



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Andrew Jackson Building, Ninth Floor
502 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800

COMMISSION

Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor Training Room

Friday, May 15, 2015

8:45 a.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Brenda Davis, Chair
Rob Mortensen, V.C.
Phil Acord
Ashley Dunkin
Audrey Taylor Gonzalez
Genesis Hardin
Gary Houston
Petrina Jones-Jesz
Amy Jones
Steven Neely
Wendy Shea
Christy Sigler
Tawny Spinelli
Jill Grayson Stott

Members Absent

Kelly Drummond
Ethan Flynn
Joshua Grubb
Jennie Harlan
Bill Haynes
Amy Lawrence
Glenda Terry

Staff Present

Linda O'Neal, Exec. Dir.
Richard Kennedy, As. Dir.
Lindsey Cody
Susan Cope
Sujit Das
Fay Delk
Craig Hargrow
Rosalyn Leavell-Rice

Melissa McGee
Rose Naccarato
Shaun Noblit
Steve Petty
John Rust
Natasha Smith
Vicki Taylor
Nancy Townsend
Zanira Whitfield

Guests

Jim Henry, DCS
Monica Jones, DCS
Debbie Miller, DCS
Michael Cull, DCS
Brittany Binkowski, DCS
Loraine Lucinski, DOH

I. Welcome and Introductions - Brenda Davis, Chair

Davis called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. and thanked members, staff and guests for attending.

II. Jim Henry, Commissioner, Department of Children's Services, Guest Speaker

Commissioner Henry asked his staff to introduce themselves. Commissioner Henry said

DCS's goals are to keep kids safe and get them back on track. He gave credit to Bonnie Hommrich, Deputy Commissioner, Child Programs, for recognizing the need for a staff member to be in charge of monitoring the Brian A. lawsuit progression. Commissioner Henry asked Brittany Binkowski, Assistant to the Commissioner, Child Welfare Reform, to take on that role in December 2013, and along with a staff of three, they engage Brian A. on a daily basis.

Commissioner Henry had Binkowski talk about where they are with the Brian A. lawsuit first filed in 2000 and settled in 2001. Binkowski reported through 2010, there were only 80 provisions in compliance, also referred to as "in maintenance." Due to backsliding, they recognized the need for intense focus on the lawsuit to move some of those things forward and identify weaknesses needing to be addressed.

Since December 2013 to now, DCS had gone from a net loss of four provisions in the prior monitoring report to gaining 14 then 22 in the next two monitoring periods. This improvement came about through working with the monitoring staff to build relationships with the staff monitoring their performance on a daily basis to make sure they understand what goes on beyond the formulaic reviews.

They have been very transparent with the monitoring staff and been proactive in the way they collaborate with them on reviews and the monitoring report to ensure all of the information available is being evaluated in order to accurately reflect performance.

DCS counted 136 total provisions they were responsible for and of those 106 items are in maintenance. There were 30 left and the goal was to be in compliance by the end of this calendar year. Since the report is due at the end of this year, DCS will not know if they are in compliance until April or May of 2016. The 30 provisions left were the more complex and complicated ones and required more time and attention. She said staff was working with the monitors to come up with logical and helpful way to monitor those remaining provisions.

Commissioner Henry praised Binkowski's progress in reducing the maintenance points from 68 to 14 and 22 in 18 months. He hopes to exit the lawsuit this year plus a year of maintenance to ensure DCS does not backslide and then they will be out of it.

Commissioner Henry said DCS is much better because of the lawsuit, but it is time to prove it. He mentioned the great cooperation with partners like Juvenile Court Judge Andrew Shookoff. He changed relationships by improving communication.

Monica Jones, Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile Justice updated the Commission on improvements made with implementing the therapeutic model within the youth development centers.

Deputy Commissioner Jones reported their population is down to 48 at Woodland Hills and down to 254 between the three facilities resulting in a decrease of about 500 youth in the last three years. She praised the network development department for requesting bids from various service providers to accommodate youth who do not need to be in a secure, lock up facility. She also thanked those providers who have assisted in keeping youth out of development centers.

Deputy Commissioner Jones reported a considerable decrease in disciplinary reports due to educating officers and everyone to better deal with the issues and challenges these youth bring to provide better outcomes. The disciplinary reports were:

January 2015	298
February 2015	210
March 2015	136
April 2015	55

DCS and Youth Development Centers will acquire accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA). DCS will have the first Youth Development Centers (YDCs) in the United States to receive accreditation from the COA.

DCS is taking three parts of the state from a correctional model to a therapeutic model. It is a lot of work and the push for them is constant. COA will be back on site towards the end of the year. Each youth receives a Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment to identify different needs based on the individual.

Commissioner Henry explained the youth being served in the YDCs are some of the toughest with multiple felonies and are very difficult to handle. He felt very positive about the changes and believes changing the uniforms to polo shirts and khaki pants; implementing a mentoring system; and giving the youth a clean slate each day, as opposed to each 30 days, is a move in the right direction.

Commissioner Henry also spoke about the change in culture with the staff and their response to the mentoring and reward system. The nine youth sent to Brownwood, Texas, despite opposition from parents, are scheduled to graduate next month and they have made huge progress making it a wonderful success story.

