STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor
502 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800
(615) 741-2633 (FAX) 741-5956
1-800-264-0904

COMMISSION
Montgomery Bell State Park
Clement A
Thursday, October 25, 2018
3:40 p.m.

MINUTES

**Members Present**
Brenda Davis, Chair
Rob Mortensen, V.C.
Jennie Harlan, Secretary
Phil Acord
Ashley Dunkin
Kelly Drummond
Sharon Green
Lisa Hill
Amy Jones
Petrina Jones-Jesz
Steven Neely
Christy Sigler
Allan Sterbinsky

Annemarie Rainwater
Wendy Shea
Altha Stewart
Destiny Sweeney
Glenda Terry

Richard Kennedy, Exec. Dir.
Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir.
Dana Cobb
Lindsey Cody
Susan Cope
Sujit Das
Fay Delk
Jennifer Drake-Croft
Rodger Jowers
Sumita Keller
Bill Latimer
Rosalyn Leavell-Rice

Melissa McGee
Latasha Mitchell
Rose Naccarato
Shaun Noblit
Kristi Paling
Gerald Papica
Steve Petty
John Rust
Russette Sloan
Natasha Smith
Sherry Snorton
Jill Stott
Vicki Taylor
Zanira Whitfield
Gwendolyn Wright

**Members Absent**
Hailey Brooks
Genesis Hardin
Gary Houston

**Staff Present**

**Staff Absent**
Fay Delk

I. Welcome – Brenda Davis, Chair

Davis called the meeting to order at 3:42 p.m.

Smith called roll. A quorum was established.
II. Approval of August 2018 Minutes (ACTION)

IT WAS MOVED (DUNKIN) AND SECONDED (MORTENSEN) TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 2018 COMMISSION MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

III. Title VI Training – Natasha Smith

Smith conducted Title VI training using a PowerPoint Presentation and a quiz.

IV. Children’s Services Committee – Amy Jones, Chair

Jones gave updates on the work of the Council on Children’s Mental Health (CCMH), Ombudsman Program, Second Look Commission (SLC), Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC), Early Childhood Well-Being, Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council (TNYCWC), Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA), and the System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT) Expansion Grant.

YTAC met October 4 in Nashville and heard updates from the Department of Children’s Services (DCS) Office of Independent Living on recent activities. They heard about the next leadership camp for Extension of Foster Care youth. DCS has also opened a new residential program for transition age young women in Clarksville. There are future plans for a similar facility for young men. Attendees heard a brief overview of the upcoming Annual Report from DCS. Project Now reported on their project with the Knoxville Police Department to help transition- age youth secure driver’s licenses. Youth Connections reported on a grant from Tennessee Housing Development Authority (THDA) enabling them to work with the Woodbine Community Organization on a residential program for transition-age youth. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) provided updates on some of their programs. DMHSAS also sponsored three FrameLabs across the state in partnership with TCCY. The department partnered with SOCAT and TAMHO for a conference in September. The YTAC report is almost ready for submission and is on the agenda for tomorrow’s Commission Meeting.

The Home Visiting Leadership Alliance held their first joint meeting with CCMH on October 18. The joint meeting provided attendees an opportunity for networking and to learn information about services referral opportunities. The next HVLA meeting is scheduled for December 4. Keller and Kennedy have been invited to participate on an advocacy strategy call with Save the Children and Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE) to work on advocacy goals for evidenced-based home visiting and the upcoming legislative session.

The Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council transitioned from the Department of Health to the agency in September, and along with it Cory Bradfield, Director. Their first meeting since
the transition was September 26. A request for proposal recently went out to select a consultant to work with the group to develop a strategic plan. The goal is for the strategic planning work to begin in December.

The Council on Children’s Mental Health met recently in a joint meeting with HVLA on October 18. The meeting began with an overview of evidence-based home visiting by Carla Snodgrass with the Department of Health. SOCAT Divisional Coordinators gave an overview of SOCAT. TDMHSAS provided information on the Regional Intervention Program (RIP). Attendees also heard a presentation on Tennessee Voices for Children’s Child Care Consultation and Team Tennessee Programs. The meeting concluded with a presentation on High Fidelity Wraparound, the model of service provision for SOCAT.

McGee, Fentress, Moore, and Murphy all attended two-day training on the TOP Facilitation Methods to improve and develop skills for facilitating conversations and focused discussions. All SOCAT staff attended the SOCAT Conference and the Building Strong Brains Tennessee Summit in September. SOCAT cosponsored an event with SAMHSA on trauma informed systems in Johnson City, Tennessee. The Committee heard updates from each SOCAT Divisional Coordinator on significant events and meetings in their respective areas.

Jones reported the Ombudsman program had 26 new referrals from August 1 to September 30. There were 24 active cases and two information only cases. The numbers are consistent with past years. Half of the new referrals came from Davidson and South Central Regions. Dr. Papica participated in six Child and Family Team Meetings. Dr. Papica continues to be active in the United States Ombudsman Association (USOA). In September he attended the national conference in Portland, Oregon.

The Second Look Commission held a quarterly meeting and investigatory meeting on October 9. They reviewed and discussed the format of the upcoming Annual Report and the scope of cases to be reviewed by the SLC. The SLC discussed the need for a data system to better track outcomes for drug-exposed children. The members discussed the possibility of bringing back the Children and Family Affairs Committee within the General Assembly. The Committee continues to be concerned about substance abuse issues among parents, and how this is addressed. They also recognized a need for earlier intervention by law enforcement and the court. The next SLC meeting is scheduled for November 13.

Jones invited Mortensen to address the Commission about a motion that grew out of the Children’s Services Committee’s discussion about the Children and Family Affairs Committee. Mortensen gave a little bit of history on the Select Committee on Children and Youth that used to be part of the General Assembly. Hargrow spoke about the structure of the Second Look Commission and that several legislators are members of the SLC. Mortensen said we have a unique group in the SLC, as they examine cases that are results of a systematic failure of sorts. The SLC produces an annual report that is sent to the Governor’s office, as well as the general assembly. Both members of the SLC and TCCY’s Children’s Services
Committee feel now that we have the recommendations and findings, there should be a place where these can be addressed to ultimately better serve Tennessee’s children. Mortensen said that coming into a new gubernatorial administration may be a good time to bring back a children’s committee, similar to the former Select Committee, in the legislature. Mortensen recommended the Commission create a subgroup to discuss and decide how to proceed. Acord said the former Select Committee on Children and Youth served a vital function in the legislature, and was the vehicle by which the Department of Children’s Services was created. He said it would serve our children and state well to have a committee that focuses on children’s issues. Davis agreed with Acord’s comments. She said she has been part of the SLC longer than in any other role with the Commission. She also said that now that there are important recommendations and findings from the SLC, there needs to be a group with the ability to address the issues raised.

