



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

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

Council on Children's Mental Health  
August 24, 2017  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Midtown Hills Police Precinct  
1443 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Attendees:**

April Abercrombie  
Shiri Anderson  
Katie Armstrong  
Anna Arts  
Elizabeth Ball  
Allison Bankston  
Justine Bass  
Jeremy Breithaupt  
Lydia Burris  
Lacy Cote  
Bryan Currie  
Renee Darks  
Brenda Donaldson  
Jennifer Drake-Croft  
Kathleen Dunn  
Anjanette Eash  
Jon Ebert  
Kendall Elsass  
Stephanie Etheridge  
Brittany Farrar  
Laritha Fentress  
Randi Finger  
Karen Franklin  
Deanna French  
Katie Goforth  
Sheba Green  
Stephanie Grissom  
Kim Guinn

Emalee Hanley  
Rikki Harris  
Rachel Hauber  
Aimee Hegemier  
Russell Hembree  
Cheri Holzbacher  
Karen Howell  
Jeremy Humphrey  
Brittany Jackson  
Sumita Keller  
Richard Kennedy  
Carrie Lynn Lounsbury  
Melissa McGee  
Jerri Moore  
Michele Moser  
Jill Murphy  
Yolanda Neal  
Zack Nitzschke  
Nneka Norman-Gordon  
Amy Olson  
Linda O'Neal  
Crystal Parker  
Julia Pearce  
Tim Perry  
Steve Petty  
Taylor Phipps  
Ann Pruett  
Kathy Rogers

Mary Rolando  
Delora Ruffin  
John Rust  
Devin Rutland  
Pragati Singh  
Heather Smith  
Julie Smith  
Lindsey Smith  
Natasha Smith  
Sara Smith  
Jeana Stevenson  
Denise Stewart  
Roger Stewart  
Joan Sykora  
April Tanguay  
Heather Taylor  
Jeremy Taylor  
Jerresha Tinker  
Shannon Tolliver  
Keri Virgo  
Don Walker  
Shauna Webb  
Sejal West  
Alysia Williams  
TeShena Woods  
Matt Yancey  
Kinika Young

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

- O’Neal called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She welcomed everyone and praised McGee for her work with CCMH and gave a brief background on the Council.
- O’Neal thanked everyone for making attendance a priority and asked for introductions. She 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. O’Neal thanked SGT. Jones and the staff at the Midtown Hills Police Precinct. O’Neal also asked attendees to complete to Conflict of Interest form if they have not already done so.
- West thanked O’Neal and TCCY for the wonderful partnership. She thanked the participants for their time and commitment. West introduced Heather Taylor as the new Director of Children and Youth in Mental Health.
- West reported Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price along with White House spokesperson Kellyanne Conway toured the Council for Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services (CADAS) in Chattanooga in July to learn more about the opioid epidemic gripping the nation. The stop is a part of Price's listening tour, as he hopes to learn from places like Tennessee that are on the front lines of the battling opioid epidemic. A roundtable was convened with Governor Haslam, Commissioner Marie Williams and members from her executive staff, recovery advocates, law enforcement officials, treatment and prevention specialists, survivors, and affected family members. West said the Secretary and his staff were very impressed with the visit and are now interested in other Tennessee programs.
- West shared Commissioner Williams, Assistant Commissioner Matt Yancey and others from the executive team went to Washington, DC recently to discuss the continuation of programs funded through the Mental Health Block Grant. West said this was a wonderful opportunity to provide helpful information to those with influence.
- O’Neal asked if there is interest from the Council in drafting a letter to Secretary Price and the Tennessee delegation in support of Tennessee programs funded by the Mental Health Block Grant.
- **HARRIS MOTIONED FOR THE COUNCIL ON CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH TO WRITE A LETTER ADDRESSING THE PROPOSED CUTS IN THE MENTAL HEALTH BLOCK GRANT. YOUNG SECONDED. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**
- The First Episode Psychosis Conference: Walking Together on the Road to Recovery will be held September 11-12, 2017 at the Embassy Suites Nashville South - Cool Springs, Franklin, Tennessee. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/first-episode-psychosis-walking-together-on-the-road-to-recovery-tickets-36689873399> to register.
- Sara Smith announced the 2017 Conditions for Learning Forum will be September 25-26 at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville. The forum provides an opportunity for districts

