



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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JUVENILE JUSTICE & MINORITY ISSUES COMMITTEE

TCCY Conference Room
Nashville, Tennessee
Thursday, February 22, 2007
1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Beverly Cosley, Chairperson
Michelle Crowley
Sidney Bynum
Jim Ford
Chey Korvandi-Geledar
Carleton Lewis
Jerry Maness
Dwight Stokes
Joetta Yarbro

Committee Members Absent

Dennis Clark
Dana Lesley
Christy Little

Commission Members Present

Cindy Durham

Staff Present

Linda O'Neal, Executive Director
Debrah Stafford, JJ Director
Dominick Grimaldi
Richard Kennedy
Ron King
Ann Lowe
Philip T. McKenzie
Vickie Morgan
John T. Nixon
Gerald Papica
April Swoner
Vicki Taylor
Zanira Whitfield

- I. Opening and Approval of Minutes for November 2, 2006 – Beverly Cosley
IT WAS MOVED (YARBRO) AND SECONDED (MANESS) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINORITY ISSUES COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 2, 2006. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

II. Update on Federal Budget Proposals (ACTION) – Linda O’Neal

A Red Alert from Coalition of Juvenile Justice was emailed to Commission Members pertaining to the President’s Proposed Budget for 2008-2009 recommendation of zero funding for key federal juvenile justice programs to include:

- Title II - Formula Funds for Delinquency Prevention;
- Title V - Local Delinquency Prevention;
- Juvenile Accountability Block Grant.

The EUDL program is not included, and it is not certain what will happen to it. It is not unusual for Presidents to recommend zero funding. Congress has continued funding from hearing the states reveal that funds make a difference. The money has been cut another 25 percent and put into a competitive block grant which means all states are not guaranteed to get money. A draft letter was prepared as an action item for the Committee to recommend to the Commission. If approved, it will be sent next week to the Tennessee delegation in Congress.

Ford questioned about the level for addressing the budget considerations before going to the President. Stafford reported:

- President has zeroed out the proposed funds for past three years, such as the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant.
- When Congress works on proposed funds, the amount of money gets less, and programs are not funded at the previous year’s level but at lesser amounts.
- It is the SAGs that have helped to get the money restored.
- The Challenge Grants were phased out; JABG has been cut by 75 percent in the last four or five years; Title V has varied but is less than 60 percent of 2003.

IT WAS MOVED (STOKES) AND SECONDED (MANESS) THAT THE COMMITTEE APPROVE SENDING A REQUEST TO THE TENNESSEE DELEGATION IN CONGRESS UNDER SIGNATURE OF LINDA O’NEAL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OF TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, TO SUPPORT RESTORATION OF THE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

III. Update on DMC Task Force – Ron King

1. DMC Task Force Meeting of February 13, 2007.

- Approximately thirty people were in attendance. Handout for DMC Data Entry Sections of the three year plan update sent to the federal government was explained. Information is available for every county that has a juvenile detention center. There is the capacity to do the relative rate index to show over representation in any county.
- Stafford will work on an update on alternatives to detention. The Task Force Education Subcommittee is preparing a Resolution on education of incarcerated juvenile offenders. The issue is concerning the education youth are getting while being detained in the YDCs or the Detention Centers. When completed, the

subcommittee would like to have approval of the Resolution from the Juvenile Justice and Minority Issues Committee for presentation to the Commission.

2. Vista Volunteers. There is a new Vista volunteer in Knoxville and the Vista applicant for the Clarksville DMC Task Force is pending additional paperwork.
3. Memphis DMC Task Force. A DMC Conference is being planned in Memphis on March 29, 2007. They are working in conjunction with the County Commission to bring in Bart Lubow from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Ford brought forth concern about the media information presented to the Budget Committee. There were 115 articles on children and only three were on DMC in the newspapers. He asked whether the DMC task force is bringing to the attention of the media this issue in their areas and whether the community is being notified about DMC activities. King responded that the Memphis task force has made an impact with the media regarding their involvements with the courts, county commission and other community-wide activities.

