



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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BUDGET AND DATA COMMITTEE

Board of Education Conference Room
Andrew Johnson Tower, Ninth Floor
Thursday August 18, 2011
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present

Dwight Stokes, Chair
Natasha Blackshear
Lindsay Callahan
Tim Goldsmith
Trudy Hughes
Carlton Lewis

Committee Members Absent

Lynne Fugate
Marti Herndon
Susan Lawless-Glassman
Billy Posey
Tawny Spinelli

TCCY Staff

Linda O’Neal
Sumita Banerjee
Fay Delk
Emel Eff
Craig Hargrow
Dustin Keller
Bill Latimer
Steve Petty

I. Welcome and Introductions – Dwight Stokes

Stokes called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. with introductions of those present.

II. Approval of May 2011 Minutes (ACTION)

IT WAS MOVED (HUGHES) AND SECONDED (GOLDSMITH) TO ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 2011 MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. Shared Services Update – Linda O’Neal

O’Neal reported TCCY continues to use Shared Services Solutions (SSS) and has an annual contract for \$120,000. TCCY was the SSS agency that went the most over their contracted amount based on the use of Shared Services staff time. TCCY is trying to do more work in-house to reduce these cost overruns. SSS has had a reduction in its contract amounts with the elimination of the Governor’s Office of Children’s Care Coordination, so it is struggling to have sufficient funding to avoid staff layoffs. We are concerned about the impact on services if they have less staff.

IV. TCCY Budget Report (ACTION) – Linda O’Neal

O’Neal reviewed the financial report distributed to members prior to the meeting. O’Neal explained a couple of items have yet to be adjusted in the report, including moving expenditures for CCMH from state to federal funding through a journal voucher. The agency has met the reversion target. Some things have not hit and thus are not reflected in this report. The agency maintains vacancies to ensure meeting the reversion target. Overall, we are comfortable with how we ended our year.

IT WAS MOVED (LEWIS) AND SECONDED (HUGHES) TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET REPORT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. TCCY Budget Recommendations to the Governor (ACTION) – Lind O’Neal

O’Neal referred to the copy of the draft letter that was sent to Commission Members. O’Neal explained the agency typically submits budget recommendations to the Governor and members of the General Assembly and gets approval from the Commission at this meeting. The letter includes framed messages on the importance of funding for services for children. It discusses some of what we learned from resource mapping, including the heavy reliance on federal funds. O’Neal highlighted sections of the letter including concerns about the budget process and potential federal cuts and the importance of early childhood programs.

The letter also says TCCY, if appropriate, will provide additional budget recommendations after the public budget hearings. Different than previous years, the letter will also be sent to the First Lady’s Office and Mark Cate (Special Assistant to Governor Haslam).

Goldsmith expressed concerns about potential numbers of children in custody. The number of children at Youth Villages has increased. O’Neal proposed including a paragraph about concerns about the increase number of children in custody. Goldsmith said there are more children at Youth Villages, not because of youth entering but due to youth not exiting the program. The Committee agreed an additional paragraph addressing the number of children entering state custody should be included.

IT WAS MOVED (GOLDSMITH) AND SECONDED (LEWIS) TO APPROVE THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS LETTER WITH AN ADDITION REGARDING CHILDREN IN CUSTODY. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

O’Neal explained TCCY has typically submitted a more general letter about children’s programs. However, there are concerns specifically about the CPORT program. To address these concerns, an additional letter was drafted and would be sent to a smaller group of people. The letter focuses on CPORT and the importance of services for children. The letter includes attachments explaining CPORT and providing data of results. Although we do not know if CPORT will be recommended to be cut, we do have some concerns and want to make an effort to try and pre-empt any such recommendation.

IT WAS MOVED (LEWIS) AND SECONDED (GOLDSMITH) TO APPROVE THE CPORT BUDGET RECOMMENDATION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. TCCY Budget Improvement Requests for 2013 (ACTION) – Linda O’Neal

O’Neal reviewed items included in the budget improvement requests. It includes a request for the Council on Children’s Mental Health to be state funded. It also includes salary grade improvements, while we do not anticipate receiving the salary grade improvements, we feel it is important we continue to ask.

