

Legislative Committee

Location: Andrew Jackson Building- 9th Floor Training Room
Date: Thursday, 2/5/2020
Time: 8:30 A.M. CDT

Staff Present: Richard Kennedy, Exec. Dir., Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir., Cory Bradfield, Sumita Keller, Dana Cobb, Jill Murphy, Sean Noblit, Lindsey Cody, Jennifer Jones, Russette Sloan, Susan Cope, Jennifer-Drake Croft, Jill Stott, Kristi Paling, Rosalyn Leavell-Rice, Gwendolyn Wright, Rose Naccarato, John Rust, Kylan Hadley, Steven Petty

Staff Absent: Kylie Burns

Commission Members: Jennie Harlan, Wendy Shea, Rob Mortenson

Guests:

1) **Call to Order**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Rob Mortenson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2) **Legislative Updates – Richard Kennedy -Craig Hargrow – Steve Petty**

Kennedy explained that the legislative committee is going to be moving in a different direction in how the agency is going to communicate information regarding policies introduced by the legislature. The leadership team discussed other alternatives to determine the most efficient way to provide data-driven information to the legislature. The agency would like for the legislators to see us as a partner or a place where they can receive dependable, factual and data driven information without bias.

Kennedy informed the commission members and the staff that the agency would like to circle back to a process that was done a few years back that involved creating policy briefs. The most current policy brief, drafted by previous interns and called “Social and Emotional Competence” (printed in meeting), provided written policy information and recommendations. TCCY would like to move in the direction of providing a policy statement instead of taking a position during the months of legislative meetings. Kennedy explained this approach will help lead the conversations the agency has with members of the legislature into educational conversations and not antagonistic, opinion-based conversations. The goal is to change the climate of face-to-face meetings to one of educational, data-driven conversations. Rather than listing bills as

something that we “oppose” or “approve,” we will provide a data-driven policy statement that will help legislators apply the information to the bills before them. Hargrow stated that policy briefs written for the 2020 legislative period are more proactive in regard to what we would like proposed bills to include.

Mortenson asked if the policy statements are going to be posted and provided to legislators on an annual basis. He suggested that TCCY should begin to plan or strategize to build relationships with the legislators and their teams. Hargrow suggested that we should provide information to the legislature on a yearly basis in hopes to build trust with the information that we present moving forward.

Shea suggested that TCCY work on making the policy briefs easier to read. She stated the current formatting can be tedious to read through. Having a condensed policy brief can help make the information more pleasant to read.

Stott suggested TCCY should add a point person to each policy brief or point of contact for people in the field or to anyone that has any additional questions. We should think of the policy brief as a document that people can look at TCCY as a resource.

3) **Policy Brief Overview**

Drake- Croft provided an overview of her SB2032 ACES and SB2520 Mental Health policy briefs. Commission Members did not have additional comments.

Sloan provided an overview of SB24237 School Nurses and HB2693 Special Education policy brief. Commission Members did not have additional comments.

Naccarato provided an overview of SB1922, SB 2061 and SB2437 policy brief. Commission Members did not have additional comments.

Keller provided an overview of SB1644, SB1619, SB14739, SB024 and SBS798 policy brief. Harlan suggested that TCCY consider bills that include more focus on the state or welfare of the parents as well. The parents play a large role in the state of the child’s wellbeing. Better laws supporting parents is key as well.

Bradfield provided an overview of SB1947 Early Childcare policy briefs. Stott provided feedback that TCCY should look to add information regarding day homes. Keller suggested to reach out to Phil Accord to seek additional guidance regarding the 3-star rating process for managing daycares and day homes in Tennessee.

Hargrow provided an overview of Child Abuse Data, Human Trafficking in Tennessee, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children, Safe Harbor Laws, Law Enforcement Training, Medical Professional Training, Trauma Informed Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Youth Workforce Development, the Juvenile Justice policy briefs. SB2021, SB1581, SB 1846, SB1847, SB2192, SB2213, SB2780, SB2743, SB2584, SB2620, SB2282, SB1580, SB1729, SB1893, SB1953, SB2350, SB1918, SB2660, SB1818, SB2362, SB1603, SB2088 TANF and Medicaid Expansion. Commission Members did not have additional comments.

Rust provided an overview of SB1785 and SB2345 Afterschool policy briefs. Commission Members did not have additional comments.

- 4) **Motion to approve the presented policy statements in their current format. They are to be improved, updated to meet the spirit of what is in them.**

*Shea moved to approve the presented policy statements in their current format.
Harlan approved and unanimously approved.*

Motion to coordinate with House Children and Families Subcommittee to engage with the TCCY Policy Brief Report.

Harlan moved to approve that TCCY will coordinate with the House Children and Families Subcommittee to engage with the TCCY Policy Brief Report. Shea seconded and unanimously approved.

Motion to Adjourn

Philyaw moved to adjourn the meeting. Green seconded and unanimously approved.

Prepared by: Jennifer Jones