

# Council's Committee

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Location: **William R. Snodgrass TN Tower**

Date: Thursday, 2/15/2024

Time: 1:00 P.M. CDT

**Staff Present:** Richard Kennedy, Exec. Dir., Jeni Davis, Jerri Moore, Kristi Paling, Lindsey Cody, Melissa McGee, Steve Petty, Craig Hargrow, Bill Latimer, Carla Walker, Marissa Player – Montgomery, Psasha Taylor

**Staff Absent:** N/A

**Commission Members Present:** Randy Butler, Billy Worsham, Matt Marshall, Tracey Siliverman Raymond Jenkins

**Commission Members Absent:**

**Guests:**

1) **Call to Order – Richard Kennedy for Ella Britt**

Kennedy called the meeting to order at 3:27.

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

Kennedy asked for a motion to approve the Regional Council's minutes from the October 2023 Committee Meeting.

***Silverman moved to approve the minutes from October 2023.***

***Jenkins seconded. Unanimously Approved.***

3) **Regional Coordinator Updates**

**Lindsey Cody- East Tennessee (page 1)**

1. ETCCY along with the other East Regional Councils collaborated with Children's Mental Health Advocacy Director Melissa McGee to present the "Resilient

Tennessee Summit” in Knoxville on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Calhoun’s on the River in Knoxville. Guest speakers included Dr. Wallace Dixon, Dr. Keith Bailey, Mathew Portell, and Jen Trail. Special guests included Commission members Billy Worsham, Attorney General Sam Lee, and Claiborne County Mayor Joe Brooks. The event was a great success and included all four East Regional Councils and the Regional Coordinators. The Florence Crittenton Agency was a co-sponsor of the event.

2. ETCCY included the 8 other Regional Councils to participate in an online educational presentation entitled: “Not Along: How to Support Youth Who Experience Trafficking from a Survivor Leader Lens” on January 24, 2023. The guest speaker was Lisa Bolton with the CCAHT, and a Survivor Leader known as Alyssa. She told her story which included heartbreak, betrayal, and pain, but importantly had a message of hope. The online event was hosted by Dr. Emily Hager of TSPN on Zoom. The virtual presentation had 337 participants and was very well received.
3. The ETCCY will host their annual Legislative Lunch on the River on Friday, February 9, 2024, at Calhoun’s on the River. The event is sponsored by CAMELOT and includes guest speakers City of Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, Senator Becky Massey, DCS Commissioner Margie Quin, and the Honorable Judge Tim Irwin. There are 200 registered for the event and 10 Members of the TN General Assembly have confirmed to attend.
4. Knox County District Attorney General Charme P. Allen, and Asst. Attorney General Samuel Lee are collaborating with the ETCCY to present an educational training event in April for Child Abuse Prevention Month. The event will include presenters from the staff of the Attorney General’s office, and they will also sponsor the event. This is the second collaboration with the DA’s office in Knoxville with the ETCCY.
5. The ETCCY welcomes 60 new Council Members this quarter which include 2 from Anderson County, 12 from Blount County, 2 from Claiborne County, 38 from Knox County, 1 from Loudon County, 1 from Roane County, 3 from Sevier County, and an additional 3 members from out of the East area.

**Gabriela Smith – Northeast** (page 6)

1. The Northeast Council partnered with other East regional councils to present the Resilient TN East Summit on 11/3/2023. There were 129 participants present .
2. The Northeast Council and all other Regional Councils partnered for an event on 1/24/2024 for “Not Alone: How to Support Not Alone: How to Support Youth Who Experience Trafficking from a Survivor Leader Lens” with the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking. This was a virtual event, and there were a total of 337 attendees.
3. On 1/31/2024, we partnered with Creekside Behavioral Health for “Creekside Cares: Addiction in the Adolescent Brain”. The training centered around different substances and their effects on a developing brain, and resources were shared about treatment for youth. There were 48 community partners in attendance.
4. The Northeast Council has been represented at 18 different regional community workgroups.
5. Gabi Smith has been appointed the subcommittee leader for the Carter County WIDE (Wellness, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity) committee in November. This committee is now working towards improving mental health in Carter County as well as addressing food insecurity.
6. The Northeast Council has gone from 38 members at the time of the last report to 76 members.
7. Our monthly newsletter continues to be distributed. Our email list has now expanded to 254 contacts.
8. The Northeast Council held its first Quarterly Meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> in Johnson City. This meeting was intended for anyone interested in the well-being of children and youth in our region. Topics discussed included an overview of TCCY and it’s role in child advocacy, highlights from state of the child, and an overview of 7 community health assessments by the regional health department focused on children and youth.

