



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

Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor
502 Deaderick Street Nashville,
Tennessee 37243-0800 (615) 741-
2633 (FAX) 741-5956
1-800-264-0904

BUDGET AND DATA COMMITTEE
Andrew Jackson 9th Floor Training Room
Thursday, August 25, 2016
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present

Christy Sigler, Chair
Phil Acord
Ashley Dunkin
Gary Houston
Petrina Jones-Jesz
Amy Jones
Jill Grayson Stott

Absent

Lisa Hill
Robert Terrell

Staff

Linda O'Neal
Sujit Das
Fay Delk
Bill Latimer
Rose Naccarato
Russette Sloan
Nancy Townsend
Zanira Whitfield

I. Welcome and Introductions – Christy Sigler

Chair Christy Sigler called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Commission members and staff introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

**IT WAS MOVED (DUNKIN) AND SECONDED (ACORD) TO APPROVE THE
MAY 2016 BUDGET AND DATA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES.
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

III. 2016 Audit Update and Report - Linda O'Neal

O'Neal reported briefly on the findings from audit by the Office of Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury. All Commission members should have received a copy of the report when it was released in July. The Commission received two findings as were

anticipated after preliminary discussions with the audit team. The first finding was regarding inconsistency in securing signatures on conflict of interest statements. The conflict of interest statements were updated and signed by Commission members and staff in January of this year; however, the audit covered an earlier time period. Going forward staff will be very diligent in having these forms signed annually. The second finding concerned not monitoring sub-recipients properly with respect to processes. The Commission concurred with this finding and as a result, using revised checklists, staff have worked toward improving documentation of every step in the process. O'Neal said Chip McConkey, with the Senate Finance Ways and Means Committee, contacted the Commission to discuss the monitoring finding. As this communication was during O'Neal's annual leave in July, Richard Kennedy met with McConkey who was very pleased with the Commission's response to the audit findings. O'Neal said during budget hearings, we will be sure to emphasize although we are improving the processes around sub-recipient monitoring, there were no findings of misuse of funds.

IV. TCCY Budget Update – Linda O'Neal

O'Neal reported on the agency budget through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. The Commission was fully staffed as of mid-year. O'Neal said available funding was utilized to accomplish several things including new audio visual equipment in the TCCY conference room. The audio visual equipment is excellent technology enabling staff to host web-based trainings and meetings. The agency purchased equipment, paid for training for staff and provided conference sponsorships. All state dollars were expended last fiscal year. The agency is pleased overall with the fiscal year closing. As always, staff is prepared to be diligent in tracking expenditures this year.

O'Neal reported briefly on the remaining Federal Formula Grant (FFG) award dollars. As of June 30, 2016, there was \$49,631 available until September 30, 2018. The Grant Review Committee met this morning to review continuation applications and will report during Friday's Commission meeting.

There has been no new Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) funding since the 2013 award. The Commission has until March 12, 2017 to spend the remaining funds of \$673. Currently, there are funds being expended by Department of Children's Services (DCS) for training programs. JABG funds are limited in the ways they can be expended; however, the Commission will look at possibilities to use these funds before March 12th. O'Neal said Congress has ongoing discussions about appropriating more money for JABG, but there are no expectations to see funding next year.

Acord asked for clarification on the \$49,631 in FFG funds. O'Neal said this money has not yet been awarded; however, the Grant Review Committee looked at continuation applications this morning and will make recommendations to the Commission during Friday's meeting. Acord asked about the time-frame for spending the federal grant dollars. O'Neal confirmed it is typically three years, and explained the 2013 JABG award received an extension until March 17, 2017.

IT WAS MOVED (ACORD) AND SECONDED (DAVIS) TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2016. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

V. FY 2018 Budget Recommendations – Linda O’Neal

O’Neal provided an overview of the FY 18 budget recommendations letter, the communication drafted annually to make recommendations on the state budget for services for children and youth. For more than two decades, the Commission has provided this letter to the Governor, leadership and General Assembly in August, earlier than required in the statute, in order to make the recommendations available prior to budget decisions. The legislature changed the law in the last legislative session and TCCY is now required to provide the recommendations by September 1st reflecting the Commission’s practice over the past twenty years.

O’Neal highlighted key issues in the budget recommendations letter. The 2016 Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Book is a valuable tool in talking about improved outcomes for Tennessee children. Although much progress has been made; Tennessee ranks 38th, down from 36th last year. O’Neal said Senator Mark Norris has reported Tennessee’s KIDS COUNT ranking in committee meetings on more than one occasion. Resource mapping is addressed and how reliant we are on federal funding. The letter talks about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and thanks the Governor and First Lady for their leadership and the ACEs summit held last year. The Commission recommends increasing ACEs funding and making it recurring for FY 17-18. There was \$1.25 million appropriated this year in non-recurring funds for ACEs.