Debbie Miller, Assistant Commissioner, Quality Control spoke on accreditation. She reported all 12 regional offices have completed accreditation and are all in compliance. As Deputy Commissioner Jones reported, it takes a lot of work for the YDCs accreditation and they are working diligently to complete the process. Quality Control took on a lot of the Brian A. lawsuit monitoring functions to ensure DCS stays on top of the requirements and stays in compliance.

Assistant Commissioner Miller reported her division just completed their Lean Management process, a very important and extensive review of how they can cut down the time it takes to open and close a case and other ways to help staff conduct field work more efficiently to eliminate downtime.

She reported they were submitting an application for a level three Baldrige Award, a management structure award used to encourage organizations to examine their current state of quality and to become more involved in the movement toward continuous quality improvement. No other state government agency has been awarded a level three, but it is a very challenging process because you really have to look at your internal management, how you communicate and how you process success.

Commissioner Henry commended the Quality Control division on their work. He stated his strategy is to build a successful department the next administration is afraid to change to create the continuity Tennessee needs to stand out instead of what has traditionally happened at the end of each administration when programs are completely changed and restarted.

Michael Cull, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner, Child Health spoke on child health. He was excited to report the Public Chapter 21 legislation, allowing them to set up a confidential reporting system for frontline staff to report safety issues. They soft launched it the Friday after the Governor signed it. Staff reported feeling safer and comfortable with the new changes.

LEAN event was amazing because it connected with work they are doing out of child health presented at the Child Advisory Council and is a great tool to use to make processes more efficient. They do a process of mapping their current state on one wall there are post it notes with the processes they currently use. On another wall, they map where they want to be and it always looks better. Many of the inefficiencies identified were attributed to a fear-based culture due to burnout and secondary trauma.

Deputy Commissioner Cull stated Commissioner Henry and DCS are committed to having a safe and engaged workforce. He mentioned he met with Helen Ross McNabb treatment team at Mountain View and the treatment teams at Woodland Hills to ensure they are ready to implement the new model.

There was a level of distrust between the Children's Services Officers (CSOs) and the treatment staff resulting in disconnect and no real communication. Now with the LEAN training, they are communicating and collaborating in ways to best benefit the youth they serve.

Commissioner Henry mentioned the In Home Tennessee program that directs their funding like a block grant, meaning as long as they continue to try to keep families together, DCS can

use the money as they see fit. DCS has identified eight counties in East Tennessee with the largest problems. They are working with judges and attempting to put services in homes instead of just placing children in foster care. Commissioner Henry stated the Federal government does not want to remove children from their homes; however, that is where the money is and the Federal government recognizes this. The bad news is this is all up for review unless Congress passes new finance legislation.

Commissioner Henry requested the Commission to stay abreast of the situation and to write their members. He said it is imperative to show Congress the importance of keeping families together and to have the flexibility to use funds to do what is needed.

Commissioner Henry reported DCS is working closely with faith-based organizations in order to have real change. Commissioner Henry said he was flying to Memphis the following week to engage Memphis in what they are doing with Adverse Children Experiences (ACEs). He encouraged the Commission members to engage their faith-based organizations because they have their hands on the pulse and know families we can help.

Mortensen complimented DCS for the progress. He said “it is like the sun is coming up.” He felt like we are now on the same team which is wonderful to see. This past legislative session had some great legislation for kids. He would like to see this new culture continue. Gonzalez concurred with Mortensen by saying there was a warmth when DCS comes to the Commission meetings. She asked why DCS could not have a YDC in Memphis instead of sending the youth to Knoxville, Nashville and across Tennessee in an effort to help families stay connected to their youth since Shelby County seemed to have the most children incarcerated.

Commissioner Henry said it would be a long-term commitment and would probably take \$50 million in five years to build a facility in Shelby County. Commissioner Henry said DCS is trying to reduce the numbers at YDCs. There will be 60 plus beds going online at a step down residential facilities soon. He reported Woodland Hills had 48 youth left with staff for 144 while New Visions was sitting empty. He indicated a change needed to happen.

Commissioner Henry promoted the National Guard’s Youth Challenge Program and said it gets into the prevention category he strongly supports. He felt Woodland Hills would be a perfect location for the program.

Deputy Commissioner Jones followed up by talking about the use of Skype at the Wilder facility in Summerville, about 45 minutes from Memphis. She gave an example of a grateful youth who was able to use Skype to communicate with family after six months of no communication. She indicated they were still working out the logistics and figuring out ways to reunify the families.

Acord asked about the curriculum being used. He wondered if DCS adopted a particular model. Deputy Commissioner Jones replied they had not adopted a particular model but were using the cognizant-behavioral model. She said Dr. Nelson Griffith from Michigan had been their consultant. He looked at all three curriculums and conducted an assessment on security and interviewed students and staff members to see which model would work best. The model used really depends on the location because it is based on the needs of the facilities. Positive reinforcement and support where the youth felt safer are evidence-based models, but they just do not brand it since it fits the specific needs of the individuals.

Houston asked about kids being hungry. Deputy Commissioner Jones responded about the incentive program of being rewarded for good behavior by getting more snacks. She said a nutritionist was there now to teach the kids as well about creating menus and calorie intake. Deputy Commissioner Jones said they were thinking outside of the box. Commissioner Henry said the youth are not overweight and eating very healthy. Deputy Commissioner Jones said Commissioner Henry purchased exercise equipment for the facilities and the kids see the investment DCS is making in them.