Mortensen made a recommendation, based on the Children’s Services Committee approval, that four Commission Members meet with four staff members and create a work group to craft a formal recommendation. Mortensen will reach out to Commission Members and staff to coordinate the subgroup if approved.

**THE MOTION TO ESTABLISH A WORKGROUP ON A CHILDREN’S LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

V. Councils Committee – Ashley Dunkin, Chair

Duncan reported Children’s Advocacy Days (CAD) is in the early stages of planning. The theme this year is based on the popular TED Talks. Keynote speakers will deliver an impactful 13 -18 minute talk. Child-serving agencies will also hopefully give individual short talks in lieu of the Commissioner’s panel we usually have. More information will be available at the next Commission Meeting.

Dunkin reported the Regional Coordinators, along with the other agency divisions, recently conducted a top to bottom review of their responsibilities and processes. Some Regional Coordinators will present an update during the full Commission on Friday morning. In Committee, Coordinators highlighted recent events that are unique examples of the varied and important work they do. Dunkin said the Coordinators provide valuable resource linkage for stakeholders in their communities.

In South Central, Noblit was called on by Maury County schools to do an ACEs training for students, as well as a trauma-informed presentation for staff. He also helped with a bean supper to raise money to assist immediate needs for children and families in the community. Jones reached out to Jowers recently for assistance in resolving challenges in a case with a youth from Louisiana. Wright gave overview of “a day in the life of a Coordinator” during the Councils Committee meeting. Cobb recently worked with Tennessee Homeless Solutions to create a comprehensive resource guide. In the Southeast, Leavell-Rice held an event this fall promoting fine arts in schools...
that featured the Crescent Club Band, whose members are adult men on the Autism Spectrum. In Mid-Cumberland, Cope is working hard on knowledge mobilization efforts with the local city and county mayors. Dunkin commended the work of all the Regional Coordinators.

VI. Juvenile Justice and Minority Issues Committee – Phil Acord, Chair

Acord said the Committee heard an update from Taylor about the work of the Juvenile Justice team. In one particular county, Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) violations were higher than should have been likely due to a substitute judge; however we are still under the threshold overall. Mitchell reported on the monitoring work during Committee. She has now established herself as a contact person and resource for grantees if they have questions. The team is preparing for a new grantee orientation.

Acord reported Hargrow continues to lead Disproportionate Minority Contact work with the task forces of Shelby, Madison and Davidson Counties. Acord updated the Commission about Shelby County and the happenings there with the Department of Justice. There are real concerns expressed by various stakeholders in Memphis/Shelby County and we need to determine what is going on there in terms of housing justice involved youth.

Hargrow reported to the Juvenile Justice Committee that the statewide DMC meeting was held on September 18th. Kevin Bethel, retired Philadelphia Police Deputy Commissioner spoke to the group about the successful efforts in Philadelphia to reduce DMC.

Legislative updates included that that the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act is in a reconciliation/conference committee right now to resolve several issues including the valid court order. The House passed the reauthorization of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant.

VII. Budget and Data Committee Report – Allan Sterbinsky, Acting Chair

Sterbinsky reported the Budget and Data Committee heard updates on KIDS COUNT, kidcentral tn, Resource Mapping, the Media Report, web stats and The Advocate.

Sterbinsky provided a brief update on the TCCY budget for the period ending September 30, 2018. Sterbinsky shared the fact that the agency budget is comprised of 20 percent federal revenue, 57 percent state revenue, and 23 percent is considered other revenue. He reported there were a few expenses that exceeded the revenue for what is expected at this point in the fiscal year. He reported State Appropriation is at 30 percent expended, but there are outstanding billings for several programs. Sterbinsky said CASA contracts were completed for the fiscal year with the addition of two new counties, Cannon and Henry. He reviewed the increases for the FY19-20 budget including the following.
Sterbinsky asked Kennedy to update the Commission on possible funding for the *Compilations* next year. Kennedy said he received an email from Dave Thurman with Finance and Administration wanting to know more about the budget recommendations, specifically if the Commission had ever prioritized things advocated for in the Budget Recommendations. Kennedy said historically, the Commission has not prioritized, but he added that printing the *Compilations* would likely be a first priority. Kennedy received follow-up communication with the information that the Office of Criminal Justice Programs is confident they will have the resources to print the *Compilations* next year.

**IT WAS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE TCCY BUDGET REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Sterbinsky reported on the new KIDS COUNT policy report on young adult parents. He reported there was a recent Resource Mapping kick-off meeting about data collection.

Sterbinsky said the new kidcentral tn Director, Jonquil Newland joined the agency in September. He shared highlights of her update with the Commission. Sterbinsky reviewed the web stats for July, August and September, 2018.

The Media Report shows fewer reports/stories than this time last year, likely because there was not a KIDS COUNT Data Book release during the time period. He said there are challenges around tracking newspaper stories and television stories, and he reported that TCCY Facebook users are largely female.

**VIII. Other Business**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: ____________________________

Russette Sloan
EAA1

Minutes Approved by: ____________________________

Brenda Davis
Chair
I. Welcome – Brenda Davis, Chair

Davis called the meeting to order at 8:42 a.m.
II. Center for Children’s Law and Policy Presentation – Mark Soler, Executive Director

Soler provided a brief overview of the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s (AECF’s) Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and what has been accomplished in Shelby County in the last six years. Soler was part of AECF’s creation of JDAI, helping take it from idea to action. The Center for Children’s Law and Policy is one of the partners for JDAI. They are one of the two non-profit organizations providing technical assistance for the program.