Recurring funds would be a great investment in efforts to reduce the incidence and impact of ACEs. As we have for several years, the Commission asks to restore Child Health and Development, Healthy Start and Home Visiting Programs operated by the Department of Health to recurring funding as well as a restoration of \$2 million reduction to the programs in FY 2014 and 2015.

The section on access to healthcare focuses on the importance of the State taking advantage of federal Affordable Care Act funds. The Commission acknowledges the task force appointed by Speaker Beth Harwell to work on alternatives to full Medicaid expansion. In July 2016, the Center on Law and Social Policy and Georgetown University Center for Children and Families released a report finding that Medicaid expansion helps children by helping mothers get care for maternal depression, an adverse childhood experience.

Regarding health, mental health and substance abuse services, the letter talks about ACEs and the need for additional resources related to mental illness and substance abuse. The letter thanks the Governor for improved access to drug courts and other specialty courts for veterans and the mentally ill. As in last year’s letter, the Commission recommends improvements in reducing unplanned pregnancies through the use of voluntary long acting reversible contraceptives (LARC). Again in the section

on child welfare and juvenile justice, we continue to stress the importance of increased and recurring funding for ACEs efforts and suggest this could be a legacy for the current administration. The department has made progress in child welfare and juvenile justice and continues to improve services for youth aging out of custody.

The letter includes a reference to the recommendation by the Second Look Commission (SLC) regarding adequate quality death scene investigations. It addresses the importance of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) funding and recommends funding be increased to \$20,000 per county, per year.

In the education section, the letter talks about ensuring Pre-K programs in Tennessee are high quality. We address the importance of Family Resource Centers and Coordinated School Health Programs and the need for these programs to be better funded. It discusses improving child care and implementing the evidenced-based two generation approach to reducing poverty.

The letter concludes with the Commission's support of funding to effectively address the problem of human trafficking in Tennessee. Hard copies of the TCCY Budget Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 will be mailed to the recipients as well as delivered via e-mail. O'Neal said Steve Petty did a great job in July working on the recommendations and preparing this draft.

Acord said he was very impressed with how the agency has inserted ACEs throughout the letter emphasizing the importance of funding the initiative. Sigler asked if poverty is one of the original ACEs and O'Neal said no; however, poverty is known to be a significant predictor of outcome and wellbeing.

IT WAS MOVED (DUNKIN) AND SECONDED (HOUSTON) TO ACCEPT THE FY 2018 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

VI. TCCY Budget Reductions/Cost Increases for FY 2018 – Linda O'Neal

O'Neal reviewed the four proposed cost increases for the Commission's FY 17-18 budget as follows:

1. **Authorization to accept and spend the grant awarded in the amount of \$302,325 to TCCY from The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS).** TDMHSAS applied for a federal grant to be used for increased efforts to expand System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT). The grant includes funds for the Commission to hire three people located in the three Grand Regions to facilitate the SOCAT efforts.
2. **Printing costs for the *Tennessee Compilation of Selected laws on Children, Youth and Families* - \$55,000.** Historically, we have printed the Compilations using JABG funds, which are no longer available. Juvenile court judges and staff and many attorneys and child advocates use this book that is distributed

across the state by regional councils.

3. The third cost increase in the amount of \$244,000, is three-fold as it requests:

- a. To increase the existing CASA programs from \$18,000 to \$20,000 per county,
- b. Funding in the amount of \$20,000 for three new CASA programs,
- c. Funding to support salary, benefits and operating expenses (\$78,000) for one position for grants management costs for the CASA grants.

Acord asked if \$20,000 was a small percentage of the CASA budgets. O’Neal said if the CASA is a single county program, then typically it is a small percentage; however, there are multi-county programs and we are asking for \$20,000 per county. Currently, there are CASA programs in 52 counties.

4. The fourth cost increase is to request funding in the amount of \$77,800 for a staff position to perform program monitoring. This cost increase is requested as a result of the recent audit and findings. TCCY does not have designated staff to perform the required program monitoring. Staff with other full-time positions and responsibilities are performing the monitoring.

Finance and Administration requested through their budget reduction instructions for all state agencies to submit a plan for a two percent reduction. Townsend and O’Neal have deliberated and believe the only way to meet the reduction requirement is to eliminate one filled position.

Houston asked what legislative committee TCCY budget falls under. O’Neal said the Commission’s budget is heard before the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and in the House it is heard before the House Civil Justice Committee and the House Finance Ways and Means Committee.

IT WAS MOVED (DUNKIN) AND SECONDED (HOUSTON) TO APPROVE THE TCCY BUDGET COST INCREASES/COST REDUCTION PROPOSAL FOR FY 2018. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

IV. KIDS COUNT Update – Rose Naccarato

Naccarato reported on the Annie E. Casey data conference she and Das attended in St. Louis in May, 2016. The two participated in intense group projects and learned a great deal while there. They had the opportunity to be part of study groups and learn about utilizing data visualization techniques. Naccarato learned how to create animations and produced short animated videos highlighting KIDS COUNT data after the national data book release. Das produced interactive maps that were released with the KIDS COUNT data as well. As previously discussed, Tennessee ranked 38th, worse than 36th the year before.