to learn about and share best practices that enhance conditions for learning for all students. The 2017 forum will focus on All Means All: Connecting Systems of Support. Registration will close on Monday, September 18th. There will not be any onsite registration. Registration is limited to only 600 registrants, so register today to secure your place. The 2017 Conditions for Learning Forum has been approved for TASL credit. Visit <http://www.event.com/events/conditions-for-learning-forum-2017/event-summary-85bfbf5710ef48c2b9b92021ab6f5375.aspx> for information on how to register.

- Virgo announced TDMHSAS is looking for a SOCAT Youth and Young Adult Coordinator and a Technical Assistance Coordinator.
- The National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) Tennessee 2017 State Convention *ENGAGE \* EDUCATE \* EMPOWER* will be September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at The Inn at Opryland, A Gaylord Hotel. You may register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nami-tennessee-2017-state-convention-engage-educate-empower-tickets-32906424000>.
- Tennessee Voices for Children is offering Family Support Specialist training on September 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. For more information or to register for an upcoming course, please contact Kathy Rogers at 615-269-7751.
- The HIV/AIDS training Addressing Ethical Dilemmas in an Era of Complex Practice Issues will be held Friday September 8, 2017 at Nashville First Church of the Nazarene. Visit <http://www.naswtn.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1004585&group=>
- The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) is having a safeTALK: Suicide Alertness for Everyone event on October 11th. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/safetalk-suicide-alertness-for-everyone-101117-tickets-37219515573?aff=es2>
- Moser announced the Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee (AIMHiTN) is having a Kickoff Event introducing Tennessee's Infant Mental Health Endorsement® Program on September 12th in Knoxville at Bridgewater Place. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kickoff-event-introducing-tennessees-infant-mental-health-endorsement-to-east-tennessee-tickets-36881015109>.

## II. Approval of Meeting Summary

- O'Neal thanked Natasha Smith of TCCY for preparing the meeting summary for the CCMH meetings.
- **PEARCE MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE JUNE 22, 2017 MEETING SUMMARY FOR CCMH and YTAC. PRUETT SECONDED. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

## III. Tennessee AWARE – Sara Smith, TN AWARE, Department of Education

- Smith introduced the Tennessee AWARE Project Sites Directors and gave a brief overview of Tennessee AWARE. AWARE stands for Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in

Education. Tennessee was one of 20 states to receive a five-year SAMHSA Grant for \$9.7 million; however the fifth year funding has not been placed in the projected federal budget.