JDAI began as a national initiative in 1992 to reduce unnecessary detention without jeopardizing public safety. The idea was to identify young people who came in contact with the legal system but did not require secure detention. Soler said JDAI began at a time when there were reports of abuse of conditions and practices in juvenile state commitment facilities. There was litigation going on and very little focus was on juvenile detention.

Soler said the National Council on Crime and Delinquency published a report in the 1970s entitled “Hidden Closets” by George Saleebey, a former Deputy Director of the California Youth Authority. The report focused on juvenile detention practices in California at the local level. Soler said it revealed children not receiving appropriate care, living in abusive conditions and receiving inadequate education, health and mental health services. JDAI was an effort to respond to inefficient local juvenile justice practices and to build a national initiative examining juvenile detention.

Soler said when JDAI began in the early 1990s, the country was in the middle of the crack epidemic and other issues and there was a spike in juvenile arrests, particularly in juvenile homicides in 1993 and 1994. This was the worst possible time for AECF to begin this initiative because of the lack of support around juvenile justice reforms, but they were really dedicated to this cause.

Soler said JDAI works through eight basic reform strategies:

1. **Collaboration** among all stakeholders, including families and communities that are home to young people in the juvenile justice system, as well as child welfare, education, and mental health agencies.
2. **Regular collection and analysis of data** on use of secure detention and community-based alternatives to detention.
3. Development and use of **objective screening instruments** for detention admissions.
4. Creation or enhancement of community-based **alternatives to secure detention** that meet the supervision needs of youth in the system.
5. Adoption of **case processing reforms** to reduce or eliminate unnecessary delays in the system.
6. Focus on “**special detention cases**” that often involve inappropriate or unnecessary stays in detention, such as detentions for warrants, violations of probation, or pending dispositional placement.
7. Reduction of **racial and ethnic disparities** in the juvenile justice system.
8. Ensuring **safe and humane conditions** for youth who are detained.
Soler said each of the eight strategies can only be effective when done appropriately and together. He said the problem with picking only two or three is the impact is not enough and AECF will not support partial strategies.

Soler worked through each of the eight core strategies and provided specific examples. He said in the early 1990s all around the country the decision to detain a child who had come into contact with law enforcement was made by people who worked in the probation department. Soler said these people made a decision to detain the child with a minimum amount of information and were influenced by factors such as the history of the child, something the intake person assumed they knew about the child or the family, the way the child looked, or the child’s demeanor. Soler said these decisions were not made in an objective way.

Soler said going along with objective screening instruments for detention admissions is the alternative to secured detention. He said we need an array of services and programs that can provide supervision to young people as an alternative to secured detention to keep them in the community. He said those services and programs really need to match the level of supervision that meets the needs of the youth who enter the system. He provided examples of low-level crimes like shoplifting.

Soler said they learned early in JDAI that case processing was an issue. He said the population in any juvenile detention center on any day is a function of how many young people were admitted to the facility and how long they stayed. Reducing the number of people admitted to the facility would reduce the number of people in the facility. If they reduce the amount of time juveniles stayed in the facility, then there would also be a reduction in the daily population. JDAI aims to reduce both the admission into the facility and the length of stay through case processing.

Soler said for the first 25 years of JDAI, most of the focus was on reducing the admissions to detention. JDAI has focused on case processing over the last two years. AECF has written guidelines and reports offering practical steps that juvenile justice systems can take to lessen the need for detention and reduce unnecessary delay. JDAI has had very good results since taking on case processing reform. There is a community of practice amongst eight different JDAI jurisdictions that has monthly conference calls and video calls to discuss case processing and how they are moving forward. Soler said Baltimore, Maryland was the only jurisdiction during the first 25 years that had worked in case processing reform.

Soler was working in Baltimore during that time and said they conducted a case processing case study where they discovered the average amount of time from arrest to dispositional hearing for a child was 240 days. He said it did not matter whether the child was charged with a misdemeanor or felony. Soler said there were some practices that lengthen the amount of time. He provided examples such as public defenders asking for a continuance because they have not had time to prepare since receiving the case. Parents might take time off of work for no reason. Then the second hearing would be continued and the parents would attempt to come again and again waste their time. By the third or fourth hearing
attempt, the parents would lose interest or just did not have the ability to come. In addition to the excessive continuances, Baltimore did not do 24/7 intake, so if a child was brought in by law enforcement overnight, nothing would move until the next morning, so the child might not have gone to court until the next day for a minor offense.

Soler said as a result of the case study, Baltimore was able to make several changes to their policies. He said they now have 24/7 intake and each day the clerk of the court reaches out to the family of a child on the docket to remind them of the upcoming case because many did not have the resources to keep track of the dates. Soler said they also implemented two schedules for prosecutors; one team works until 4 p.m. and the other team starts at 4 p.m. and works until midnight. He said by doing this the prosecutors could decide whether to go forward with the case during the shift they were working. Previously, under Maryland law, prosecutors had 21 days to decide whether or not to prosecute the case. The youth would end up staying in custody for all of those days. Now, by adding the second shift of prosecutors, Baltimore has been able to dramatically cut the time from 20.5 days to one day. All of these changes allowed Baltimore to cut case processing by half.

Soler said there is also a focus on special detention cases that involve unnecessary stays in detention like bench warrants, violations of probation or pending dispositional placement. JDAI has done a lot of work in this area.

Soler said the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system is a hard issue and many jurisdictions find it challenging.

JDAI sites are intended to be models for the rest of the country. JDAI now has about 900 standards to ensure safe and humane conditions for youth who are detained.

Soler said most JDAI sites are at least five years old and there has been a tremendous amount of success in the implementation of these reform strategies. The question now is how long will the Casey Foundation continue to fund this initiative? The Foundation has begun narrowing the work they are doing and are looking for JDAI sites to go to Phase Two.

JDAI’s focus for 2019 and going forward is in:

1. Case processing reforms
2. Race and ethnic equity and inclusion (Soler described the image of the three children looking over the fence but one is standing on one block, one is on two and one is on three)
3. State scale for detention reforms (New Jersey is the model for JDAI counties. Many states have seven or eight counties that adopted JDAI)
4. Deep end reforms
5. Probation transformation (AECF published a paper)
6. Closing youth prisons
Soler reviewed the agenda for the JDAI meeting at the Pennsylvania kick-off meeting.