Acord asked what areas were responsible for the decline. Naccarato said the drop was largely due to indicators in the economic domain. O'Neal further stated the drop was due to children in high poverty, high housing costs and single parent families. Naccarato pointed out Tennessee has made improvements; however, those improvements are parallel with national improvements so our gap has not closed. Health was our highest ranking domain driven by the children who have health insurance. Children in Tennessee do have routes to coverage but parents are less likely to take advantage of those routes if they themselves are not covered.

O'Neal said KIDS COUNT data books will be distributed in the full commission meeting.

Naccarato reported staff is working on the state book. This year marks the Commission's 60th anniversary. The state book will have a timeline of significant events that have occurred for children both statewide and nationally in the last 60 years. The book should be ready for printing in the next few weeks. We will also provide county rankings again to be released with the state book. Staff is hopeful these will be released before the October Commission meeting.

Acord asked if the Casey Foundation is going to produce this publication indefinitely. Naccarato said Casey is investing in improving their state organization partners. They continue to look for ways to improve child advocacy in all states. Conferences like the data conference TCCY staff attended and various forms of technical assistance are examples of the work they are doing to better equip their partners. Acord said he remembers when getting data to the legislature was nearly impossible. He said KIDS COUNT has made a tremendous difference in children's advocacy, providing data to support arguments for improvement. Naccarato reported Casey is also encouraging partners to take a hard look at race equity. There are big gaps in achievement, success and school discipline. Das is working on breaking out data by race where it is available.

V. Resource Mapping Update – Rose Naccarato

Historically, the Commission hosts a larger meeting for the agencies reporting data in the spring. There have been personnel changes since the program's launch in 2009 and Naccarato thought it would be beneficial to revisit some of the initial decisions regarding the data reporting. In lieu of a bigger meeting, Naccarato and Das have been meeting with each department individually and reviewing what they are reporting and what programs they have but are not reporting data for. There is some data on transitional youth but the Commission has not had the opportunity to do much with it because the reporting from other agencies is inconsistent. This is an area being addressed in the individual meetings and they are hoping to utilize transitional youth data this year. Naccarato said meeting with and hearing from each department has been a very valuable process. There is a data-gathering launch meeting scheduled toward the end of September to get departments ready to begin reporting from the 2016 fiscal year.

The new online database was challenging. Naccarato said she is very hopeful that this year will go more smoothly. Agencies reporting data are required to have to TCCY by December 31st. The goal is to have all data received in early January and have the report prepared and to the legislature well before the deadline. The earlier the report is delivered, the more likely it can be used for informed budget decisions.

VI. Web Stats – Sujit Das

Das presented statistics on TCCY’s website for April, May and June. People are looking for data on ACEs and also KIDS COUNT. Based on total pages viewed, the highest activity was in April with 5,878 pages viewed. KIDS COUNT, Event Calendar and Commission account for the largest percentages of these views. In May there were 5,222 pages viewed and 5,477 in June. KIDS COUNT had the largest percentage in June with nineteen percent coinciding with the national data book release in June. The source for web statistics is Google Analytics.

Sigler asked why ACEs was not on the pie chart June. Das explained ACEs was just not in the top percentages for that month. Delk said staff has made changes to enhance the ACEs section of the website including easy-to-find resources about ACEs.

VII. Media Report – Fay Delk

Delk presented the media report for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The agency is no longer paying for a monthly online clipping service. With the automatic Google alerts we receive, there was little value added in paying for the service.

The agency’s print clipping service ceased to be available in October 2014, so our ability to track articles that do not appear online is limited. For example, O’Neal provided articles about KIDS COUNT from the Lake County Banner that did not show up in online searches.

Documented coverage was 207 last year and 205 this year. However, differences in the number of KIDS COUNT products promoted may help explain the lower number. During FY 2015, the Casey Foundation released two data books with state rankings and three additional reports. This fiscal year they only released three publications in all: one data book and two other publications. Delk noted the announcement of Jill Stott’s position and her tagged picture yielded over 5,000 views, and was definitely a record breaker for the agency.

VIII. *The Advocate* – Fay Delk

The June edition of *The Advocate* focused on summer issues, and July focused on Juvenile Justice issues. The August issue was about education, including information about compassionate schools. Since September is recovery month, this issue will focus on substance abuse and mental health issues. October will likely be about KIDS

COUNT and November will cover youth in transition or ACEs.

IX. Other Business

There was no further business. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

Minutes Approved by:

Russette Sloan
ASA2

Christy Sigler
Committee Chair