



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor Conference Room
Thursday, May 14, 2015
1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Wendy Shea, Chair
Genesis Hardin
Rob Mortensen (1:40)
Steve Neely
Tawny Spinelli
Audrey Taylor Gonzalez

Members Absent

Kelly Drummond
Jennie Harlan
Amy Lawrence
Glenda Terry

Staff Present

Craig Hargrow
Melissa McGee
Gerald Papica
Steve Petty

I. Welcome and Introductions – Wendy Shea, Children's Services Committee Chair

Shea called the Children's Services Committee meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Papica was asked to call the roll. Six of ten commission members were present. There was a quorum for the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

Shea reviewed the minutes. There was no discussion, comment or correction.

IT WAS MOVED (SPINELLI) AND SECONDED (GONZALEZ) AT 1:12 PM TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2015 CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

III Ombudsman Program Update – Gerald Papica

- For this reporting period (February 1 – April 30), there were 40 new referrals received. This figure is similar to the number of referrals received for the same reporting period in 2014. These referrals represent 28 open/active cases and 12 information-only cases. There were 14 cases closed in this reporting period. The average number of days they were open was 5.1 days. This exceeds the Ombudsman Program goal of closing cases

within 60-90 days after they are opened. In regards to the 26 cases that remains active, the average number of days they are open is 39.3 days.

- Papica discussed the statistics in the handouts forwarded to Commission Board Members. The biggest number of referrals originated from Mid-Cumberland region. This is due to the high density of population in the counties surrounding Nashville. Papica highlighted the fact that mothers file the most complaints. This information is not new or surprising. The high number of mother's filing complaints is consistent.
- Papica volunteered to represent TCCY in bi-weekly DHS Child Care Board of Review hearings. Richard Kennedy is the contact person and Papica participates in the daycare licensing hearings. Daycare hearings (jury style, open deliberations) are held for cases involving day care problems such as supervision issue, head count/roll calls, improper monitoring, inadequate care, etc. A DHS daycare program evaluator responds to daycare complaints.
- Papica reported that Caryn Harris, Ombudsman Volunteer, has been on medical leave since the Commission Meeting in February. She is now doing better and may return soon. In the meantime, Papica has handled the workload of the Ombudsman Program. He addresses a variety of complaints and routinely attends (in-person or by phone) Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTMs) in order to foster fairness, transparency, timeliness, accountability and best practice.
- During the Children's Advocacy Days last March, Papica actively contributed to or assisted in the event. He set up, managed and coordinated the registration table along with volunteers from the Chattanooga area and other TCCY staff.
- Papica mentioned his role as a member of the Davidson County Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) #2 for more than 17 years and explained that this is a very important component of his job as ombudsman. It provides him the opportunity to sit in, listen to and check on the status of social services for children. Papica recently transferred to FCRB #3 which meets on the last Friday of every month.
- Planning for the 2015 United States Ombudsman Association (USOA) Annual Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona is in full swing. The event will take place at Chaparral Suites Hotel on October 12-16. As in the past, Papica was invited and will join his seasoned colleagues as an instructor for the New Ombudsman Training. Since 2001, he has represented TCCY and provided leadership with the United States Ombudsman Association. Papica is currently co-chairing the Children and Families Chapter and is a member of the 2015 conference planning committee. TCCY hosted the USOA annual conference in Nashville in 2005.
- Discussion:
 1. Shea sought clarification about the 28 "opened" cases vs. 26 "active" cases. Papica explained that 28 of 40 referrals received for the reporting period were classified as "Open Cases" The rest of the 12 referrals were labeled as "Information-only Cases."

Fourteen cases out of 40 new referrals were closed. Twenty-six cases are still open and in “active” status for an average of 39.3 days.

2. Gonzales asked about “Other” in the Case Classification section. Papica gave examples of complaints that are not included in the category such as adoption, ICPC, access to the DCS record, inquiries from adult referents, etc.
3. Shea asked who is responsible for filing DHS-related complaints. Papica answered that day cares are the entities who initiate self-reporting. However, anybody such as parents and caregivers could also contact the DHS daycare licensing unit. After a complaint is received, a day care program evaluator is assigned to investigate. Gonzales added that daycares are managed and monitored by the DHS.
4. Shea inquired about how a CFTM is arranged. Papica explained that case members, major stakeholders including parents, families, GALs, case managers, etc. could request a CFTM. Papica mentioned that he has asked for CFTMs in the past.
5. Neely shared an experience last year where he attended a CFTM in Rutherford County. It was about a foster parent who was upset that a child was removed from her home. He commented that Papica did a good job in that meeting.