Soler explained “Getting Organized” is developing a governing structure, site coordinator, technical assistance team leader. “Immersion” deals with planning meetings, educating and engaging stakeholders. He said JDAI has an online platform where one can find literature and online trainings on JDAI through JDAIconnect.org. JDAIconnect is also a big message board for the juvenile justice community and allows model site visits.

Soler said “Planning for Detention Reform and Ongoing Data Activities” is an in-depth, data driven process. It includes a system assessment and a detention facility assessment.
All of the things listed in the agenda occur for a new site within the first six months. Some JDAI sites have been so effective the detention sites have gone out of business.

In Shelby County, the reduction in detention has been dramatic. A number of new policies or strategies related to JDAI have gone into effect and made a huge difference. Shelby County has no detentions for violation of probation and few detentions for domestic assault. There are alternatives in place to reduce the number of detentions. Soler said this is something a jurisdiction has to want. AECF has reduced the funding for the program, but is still providing resources.

Sterbinsky asked about strategic goals and determining the substantive number of unnecessary detentions. Soler said the screening instrument found some indicators are more relevant to determine if the child will show up for court or commit another similar offense, such as prior adjudication, previous missed court hearings or previous escape from detention.

Dunkin asked if JDAI is doing work with children already in custody. Soler said there is some work with state agencies, but JDAI detention reform focuses on the front end.

Acord asked about expansion of other services as a result of accommodating JDAI. Soler said that some go home while some go into supervision programs that are much cheaper than secure detention, the most expensive resource.

Soler said he has mentioned JDAI to Juvenile Court Judges, Probation Officers and other key stakeholders who may want to bring JDAI to their counties.

Jones said Madison County has seven beds with an average of four to five youth a day for an average length of stay of seven days. She asked if JDAI could work in this population. Soler said JDAI could bring huge savings to the county.

Acord said children who experience detention have reduced self-esteem. He said one of the bottom-line questions would be around the negative impacts of secured detention and recidivism. Soler said putting a child in detention takes them away from their family and support system. If they have mental health needs then they cannot get those services. JDAI aims to stop the initial detention. Most children get in trouble one time and learn their lesson and it makes no sense to detain them.

III. United States Census Bureau Update – Charlotte Faye Anderson-Fowler, Partnership Specialist

Anderson-Fowler emphasized the importance of the upcoming 2020 Census and what it will do for every state, if done correctly. She explained how it has evolved since 1790 when conducted by U.S. Marshalls riding horseback from ranch to ranch. She said the information would then be posted in the middle of town square for everyone to see. There are now laws to safeguard the posting of information.
Anderson-Fowler said the 2020 Census is predicted to be one of the most successful in history. The census count will affect apportionment for representation, drawing congressional and state legislative districts, enforcing voting rights, and distributing federal dollars to states. She said states receive $675 billion a year based on numbers from the census. Anderson-Fowler said that is $6.75 trillion over a ten-year period. Washington University estimated that every person missed in the 2010 census count cost states $1,900 per person per year over a ten-year period.

Anderson-Fowler said to think about Tennessee and how much money we will miss if we do not get it right. She reported children under five years of age are the highest undercounted population across the United States. Anderson-Fowler showed a map (see below) of the states that gained seats, lost seats and had no change after the 2010 census. There were 10 states that lost representation after the 2010 census. She mentioned New York is now investing approximately $3 million in outreach for the 2020 census because they lost two seats in 2010. The census occurs every 10 years. April 1, 2020 is Census Day where the government will count everyone once, only once, and in the right place.

Anderson-Fowler shared a comprehensive slide of the 2020 census. The last step in the 2020 census is to release the 2020 census results. The 2020 Census data will be processed and sent to the president (for apportionment) by December 31, 2020, to the states (for redistricting) by April 1, 2021, and to the public beginning in December 2021. She said the Census forms are mailed to addresses from January to March 2020.
The Census Bureau counts the population by collecting information from all households, including those residing in group or unique living arrangements. Anderson-Fowler said the Census Bureau wants to make it easy for people to respond anytime and anywhere; therefore, the 2020 Census will offer the opportunity and encourage people to respond over the internet and will encourage, but not require, people to enter a unique census identification with their response. She said they believe the online responses will be accurate, secure, and convenient.

For those who do not respond, the Census Bureau will use a cost-effective strategy for contacting and counting people. Anderson-Fowler said a goal for the 2020 Census is to reduce the average number of visits by using available data from government administrative records and third party sources. These data can be used to predict vacant households, determine the best time of day to visit a particular household, or to count the people and fill in the responses with existing high-quality data from trusted sources. Work assignments can be tailored to the best time to contact probabilities.

In addition, the majority of fieldworkers will use mobile devices for collecting data. Tasks such as recruiting, training, and payroll will be automated, reducing the time required for these activities. New operational control centers will rely on automation to manage most of the fieldwork, enabling more efficient case assignment, automatic determination of optimal travel routes, and reduction of the number of physical offices. Anderson-Fowler explained there is a code that connects to each address.

Anderson-Fowler said Life Cycle conducted a pilot in West Virginia to test internet connectivity. Internet connectivity was problematic at the West Virginia test site. Field supervisors reported certain areas as dead spots where internet and cell phone service were not available. In order to access the internet or cell service in those areas, census workers sometimes needed to drive several miles. Anderson-Fowler said there will be workers going door-to-door in certain areas for those reasons.

Anderson-Fowler said the Census Bureau realizes that trust of Government is a major roadblock. They plan to utilize its partnership program, providing information to government agencies and hosting events with community, recreation, and faith-based organizations. Communication and contact strategies will encourage the use of the internet as the primary response mode through a sequence of invitations and postcard mailings. In addition, Census Bureau workers will leave materials to encourage self-response. A way to optimize self-response is to make it easy for people to respond from any location at any time by enabling people to respond via multiple modes (internet, paper, or telephone if they call the Census Questionnaire Assistance Center), allowing respondents to submit a questionnaire without a unique identification code, or providing online forms in multiple languages.

