



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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

COMMISSION

Fall Creek Falls State Park
Thursday, October 29, 2015
3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Brenda Davis, Chair
Phil Acord
Kelly Drummond
Ashley Dunkin
Jennie Harlan
Genesis Hardin
Wendy Shea
Jill Grayson Stott
Glenda Terry

Members Absent

Joshua Grubb
Ethan Flynn
Bill Haynes
Gary Houston
Amy Jones
Petrina Jones-Jesz

Amy Lawrence
Rob Mortensen, V.C.
Steven Neely
Christy Sigler
Tawny Spinelli
Audrey Taylor Gonzalez

Staff Present

Linda O'Neal, Exec. Dir.
Richard Kennedy, As. Dir.
Dana Cobb
Lindsey Cody
Susan Cope
Fay Delk
Craig Hargrow
Rodger Jowers
Bill Latimer
Rosalyne Leavell-Rice

Melissa McGee
Rose Naccarato
Shaun Noblit
Gerald Papica
Steve Petty
John Rust
Russette Sloan
Natasha Smith
Vicki Taylor
Nancy Townsend
Zanira Whitfield
Gwendolyn Wright

Staff Absent

Sujit Das
Sumita Keller
Diane Wise

I. Welcome and Introductions - Brenda Davis, Chair

Davis called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and thanked members and staff for attending.

II. Roll Call – Natasha Smith

Smith called roll. A quorum was established.

III. Approval of August 2015 Minutes (ACTION)

IT WAS MOVED (SHEA) AND SECONDED (GRAYSON STOTT) TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 2015 MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

IV. Budget and Data Committee – Phil Acord, Acting Chair

Acord presented the budget report for September 30, 2015. Because the committee did not have a quorum the whole Commission needed to vote accept the budget report.

The budget for FY 2015-2016 is \$4,407,300. He said we are being good stewards of the funds and are on track with spending.

IT WAS MOVED (SHEA) AND SECONDED (DUNKIN) TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET REPORT FOR FY 2015-2016. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

O’Neal reported the agency has been working with Department of Human Resources (DOHR) on staff re-organization and salary upgrades. A substantial number of those upgrades are still not in place. DOHR has had challenges completing the process for these salary increases being effective. The increases are retroactive to July 5, 2015. Townsend completed paperwork to ensure the payroll supplements will be processed as soon as possible.

Acord reported on the KIDS COUNT State Book by county and the county ranking report released October 1. He said TCCY does an excellent job gathering data and reporting on the state of children in Tennessee.

Drummond asked why the top five counties were in Middle Tennessee. O’Neal said the major drivers are children living in poverty and lack of economic resources. She said the staff worked hard to pick good outcome-oriented indicators to broadly measure the data. In addition, certain areas have had the most job growth.

O’Neal pointed out Maury County is an example of where poverty is not a good outcome indicator because there are other resources there to help.

O’Neal clarified the databooks have the actual percentages and the spreadsheet handed out presented the rankings.

Acord would hope Commission members and staff will take this report back to their regions and organize a meeting to discuss results.

Acord summarized the media report. He specifically mentioned the geographical use of social media and the great use of posting pictures of TCCY events on the agency's Facebook page. Acord reported the recent issue of *The Advocate* focused on Childhood Obesity.

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

Shea gave an update on the Council on Children's Mental Health (CCMH). She talked about the Strategic Planning with Cissy Mynatt, a senior consultant with the Center for Nonprofit Management. The recent meeting on October 22, 2015 was successful with positive feedback from attendees, which included 75 statewide partners. The meeting was set up to provide maximum interaction and feedback from participants to find ways to keep stakeholders engaged in the process. Another minor improvement was changing the meeting time.

Shea reported the CCMH continues a close partnership with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) to work for expansion of the values and principles of a System of Care throughout Tennessee. TDMHSAS and TCCY have recently renewed the Interagency Agreement to continue the partnership in providing partial funding for McGee's position through the federal System of Care Expansion Implementation Grant.