**Marissa Player-Montgomery – Southeast** *(page 10)*

1. The SETCCY executive committee VP presented on ACES at the Domestic Violence Summit on behalf of Regional Coordinator Marissa Player-Montgomery that took place on October 27<sup>th</sup> in Chattanooga TN.
2. Regional Coordinator Marissa Player-Montgomery participated in the following events: Girls Leadership Summit, Resilient East Tennessee Regional Summit, Safe Families for Children TN Advisory Committee meeting, Southeast Safe Kids Coalition meeting, Handle with Care Train the Trainer with Evangeline Watanabe, Early Matters Bi-monthly coalition meeting, Counter-Trafficking Alliance of Chattanooga meeting, Urban Leaders Appreciation lunch and the Gun Violence and Mental Health Planning Committee for Chattanooga.
3. Regional Coordinator Marissa Player- Montgomery and the SETCCY council along with AIMHiTN presented on Early Childhood Mental Health.

### **Russette Marcum-Embry – Mid – Cumberland** *(page 15)*

1. Marcum-Embry has met with the MCCY board monthly since the October Commission Meeting. November was an in-person meeting. December, January, and February were virtual meetings. She continues to engage with the MCCY board on a regular basis keeping them informed with updates and information. MCCY kicked off the 2024 membership drive in January. MCCY is in the planning stages for four events for the calendar year, with the potential of hosting more.
2. Marcum-Embry, with the assistance of Cobb, completed twelve Compliance Monitoring site visits in her Monitoring Universe in November. In addition, she accompanied other regional coordinators to monitoring visits for training purposes. Marcum-Embry is working hard to understand the Juvenile Justice Reform Act compliance monitoring procedures, paperwork required and report deadlines. She participated in a CJJ Compliance Monitor Group Call January 29<sup>th</sup>.
3. Marcum-Embry generated emails to existing emails lists and has already engaged with and attended several Mid-Cumberland Regional meetings. In addition to regular county health council meetings, she attended:
  - a. Rutherford County Safe Baby Court
  - b. TN Council on Developmental Disabilities Commission Retreat

- c. Rural Health Association Annual Conference
  - d. Montgomery County CAPTA/CRP Meeting
  - e. ACE Nashville Quarterly Meeting
  - f. Cheatham County State of the Child Breakfast
4. Throughout the months of December and January, Marcum-Embry delivered Compilations in all 13 Mid-Cumberland counties.

### **Carla Walker- South Central** *(page 21)*

1. Walker and the South-Central Council on Children and Youth (SCCCY) Board held a hybrid meeting on 12/7/2023, to discuss priorities for the year and elect new officers. There was a total of 15 in attendance. The Board chose two priorities: promoting positive childhood experiences and provide mental health resources throughout the region. On 2/1/2024 SCCCY held a meeting to plan events and outreach for the year. There is a plan to have a mental health summit and panel in the month of June for the local African American churches in the Maury Co area.
2. Walker helped with a nonprofit to help disseminate Christmas to needy families. Walker and nonprofits partnered with the local fire department to stand in front of Wal-Mart to collect toys and this happened for 3 weekends in December. The Community Toy Store was able to help 577 youth and over 300 adults. The toy store gave toys, food, clothing, household items, and resources.
3. Walker held a Youth Service Officers (YSO) Roundtable on December 8, 2023. There was a total of 11 in attendance. The Roundtable had the pleasure of having Megan Galloway that discussed Shield of Care, Justin Owens who spoke on Systems of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT) and Sue Fletcher who spoke on the Relative Caregiver Program (RCP).
4. The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Regional Councils hosted the virtual training, **“Not Alone: How to support youth who experience trafficking from a survivor leader lens.”** This event was hosted by Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network and sponsored by Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking. There was over 337 in attendance.
5. Walker did a job informational presentation at Columbia Central High School on October 31, 2023. The presentation gave the students information concerning

applying and interviewing for state employment. The students asked questions and asked for information about what education is needed to receive a career within state government.

