

TCCY Commission Meeting May 2020

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Access code: 612 938 071
Date: Friday, 5/8/2020
Time: 8:30 A.M. CDT

Staff Present: Richard Kennedy, Exec. Dir., Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir., Sujit Das, Fay Delk, Sherry Isom, Jennifer Jones, Bill Latimer, Rose Naccarato, Russette Sloan, Jonquil Newland, Dana Cobb, Gwendolyn Wright, Jerri Moore, Jill Stott, Kristi Paling, Lindsey Cody, Shaun Noblit, Susan Cope, Gerald Papica, Zanira Whitfield, Latasha Mitchell, Vicki Taylor, Laritha Fentress, Cory Bradfield, Jennifer Drake-Croft, Melissa McGee, Sumita Keller, Steve Petty

Staff Absent: Rosalyn Leavell-Rice

Commission Members Present: Rob Mortensen, Vice Chair, Ashley Dunkin, Rob Philyaw, Allan Sterbinsky, Altha Stewart, Steven Neely, Amy Jones, Jennie Harlan, Wendy Shea, Ella Bentley, Christy Sigler, Sharon Green, Petrina Jones-Jesz, Mackenzie Johnston, Glenda Terry

Commission Member Absent: Hailey Brooks, Brenda Davis,

Guests: Shannon McBrayer, Dr. Sheena Hanserd

Welcome

- Welcome and Introductions (Rob Mortensen, Vice Chair)
- Roll Call- (Jennifer Jones)
 - Quorum was established
- Call to Order- Rob Mortensen, Vice Chair

Approvals and Actions

Approval of February Full Commission Meeting Minutes

Mortensen asked for a motion for the approval of the February 2020 Commission Meeting minutes. Sterbinsky so moved and Drummond seconded.

Unanimously approved.

Approval of February Budget and Data Committee Meeting Minutes

Mortensen asked for a motion for the approval of the February Budget and Data Committee meeting minutes.

Sterbinsky so moved and Green seconded

Unanimously approved.

Approval from the commission to accept Zero to Three funds for other financial opportunities.

Mortensen asked for a motion for the approval to accept the Zero to Three Funds. Siegler so moved and Green Seconded

Unanimously approved.

Approval of TCCY Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2020.

Mortensen asked for a motion for the approval of the TCCY Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2020.

Philyaw so moved Green seconded and Unanimously Approved.

Unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Budget and Data Overview (Allan Sterbinsky, Chair)

Sterbinsky provided the Committee with a brief budget overview. He began by stating that TCCY submitted three improvement requests at the beginning of the FY 20-21 budget process. One request was for funding to have an online grants management system. The second request was for expansion for the CASA programs and training and quality assurance for Tennessee CASA. The third request was for a contract manager position for TCCY. Two of the three requests were included in the original Governor's budget: the funding for CASA and the grants management system. The Governor released a revised budget at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic to address the fiscal realities of the

state. These budget improvement items originally included for TCCY were no longer included and the state adopted a no growth budget. As of March 31, 2020, the agency has approximately \$699,000 in uncollected revenue. Our current budget was increased by the unspent Annie E. Casey funds from last year. The Juvenile Justice Grant Award for 2017 will end September 30, 2020. Whitfield has requested a budget modification to this award to ensure we can exhaust the award balance. Isom completed the Delegated Grant Authority contracts for the FY 21 CASA and Reimbursement Account contracts. These will be sent out by mid-late May.

Sterbinsky reported the national KIDS COUNT report has arrived, and Tennessee's rank has fallen to 39. However, Naccarato emphasized this is embargoed information. Tennessee has historically been in the first group ranking focused on youth substance use and abuse along with some seven to 10 other states. This year, that measure was removed from calculations and replaced with a measure of the percentage of children who are overweight or obese. This is an important statistic, and one that we include in our county profiles, but Tennessee ranks 49th on it. Swapping a measure on which we generally rank first for one where we are nearly dead last did not help our overall rank at all.

Web traffic on kidcentral tn continues to climb. Web statistics show the site averages about 1,800 page views a day, up from around 1,500 page views a few months ago, and a stark contrast from the 600 page views a day when the site first launched under the state in August, 2018. There has been a noticeable jump in followers since mid-March, when the COVID-19 pandemic was announced.

Sterbinsky reported the resource mapping report was completed on time. TCCY is going to email the report to the Senate and House clerks and then send a link to all legislators and members of Governor Lee's cabinet. A thank you note was sent to the other child serving departments for assistance with the data. The format of the report was updated, and handouts were emailed to the Committee for reference.

Sterbinsky stated that web page views were steady. Due to Children's Advocacy Days (CAD) the site views were higher this time.

Sterbinsky reported we had 36 earned media pickups in newspapers, a newsletter, radio and television, most in result of 15 contacts. KIDS COUNT articles or references made up 21 of the 36. Sterbinsky volunteered to work with Naccarato regarding what kind of data should be collected going forward.

