

Youth Justice Committee

Location: **Teams Meeting**
Date: Friday, 2/10/2023
Time: 10:00 A.M. CDT

Staff Present: Richard Kennedy, Exec Dir., Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir., Therese Sipes, Intern, Kate Gonzales, Jeni Davis, Wendy Pickering, Rachel Vowel, Marquita Moore, Russette Marcum-Embry, Jerri Moore, Rob Burke, Steve Petty, Vicki Taylor, Rob Burke, Zanira Whitfield, Shaun Noblit, Kylie Graves

Staff Absent: None

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

Commission Members Absent: Dr. Altha Stewart, Glenda Terry, Stan Settles

Guest: Anna Caudil, Special Education Advocate

1. **Call to Order -**

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

2. **Approval of October 2022 Youth Justice Meeting Minutes (ACTION)**

Commission Member Stuart requested a correction to the RED grant amount from the previous meeting. This correction was agreed upon; the RED grant amount was corrected to reflect \$60,000 in the October minutes.

**Kromer asked for a motion to approve the revised October minutes.
Mortensen made a motion and Judge Green seconded the motion; all approved.**

3. **Staff Updates**

CASA Grants Management/Ombudsman Update – Shaun Noblit

Noblit shared that Marcum-Embry will do a final update for CASA and Marquita Moore will provide this information in the future.

CASA Grants Management/Ombudsman Update - Russette Marcum-Embry

Marcum-Embry reported 23 new referrals were received for the months of October, November, and December 2023. As of the end of December, there were 27 cases open in the Ombudsman Program data base. Please refer to Ombudsman Program graphs for demographic information.

Marcum-Embry attended one meeting of the USOA Children and Families Chapter, and three CFTMs. She also assisted in executing the last Training for Trainers event in December.

Marcum-Embry continues to support two interns from the UT College of Social Work, Kate Keese and Therese Sipes, who will be with TCCY through May 2023. Marcum-Embry is serving as both field instructor and task manager.

Marcum-Embry and Therese Sipes worked together to coordinate the TCCY annual sponsoring of youth in DCS custody during the holidays. Various gifts were provided to four youth currently in foster care.

All first quarter CASA reimbursement expense reports were received and submitted for payment. Second quarter expense reports are coming in at the time of this report submission. Marcum-Embry is working closely with new TCCY staff member, Marquita Moore to train on CASA grant management. There are two expansions underway. CASA Works is expanding into Warren County and Madison County CASA is expanding into Haywood County. Marcum-Embry is working with the TCCY team to get all paperwork and contract amendments executed.

We are also working with TN CASA on a contract amendment and hope to have that executed very soon.

Marcum-Embry continues to serve on the Wilson County Foster Care Review Board, the UT College of Social Work Field Advisory Committee, the Children and Families Chapter of the USOA, and as TCCY/Kennedy's representative on the Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Marcum-Embry shared that members of the Juvenile Justice team are working on the

creation of a youth-led council. Commission Member Kromer stated that she would be willing to assist in identifying youth who may be interested in participating and Marcum-Embry welcomed that assistance.

Committee Members discussed CASA funding. Director Kennedy clarified the allocation/disbursement of those funds. TN CASA Association received an additional \$200,000 for expansion efforts. Senator Watson requested a budget amendment intended to provide each county an additional \$20,000 for a total of \$40,000 per county program. Director Kennedy clarified that juvenile court judges determine the inclusion of CASA programs in their counties. Commission Member Mortensen requested information on the total amounts going to the CASA Association. Director Kennedy requested a resource map for CASA Association and local programs as well as universal language in conveying data.

Federal Formula Grant Update - Vicki Taylor and Zanira Whitfield

Ten new grant programs were awarded Title II grant funds with an effective start date October 1, 2022.

The F.I.N.D. Design grant appeal was approved by the full Commission at the October 2022 meeting. The grantee completed all required documents, received an executed contract and grantee orientation.