- Smith identified the Tennessee AWARE team leaders and explained the overall purpose of AWARE to build capacity at the state and local level to empower school districts to develop and integrate mental health supports and services within a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) framework. Tier one includes all students, Tier two focuses on some students and Tier three provides individualized attention to a few students.
- Smith said Goal One of the grant was to build state and local infrastructures and integrated state systems. As such, AWARE consists of state and local management teams, coordination and integration plan, referral pathway system, and a data collection system.
- She thanked the AWARE State Management Team Members.
- Smith said Goal Two was to increase adult mental health literacy and competency. Between July 1, 2015 and August, 8, 2017, there were 87 adults certified as a Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) instructor, 2,796 adults certified as a YMHFA “first aider”, and 11,911 youth who have received mental health resources or referral information from a YMHFA “First Aider.”
- Goal Three is to expand district and community continuum of mental health supports and services for school-age youth. All three local education agencies (LEAs) developed contracts using a competitive bidding process with a community-based behavioral health organization to provide school-based therapists. There have been 805 students served by school-based therapists while 565 students have been served by school-based social workers between 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.
- Smith said Grant Year Two goals included one in which students, parents and teachers participated in Tennessee Department of Education’s (TDOE) school climate survey. *Building Strong Brains* – ACEs, Restorative Practices, Response to Instruction and Intervention-Behavior (RTI2-B), Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) trainings were provided to school staff. Early intervention programs such as Why Try and Ripples Effects have also been implemented.
- Smith reported challenges in implementation, including a delay in start-up due to need for legislative approval of grant, LEA concerns regarding grant requirement to conduct a detailed needs assessment prior to program implementation, clarification of roles between school counselors and school-based therapists, electronic referral pathway complexity and time constraints and logistics administering therapy services at the schools (e.g., space, student time away from class).
- Smith reports rural school districts were very receptive to meeting the mental health needs of their students and there have been no complaints to the three Directors of Schools about AWARE programs and services. Behavioral Health Organizations (BHO) providers were surprised at the high levels of needs beyond just community mental health services (e.g., medical care, higher levels of case management (CTT), health link). In addition, LEAs and BHOs observed high rates of trauma among families and school staff.

- Smith said the next steps are to develop Tennessee Comprehensive School-based Mental Health Framework, actively engage stakeholders in developing an expansion and sustainability plan, provide regional training for interested school districts to replicate this model, integrate framework within a broader MTSS TDOE framework and prepare a final TN AWARE Report/White Paper.
- Smith explained the Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents. It builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, teaches individuals how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge and teaches individuals how to connect young people to professional, peer, social, and self-help care.
- Smith reviewed data ranging from July 2015 to August 8, 2017. It revealed State Education Agencies (SEAs) trained 2,014 first aiders while LEAs trained 782 first aiders for a total of 2,796. Each first aider has opportunities to connect youth to resources and/or make a referral. There were 9,014 referrals by SEAs and 2,897 by LEAs for a total of 11,911.
- Smith said the challenges included the Youth Mental Health First Aid USA as an eight hour public education program. To make it work for teachers in public education, several of the “optional” activities can be eliminated or condensed to make it a seven-hour day. In addition, teachers have limited time for staff development outside of the academic realm.
- Surprises included the ease of recruiting instructors, the sense of empowerment expressed by the First Aiders and their willingness to call upon Janet Watkins often when in need of technical assistance.
- Tennessee AWARE has provided YMHFA training in 60 school districts, with multiple trainings offered in some districts. Participants have included college students, boys and girls club staff, juvenile court caseworkers, family resource center directors, faith-based coalitions, drug coalitions, DCS caseworkers, foster parent organizations, Communities in Schools programs, and school safety directors.
- Identified next steps will be to continue to collect performance data, promotion of the availability of YMHFA, *Building Strong Brains* – ACEs, Restorative Practices, RTI2-B and PREPARE statewide training. She also wants to continue outreach to various organizations and conferences to promote AWARE and YMHFA trainings, train an additional cadre of 30 instructors in June 2018 and search for opportunities to sustain AWARE beyond the life of the grant.

**IV. Tennessee AWARE Project Sites – Kim Guinn, AWARE Director, Anderson County Schools; Lindsey Smith, AWARE Director, Lauderdale County Schools; April Abercrombie, AWARE Director, Lawrence County Schools**

- Guinn talked about the work in Anderson County. This is the largest school district with 17 schools. There are 6,382 students with 64.14 percent who are economically disadvantaged

and 18 percent students with special needs. She said Anderson County is predominantly white at 95 percent.