Anderson said the census will have a number offering approximately 29 different languages. There will also be paper forms in different languages offered at libraries.

For any of this to be successful, respondents must know that their personal information is protected. Thus, a key element is to assure respondents that their data are secure and treated as confidential.
Anderson-Fowler talked about developing Complete Count Committees (CCC). A CCC is comprised of a broad spectrum of government and community leaders from education, business, healthcare, and other community organizations. CCCs utilize local knowledge, influence, and resources to educate communities and promote the census through locally-based, targeted outreach efforts. They provide a vehicle for coordinating and nurturing cooperative efforts between tribal, state, and local governments; communities; and the Census Bureau. CCCs will help the Census Bureau get a complete count in 2020 through partnerships with local governments and community organizations. Currently, the census is working on developing CCCs in Memphis, Knoxville, Martin, Nashville and Franklin to increase participation.

Anderson-Fowler talked about the Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROAM). The ROAM application was developed to make it easier to identify hard-to-survey areas and to provide a socioeconomic and demographic characteristic profile of these areas using American Community Survey (ACS) estimates available in the planning database. Learning about each hard-to-survey area allows the Census Bureau to create a tailored communication and partnership campaign, and to plan for field resources including hiring staff with language skills. These and other efforts can improve response rates. You can find ROAM at https://www.census.gov/roam.

Other sites to find information on the 2020 census are www.census.gov/2020census and https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census.html.

Anderson-Fowler said many children did not get counted in the 2010 Census because they live in split households due to divorce, in low income households, in one-parent households or are newborns in the hospital. Additionally, children are at risk of being missed if they are part of large multi-generational households with extended families where all members are not counted, households that rent or move a lot, households where they are not supposed to be, households that are providing foster care for them, or households with recent immigrants or foreign-born adults.

It was asked if the census was prepared to capture undocumented immigrant children. Anderson-Fowler replied that the children are already receiving services. She said if the people receiving these services wanted to really be connected and gain resources and funds for lunches, services, etc. then they will need to complete the census. She said this is only statistical information.

Kennedy asked if the census would disregard someone’s form if they only completed eight out of ten questions. Anderson-Fowler said someone will knock on their door to complete the entire form.

Green asked about homeless shelters. Anderson-Fowler said there are two weeks where they send people to anywhere where the homeless may sleep. Green said that there are a lot of families being missed who are couch-surfing in public housing where the lease prohibits guests.
Delk said there are laws in place prohibiting the sharing of identifying information about people who complete the census. Papica said it would help if the community knew the information was confidential and would not be shared with other government agencies. Anderson-Fowler said they are making it known and are relying on ministers and CCCs to be the trusted voices to make it known as well.

Anderson-Fowler said it is important to note prisoners and college students are counted by where they are on April 1 and not where they are originally from. Drummond had follow-up questions about the college students since most are still being counted as living in their parents’ household, especially since the parents are financially supporting the child and supplying health insurance, car insurance, tuition, room and board and more throughout the year.

Hargrow asked what strategies are in place to make sure children are not undercounted. Anderson-Fowler would like for TCCY to help with putting together a statewide CCC. She said the Governor’s office advised her to contact the new administration once they are in place.

Acord urged Anderson-Fowler to make presentations to other organizations as well to form an alliance partnership. Anderson-Fowler said she wanted to get to the grassroots level.

Davis suggested using TCCY Regional Coordinators and said TCCY will have a discussion about ways to disseminate the information.

Anderson-Fowler reiterated that each person who does not complete the census form is equal to $1,900 per person per year over a ten year period we are losing. She said Sevier County and East Tennessee were missing out on funding because they did not complete their forms. Wisconsin had the highest return rate in 2010.

Before leaving, Anderson-Fowler announced the Census Bureau is hiring and the jobs can be found at 2020census.gov/jobs. She said the pay is good and supervisors will receive benefits.

IV. Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) Presentation – Stephanie Teatro, Executive Director, Lisa Sherman Nikolaus, Policy Director and Denise Calle

Teatro said TIRRC is a statewide, immigrant and refugee-led collaboration whose mission is to empower immigrants and refugees throughout Tennessee to develop a unified voice, defend their rights, and create an atmosphere in which they are recognized as positive contributors to the state. She said they are celebrating 25 years and are in 15 cities.

Teatro provided an overview of the immigration policy and issues in Tennessee as it relates to immigration enforcement and access to benefits. Tennessee is not a typical immigrant gateway state. The rate of growth has increased. Teatro questioned how we facilitate that transition as a state going forward to address the challenges of dealing with a more diverse population.
Sherman Nikolaus reported Tennessee has 120,000 undocumented people. She said there are a number of mixed-status families (1 in 9) where the child is a citizen but living with someone who may be undocumented or on a green card. Sherman Nikolaus said there at least 30,000 children living with someone who is foreign-born while approximately 70,000 live with at least one undocumented family member.

Teatro said at the federal level, our system is out of date. The immigration system has not been upgraded in 30 years. Immigration laws and policies have seen a dramatic change in the last 18 months. She said immigration enforcement, deportation and the threat of such actions can negatively impact a child’s long-term health and development.

Teatro said immigration policies are increasingly in the news. There are more and more people who have become more vulnerable where temporary protected status and other programs have been eliminated. She reported 7,000 to 8,000 Honduran families in Tennessee who were once able to apply for legal status and work and contribute to Tennessee’s economy will be forced to leave because the current administration’s policies have ended those programs. Thus, 8,000 people in Tennessee with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status will be forced to leave because they will now become undocumented.

Teatro described the increase in immigration enforcement and deportation. She said there were 340,000 deportations in 2017 and at least one child is affected for each deportation. Teatro mentioned targeted arrests where people show up to court for traffic tickets and are arrested. She said Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) comes to schools and homes in front of their children.

Teatro mentioned the immigration raid in Morristown that drew national attention. She said a quarter of the town is Latino and worked in the factory. There were about 160 American children who did not know what happened to their parents who were the bread winners. More than 550 children did not show up to school in Hamblen County the next day. Teatro said deportation created an adverse childhood experience for these children and they now live in constant fear. She said a new state law will go into effect in January requiring local law enforcement to inquire about immigration and citizenship status.

