

Children's Services Committee

Location: **Fall Creek Falls State Park**
Date: Thursday, 10/26/2023
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:

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

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Jones began the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

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

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

Neely moved to approve the minutes from August 2023.

Drummond seconded. Unanimously Approved.

3) **Staff Updates**

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA)

The Home Visiting Leadership Alliance held a virtual meeting on 9/14/23, in which 48 attendees participated. Updates were provided in the first half of the meeting by Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) and TCCY, and a presentation regarding Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Warmline was shared by AIMHiTN. During the second half of the meeting, attendees met in their selected Action Teams: *New Member*

Orientation/ Healthy Families TN Advisory Board, Workforce Development, and Common Language, and a report out from each Action Team took place.

The next meeting will be held on 11/9/23, which will be completely in person at Lentz Public Health Center. Additionally, all Council dates have been scheduled for 2024 as follows: 1/25/24 (virtual), 4/11/24 (in-person), 8/22/24 (virtual), and 11/14/24 (in-person)

The Director of TNYCWC has continued/ joined the work of:

- Meeting with the Program Director at TDH to plan and execute the work of the YCWC.
- Serving as the co-chair of the TN IECMH Financing and Policy Team, Action Team 4.
- Participating on the Tennessee Preschool Commission.
- Serving as the TCCY Innovation Committee Chair.
- Participating on the *Built for Babies* Zero to Three Technical Assistance Grant team.
- Joining the Leadership Team of the Family Paid Leave Policy Academy Application to PN-3, housed at Vanderbilt University.
- Attended the State Health Plan Online Focus Group.
- Co-chaired HVLA's Workforce Development Action Team.
- Attended the East Tennessee Early Literacy Conference.
- Attended the Evidence-based Home Visiting (EBHV) Summit.
- Met with the Casey Foundation to discuss the 2Gen approach Tennessee is taking.
- Met with Accenture to discuss the possibility of introducing an Eligibility Screener/ Common Application portal to Tennessee.
- Developing a proposal to create a collaborative for DCS, WIC, CHANT, and evidence-based home visiting programs.

During the Quarter, the Director of HVLA co-facilitated the following COP sessions:

7/25/23: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion- presentation by Keena Friday-Gilbert at AIMHiTN

8/29/23: Appropriate Boundaries- presented by Amelia Doggett at TDH.

9/27/23: Secondary Trauma/ Burnout- presented by Alison Peak at Allied Behavioral Health.

Burke attended the Maternal and Child Health Leaders Conference in New Orleans from 9/19- 9/22.

Topics such as the following were discussed at the Conference:

- State Maternal Health Innovation funding through HRSA.
- National Maternal Mental Health Hotline that can be access via call or text.
- Infant Health Equity Program catalyst grants.
- Considering systemic issues to address low infant birth weight.
- Disaggregating data to tell stories.
- Measuring the impact of ACEs and Child Mental Health
- Building Skills for Policy Development, Implementation, and Evaluation.
- Evidence-based Policy Development

Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council

Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council (TNYCWC) took place on 9/28/23 at the Nashville Metro West Police Precinct with 25 attending in person and 31 attending virtually for a total of 56 attendees. Updates and presentations were provided in the first half of the meeting by Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) and TCCY and a presentation regarding Power Mapping was shared by the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. During the second half of the meeting, attendees met in their selected Action Teams: Policy, Data, Workforce Development, and Communication, and a report out from each Action Team took place.

The next meeting will be held on 12/14/23, which will be held in a hybrid model at West Precinct Police Station. Additionally, all Council dates have been scheduled for 2024 as follows: 2/22/24, 5/9/24, 9/12/24, and 12/12/24.

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:

7/6/23:

- a. Feedback was provided for the TNYCWC meeting, which was held on 6/15/23.
- b. Committee assisted with the planning of the Early Childhood State Advisory Council Symposium.
- c. Continued discussion around 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.

- d. Developing and implementing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

8/3/23:

- e. Brainstormed ideas of Impact Stories the Director of TNYCWC could submit for the TCCY Annual Report.
- f. Began work of reviewing and making recommendations to the draft SOP the Director of TNYCWC has drafted.

9/7/23:

- g. Committee began the discussion about developing a strategic plan for the TNYCWC.
- h. The Director of TNYCWC provided an update about the planning of the Early Childhood State Advisory Council Symposium.
- i. Committee reviewed and provided feedback for an evaluation form to be used following TNYCWC meetings, which was drafted by the Director of TNYCWC.

The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Symposium occurred on October 2-4, 2023. This is a first of its kind event, which was developed here in Tennessee. A total of nine (9) presentations were shared by the Administration on Children and Families (ACF), New York, South Carolina, Illinois, and New Mexico. Thirteen (13) states and ACF attended, and there is a great desire from attendees to build upon this initial Symposium by meeting more frequently with monthly Communities of Practice and quarterly Symposiums and to expand our reach to include additional states.

The Maternal and Child Health Leaders Conference was held in New Orleans from 9/19-9/22.