- Guinn said there are monthly local management team (LMT) meetings, community partnerships and collaborations intensified through addition of AWARE public relations personnel and the use of performance measurements to guide program improvements.
- She reviewed the new mental health district services and supports for Tier one. They have Why Try, Restorative Practices, Love and Logic, PBIS, YMHFA, RTI2-B. There have been 6,382 students served and 3,840 students who participated in the school climate survey.
- Guinn reported a total of nine YMHFA instructors in the district. There have been 259 adults trained and 391 youth were provided mental health information and/or a referral to a mental health professional. Additional adult and children mental health literacy trainings include: Love and Logic Training (49 staff), Ripples Effect Training (33 attendees), QPR Suicide Prevention Training (1,011 staff), Child ACEs Seminar (62 attendees), *Resilience* screening (42 attendees), Why Try Level 1 Training (220 attendees) and Cultural Competence for School Nurses Caring for LGBTQ Youth (13 attendees). There is an upcoming Cultural Competence for School Counselors PLC training scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Guinn talked about how media, communications and public relations is important in this work. She, and others, are working with local leaders, newspapers, newsletters, TSPN, PSAs, and are using billboards created by youth to further inform on mental health awareness. There was also a *Resilience* event supported by mass mailings with an AWARE tri-fold pamphlet attached, website development and mental health video placements. Guinn also mentioned WVLT television aired a segment about building resilience and speaking about the Netflix *13 Reasons Why* series.
- She said they are working to become a trauma-informed district with ACEs trainings. They have hired four new student support specialists. Guinn also talked about how Tier 3 is the top level and serves the top five percent of students who need extra layer of support. There are 208 students with 1,895 visits (Cherokee Health referrals) and 296 students serviced since grant inception.
- Guinn talked about the activities in place for student engagement. There are 19 youth ambassadors, 12 youth focus groups, 60 digital arts and media students, 62 other clubs, 12 life development center youth tier three programs. There was a Children's Mental Health Day where all schools participated in events coordinated by school counselors. There were 3,766 students to participate in the school climate survey. Guinn highlight some of the activities to promote engagement. Guinn reported 662 parents responded to the school climate survey.
- Guinn reported on at-risk populations and the support provided to those youth. Anderson County increased to a 30 percent poverty level and uses TCCY KIDS COUNT data to educate folks about what poverty looks like. They use a book called Bridges Out of Poverty. There is also cultural competency training for school counselors and social workers.

- Guinn turned the focus to efforts to reduce school discipline. She reported a discipline institute team, composed of 10 members, developed a new discipline procedure in March. There have been 33 staff trained in restorative practices in an effort to reduce in-school suspensions and expulsions. Discoveries included areas for improvement and identification of the continued relationship with the juvenile court and local law enforcement.
- Some of the challenges in Anderson County have been the initial pushback from counselors who felt they were being devalued. There is also a struggle to balance nonacademic versus core time, and the ability to have a predictable time frame to pull students for therapy sessions, and having professional development time for teachers and administrators to improve awareness and understanding of trauma and resiliency. Guinn noted a cultural shift takes time.
- Guinn shared surprises and the next steps. She said principals are requesting book study groups on poverty and ACEs for their staff PLCs and asking to incorporate resilience-based books into ELA curriculum. Ideas and activities for mental health awareness are being shared with her instead of being created by her. The focus now is on sustainability and development of discipline procedures. They will continue to work closely with school student support specialists on chronic absenteeism and, work with families to provide resources and to support students to pursue their dreams.
- Lindsey Smith shared Lauderdale County Schools happenings. She reported there are 4,200 students and eight schools with 54 percent of the population being economically disadvantaged. There is a high minority rate in her county with 55 percent white and 42 percent black.
- Smith said they have LMT meetings quarterly. The members consist of principals, guidance counselors, juvenile court officials, pastors, law enforcement, DCS, Health Dept. Local Media Reps. State Reps, and members of Youth AWARE committee. AWARE is supported by the local health department, County Court, faith based agencies, DCS, Coordinated School Health and Community Partners like the Rotary Club and Exchange Club.
- Smith talked about the adult mental health literacy training and the new mental health services supports Tier One, Two and Three. She highlighted a poster they use with the acronym R.O.A.R. (Responsibility Optimistic Accountability and Respect).
- There are Youth Advisory Committees implemented at each Junior High, Middle School and both high schools. Sixty students are involved in various advisory committees district wide. There are three students on the AWARE State Management Team. Smith said students are involved in creating mental health awareness posters that are placed in all eight schools as well as media communications. Smith talked about some of the parent engagement activities as well. There will be a community kickoff rally on August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- For the at risk population, there are parenting classes for families of students who are attending the Alternative School. Smith said four principals attended Teaching with Poverty in Mind Conference this summer and plan to implement strategies in their schools this year. They are sending six staff members from the district to attend a Poverty Simulation Training in November and the school counselors received cultural competency training.