Davis thanked the Commissioner and his staff for taking time out of their busy schedules to come and address the Commission.

III. Home Visiting – Loraine Lucinski, Department of Health, Guest Speaker

Lucinski passed out a handout about evidence-based home visiting and explained it was a two generational approach family support program to support the relational health and mental health of the child in addition to the parent. There have been three models implemented in Tennessee that have randomized control trial studies of effectiveness and have all demonstrated impact in at least two or more studies in maternal and child health; school readiness; economic self-sufficiency; child abuse and injury; domestic violence and crime; and improved coordination of services.

Lucinski reported the Department of Health was also funding two promising practices in Davidson County and explained Tennessee was the only state funding two. The first, the Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker Model, a peer to peer model working well in Appalachia, has been funded to see if it will work well with Hispanic speaking mothers in Davidson County. The second practice being funded is Nurses for Newborns and they service medically fragile babies. There are evidence-based home visiting programs in 50 of 95 counties right now designated by a 2010 needs assessment DOH conducted.

The Department of Health has both State and Federal funding. In the state there is the nurse home visitor funding that has been level for the last five years. They also have state Healthy Start funding that remains as a non-reoccurring line item. Maternal Infant and Early

Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funding is federal investment fund. Lucinski reported the Department of Health was recently awarded a \$9 million competitive fund. She said they have funding in hand to last through September 30, 2017. Congress just passed a two-year extension for both programs included in the Medicare Payment Rates legislation. She said they are now waiting for guidance on how the money will be distributed.

Lucinski referenced the visioning Tennessee handout from a strategic planning session held in late October 2011 utilizing the Self-Assessment Tool for States: Key Components of a Successful Early Childhood Home Visitation System to identify and prioritize areas for improvement for the home visiting system in Tennessee. The vision identified through this process will assist Tennessee to develop a home visiting system which:

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| 1. Collects, analyzes and monitors data about home visiting to identify strengths and weaknesses that will improve programming and outcomes for children and families; |
| 2. Maintains a highly skilled and competent work force including adequate resources and supports to home visiting supervisors; |
| 3. Engages a broad range of champions to create public and political will for home visiting services; and |
| 4. Provides a coordinated continuum of services to all new families to assure the right families are enrolled in the most appropriate evidence-based home visiting program as early as possible. |

They have rolled out a statewide system through Vanderbilt University called Research Electronic Data Capture System also known as “REDCap” that gives the sites the ability to collect the same data elements and measure the same outcomes across all models and across all funding streams. She hopes this system will help with their annual home visiting legislative report to help others better understand the strengths of the different models.

In an effort to maintain a highly skilled and competent work force, they have developed core competencies for home visitors. They also offered, to over 200 home visitors and care coordinators across the state, a 10-week course in conjunction with Tennessee State University around core competencies for home visitors and what they need to be effective in their work. They are working with DHS on a vision for the next two years on how to create the early learning and wellness professional development collaborative. In addition, they plan to meet the Department of Education the following week to bring them on board to talk about core competencies for all professionals who work with young children to have the same basic skills of understanding childhood development and conversations with families to engage with parents around ACEs. Funds are being leveraged from three different funding sources.

Lucinski next talked about coordinated continuum of services to all new families to figure out a way to get the right services for the right family at the right time. They started a new universal outreach program called Welcome Baby for all families in all communities. They

are also working with The Help Us Grow Successfully (HUGS) Program, a home-based care coordination program for pregnant women and families with children under the age of five, and how that program is aligned with the Children's Special Services program. Although it is not deemed a home visiting program, HUGS provides an important home-based service to TennCare enrollees. Both care coordination programs are run out of the Department of Health, but processed very differently. They are moving toward a more standardized definition of services.

Lucinski said she believed TCCY was the best place to house a home visiting collaborative of best practices for home visitation. The Department of Health plans to share dollars to hire a new staff member to oversee this service. Lucinski shared she has been studying the new Elementary and Secondary Education Act currently being passed in Congress. There was an amendment passed allowing grants given to states to have a strong opportunity to look at what we are doing with early childhood and early learning. Title I funds can be used to help support families from birth to second grade. There might be an opportunity in the future to work with local school districts to get to families prior to kindergarten and to provide a forum for them to communicate if best practices are working.

She said she believes people are starting to understand the importance of a two generational approach and the potential impact they can have on poverty levels. They can identify kids by 3rd grade so the push is to start at birth if not before. They are also working with businesses to help business partners understand the children of today will be their future workforce of tomorrow.

Lucinski informed the Commission DOH is looking for sustainable funding just in case the program is not reauthorized. Utah and South Carolina were successful in using a result-based financing mechanisms like social impact bonds as a way for private investors such as Goldman Sachs to put a whole lot of money into prevention programs expecting certain outcomes. If the right outcomes are achieved, the investor gets a percentage back. The idea being if the government can get someone else to upfront the money decreased juvenile justice; decreased special education; and better birth outcomes would achieve the cost savings.

Department of Health is looking to learn from those two states and with TCCY's help, they hope to hire someone who can really dig deep into whether Tennessee is ready to do social impact funding; find out what legislative structure may prohibit or help support it; conduct feasibility studies; and see if there is an economic advantage to working with this particular model.