Shea spoke about McGee's involvement with TDMHSAS to produce a System of Care Conference, "Aligning the Systems to Illuminate our Future," on August 28 and 29 at the South Nashville Embassy Suites in Cool Springs. McGee provided further support to TDMHSAS' recent Cultural and Linguistic Competency Summits in Johnson City and Nashville. She reported August, September and October were very active months as McGee also provided training to DCS' Child Abuse Hotline Orientation, presented at the Mid Cumberland Council on Children and Youth ACEs training and the Department of Education's Conditions for Learning forum, as well as attending DMC Technical Assistance training, and TDMHSAS' First Episode Psychosis Conference.

Shea reported Papica just returned from the 36th USOA Annual Conference held in Scottsdale Arizona. He was one of four instructors for the two-day New Ombudsman Training. There were 23 attendees in the pre-conference session held on October 12 and 13.

For the months of August and September 2015, the Ombudsman Program received a total of 28 referrals - 21 new open cases, two re-opened cases and five information-only cases. Majority of the cases were in Mid-Cumberland and Davidson Counties.

The Ombudsman Program introductory class continues to take place for DCS Juvenile Justice (JJ) new employees. Papica was invited to present at Mountain View Youth Development Center (MVYDC) on October 20. The DCS Juvenile Justice section decided to conduct

trainings on site for new juvenile justice employees. Woodland Hills YDC and Wilder YDC will be arranging onsite trainings in the future. Shea reported the focus has shifted from a correctional to a therapeutic model.

As mentioned the last Commission Meeting, Papica was re-elected to the United States Ombudsman Association (USOA) Board of Directors and will serve as a board member for 2015-2017 fiscal years. He volunteered to be the Director of the Conferences and Training Committee. He held the same position from 2002 to 2009. As a result of the great job he has done in various roles, Papica is widely recognized as a leader in ombudsman activities nationally.

Shea reported the Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC) Annual Report due to the General Assembly by October 31 was delivered on October 23 and is posted on the website. The DCS Office of Independent Living provided the data on children aging out of state custody and participating in the extension of foster care program. She explained the number of youth participating in Extension of Foster Care Services (EFCS) increased for the fifth consecutive year while the number of youth aging out of state custody decreased for the fifth consecutive year. The rate of participation of those eligible for Extension of Foster Care Services rose from 20 percent in 2010 to 40 percent in 2014 and 48 percent in 2015. Shea highlighted the Tennessee HOPE Foster Child Tuition Grants, Bright Futures scholarships, and Education and Training Vouchers available to assist youth transitioning out of foster care.

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) has begun two programs to serve transition age youth and young adults suffering from or at risk of serious emotional disturbance. The Tennessee Healthy Transitions Initiative will work with youth and young adults with or at risk of developing a serious mental health condition and/or co-occurring disorder in improving their health and wellness, leading self-directed lives, and reaching their full potential. Healthy Transitions will focus on four priority populations: those in contact with the criminal justice system; those aging out of foster care; those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; and those who identify as being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, or Intersex (LGBTQI). The Tennessee First Episode Psychosis Initiative will serve adolescents and young adults between the ages of 15 and 30 experiencing psychotic symptoms such as hallucinations, unusual thoughts or beliefs, or disorganized thinking, with symptoms present for more than a week but less than six months. Both programs will initially be available in the Northwest Region, provided by Carey Counseling, Inc. Tennessee Healthy Transitions will also serve youth in Hamilton County, through Volunteer Behavior Health.

Youth Villages Inc. continues to serve transition-age youth aging out of foster care. In 2014, through a partnership with Youth Villages, Tennessee became the first state in the nation to offer transitional services to all youth aging out of state custody. Results from a study of the

Youth Villages program by Manpower Resource Development Corporation (MRDC) found that participation in the program increased earnings by 17 percent, improved housing stability and economic well-being, decreasing the likelihood of homelessness by 22 percent. The program was renamed YVLifeSet in 2015.

The Tennessee General Assembly enacted Public Chapter 330 allowing foster parents or designated DCS staff to sign for financial responsibility so youth in care or aging out of care can obtain a driver license. Public Chapter 357 allows students in state custody, enrolling or transferring in the eleventh or twelve grades to graduate with the minimum number of state required credits, rather than a greater local requirement, increasing the opportunity for more foster youth to graduate on time with a high school diploma.

