

Children's Services Committee

Location: **Microsoft Teams meeting**
Join on your computer or mobile app

Date: Tuesday, 8/1/2023

Time: 1:00 P.M. CST/2:00 P.M. EDT

Staff Present: Cory Bradfield, Kylie Graves, Jeni Davis, Craig Hargrow, Richard Kennedy, Bill Latimer, Melissa McGee, Steve Petty, Rob Burke, Psasha Taylor

Staff Absent: None

Commission Members: Amy Jones, Committee Chair, Randy Butler, Ella Britt, Kelly Drummond, Steven Neely, Honorable Judge Rob Philyaw, Commission Chair

Commission Members Absent Glenda Terry, Rob Mortensen, Charmaine Kromer,

Guests: Anna Caudill, Jasmine Fernandez

1) **Call to Order – Amy Jones, Chair**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Kennedy began the meeting at 1:05 p.m. The meeting minutes will be the

2) **Approval of October Children's Services Minutes (ACTION)**

Jones asked for a motion to approve the Children's Services minutes from the May 2023 Committee Meeting.

Neely moved to approve the minutes from May 2023.

Drummond seconded. Unanimously Approved.

3) **Staff Updates**

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA)

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) hosted a hybrid meeting on 5/11/23. The meeting was held at the Lentz Public Health Center with 36 attending in person and 9 attending virtually, for a total of 45 attendees. Updates and presentations were

provided in the first half of the meeting by the Department of Health (DOH), Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, as well as the convening of the Healthy Families TN (HFT) Advisory Board. Following lunch, each workgroup (*New Member/ HFT Orientation, Workforce Development, and Common Language*) provided updates about the progress of each respected group and a call to join the groups in the future was made to all attendees. Additionally, attendees were informed, with the guidance provided by DOH, that HVLA will now rotate strictly in person and strictly virtual meetings with no hybrid options being offered, and that they should expect to meet in their selected, respective workgroups after lunch at all future HVLA meetings.

The next meeting will be on 9/14/23, which will be held virtually only, in accordance with the recommendation from DOH.

Rob Burke, the Director of HVLA, continues to attend and serve as TCCY's liaison to the Resilient TN Collaborative Summit Planning Committee. Burke continues to serve as the co-chair of the TN IECMH Financing and Policy Team, Action Team 4. Burke has been invited to participate in the Tennessee Preschool Commission and has been selected to serve as the TCCY Innovation Committee Chair. Burke is an active member of a national community of practice for home visiting programs facilitated by Start Early.

One of the goals of the HVLA contract is to develop, coordinate, and convene monthly COPs for supervisors of evidenced-based home visiting programs to support and train staff in leadership skill and development. Partnering with TDH, the Director of HVLA has continued to host COP meetings since January and has brought in experts in the field of self-care, time management, conflict management, and the importance of involving fathers in home visiting services. Additionally, all COPs have been scheduled throughout the remainder of the year with experts from important topics scheduled to present.

Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council

Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council (TNYCWC) took place on 6/15/23 at the Nashville Metro West Police Precinct with 25 attending in person and 24 attending virtually for a total of 49 attendees. This is the lowest turnout the Council has seen in over a year. Department of Health (DOH) Program Director and Director of TNYCWC believe that hosting meetings during the summer largely accounts for the decreased attendance. With that in mind, it was decided to coordinate 2024 meetings around the summer months.

Updates and presentations were provided in the first half of the meeting on 6/15/23 by

DOH and TCCY, in which the Economic Cost of Child Abuse as well as KIDS COUNT/ County Profiles were presented by Dr. Rose Naccarato and Kylie Graves. During the second half of the meeting, attendees were led to select from the following action teams to develop recommendations to guide the future work of the Council: *Policy, Data, Workforce Development/ Business Engagement, and Common Language*. The format of future TNYCWC meetings will allow for these Action Teams to meet, and it is expected that they will also meet monthly, in between Council meetings.

The next meeting will be held on 9/28/23, which will be held in a hybrid model at West Precinct Police Station.

For the Symposium, Burke has developed a planning committee comprised of partners from Tennessee, Wisconsin, South Carolina, North Dakota, and Ohio. A survey has been sent to all 50 states and territories asking for which topics they would like to hear about. The Administration of Children and Families has agreed to attend the Symposium as well as provide the opening presentation. The Symposium has been scheduled for October 2-4, 2023. At the time of this report, twenty-one (23) states have agreed to participate.