The following topics were discussed at the Conference:

- State Maternal Health Innovation funding through HRSA.
- National Maternal Mental Health Hotline that can be access via call or text.
- Infant Health Equity Program catalyst grants.
- Considering systemic issues to address low infant birth weight.
- Disaggregating data to tell stories.
- Measuring the impact of ACEs and Child Mental Health
- Building Skills for Policy Development, Implementation, and Evaluation.

- Evidence-based Policy Development

The Director of TNYCWC and the Program Director at TDH 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

The Resilient Tennessee Collaborative continues to grow in supporting local, regional and statewide community engagement, collective impact, and networking efforts in Tennessee. TCCY also continues to lead the RTC Coordinating Team, meeting monthly to bring together partners from both the public and private sectors. The recently expanded membership has already provided a boost to the team and furthered developed the networking and voice of both sectors in this work.

The Coordinating Team meets monthly to collaborate and provide information from statewide partners. McGee is leading the effort to identify a partner for strategic planning, which the Coordinating Team will be involved in once the process is initiated.

Over the course of FY24, RTC continues its emphasis on supporting local, regional, and statewide efforts through quarterly networking meetings, two regional summits - one in East Tennessee in November and one in West Tennessee in the Spring of 2024, as well as a statewide summit in May 2024.

The RTC quarterly networking meeting was held on August 23rd at the Tennessee State Library and Archives with hybrid option for attendance. This meeting focused on presentations from all eight BSB Innovation Grantees for FY24.

Community

McGee continues to provide presentations to TCCY's regional councils. McGee also provided a Building Strong Brains presentation to Rural West Tennessee's Foster Parent Resource seminar in September. McGee, in partnership with the regional coordinators

of the East Grand Region, are planning one of two regional summits.

The final meeting date for 2023 will be November 15th and will be held at Nashville Police Department's Midtown Hills Police Precinct.

McGee attended the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network's statewide conference, attended the Bright Start ALIGN conference, and continues to participate in the advisory councils, task forces, and other groups supporting improving family and children's lives in Tennessee. McGee also continues to support internal TCCY related efforts, including other statewide partnership meetings – Young Child Wellness Council, Home Visiting Leadership Alliance, Council on Children's Mental Health and Youth Transitions Advisory Council.

As a result of TCCY's participation in the state-focused panel for SAMHSA's Interagency Task Force for Trauma Informed Care's ***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, McGee met with representatives from Illinois to continue cross-state collaboration in moving this work forward.

Youth Transitions Advisory Council

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council met August 10th at the Lentz Public Health Center and virtually via Microsoft Teams. Approximately 45 people attended in-person and virtually.

The meeting 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 Project Now!, River City Youth Collective, and Monroe Harding. Additionally, the council heard from the Department of Intellectual Disabilities on the Medicaid Alternative Pathways to Independence (MAPs) program, and from TN Voices about their partnership with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services known as System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT).

Another meeting of the Youth Transitions Advisory Council was held on October 5th at the Lentz Public Center as well as virtually. In addition to the usual presenters, the meeting featured a panel of Young Adults, moderated by TDMHSAS' Youth and Young Adult Coordinator.

The next YTAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 18th, 2024.

The YTAC Steering Team now meets at least once between quarterly YTAC meetings to set the agenda for the upcoming meeting and discuss other issues. The team decided to move forward to establish work groups for Housing, Education, and Employment following an intentional recruitment push, which will involve the development of a YTAC “one-pager” for distribution.

The 2023 Report is in progress and will be ready when due to the TN General Assembly on October 31st.

Council on Children’s Mental Health (CCMH)

The third quarterly meeting of the Council on Children’s Mental Health was held September 21st at TN State Library and Archives and virtually via Microsoft Teams. Approximately 65 people attended in-person and virtually.

The meeting featured multiple updates from the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, including the regular updates from the Office of Children, Young Adults, and Families, Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey, as well as the semi-regular review of the data from the System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT) data team. Megan Gaylord from Youth Villages presented on their Shield of Care suicide prevention program. From TCCY, the council heard from Policy Specialist Kylie Graves on Best Place for Working Parents, and Children’s Mental Health Director Melissa McGee on the Resilient Tennessee Collaborative.

The next CCMH meeting is scheduled for November 16th and will be held at the TN State Library and Archives as well as virtually.

The CCMH Director, Kennedy, and Petty are conducting outreach to fill the statutorily required appointments to CCMH from the Community Service Agency and the Juvenile and Family Court Justices.

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. The Policy Team was selected to participate in a Paid Family Leave Policy Academy hosted by the Prenatal to Three Policy Impact Center at Vanderbilt. Bradfield led the application process, which was competitive among U.S. states. Bradfield continues to serve on the Child Care Board of

Review.

Second Look Commission

The Second Look Commission Meeting met on August 8th. 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, new members were introduced, and the members discussed the upcoming audit in 2025. The next meeting is August 8th.

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**

5) **Motion to Adjourn**

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