Cosley noted the DMC groups do have the activities occurring that show priority for the issues and recommended the local groups submit notifications or articles to Pam. O'Neal stated that the training around media relations and framing issues reveals using caution in order to accomplish the intended purpose; that getting increased media coverage may not produce the results wanted. This is based on research about people's perspectives on racial issues and their understanding about it. Media coverage should be for achieving the goal.

Stafford said there have been more than three articles dealing with DMC issues. The Clarksville group has had numerous articles in the local paper pertaining to their activities. The other local DMC groups should be giving the important media coverage to Pam Brown. O'Neal agreed, and noted the local groups should be requested to send copies to TCCY of any media coverage from their areas for inclusion in the media report. The Clipping Service may not provide all of the coverage.

IV. Approval of DMC Task Force Budget (ACTION) - Debrah Stafford

The committee voted on the distribution of the funds for the federal formula grant award at the last meeting. The DMC budget was mentioned, but the actual budget line items for the DMC task force were to be voted on at today's meeting. A comparison of the proposed 2007 Budget with the 2006 Budget was given.

Changes in line items from 2006 to 2007 budget included:

- 2006 Budget – omit approved line item for Assessment Tool
- 2007 Budget –add line item Special DMC Project at \$22,000

Decreases in 2006 amounts for 2007 item amounts:

- Juvenile Justice Conferences From \$16,000 To \$12,000
- AmeriCorps*Vistas From \$55,000 To \$50,000

- Local Community DMC Task Forces From \$18,000 To \$10,000
- State/National Conference Rep From \$ 5,000 To \$ 3,000
- Mileage Reimbursement (Same) From \$ 3,000 To \$ 3,000
- DMC Special Projects (Added) \$22,000

Stafford reported Shelby County is the only one using the assessment tool and giving helpful feedback. There has not been the opportunity to revise it; bring people back to evaluate it; and make decisions about future implementation. With all the cuts, there is at least \$22,000 that could be allotted to the DMC projects that are being proposed in the federal formula grant budget.

Stafford emphasized the focus is on DMC and the data collection needed to show DMC reduction in numbers. The money for the project(s) could go for one major metropolitan area, or it could be for a collaboration of some smaller counties that would involve several agencies. All applications will be considered, and it will be for the Grant Review Committee to decide.

Ford recommended decreasing DMC Special Projects from \$22,000 to \$17,000 and increasing the Local Community DMC Task Forces (general funds) from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Cosley called for a motion.

IT WAS MOVED (CROWLEY) AND SECONDED (STOKES) THAT THE COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FOLLOWING DMC BUDGET:

JUVENILE JUSTICE CONFERENCE	12,000
AMERICORPS VISTAS	50,000
LOCAL COMMUNITY DMC TAS FORCES	15,000
STATE/NATIONAL CONFERENCE REP	3,000
MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT	3,000
SPECIAL DMC PROJECTS	<u>17,000</u>
TOTAL	\$100,000

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

V. Update on Financial Audit by Office of Justice Programs – Jim Ford

Ford attended the Budget Meeting at Finance & Administration and sat in on the entrance of the OJJDP audit and the exit conference. The auditor commented on:

- How the interest is reported. The problem was that TCCY cannot find out from F&A what the interest is in order to report it. The auditor explained how it is done and TCCY is now in compliance.
- Allocation to programs based on staff estimation of time spent per pay period. It was decided for staff to report on a Time and Effort Log the number of hours worked on a particular program instead of estimating a percentage of time.

The auditor was very complimentary on how the files were set up; how easy it was to get to the information; and how well the staff retrieved any information requested. After going through all these audits, auditors had found:

- There was not anything that was a weakness in internal control or any kind of problem with defalcation of property or cash.
- The financial integrity of the way the Commission keeps books is in good shape.
- The reports indicate TCCY is ahead in set up, statute, and other things as related to a lot of other states and departments.

Ford noted the audit reflects well on our staff in doing a good job. Stafford added anything mentioned in the audit has already been implemented. The Juvenile Justice Division staff and Regional Coordinators are designating hours worked under program area codes on a Time and Effort Log. An audit item revealed that the information being put on the spread sheet was not being input on the STARS state system. Maureen Abbey and F&A staff have started converting the information to make sure it is also put on the state system.

