

## Youth Justice Committee

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Location: **Teams Meeting**  
Date: Friday, 8/11/2023  
Time: 10:00 A.M. CDT

**Staff Present:** Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir., Jeni Davis, Wendy Pickering, Marquita Moore, Russette Marcum-Embry, Vicki Taylor, Rob Burke, Zanira Whitfield, Kylie Graves

**Staff Absent:** None

**Commission Members Present:** Acting Chair, Amy Jones, Judge Sharon Green, Judge Robert Philyaw, Dr. Altha Stewart

**Commission Members Absent:** Chair Charmaine Kromer, Rob Mortensen, Glenda Terry, Stan Settles

1. **Call to Order -**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Jones called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. **Approval of May 2023 Youth Justice Meeting Minutes (ACTION)**

**Jones asked for a motion to approve the May 2023 Youth Justice Committee minutes.**

**Judge Green made a motion to approve, Judge Philyaw seconded, and all approved.**

3. **Staff Updates**

**Ombudsman Update - Russette Marcum-Embry**

Marcum-Embry reported 20 new referrals were received for the months of April, May, and June of 2023. As of the end of June, Marcum-Embry was working 15 open cases.

Please refer to Ombudsman Program graphs for demographic information.

Ombudsman program has implemented an online reporting option for referents. Marcum-Embry reported the form is working well and has helped to streamline intake process.

Marcum-Embry attended two meetings of the USOA Children and Families Chapter, and one CFTMs. She also had the opportunity to attend the Million Girls Moonshot in Atlanta along with representatives from the TN Afterschool Network. While focused on girls in STEM, the conference also had a strong youth engagement component.

Marcum-Embry continues to serve on the Children and Families Chapter of the USOA, and as TCCY/Kennedy's representative on the Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Judge Philyaw asked for a brief overview of the types of cases the program receives. Marcum-Embry referred to the Ombudsman program handouts provided for the committee.

### **Federal Formula Grant Update - Vicki Taylor**

TCCY request for proposals were distributed statewide in June and the deadline for return was July 17th. Taylor reported thirty applications were received.

A Grant Review Committee training was held on July 10. The Grant Review Committee met to review applications and the Full Commission will meet to decide on applications.

The Chattanooga NAACP held a Juvenile Justice Seminary on June 17, 2023, and requested TCCY to present on state level youth justice issues. Judge Philyaw and Marissa Player-Montgomery were presenters.

The 2023 Coalition on Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Conference was held May 24-26 in Washington DC, and several staff and commission members met with TN delegates during Hill Day. Whitfield, Noblit and I attended the conference sessions and Whitfield participated in a panel discussion on providing an effective compliance monitoring system.

The TJCSA Annual Conference was held August 13-16 in Knoxville, TN and several TCCY staff will attend.

The OJJDP Title II Formula Grants Solicitation was received on July 5 and we are working to complete it by the August 21<sup>st</sup> due date.

## **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders Update - Zanira Whitfield**

Whitfield reported she is still waiting on OJJDP to open the online OJJDP Compliance Monitoring Tool to input FY 2021-2022 compliance monitoring data in order to complete the Annual Compliance Monitoring Report. For the current compliance monitoring cycle (10/1/22 to 9/30/23) thus far there are 13 DSO violations. Youth justice staff and Regional Coordinators continue to monitor facilities and provide technical support.

## **Grant Monitoring Update - Wendy Pickering**

Contract and Compliance Monitoring Update – Wendy Pickering

### *Grant Contract Monitoring Update*

- Pickering has completed all 2022 CASA Monitoring Reviews.
- Pickering has completed all 2023 CASA site visits and 25% of desktop reviews.
- Pickering has begun scheduling 2023 Federal Formula Grant site visits.
- Pickering has met with program directors for all 2023 Federal Formula Grant Desktop Reviews
- Pickering has reviewed and approved all CASA Corrective Action Plans thus far.

### *Compliance Monitoring Update*

- Pickering has accompanied Taylor on visits to county jails, court houses and youth development centers.
- Pickering has accompanied Whitfield on visit to Rutherford County Detention Center.

Pickering also reported she was asked to join the board of directors for a new non-profit organization called Equally Created.

## **Racial and Ethnic Disparities – Craig Hargrow**

Noblit conducted the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Council on Youth Justice event on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

# MINUTES

The presenters were Court Administrator and Media Contact (Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Juvenile Court) and ADA Stacy Miller. They gave an overview of the Nashville juvenile court system and discussed the importance of early intervention and diversion programs.

While employed with TCCY, Noblit participated in monthly calls from OJJDP around R/ED. Noblit also participated in monthly DCS meetings concerning DCS policies and procedures that affect youth of color.

Noblit joined other youth justice staff at the CJJ Annual Conference in Washington D.C. on May 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. Noblit also participated in Hill Day with members of the SAG/Commission, Richard Kennedy, and Craig Hargrow.

Hargrow reported Linda Copeland, the new Director of Youth Justice, will begin at TCCY the first week in September.

Graves provided a brief update on the legislative visits she and Kennedy have been scheduling across the state.

4) **Meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.**

Prepared by: Russette Marcum-Embry