IV. Council on Children’s Mental Health – Melissa McGee

- McGee reported that since the last meeting of the Commission’s Children’s Services Committee, the CCMH has held two meetings in effort to make up for the February meeting postponed due to inclement weather. The postponed February meeting was held on March 12th with minimal disruption to the agenda. The key items in this agenda were a multidisciplinary, collaborative presentation 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. It has been very well received over the course of its tenure thus far. All collaborative members report excellent teamwork and sharing of information to help the project be as successful as possible for the future of children’s mental health care.
- McGee also reported on the regularly scheduled April 23, 2015, meeting in which the CCMH met in new space at the Midtown Hills Police Precinct of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department. The space provided an excellent backdrop, including the most advanced technology available, for the focus on the new FrameWorks online toolkit, “Talking about Child Mental Health in Tennessee: A communications toolkit for the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth” to be used to improve messaging around children’s mental health care. McGee reports that O’Neal provided a thorough examination and walk-through of the toolkit in effort to further its use by the community. This toolkit was designed for Tennessee with generous support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and KIDS COUNT.
- McGee provided an update on the CCMH’s recent focus on strategy and definition as the group continues to identify the most effective and appropriate means for moving children’s mental health care forward through the system of care values and philosophy. McGee reports that the CCMH Steering Committee approved work with Cissy Mynatt, as a Center for Nonprofit Management contractor. Mynatt has begun discussions, review

and development of a plan for working with the CCMH. This opportunity will allow membership to embrace the momentum, continue to be relevant and move towards next steps as the concept of system of care grows throughout Tennessee.

- McGee provided updates on workgroup progress as well as upcoming plans for a System of Care Conference, in partnership with TDMHSAS, as well as a Cultural and Linguistic Conference. She shared that TCCY has been invited to participate in the Department of Education's Steering Committee for their recently received Project AWARE federal grant and that she will be TCCY's designee on this committee. This grant includes use of the concept and philosophy of a system of care as it is implemented in schools. McGee recently presented at the statewide Coordinated School Health Conference in Murfreesboro on "It Really Does Take a Village: Your Students, You and Mental Health." She also attended a two day intensive training at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, on the importance and value of trauma informed systems throughout the healthcare arena.
- Discussion:
 1. Spinelli mentioned that Cissy Mynatt has worked with other children's mental health groups before. McGee stated that TAMHO is one of them.
 2. Regarding trauma-informed care session that McGee attended in Washington DC, Spinelli suggested to partner with child wellness centers and other advocates in this field such as Dr. Patty Van Eys. Neely concurred with this idea. He asked if CCMC has dealings (connections) with the trauma informed care group located in Georgetown.
 3. Shea inquired if there is federal funding for children's care coordination and wrap arounds. McGee responded in the negative. Shea encouraged using wrap around models and training.
 4. McGee clarified that AWARE is a pilot project that started in October. The project was designed for six months but is now extended to one year.
 5. Gonzalez requested for a glossary of acronyms used in the report.

V. Youth Transitions Advisory Council – Steve Petty

- The Youth Transitions Advisory Council met Thursday May 7. There were 31 participants in attendance.
- The Council heard a presentation by Disability Rights Tennessee, formerly Disability Law Advocacy Center. DRT has investigated rights violations at Woodland Hills.
- DCS provided an update from the Office of Independent Living. There has been an ongoing decrease in youth emancipating from foster care and an increase in young adults accepting Extension of Foster Care Services.
 1. Total Young Adults Served to March 31, 2015: 625
 2. Total Young Adults Served to March 31, 2014: 528

- There has been an increase in authentic youth engagement and Youth for Youth Boards across the state; an increase in utilization of the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) and Bright Futures Scholarship and Independent Living Allowances; an increase in the number of college graduates in FY15; and increase in Independent Living wrap around services.
- The Council received updates from three of the four resource centers, Youth Connections, Project Now, and Dreamseekers. There was also an update from Youth Villages LifeSet program. The MDRC longitudinal study has been released. The study found increased earnings, stable housing, decreased involvement in criminal justice.
- The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services provided an update of the Treatment and Recovery for Youth (TRY) grant.
- The Tennessee Housing Developing Agency (THDA) staff spoke to the Council about housing funding opportunities. Oasis and Monroe Harding received funding in the most recent round.
- Nyasha Justice proposed the YTAC recommend changes in the law regarding the responsibilities of the juvenile judges and Foster Care Review Boards for extension of foster care services.
- Two important pieces of legislation affecting transitioning youth passed in 2015.
 1. School systems are required to allow foster youth entering custody during 11th or 12th grade to graduate with minimum state credit requirements.
 2. Foster parents and designated staff from DCS may sign to allow youth in custody to get their driver's license.
- The next meeting of the YTAC will be held in conjunction with CCMH June 18th at Goodwill.
- Discussion:
 1. Shea, Hardin and Gonzalez initiated a discussion concerning Administrative Office of the Court's review of procedures and guidelines with transitioning youths.
 2. Gonzalez suggested previous DCS custodial workers should continue their involvement by providing critical information about a youth in an IL program. Hardin informed the group that Knox County only has three IL workers assigned to various counties.
 3. Mortensen wants the DCS to sign a release of information in order to assist a youth get a driver's license more easily.
 4. Gonzalez reminded the group that an individual does not need insurance to join AA. For something that is treatment-focused, health insurance might be needed. Papica commented that it depends on the level of care being provided whether insurance is needed or not.