TCCY received the FY 2021 Compliance Determination letter stating TCCY is in compliance with the core requirements of the JJDP. TCCY is still in discussions on how to collect data regarding 223 (a)(11)(B) in which will have to be reported to OJJDP on the 2024 Annual Compliance Report.

FY22 Title II Formula Grant application submitted to OJJDP was approved and the award is \$909,701.

Whitfield reported she is in the process of formally closing out Title II Grant award 2018 in JustGrants due by January 30, 2023.

Whitfield reported she completed the progress reports for each active Title II grant award and will follow up on information submitted.

The 2022 OJJDP STRAD conference was held in San Diego, CA in December 2022. Plenary sessions focused on the Four Core Protections of the JJDP.

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders Update - Zanira Whitfield

Whitfield reported the FY 2021-2022 compliance monitoring data is in the process of being aggregated to complete the Annual Compliance Monitoring Report to input into the OJJDP Compliance Monitor Reporting Tool. For the current compliance monitoring cycle (10/1/22 to 9/30/23) thus far there are 5 DSO violations. Youth justice staff and regional coordinators continue to monitor facilities and provide technical support.

Commission Member Jones stated case workers had questioned whether juveniles could be detained in juvenile detention facilities on a juvenile court judge's orders without having first received a delinquent charge. Whitfield clarified that this was not acceptable practice and Commission Member Jones conferred with Chairperson Kromer. Judge Philyaw stated that this wouldn't be acceptable and Judge Green shared that the Richard Bean Detention Center in Knox County contracts with the state. Commission Member Jones shared that a youth may've been taken into custody on a status offense and would not detain a youth under those conditions. Commissioner Quinn may not be aware of these actions and it may be beneficial to assist DCS with education in this respect.

Grant Monitoring Update - Wendy Pickering

Working on 2019-2020 & 2021-2022 simultaneously.

All 2019-2020 FFG Monitoring submitted thus far have been completed. There is only one grant not completed. No monitoring required for FFG for 2021-2022.

Pickering has met with all 2019-2020 Reimbursement Grantees and completed all 2019-2020 monitoring submitted thus far. There is only one grant not completed.

Pickering has completed all 2021-2022 Reimbursement Grant Monitoring.

Pickering estimates all FFG and Reimbursement Monitoring for 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 will be completed by February 15th.

Pickering has reviewed and approved all Corrective Action Plans submitted thus far.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities - Shaun Noblit

Noblit participated in the 2022 Annual Conference for Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) in Louisville, KY. The conference focused on multiple topics to help in the

reduction of youth of color entering the youth justice system.

Noblit participated with other Youth Justice team members at the OJJDP conference in San Diego, CA. The conference allowed team members valuable time to network with other states about their efforts complying with OJJDP. The conference presented topics on diversion programs for youth, R/ED efforts, youth engagement, and updates on OJJDP policies.

Noblit continues participating in monthly calls from OJJDP around R/ED. Noblit also participates in monthly DCS meetings concerning DCS policies and procedures that affect youth of color. Noblit continues to educate others on procedures regarding youth bound over to adult court. Noblit spoke about efforts to create a youth engagement component. New judges have been appointed and have been in conversations with Noblit about VVCOs and court staffing.

Noblit will conduct the next Council on Youth Justice meeting February 24th. The council will have presentations on mental health services specifically designed for justice-involved youth. The ad hoc committee on juvenile justice recommended a second look commission for justice-involved youth.

Director Kennedy provided information on the bill proposed by Senator Jackson and Representatives Wally and Littleton. Graves provided additional information on TCCY's recommendations and pertinent amendments. Noblit confirmed a recommendation was made to include an individual with prior justice involvement and Graves confirmed. DMC Conference is April 1st and Noblit will attend. Graves will present at the non-traditional education conference.

4) **Motion to Adjourn**

Commission Member Kromer asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mortensen made a motion to adjourn and Judge Philyaw seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 am CST.

Prepared by: Jeni Davis and Therese Sipes