

Children's Services Committee

Location: **William R. Snodgrass, TN Tower**
Date: Thursday, 2/15/2024
Time: 2:45 P.M. CST

Staff Present: Richard Kennedy, Exec. Dir., Jeni Davis, Jerri Moore, Jill Stott, Kristi Paling, Lindsey Cody, Melissa McGee, Steve Petty, Craig Hargrow, Bill Latimer, Carla Walker, Marissa Player – Montgomery, Psasha Taylor, Russette Marcum - Mabry, Sujit Das, Zanira Whitfield, Rose Naccarato, Vicki Taylor, Wendy Pickering, Gabriella Smith, Cory Bradfield, Rob Burke, Jonquil Newland, Linda Copeland, Brian Jefferies, Marquita Moore, Lea Brandon.

Staff Absent: None

Commission Members: Amy Jones, Chair, Randy Butler, Raymond Jenkins, T.J. King, Brandon Smith, Billy Worsham, Matt Marshall, Tracey Silverman, Allan Sterbinsky

Commission Members Absent Charmaine Kromer,

Guests:

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

Jones began the meeting at.

2) **Approval of October 2023 Children's Services Minutes (ACTION)**

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

Silverman moved to approve the minutes from October 2023.

Jenkins seconded. Unanimously Approved.

3) **Staff Updates**

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) Rob Burke

The Home Visiting Leadership Alliance met twice since the last Commission Meeting.

The first HVLA meeting was an in-person event on 11/9/23, in which 51 attendees participated. Updates were provided in the first half of the meeting by Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) and TCCY, and a presentation regarding an Evidence-Based Home Visiting (EBHV) Pay Study was conducted by Nurture the Next. 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 second meeting was a virtual event on 1/25/24, in which 71 attendees participated. In the first half of the meeting, updates were provided by TDH, TCCY, Tennessee Early Connect, and Kylie Graves presented the State of the Child Report. The second half of the meeting consisted of attendees meeting in their respective action teams as outlined above.

The next meeting will be held on 4/11/24, which will be completely in person at Children and Family Services. Additionally, all Council dates have been scheduled for the remainder of the year as follows: 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.
- Joined in the work of the TN IECMH Financing and Policy Team, Action Team 1 to discuss support of EBHV, to include sustainability, workforce development, limited resources in rural areas, and communication barriers.
- 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.
- Co-chairing HVLA's Workforce Development Action Team.
- Met with the Casey Foundation to discuss Tennessee's 2Gen approach and grant opportunities.
- Developing a proposal to create a collaborative for DCS, WIC, CHANT, and evidence-based home visiting programs.
- Developing and leading a committee for the advocacy of a statewide Paid Family Leave program.

Communities of Practice meetings are held the last Tuesday of every month to provide professional development opportunities for EBHV supervisors. During the Quarter, the Director of HVLA co-facilitated the following COP sessions:

- **11/28/23:** Supervising Different generations presented by consultant Will Baggett of Emergent Executives.
- No CoP was held in December due to the Christmas holiday.
- **1/30/24:** Utilizing Staff Skills presented by consultant Mark Kenny.

- The following topics have been scheduled for the remainder of the year:
 - 2/27/24 Safety and Stretch.
 - 3/26/24 Supervising neurodivergent staff.
 - 4/30/24 Coaching teams through performance, change, and improvements.
 - 5/28/24 Improving practices of reflective supervision for leadership.
 - 6/25/24 Peer Support.
 - 7/30/24 Inclusive leadership.
 - 8/27/24 Ghosts in the Nursery.
 - 9/24/24 Psychological safety.
 - 10/29/24 Addressing concerns and conflicts through a trauma lens.
 - 11/26/24 Using technology to engage others.

Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council Rob Burke

Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council (TNYCWC) took place on 12/14/23 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 attendees met in their selected Action Teams: *Policy, Data, Workforce Development, and Communication*, and a report out from each Action Team took place. The second half of the meeting consisted of presentations about the State Policy Roadmap from Dr. Cynthia Osborne from Prenatal to Three Policy Impact Center at Vanderbilt as well as a report regarding the Paid Family Leave Policy Academy and Committee by Rob Burke and Feroza Freeland from A Better Balance.

The next meeting will be held on 2/22/24, which will be held in a hybrid model at MNPD West Precinct. Additionally, all Council dates have been scheduled for the remainder of the year as follows: 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:

11/2/23:

- Prenatal to Three Policy Roadmap findings
- Tennessee has been selected to attend Paid Family Leave Policy Academy at Vanderbilt.
- Updates and next steps regarding the Early Childhood Advisory Council Symposium.
- Ad hoc subcommittees were formed to take on the work of developing a Standards of Practice (SOP) and strategic plan.
- Considerations for vacancies on the Steering Committee.