**Kristi Paling- Upper Cumberland** *(page 28)*

1. The UCCCY Council awarded three mini grants this year to member agencies with council funds from membership dues. A five-hundred-dollar mini grant was awarded to the Relative Caregiver Program at the Upper Cumberland Development District for 36 care packages/boxes of household basic items not covered by SNAP benefits (such as toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and paper products) to each child/family in the Relative Caregiver program that are not currently receiving a stipend payment. One two-hundred-and-fifty-dollar grant was awarded to the Tennessee Tech (TTU) Child and Family Sciences Organization to purchase feminine hygiene products for the women at the Genesis House domestic violence shelter. One additional two-hundred-and-fifty-dollar grant was awarded to the Children in Disasters program for the purchase of fire extinguishers for distribution to Upper Cumberland early childhood educators who attend a fire safety training in May 2024.
2. Regional Coordinator Paling will be presenting data on the recently released State of the Child to the UCDD/UCHRA Policy Advisory Committee on February 7<sup>th</sup>.
3. Regional Coordinator Paling participating in the Proclamation signing with the Cookeville City and Putnam County mayors on January 8<sup>th</sup>, proclaiming January 11<sup>th</sup> Human Trafficking Awareness Day for the County. Regional Coordinator Paling also participated in the Human Trafficking Awareness Day Event on January 11<sup>th</sup> as a vendor and distributed State of the Child and County Profile information. The event was organized by the Drug Endangered Children Grant Director with the Power of Putnam Prevention Coalition and supported by UCCCY.
4. Regional Coordinator Paling is planning a Legislative Event along with the UCCCY Legislative Committee for April 5<sup>th</sup>. The initial meeting was held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
5. Regional Coordinator Paling is also planning for an additional educational event this spring. The date, time, and location will be announced in February.
6. Regional Coordinator Paling held an event on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00am – 11:00am

“HOPE” (Healthy Outcome for Positive Experiences) training with Rachel Horn and Kimberly Ladd from Centerstone. The event was a great success and well attended with 48 participants.

7. Regional Coordinator participated in the DCS Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) as a shadow on December 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> for the NE Region.

## **Dana Cobb- Northwest** (page 35)

1. Cobb hosted the NW Council on Children and Youth event, **“When the Unimaginable Happens: Helping Children, Professionals and the Community Cope with GRIEF, LOSS, & TRAUMA”** on November 9, 2023, at UT Martin. Sean Jones, Clinical Operations Officer, Carey Counseling Center, Inc. was the excellent presenter. There were 169 attendees and 22 vendors.
2. Cobb provided agency and council onboarding and compliance monitoring training for the new Memphis-Shelby County (Taylor) and Mid-Cumberland (Marcum-Embry) Regional Coordinators. Cobb spent significant time in both Regions, providing general on-boarding, attending community meetings, and visiting facilities.

Cobb conducted in-person compliance monitoring visits with Marcum-Embry to her twelve (12) assigned Mid-Cumberland facilities and with Taylor to her twenty-one (21) assigned Memphis-Shelby County facilities. Cobb provided hands on training regarding records reviews, working papers required, and completing reports.

Cobb completed her sixteen (16) assigned compliance monitoring visits and reports. Cobb also provided technical assistance and feedback to team members, Moore, and Walker.

3. Cobb, Moore, and Taylor partnered to present the quarterly West Tennessee Youth Service Officer Roundtable. On December 8, 2023, the West TN YSO Roundtable was held in Jackson at the TDOT Regional Office auditorium, as a Hybrid event, with 46 youth justice advocates in attendance, representing 15 counties and 12 agencies from across West Tennessee. Attendees heard presentations from Evangeline Watanabe from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations-Handle with Care and Regina Henning with Child Care Resource and Referral/Signal Centers. Evangeline presented on Handle with Care updates

and progress across Tennessee with an emphasis on West Tennessee. Regina gave a refresher on Adverse Childhood Experiences/Resilient Tennessee presentation. TCCY Regional Coordinators gave Council updates and discussed upcoming events, shared links to area Resource Directories, and discussed updates to the West TN Juvenile Court/Facilities Directory. Participants also had time to discuss current issues and problems they have been encountering to brainstorm resources and solutions.

These Roundtables allow juvenile court and other youth justice advocates to receive timely information, interface and connect with other Court staff and build a support system.

4. Cobb participated in the Department of Children Services' (DCS) Child and Family Service Review (CFSR), a process including an assessment and case reviews for the Children's Bureau to monitor state child welfare programs and compliance with federal regulations. Cobb shadowed a SW Regional case, which included a comprehensive case review, numerous virtual meetings, and in-person interviews with the child and their family.
5. Cobb convened a NW Council on Children and Youth Virtual Board meeting on February 5, 2024. There were fourteen (14) Board members in attendance. The outgoing President presided over her last meeting. The Vice-President will assume the two-year role of NW Council President. The Board voted to add a new Board member and will continue to identify and recommend potential Board members from counties not represented. The NW Council Treasurer provided the financial report. Cobb provided a mid-year summary of training events held and scheduled future events.

