



**State of Tennessee**  
**TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**  
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**CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**

General Services Conference Room  
Andrew Johnson Tower, First Floor  
Thursday, February 24, 2011  
2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Committee Members Present

Tim Goldsmith, Chair  
Natasha Blackshear  
Lindsay Callahan  
Cindy Durham  
Erica Gilmore  
Marti Herndon  
Mary Ann Poe  
James Roland Reid  
Nancy Williams

Committee Members Absent

Phil Acord  
Denise Hobbs-Coker

Trudy Hughes  
Diane Neighbors  
Colonel Robbins  
Tawny Spinelli

Staff Present

Marietta Backus  
Sumita Banerjee  
Cyndy Banks  
Beverly Bell  
Peggy Carter  
Steve Chester  
Sandra Decker  
Cindy Durham

Dominick Grimaldi  
Craig Hargrow  
Peggy Haynes  
Dustin Keller  
Pam Kirkpatrick  
Frances Lewis  
Richard Kennedy  
Rosamond McLeod  
Linda O'Neal  
Gerald Papica  
Cheryl Sahlin  
Pat Wade

I. Welcome and Introductions – Tim Goldsmith, Chair

Chair, Tim Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 2:53 p.m. with welcome and introductions.

II. Approval of July 2010 Minutes (ACTION)

**MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (REID) AND SECONDED (POE) TO APPROVE THE JULY 2010 CHILDREN’S SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

III. Ombudsman Update – Gerald Papica and Dominick Grimaldi

Grimaldi referred to the Ombudsman reports and discussed the demographic information and referrals since last Commission meeting. Demographically, between October and December, there was an increase in female referrals, but age and race remained the same. Last year during the same time period, they received 38 referrals and have already received that number with five more weeks left in this quarter. The increase may be attributed to access to materials regarding the Ombudsman program. The July meeting will have a fourth quarter report to compare to last fiscal year. Smoky Mountain, Shelby, Southwest and Davidson County regions indicated an increase in referrals. Grimaldi and Papica continue to participate in DCS Child and Family Team meeting, when appropriate.

Brenda Clark, Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, contacted Papica and Grimaldi for information about TCCY’s Ombudsman program. A recent court decree requires the Office to establish an Ombudsman program. Papica and Grimaldi had the opportunity to advise and share information with her as they move toward fulfilling this requirement.

Papica invited committee members to the next regional (USOA) meeting on October 24 – 28, 2011 in Jacksonville, Florida.

IV. Council on Children’s Mental – Dustin Keller

Keller described the genesis of the Council on Children’s Mental Health (CCMH). The most recent meeting was held February 17, with introductions and a presentation by the new Commissioner of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Doug Varney. Keller briefly discussed the agenda topics and stated the attendance was the largest ever with 80 participants. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21 in Nashville. Keller announced CCMH is pending Sunset reauthorization in the legislature, which is customary for a new entity after a year.

V. Second Look Commission – Craig Hargrow

Hargrow provided a brief overview of the Second Look Commission stating its purpose is to examine cases of children with at least two incidents of abuse to identify strategies for system improvement. The composition of the Second Look Commission is mandated

by statute. The legislature requires reports annually prior to the first of each year. The first report was submitted December 15, 2010. Hargrow discussed the questions the Commission members had regarding sampling methodology, and decided to use a stratified random sampling of the targeted population.

On December 29, 2010, Hargrow spent a day at DCS Central Intake. He provided a summary of his experience.

## VI. CPORT Update– Pat Wade

Wade referred to the Memorandum of Understanding among TCCY, Department of Children’s Services (DCS) and Tennessee Center for Child Welfare (TCCW). The MOU establishes the infrastructure needed to provide and support a quality service review of children in or at risk of state custody.

Committee members asked for more information about TCCW, to which a number of members and staff responded. TCCW is housed at Middle Tennessee State University, funded by a grant from DCS, and is involved in the Tennessee Social Work Education Consortium to positively impact the quality of social work education and the overall development of the Tennessee child welfare system.

Wade provided a brief overview of the CPORT/QSR process highlighting the methodology and sampling protocol. In addition to the 22 noncustodial cases, three non-custodial assessment track cases are reviewed in each of the 12 DCS regions for the statewide cycle. Since the last Commission meeting, reviews were conducted in East, Knox, Smoky Mountain, and South Central regions. Wade referred to the recent reports with corresponding illustrative cases stating all regions so far reviewed in Fiscal Year 2010-2011 except one indicate substantial improvement in case practice.

Committee members asked about the responsiveness of the system to which Wade and Chester replied by explaining the QSR regional wrap-up sessions. Regional staff also attends the QSR reviewer sessions, review the case manager feedback forms, compare data results from the previous year, and identify specific practice opportunities and actions steps for improvement.

Wade asked the committee for feedback regarding future information or materials to include or exclude for the meetings. The committee members requested a short summary of the overall results and trend data per region. Reid is particularly interested in the results for his county and would like these data provided to the judicial system to review any judicial opportunities for improvement. Wade provided some examples of issues

related to no-contact orders and GAL services delaying permanency for a number of children, stating information about these trends was included in the packet of information the Judges received at their conference in February. Reid encouraged a presentation of QSR at the Judges conference in August.

Wade invited committee members to shadow the QSR process.

VII. Other Business

The new Commissioner of DCS is Kate O'Day. Wade identified a number of changes in staff announced since her appointment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes approved by:

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Pat Wade, Director  
Children's Program Outcome Review Team

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Tim Goldsmith, Chair

H: DRIVE/SHARED FILES/COMMISSION MEETING/MINUTES FOLDER