



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

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Andrew Jackson 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room  
Thursday, May 14, 2015  
4:15 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Brenda Davis, Chair  
Wendy Shea  
Jill Grayson Stott

**Member Absent**

Rob Mortensen, Vice Chair  
Jennie Harlan, Secretary  
Amy Lawrence, Youth Representative  
Phil Acord  
Christy Sigler

**Staff Present**

Linda O'Neal, Exec. Dir.  
Richard Kennedy, Assoc. Dir.  
Craig Hargrow  
Rose Naccarato  
Natasha Smith

I. Welcome - Brenda Davis, Chair

Davis called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m. and welcomed members of the committee.

II. Approval of Minutes (ACTION)

- Davis asked for a motion for approval of minutes from the previous Executive Committee meeting.

**IT WAS MOVED (SHEA) AND SECONDED (STOTT) TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2015 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

III. Budget and Data Committee Report – Christy Sigler, Chair

- Davis reported, in Sigler's absence, the Budget Committee accepted the budget.

IV. Children's Services Committee – Wendy Shea, Chair

- Shea reported on the Ombudsman program update by Gerald Papica. Over the last three months, there were 40 new referrals received and 14 cases were closed during the same period. This number mirrors the referrals received in 2014 for the same reporting period.

- Dr. Gerald Papica continues to represent TCCY in bi-weekly Department of Human Services' Child Care Board of Review hearings where they review daycare centers. Some of these cases are self-reported while others are from the parents.
- Caryn Harris, Ombudsman Volunteer, has been on medical leave since the Commission Meeting in February. She is now doing better and may return soon.
- Dr. Papica continues to address a variety of complaints and routinely attends (in-person or by phone) Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTMs) in order to foster fairness, transparency, accountability, timeliness and best practice.
- For over 17 years, Dr. Papica has served as a member of the Davidson County Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) and he is still very active in the United States Ombudsman Association (USOA) which is very helpful for TCCY.
- Dr. Papica is currently co-chairing the Children and Families Chapter and is a member of the 2015 USOA conference planning committee.
- Shea continued with the report from the Council on Children's Mental Health.
- There was a collaborative presentation at the March meeting by members of the Children's Care Coordination pilot project through TennCare. This pilot project is a "Redesign of Children's Mental Health Community Based Services," based on the values and principles of System of Care.
- Shea also shared McGee's report on the FrameWorks online Toolkit, entitled "Talking about Child Mental Health in Tennessee: A communications toolkit for the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth." This toolkit was designed for Tennessee with generous support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and KIDS COUNT and really is a communication toolkit on how to frame the message.
- The CCMH also met with Cissy Mynatt, a consultant through the Center for Nonprofit Management. She has been engaged to help the Council carry out strategic review and direction planning.
- Shea informed the Committee McGee recently gave a presentation to the Coordinated School Health Conference.
- Shea next reported on the Second Look Commission. She said Hargrow informed the committee of the newly appointed members including Trudy Hughes, former member of TCCY and there is one Governor's appointed slot still open.
- Shea continued with Hargrow's presentation of the data from the FY14 list of cases. The FY14 list includes 664 unduplicated victims in comparison to 605 unduplicated victims in FY13.
- The percentages of maltreatment types have remained relatively consistent throughout the years. Sexual Abuse remains the largest type of maltreatment represented in the cases provided to the SLC. Drug Exposure and Physical Abuse typically account for the next two largest percentages of maltreatment types. Of those cases, 30 percent referred were among children ages zero to four.

- There eight child death cases in FY14 and the members of the SLC agreed to review all the death cases as well as additional cases if possible.
- Shea next reported on the Youth Transition Advisory Council (YTAC).
- Youth Villages renamed their transitional living program to LifeSet for branding reasons.
- In the overall youth transitions program for this year, there were 625 youth enrolled compared to 528 last year. The average stay in extension of foster care is approximately six months.
- The Department of Mental Health and Substance Services will present an update on the Treatment and Recovery for Youth (TRY) Grant. TRY is a federally funded grant from SAMSHA with Centerstone in Maury County and Pathways in Madison County providing adolescents and transitional-age young adults drug and alcohol treatment.
- Disability Rights Tennessee also made a presentation about work with youth at Woodland Hills and the services offered to transition age youth.
- There were two important laws enacted this year tremendously benefitting transitioning youth aging out of state custody. A bill the Commission supported prohibits school systems from requiring youth who enter state custody during eleventh or twelve grades to complete a higher number of credits to graduate than the state requirement. Another bill we became aware of late in session allows foster parents or representatives of the Department of Children's Services to sign releases to allow foster youth to get a driver's license.
- Shea reported there was an interesting general discussion on what is the actual measure of success as it relates to transition programs.
- Through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the YTAC is looking to develop guidelines for court and foster care review boards in terms of the review of cases of youth in extension of foster care programs. For example, how often is the review; the scope of the review; and the importance of avoiding the perception of youth viewed as being in custody because that has been a deterrent to those considering the program.

V. Councils Committee - Jill Grayson Stott, Chair

- Stott indicated there were no action items and gave a report on the Children's Advocacy Days (CAD) event in March. She reported there were 705 registered participants, just 36 participants short of tying registration with the highest registration of 741 in 2012.
- There were 31 agencies and organizations serving as co-sponsors and contributing \$24,887 towards the cost of the event.
- 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.
- Stott gave an update on the Tennessee Afterschool Network through United Ways of Tennessee and Mary Graham. It is a networking program for all of the afterschool providers. The funding comes from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Kennedy will sit on the advisory board, not only strengthening our relationship with United Ways, but also provide a great opportunity to build a relationship with the business community.

- Stott highlighted a few items from the Councils' reports. In particular, there was some discussion about the low attendance at legislative update meetings and attributed it to the name.
- She also reported the regional coordinators monitor detention centers, temporary holding resources and jails within their regions to ensure compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The regional coordinators are working diligently to ensure the facilities included in the new expanded monitoring universe are completed. The coordinators have requested more training and clarifying of materials.
- Stott reported there was discussion about Facebook and its use to bring more awareness to their events and programs.

VI. Juvenile Justice and Minority Issues Committee - Phil Acord, Chair

- Mortensen initially chaired the committee in Acord's absence, but then Davis took over when Mortensen had to leave early. She said she would make her report at the Commission meeting.

VII. Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

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Natasha Smith, Director of Operations & Special Projects

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Brenda Davis, Chair