Acord commented he was recently on a committee with someone who was familiar with social impact bonds. He reported special legislation is required and this model is very results focused. He also added the Health department is the fourth freeway in the early childhood. So

much of what home visiting is doing is crucial to early childhood. Lucinski added a 5th lane of childcare settings because we have to look at childcare, home visiting, and all of the early care and education programs. The Department of Education is restarting the Office of Early Learning and is currently hiring for an Executive Director. The Department of Health is also working with the Department of Human Services (DHS) on an early learning and wellness development collaborative program.

Davis thanked Lucinski for her being with us.

IV. Roll Call – Natasha Smith

Smith called roll. A quorum was established.

V. Approval of February 2015 Minutes (ACTION)

IT WAS MOVED (MORTENSEN) AND SECONDED (SHEA) TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2015 MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VI. Audit Committee – Christy Sigler, Chair

Sigler presented report from short Audit Committee meeting. She reported O’Neal updated the committee and reported there had been no incidents of fraud or abuse. She said Kennedy reported on the Title VI monitoring and how the reviewer only had one concern as to the placement of the Title VI notice. She felt the sign being placed in the copy room did not have enough public access and wanted it placed in the front area. TCCY framed the noticed and placed it on the table in the front across from where the shield is located bringing us in good standing.

Sigler shared Townsend’s report on the Financial Integrity Act. She reported Townsend disseminated reporting guidelines and informed the Committee how Finance and Administration (F & A) will begin undertaking a consideration of revisions of how these reports are prepared.

VII. Budget and Data Committee – Christy Sigler, Chair

Sigler also presented the report from Budget and Data Committee. She said O’Neal presented a budget update. At the close of March, we were in good position with about 53 percent expenditures. There is a little room to order a few new computers, new projectors and various small electronic equipment needing replacement or updated.

It was also determined it is appropriate to fill vacant positions we did not fill before due to

budget concerns. There will be money to pay for a Compilation this year with state funds allowing us to use federal funds somewhere else. The Commission will seek staff grade level adjustments and reclassifications so staff can meet the level of their peers. The Department of Human Resources recommended each supervisor manage no more than six staff members at a time. There are no final decisions at this time. Sigler reported we were happy the FY16 budget included \$63,000 of recurring funding for CASA and there were no reductions.

Sigler next gave an update on the 2015 Resource Mapping report. She said Naccarato completed and delivered the report to the legislature on time with some extra maps included. The testing of the new database system begins in June and should help us deliver the final report to the legislature earlier in the season to inform budget decisions.

Sigler informed the Commission of the Press Conference on Tuesday, May 19 to release the National Policy Report entitled “Every Kid Needs a Family: Giving Children in the Child Welfare System the Best Chance for Success”. The report calls on child welfare agencies to increase efforts to place youth removed from their homes with relatives or foster families. The numbers are not comparable necessarily state-to-state due to some states like Tennessee including some delinquent kids in their numbers. TCCY has planned a press conference to coincide with the release to discuss Tennessee’s efforts to keep children in state custody in family placements. Commissioner Jim Henry, Department of Children’s Services, Michael McSurdy, Family and Children’s Services in Nashville, and a representative of Youth Villages will participate with TCCY in the press conference.

Sigler reported Das and Naccarato attended a KIDS COUNT Data Conference the previous week in Minneapolis. Das informed the Committee how Data Visualization is the hot topic now. Data visualization tools allow anyone to organize and present information intuitively. All of this data is meaningless without a way to organize and present important findings with it. People comprehend data better through pictures than by reading numbers in rows and columns. So by visualizing data, you are able to more effectively ask and answer important questions such as “What is driving growth” and “What are the characteristics of my customers using different services?” By using Tableau visualizations, you gain the ability to quickly answer questions; your data becomes a competitive advantage instead of an underutilized asset.

Sigler said Naccarato is working in the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Leadership Institute for State-based Advocates (LISA) program with a focus on how preschool education affects elementary school kids and other factors that affect high school graduation.

Sigler reported the state’s new website should launch in June and there is hope for a smooth transition. She reported Delk continues to collect information on media coverage and stories from across the state to produce the Commission media report. Delk said the KIDS COUNT

snapshot on poverty did not get much traction, but there was a lot of useful information for future searches. The Woodland Hills story still gets a lot of hits and the newspapers account for two-thirds of all media hits.

Sigler reported conversation about social media being difficult to control, but it is free to get your message out there to the masses. Sigler personally requested everyone invite their friends to visit TCCY's website, follow on Twitter and like the TCCY Facebook page to maximize our social media presence. Sigler reported Delk sends out the new, electronic version of *The Advocate* monthly. It has been well received and allows us to deliver timely information to our partners and followers. Delk has released three editions since the February meeting. The March issue focused on policy/legislation/budget, the April issue focused on child abuse prevention, and the May issue focused on teen pregnancy prevention.

Sigler informed the Commission of Kennedy's report on the new branding initiative with the State's new logo. It's a simple logo, "TN" on a red square over a blue bar, which will replace the three star logo in an effort to unify the state's branding creating a halo effect. Smaller agencies have the option of keeping their logos. Sigler recalled O'Neal saying how someone recognized the TCCY logo when she was at a conference in Washington.