ACTION- Budget and Data Committee Budget Report Out

Sterbinsky made a motion to approve the budget report.

Philyaw so moved Green seconded.

Unanimously approved.

Councils (Ashley Dunkin, Chair)

Dunkin provided the Committee with a brief overview of the Regional Councils and the Regional Coordinator's work. She began by reporting that Children's Advocacy Day's (CAD) was a success. There were 768 registrants with 550-560 participants over the two days. The event was kicked off by First Lady Marie Lee. The first ever Executive Preview Dinner was a success with many Commission Members and critical partners in attendance. There were 110 participants, many of whom have expressed that they found value in the event and opportunity. John Rust has resigned from his position and the agency is still in the process of determining what the new role or position will look like moving forward. The Regional Coordinators have all been working together to host/conduct ACE's trainings for the community during the pandemic. They have all been working together to host other training for the communities which have all been hosted via WebEx. Attendance has been very steady with attendance records reaching between 500-1000 participants during each training/seminar.

Children's Services (Amy Jones, Chair)

Jones provided the Committee with a brief update. The Ombudsman program received nineteen referrals from February 1 to March 31st. The number of referrals (20) is the same amount as the same time period as last year. The Building Strong Brains Conference Content Committee decided against moving forward with an in-person conference originally scheduled for May. Instead the keynote speakers will participate in a lunch and learn series over the summer. The Building Strong Brains social media campaign has been very successful. Engagement across each social media platform has demonstrated its success. The Building Strong Brains Webinars has been extended to other TCCY stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the

April 9th CCMH meeting was canceled. However, McGee co-led a full day training online in partnership with the SOCAT Training and Technical Assistance Center on Building Strong Brains, System of Care, Engagement, and Trauma informed Care with 170 people in attendance. Due to COVID-19 the April HVLA in-person meeting was canceled as well. The meeting was held via WebEx with about 75 participants. TCCY shared a new grant opportunity, the National Early Childhood Nonprofit Zero to Three (ZTT) has begun a new state technical assistance project to support up to ten states in building and strengthening comprehensive policies, programs and systems that ensure families with infants and toddlers have adequate resources. TCCY has applied for the funding, if awarded we will receive \$40,000 the first year and would be eligible for \$75,000 for the second year. The Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council general meeting was held on February 12th. The first monthly TYCWC newsletter was sent to all council participants on March 6th. The Second Look Commission continues to function despite difficulties created by COVID-19. The Commission met in February and April. Lastly, Petty reported that the Youth transitions Advisory Council will meet via WebEx April 30th. Due to the safe at home order and many of the members being state employees and working from home.

Juvenile Justice (Rob Mortensen, Chair)

Mortensen provided the Committee with a brief Juvenile Justice overview. Applications for FY 2020-2021 funding were sent to the 30 CASA programs serving 55 counties. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) FY 2020 Title II Formula Grants application was submitted timely on April 9th. Mortensen thanked everyone for their contributions with that process. The Grant Contract Monitor has been working with the Hargrow to make updates to the 2020 CPO Plan that was submitted and approved last year. There has been an extension of the 2019 Monitoring Review process due to COVID-19. Three site visits have been postponed with an additional three scheduled at the end of April. New guidelines are expected in the near future focused on compliance. Hargrow completed the Racial Ethnic Disparities (RED) update to the three-year plan in a timely manner. Mortensen reported that reopening procedures for the state and precautions to keep everyone safe are underway. Committee members who serve in the Judicial Branch reported that they are submitting proposed reopening guidelines to the Tennessee supreme Court. Courts will receive reopening approval under strict guidelines. It was also reported that there has been a decrease in juveniles detained since mid-March, but an

increase in domestic assaults, car thefts and joyriding. The Committee was asked to share their thoughts of specific data points and recommendations regarding the health and safety of justice-involved youth to please email Hargrow so that he can compile and submit a list to the JJ committee to formulate key data points and attempt to gather information from courts.

Child Serving Department Reports

Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Matt Yancey, Deputy Commissioner

Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services shared information with the Commission Members about the impact of COVID-19 on their Department and citizens they serve. He expressed gratitude for the many partnerships with TCCY. Yancey said in many ways, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services has been preparing for the COVID-19 outbreak for years. They have worked to be certain that referral and outreach was able to stay operational in the case of an outbreak which has helped them in this current situation.

Like other state departments, most of their employees are working from home.

They continue to work closely with providers across the state to ensure there are options for citizens in need. He discussed many providers quick adaptation to telehealth and maximizing the use of technology and virtual opportunities.

Deputy Commissioner Yancey informed the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth staff and Commission Members that this time is stressful for many people for a variety of reasons. The Department is aware of potential increased mental health needs for parents, caregivers, children and youth and the need for mental health and substance abuse services are likely to continue to increase.

