



TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON
CHILDREN & YOUTH

Youth Transitions Advisory Council
Thursday June 23rd, 2022
10:00AM-2:00PMCST
Tennessee State Library and Archives

Cory Bradfield
Richard Kennedy
Melissa McGee
Steve Petty
Stephanie Athalone
Tiffany Robertson
Taylor Moss
Kylie Graves
Ben Turner
Don Walker
Laritha Fentress
Billy Worsham
Wacovia King
Ashley Seibert
Ashley Jasinski
Keri Virgo
Elizabeth Setty Reeve
Troy Jenkins
Amber Neubert
Melanie Curtis
Jerri Moore
Danielle Jackson
Rob Cotterman
Jeremy Breithaupt
Ashley Phillips

Jill Murphy
Megan Grinder
Wendy Sullivan
Lakeia Comer
Tiffany Turnage
Amy Olson
Jassmyn Alexander
Justin Owens
Wendy Spence
Brenda Donaldson
Jackie Owens
Kim Peer
Susan Cope
Brittney Jackson
Fiona Hoehn
Beth Walser
Melissa Cherry
Stephanie Etheridge
Brad Franks
Mary Fox
Jessica Mullins
Krystal Fortney
Marry Nell Bryan
Melissa Binkley
Kaela Cuzzone

Sarah Younes
Jon Berestecky
Lauren Dixon
Mike White
Amy Jordan
Toni Lawal
Kayla M. Mumphrey
Ryan Graham
Ginger Harris
Christy Spangler
Gala Johnson-Murray
Heather Barham
Roger Stewart
Brandy Thomas-Wade
Dana Cobb
Christine LaPlante
Nero Gobin
Kelli Celsor
Heather Tribble
Maggie Renshaw
Crystal Hutchins
Rob Burke
De'Edra Lewis-Johnson

Welcome/Introductions - Richard Kennedy & Rob Cotterman

Kennedy welcomed attendees and introduced the incoming CCMH and YTAC director, Cory Bradfield. Bradfield previously served as the director of the Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council at TCCY. Bradfield briefly greeted the attendees. Kennedy thanked Melissa McGee for her service as CCMH Director.

Cotterman, filling in for Matt Yancey, greeted the attendees and expressed gratitude for the ongoing partnership on behalf of TDMHSAS. Cotterman announced that the Governor and General Assembly earmarked \$18 million for rate increases to the TDMHSAS provider network in this year's budget. The department anticipates at a 10% across-the-board rate increase, potentially more on the substance abuse side of the department.

Cotterman also promoted the Children's Behavioral Health Safety Net, which provides essential outpatient mental health services to un-and-under-insured children aged 3-17 that meet additional criteria.

TDMHSAS is certifying CYAPSS – Children and Young Adult Peer Support Specialists. Seven are currently certified with another training approaching in July.

Keri Virgo introduced Dr. Danielle Jackson as the new SOCAT Director.

Kennedy provided TCCY Updates – The State of the Child report, and accompanying county profiles, were released and are available on the TCCY website. The annual Resource Mapping report, which tracks state and federal dollars spent in Tennessee across five domains – safe, educated, healthy, nurtured & supported, and engaged in meaningful activities – is on the TCCY website as well.

TCCY, in their capacity as the advisory body for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, voted to create a Youth Justice Partnership, which will utilize open meetings (similar to CCMH and YTAC) to address youth justice concerns.

Building Strong Brains Tennessee (BSB TN) is re-branding as the Resilient Tennessee Collaborative. It will build on the success BSB TN has had as a national leader in building trauma-informed systems. The work will emphasize building resilience in a shift from the previous emphasis on ACEs and trauma and will expand the partnership to wider participation. Particular effort will be made to engage the faith-based and business communities. The first meeting of the collaborative will be held on July 20th at Family and Children's Service.

Vocational Rehabilitation - Tiffany Robertson & Wacovia King

Vocational Rehabilitation is a program of the TN Dept of Human Services that assists individuals with disabilities in achieving their employment goals.

The presentation from Vocational Rehabilitation had the following goals:

- Provide an overview of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- Describe how a person becomes eligible to receive Vocational Rehabilitation services
- Review the types of services provided by Vocational Rehabilitation

Services described were categorized as provided to Students, Job Seekers, or Businesses.

Please see the PowerPoint presentation from 06/23 for more detail

Q: Would an 18-year-old high school graduate with an IEP (prior to graduating) qualify for VR services?

A: Yes

Q: What if the student did not have an IEP? Some parents refused accommodations due to stigma.

A: A diagnosis is required, but VR can refer to a provider to do this.

Q: Are there programs for those over age 22?

A: The programs are continuous, but the target age is set to maximize entry to the program.

Q: [unclear]

A: This question refers to the Tennessee Rehab Center (TRC) – the child in question was able to attend after VR was able to fund bus transportation. VR meets clients needs via reimbursement for the required services.

Q: Is there currently a waitlist for VR services?

A: No. In fact the program is underutilized. Sometimes referrals are for teens, and the parents' or conservator's contact information is useful when making such referrals.

Q: Does VR assist with housing?

A: No, but residential living is an option at TRC.

Q: [unclear]

A: There is no age limit to services, in fact VR is very helpful when individuals age out of other services

WIOA Youth Program - Troy Jenkins 01:13

Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act

Operates through 9 local workforce boards, statewide

Each area operates a little differently, but provides the same services.

Target population: youth with barriers to employment or school enrollment including:

- Basic skills deficiency
- ESL
- Justice-involved
- Experiencing homelessness
- Foster care/aging out
- Parenting
- Dropping out of School

Requirements (must have all 4):

- Age 14-21
- Attending school
- One of above barriers
- Low-income

14 Program elements include:

- Tutoring
- Leadership development
- Work experience
- Supportive services
- Entrepreneurial
- Adult mentoring
- Comprehensive guidance counseling
- Financial literacy

U.S. Dept of Labor (funders) require a 25% in-school/75% out-of-school split of the funds, but Tennessee has requested a waiver to split the funds 50/50.