The social media information to pass along is:

- www.tn.gov/tccy
- www.facebook.com/TCCYonfb
- www.twitter.com/tccy

VIII. Children's Services Committee – Wendy Shea, Chair

Shea reported on the Ombudsman program updated by Dr. Gerald Papica. Over the last three months, there were 40 new referrals received, 28 open cases, and fourteen cases were closed during the same period. This number mirrors the referrals received in 2014 for the same reporting period. Shea shared Papica's activities on behalf of TCCY. She said he represents TCCY in bi-weekly Department of Human Services' Child Care Board of Review hearings where they review daycare centers. Some of these cases are self-reported while others are from the parents. Dr. Papica continues to address a variety of complaints and routinely attends (in-person or by phone) Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTMs) in order to foster fairness, transparency, accountability, timeliness and best practice.

Shea stressed the importance of Papica's involvement because it helps people understand the role of the Ombudsman. He continues to serve as a member of the Davidson County Foster Care Review Board and he is still very active in the United States Ombudsman Association (USOA). Dr. Papica is currently co-chairing the Children and Families Chapter and is a

member of the 2015 USOA Conference planning committee. As a result of the great job he has done in various roles where he has served, Dr. Papica is widely recognized as a leader in Ombudsman activities nationally, which in turn is a good reflection on TCCY.

Shea reported on the Council on Children's Mental Health. There was a collaborative presentation at the March meeting by members of the Children's Care Coordination pilot project through TennCare. This pilot project is a Redesign of Children's Mental Health Community Based Services, based on the values and principles of System of Care where a designated family support provider helps the family navigate the overall system.

Shea shared McGee's report on a recent conference she attended where trauma-informed care was the focus. Trauma-informed care is not just a philosophy; it is a framework that results in shifting how we think of and respond day-to-day in our interactions by changing the lens through which we see, hear and work with family and child issues instead of using a checklist.

Shea also shared McGee's report on the FrameWorks online Toolkit, entitled "Talking about Child Mental Health in Tennessee: A communications toolkit for the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth." This toolkit was designed for Tennessee with generous support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and KIDS COUNT and really is a communication toolkit on how to frame the message. O'Neal said we will place the link to the Framework Toolkit into the minutes. O'Neal added anyone can use the toolkit to frame their message.

- **For more information, videos, models and FAQs, visit www.frameworksinstitute.org and www.frameworksinstitute.org/toolkits/cmhtennessee/**

The CCMH also met with Cissy Mynatt, a consultant through the Center for Nonprofit Management. She has been engaged to help the Council engage in strategic review and direction planning.

Shea informed the Committee, McGee recently gave a presentation to the Coordinated School Health Conference talking about ways to bridge the style between different educational and mental health organizations.

Shea next reported on the **Youth Transition Advisory Council (YTAC)**. In the overall youth transitions program for this year, there were 625 youth enrolled compared to 528 last year. The average stay in extension of foster care is approximately six months. Shea recalled Commissioner Henry's referencing LifeSet earlier in the meeting and she informed the Commission that Youth Villages renamed their transitional living program to LifeSet for branding reasons.

At the next meeting, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Services will present an update on the Treatment and Recovery for Youth (TRY) Grant. TRY is a federally funded grant from SAMSHA with Centerstone in Maury County and Pathways in Madison County providing adolescents and transitional age young adults drug and alcohol treatment. Disability Rights Tennessee also made a presentation about work with youth at Woodland Hills and the services offered to transition age youth.

There were two important laws enacted this year tremendously benefitting transitioning youth who are aging out of state custody. A bill the Commission supported prohibits school systems from requiring youth who enter state custody during eleventh or twelve grades from requiring a higher number of credits to graduate than the state requirement. Another bill we became aware of late in session allows foster parents or representatives of the Department of Children's Services to sign releases to allow foster youth to get a driver's license.

Shea reported there was an interesting general discussion on what is the actual measure of success as it relates to transition programs. Through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the YTAC is looking to develop guidelines for courts and foster care review boards in terms of the review of cases of youth in extension of foster care programs. For example, how often is the review; the scope of the review; and the importance of avoiding the perception of youth viewed as being in custody because that has been a deterrent to those considering the program.

Shea next reported on the **Second Look Commission (SLC)**. They met on March 23. She said Hargrow informed the committee of the newly appointed members including Trudy Hughes, former member of TCCY and there is one Governor's appointed slot still open. Shea said there was a general discussion about how they are measuring success.

She continued with Hargrow's presentation of the data from the FY14 list of cases. The FY14 list includes 664 unduplicated victims in comparison to 605 unduplicated victims in FY13. There were some inconsistencies in previous years regarding how the data was being pulled, but it is believed those inconsistencies were worked out. The percentages of maltreatment types have remained relatively consistent throughout the years. Sexual Abuse remains the largest type of maltreatment represented in the cases provided to the SLC. Drug Exposure and Physical Abuse typically account for the next two largest percentages of maltreatment types. Of those cases, 30 percent referred were among children ages zero to four. There were eight child death cases in FY14 and the members of the SLC agreed to review all the death cases as well as additional cases if possible.

The Commission members requested an acronym list because it is hard to follow all of the acronyms in the meetings.

O’Neal added the data Shea just reported was from 2014 and 2015. She also clarified the information from YTAC and CCMH were from the last meetings in April and May. O’Neal reported YTAC and CCMH will meet together in June, the first time these two groups have done so. There is so much overlap with these two groups; we felt it was important to bring them together. O’Neal also added the Childcare Board of Review convenes a like jury to look at violations and meeting standards for licensing. This is a very important function and by statute, the Commission serves on it.