Sherman Nikolaus said the act of deputizing local citizens made people feel less safe because people were less likely to report crime. She said the law HB2315 will go into effect January 2019, and will create a lot of confusion and potential abuse of the application of the law. It takes away law enforcement discretion to interact with the local community. Undocumented immigrants will be less likely to report sexual and domestic abuse because of the fear of deportation.

Sherman Nikolaus said there is a federal policy change called a “Public Charge” which is a determination used when people are applying for a green card. The Trump Administration is proposing drastic changes, which targets these individuals by refusing their green card applications if
they have ever applied for and received public benefits, even if those benefits were on behalf of their children who are legal citizens. This will cause a chilling effect because people do not understand the rule and they are dis-enrolling their children from programs like Women, Infants and Children (WIC), TennCare and other public programs their children qualify for because they fear being deported. The rule targets low-income working families.


Drummond asked about HB2315 and the impact of the new law. Teatro said this law prohibits any policies that would prevent collaboration with immigration enforcement or prohibit asking about immigration status.

Delk talked about refugee resettlement through churches. Sherman Nikolaus said refugees are exempt from the law, but they do not understand and are very concerned about being deported, so they withdraw from resources.

Drake-Croft asked about a plan to encourage these families to participate in the United States Census to avoid children being undercounted. Teatro said there is a need for a government firewall to ensure trust is not broken and the information is not used in a harmful way.

Teatro talked about the future. She said the fate of the DACA immigrants is one of the first orders of business. Teatro talked about children seeing their lives beyond high school and asked how are we building an infrastructure to respond to the children being harmed. Teatro questioned if there is a plan for schools, teachers, etc. to help children who have had one or both parents deported and, if so, how to support local government and these children.

V. Building Strong Brains Tennessee Update – TCCY Staff

Drake-Croft provided a Training-for-Trainers update. Trainings have been held in 66 of the 95 counties and residents from 93 of the 95 counties have received training. At the request of Heather Taylor-Griffith from Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services’ Office of Children, Young Adults, and Families, Keller, Rust and Drake-Croft provided Frame Lab training to mental health providers in Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville. The Frame Lab training consisted of the introduction of FrameWorks Institute’s methodology associated with effective messaging to align communication with the science of early childhood knowledge.

TCCY will conduct five Training-for-Trainers events this year between October and February. These will be held in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, Cookeville and Memphis. The October training in Knoxville brought the total trainers to 835 across the state. To date, our trainers report having
presented to 29,032 people. The Department of Education has used TCCY’s curriculum to train an additional 7,000 individuals making the total known number of individuals presented to at 36,032.

TCCY wrapped up our grant with the Department of Health on September 30, 2018 meant to support Building Strong Brains knowledge mobilization, strategy and sustainability planning. The money went towards TCCY staff salary, BSB Private & Public Sector Sustainability Planning, the September 2018 Building Strong Brains Summit, and the Social Media Campaign.

Between August and October, TCCY continued to work with the consulting firm Strategy and Leadership and the Building Strong Brains Tennessee Coordinating Team to finalize the BSB Strategic Plan. The group met several times to identify action steps and metrics for the six primary goals of:

1. Engaging Key Leaders;
2. Building Common Practice Implementation;
3. Building a Financial Model;
4. Building Out the Common Language;
5. Building the Plan for Infrastructure; and
6. Building Out the Communications Plan.

The work to execute the strategic plan begins this month.

Keller spoke briefly about the Building Strong Brains Tennessee Summit. The theme of the Summit, “celebrate successes and imagine possibilities,” was successfully carried out through the course of the day. The Governor, First Lady and Deputy Governor hosted the event to celebrate the successes and entertained the possibilities. Keller said we were pleased Chair Brenda Davis and Vice Chair Mortensen were able to participate. The approximately 400 attendees included leaders of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government, community and civic leaders, providers, trade associations, educators, academics and the faith-based community.

The Summit agenda included three keynote presentations (by Nat Kendall-Taylor of the FrameWorks Institute, Al Race with the Harvard Center on the Developing Child, and Donald Schwarz at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), a series of TED Talks about 15 ACEs-related activities occurring throughout Tennessee, and a display of posters depicting selected Community-Innovations-funded programs across the state.

The Summit concluded with recognition of Champions, among them the Governor, First Lady, Deputy Governor, former TCCY Commission Member Barbara Holden Nixon (now with the ACE Awareness Foundation) and former TCCY Executive Director, Linda O’Neal. Keller encouraged the commission members to visit the TCCY website to view footage from the event.

VI. East Tennessee, Upper Cumberland and Northeast Regional Coordinator Updates – Lindsey Cody, Kristi Paling and Jill Stott
Cody showed a picture of the East Tennessee Executive Committee and introduced them to the commission members.

Silvia Calzadilla is the President of East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth (ETCCY) and has the distinction of being the first Hispanic President for the Council. She advocates for Hispanics and immigrant families and is the former director of Centro Hispano de East Tennessee. Next to Calzadilla is Kathy Bryant, the Vice-President who is employed by the Henry Center and works with special needs families. Cody said Bryant is a strong advocate on legislative issues. After Cody and Dr. Mona Ivey-Soto (guest speaker) is Kim Spoon, Treasurer. Spoon is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Tennessee Chair for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) chapter.

Margaret Durgin is the Secretary and Director of the Children’s Advocacy Center and strong advocate for women and children.

On September 21st, ETCCY and other partners conducted their annual suicide prevention event, “Hope for Tomorrow: The Intersection of Suicide and Addiction.” The keynote speaker, Stephen Kavalkovich, presented a well-received talk on “Addiction: The End of the Road and Beyond.” Kavalkovich is a former paramedic, 9/11 rescuer, man in recovery, consultant and speaker. Cody said there were 216 attendees. After lunch, one of the three breakout sessions was on Building Strong Brains.