The Steering Committee continues to meet virtually on the first Thursday of the month, following the guidelines recently established in the Committee's Guiding Document. The following was discussed:

4/6/23:

- a. Feedback was provided from Children's Advocacy Days, which was held the previous month. The primary discussion was focused on ideas as to how to select presenters for future CADs.
- b. Update regarding SB0282/HB0330, sharing that both the Senate and House bills were rolled until January 2024. The Agency is continuing to push forward to fulfill its obligations in statutes, contracts, etc.
- c. Fulfilling vacancies on the TNYCWC Steering Committee. The team is hopeful to have representatives from all child-serving state agencies, General Assembly, and a parent.

5/4/23:

- d. Discussion was held regarding TNYCWC working to obtain Letters of Support from participating agencies in light of filed Senate and House bills to dismantle the Agency.

- e. The Director of TNYCWC is organizing an Early Childhood State Advisory Council Symposium (TNYCWC- comparable agencies across the country), and discussion was held on how the Steering Committee could support the event.
- f. Steering Committee vacancies were discussed again.

6/1/23:

- g. Final preparations for the TNYCWC meeting scheduled for 6/15/23.
- h. An update was provided about the planning of the Early Childhood State Advisory Council Symposium.

The Director of TNYCWC graduated from the Resilient TN Leadership Academy. The Director of TNYCWC and Program Director at DOH continue to meet bi-monthly to plan and execute the work of the YCWC. The Director of TNYCWC has attended various webinars facilitated by providers across the country to learn of practices from other states and to bring these ideas to the TNYCWC to determine if there needs to be a shift in Tennessee's practices. These include those hosted by National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, ETSU Strong Brain Institute, Engaging Research Innovations and Challenges (EnRICH) hosted by Maternal and Child Health section of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and AIMHiTN's Stories from the Field.

Resilient Tennessee Collaborative

TCCY continues to lead the RTC Coordinating Team and has recently expanded the membership to include Dr. Wallace Dixon of ETSU's Strong Brain Institute, April Scott of Centerstone, Kylan Hadley of ACE Nashville in the private sector, and Brent Robinson with TennCare. This expansion will further the networking and voice of both the public and private sectors in this work.

TCCY coordinates meetings of the RTC Coordinating Team as direction support for Resilient Tennessee Collaborative. The Coordinating team meets monthly to collaborate and provide information from statewide partners.

RTC Summit – May 10th - The RTC Summit was very successfully and included national, state and regional experts with approximately 200 person in attendance in person and 30 persons in attendance at watch parties in Memphis, Chattanooga and Knoxville. The Summit was held on May 10th in Nashville at Trevecca Nazarene University's Boone Convocation Center and brought together providers, leaders, advocates, educators, peers, family members, government, and other disciplines working with children and families from across the state for networking, conversation and system infrastructure

building.

RTC Networking Meeting – August 23rd – The next RTC quarterly networking meeting will be held on August 23rd at the Tennessee State Library and Archives with hybrid option for attendance.

Community

McGee and Russette Marcum Embry supported two TCCY Interns over the past year, completing their time with us in May. Specifically, Kate Keese supported McGee's work and had a key role in planning and execution of the RTC Summit.

2023 Meeting Dates for the RTC:

August 23rd

November 15th

McGee and Kennedy took part in a panel of state agencies at SAMHSA's Interagency Task Force for Trauma Informed Care's upcoming ***Creating an Agenda for Trauma-informed Care: What have we learned and charting our way forward*** summit in Rockville, MD, at the end of July. Kennedy reported the idea for the task force meeting came from a conversation between TCCY staff and a staff person at SAMSHA who was doing graduate work at Vanderbilt University.

McGee continues to provide presentations to regional councils, including the South Central Council in May and will visit with the Northwest and Southwest Councils in August. McGee attended the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network's Advisory Council retreat at Fall Creek Falls in June and presented on session and led one workshop at the System of Care Across Tennessee's statewide partner in-service training at Pickwick Landing State Park. She continues to participate in the advisory councils, task forces, and other groups supporting improving family and children's lives in Tennessee.

Youth Transitions Advisory Council

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council met June 22nd at Metro Nashville Police Department Hermitage Police Precinct and virtually via Microsoft Teams. Approximately 100 people attended in-person and virtually.

