



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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COUNCILS COMMITTEE
William Snodgrass TN Towers
Conference Room D
Thursday, August 15, 2019
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Ashley Dunkin, Chair
Kelly Drummond
Steven Neely
Allan Sterbinsky

Members Absent

Hailey Brooks
Petrina Jones-Jesz
Wendy Shea

Staff Present

Dana Cobb
Lindsey Cody
Susan Cope
Roselyn Leavell-Rice
Shaun Noblit
Kristi Paling
John Rust
Jill Stott
Gwendolyn Wright

I. Welcome and Introductions – Ashley Dunkin, Chair

Chair Dunkin called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. and welcomed all members and staff.

II. Approval of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (STERBINSKY) AND SECONDED (DRUMMOND) TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 2018 MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

III. Review of Regional Coordinators' Activities

Information was presented and reports provided about individual council and coordinator activities by: Dana Cobb, Northwest; Lindsey Cody, East Tennessee; Susan Cope, Mid-Cumberland; Rosalyn Leavell-Rice, Southeast; Shaun Noblit, South Central; Kristi Paling, Upper Cumberland; Jill Stott, Northeast and Gwendolyn Wright, Memphis/Shelby County. Each report included council activities that have occurred since the last

Commission meeting as well as information about special projects and upcoming council meetings and events.

Cody shared information about the following learning events: Racism and its Impact as an ACE with guest speaker Donna Mitchell, Bully Proofing and Understanding Bullying with Children and Youth with guest speaker Dr. Tim Perry and Tennessee Hope (an annual suicide prevention event) that will be hosted by Brittany Tarwater of WVLT-TV, Channel 8. He chronicled his efforts in mobilizing various communities utilizing the science of ACEs. Cody and Jill Murphy, Divisional Coordinator for Systems of Care Across Tennessee, have presented in Sevier, Anderson, Claiborne, Grainger and Morgan counties to mayors and other community leaders. They have also held events for all Knoxville Mayoral candidates. Cody has worked closely with Knox County's Save our Sons Initiative. The initiative focuses on the following goals;

- Prevention efforts of decreasing the number of African American youth engagement in criminal activity
- Reducing incidences of robbery, aggravated assault and murder
- Investment in beautifying blighted and chronic problem properties in the community
- Reducing recidivism of parolees and probationers who return to the community

Cope shared information on the learning event held at the Stewart County Middle School which provided Building Strong Brains Tennessee ACEs training for all teaching and guidance staff within the school system. How to Maintain, Sustain and Regain Yourself and Your Employees, originally scheduled for September 20, 2019, will be rescheduled for later in the year. She is currently planning the Mid-Cumberland legislative event for November 19, 2019. She is hopeful that the House of Representatives Children and Families Subcommittee of the Tennessee General Assembly will be presenters for the event. Cope shared information about community mobilization events held in Madison, Rutherford and Wilson Counties as well as highlighting the July 26, 2019 event held at Austin Peay State University. It was attended by over 355 individuals with 97 of those making commitments to continue efforts to build trauma informed practices within Montgomery County. There is an upcoming event on September 6, 2019 in Murfreesboro that will focus on ACEs science with an early childhood audience.

Wright provided updates on the July QPR: Addressing Child and Teen Suicide and the upcoming August 28, 2019 Historical Racism, Aces and Trauma learning opportunities. The August 28 event will feature Dr. Gregory Washington, Program Coordinator of the Hooks Institute African American Male Initiative (HAAMI) and an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work at the University of Memphis. He is also Director of the Center for the Advancement and Youth Development (CAYD) and Co-Director of the Mid-South Institute for Family and Community Empowerment. Wright shared information about the May 21, 2019 Critical Conversations: Building Community Resilience community mobilization summit that included Memphis/Shelby, Northwest and Southwest Councils on Children and Youth.

Wright participated in the FrameLab held in Memphis. She and Cobb provided ACEs training to Pre-K and Special Education teachers in Collierville, TN recently. Approximately 50% of attendees were familiar with ACEs but were enthusiastic about the possibility of receiving additional training. Representative Mark White is collaborating with Rotary Club members from Memphis area to provide ACEs training to individuals and groups that serve youth in the Memphis area. They are working on possible legislation to establish a pilot program. Wright's council will co-sponsor the 109th Annual International Association for Truancy and Dropout Prevention Conference in October, 2019.

Stott updated the committee on activities in the Northeast and summarized efforts for regional learning opportunities consisting of a Building Strong Brains Tennessee presentation by Richard Church and Addressing ACEs: A Call to Action with approximately 530 attendees. The Call to Action event was led by Liz Murry, author of *Homeless to Harvard* and Dr. Stephanie Covington, a clinician, author, organizational consultant, and lecturer on women's issues and trauma. The day featured breakout sessions on criminal justice, healthcare and education.

