



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

Andrew Jackson Building, Ninth Floor
502 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800

COUNCILS COMMITTEE
Andrew Jackson 9th Floor Training Room
Thursday, May 14, 2015
2:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Jill Grayson Stott, Chair
Ashley Dunkin
Gary Houston
Steve Neely
Wendy Shea
Tawny Spinelli

Members Absent

Kelly Drummond
Joshua Grubb
Petrina Jones-Jesz
Amy Lawrence

Staff Present

Richard Kennedy
Dana Cobb
Lindsey Cody

Susan Cope
Rodger Jowers
Rosalyn Leavell-Rice
Shaun Noblit
John Rust
Gwendolyn Wright

Staff Absent

Diane Wise

I. Welcome and Introductions - Jill Grayson Stott, Chair

Chair Stott called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. and welcomed all members and staff and asked each person to introduce herself/himself.

II. Approval of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (DUNKIN) AND SECONDED (SHEA) TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2015 MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

III. Children's Advocacy Days 2015 Recap – Richard Kennedy

Children's Advocacy Days (CAD) 2015 was held March 10-11, 2015 at War Memorial Auditorium. The theme for the event was Everyday Superheroes...Every Day! There were 705 registered participants, just 36 participants short of tying registration with our all time high of 741 in 2012.

We were extremely pleased to have 31 agencies and organizations serving as co-sponsors and contributing \$24,887 towards the cost of the event.

The agenda was very full and consisted of many outstanding speakers. We were excited to have the youth spoken word poets from Southern Word join us again this year. Brett Culp is a filmmaker who made Legends of the Knight and served as our opening speaker and set the tone for the two days. As usual, O'Neal presented an Advocacy 101 and Legislative Update. We were excited to have a child-serving department commissioners' panel moderated by Jude White, Executive Director of the Governor's Children's Cabinet. The panel consisted of John Dryzehner, Department of Health; Raquel Hatter, Department of Human Services; Jim Henry, Department of Children's Services; Candice McQueen, Department of Education; and Doug Varney, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Upon completion of the panel, we were pleased to be able to present each commissioner with a framed drawing of them as their favorite superhero and a superhero cape thanking them for their participation.

Judge Dwight Stokes did an outstanding job serving as afternoon keynote speaker and presenting his "Justice for All" information.

We used the afternoon break as an opportunity to have a birthday party recognizing the 60th anniversary of TCCY complete with cupcakes and cookies and a singing of the Happy Birthday Song.

Mr. Bill Millet presented the late afternoon session titled Effectively Advocating to Markets of One focused on the benefit of investing in early childhood initiatives.

We once again used CAD as the forum to present the Senator Douglas Henry Public Official Award to Judge Dwight Stokes; The Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award to Barbara Holden Nixon; and the John Seigenthaler Making KIDS Count Media Awards to Tom Humphrey, Knoxville News Sentinel; Rachel Kinney, WBIR, Knoxville and Scott Wilson, Urban Child Institute, Memphis. We also recognized former TCCY Commission Members for their service.

We were pleased Camelot once again sponsored the Networking Reception on the evening of March 10. The reception was open to all participants and all members of the General Assembly. Several members of the General Assembly and their staff attended the reception.

The second day of CAD started with Dr. Kenneth Minkoff serving as morning keynote speaker and presenting information titled Changing the World for Children and Families with Complex Needs: Developing a Welcoming, Integrated Children's System of Care in Tennessee.

We also used this opportunity to recognize every day people from across Tennessee who are doing great work and making a difference in the lives of children, youth and their families. We recognized Salem Town Board Company, Harvest Hands, White County

School CLIMATE Crew, Promethean Foundation, Service Clean East and Blade Runners. All of these honorees received superhero capes and certificates of appreciation from Governor Haslam.

As in year's past, we wanted to offer as much information as possible to participants and highlight the work of many partners. Therefore we had several short presentations that consisted of:

- TN Achieves – Graham Thomas, Director of Community Partnerships;
- Tennessee AfterSchool Network – Mary Graham, CEO, United Ways of Tennessee;
- Insure Tennessee – Mary Nell Bryan, President, Children's Hospital Alliance of Tennessee;
- The Importance of Social Emotional Health - Katie Spurlock, Director of Community Partnerships, Urban Child Institute; and
- Reducing Toxic Stress in Kids: Why it Matters in Memphis and Tennessee - Chris Peck, Associate Director, Pyramid Peak Foundation.

We were very honored that commission member and Assistant Director of the Children's Cabinet, Tawny Spinelli agreed to serve as the closing speaker and presented a fantastic closing segment titled "Making it all Make Sense."

Survey evaluations gathered at the end of the event show that 97.5 percent of the attendees found Children's Advocacy Days to be either Excellent or Very Good.

IV. Afterschool Network Update – Richard Kennedy

United Ways of Tennessee has recently been awarded a three-year grant provided by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and matched by the United Ways of Tennessee that will provide \$450,000 to spearhead a statewide, collaborative to improve access to high quality afterschool experiences for children and youth. The goal of the network is to improve access and the quality of after-school programs through training, support and advocacy. To accomplish that, eight hubs have been set up across the state to pilot changes and share what works. TCCY has been asked to serve on an advisory board for the network and Kennedy will represent the agency at meetings going forward.

V. Review of Regional Coordinators' Activities

Information was presented about individual council and coordinator activities by: Lindsey Cody, East Tennessee; Rosalyn Leavell-Rice, Southeast; John Rust, Upper Cumberland; Rodger Jowers, Southwest; Dana Cobb, Northwest; Susan Cope, Mid-Cumberland; Gwen Wright, Memphis/Shelby County and Shaun Noblit, South Central.

Each of the reports included council activities that have occurred since the last meeting of the Commission, as well as information about special projects and upcoming council meetings and events. Diane Wise, Northeast, was not present so her report was presented by Kennedy.

Detailed information regarding activities in each region was included in materials distributed.

VI. Other Business

Spinelli asked about the possibility of sharing regional conferences and learning opportunities on the TCCY Facebook page with a link to registration. She stated she often wants to share information about opportunities through her social media networks and having this available as an option could potentially lead to increased awareness and participation. Kennedy reported that we could and would do this going forward.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

Richard Kennedy, Associate Director

Jill Grayson Stott, Committee Chair