

Children's Services Committee

Location: WebEx Address: <https://tngov.webex.com/meet/blatimer>
Call in number: 415-655-0003
Date: Friday, 2/7/2020
Time: 10:00 A.M. CDT

Staff Present: Richard Kennedy, Exec. Dir., Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir., Cory Bradfield, Gerald Papica, Jennifer Drake-Croft, Jennifer Jones, Jill Murphy, Laritha Fentress, Melissa McGee, Steve Petty, Sumita Keller

Staff Absent:

Commission Members: Amy Jones, Chair, Jennifer Harlan, Mackenzie Johnston, Steven Neely, Wendy Shea

Commission Members Absent: Ella Bentley, Glenda Terry, Hailey Brooks, Kelly Drummond, Rob Mortensen

Guests: None

1) **Call to Order - Amy Jones, Chair**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Jones called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Jones asked Commission Members and staff to introduce themselves. During introductions, Mackenzie Johnston, new Commission member, shared she is a student at Volunteer State Community College and is studying abroad this summer.

2) **Approval of November Children's Services Minutes (ACTION)**

Jones asked for a motion to approve the Children's Services minutes from the November Commission Meeting.

Shea moved to approve the minutes from November 7, 2019.

Harlan seconded. Unanimously Approved.

3) **Staff Updates**

Ombudsman Program

Thirty-three referrals were received for the use of the Ombudsman Program at TCCY dating from Oct. 1 to Jan. 31. This number is lower than the same time period last year. Concern was raised in budget hearings if there is a "waiting list" for referrals and at the

moment we do not have a waiting list. The Foster Care Review Board (FCRB)s are taking longer to meet due to more children (especially very young children) entering the foster care system. Last December, two DCS teenagers were sponsored by several TCCY staff to procure gifts that they wanted for Christmas. All the gifts, plus more, were delivered to their respective foster homes. This effort is a yearly project by TCCY and has been successful for over ten years.

Building Strong Brains

In December, TCCY wrapped up the last of its planned Training for Trainers events for FY 2020. To date, TCCY has trained 1,150 geographically- and sector-diverse individuals. Reports indicate these trainers have presented to over 58,000 individuals. Drake-Croft was asked to chair the Building Strong Brains Conference Content Committee. The conference will be held on May 13th and 14th and will focus on supporting practitioners to take next steps in translating science to philosophy, policy and funding, programs and professional practice (the “4 P’s”) aligned with the goals of BSB TN. The theme of all conference proceedings will be advancing equity. Drake-Croft is supporting the ongoing work of BSB TN through a variety of activities including supporting the learning collaborative, coordinating webinars, overseeing the BSB TN social media campaign, and participating in relevant meetings. Additionally, TN was asked to submit a manuscript about the work of BSB TN for an upcoming special edition of the *American Psychologist*. Drake-Croft is participating in a small group writing the manuscript

Council on Children’s Mental Health (CCMH) and Systems of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT)

CCMH is preparing for our first meeting of 2020 to be held on February 13th at Family & Children Services’ Honey Alexander Center. SOCAT is in the fourth and final year of federal funding, ending on September 30, 2020. TDMHSAS has submitted an application to SAMHSA for a new grant to continue the work of nine new locations statewide. TCCY has partnered with TDMHSAS in this grant submission, including providing direction and support around a goal of supporting and enhancing the CCMH structure as identified in legislation to enable a functioning governance system for SOC expansion statewide. Awards are expected to be announced in late summer 2020. The West Tennessee Divisional Coordinator position continues to be vacant after Jerri Moore transitioned to the TCCY Southwest Regional Coordinator position.

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA)

HVLA continues to focus their work on two areas – Capacity & Retention and Workforce

Development. Carla Snodgrass from Health provided a high-level, brief overview of the status of TANF funding to expand evidence-based home visiting. The Commissioner of DHS has testified multiple times before a special joint TANF committee and home visiting has been discussed multiple times as a strong program with proven outcomes.

Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council

A TNYCWC general meeting was held 12/11 at Family and Children's Service's Honey Alexander Center. The meeting featured a presentation from Dale Epstein from Child Trends, who traveled from North Carolina to present to the council. The presentation focused on Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems (ECIDS). Exploring the potential of and advocating for ECIDS has been identified as a priority for the Data Action Team of the TNYCWC. The next general meeting is scheduled for 02/12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lentz Center and will again feature Action Team breakouts, a legislative update from TCCY's Policy Advocate Steve Petty, as well as programmatic updates from the Early Success Coalition and the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Financing Policy State Team. Heather Taylor Griffith of the TN Dept of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service (TDMHSAS) is departing the Steering Team as she is leaving the Department for a career in the private sector. She will be replaced on the team by Melissa Binkley, currently Director of the Regional Intervention Program at TDMHSAS. The team approved the director's proposal of a monthly newsletter for TNYCWC participants that will provide information on early childhood topics, funding opportunities, and job postings.

Second Look Commission

The 2019 Second Look Commission report was completed and provided to the General Assembly and governor's office. Hargrow will give a full report at the February 2020 full commission meeting. Hargrow discussed the data for this year's case reviews. Total cases this year are fewer than last year. Other data did not change much.

Youth Transitions Advisory Council

A group of MCCY Council members are working together to improve educational issues for transitioning youth. A request was made for volunteers (open to everyone, including staff and members of the Commission) to work on two of the YTAC recommendations to create two task forces to study and resolve transition age youth legal issues and transportation.

4) **Additional Items or Comments**

Kennedy discussed how TCCY is streamlining Commission meetings. Commission members agreed they like the new format.

Neely asked about the format of the Commission meeting on February 20 and 21. Kennedy gave a brief overview of the Commission meeting agenda.

Kennedy asked for feedback from Commission members about conducting committee meetings via WebEx. Commission members stated the new process was helpful.

Jones discussed working with Commission members and the appropriate staff to schedule future committee meetings.

5) **Motion to Adjourn**

Shea moved to adjourn the meeting. Neely seconded and all approved

Prepared by: Craig Hargrow