Stott has several upcoming learning opportunities planned:

- Youth Mental Health First-Aid
- SAMHSA's Trauma Informed Approach Training – in September and October, 2019
- PTSD and QPR
- Resource Fair – in partnership with the Washington County CAB and focusing on self-care
- Legislative Event – November 15, 2019

Stott reported on a variety of community mobilization efforts that included a meeting with the Upper East Tennessee Regional Juvenile Detention Center staff. The information challenged the staff to provide more than a warm, safe place that offers nutrition. Staff will paint a tree in the hallway that is visible by all students and will contain affirmative statements. Trauma Informed System of Care meetings continue across the region. It was noted that BSBT-trained FBI Special Agent Christopher Freeze (Retired) attended the Bristol TN/VA Trauma Informed System of Care. Mr. Freeze has assumed the top leadership position at the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

Noblit shared information about recent learning opportunities offered in the South Central region that included:

- Screening of Paper Tigers – included Maury County School's employees
- ACEs Training – in multiple sites
- Jail and Bail – at both Hickman and Marshall Counties

Noblit has an upcoming learning opportunity scheduled that will feature information on Race and Equity. Regular community mobilization meetings continue to advance the work of ACEs within the region. Noblit shared about the region Special Project; Backpacks for Children in Foster Care. Noblit partners with an organization that provides backpacks for each school-aged child in the foster care system. When the project first started, it only took one pick-up truck. Now it requires multiple trucks to transport enough supplies for the 858 children that are currently in the system for South Central region.

Noblit recently attended the Kid's to Love luncheon. The organization provides multiple \$1,000 scholarships to former foster youth. One presentation was to an individual that is currently enrolled in college to receive his B.S. degree in Chemistry. He plans to attend medical school after completing his undergraduate degree.

Leavell-Rice shared information about the Southeast region's activities on mobilizing communities related to ACEs. She participated in Chattanooga 2.0 and will also focus efforts on county-specific meetings within the region. She shared information about the Knowledge Mobilization Summit that featured Becky Haas of Ballad Health, Chief David Roddy of Chattanooga Police Department, Judge Robert Philyaw of Hamilton County, Dr. Sherry Hamby of Sewanee University, Allen Green of the Chattanooga Fire Department, Richard Tate with Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee, and Melissa McGee and Jill Murphy of TCCY. Leavell-Rice was instrumental in providing ACEs training to parents of upcoming kindergarteners at Camp K.

Community Mobilization efforts continue in the Southeast region as ACEs trainers share their skills with one another. Chief Roddy of Chattanooga Police Department will be training Marion County law enforcement officers. Bledsoe and Sequatchie area law enforcement agencies are also seeking this training.

Leavell-Rice was given the responsibility for planning the opening session of the Mayors Council for Women's national meeting to be held in Chattanooga. TCCY Commission Member Dr. Altha Stewart will be the keynote speaker for the opening portion of the event. The Southeast Council's Fall Conference will feature a Mardi Gras theme, Cajun themed food, Salsa dancing and training on Racism as an ACE.

Paling provided an update of Upper Cumberland learning opportunities that included a suicide prevention event, Safeguarding Our Children with Anne Stamps of Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System and Scott Ridgeway of TSPN. Natalie Ivey of the Coalition Against Human Trafficking was the trainer for Cause and Effect: Human Trafficking and ACEs. Paling is a co-sponsor the upcoming Pillars of Recovery along with Cumberland Heights, Ten Broeck, Mental Health Cooperative, Health Connect America, Celebrate Recovery and TN Together. Proceeds from registration fees for the event will support local Celebrate Recovery programs. Additional upcoming learning opportunities include Trauma and the Brain, Domestic Violence: Effects on Relationships, an LGBTQ event and Homelessness and LGBT Youth.

Paling outlined recent community mobilization efforts that included her facilitating an ACEs presentation at Clay County Health Council, Jackson County Health Council, Overton County Health Council, Cannon County Stakeholders Meeting, ACEs Kick-off for White County, presentation at the Putnam County Health Council and formation of a KMT sub-committee,

leading an ACEs group that resulted from the DeKalb County Health Council's recent health assessment, and training for the Falling Water River Regional Library staff.

Cobb shared upcoming learning opportunities in the Northwest Region that include Life in the State of Poverty, which includes a mandatory stop off at the US Census booth, Northwest Fall Conference and Provider Fair, and Rural West YSO RoundTable. Cobb will provide ACEs information at the Landlords Luncheon and Housing and Resource event. The event will celebrate the 100 Day Youth Homeless Challenge funded by HUD. The community met the challenge by housing 51 youth between the ages of 18-24. The goal of the luncheon is to educate and engage Landlords across the Rural West Region to partner with the Continuum of Care on Homelessness to house not only this population, but any homeless person.

Cobb provided follow up information to the May 21, 2019 Rural West ACEs Knowledge Mobilization Summit indicating that Angie Counce is working to develop a speakers bureau that can further engage with community leaders and business executives.

Detailed information regarding activities in each region was included in materials distributed.

IV. Other Business

Rust updated the committee at the request of Chair Dunkin regarding Children's Advocacy Days and the retirement of Rodger Jowers. Children's Advocacy Days is to be held on March 10 – 11, 2020. Jowers retirement occurred on June 28, 2019. He will continue to volunteer with the agency as photographer at Children's Advocacy Days.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

John Rust
Director of Field Operations

Ashley Dunkin
Committee Chair