IX. Councils Committee – Jill Grayson Stott, Chair

Stott gave a recap of 2015 Children’s Advocacy Days (CAD) event in March. She said it was an awesome meeting and Kennedy showed the Committee great pictures. The theme was *Every day Superheroes: Every day*. She reported there were 705 registered participants, just 36 participants short of tying registration with the highest registration of 741 in 2012. There were 31 agencies and organizations serving as co-sponsors and contributing \$24,887 towards the cost of the event.

There was a Commissioner’s panel moderated by Jude White, Governor’s Children’s Cabinet, Executive Director that included: John Dryzehner, Department of Health; Raquel Hatter, Department of Human Services; Jim Henry, Department of Children’s Services; Candice McQueen, Department of Education; and Doug Varney, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Filmmaker Brett Culp and a talented spoken word youth group called Southern Word also participated. Stott was very impressed with how TCCY found out each Commissioner’s favorite superhero and had a caricature made of the Commissioners as their favorite superhero.

Dwight Stokes, General Sessions and Juvenile Court Judge, Sevier County, presented “Justice for All: One Child at a Time” at CAD. He received the Senator Douglas Henry Public Official award as well. Bill Millett, President, Scope View Strategic Advantage, Charlotte, North Carolina gave a presentation on “Effectively Advocating to Markets of One” in the afternoon session focusing on the importance of investing in early childhood initiatives. He met with Representative Bill Dunn on pre-k and early childhood issues.

Stott gave a special thanks to Rob for Camelot hosting a networking reception for the participants, General Assembly and their staff.

The second day started with a presentation by Dr. Kenneth Minkoff, Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard University. He presented “Changing the World for Children and Families with Complex Needs: Developing a Welcoming, Integrated Children’s System of Care in Tennessee.” Each year we present several awards. Stott gave a recap of what awards were given. There was a special recognition for Everyday

Superheroes: Salem Town Board Company; Harvest Hands; White County Schools CLIMATE Crew; Promethean Foundation; Service Clean East; and Amputee Blade Runners. Stott shared a story of a Service Clean East window washer who dresses up as a superhero while washing windows during Halloween for the children at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. He never received an award and was very appreciative.

Stott reported there were several short presentation programs and specifically shared praise of Tawny Spinelli. Stott shared the results of the survey evaluations gathered at the end of the event showing that 97.5 percent of the attendees found Children's Advocacy Days to be either Excellent or Very Good.

Acord thanked staff. Kennedy thanked Davis for being the MC at CAD. Davis thanked Spinelli because there is always a story behind the story. Spinelli thanked everyone for allowing her to participate.

Kennedy shared the new 2016 CAD theme. The vote was between A Global Small World like theme or a Bob the Builder Construction theme. Construction won the vote 14 to six. Gonzalez suggested Legos while Acord suggested hard hats. Kennedy requested Commission to share any thoughts and suggestions for the next CAD. Acord mentioned one of his favorite billboard in Chattanooga showing "Brain under construction."

Kennedy is pleased with what happened after CAD. Everything is recycled and donated to other groups and organizations: Pay it forward; Spend money wisely.

Stott gave an update on the Tennessee Afterschool Network through United Ways of Tennessee and led by Mary Graham. It is a networking program for all of the afterschool providers. The funding comes from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Kennedy will sit on the advisory board, not only strengthening our relationship with United Ways, but also providing a great opportunity to build a relationship with the business community.

Stott highlighted a few items from the Councils' reports. In particular, there was some discussion about the low attendance at legislative update meetings and attributed it to the name. She encouraged members to review the individual council reports included in the member's handouts. Stott stated she continues to be impressed with all the work occurring throughout the state. She also reported the regional coordinators monitor detention centers, temporary holding resources and jails within their regions to ensure compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The regional coordinators are working diligently to ensure the facilities included in the new expanded monitoring universe are completed. The coordinators have requested more training and clarifying of materials.

Stott reported there was discussion about Facebook and its use to bring more awareness to

events and programs.

Davis thanked the regional coordinators for all they do for TCCY.

X. Juvenile Justice Committee – Phil Acord, Chair

Davis chaired the meeting in Acord's absence. Davis reported on the Committee's work and reviewed the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) violations report as presented by Whitfield. There was a significant decrease in the numbers. Davis attributes the decrease to the hard work of the staff and the training opportunities offered. Referring to the handout which was distributed, Whitfield discussed the DSO Violations Report. The total number of DSO violations from January 1, 2015, to March 31, 2015, was 10 with zero jail removal violations and zero jail separation violations compared to 55 violations last year.

Hargrow has been diligently working with the DMC Task Forces. He has been in contact with the Blount County DMC Task Force Chairperson. The Task Force has been inactive due to health issues of the previous chairperson. Blount County Task Force chairperson has a scheduled meeting with the local police chief and school superintendent. Hargrow will be going to Blount County to help recruit additional stakeholders and provide technical assistance to revitalize the task force.

Hargrow participates in the Davidson County DMC Task Force meetings to provide direction and technical assistance. The Davidson County Task Force is analyzing the arrest data to determine appropriate intervention strategies.