The meeting featured multiple updates from the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, including the regular update from the Office of Children,

Young Adults, and Families, as well as the Youth Engagement Coordinator and Director. Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey, among other announcements, discussed a restructuring underway at TDMHSAS, and the creation of a new Assistant Commissioner-level position overseeing all children and youth programming. Another TDMHSAS update focused on Project AWARE, a partnership with the Department of Education providing school-based services. Also related to school-based mental health programs, Dr. Bernadette Melnyk, the creator of COPE, a manual-based framework for implementing cognitive behavioral therapy in non-clinical settings, presented on the program. She was joined by two graduate students at the University of Tennessee Knoxville who recently implemented COPE in a school setting pilot.

Rose Naccarato reported on the aspects of TCCY's Resource Mapping that relate to Children's Mental Health. Nathan Payne from the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations reported on the TDMHSAS-funded Collegiate Recovery Program. The meeting also featured the usual YTAC presenters: the Office of Independent Living Services within the Department of Children's Services; Youth Villages' LifeSet program; and the EFC Resource Centers including River City Youth Collective, and Youth Connections.

The next meeting of YTAC is scheduled for August 10th at the Lentz Public Center as well as virtually. It will tentatively feature a panel of Young Adult Leadership Council participants.

Bradfield is in conversations with YTAC participants and Director of Statewide Partnerships to consider ways that YTAC could improve participant engagement, including potential working groups and a steering committee.

Preparations for the 2023 YTAC Annual Report are underway, including a look at potential recommendations. The report is due to the TN General Assembly on October 31st.

Council on Children's Mental Health (CCMH)

The second quarterly meeting of the Council on Children's Mental Health was held June 22nd at Metro Nashville Police Department Hermitage Police Precinct and virtually via Microsoft Teams. Approximately 100 people attended in-person and virtually.

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The next CCMH meeting is scheduled for September 21st and will be held at the TN State Library and Archives as well as virtually.

Along with the Executive Director and the Director of Statewide Partnerships, the CCMH Director is conducting outreach to the relevant appointing authorities to ensure that membership of the council is consistent with the requirements in the statute that authorizes the council. Since these efforts have been underway, new appointments have been made by the Commissioners of the Departments of Human Services, Children's Services, and Health. Additionally, all four required statutorily required parent representatives and both required youth members have agreed to serve on the council.

The CCMH Director participates in community and statewide meetings supporting children's mental health in Tennessee, including the Infant and Early Childhood Financing Policy State Team, where he serves, along with the Director of the Young Child Wellness Council, as co-chair of the Policy Action Team. Bradfield continues to serve on the Child Care Board of Review.

Second Look Commission

The Second Look Commission Meeting met on June 13th. Members reviewed four cases

from FY22, two alleging sexual abuse cases, one physical abuse and one drug exposed child. During the open portion of the meeting members discussed the recently published Cost of Abuse in Tennessee report completed in partnership with The University of Tennessee's Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research. The next meeting is August 8th.

Preliminary Findings from the June meeting include:

- Members noted concerns with consistency regarding the availability and access of forensic interviews.
 - Note for recommendation regarding cloud-based forensic interview software Vidanyx.
- In one case, members questioned if the mother had gone through enough services and treatment prior to the children returning home. Members noted anger management classes were not on the alleged perpetrator's perm plan, but strongly felt they should be.
- Members questioned why there was not a hair follicle test done on the alleged child victim after several allegations of drug exposed child.
- In one case, a request to transfer to family support services was not accepted because the parents had not been compliant with their perm plan. Members noted concern that these are the type of cases that are in need of FSS.
- In one case, a child was allowed to remain in the care of a relative who was residing with someone convicted of sexual offenses.
- Members were concerned with allegations of abuse at a residential treatment center. In one case, there was staff sexual abuse at a facility.
- Allegations of contraband being provided by staff at a facility did not appear to result in a law enforcement investigation or criminal charges.
- Members questioned why a grandmother had supervised visitation with a child when she has pending criminal charges and a severe abTuse substantiation by DCS.

The Second Look Commission is up for Sunset Review in 2025. The comptroller has begun the planning process for the audit. Audit staff will begin the audit in January of 2024.

4) **Additional Items or Comments**

Kennedy reported that he along with Kylie Graves and Regional Coordinators are meeting with members of the General Assembly in their districts. The meetings are

going well.

5) **Motion to Adjourn**

Jones made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Neely seconded the motion.