



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Andrew Johnson Tower, Ninth Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800
(615) 741-2633 (FAX) 741-5956
1-800-264-0904

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINORITY ISSUES COMMITTEE

Andrew Johnson Tower Conference Room
Thursday, February 24, 2011
2:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Beverly Cosley, Chairperson
Phil Acord
Sidney Bynum
Janell Clark
Joshua Conner
Susan Lawless-Glassman
Carlton Lewis
Harold Moses Love
Timothy Perry
Dwight Stokes

Committee Members Absent:

Leon Caldwell

Also in Attendance:

Cindy Durham
Linda O'Neal

TCCY Staff Present:

Debrah Stafford, JJ
Director
Diane Baham
Ron King
Steve Petty
Vicki Taylor

I. Welcome and Introductions – Beverly Cosley, Chair

Cosley opened the meeting by thanking members for their participation and having all introduce themselves.

II. Approval of May 2010 Minutes – Committee Members

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (STOKES) AND SECONDED (PERRY) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 2010 JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINORITY ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

III. DMC Task Forces – Ron King

King reported on DMC Statewide Task Force activities for Blount, Davidson, Knox, Montgomery, and Shelby counties. Members received copies of the task forces' quarterly reports. King and Stafford explained a procedure has been initiated for task forces to follow regarding purchases of supplies, food, etc.

Cosley thanked King for his assistance with the DMC task forces. She advised Hamilton County does not yet have a SHAPE program, and that right now is not a good time to try to establish one. Cosley advised the interest is still there for the program. She thanked Stafford and King for coming to Chattanooga to meet regarding establishing a SHAPE program.

IV. DMC Budget (ACTION) – Debrah Stafford

Stafford discussed the proposed 2011 DMC budget categories. She directed members to the 2010 DMC budget in the amount of \$128,000 that was increased with residual funds. She stated the 2011 budget must go back to \$125,000. Stafford addressed the proposed 2011 budget categories and explained why the amounts for each were the same or had changed.

Stafford explained the Minority Youth Summit category in the budgeted amount of \$12,000. She advised the focus will be on youth. Cosley asked where the summit would be held and suggested involving the four major cities in Tennessee (Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville). Stafford stated travel expenses would be paid to bring children to the summit. She stated O’Neal suggested involving the Urban League and its youth group. She also suggested getting sororities involved in the planning of the summit. Stafford stated the DMC Statewide Task Force formed a youth summit planning subcommittee at its last meeting.

Durham questioned \$7,000 not expended from the 2010 DMC budget. Stafford advised some of the DMC task forces spent all of their money while others did not. She stated any money not spent is used for grantee programs. Durham suggested that money not spent by some task forces could be applied to projects like the youth summit. She asked if there were a way to track expenses of each task force. Stafford stated King will be tracking expenditures of each task force and this information would be distributed at the DMC Statewide Task Force meetings. If a task force is not spending all its money, then the funds could be put elsewhere such as in the youth summit category. This can be done for 2012.

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (PERRY) AND SECONDED (BYNUM) TO APPROVE THE 2011 DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT (DMC) BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125,000. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Stafford reported on the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s interest in starting a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) site in Tennessee. The proposed pilot site would be Memphis/Shelby County because of drastic reductions of youth going to juvenile court and because key community leaders expressed their support of alternatives to detention. She directed members to the handout which is a summary of Stafford’s and O’Neal’s discussion with the Casey Foundation and projected options for implementing JDAI.

Stafford advised the Casey Foundation does not want to go into states that do not have the prospect of developing other sites in that state. The Casey Foundation expressed the desire to have a program like TCCY partner with them for the statewide initiative. Members were

asked to review the handout questions to be addressed in establishing a JDAI pilot site in Tennessee. Stafford asked for the committee's input on how TCCY should proceed.

Stokes asked if money would be needed and Stafford advised \$100,000 had already been designated for JDAI and approved by the Commission. The money would be available for the next three years. Cosley agreed TCCY was the most practical agency to direct the site. She asked if John Hall was aware of the discussion with the Casey Foundation. Stafford responded in other states the Foundation has established a pilot site and have a state-level coordinator. She added Hall wants Memphis to be the first pilot site in Tennessee; however, the statewide coordinator would be working to expand sites across the state.

Members discussed options for JDAI implementation including possible state-level agencies to direct the pilot site(s). The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and a private, statewide agency such as Youth Villages, in addition to TCCY were options discussed. O'Neal added the Department of Children's Services could also be an option to direct the pilot site(s) or assist TCCY with the task. Stafford added this initiative had not yet been discussed with AOC.

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (STOKES) AND SECONDED (LEWIS) TO APPROVE THE CONCEPT OF A JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE (JDAI) PILOT SITE IN TENNESSEE AND TO ALLOW TCCY THE OPTION OF DIRECTING THE INITIATIVE OR EXPLORING THE USE OF OTHER PARTNERS. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Stafford stated there would need to be more conversations with other states and discussions regarding logistics. She added TCCY is very interested in directing the initiative unless it becomes more complicated than originally expected. In that instance, other options would need to be explored including partnering with another statewide agency or agencies.

