



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

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**JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINORITY ISSUES COMMITTEE**

TCCY Conference Room  
Thursday, August 18, 2011  
2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Committee Members Present:

Beverly Cosley, Chairperson  
Phil Acord  
Sidney Bynum  
Janell Clark  
Joshua Conner  
Kelly Drummond  
Carlton Lewis  
Harold Moses Love  
Dwight Stokes

Committee Members Absent:

Lynne Fugate  
Susan Lawless-Glassman

Also in Attendance:

Cindy Durham

TCCY Staff Present:

Linda O'Neal  
Diane Baham  
Dustin Keller  
Ron King  
Steve Petty  
Phil McKenzie  
Zanira Whitfield

I. Welcome and Introductions

Cosley welcomed everyone and asked everyone present to introduce him/herself.

II. Approval of May 2011 Minutes

**IT WAS MOVED (STOKES) AND SECONDED (BYNUM) TO APPROVE THE MAY 2011 MINUTES OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINORITY ISSUES (JJMI) COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED.**

III. DMC Task Force Update

King reported on last week's Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Statewide Task Force Meeting. Hall was not in attendance and Stokes chaired. Several items were discussed. Yolanda Hockett, Education Committee Chair, reported the committee is still working on education services to children in detention centers. Gerald Papica and Dominick Grimaldi reported on the Ombudsmen division and their responsibilities. Stafford reported

on DMC study efforts and the Judges' Conference. The task force thanked Stokes for all his help and efforts toward DMC. King stated DMC task force members requested information on charter schools. King referred members to local task force reports for more information.

King reported a book written about DMC issues, *Disproportionate Minority Contact, Current Issues and Policies*, edited by Nicolle Parsons-Pollard, features a chapter (Chapter Five) on the S.H.A.P.E. Program in Memphis that has been funded by TCCY.

#### IV. Youth Summit Report

King reported on the Youth Summit held in Nashville July 22, 2011. The summit was held at Scarritt Bennett and was a very good meeting. The summit featured four breakout sessions: legal issues, bullying and prevention, youth violence and suicide, and gang awareness. The speakers and workshops were excellent and informative. The speakers included a representative from Rachel's Challenge, nationally acclaimed speaker Edward DeJesus, and a musical presentation by Jonathan Orr. Workshop presenters were Denise Bentley (legal issues), Erica Burnett (violence and suicide), Eric Johnson (bullying), and Tommy Vallejos (gangs). Task Force members would like to bring DeJesus back for next year's summit if one is held. King distributed a survey compiled by Dr. Edwina Chappell which included evaluation results. He summarized the survey for members. Whitfield stated more outreach is needed if the summit is held again next year. King stated the summit was announced by word of mouth. Cosley recommended utilizing social media, such as Facebook next year. Cosley also suggested encouraging more Hispanic participation next year. Durham reported talking to some attendees who stated they really enjoyed the summit. Cosley suggested holding a summit in all areas of the state next year if funds are available.

#### V. DMC Study Update

King gave an update on the DMC assessment study. The first meeting was held May 9 and there have been about five meetings to date. The next meeting is schedule for August 26. The plan will need to be completed by March of next year. It was decided to perform the study in-house utilizing TCCY staff and DMC Statewide Task Force members Dr. Hoan Bui and Dr. Wayne Pitts and interns from Nashville, Knoxville, and Memphis. To date, the interns have performed a DMC literature study. Stafford and Pat Wade traveled to Knoxville to discuss survey plans with Dr. Bui. In addition, a flyer was placed in Judges' Conference packets in August letting them know they will receive a survey soon as part of the study.

Cosley asked about the Title VI finding from the LEAP program. King stated he has gathered information and is waiting for Stafford to review it and make final edits. Cosley stated she is pleased Memphis/Shelby County is being considered by the Annie E. Casey Foundation as a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) site. O'Neal stated a representative from the Casey Foundation, Gayle Mumford, is scheduled to come to Tennessee in September or October to discuss JDAI issues. The Casey Foundation would like others from across the state to participate as they no longer recognize single sites. Interested parties are invited to come to the meeting and express their interest. O'Neal stated TCCY does not have much to offer in terms of a financial commitment and the Casey Foundation is aware of that.

O'Neal reported TCCY staff members Pam Brown, Dustin Keller, and others have contributed to the implementation of the DMC study. Elvira Newcomb from the Administrative Office of the Courts also has assisted. The Survey will be sent electronically and will be tested before being distributed to make sure it is user-friendly. O'Neal encouraged Commission members to complete the survey as part of the testing when it is sent to them.

VI. Federal Budget Proposed Cuts

Whitfield reported on proposed cuts for the 2012 Federal Formula Grant award. The House subcommittee has recommended it be reduced to \$40 million across the nation. She referred members to the historical funding chart included in their packets for more information.

O'Neal stated there will be one Juvenile Justice position cut as a result of historical reductions in federal funding. The position will be abolished no later than January 2012, resulting in the loss of Philip McKenzie as a Juvenile Justice Specialist, since he is the juvenile justice funded staff person with the least amount of total state service. McKenzie has the option of transferring to a vacant CPORT position.

O'Neal has to submit budget reduction plans to Finance and Administration by Wednesday of next week to include a 15 percent and another 15 percent reduction of federal money, for a total 30 percent reduction in federal funds. The total amount is \$838,400 in reductions.

O'Neal stated if the House Subcommittee proposal is the eventual outcome, there will be one more year of Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) funds as they are dispersed one year behind. There most likely will be an additional impact on Juvenile Justice staff. Historically, funding has declined and there was already a deficit in funds that had to be addressed. O'Neal stated reductions in federal funds will have a significant impact on services, programs, and employees supported by these funding streams.

Cosley stated losing McKenzie will be a huge loss for the Juvenile Justice Division. O'Neal stated TCCY will have to cross-train staff in order to continue to perform his duties. O'Neal stated there is no way to avoid the cuts affecting staff.

VII. Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) Violations

McKenzie stated this time last year there were only 38 violations. This year there are 54 violations and three counties out of compliance: Cannon, Clay, and Jackson Counties. He stated the Regional Coordinators and Juvenile Justice staff have done a great job monitoring programs. Cosley thanked the Juvenile Justice staff for their hard work.

VIII. Other Business

Cosley thanked Stokes for his work with youth. She added, we are pleased to have him as a member of the Commission.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

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Diane Baham, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by:

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Beverly Cosley, JJMI Chairperson