Q: How is “low-income” defined?

A: Below median income in the given area.

TDMHSAS Housing Ashley Seibert

- The Children and Youth Homeless Outreach Project provides outreach and case management for homeless families or those at risk of homelessness to identify children and youth with Severe Emotional Disturbances (SED) or at risk of SED.
- The program also assists parents to secure needed mental health services for children and other family members in need.

- Assistance to find or restore secure housing is also provided in addition to helping with temporary financial needs such as rent, utilities, and other needs that will assist the child with SED and help keep the family intact.

Counties served (by provider):

- Case Management, Inc: Shelby County
- Frontier Health: Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington
- Helen Ross McNabb: Knox and Hamilton
- Mental Health Cooperative: Davidson, Montgomery, Rutherford, and Sumner
- Pathways of Tennessee: Dyer, Gibson, Hardeman, Haywood, Henderson, Lake, Madison, Obion, and Weakley

Emerging Adults Program:

- Strengths-based program to support young adults, ages 18-25, who have mental illness or a co-occurring disorder, as they transition to adulthood
- Targets individuals who have been either in foster care or in treatment for mental illness or co-occurring disorder
- Goal: To help young adults facilitate the successful transition from adolescence into adulthood as valued members of the community, and help them meet their maximum individual potential as positive contributors to society
- Trauma-informed approach

Please see the PowerPoint presentation from 06/23 for more detail

Lunch

Department of Children's Services - Courtney Matthews, Dave Aguzzi, & Ginger Harris

Office of Independent Living

- Prepare youth in foster care and young adults who age out of foster care for a successful transition to adulthood to become confident and productive individuals in society.
- Youth populations
 - 14 to 16 custodial youth, Independent Living Plan
 - 17+ custodial youth, Transition Plan
 - 18 to 21 aged-out youth, Extension of Foster Care
- Organization
 - DCS Central Office Administration
 - Regional Independent Living Coordinators and Specialists

Foster Youth Liaison Program

- Foster Care Youth Liaison Pilot Programs are in preparation to launch at the start of the Fall 2022 semester.
- Liaisons on campus will serve as a point of contact for former foster youth for support services.

Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic Act – 3 Elements:

- Suspension of Aging out and Permitting Re-Entry
- Chafee & ETV Services
- Public Campaign

YTAC Recommendation:

- DCS should expand eligibility criteria for Extension of Foster Care under the Federal Fostering Connections legislation to include youth who are working or engaged in activities that lead to employment. Programs should be promoted that assist these young adults with job readiness and job retention skills.

Youth Engagement

- Independent Living CampsServic
- Young Adult Advisory Council (YAAC)

Resource Centers

- **South Memphis Alliance** – Tiffany Turnage
 - Will Work – Job readiness workforce development program – connects young people with job certification/job training, living support, transportation, rent, child care while they are enrolled in the program. Qualified participants are age 18-30 and in the Memphis area.
 - Classes at SMA remain virtual, but some workshops in person are beginning to happen.
 - Sisters Saving Sisters/Brothers for Brothers sexual education classes are being held virtually.
 - The first graduation from Will Work took place the previous Saturday.
 - There is enough interest in Will Work to build up a waiting list.
 - Funded via the Cummins organization
 - SMA is seeking accreditation as a rehabilitation facility, which will create more funding and recognition opportunities on a national level that will increase capacity.
 - SMA has created a Dream Seekers board consisting of youth members.
 - SMA operates a social service resource center and laundromat.

- **River City Youth Collective** – Stephanie Athalone
 - COVID restrictions are loosening, usually outdoors and socially distanced for in-person events.
 - Sip, Sip, Hooray and Paint event with the local baseball team, art, cookout, basketball, and other activities.
 - Two youths from the programs graduated high school in May and four are beginning college in the fall.
 - Juneteenth soul food celebration & cooking class
 - Upcoming plans – first annual college tour beginning at UT Chattanooga
 - Computer lab is now operational for job seeking, social connections

Youth Villages - Heather Tribble & Maggie Renshaw

Youth Villages' Lifeset Program provides services for youth that are aging out of foster care.

- **Services Provided:**
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Housing
 - Mental & Physical Health
 - Money management
 - Resources/Community supports
 - Social supports
 - Essential documents
- YV relies heavily on research to track outcomes for youth that have been through the program and use this information to improve the program.

Youth Villages Scholars Program

- **Mission** - To provide the opportunity for young adults in transition from foster care with support to advance in the areas of education, technical skills, employment, and community service.

Extension of Foster Care Services

- Monthly case management
- One-hour sessions focus on 9 independent living categories – housing, education, life skills, social supports, transportation, employment, money management, health, and essential documents
- Court oversight

Chaffee Vendor Payment Grant

- Partnership with DCS for vendor payments for eligible young adults aged 18-22



- July 2021 thru Sep 2022
- Provided financial assistance to ~900 young adults thus far

Please see the PowerPoint presentation from 06/23 for more detail

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Justin from SOCAT – SOCAT is conducting a community needs assessment targeting 9 counties in all 3 grand divisions. The surveys will inform future SOCAT activities.

Jessica Mullins from TDMHSAS – August 22nd Young Adult Peer Leadership Academy in Antioch. TDMHSAS also promotes their Early Psychosis Conference.

Ashley Jasinski – the Regional Intervention Program has availability, including Nashville

Keri Virgo – TDMHSAS is bringing back the System of Care Conference 09/27-09/28