Mortensen thanked Yancey for his presentation.

Department of Children's Services, Jennifer Nichols, Commissioner

Commissioner Jennifer Nichols of the Department of Children's Services shared

information with the Commission Members about the impact of COVID-19 on her Department.

She said keeping children safe and healthy during this time continues to be their priority. DCS employees are going above and beyond during this time to continue to investigate child abuse allegations. Although, the number of referrals to the child abuse hotline have decreased significantly, primarily due to children not being in school or seeing physicians, Nichols is mindful those numbers are likely to increase in significant ways once we start to return to normal and children and youth are back in school and being seen by others.

DCS continues to have conversation with providers who provide the mental health and other services to children in care. Providers are adapting to the change and continuing to work with children youth and families maximizing the use of technology and safe visits where and when they must happen.

She said she appreciated the partnership with the courts to ensure cases continue to be heard and move through the process. She discussed a residential facility in Memphis where there was an outbreak of COVID-19. She stated the youth are being isolated and monitored and the majority of those who tested positive are asymptomatic. They continue to monitor the infection rates in all facilities and are taking necessary precautions. TCCY has access to the data about these numbers.

Mortensen thanked Nichols for her presentation and update.

Department of Human Services, Anne Havard, Senior Policy Advisor

Anne Havard, Senior Policy Advisor with the Department of Human Services shared information with the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth staff and Commission Members about the impact of COVID-19 on DHS and the work they have been doing to mitigate and assist citizens.

Havard stated during this time DHS has accelerated their efforts with social media and other communications to let citizens know of resources available to assist with food and other foundational needs for families.

She discussed efforts to increase mobile food delivery and other site-based options to provide food especially for children who are out of school during this time.

She provided an update about childcare and their work to provide support to childcare

providers to ensure access for those families working in critical jobs. They have also been working hard to help develop safety guidelines for the childcare centers as well.

Mortensen thanked Havard for all the work being accomplished within DHS.

**Department of Health,
Carla Snodgrass, Deputy Director Division of Family Health and Wellness**

Deputy Director, Carla Snodgrass, shared details about the COVID infection rates and the geographical differences with members and staff of the Commission. Her detailed information also included the numbers of positive tests, hospitalizations and deaths across the state.

Snodgrass stated as could be expected, it was an extremely busy point within the Department of Health. She provided updates about their COVID testing and contact-tracing efforts across the state.

She provided an update about the work of the Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs and their work throughout the state. Programs continue to go above and beyond to provide support and services to the families with whom they work. Most programs have transitioned to meetings with the families using virtual platforms. Snodgrass stated that most programs are seeing increased engagement from families during this time which is a good thing. She provided examples of programs being innovative in the provision of concrete supports such as diapers, formula food and other necessities.

Snodgrass thanked TCCY for the partnership with the Home Visiting Leadership Alliance and the Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council.

Mortensen thanked Snodgrass for her presentation and the work they are doing.

**Department of Education,
Meghan McLeroy, Chief of Statewide Supports**

Meghan McLeroy, Chief of Statewide Supports with the Tennessee Department of Education provided an update and information to the members of the Commission regarding the impact of COVID on the Department of Education and schools across the state.

McLeroy stated the Department of Education was working in partnership with others to determine plans for school opening in the fall. The Department is looking at a variety of

options and will base their guidance on infection rates and other realities. They are having conversation about a variety of options because so much is still unknown.

The Department of Education in partnership with the Governor's office has convened a COVID-19 Child Wellbeing Task Force in response to the pandemic's long-term effects on Tennessee's school districts and students. The goal of the Task Force is to help communities come together to check on our kids. The Child Wellbeing Task Force will work to ensure that the needs of Tennessee children are met during and after extended periods away from school, and to empower local communities to meaningfully engage in ways that support child wellbeing. The task force will meet and develop a series of reports.

McLeroy also shared information about the Department's strategic plan known as "Best for All." The plan has three primary areas of focus which are whole child, academics and providing support for educators. She specifically spent time sharing information about the whole child goal. The whole child effort will allow Tennessee public schools to be equipped to serve the academic and non-academic needs of all kids. A focus will be on supports to ensure that schools and districts are able to quickly and appropriately respond to students in need through stronger resource mapping, statewide partnerships, and in-school resources. Another component will be Character Education which will work to develop a Tennessee-specific character and citizenship education program that prepares students to make successful contributions to society. And lastly developing regional hubs with the expertise in special education that districts need and create a statewide network that effectively supports students with disabilities through a tool for families and educators.

Mortensen thanked McLeroy for her presentation.

Motion to Adjourn

Siegler moved to adjourn the May 2020 Full Commission Meeting.

Sterbinsky seconded,

Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Prepared by Jennifer Jones