Early Connections Network, reported they serve five counties and Fort Campbell Army Post. They are training the trainers so they can grow their own network.
- Their network includes Centerstone of Tennessee, Advantage Behavioral Health, Centerstone Research Institute, Tennessee Voices for Children and Volunteer Behavioral Health.
- She said they have taken some of the SAMHSA grant money and divided it into sub-awards in an effort to expand early childhood.
- Virgo, Project Director for SOC Expansion, reported they have five different sites across Tennessee covering a variety of ages based on the needs of each community.
- Technical Assistance will continue to be provided.
- Virgo said she has been working with the juvenile courts to keep youth displaying mental illness out of probation and working on the Integrated Court Screening Project to screen youth early.

### **XIV. CCMH Director and Workshop Reports (Melissa McGee)**

- McGee provided brief updates on the CCMH workgroup tasks. She distributed a handout regarding the Community Outreach and Awareness Committee and its needs. Management Information Systems (MIS)/Accountability is considering changing the workgroup name and description to a better understanding of group goals and more participation. Jessica Benton is looking for a co-chair.

- McGee welcomed Don Walker who replaced Lymari Benitez as evaluator for the SOC Expansion grant.
- McGee reminded participants of mentor applications and DCS folders with information presented. She said she will email participants all the presentations and handouts after the meeting.

**XV. Discussion Plans for Future Meetings (Linda O’Neal Facilitating)**

- O’Neal discussed the need to submit a new plan to the legislature by January 2016 and asked for suggestions.
- She said let McGee know if anyone wants to work with the group on the plan.
- O’Neal gave an update on the work with Cissy Mynatt, the work with Juvenile Justice and the focus of the August meeting.
- An attendee suggested we hear from the Tennessee AWARE representatives.
- O’Neal thanked attendees for being present until the end.

Next CCMH Meeting Dates:

August 27, 2015 (Midtown Police Precinct)

October 22, 2015 (Midtown Police Precinct)

Next YTAC Meeting Date:

August 13, 2015 (Goodwill)

Meeting adjourned at 2:53 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.*