12/7/23:

- a. Approval of the newly developed SOP.
- b. Final preparations for the scheduled YCWC meeting on 12/14.
- c. Paid Family Leave statewide committee.
- d. Discussion regarding an Annie E. Casey grant opportunity.

1/4/24:

- e. Committee reviewed the draft copy of the strategic plan and made suggested edits.

2/1/24:

- f. Approval of the strategic plan.

As you may recall, 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. Many states benefited from the event and asked that we continue to host similar opportunities.

- A planning team was developed with volunteers from Tennessee, Wisconsin, Colorado, and Nevada.
- A monthly Community of Practice (CoP) will now be held the fourth Friday of each month and symposiums will be held in April and October.
- January's CoP had 12 states attending: Illinois, Oregon, Indiana, Tennessee, Connecticut, Alaska, Colorado, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nevada, Iowa, New Mexico, and South Carolina.

- Considering engagement at both the symposium in October and the first CoP in January, 19 different states have attended included those aforementioned as well as: Michigan, Ohio, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.
- 11 other states have been responded that they are in support of such work and plan to attend in the future, including: Pennsylvania, Maryland, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, and Arizona

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
- Joining the TN IECMH Financing and Policy Team, Action Team 1.
- Participating on the Tennessee Preschool Commission.
- Serving as the YCWC Policy Action Team Chair.
- 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.
- Recently joining the ACE Nashville Policy Workgroup.
- Served on the Child Care Board of Review.
- Completed Youth Mental Health First Aid Training.
- Met with the Casey Foundation to discuss Tennessee's 2Gen approach and grant opportunities.
- Met with South Carolina partners to discuss the possibility of collaborating to bring an Eligibility Screener/ Common Application portal to Tennessee.
- Met with several community partners to discuss the ability to collaborate to create a statewide parent advisory council.

The Director of TNYCWC:

- Attended a Paid Family Leave Policy Academy hosted by Prenatal to Three Policy Impact Center at Vanderbilt in November. This has resulted in a new committee being developed to advocate for a statewide Paid Family Leave program.
- Is leading an initiative to provide monthly collaborations with other early childhood state advisory councils across the country. At present, 19 states have participated, and 11 others are interested.
- Has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), a strategic plan, and a draft Policy Evaluation Guideline to establish standards and guide the work of the TNYCWC.

Resilient Tennessee Collaborative Melissa McGee

The Resilient Tennessee Collaborative has furthered the strong foundation of Building Strong Brains Tennessee. As RTC continues to grow in supporting local, regional and statewide community engagement, collective impact, and networking efforts in Tennessee, the next step of engaging in a strategic planning process began in February.

The Resilient Tennessee Collaborative Coordinating Team received four proposals to lead the strategic planning process, with a proposal from Aurrera Health Group gaining the endorsement of the group. Aurrera Health Group is a mission driven health policy consulting firm that supported the state of California in the planning and execution of the ACEs Aware initiative and established Pathways to Resilience, a national initiative to help states and communities develop more trauma responsive policies and programs, among other relevant work. Aurrera began meeting with the TCCY team, as well as the Coordinating Team and individual members, in February, including an onsite kick off meeting on February 12th. The strategic planning work will continue through the end of FY24, with presentation of a plan to include identified success metrics and resources.

The RTC Coordinating Team continues to meet monthly to bring together partners from both the public and private sectors. The membership includes partners from both sectors and has recently added a representative from AIMHiTN. This diverse membership has already provided a boost to the team and furthered developed the networking and voice of both sectors in this work.

Community

McGee continues to educate partners through various engagements statewide. McGee also provides an occasional Building Strong Brains Tennessee presentation and recently presented and conversation with adults/parents/caregivers at the Girls Leadership Summit in Chattanooga.

McGee attended the Rural Health Association of Tennessee's Conference in November and in combination with Kennedy and Graves, provided an overview of TCCY to ETSU's Child and Family Health Institute webinar series. She 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.

Events

Over the course of FY24, RTC continues its emphasis on supporting local, regional, and statewide efforts through quarterly networking meetings and two regional summits - one in East Tennessee in November 2023 and one in West Tennessee in the Spring of 2024. Additionally, planning has begun for the second annual statewide summit to be held at Trevecca University on May 8, 2024. Further details will be available after completion of Children's Advocacy Days.

The Resilient Tennessee Regional Summit for the East Grand Region was held on November 3rd in Knoxville at Calhoun's on the River from 9 am – 2 pm ET. Speakers includes Dr. Wallace Dixon of ETSU/Ballad Health's Strong BRAIN Institute, Dr. Keith Bailey of Harmony Family Center, Mathew Portell of PACES Connection, and Jen Trail with Tennessee Department of Health. The West Tennessee Summit will be held on April 4th and in conjunction with partners from their Knowledge Mobilization Team, including United Way, UT SWORPS and West Tennessee Healthcare.

