



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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Youth Transitions Advisory Council

September 18, 2014

12:30 pm – 3:30 pm Central Time

Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee

MEETING SUMMARY

Participants:

Dave Aguzzi	Mary Jones	Nneka Norman-Gordon
Julia Barlar	Nyasha Justice	Linda O’Neal
Annie Brewster	Timothy Hickman	Jackie Parker
Pamela Cash	Dustin Keller	Steve Petty
Rebecca Carmack	Richard Kennedy	Keisha Shervington
Tameka Daniel	Leslie Kinhead	Erica Spencer
Karin Freyer	Mary Lee	Tawny Spinelli
Ashley Harrington	Melanie Malabanan	Jay Stetzel
Ginger Harris	Linda McCorkle	April Tanguay
Timothy Hickman	Melissa McGee	
Betsy Holmes	Michael Myszk	

Welcome and Introductions (Richard Kennedy)

- Kennedy congratulated O’Neal on the birth of her grandson and explained he would chair the majority of the meeting today.
- Kennedy welcomed the group, expressed his appreciation for those attending, and asked for introductions.
- He stated the Tennessee Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) presented awards at the annual meeting on September 19, 2014. Leach received the ‘Champion for Children Award’ and Spinelli received the ‘Light of Hope Award.’
- Kennedy explained Keller is leaving TCCY to take a position with Camelot and this would be his last YTAC meeting to provide staff support.
- Kennedy reminded participants about the event on October 24 with Jimmy Wayne in Chattanooga.

Acceptance of July Meeting Summary (Kennedy)

- Kennedy asked members to review the July Meeting summary and asked for revisions or edits.

- **IT WAS MOVED (HARRINGTON) AND SECONDED (SPINELLI) TO ACCEPT THE JULY 2014 MEETING SUMMARY. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Update from Resource Centers

- Monroe Harding (Pam Cash)
 - Cash stated the center has recently hired a new job coach. Her priority is to assist youth in finding a job by attending fairs and conducting mock interviews.
 - The center has been assisting youth in returning to the extension of foster care services. Of the youth returning to services, five have completed the High School Equivalency (HSE) Degree. The center does not have a traditional HSE program attempting to reach everyone. This program serves youth and young adults in the transition ages. By narrowing the population of focus, the center is better able to address their unique needs. The program does not have strict attendance requirements and has some online components so youth can complete these segments without physically attending the center. The center also has a donor who gives \$650 to youth who complete the HSE program successfully.
 - The youth board has begun with 10 young people involved. Cash hopes to be able to bring youth to the meeting in the future.
- Helen Ross McNabb – Project NOW (Keisha Shervington)
 - Shervington stated they have eight new enrollments and have 69 involved. The center is on track to have 100 youth involved by the end of the year.
 - The program is having new brochures and fliers printed. The materials will be sent to Youth Villages, DCS, youth shelters and other programs serving transitional age youth.
 - The center has also begun to use social media and has a new Facebook page. Staff will use this page to reach out to youth by sending reminders about deadlines and services.
 - The project is working on a group event for the next month.
 - The Asset and Credit building program has shown great success by preventing eviction for one youth and helping another to pay school debt to be able to get his transcripts. One youth has also moved from transitional housing to being independent.
 - Shervington stated she is working to finalize connections with several community groups.
- Independent Center for Achievement and Mastery (Dave Aguzzi)
 - Staff from the center was unable to be at the meeting. Aguzzi provided a summary update for the group based on the report previously sent to the group as part of the draft report.
- South Memphis Alliance (Tameka Daniel)
 - Daniel stated the center is preparing to conduct surveys of youth who have been active in the program. Staff has already made contact with 75 percent of the youth involved.

The 75 percent are considered active as they have recently participated in events or used the center.

- Youth will be working at a food bank during the month of October. Youth from the program won an award for their participation last year.
 - Youth conducted a bake sale fundraiser and sold out at the DCS office. These funds will be used for the youth to take a trip.
 - Daniel worked with friends to get enough furniture for furnish two homes for youth.
- Kennedy thanked all the presenters for the resource centers for their work and being here at YTAC. He also thanked them for providing summaries for the October report to the legislature.