Hargrow has been communicating with Rosalyn Leavell-Rice, TCCY Southeast Regional Coordinator, to identify key stakeholders interested in forming a DMC task force in Hamilton County. An interest meeting will be scheduled after stakeholders are identified.

Hargrow participated in the organizational meeting for the Madison County DMC Task Force, and provided an overview of DMC, the DMC Reduction Model and direction for the newly formed task force. The task force is in the process of gathering additional data to analyze. Commission member Amy Jones facilitated the meeting. Brenda Davis thanked Amy Jones for helping to set up the meeting and making sure the right people were present.

On April 11, 2015, the Montgomery County DMC Task Force held its 5th Annual Conference on Juvenile Justice at Austin Peay State University. Hargrow gave a DMC presentation during the conference and observed several of the breakout sessions. Approximately 230 people participated in the conference.

On March 26, 2015, Hargrow participated in the reorganizational meeting of the Shelby County DMC Task Force and provided technical assistance. Based on discussion during the

meeting, Hargrow subsequently prepared a new set of bylaws and an outline for a strategic plan for the task force. On March 27, 2015, Hargrow participated in the Shelby County Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) Steering Committee meeting. Hargrow provided a brief description of how the Statewide and Shelby County DMC task forces are able to help with JDAI in Shelby County, as well as help provide DMC collaboration in the JDAI context. Commission member Audrey Gonzalez invited Hargrow to the meeting. Hargrow joined the JDAI DMC subcommittee and has participated in the subcommittee meetings.

Hargrow was added to the Positive and Safe Schools Advancing Greater Equity (PASSAGE) Steering Committee and attended his first meeting on April 10, 2015. PASSAGE is an action and learning network in four major urban school districts aimed at reducing disparities, promoting positive approaches to school discipline, and transforming school culture. The four sites are New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and Nashville.

Davis reported on the Federal Formula Grant Three-Year Plan and Funds Allocation. FY 2015 Title II solicitation was released on April 17, 2015. The juvenile justice division is in the process of preparing the application for this federal formula grant opportunity. TCCY has reached out for technical assistance regarding changes in the application. A portion of the application is due June 16, 2015 and the remainder is due June 30, 2015. The 2015 application will be based on the 2014 funded amount of \$714,855.

The House Appropriations Committee is proposing to zero out Title II funding which supports the efforts required by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. TCCY encourages Commission members to contact their legislators and others to oppose the potential elimination of Title II funds. TCCY will send a letter to the chair of the Appropriations Committee in support of maintaining Title II funds.

Hargrow explained the handout proposed for Federal Formula Grant Allocations for FY 2015. Natasha Smith emailed the revised spreadsheet with details to the Commission members. The Juvenile Justice Committee approved the allocation of the Title II Federal Formula Grant Funds and was now being presented to the Commission as a recommendation. Jones recused herself from the vote.

IT WAS MOVED (DAVIS) AND SECONDED (SIGLER), TO APPROVE THE FY 2015 ALLOCATION OF THE TITLE II FEDERAL FORMULA GRANT FUNDS AS ATTACHED TO THESE MINUTES. MOTION PASSED, 5 YES, 0 NO. (JONES) RECUSED.

Davis reported the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) funding has been eliminated at the federal level. The purpose of the JABG funds is accountability for both the juvenile

offender and the juvenile justice system. TCCY currently funds five JABG grantees whose grant period ends September 30, 2015. Remaining JABG funds will be used to pay for Compilations.

Davis gave an update on the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). On May 14, the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Subcommittee released a bill with funding proposals for FY2016 that did not include Title II funding for JJDP. This means that if this funding proposal were to pass, there would be NO dedicated funding for the JJDP and its core purposes, including the core protections. There is bipartisan support in the Senate for JJDP reauthorization and because of that, the Senators sponsoring the bill will certainly recommend funding for the JJDP's programs. Both Chairman Grassley and Senator Whitehouse have issued statements opposing the House measure.

Davis asked O'Neal to discuss JJDP further. O'Neal referred to the Urgent Action Alert Handouts explaining the disproportionate impact on defunding Title II Juvenile Justice Programs. O'Neal worries about the loss of these funds. It is more serious at the federal level because those dollars pay for staff, activities and there could be significant backsliding in the way children in the juvenile justice system are handled in the states.

It is essential for Members in the House of Representatives to hear from the juvenile justice field and the Commission members on this issue. Acord, Davis and others will attend the CJJ Conference in Washington, DC and plan to go to Hill Day and visit their representatives. O'Neal encouraged everyone to write not only their members, but also reach out to members in other states who may sit on the CJS Subcommittee. Davis urged members to include specific outcomes tied the funds to put a face on the narrative.

Hargrow acknowledged Taylor and Whitfield on the great job they are doing with the increased workload. Davis concurred by thanking them as well.

XI. Legislative Update – Steve Petty

Davis asked Petty to give a brief legislative update. Petty reported the General Assembly adjourned about three weeks ago. It was the shortest session in over 40 years. Petty informed the Commission members that the bill filing deadline would be the last week of January 2016 because they are not finishing as fast as they would like. Mortensen added they have asked legislators to work on their legislation throughout the summer.