On October 2nd, ETCCY ACEs Knowledge Mobilization Team conducted an educational event and hosted a Building Strong Brains Training-for-Trainers at Bridgewater Place in Knoxville. The guest speaker for the educational event was Becky Haas, Community Crime Prevention Programs Director for the Johnson City Police Department, who presented SAMHSA’s Trauma Informed Approach: Key Principles-A New Understanding of Trauma” to 151 attendees.
Ms. Haas’ training objectives for the attendees of the presentation included the Key Principles of Trauma, Trauma’s Impact on Brain Development, Using ACE, and the Prevalence of Trauma, the Four “R’s” of Trauma Informed Agencies, SAMHSA’s Key Principles for Trauma Approach, Where Do We Go from Here-Review Your Agency, and Offering Hope and Healing.

Prior to the educational presentation, Cody discussed the East Tennessee’s ACEs Mobilization Team efforts to continue spreading the message about Tennessee’s ACEs Initiative, Building Strong Brains Tennessee to the 16 counties in the East Tennessee Region, which include Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborn, Cocks, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier, and Union.

A tour of the 16 counties will begin on November 5th to include Knowledge Mobilization meetings with each of the county mayors. The counties’ stakeholders will include the sheriffs, police chiefs, fire chiefs, DCS, school superintendents, Coordinated School Health, judges, and other important members of the community. The first meeting will be held in Cocke County and is being coordinated by Councilmembers. The plan is to visit each county by June 30, 2019.

Cody announced a third educational event on November 6th at Bridgewater Place. The guest speaker will be David Wallace, LCSW-R and Executive Director at LaSalle School in Albany, NY. He will present on “Understanding ACEs and Building Resilient Communities.” Cody said this workshop will illustrate how and why ACEs are relevant to child welfare, juvenile justice and behavioral health providers. The presenter will discuss challenges associated with becoming an "ACEs-informed" organization; incorporating ACEs into training, practice, and programming and will demonstrate how growing ACE awareness among all staff can positively impact the milieu, interdisciplinary collaboration, and transform agency culture (a goal of BSBTN).

Cody was pleased to announce ETCCY now has a community tracker page on ACEs Connection, a popular, informative and nationally known website. There is a weekly newsletter that goes out to the listserv and the East Tennessee ACEs Knowledge Mobilization Team has been featured twice and is one of the fastest growing pages on ACEs Connection. Cody said they have been working closely with Carey S. Sipp from ACEs Connection in Atlanta. Sipp drove to Johnson City and met with ETCCY leadership and will continue to work with ETCCY to help the mobilization team frame their message so they can truly make the changes.

Paling reported on events the Upper Cumberland Council attended this last quarter. She talked about the “Light of Hope” event, an annual project of Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network’s (TSPN) Upper Cumberland Region held on September 16th at the Putnam County Courthouse Square in Cookeville. TSPN’s Executive Director Scott Ridgeway presented and they released doves/pigeons.

Another community event was the Dekalb County Health Fair. Thomas Gabriel, Johnny Cash’s grandson, was the keynote speaker and entertainer during the Health Fair on September 21st hosted by
the DeKalb Prevention Coalition and the DeKalb County Recovery Court in conjunction with National Recovery Month.

The next event Paling shared was a Faith and Recovery event hosted by Nathan Payne, Lifeline Coordinator Region 3 North at Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. He was trying to recruit others to join the coalition to target the faith and recovery community and raise awareness.

The Senior Expo was a community event targeting the sandwich generation. There were over 800 participants and over 100 vendors. The expo offered a free legal clinic, health screenings, door prizes, car show, car seat checkpoint, caregiver training and more.

Paling reported on events hosted by the Council. The first event was the Ruby Payne "Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities," on October 19th. The morning session was the Ruby Payne Bridges Out of Poverty workshop, facilitated by Cindy Putman, of WTCE. The session discussed ACEs and poverty. Participants were encouraged to bring a jar of peanut butter for the Food to the Rescue "Spread the Love" campaign and coats and jackets for Quawanna’s Coats “Make a Difference Day.” The afternoon session was an interactive poverty simulation where participants got to experience what their lives would be like living in poverty. Afterwards, they sat in a circle and had a discussion.

Community meetings Paling attended were White County Anti-Drug Coalition, Power of Putnam Anti-Drug Coalition, DeKalb County Prevention Coalition, Putnam County Community Advisory Board, Warren County Community Advisory Board, TSPN-Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, HART – Homeless Advocacy for Rural Tennessee, Faith and Recovery Coalition, Underage Binge Drinking Committee and Child Fatality.

Paling reported the Council is partnering with DCS in recruitment efforts around the release of the movie “Instant Family,” a movie addressing the importance of foster parents. Paling said they will be collaborating on local events to raise awareness of the need for foster parents.

Paling was interviewed the WCTE Ready to Learn Radio Show that airs on Saturday mornings. She discussed the success of the recent Bridges Out Of Poverty Training and Poverty Simulation. Paling also discussed the recent KIDS COUNT publication data and how poverty affects children, ACEs and a child’s brain development. Paling said the information was posted to their website and Facebook page.

Paling also did an interview to promote the Bridges Out of Poverty event for the Lite Rock 95.9 Sheila Scruggs Morning Show.

Paling said the coordinators and SOCAT team participated in a professional development opportunity to learn top facilitation methods. Liz Allen Fay led the group facilitation. Another training
attended was with Susan Miller from Department of Health where she discussed community solutions for the opioid epidemic.

Paling conducted an ACEs training for the Cookeville Regional Medical Center during the Youth and Adult Smoking Cessation classes.

Paling shared photos from the *Building Strong Brains Tennessee* Summit with the Governor and First Lady.

Paling also shared a picture of an award she received from the Tennessee Highway Safety Office for her leadership, dedication, and advocacy in child passenger safety.

![Image of Paling with award]

Stott talked about a few of the Northeast Tennessee Council on Children and Youth (NETCCY) recent events. The first was “Is This Going to Happen at My School?: Talking to Kids about School Shootings” where Dr. Kristin Dean from University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine presented. Stott said Dean covered a wide range of topics. There were 67 attendees.

Stott said since she has been the coordinator in the Northeast region, attendance has more than doubled at events. She attributes this increase to surveying the community to find out what topics they were most interested in.