- Smith said Lauderdale Alternative Learning Academy became a revolving door. This year, an AWARE Social Worker will be housed at the Alternative School to provide immediate assistance and counseling as needed. AWARE staff also provided bullying prevention training for all county school staff. She said the juvenile judge, SRO officer, Assistant Principal and AWARE Director attended the Juvenile Justice Partnership Institute Training to establish goals to reduce the number of suspensions, expulsions and referrals made to the juvenile court. The team met with superintendent and assistant superintendent and they are extremely supportive.
- Some of the challenges are finding places for a therapist to meet with the students, making contact with parents after completed home visits and overcoming the stigma from community placed on our partnering mental health agency. The biggest surprise has been how supportive the community has been, averaging 24 people at each meeting.
- Smith said sustaining AWARE program after grant ends, continuing a partnership with Juvenile Justice, focusing on the whole child, RTI2B and addressing discipline will be the next steps.
- Abercrombie explained what is happening in Lawrence County Schools. She shared a quote “You cannot teach the head when the heart is broken and the mind is troubled.” She said they are receiving very positive results with the programs implemented.
- Abercrombie reported there are 6544 students and 13 schools with 56.48 percent of the population economically disadvantaged. She said 12.65 percent have special needs. They are 93.93 percent white, 2.99 percent black and 2.97 percent Hispanic.
- Abercrombie talked about the LMT meetings and membership, community partnerships and collaborations. She went through Tier One through Tier Three. There were eight YMHFA instructors with 260 adults trained and 1,243 youth referred under Tier One. She said over 600 adults will be trained this year. Additional trainings included wellness training and approximately 1,000 trained in ACEs.
- Abercrombie shared a student created video shown in movie theaters and on the website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnaNSY8goH4&feature=youtu.be>. Other community outreach included billboards.
- For Tier Two services in Lawrence County, they have the Why Try early intervention program with two school social workers. There have been 620 referrals to the AWARE office since February 2016 with 313 referred to HCA and 289 student support cases.
- With the Tier Three level, Health Connect America is the contracted provider. There were four therapists in 2016-2017 and will be seven in 2017-2018. Abercrombie reported 313 total students were provided therapy with 74 discharges. This summer they had 61 families served and 26 families are receiving Comprehensive Child and Family Treatment (CCFT).
- Abercrombie said they are doing well in student engagement. They have five students as student management team (SMT) and 77 Youth Advisory Committees. A recent interest showed 25 new youth who want to become members. She shared a card [www.lcss.us](http://www.lcss.us) and youth created, as well as a video to explain how to self-refer if they are feeling depressed,



anxious or stressed out. The Family Engagement LCSS held a Whole Child Expo for Student Success, on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- Abercrombie highlighted at risk supports. She mentioned Stepping Stones, Achievement Academy, Attendance Support and Risk Assessment.
- Abercrombie also shared what they are doing to reduce in school and out of school suspensions (ISS and OSS) and their partnership with Juvenile Court. She said restorative practices keep students in school, learning rather than removing them for suspension or expulsion.
- Some of the challenges have been with the youth, the stigma of it all, finding the time, assumptions made, and lack of understanding. Abercrombie was surprised there was no pushback and the abundance of wraparound services. They are planning more community events, a specific event with the screening of *Resilience*, more training, RTI2B and finding ways to continue the support.