The budget passed both chambers with little difficulty, and included \$63,000 in new funding for CASA. This includes \$33,000, \$16,500 each, for the two relatively newly operating programs in Lincoln and Marshall Counties. The other \$30,000 in new funding was included for TN CASA, the statewide organization, to hire additional staff to assist in initiating new

CASA programs in other counties. All this funding is on a recurring basis and therefore should be in the budget when it is proposed next year.

The TCCY Sunset bill was also approved and has been signed by the Governor as Public Act 259. The bill extends the Commission until June 30, 2020. Senator Kelsey put an amendment on the bill to remove the statutory authorization for the Commission to prepare and disseminate impact statements on legislation proposed by the General Assembly. TCCY needs to assess the overall affect of the amendment on the agency's legislative process.

Petty gave special thanks to Commissioner Henry, Rob Mortensen and Brenda Davis for assistance with moving bill making the Committee and not the Governor the appointing authority for the TCCY Executive Director. Acord thanked Petty for his legislative update. Other groups rely heavily on TCCY reports.

Mortensen talked about the legislative impact statements. Individuals have changed and the ideology has changed over the years as well. TCCY is still going to present the bills, and would still have O'Neal and Petty go and speak on our behalf. Mortensen wants the Commission members to talk with legislators this year to let them who we are and what we are all about. Also he wants to listen to others to find out what they think about us and what they want to see from us. He believes we need to make legislators feel like they are engaged in the process.

O'Neal reported legislators like Senator Kelsey wanted to get rid of all authorization for impact statements. Senator Bell said it did not prohibit us from doing impact statement, but took out the requirement. O'Neal suggested we no longer call them legislative impact statements. Spinelli suggested also removing the word "legislative" from other meetings and descriptions as well.

Mortensen encouraged all Commission members to engage in the legislative process year round especially during session. Davis shared responses from people she talked to who think TCCY paid staff are lobbyists and that is why it is important for Commission members to be more involved.

Mortensen asked about questions to take to legislators. We need to continuously build relationships. There is value in letting them know you take time out of your schedule to advocate for children. Commission members become a resource for them as well. Acord mentioned the love/hate relationship we have with them. Shea loved Mortensen's idea. O'Neal stated we will work with Mortensen on questions. Shea does not know how to talk to legislators about issues.

Mortensen gave the 80/20 rule. At first, go in to meet them and not be intimidated by

legislators. O’Neal stated there is a saying regarding legislators: no permanent friends and no permanent enemies. Find out their needs, likes and dislikes. Davis does not believe it requires a vote for Mortensen to move forward.

XII. Director’s Report - Linda ’Neal

O’Neal asked Kennedy to present the Dashboard before her report.

Kennedy handed out the updated Dashboard. Shea said this is a great tool Commission members can use for advocating with legislators. Spinelli suggested Publications being six months as opposed to a whole year. Kennedy pointed out we added a date at the bottom to make sure you are using the most recent Dashboard.

O’Neal personally thanked Davis and Mortensen for their leadership in the Commission. She also welcomed Natasha Smith, newest staff member and explained Rodger Jowers was representing TCCY at a conference today. O’Neal announced Spinelli was going to India on Sunday to teach English and then to Northwestern University for a PhD/JD program.

XIII. Chair’s Report - Brenda Davis

Davis reported she is attending the CJJ conference.

XIV. Other Business

Sigler informed she is looking for volunteers to help with TN Achieves.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

Natasha Smith, Director of Operations & Special Projects

Brenda Davis, Chair

Proposed FY 2015 Federal Formula Grant Allocations

Grant Period	2013-MU-FX-0019	2014-MU-FX-0019	2015-MU-FX-0019
	Currently Funded	Eligible For Funding Continuation	Proposed New Funding
			2015 Tentative Award \$714,855
10/1/2012 - 9/30/15	10/1/2012 - 9/30/2017	10/1/2014 - 9/30/2018	
1/1/2015 - 9/30/2015			
Federal Formula			
Administrative Office of the Courts	JABG Funded *	20,000 ***	20,000
Tennessee Legal Community Foundation	JABG Funded **	20,000 ****	20,000
Boys & Girls Clubs of Tennessee Valley	60,000	45,000	45,000
Coalition For Kids, Inc.	31,594	23,696	23,696
Clay County	17,422	13,067	13,067
Shelby County Schools	50,000	37,500	37,500
Department of Children's Services	44,644	33,483	33,483
Stars Nashville	80,000	60,000	60,000
Subtotal	283,660	252,745	252,745
DMC and Related			
Madison County	87,086	65,315	65,315
DMC Coordination	60,000	60,000	60,000
Other - Task Force Operations	50,000	50,000	50,000
Subtotal	197,086	175,315	175,315
Total	480,746	428,060	428,060
Other Obligations and Expenditures			
Planning and Administration Expenditures	-	71,485	71,485
State Advisory Group	-	20,000	20,000
Compliance Monitoring	-	25,000	25,000
Reimbursement Account	-	90,000	90,000
Total	-	206,485	206,485
Grand Total	480,746	634,545	634,545
Anticipated Remaining Unallocated Funds	\$143,080	\$80,311	\$223,390

Allocation by Grant Classifications:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
System Improvement	\$55,848
Delinquency Prevention	\$111,694
DMC	\$55,848
Total	\$223,390

Footnote :

(1) * 2013 JABG Funded \$50,000

(2) ** 2013 JABG Funded \$50,000

(3) *** JABG \$30,000

(4) **** JABG \$30,000