IT WAS MOVED (HUGHES) AND SECONDED (LEWIS) TO APPROVE THE BUDGET IMPROVEMENT REQUESTS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

O’Neal discussed the budget plan for the Commission. She reviewed the reversion plan for the agency, which primarily involves maintaining some positions vacant. O’Neal provided an update on federal funding and the potential impact on the agency. She explained we are trying to anticipate what will happen with federal funding. We know the funding approved by a House Subcommittee would eliminate the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant and all Title V Delinquency Prevention funding, which also includes Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws funding. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Federal Formula Grant funding would also be reduced.

The State is very concerned about the potential impact of major reductions in federal funding as a result of the Budget Control Act and the work of the “Super Committee” that is working on the federal budget. If this group does not come to an agreement that is passed by Congress, automatic federal budget reductions are scheduled to take place. The bond rating agencies at the national level have put Tennessee on a “watch” status because the state is so reliant on federal funding. The Resource Mapping Report indicates 48.5 percent of all dollars spent on children through the Tennessee state budget in fiscal year 2010 were federal.

O’Neal reported on the day of the meeting, all state departments received notice of a requirement to submit a plan indicating what they would do if federal funding were reduced a total of 30 percent, with the plan in two increments of 15 percent each. A plan will be submitted in compliance with this requirement, and the plan will be shared with the Commission.

O’Neal reported the bottom line for the Commission is to expect additional reductions in Federal Juvenile Justice Funding, and with those federal budget cuts, additional staff reductions will be required. The current fiscal year for the Commission includes the elimination of one federally-funded position effective January 1, 2012 due to the decline in federal dollars in recent years. The loss of additional positions effective in July 2012 appears inevitable.

State departments have not yet been provided instructions for preparing proposed budgets for fiscal year 2013, but additional reductions in state funding are anticipated.

VII. TCCY Media/Social Media Coverage – Fay Delk

Delk provided the update and reviewed the media report, including social media (Facebook and Twitter). The reports reflects the fiscal year 2010-2011. Delk explained the decline in radio contacts was likely a reflection of the changes in news media today. Delk distributed an additional handout on statistics tracking TCCY social media accounts. She said there is an effort to include Facebook and Twitter on our publications. Delk has tried to increase posts to Facebook and has set up Facebook to automatically link to the agency’s Twitter account.

VIII. *The Advocate* – Fay Delk

Delk provided an update on *The Advocate*. The most recent edition provided an overview of the 2011 Resource Mapping Report. A new edition addressing juvenile justice is currently in the works. Delk plans on publishing an issue on suicide prevention in September, suicide prevention month. Delk invited members to let her know about topics of interest for future editions of *The Advocate*.

IX. National/State KIDS COUNT Releases – Fay Delk

Delk reported the State book was released last week, and the National book was released earlier this week. There was a press conference for the National book release with a panel of four presenters and moderated by O’Neal. All of the major television stations and newspapers covered the release. Delk is still hearing about media coverage of the releases. Hughes reminded the group that Lindsey Cody had two interviews already and is scheduled for a third.

X. Web Stats – Emel Eff

Eff provided an update on the web statistics and reviewed the handouts. She noted the month of June shows a reduction, but explained there was a change in the web analytics system that impacted the number of visits reflected. July shows an increase in total visits, but the distribution is similar.

XI. Children’s Resource Mapping Project – Linda or Melissa Staley

O’Neal provided the Resource Mapping Project update. She reported the stakeholders group met in early June. It was a productive meeting where people gave feedback about the most recent report. Departmental staff seems more comfortable with the Resource Mapping process. There was good discussion about how we could get more county-by-county data. For example, TANF provides statewide data, but DHS will try to include estimates of county level expenditures. We are on track to get the data in the fall for the last fiscal year. We are caught up and can now collect data one year at a time. We have a total of four years collected to date. We hope to have the data in by December 2011 to give us sufficient time to evaluate the data. We hope the staff changes with the administration change will not hurt/delay our data collection. There was discussion of TCCY staff efforts to identify duplication of

services. O’Neal advised the group TCCY staff has not been able to identify substantial areas of duplicative service provision. A department representative responded, “We are not tripping over each other out there providing services.” O’Neal reported TCCY continues to review this issue, and lets legislators know we cannot find substantial duplication in services.

**IT WAS MOVED (GOLDSMITH) AND SECONDED (LEWIS) TO ADJOURN.
STOKES ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 2:10 p.m.**

Minutes Submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

Sumita Banerjee, Policy Advocate

Dwight Stokes, Chair