### **Psasha Taylor- Memphis - Shelby** *(page 45)*

1. Taylor attended the 2023 Birth Justice Tribunal "A People's Tribunal to End Obstetric Violence & Obstetric Racism in Memphis, TN. This event we heard testimonies from women and families who have experienced obstetric racism or obstetric violence. The statements and information provided by the guest was intended for educational purposes and to catalyze action.
2. Taylor participated in the United Way Community Impact Fund site visits. During this time, Taylor visited 3 different organizations to learn about their



programs, who and how many people they served in the past year. Taylor submitted information to United Way on how impactful the organization and programs are, if they should be funded for another year, and how does the community benefit from the organization/ programs.

3. Taylor, Moore, and Cobb continue to partner to present quarterly West Tennessee Youth Service Officer Roundtables. On December 8, 2023, the West TN YSO Roundtable was held in Jackson at the TDOT Regional Office auditorium, as a Hybrid event, with 46 youth justice advocates in attendance, representing 15 counties from 12 agencies from across West Tennessee. Attendees heard presentations from Evangeline Watanbe, Statewide Handle with Care Coordinator, and Regina Henning, reviewing ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences.) TCCY Regional Coordinators gave Council updates and discussed upcoming events, shared links to area Resource Directories, and discussed updates to the West TN Juvenile Court/Facilities Directory.
4. Taylor met with Cobb to receive OJJDP compliance monitoring training. Taylor and Cobb reviewed over 500 juvenile logs to complete the reports for the 21 Shelby County compliance monitoring facilities which include area County Jails, Memphis Police Department Precincts and Bureaus, Shelby County Court Holding Facility, and the Shelby County Juvenile Detention Center. During each visit Taylor completed complication delivery and confirmed additional contacts for reference. Taylor and Cobb toured the new Youth Justice and Education Center located on Old Getwell and meet with staff about the facility and programs that they have.
5. Taylor held a Memphis-Shelby County Council Board Meeting on January 19, 2024. Business included: welcoming new board members, reviewing Council financials, questions about the bylaws, membership, legislative breakfast, and training opportunities. The Board is planning to meet monthly to discuss training opportunities.

## **Jerri Moore- Southwest** (page 50)

1. Southwest Council on Children and Youth partnered with United Way of West Tennessee to present ALICE Conference at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Educational Center. The event included speakers and panelists presenting on financial instability, healthcare access, housing, 2023 Kids Count Data, literacy, childcare access, Best Place for Working Parents, and so much more. Over 120

attendees participated in these discussions and contributed to action planning to improve outcomes across West Tennessee based on the topics discussed.

2. Moore, Cobb, and Taylor partnered to present the quarterly West Tennessee Youth Service Officer Roundtable. On December 8, 2023, the West TN YSO Roundtable was held in Jackson at the TDOT Regional Office auditorium, as a Hybrid event, with 46 youth justice advocates in attendance, representing 15 counties and 12 agencies from across West Tennessee. Attendees heard presentations from Evangeline Watanabe from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations-Handle with Care and Regina Henning with Child Care Resource and Referral/Signal Centers. Evangeline presented on Handle with Care updates and progress across Tennessee with an emphasis on West Tennessee. Regina gave a refresher on Adverse Childhood Experiences/Resilient Tennessee presentation. TCCY Regional Coordinators gave Council updates and discussed upcoming events, shared links to area Resource Directories, and discussed updates to the West TN Juvenile Court/Facilities Directory. Participants also had time to discuss current issues and problems they have been encountering to brainstorm resources and solutions.

These Roundtables allow juvenile court and other youth justice advocates to receive timely information, interface and connect with other Court staff and build a support system.

3. Moore continues to serve as a member of the Madison County Children's Cabinet formed to improve the wellbeing of children and families in and around Madison County. The Cabinet recently reached the first year of operating to address four priorities: Improving housing stability for children and families, decrease incidents of youth violence and crime, increase access to high-quality childcare and early education and improve mental health outcomes for children and caregivers. Local press releases recently went out to announce this milestone and emphasize the data-driven work that the cabinet is still undertaking with guidance from information from sources including County Profiles on Child-Wellbeing and State of the Child Reports from the TN Commission on Children and Youth. In addition to Moore serving on this cabinet, please note that two of TCCY's Commission Members, Matt Marshall and T.J. King, also serve and contribute to this cabinet with their own expertise.
4. Moore continues to serve as the Chair of the Region VI Children's Subcommittee of the Region VI Planning and Policy Committee for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. During this quarter, the committee and

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all subcommittees meet regularly to discuss, prioritize, and complete a list of Needs for 2024 to present to TDMHSAS as possible additions to programs and budget items.

5. Moore and Cobb were asked to serve on a Macro-Level Advocacy Panel for the Master of Social Work Class for Union University to discuss how advocacy for children and families happens beyond direct service. The students were attentive and discussed actively.

## **Motion to Adjourn**

- 4) ***Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 4:04 P.M.***

Prepared by: Steve Petty