

STATE OF TENNESSEE
COUNCIL ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

April 22, 2021
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. CST/ 2 pm. – 4 p.m. EST
WebEx Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes 1:01 – 2:50

Attendance

Julia Barlar
Amy Blackwell
Sybrenia Boleware
Hope Bond
Tara Bray
Ty Brown
Drew Burkley
Jeremy Breithaupt
D Brown
Kama Cart
Caleb Corwin
Kiara Crawley
Kaela Cuzzone
Caty Davis
Kris Dean
Brenda Donaldson
Anjanette Eash
Megan Easterling
Lori Elam
Carey Farley
Laritha Fentress
Kimberly Fyke-Vance
Debra Granger
Tamara Hall
Amber Hampton
Benita Hayes
Richard Kennedy

Christy Holleman
Chinelle Gwartney
Ashley Jasinski
Janes Lauderdale Jr
Toni Lawal
Patrick Luther
Joe Marlin
Melissa McGee
Michelle McGruder
Kendra Mitchell
Jerri Moore
Jessica Mullins
Kayla Mumphrey
Yolanda Neal
Kelly Odum
Frank Ogilvie
Lois Oladele
Amy Olson
Hope Payne
Christal Pennic
Steve Petty
Rebecca Platt
Tracey Rednour
Jen Rich
Brent Robinson
Kathy Rogers

Delora Ruffin
Abigail Sanders
Kris Schonewill
April Scott
Elizabeth Setty Reeve
Toni Shaw
Wendy Shuran
Steven Sluder
Anessia Smith
Alysia Smith Knight
Christy Spangler
Roger Stewart
Jill Stott
Wendy Sullivan
Keri Virgo
Don Walker
Megan Wilkinson
Shirley Williams
Jules Wilson
Rachel Wilson
Tammy Wilson
Layla Wright
Matt Yancey
Sarah Younes
Dianne Young

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

Richard Kennedy, Executive Director, TCCY

Kennedy thanked everyone for joining the meeting today. He reminded participants to please use the chat box to ask any questions or provide any comments. Also, the meeting will be recorded today.

Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Keri Virgo, Director of Office of Children, Young Adults, and Families, TDMHSAS Patrick Luther, SOCAT Director, TDMHSAS

Virgo spoke about passing the Director role on to Luther. Virgo informed participants that the legislative session solidified their relationship with DHS through approval of TANF funds for continued SOCAT expansions statewide, while SAMHSA has also approved the no-cost extension for the System of Care Across Tennessee until March of 2021. SOCAT expansion in Tennessee continues moving forward and with a recent SAMSHA award for \$12 million to further expand SOCAT services, through the SOCAT Network grant, allowing for continued expansion for an additional four (4) years. Laritha Fentress transitioned to TDMHSAS in late 2020 and is coordinating statewide community engagement and referrals with the announcement of funding currently open to fund six statewide community engagement specialists part-time. We are building on the community engagement and outreach that was started with TCCY and looking to expand the Youth Councils. SOCAT Network providers will serve 13 of the 15 rural counties and the 2 outlier counties are being serviced by other SOCAT service providers. Eventually, all 95 Tennessee counties will be served through SOCAT. Virago says that May is Children's Mental Health Awareness month and they have many exciting events planned through social media. Luther said he is working to get updates out to everyone on the expansion taking place and he is excited for the future. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to email Keri.virgo@tn.gov or Patrick.Luther@tn.gov.

Tennessee Housing Development Agency

Toni Shaw, Housing Programs Manager, THDA

Shaw presented on the range of community programs available for homeowners and renters that are at risk for experiencing homelessness in Tennessee. Shaw provided contact information for each program leader.

The Emergency Solutions Grant, or ESG, is a grant funded annually by HUD that assists individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. Financial assistance is provided in the following areas:

- Funds to help operate & maintain emergency shelters.
- Essential services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- Prevention services to individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless.
- Street outreach to those experiencing homelessness.
- Rapid re-housing assistance to help get individuals and families get back into housing who have become homeless or who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

Other THDA resources:

- The new COVID – 19 Rent Relief Program. Rent and utility assistance when there has been a loss of income as a result of the pandemic.
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) – You might already be familiar with this program. Financial assistance with home heating and cooling costs.
- Weatherization Assistance Program – Assistance to homeowners with making energy efficiency improvements.
- Emergency Repair Program – Minor home repair assistance of up to \$10,000 to homeowners age 60 or over or the disabled of any age.
- Tennessee Repair Loan Program – Home repair assistance of up to \$25,000 to homeowners of any age.
- Home Modification and Ramps Program – Funding provided for the construction of wheelchair ramps and other home modifications to assist person with disabilities gain better access to their home.

TDMHSAS Housing and Homeless Services

Christy Spangler, Program Manager

Spangler spoke on the Children and Youth Homeless Services Program. They are conducting outreach to schools and shelters to reach youth and families that are high risk or currently experiencing homelessness. They provide case management and mental health services to the families as well as help connect them with permanent housing. Spangler also spoke on the SOAR Liaison program which supports those with a disability who are high risk for experiencing homelessness. The SOAR model specially trains liaisons to assist clients with applications, conduct assessments, and write an official report on client. The goal is to have a decision on within 90 days on if a client is able to obtain housing. Spangler spoke on the upcoming On Our Way Home conference hosted by TDMHSAS on homeless services in Tennessee.

Nashville Launch Pad

Ty Brown, Executive Director

Brown spoke on the primarily volunteer-driven initiative to provide housing to LGBTQ youth ages 18-24 Nashville. They are the only youth homeless shelter in Nashville and they offer services to all youth. They provide housing from November 1st – March 31st each year. Brown spoke on their struggles with Covid and how they transitioned from partnering with churches as shelters to partnering with local hotels in providing space for participants. They have recently expanded to providing case management and partner with Oasis Center to provide groceries.

Mental Health America of the MidSouth

Amber Hampton, Program Director

Hampton spoke on how to approach interactions with individuals experiencing homelessness. She addressed the importance of being intentional and using person centered language, separating the person from their struggles. Hampton stressed the need to put humanity first and goods second in order to help people overcome their barriers as quickly as possible. When helping a client, one should begin the housing process as quickly as possible and determine factors that may prevent them from qualifying for housing. Hampton closed with stating we should do what we know works:

trauma informed care, coordinating roles, replacing negative coping skills with positive ones, and affordable permanent housing.

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

Melissa McGee, Children's Mental Health Advocacy Director

McGee thanked all the presenters and gave a brief reminder of CCMH's purpose, CCMH Governance, and CCMH Network.

Closing - 2:50

Richard Kennedy, Executive Director, TCCY

Kennedy thanked everyone for their time today and closed the meeting.

CCMH Meetings 2021

June 17, 2021
August 26, 2021
October 21, 2021

Council on Children's Mental Health Purpose Statement

Design a comprehensive plan for a statewide System of Care for children and families that is family-driven, youth-guided, community-based, and culturally and linguistically competent.