



**State of Tennessee
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 18, 2011
2:56 PM

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Tim Goldsmith, Chair
Natasha Blackshear
Lindsay Callahan
Cindy Durham
Erica Gilmore
Denise Hobbs
Trudy Hughes
Billy Posey
Wendy Shea
Christi Sigler

Committee Members Absent

Phil Acord
Marti Herndon
Tawny Spinelli

Staff Present

Marietta Backus
Sumita Banerjee
Peggy Carter
Steve Chester
Susan Cope
Sandra Decker
Dominick Grimaldi

Jennifer Hargis
Craig Hargrow
Peggy Haynes
Dustin Keller
Richard Kennedy
Pam Kirkpatrick
Frances Lewis
Rosamond McLeod
Sukti Maldas
Linda O'Neal
Gerald Papica
Cheryl Sahlin

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Goldsmith called the meeting to order welcoming Committee members and staff.

II. Approval of May 2011 Minutes

**MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (HOBBS) AND SECONDED (HUGHES) TO
APPROVE THE MAY 2011 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES.
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

III. Council on Children's Mental Health – Dustin Keller

Keller provided a brief overview of the Council stating that O'Neal serves as Co-Chair with Doug Varney, Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. Denise Hobbs represents the TCCY chair on the council. Plans include the establishment of a system of care to serve children with mental and behavioral health needs. Keller summarized the system of care best practice principles and discussed the planning process for next steps. The next meeting will be held August 25, 2011 at Ellington Agricultural Center from 10:00 until 3:00. The Council's next report to the General Assembly is due June 2012. Early Childhood Mental health was discussed and the work groups met. The Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) has decided not to fund any more multi-year grants for individual System of Care projects. Future funding will be for state efforts to implement System of Care. Tennessee has applied for such a grant, and should hear whether it is approved by the end of September.

IV. Ombudsman – Gerald Papica and Dominick Grimaldi

Papica announced the October 26 through 28, 2011 conference in Jacksonville, Florida at the Crown Plaza Hotel titled, "Sharpening Your Teeth." Papica also discussed his involvement with the Conference serving as Vice President of the United States Ombudsman Association (USOA) for seven years. He told a story about a letter from First Lady Obama about TCCY's Ombudsman program as result of a constituent referral for help.

Grimaldi provided a brief overview of the Ombudsman program and their roles and responsibilities as ombudsmen. Referrals are received related to complaints regarding children in state custody and children and families served through Child Protective Services (CPS). Grimaldi described the referral process. One area of note is the small number of minority cases received (eighteen). Papica and Grimaldi are addressing this issue by boosting their efforts to reach minority populations.

Grimaldi and Papica reported the Department of Children's Services Commissioner has raised the possibility of changing the name of the DCS' Legislative and Constituent Services office to Ombudsman. The same name could be confusing for the consumer, and the differentiation between the two programs. O'Neal has talked to the Commissioner about questions and concerns this raises.

When asked about the funding for the Ombudsman program, O'Neal explained the program was initiated with Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Challenge Grant funding. Over time, state funding was provided for the Ombudsman Program and it has continued to receive state dollars.

V. Second Look Commission – Craig Hargrow

Hargrow provided a brief overview of the Second Look Commission describing its mission and purpose to examine children who have experienced second or subsequent incidents of abuse as defined by the statute. The Commission conducts public meetings quarterly and investigatory meetings as necessary to review cases selected from the sample of cases provided by DCS. The Commission is composed of representatives outlined in the legislation. The Commission is required to compile an annual report of findings and recommendations by the end of the year. An “Issue Matrix” has been created identifying concerns regarding holding perpetrators accountable, parents or guardians committing abuse, and insufficient sharing of information between prosecutors/ law enforcement/DCS CPS, to name a few. Outcomes include suggestions for a “Bill of Rights” for children who have been abused and strategies for ensuring a safe and proper environment for children to disclose abuse. The Commission has been meeting regularly and is excited about the opportunity to make Tennessee safer for children.

VI. Youth Transitions Advisory Council – Sumita Banerjee

Banerjee provided an overview of the Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC), which was originally created in 2009 to address the needs of youth aging out of custody. The responsibility for YTAC was transferred to TCCY when the Select Committee on Children and Youth was abolished during the Legislative session in May of this year. Since then, one meeting was held on July 14. At the meeting, the group reviewed the original legislation and discussed the goals of the Council. An Annual report is due to the General Assembly by the end of October 2011. There was also discussion about the possibility of consolidating the different groups currently meeting to address the needs of youth transitioning into adulthood. One such group is the Transitioning Youth Task Force staffed by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health (TDMH). TDMH staff attended the meeting and are interested in exploring the possibility of merging the groups. The next YTAC meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Youth Villages in the Nashville.

VII. CPORT – Pat Wade

Wade provided a brief overview of CPORT, the quality service review process and current activities since the last Commission meeting. Wade extended an invitation to Commission members to shadow the QSR process.

Since the last Commission meeting the QSR statewide review cycle was completed in May. The Youth Development Center study began in June with New Visions June 7-9, Woodland Hills June 28-30, and Wilder August 2-4. Taft is scheduled for August 23-25.

Future plans include the addition of a new system indicator to the QSR protocol to examine the legal system and its affect on achieving permanence for children. Round two of the Prison Rape Elimination Student Safety interview process at the YDCs is

scheduled to begin August 4 with Wilder followed by Taft, Woodland Hills, New Visions and Mountain View.

VIII. Youth Villages Transitioning Youth Program – Tim Goldsmith

Chair Goldsmith provided an overview of the Transitioning Youth program currently implemented by Youth Villages. Children who meet the criteria are able to obtain services on a random trial basis. It began three years ago. Referrals come from DCS and children who meet the criteria have the option of participating in the program. This type of program was created by a New York firm and in two years, sixty percent were in treatment and forty percent in community groups reconnecting back to the community. If a child opts out, they can come back and be accepted if they meet the age requirement of up to 21. Children in juvenile justice are also eligible for the transitional living program as long as they are identified with low risk behaviors.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes approved by:

Pat Wade, Director
Children’s Program Outcome Review Team

Tim Goldsmith, Chair

H: DRIVE/SHARED FILES/MINUTES FOLDER

IX. Other Business

None.