Shea reported on the Second Look Commission (SLC). She said SB320/HB289; relative to post-mortem examination will be amended. The Tennessee Department of Health is working with the five forensic centers across the state to draft an amendment or a new bill in an effort for consistency in receipt of medical reports from the examiners performing autopsies. She said SLC members discussed the need to ensure DCS and other appropriate stakeholders receive autopsy reports in a timely manner. Various agencies are reluctant to share child death investigation information because some believe DCS publishes the entire death investigation file on the DCS website when the case involves a child abuse/neglect death. The entire investigation record is not published on the DCS website. DCS publishes child death investigation records consistent with statutory and judicial requirements.

During the closed investigatory meeting, SLC reviewed three cases. The cases primarily involved drug exposure, sexual abuse and abuse death. The child abuse death case yielded one preliminary finding. SLC members found DCS does not have an adequate recourse when DCS disagrees with a juvenile court's ruling at a preliminary hearing. The SLC discussed the possibility of addressing this issue through proposed legislation. During the review of the child abuse death case, SLC members questioned whether juvenile courts routinely have sufficient facts to make informed decisions regarding the best interest of the children in their jurisdiction. The SLC discussed juvenile court providing DCS notice when a child is brought before the court through a private petition. The SLC agreed to further investigate the feasibility of this potential recommendation.

One case involving drug exposed children yielded two preliminary findings. In this matter, a DCS employee interviewed two potential child victims together. The members noted such action appears to be an isolated incident as opposed to a systemic issue. SLC members also found DCS employees failed to address a discrepancy about how a child was injured. During the investigation of the injury to the child, the parents stated the child broke her leg when she fell on it between a chair and a love seat. During an unrelated physical abuse investigation approximately six years later, the child stated she received the previous injury by falling out of

a shopping cart. SLC members hypothesized the discrepancy was not noted or further investigated due to a couple of reasons. The failure to note the discrepancy may have been the result of an incident-driven investigation regarding the second alleged physical abuse matter. The failure to note the discrepancy also may have been the result of failing to thoroughly review previous investigations. No recommendations were provided. Hargrow will work with DCS to schedule a time to learn more about how to navigate within TFACTS.

The case involving drug exposed children and sexual abuse highlighted the continued need to improve how cases of repeat allegations and indications of child abuse are handled in Tennessee. DCS was involved with the family in this case for years due to drug abuse. SLC members agreed the children should have been removed from the family before the removal took place. The SLC discussed developing proposed protocols, policies and legislation to help DCS and the courts determine when potentially drug exposed children should be removed from their parents, custodians or guardians.

These and other cases involving drug abuse reviewed by the SLC cause the SLC to continue to question whether caregivers are receiving adequate drug abuse treatment and services in Tennessee.

VI. Councils Committee – Jill Grayson Stott, Chair

Stott gave a brief overview of the Councils Committee meeting. She gave an update on CAD 2016. It will be March 8-9, 2016 and will have a construction theme titled *Building Tennessee's Next Generation: Under Construction*. Staff is still in the planning stage. Sponsorship letters will go out after December.

She highlighted the regional council reports. Each of the reports included council activities that have occurred since the last meeting of the Commission, as well as information about special projects and upcoming council meetings and events. Detailed information regarding activities in each region was included in materials distributed.

Jowers was chosen to be a fellow in the 2016 class of the Delta Leadership Institute Executive Academy. It is a year-long leadership development program for regional leaders to prepare them to collaborate and address the most pressing issues in the Delta region. He is one of 52 participants.

Stott reported the 2014/15 CPO Policy #2013-007 Grant & Subrecipient Monitoring process has been completed. There were no major monitoring concerns. The 2015/16 CPO Policy #2013-007 Grant & Subrecipient Monitoring plan was submitted timely with the necessary updates.

VII. Juvenile Justice Committee – Phil Acord, Chair

Acord reported on the importance and difficulty of monitoring. He gave an update on DMC and reported the Burns Institute provided training on Successful Strategies to Reduce Racial/Ethnic Disparities on September 1, 2015. Acord was impressed with the turnout for the meeting.

Hargrow traveled to Blount County and met with leadership there to address Juvenile Justice issues. He also participated in an organizational meeting for the Hamilton County DMC Task Force on September 28, 2015 and gave an overview of the nine points of contact in the juvenile justice system. Acord mentioned one issue was getting each of the 13 municipalities in Hamilton County to report data.

Acord spoke about the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) and eliminating the valid court order as a tool for detaining status offenders when they violate probation.