**V. Heroes – Tim Perry, LPC-MHSP, Division Director, Tennessee Children and Youth, Frontier Health**

- Perry showed a video about the Heroes Program produced by Frontier Health. He explained A Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) Project was founded in 2009. The partners are Johnson City Schools, Frontier Health, Johnson City Police Department and Johnson City Juvenile Court.
- Safe School/Healthy Students is a federal demonstration grant requiring partnership of the LEA, law enforcement and mental health provider. Frontier Health participated in four SS/HS projects. Johnson City Schools was the most successful project.
- The essential elements of this SS/HS project were sustained through commitment of Johnson City Schools to keep structure in place following the end of the grant funding in 2013. Local dollars were used for contracted prevention and early intervention services. There was a commitment from the Johnson City juvenile court to continue screening in the court and placement of a 50 FTE staff from Frontier Health as well as commitment from the Johnson City Police Department. Perry said blended funding from invested partners and assistance from TDMHSAS and Frontier Health delivery system resources were also essential. Perry praised Dr. Wallace as being a hero for the Heroes Program because he also went to the Board of Education to advocate for the continuation of the program.
- Perry reported Johnson City Juvenile Court provide mental health screening on site, referral and a linkage to Behavioral Health Services and Intensive probation. Johnson City Police Department provides 10 SROs to all schools. They also assist with crisis prevention curriculum and domestic violence issues. The police officers are being trained in trauma-based work.
- The Behavioral Health Services started off as Project B.A.S.I.C., but it ended. Parts of the model are still being used. There is school based early intervention, alcohol and drug

prevention services, parent/family services, student assistance, credentialed therapists, care managers, and crisis intervention.

- Perry said Johnson City Schools has 7,738 students with 76 percent Caucasian, 14 percent African American, seven percent Hispanic and three percent Asian. There eight elementary schools, one intermediate school, one middle school and one high school.
- School values focus on attention to safety, crisis intervention, threat assessment, family involvement, consultation, immediate access to treatment services and mental health staff integrated with faculty. Perry said they may do bus duty, test monitoring etc. and accommodate the culture of the school as needed.
- Perry reported the suicide attempts have increased.
- There have been close to 11,000 unduplicated youth have been seen through this program for the top two tiers. He said this averages to about 23 busloads of students.
- The most frequently occurring issues are relationship issues, parent-child conflict, anger management and academic problems, depression and parents' divorce or separation.
- Perry said the school based clinical services must meet medical necessity criteria, must comply with any clinical record keeping that contracts and CARF requires. The clinicians must receive clinical supervision and are part of an outpatient team. Services must provide easy access to psychiatric evaluation as needed, often accompany family, provide access to mobile crisis team as needed, and must obtain parental permission that meet all HIPAA rules.
- Perry said they were the first school-based program in Tennessee to receive the TAMHO Program of Excellence Award. Dr. Greg Wallace received the SAMHSA Voices of Prevention Award. Heroes was also a 2015 State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) finalist.

## **VI. Project B.A.S.I.C./Child Care Consultation – Anna Arts, Tennessee Voices for Children**

- Arts gave an overview of Better Attitudes and Skills in Children (B.A.S.I.C.). Program development began in 1985 in West Tennessee and is an award-winning school-based mental health prevention and early intervention program for children. It promotes mental health by identifying children at risk of serious emotional disorders and referring them to treatment.
- They are currently in 42 schools across 38 Tennessee counties. Project B.A.S.I.C. works to develop collaboration with local community service agencies that will benefit the schools and local communities. She highlighted the community mental health partners.
- Arts said they target children in grades kindergarten through third grade while the secondary populations serve grades fourth through eighth. The targeted risks factors are emotional disorders, school behavioral problems, academic failure, social deficits, transitions in family structure, experience of parent and sibling mental health problems and experience of traumatic stressors.

