

## Youth Justice Committee

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Location: **WebEx Meeting**

Date: Friday, 8/6/2021

Time: 10:00 A.M. CDT

**Staff Present:** Richard Kennedy, Exec Dir., Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir., Jeni Davis, Bill Latimer, Melissa McGee, Russette Marcum-Embry, Vicki Taylor, Zanira Whitfield

**Commission Members Present:** Rob Mortensen, Chair, Judge Sharon Green, Amy Jones, Charmaine Kromer, Judge Rob Philyaw, Stan Settles

**Commission Members Absent:** Brenda Davis, Cameron Carver, Trey Jones, Michael Rediker, Dr. Altha Stewart, Glenda Terry

### 1. **Call to Order – Rob Mortensen, Chair**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Mortensen called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

### 2. **Approval of May 2021 Youth Justice Meeting Minutes (ACTION)**

Mortensen asked for a motion to approve the Youth Justice Committee minutes from the May Commission meeting.

***Judge Sharon Green moved to approve the minutes from May 2021. Judge Rob Philyaw seconded. Unanimously Approved.***

### 3. **Staff Updates**

#### **Federal Formula Grant Update- Vicki Taylor**

Taylor reported TCCY received the OJJDP Title II Solicitation in May 2021, and it was completed and submitted by the July 13<sup>th</sup> due date. Alyssa Malcomson, TCCY's OJJDP program manager, requested a virtual meeting to discuss additional information that was to be included for her to verify the plan was complete. The additional information was added to the plan and TCCY received a response stating the plan met all the

preliminary requirements of completion. The next step should be receiving our award letter.

Taylor stated our 3-year plan must demonstrate compliance with 33 assurances. Several of the assurances pertain to the SAG. 1)The SAG shall be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant applications. 2) The SAG will seek regular input from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system and 3) The SAG will be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the 3-year plan prior to submission. Taylor thanks those Commission members who provided comments.

Taylor stated TCCY distributed grant applications to our five continuation grantees this year and four applications were received. The applications have been forwarded to the Grants Review Committee, who will meet on August 12 to review and score the continuation grants. Recommendations for approval will be submitted to the full SAG on August 20.

### **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders Update- Zanira Whitfield**

Whitfield reported 22 DSO violations for the period of 10/1/20 to 6/30/21. Youth justice staff and Regional coordinators continue to monitor facilities and provide technical support.

Whitfield had a phone conversation with Jeri Anderson, FSCM IT Senior Manager, about update on where in the process is OCJP in developing a Grants Management System for its grant subrecipients. Anderson reported OCJP will have their first meeting with vendor on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Anderson also stated another state agency is interested in developing a grants management system and work with them will not start until spring 2022.

### **CASA Grants Management – Russette Marcum-Embry**

Marcum-Embry stated the FY 21-22 CASA contracts were generated by the Budget and Administration team and sent to grantees by Marcum-Embry. Contracts are in the process of being returned, signed in-house and distributed.

Marcum-Embry is distributing FY 20-21 annual reports and Title VI surveys to the grantees for completion.

## **Compliance Monitoring Update- Craig Hargrow**

Hargrow stated Latasha Mitchell's last day with TCCY was July 30, 2021. She monitored four FFG subrecipients. Hargrow stated Mitchell left some work to be done.

## **Racial and Ethnic Disparities- Craig Hargrow**

Before the RED update, Hargrow thanked Whitfield and Taylor for their hard work in completing the three-year plan.

Hargrow stated he submitted the Racial and Ethnic Disparities portion of the three-year plan to Whitfield so she could submit it as part of Tennessee's three-year plan in a timely manner. Hargrow stated the plan calls for a focus on statewide impact and the equitable implementation of portions of the Tennessee Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018.

Hargrow stated the data for October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, indicates continued and widening disparities in the youth justice system in Tennessee with a few exceptions. One of the notable exceptions is in Shelby County. The Shelby County data indicates a reduction in disparities in three of the five points of contact.

Hargrow also reported he has had several conversations with representatives with the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts regarding the recently enacted youth justice data collection statute.

## **Youth Justice Challenges- Open Dialogue**

- Mortensen asked if TCCY is participating in the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Council. Kennedy said he has a seat on the Council. Hargrow has accompanied Kennedy to those meetings in the past. Commission members Kromer and Dr. Stewart also serve on the Council as well. Leadership of the Council has undergone a transition. There have been no meetings since December of 2020. The Committee discussed contacting the executive leadership of the Council for an update.
- Kennedy said he and Hargrow are meeting with a consultant to look at an agency reorganization plan. As part of this reorganization, they have observed an opportunity to convene stakeholders to discuss youth justice system improvement. Kennedy said the Commission would be updated as the reorganization plan evolves.

# MINUTES

- The Committee discussed a recent visit to Wilder Youth Development Center by TCCY staff, Commission members and a few others.
  - Concerns included shortages in staffing.
  - The plan to build a new facility on Wilder's campus was discussed. The Committee would like to see the development of an advisory group to help during the planning process.
  - Hargrow said we are looking at using FFG dollars to address cultural concerns, trauma-informed services, and other necessary trainings. Hargrow has provided some dates for DCS to meet and discuss.

#### 4) **Motion to Adjourn**

***Mortensen moved to adjourn the meeting. Judge Philyaw seconded and all approved***

***Meeting ended at 11:04 a.m.***

Prepared by: Russette Marcum-Embry