Acord asked about the timeline for the initiative and Stafford stated there is no timeline. However, Memphis wants to start the pilot site as soon as possible. She added it was up to TCCY to further engage the Foundation in talks regarding establishing the pilot site. O'Neal added that TCCY already having set aside funds for the initiative could inspire the Foundation to act more quickly.

V. Program Monitoring and Audit Review - Debrah Stafford

Stafford reported on program monitoring for 2011. Staff from Juvenile Justice, CPORT and the Regional Coordinators participate in monitoring programs. Most staff will monitor two programs in 2011. Monitoring for 2011 will be done as desktop reviews (approved by Finance and Administration) except for programs that received over \$100,000 in grant funds and programs that previously received audit findings.

Stafford advised an audit by Finance and Administration was conducted regarding previous findings on program monitoring and on an account (Sunshine Club) TCCY previously had. The Sunshine Club account no longer exists. The auditors had no issues with program monitoring. Program monitoring is continually improving.

VI. Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) Violations – Vicki Taylor

Taylor reported on Tennessee DSO violations by county from July 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010. There were 25 violations (up by three) during the last six months of 2010. Philip McKenzie conducted training in Clay County after that county's numbers increased. Cosley asked members to review the handouts on violations, especially "Detention Statistics by County."

VII. Federal Budget Proposal – Debrah Stafford

Stafford directed members to the handout regarding President Obama's 2012 budget and the proposed reductions in funding for juvenile justice programs. TCCY composed a letter that would be sent to members of the Senate (House has already passed the budget) detailing how the proposed cuts/reductions would affect services to youth in Tennessee. Acord asked if juvenile crime was down across the state as it is in Hamilton County. Stafford stated juvenile crime is up slightly because of the loss of federally funded programs. Members reviewed the letter with attachments TCCY would like to send to Tennessee Senators.

IT WAS MOVED (PERRY) AND SECONDED (BYNUM) FOR THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINORITY ISSUES COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT SUBMITTING THE LETTER FROM TCCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO THE TENNESSE SENATORS. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

O'Neal stated the correspondence would be faxed to Tennessee Senators as soon as possible.

VIII. Spring CJJ Conference – Debrah Stafford

Stafford stated the Spring Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Conference will be in Washington D.C., May 20-24, 2011. Interested Commission Members were asked to let Cindy Durham know so she can determine who may attend. This conference is a good time to visit and talk with members of Congress or their staff in Washington and tell them our concerns about funding for juvenile justice programs and services. The conference provides good information in workshops and is an excellent networking opportunity.

IX. Other Business

Cosley described the Department of Education's work on educating youth in detention. There are still more details to be worked out on how this will be done and how it will be financed. Acord asked about the use of Title I money for educating youth while in detention. Lewis stated Tennessee receives a supplement from Title I for this purpose. Schools in larger cities in some way support education of these youth, but there is no support for schools in smaller cities. Stafford stated the type or quality of education youth receive while in detention centers was questioned with regard to youth being prepared when transferred back into the classroom.

Cosley discussed and distributed the 2010 Annual Report of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice. Cosley serves as Tennessee's committee member and Perry is the alternate member.

Cosley discussed an article on civil rights and Judge Stokes. The article was sent to Commission members by O'Neal. The article described the event entitled "Race: The Power of An Illusion" that Judge Stokes hosted in Sevier County. She thanked Stokes for all the hard work he does. Stafford stated she saw the video at TSU, and it was very powerful. Stokes stated libraries and school organizations can order the video to use as a good resource.

Cosley discussed an article about a school in Texas that issues tickets to children as young as six years old. She also discussed an article by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) regarding scared straight type programs.

Stokes recommended a book by Judge Irene Sullivan titled "Raised By The Courts" published in 2010. He stated it is a great book about children growing up through the court system.

Acord asked if the issue of DMC has improved since he was on the Commission 15 years ago. Stafford stated there have been some reductions in the number of youth referred to juvenile court and in the number of youth transferred to adult court. From the 2008 Annual Report it was noted the percent of minority youth transferred to adult court was 80 percent, and in 2009 74 percent. She added there is still a lot of work to be done in this area, but indications are that DMC is being addressed in several different ways. Shelby County is a good example of how the numbers can be reduced. The SHAPE program evaluation will indicate the number of transports has been reduced by 40 percent in two years. She added this is a program that involved many people working to improve the juvenile justice process. Improvement can be achieved but it is a difficult thing to address and to measure. Other states are having a hard time, but it can be done.

Cosley discussed an email she received comparing the cost of putting the elderly in jail and criminals in nursing homes.

O'Neal distributed the minutes of the February 23, 2011 TCCY Legislative Committee.

Lewis informed members of a summit to be held on Saturday, February 26, 2011 entitled "All One Voice" concerning the referral process.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes approved by:

Diane Baham, Administrative Assistant

Beverly Cosley, JJMI Chairperson