- She reviewed the various levels of the pyramid model and explained it is a framework for promoting social competence in children. The focus is on creating an environment where every child feels good about coming to school, designing an environment that promotes child engagement and teaching social and replacement skills.
- Arts talked about the school climate enhancement project. She said it benefits all students in the school, spans throughout the length of the school year, influences positive atmosphere school-wide. Arts said there are 12 classroom presentations to every teacher each school year. The presentations focus on intentionally teaching social emotional skills by using children's books, short videos or engaging activities. Friendship skills, emotional literacy, anger management/impulse control and problem solving strategies in this order are the skills targeted.
- Teacher coaching is offered to focus on improving teacher's skills and children identified as having a significant risk of developing a serious emotional disturbance are referred to mental health providers. Project B.A.S.I.C. works to support and motivate families in connecting with community resources. Arts said Tennessee Voices for Children offers child care consultation services free of charge for parents and childcare staff seeking individualized strategies and supports across the state. Arts said it can be classroom style or child specific.
- If your child's school has the B.A.S.I.C. program, a letter will be sent home at the beginning of the school year with information about the program. If you are unsure about the status of BASIC at your child's school, please contact the school's principal.

## **VII. Cherokee Health – Julia Pearce, Regional Vice President, Cherokee Health Systems**

- Pearce said Cherokee is about 56 years old and the organization's focus centers on their mission of improving the quality of life for our children and their families through the blending of primary care, behavioral health and prevention services. She reports Cherokee Health Systems is known nationally for integrated care.
- Pearce explained why there should be school based therapy (SBT) in schools, who should schools partner with in a school based therapy program and how to structure of school based therapy program.
- Cherokee sees everyone and do not charge the homeless and those in poverty.
- She said one of the challenges in school is the availability of space in the schools.
- Pearce said the golden rules are what make a successful school based therapy program. School Based Therapy focuses on access, convenience, teamwork, come one/come all, connections and commitment. The "ABC" of School Based Therapists is A for Attitude (be professional and flexible), B for Business Knowledge and C for competent and caring.
- Pearce said the staff is masters leveled and credentialed. They also have monthly trainings for two or three hours. Cherokee is in 13 school districts for 95 school days. She said the goal is to be where they need to be to grow a healthier future/community, to be part of the solution, to meet kids where they are and to help them get where they are trying to go.

**VIII. Youth Screen – Devin Rutland, Site Coordinator, Kathleen Dunn, Clinical Interviewer and Emalee Hanley, Case Manager for Tennessee Voice for Children**

- Hanley said early identification of mental health risks, connecting to the appropriate and accessible resources and preventing youth suicide is the purpose of youth screening. Youth in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade located in Middle Tennessee and part of a school or community site are eligible. The program is structured to engage schools, communities, parents and youth through mental health trainings, presentations and school booths. She said the programs is fully self-sufficient to use its own resources instead of school resources.
- Hanley gave a brief overview of the screening process.
- Rutland talked about the mental health risks identified like suicidality, drug use, and physical health. She also shared the appropriate resources available.
- Dunn reviewed the care coordination mental health services and discussed barriers encountered. One barrier is the caregiver consent form return rate at 18 percent, caregiver consent rate is 52 percent and the youth assent rate is 88 percent. She said another barrier is site participation is seen as a mental health stigma and there are challenges with the testing schedules. Dunn talked about strategies to mitigate these barriers.
- If there are any questions, please reach out to Devin Rutland at drutland@tnvoices.org.

**IX. System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT) – Keri Virgo, Project Director for SOCAT Initiative, TDMHSAS**

- Virgo said they are right on track with their goals and will hopefully have more to report at the next meeting.

**X. Future Meetings and Topics**

- O’Neal reminded the council of the report due to the General Assembly.

**Next CCMH Meeting Dates:**

October 19, 2017 (Goodwill Industries)

**2018 Tentative Dates:**

February 18, 2018

April 19, 2018

June 21, 2018

August 16, 2018

October 18, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 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.*