On October 12th, they hosted an event on internet safety and how to keep your child safe in a digital world and a Regional Resource Fair. Special Agent Bianca Pearson, FBI was the presenter. Stott said they collaborated with the Washington County Community Advisory Board. There 17 vendors and 65 people in attendance. The place was filled to its capacity. The information given was very eye opening, scary and helpful. Special Agent Pearson provided real cases in the area and talked about the
dangers of popular online multiplayer video games like “Fortnite” and “Minecraft” because dangerous sexual predators are using those games to target underage boys and girls playing online.

Stott reported the ACEs Knowledge Mobilization bi-monthly meetings have been held in collaboration with Becky Haas and the Johnson City’s Trauma-Informed Care Coalition. The meetings have grown and new members are constantly being added. They will host a Building Strong Brains Tennessee and Trauma Informed Care Training with “Resilience, the Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope” on November 8th.

Stott said she was invited to serve on the advisory board for the Center of Excellence in Early Childhood Learning and Development (pictured below). She said there had not been an advisory board since 1985. They are funded by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and their goal is to provide leadership, best practices, research and support for training in a focused area. The board members have been asked for recommendations on how to grow the center so it can become a world-class research and advocacy center for children and families.

Stott reported on a few of the NETCCY’s special projects. They are collecting backpacks for Isaiah House 117, a foster placement house for DCS where children entering custody can wait in a safe and friendly place instead of the DCS office. The house provides clean clothes and backpacks and allows children to receive the comfort and care they need while DCS staff are able to do the necessary paperwork and identify a good foster placement. Stott said they have 45 backpacks to deliver to them.

Stott also sits on the Board for Families Free, a licensed treatment and mental health provider through the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services who works with moms who are trying to keep their children. Stott reported they hosted their second fundraiser where women opened up their hearts and shared their stories of recovery. Alison Kraus was the entertainment.
Stott said “Handle with Care” is a project she would like to work on. It is an awareness program in Johnson City where if a law enforcement officer encounters a child during a call, they will notify the school so that everyone works together to create a more sensitive environment for the traumatized child.

In addition to the Building Strong Brains and Trauma Informed Care Training on November 8th, Stott announced NETCCY will host its annual legislative breakfast on Friday, November 30th.

Stott said she has adopted a Maya Angelou quote: “Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud.” She starts and ends each event with the quote because she wants everyone to remember that they are someone’s rainbow.

VII. Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC) Annual Report – Steve Petty

Petty thanked Delk, Sloan and Smith for all of their help they provide to Youth Transition Advisory Council (YTAC). He provided an overview of the 2018 YTAC Report. He said 46 percent of eligible youth had accepted Extension of Foster Care Services (EFCS) in FY 2017-2018.

The mean retention days for youth remaining in EFCS was 271 in 2018. This is down from the 284 in 2017. Petty reported the total number of young people participating in EFCS was 792, significantly more than the 743 in 2017. Education and training vouchers, as well as the Bright Future Scholarships numbers increased from 483 to 541.

Petty reviewed the new 2018 recommendations.

- The Department of Children’s Services and the Youth Transitions Advisory Council should support and work together to implement changes to the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program made in the Families First Prevention Services Act signed into law in February 2018. The Act extends the financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate supports and services to former foster care youth under the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (Chafee) to age 23 and extends to age 26 eligibility for Education and Training Vouchers under Chafee, which are currently only available to youth up to age 23. Tennessee Law should be amended to allow for implementation of these changes.

- Tennessee should accommodate new Federal Legislation, the SUPPORT for Parents and Communities Act, allowing Medicaid reciprocity for former foster youth to age 26 who turned 18 while in custody. Many former foster youth would like to relocate to further their education, seek employment, or be with family or supportive adults, but cannot do so due to the risk of losing health insurance.

- TennCare should allow youth who age out of foster care to remain on TennCare Select rather than changing MCO’s, to allow for a more seamless transition that avoids unnecessary changes in providers or interruption of medically necessary services.
• The Department of General Services should consider offering surplus state computers to youth involved in the child welfare system, as well as foster families to provide support in meeting their education needs.

• Tennessee should waive tuition and fees at schools in the state higher education system for youth aging out and for youth in the child welfare system above the age of 16. Waiving tuition and fees at state sponsored post-secondary programs for youth in or formerly in foster care would provide access to higher education to more of these youth, and free up funds for other expenses.

• Tennessee law should be amended to create a new tax credit for businesses who hire current and former foster youth to help them in gaining employment experiences that assist them in pursuing a career in the future.

• The Youth Transitions Advisory Council should develop internal processes to address strategies to implement new and ongoing recommendations, development of its Annual Report, and structure of its meetings.

VIII. TCCY Dashboard – Natasha Smith

Smith highlighted the various sections of the dashboard and reported on the data for the quarterly and year-end report.

IX. Director’s Report – Richard Kennedy

Kennedy presented years of service awards to staff to the following:

- Zanira Whitfield – 30 Years
- Sumita Keller – 10 Years
- Melissa McGee – 5 Years
- Rodger Jowers – 20 Years

Kennedy congratulated Commission Member Phil Acord on receiving the Janet Camp Leadership Award for Tennessee Association for Children’s Early Education at their annual state conference in Jackson the previous week. He also congratulated Commission Member Hailey Brooks who received the Light of Hope Award at the CASA Annual Breakfast.

Kennedy talked about the next steps after having a top-to-bottom review with TCCY staff. Questions guiding the review were along the lines of “Why do we do what we do?” “Why do we do it in the ways we do?” “What are we doing that we need to do less of?” and “What are we doing that we need to do more of?” Each division presented their thoughts and recommendations via poster session during the staff part of the retreat. The Senior Leadership Team will participate in a two-day retreat in January where the report outs will be processed further to develop TCCY’s strategic plan for the upcoming year. Kennedy said he would like the commission members’ input.
X. Other Business

Acord mentioned a recommendation the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition had on one of their documents where they specifically are asking TCCY to take a position on what our responsibility is on the immigration issue.

Kennedy said TCCY staff is constantly being asked to take a position. He said the comments for the public charge end on December 10\textsuperscript{th}. He suggested the staff develop comments to present for the Commission’s consideration. Acord agreed that should be the Commission’s directive.

Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Natasha Smith 
Director of Operations & Special Projects

Minutes Approved by: Brenda Davis 
Chair