Acord reported a request was submitted and approved to extend the EUDL project period to December 30, 2015. A budget modification request was submitted in September to change the grant focus from compliance checks to developing a responsible beverage server training curriculum and purchasing materials. Acord said Vicki Taylor has been diligent in following up with the OJJDP Program Manager for a response to the budget modification request. She is concerned because the deadline is approaching quickly.

VIII. TCCY Dashboard – Richard Kennedy

Kennedy passed out and reported on the updated dashboard for the most recent quarter. We have had a 6.4 percent decrease since August 2015 in regional councils membership. Kennedy is currently working on the year-end dashboard for fiscal year 2015.

IX. Director's Report - Linda O'Neal

O'Neal reported on the staff changes. John Rust was promoted to the position of Director of Field Operations effective October 4. The three Children and Youth Regional Program Administrators promoted were Lindsey Cody, Rosalyn Leavell-Rice and Dana Cobb. Sumita Keller also rejoined TCCY as the Director of the Home Visiting Leadership Collaborative.

Lindsey Cody was recognized at the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network's Annual Meeting in September where he received the East Tennessee Regional Suicide Prevention Award.

Richard Kennedy recently completed the 2015 Tennessee Government Executive Institute (TGEI) and will graduate on November 13.

O'Neal congratulated Commission member Kelly Drummond who has been selected to serve as a 2015-2016 Afterschool Ambassador for Tennessee. She is one of just 15 leaders from across the country chosen for the honor this year.

O'Neal thanked the staff for their work to make this a successful retreat.

X. Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

Natasha Smith, Director of Operations & Special Projects

Brenda Davis, Chair



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Zanira Whitfield
Gwendolyn Wright

Staff Absent

Sujit Das
Sumita Keller
Diane Wise

I. Welcome and Introductions - Brenda Davis, Chair

Davis called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. and thanked members and staff for attending.

II. Roll Call – Natasha Smith

Smith took roll. A quorum was established.

III. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)/Trauma/Toxic Stress – Icebreaker/Panel

McGee explained brain architecture in early childhood development, toxic stress and *The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study*. McGee quoted a phrase often used by Dr. Patti van Eys, Omni Visions, Inc.: “*Neurons that fire together wire together.*” This clever phrase was first used in 1949 by Donald Hebb, a Canadian neuropsychologist known for his work in the field of associative learning. It means every experience, thought, feeling, and physical sensation triggers thousands of neurons, which form a neural network. When you repeat an experience over and over, the brain learns to trigger the same neurons each time.

McGee showed a video from the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative: *How Brains are Built: The Core Story of Brain Development*. It can be found at

<http://www.albertafamilywellness.org/resources/video/how-brains-are-built-core-story-brain-development>.

O’Neal, Kennedy, Jowers and Wright sat on the ACEs Panel. Handouts distributed at the meetings will be sent via email.

Kennedy recapped the ACEs conference he and Jowers attended in Asheville, North Carolina. He reported the event was well-attended and organized. He said that his expectations for the summit might not have been realistic. His hope was that Buncombe County and North Carolina were further along in developing a statewide strategy to address or mitigate ACEs than we are in Tennessee and that we could learn from their successes and challenges. It seems as though North Carolina is in about the same place as Tennessee in that there is increasing awareness and conversation.

The night before the summit, he and Jowers participated in the viewing of the documentary *Paper Tigers* and a panel afterwards. The documentary focus was on compassionate schools in Walla Walla, Washington. The hope was that showing the documentary at Children’s Advocacy Days (CAD) might be an option; however the length makes viewing at CAD impossible. He was impressed with the number of law enforcement present and engaged throughout the entire summit. He was particularly impressed with the Buncombe County Sheriff and his knowledge and understanding of brain development and ACEs.

Kennedy said the break-out sessions were interesting. The one he found most interesting was conducted by presenters who are case managers with the North Carolina Department of Social Services. They talked about their focus of moving towards a more trauma-informed approach to service delivery and provide examples of success stories and impact. The plenary he found most interesting was a presentation by a Law Professor at the University of Florida. She presented information about trying to lead a culture change within the University where students in the Medical School, Law School and School of Social Work all graduate with a

basic understanding of ACEs and brain development.

Jowers was cautious about the prominence of a “parenting out” approach to ACEs among the conference participants – the idea of helping “high ACE” parents to rear “low ACE children” as the primary method to reduce the effect of adversity. While the approach offers benefit, he suggested there are other prevention strategies to be considered.

Jowers also noted differing perspectives at the event about the nature and effect of resiliency, though there were perspectives with seeming promise to improve response to ACEs. He mentioned concern about what common sense about ACEs will develop and how certain aspects of this information might be used. He especially mentioned the seeming misunderstanding of the ACEs inventory as a diagnostic tool.

Jowers described “turf protection” that appeared to be developing around emerging approaches to address ACEs, and mentioned that many of proposed methods still need to be tested and proven.

Wright spoke about ACEs in Shelby County, her role on the ACEs Task Force and the Universal Parenting Places (UPP) pilot program funded by the ACE Awareness Foundation in conjunction with Baptist Memorial Women’s Hospital and Knowledge Quest. She said an ACEs survey went out to 1,506 people across all the zip codes of Shelby County and represented all demographics. The survey revealed about one in five people had two to three ACEs and about 12 percent had four or more. Most of the adverse childhood experiences were from household substance abuse and emotional and verbal abuse.

Wright said there is a lot of interest in the UPP centers. These centers operate to help families understand the impact of adverse childhood experiences, reduce stress for parents and children and work collaboratively with parents to strengthen their parenting skills. Wright said parents can come to the centers on their own. The program has been well received. Chris Peck has been a big help in getting the ACEs Awareness Foundation started. The Foundation will continue to fund the existing UPP centers and fund several new ones to open in 2016.

Wright also briefly mentioned the UPP Centers use an innovative therapeutic model called Relational ACE Family Therapy (RAFT) to help families understand the impact of ACEs and reduce stress. This model combines cognitive behavioral, solutions-focused therapy and family system therapy into a new therapeutic approach.

O’Neal spoke about “All Children Excel,” the Nashville ACEs group working to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences. The group leading this effort in Nashville is comprised of Metro Public Health Department, Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee and the Family Center (formerly known as the Exchange Club). They meet regularly and include

representatives from the schools, mental health, health, etc. Monroe Harding is one of the service providers providing trauma informed training.

In addition to the 10 indicators studied in the Kaiser Permanente ACEs study, poverty can also cause toxic stress. There is a deliberate effort not to focus on poverty in Memphis because Adverse Childhood Experiences cuts across all socio-economics and racial demographics. If poverty becomes the focus then it can create an artificial division of those “other children” instead of “all children.”

O’Neal said there is increasing research looking at generational impact through genes, an impact referred to as epigenetic. There is a study of the Holocaust showing the toxic stress passed through the genes for several generations.

There is a national ACEs Connection Network website (<http://www.acesconnection.com>). ACEs Connection is a social network that accelerates the global movement toward recognizing the impact of adverse childhood experiences in shaping adult behavior and health, and reforming all communities and institutions -- from schools to prisons to hospitals and churches. The intent is to help heal and develop resilience rather than to continue to traumatize already traumatized people.

O’Neal explained the terms “brain architecture,” “toxic stress,” etc. were terms that came from FrameWorks. She gave the background of Chris Peck and spoke on the Three Branches Institute. The Three Branches Institute is an initiative bringing together members of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches to work with the Department of Children’s Services on strengthening the state’s child protection and juvenile justice systems. One of the observations O’Neal heard at a Three Branches Institute meeting was from Mike O’Neil, a Juvenile Court Magistrate in Nashville, who said his take away from a training session focused on ACEs at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is that instead of asking children before the court “Why are a problem?” and instead asking “What has happened to you?” Many have been exposed to ACEs and have not had the support needed to become resilient.

O’Neal explained The ACE Awareness Foundation is partnering with the Haslam administration and Casey Family Services to launch a statewide initiative to make the case to leaders in private industry, health care, higher education, government agencies and social welfare organization that investing in prevention efforts now will save the state a money by reducing the impact on the special education system, the criminal justice and health systems.

The ACES Foundation will host a summit in Nashville on November 12th to launch a statewide conversation. The goal is for Tennessee to become a national model over the next three years in prevention and in creating ways of instilling resiliency in children. Research from Harvard

University shows that even children exposed to multiple adverse experiences can develop resilience if there is just one engaged and caring adult in their lives.

Dunkin asked if DCS is ready for preventing ACEs? O'Neal said this will be a collaborative effort involving Education, Health, In-Home Tennessee and the communities, including the faith-based community and the System of Care community.

Jowers said the reality is that DCS is the official attention avenue, but most intervention could have happened way before the youth get to DCS. O'Neal reiterated the communities need a broader understanding so they can figure out the best route to prevent ACEs.

Acord spoke about the Sanctuary Model, a theory-based, trauma-informed, evidence-supported, whole culture approach that has a clear and structured methodology for creating or changing an organizational culture. The objective of such a change is to more effectively provide a cohesive context within which healing from psychological and social traumatic experiences can be addressed. Acord said there was an assumption that all youth have the same degree of trauma. He hopes FrameWorks will be able to imbed this ACEs study in the communities. O'Neal said the ACEs work plans to train 100 leaders to train throughout Tennessee on ACEs.

Jowers added ACEs could affect the economic structure of our country. He said we cannot afford to lose any child to ACEs with the changing demographics.

IV. Ombudsman Annual Report – Gerald Papica, Ombudsman

Papica went over his annual report sent to the Commission members. He reminded the Commission of how he counts his cases. For FY 2014-2015, he received 146 referrals and closed 130. Papica went over referrals by age, gender, ethnicity and region as reported in the handout. He said he needs to figure out a way to get more referrals from specific regions that have lower referrals. Papica believes it is because these areas are not aware of the program.

Papica went over the case classifications and placement types. He said it is encouraging to see most children were placed with parents or relatives. Majority of the complaints received are about DCS, parent/caregiver and child. Mothers are the highest complainants.

Papica reported he tracked how people found the Ombudsman Program. He said a few referrals came from the White House. The White House has a Children's Bureau and TCCY's Ombudsman Program is listed.

While not all cases can be solved, all can be addressed. Sometimes he does not have jurisdiction. Papica calls the referent first to inform him or her whenever he closes a case. He

shared positive testimonials.

V. Madison County Evening Reporting Center – Amy Jones, Project Director

Jones gave an overview of the Evening Reporting Center (ERC). It is an alternative to juvenile detention. Youth are court-ordered to attend school, the center and other positive activities. As an alternative to detention, the ERC reduces the number of youth housed elsewhere at the County's expense and also reduces lost revenue due to having insufficient space to house youth for DCS and other counties.

Jones said the ERC fills the after school and evening hours with positive activities instead of being incarcerated. The youth have been exposed to paddle boarding, yoga, martial arts and other activities they would not normally experience. She said it also involves the community in a real, hands-on way to combat the risk factors that lead youth into criminal behavior. Community providers assist in filling those five hours and they feed the youth as well.

The group only asks for people's time and talents. The ERC has 11 youth who attend each day and 19 in total, mainly boys. There are only six girls. Jones said four of the youth are white and the rest are African Americans or of mixed race. There have been two unsuccessful finishes, but one was referred to another program to get him the help he needed.

Shea asked the average length of stay. Jones responded it is the judge's discretion. Harlan asked about transportation. Jones said it has been challenging getting the youth home in the evening and parents are required to come get them.

Acord asked about the schedule during school breaks. Jones said they stay with the school schedule except during the summer when they operate through the summer.

University of Memphis-Lambuth has been a big help by providing facilities and resources such as the cafeteria. Education students from Lambuth come to tutor the youth. Other departments have come to teach the youth various life skills such as sexual health.

Most of the youth did not believe college was for them, so exposing them to a college campus has been really positive.

VI. Title VI Training – Richard Kennedy and Natasha Smith

Kennedy went through the PowerPoint training and Smith talked about Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS). A video was shown. A copy of the PowerPoint on Title VI and a link to the video will be emailed to Commission members who were not present so they can receive the training as required.

VII. Legislative Listening Tour Discussion

Mortensen was not able to attend due to an emergency. O’Neal shared some recent interaction with legislators highlighting the importance of Commission members reaching out and getting to know their legislators.

VIII. Other Business

Drummond announced the President/CEO of the Boys and Girls Club position is open and will be posted.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

Natasha Smith, Director of Operations & Special Projects

Brenda Davis, Chair