- VI. Update on DMC Pilot Project RFP – Beverly Cosley
The committee consisting of Judge Stokes, Rebecca Rhodes, Trish Hayes, Dennie Littlejohn, Ron King, Debrah Stafford and Beverly Cosley met in a conference call. The members were sent copies of the Request for Proposals information for the DMC Pilot Projects. Efforts were made to assure a good caliber of projects will be received. It is anticipated that we will have a good response to the DMC application. It depends on what comes in as to what will be funded.
- VII. Update on OJJDP Conference – Zanira Whitfield, Vicki Taylor, Phil McKenzie
Compliance Monitoring training occurred January 23-26, 2007 in San Diego, California. Whitfield said it was one of the better ones during the past six years she had attended. The highlight was in having all attendees to observe compliance monitoring at two facilities. Vicki noted that because it was so detailed, the compliance monitoring at the two jails was excellent. Phil stated attendees had to follow guidelines for OJJDP requested items in ten areas using the Uniform Policy and Procedure Manual. There were speakers on the Prison Rape Elimination Act with attendance by the Prison Commissioner. There was also time for off-site activities. Regional Coordinator, April Swoner also attended the conference.
- VIII. Update of Scheduled Federal Grants Training – Zanira Whitfield and Vicki Taylor
The training on Federal Formula, Title V and DMC Special Project began February 15 in Memphis and other trainings have occurred in Jackson and Nashville. The average attendance is about 40 to 50 participants. Two trainings remain to occur in Chattanooga and Knoxville. The EUDL training is scheduled for February 28, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Andrew Johnson Building.
- IX. Update of Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) – Phil McKenzie
The report included:
- There were only 44 DSO violations across the whole state at the end of six months.
 - The numbers have been going down each year; two years ago the numbers did go up but were brought back down by work of TCCY staff.

- Many of the detention facilities have reduced their numbers and Phil attributes that to efforts of TCCY staff.
- Several people at the Compliance Monitoring Conference were impressed with results obtained from JJ staff in Tennessee.

Phil inquired of Compliance Conference leaders about the fact that “if some of the smaller counties had one violation, they are totally out of compliance.” This was supposed to be discussed at the conference, but he was told it would be discussed at the next one.

Stafford stated the JJ staff and Regional Coordinators have been conscientious about monitoring and go out every month to monitor all the facilities. If it appears the county is about to go out of compliance because of their DSO violations, Phil sends a letter to the judge. The TCCY staff have made a difference by keeping in contact with the judges and facilities. She noted that if 44 violations are projected for another six months, Tennessee will be under the 120 DSO violation mark for 2006-2007. There can be 415 violations and still be compliance for the state of Tennessee.

Maness raised the issue about how to categorize ethnicity versus race. A committee is trying to put together categorization for the Administrative Office of the Court, which will make that determination. Yarbrow noted that in the statewide reporting, race or ethnicity has to be determined. At the beginning there were too many categories. The determination is essential to get good data.

Stafford elaborated that the courts and AOC are beginning to revise the data system to better track ethnicity than before. With the implementation of the new data system, it will likely be necessary to have training on race and ethnicity.

X. Update on Program Monitoring by TCCY Staff – Richard Kennedy

The following report was given.

- The field staff monitor over 80% of the facilities that are monitored in Tennessee and they are very involved in Juvenile Justice issues.
- Field staff have taken on part of the responsibility for monitoring grantees. Ford, Stafford and Kennedy met and came up with three levels for grants: high risk, medium risk, and low risk. The JJ staff handle all low risk grantees that are State Supplement/Reimbursement accounts by way of quarterly reports.
- A plan was devised to prevent monitoring of grants from becoming overwhelming. Some grantees will have to be monitored every three years; other grantees will be monitored once a year. Coordinators were switched so they are not monitoring in their own regions to avert any conflicts that could affect potential council involvement.
- Beginning with the next TCCY Commission meeting, one of the coordinators will report in the Juvenile Justice/Minority Issues Committee meeting about their experience in monitoring.

XI. Other Business

As there was no other business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes approved by:

Ann Lowe, Administrative Secretary

Beverly Cosley, Chairperson

H DRIVE/SHARED FILES/MINUTES FOLDER