5. Mortensen encouraged Commission Members to attend YTAC meetings.
6. Neely informed the group that OmniVisions is starting an IL Program in August. Dennis Meehan is the agency coordinator. OmniVisions has aligned with different programs in the community.
7. Gonzales remarked that transferring cases to another county should be made without complications. Additionally, these youths need to be seen by the DCS more than one time a year.
8. Papica stated that children who have good experiences in state custody would likely opt to remain with the DCS. For other children who had bad experiences in state custody, they would want to be away from the DCS as far as possible.
9. Shea inquired how success is measured among youth in IL. She wanted to know how many complete the program. Spinelli explained that there are different outcomes for different goals. They need more resources about education and employment opportunities. One measure of success is for these youth to remain enrolled or engaged in the program. The average length of stay in IL program is six months.
10. Mortensen commented that the measure of success is different for everybody. He used his brother's career as an example. People go in various trades or professions and can be successful where they are.

VI. Second Look Commission (SLC) Update – Craig Hargrow

- March 23, 2015 Quarterly Meeting – Welcome/Introductions of New Members
Meeting participants introduced themselves. The SLC welcomed newly appointed members Trudy Hughes, Karen Jointer and Cynthia (Cindy) Richardson Wyrick. The newly appointed members shared some of their background information with the SLC.
- Review Data from the FY 2014 List of Cases
Craig Hargrow presented an overview the data from the FY 2014 list of cases. The FY 2014 list of cases contains 664 unduplicated victims. Hargrow stated the FY 2013 list of cases contain 605 unduplicated victims. Historically, there has been close to a 350 – 400 fluctuation in the number of cases. Hargrow stated he believes the difference in the number of cases is primarily due to different individuals using different formulas to produce the list of cases. In 2013, Hargrow worked with Frank Mix, a DCS representative, to create a formula to generate the Second Look Commission list of cases. The formula was used to produce the last two lists of cases FY 2013 and 2014.
- Hargrow reported although the number of cases has fluctuated in the past, the percentages of maltreatment types remain 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.

- Hargrow reported the FY 2014 list of cases contains eight child death cases. Members of the SLC agreed to review all of the death cases.
- The SLC determined it would also review Sexual Abuse and Drug Exposed cases. The number of Sexual Abuse and Drug Exposed cases reviewed will largely depend on how long the reviews of the death cases take. The SLC agreed to schedule three cases to review during some of the investigatory meetings, two death cases and either a Sexual Abuse or Drug Exposed case.
- Next Meeting – May 20, 2015
- Discussion:
 1. Mortensen asked who “chooses” or gets appointed as a member of the SLC. Hargrow answered that names are submitted. Senator Doug Overby and Representative Mark White choose who becomes an SLC member. There is a need to recruit potential SLC members from West Tennessee area.
 2. Spinelli inquired why the number of SLC cases last year (605) was lower than this year (664). Hargrow responded that the number is inconsistent and “goes back and forth.” There is no observable trend in these figures.
 3. Gonzalez posed a question about when cases are resolved. Hargrow asked for the definition of “resolved.” He explained that cases have various levels of resolution. A good example is criminal cases which are pending. She also asked what Hargrow needs to get his job done.
 4. Gonzales asked if Hargrow attends or testifies in court. The answer is negative.
 5. Hargrow reported that demographics such as ages, ethnicities, types of abuse, etc. are consistent. Spinelli queried for the age of children involved in SLC cases. Hargrow commented that ages are broken down into 0-4, 5-8, 9-12, and 13+. Younger children represent 30 percent of the SLC cases and normally experience physical abuse. For older children, they encounter sexual abuse
- Other Business

MORTENSEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. DRUMMOND SECONDED. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes approved by:

Gerald R. Papica, Ombudsman

Wendy Shea, Committee Chair