RTC Networking Meeting – The final networking meeting of 2023 occurred on November 15th as a hybrid option. RTC attendees heard from Dr. Kelly Graves of Resilient North Carolina and the Kellin Foundation, Tia Hartsock, the Director of the Hawaii Governor's Office of Wellness and Resilience, Kylan Hadley, Director of ACE Nashville and ETSU's Strong BRAIN Institute graduate students who created the Appalachians Highlands and Resilient Tennessee resource guides. The next RTC quarterly networking meeting will be a hybrid meeting focused on education initiatives across the state. The first RTC Networking meeting will be held on February 21st with a focus on education related efforts across the state that support resiliency building and improved system interconnectedness.

Youth Transitions Advisory Council Jordan Walley

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council met January 18th at 1:00 virtually due to the inclement weather. Approximately 50 people attended via Microsoft Teams.

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Executive Director introduced the new Director of Youth Transitions Advisory Council, Jordan Walley. The meeting included the Extension of Foster Care Resource Centers updates.

The Department of Children's Services, Office of Independent Living Director, Assistant Director, and Youth Engagement Coordinator provided updates regarding the department.

The meeting included the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services providing the regular update from the Office of Children, Young Adults, and Families Director of Youth and Young Adults Initiatives.

The meeting also featured Tennessee Governor's Faith-Based and Community Initiative to provide an overview of the Independent Living Council as well as the TN Fosters Hope program as well as opportunities for future collaboration.

The next meeting of YTAC is scheduled for April 25th at Lentz Center as well as virtually.

Council on Children's Mental Health (CCMH) Jordan Walley

The final Council on Children's Mental Health 2024 quarterly meeting was held on November 16th at TN State Library and Archives and virtually via Microsoft Teams. Approximately 45 people attended in-person and virtually.

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Executive Director, Richard Kennedy, announced that Council on Children's Mental Health Director, Cory Bradfield, will be transitioning to Ombudsman for Children and Families. Jordan Walley will be joining Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth as Director of Council on Children's Mental Health and Youth Transitions Advisory Council.

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. Yancey also introduced Keri Virgo and Beth Goodner, the new Deputy Assistant Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner. Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation also provided an update.

Following Lunch, Caty Davis with Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services provided information and updates to School-Based Mental Health Services. DCS Centers for Excellence also presented on updates to their program.

CCMH held its first quarterly meeting of 2024 on February 8, 2024 at Metro Nashville Police Precinct West as well as virtually. Steve Petty provided announcements regarding

CCMH and TCCY. Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey discussed TDMHSAS updates, budgetary changes, increasing School Based Behavioral Health Liaison supports, as well as recruitment efforts. Kylie Graves with TCCY provided a legislative update on proposed bills concerning social media, threats of mass violence, mental health, youth justice, child welfare, and childcare. Following lunch, Krystal Fortney, Brenda Donaldson, and Sabrina Fillers presented on TDMHSAS Certified Family Support Specialist (CFSS) and Certified Young Adult Peer Support Specialist (CYAPPS) programs. Brenda Donaldson also mediated a peer support panel with Dawn Mitchell and Melanie Reynolds Curtis. Approximately 130 people attended in person and virtually.

Future 2024 CCMH Quarterly Meetings will be June 20, September 19, and November 7. All 2024 meetings will be held at the Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington Agricultural Center.

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 Policy and Planning Council, Independent Living Council, Children's Committee, and Mental Health Collaborative.

Second Look Commission Kylie Graves

The Second Look Commission 2023 Annual Report was submitted on December 28th, 2023. The first meeting of the year occurred on February 13th. Members reviewed the two death cases that occurred in FY2023 and two additional cases. The District Public Defender's Conference has appointed a new member, Ted Engle and he attended the February meeting. The Commission is still waiting for a law enforcement appointee from the Governor's office. We have sent over a couple of recommendations.

The Second Look Commission is scheduled to sunset in June 2025. We are currently undergoing an audit by the Comptroller's Office. They will be observing and doing field work until April and then will issue their final report in June.

Council on Autism Spectrum Disorder Therese Sipes

The Council on Autism Spectrum Disorder designee attended their in-person quarterly meeting on January 30th, 2024.

More than a dozen state agencies participated, including Mental Health, Education, TennCare, Children’s Services, and Strong Homes. Community voice was represented by The Arc of TN, Disability Pathfinder, and family members of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Presentations were made by Kramer Davis Health, and The FUTURE Program at the University of Tennessee.

Committee concerns focused on the potential loss of federal education funding and subsequent breadth of impact to children and youth receiving special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Additional committee discussion yielded objections to the September 2023 changes to DCS policy 31.19 (the use of mechanical restraints) and the impact on youth with ASD in custody.

The term of the current Council Chair, Michael Collins, will expire in June of this year.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 30th, 2024.

4) **Additional Items or Comments**

5) **Motion to Adjourn**

Silverman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenkins seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned.