



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

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**COUNCILS COMMITTEE**

Paris Landing State Park  
Thursday, October 25, 2007  
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Committee Members Present

Joetta Yarbrow, Chair  
Beverly Cosley  
Joe Fowlkes  
Denise Hobbs-Coker  
Christy Little  
Sue Pilson  
Colonel Robbins  
Barbara Holden

Committee Members Absent

Sidney Bynum  
Chey Korvandi-Geledar  
Dana Lesley  
Diane Neighbors

Staff Present

Linda O'Neal, Executive Director  
Richard Kennedy, Field Operations Director  
Dana Cobb  
Kathy Daniels  
Rodger Jowers  
Patty Ray  
Robert Smith  
April Swoner  
Norma Tolliver  
Elaine Williams  
Diane Wise  
Gwendolyn Wright

I. Welcome and Introduction

Committee Chair Yarbrow convened the meeting at 1:05 pm.

II. Approval of July Minutes

**MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (LITTLE) AND SECONDED (PILSON) THAT THE JULY 2007 COMMITTEE MINUTES BE APPROVED. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

### III. Introduction of Upper Cumberland Regional Coordinator

Kennedy introduced Patty Ray as the new Upper Cumberland Regional Coordinator. Ray was previously employed with the Upper Cumberland Development District as the Director of the Relative Caregiver Program. She has been a therapeutic foster parent for ten years with Omni Visions. She would like it to be known that she is sincere and passionate about her advocacy work.

### IV. Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking

Kennedy reported a press conference and training event on Human Trafficking was held in Nashville. The Commission voted at the last meeting to sign on as a sponsor of the work being done by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services around Human Trafficking.

Swoner attended the training in Nashville which provided education for those present about the major role Middle Tennessee plays in human trafficking. There are services available for victims of trafficking. For more information refer to [www.polarisproject.com](http://www.polarisproject.com).

### V. Town Hall Meetings

Kennedy reported all the town hall meetings focusing on SJR 799 have been completed throughout the state.

Wise and Daniels summarized their town hall meetings. Open discussion occurred regarding the differences and similarities of need for mental health services in each region.

### VI. Review of Coordinators' Activities

Information regarding the individual Councils and coordinator activities was presented by: Kathy Daniels, Southeast; Gwendolyn Wright, Memphis/Shelby County; Robert Smith, East Tennessee; Elaine Williams, South Central; and Dana Cobb, Northwest. Rodger Jowers of Southwest, April Swoner of Mid-Cumberland and Diane Wise of Northeast will present to the full Commission. Patty Ray, newly appointed Upper Cumberland regional coordinator, will present at the next commission meeting. A detailed report and handouts from all coordinators were submitted to the Commission members.

### VII. Grant Monitoring

Kennedy reported Debrah Stafford has developed a grant monitoring plan and the Department of Finance and Administration has approved it. Regional Coordinators will have a major role in the monitoring process.

Kennedy reported a tentative plan for a coordinator specific retreat on monitoring protocols.

VIII. Other Business

Yarbro reported that, per Cindy Durham, Legal Aid has a contract with the state to assist Families First recipients who have disabilities complete the process for applying for Social Security disability. Refer those in need to your local legal aid office.

Kennedy reported he attended and presented at a Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) regional conference in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The presentation was on the creation of a Policy – Leadership Academy that would serve as a resource to train children’s advocates. The goal is to create a joint project between TCCY and CWLA that would ultimately serve all the southern states.

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 pm.

Minutes Submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

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Richard Kennedy  
Director of Field Operations

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Joetta Yarbro  
Councils Committee Chair