Department of Children's Services and Office of Independent and Transitional Living Update (Aguzzi)

- Aguzzi stated they are still developing the data section for the annual report and the October report. He hopes to have the section completed soon. Data will include the number of youth involved during the year and the number of episodes.
- Aguzzi discussed some of the highlights of this past year's initiatives including the increased outreach, primarily by Harris, to youth who may be eligible for extension of services. In some cases, these youth are connected to EFC, or referred to other services available such as TennCare, if eligible.
- Youth satisfaction survey results will also be included in the data supplied for the report. Youth have been surveyed about what services they have used and how satisfied they are about the services received.
- Overall, DCS will provide more detail and information in this report than in prior years.
- Youth Villages (YV) has specifically helped in getting the NYTD surveys baseline information completed. YV is also helping with follow up surveys for the prior baseline participants. Because of their assistance and the work of the resource centers, Tennessee will be in compliance. Not all states were able to accomplish compliance.
- Kennedy thanked Aguzzi for his report and expressed appreciation for DCS assistance with the October report.

Update from Youth Villages (YV) Transitional Living Program (Mary Lee)

- Lee stated YV serves 600 youth on any given day with 1356 served last year.
- Lee provided a snapshot of the data provided for the October report from the youth served by YV:
 - 75 percent are currently in school or have graduated;
 - 70 percent are employed or actively seeking employment; and
 - 91 percent are living with family or independently.
- YV recently released the implementation report from the Transitional Living clinical trials and will have initial findings by the end of the year.

Updates from Treatment and Recovery for Youth Grant (April Tanguay, Ashley Harrington and Clayton Ramsey)

See "Youth Recovery" handout

- Harrington stated Centerstone, the Maury county site, has 25 of 25 enrolled to meet year one goals. The program is working with CADCAT to get an anti-drug coalition started in the service area.
- Staff has created and received marketing and promotional materials such as cups and other giveaways. Marketing of the services will also be on billboards and in radio ads. Staff has teamed up with other Centerstone prevention grants to share outreach opportunities and exhibit space at conferences and meetings. The program has also been included on the whoyouwanttobe.org webpage.
- Centerstone has hired all clinicians for the program and two of four have completed the A-CRA training.
- Pathways has 22 currently active clients, two waiting to be enrolled and one setting up an intake. On intake, 95 percent of clients report marijuana use.
- Pathways partnered with councilmen, probation officers and others to have an event with over 100 youth with breakout sessions and activities.
- Tanguay reminded the group this is a harm reduction model, not an abstinence model.
- Evaluation plan is due to SAMHSA by September 30. Tanguay is developing a work plan also due September 30. Other plans and reports for the project are due in December. Tennessee has already completed the required resource map thanks to TCCY. Other states have struggled with this requirement. Year one ends on September 30 and the project has already met the service goal of 60 clients for the first year.
- The project is preparing to conduct numerous trainings at the project sites, including Systems of Care, cultural and linguistic competency, wraparound, A-CRA, etc. Staff hopes to collaborate with faith-based organizations to provide clients with natural supports.
- McCorkle stated everyone is doing a great job in meeting grant objectives. YTAC and CCMH have been very helpful overall with the grant.
- Tanguay stated Tennessee may be asked to help coach other SYT state grantees, as others are not as far along.
- Kennedy reminded participants that YTAC is serving as the state level advisory group for the grant. A goal for YTAC and other similar groups is to be open to all who have an interest in working on issues impacting transition-age youth.
- Kennedy also expressed his appreciation to the presenters for sharing this information with the group.

Discussion of Annual Report due October 31, 2014 (Linda O'Neal)

Refer to Draft Report Recommendations emailed prior to the meeting.

- O'Neal stated YTAC's annual report is due to the legislature on October 31st. The report typically includes data from DCS and resource centers as well as summaries from council meetings. A draft of the report was emailed to participants prior to the meeting.

- O’Neal walked the group through the draft report using projection so all could see and comment on needed revisions. Changes, other notes and revisions from the group were incorporated into the document for inclusion in the 2014 report.
- Those changes will be made to the draft recommendations, new proposed recommendations will be added and sent to members for review, feedback and approval before the report is finalized and submitted to the General Assembly.
- O’Neal and Petty thanked the resource centers, DCS, TRY grant and Youth Villages for all their hard work and providing their summaries for the report.
- She also encouraged participants who have additional edits or suggestions to send them to Petty (steve.petty@tn.gov).

Other Business

- Petty reminded participants about THDA funding opportunities and deadlines for application.

Announcements

- O’Neal reminded the group about the next meeting date of November 20.
- She encouraged participants to email Petty (steve.petty@tn.gov) if they have options for meeting topics.
- O’Neal shared her appreciation for everyone attending and working to improve services and supports for youth in transition.