

TCCY Commission Meeting February 2021

Location: TEAMS
Date: Friday, 2/19/2021
Time: 8:30 A.M. CDT

Staff Present: Richard Kennedy, Exec. Dir., Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir., Cory Bradfield, Lea Brandon, Kylie Burns, Dana Cobb, Lindsey Cody, Susan Cope, Sujit Das, Jennifer Drake-Croft, Laritha Fentress, Sumita Keller, Sherry Isom, Jennifer Jones, Bill Latimer, Rosalyn Leavell-Rice, Melissa McGee, Latasha Mitchell, Jerri Moore, Rose Naccarato, Jonquil Newland, Shaun Noblit, Kristi Paling, Gerald Papica, Steve Petty, Russette Marcum-Embry, Jill Stott, Vicki Taylor, Zanira Whitfield, Gwendolyn Wright

Staff Absent: N/A

Commission Members Present: Rob Mortensen, Vice Chair, Ashley Dunkin, Rob Philyaw, Altha Stewart, Steven Neely, Amy Jones, Jennie Harlan, Ella Britt, Sharon Green, Petrina Jones-Jesz, Kelly Drummond, Randy James Butler, Trey Jones, Charmaine Kromer, Stan Settles

Commission Members Absent: Brenda Davis, Chair, Allan Sterbinsky, Makenzie Johnston, Glenda Terry

Guests: Travis Claybrooks- Raphah Institute, Ashley Freeberg- Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition, Lynne Farrar- Tennessee CASA, Dr. Michelle Fiscus-TN Department of Health

Welcome

- Call to Order (Rob Mortensen, Vice Chair)
- Introductions and Welcome of new Commission Members (Richard Kennedy, Executive Director)
- Roll Call (Jennifer Jones)

Approvals and Actions

Approval of October Full Commission Meeting Minutes

Mortensen asked for a motion for the approval of the October 2020 Commission Meeting minutes.

Stewart moved and Britt seconded.

Unanimously approved by the commission.

Legislative Committee

Mortensen discussed the committee's history, purpose, and importance. Kennedy reported on a new direction and priorities for the committee.

Mortensen moved to approve legislative policy agenda.

Unanimously approved by the commission.

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Reports and Office Updates

CAD (Child Advocacy Days) Update

Kennedy updated the Commission on CAD 2021. Sumita Keller has taken over planning and implementation responsibilities upon the resignation of John Rust.

State of the Child Report and County Profiles

Rose Naccarato reported on the State of the Child Report which was released in early December in conjunction with the Annie E. Casey COVID-19 report. The report is available online.

Kylie Burns reported on the updated County Profiles that were released in January.

Mortensen asked if it is known what the impact of COVID has been on children in Tennessee. Burns stated the full impact is not currently known but the US Census data and the Vanderbilt Health poll continues to provide some information and insight. Naccarato stated they have worked with the Department of Education to obtain data related to how COVID has impacted education.

TCCY Dashboard Update

Naccarato reported on the Dashboard. The data has been updated. YouTube views have increased for the BSB (Building Strong Brains) trainings.

Executive Directors Report

Kennedy submitted the report for the Commission to review.

Office Updates

Kennedy reported on office updates.

Gerald Papica will be retiring effective January 2022 after 35 years of service.

Jennifer Jones will be leaving TCCY for a position at Amazon effective February 26.

Shaun Noblit has passed the bar exam.

Dana Cobb is the new president of the Rural Health Association of TN.

Naccarato completed the Tennessee Government Executive Institute.

Committee Report Outs

Budget and Data Overview (Allan Sterbinsky, Chair)

Kennedy provided an agency budget overview.

Sherry Isom reported the financial status as of December 31, 2020. Isom reported spending is on target and required legislative budget hearing documents were submitted timely.

Mortensen moved to approve the budget.

Unanimously approved by the commission.

Naccarato reported that kidcentraltn and The Advocate newsletter are continuing to perform well. Social media users are continuing to increase. Resource mapping is in progress.

Councils (Ashley Dunkin, Chair)

Kennedy updated the Commission on the benefit of creating a new child advocacy award to be known as The Friend of Children Award to be presented annually at Children's Advocacy Days as appropriate which the Committee approved.

Mortensen moved to approve.

Unanimously approved by the commission.

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Dunkin reported that all councils completed their jail and detention monitoring for the previous quarter. They are continuing their work with the *Building Strong Brains Tennessee* Knowledge Mobilization work by participating with the ACEs Education series. They are also currently planning, implementing or holding Legislative events within the regions across the state.

Children's Services (Amy Jones, Chair)

Jones updated the Commission on children's services.

Jones reported lower Ombudsman program referrals.

BSB TN is preparing for an upcoming trainers' event as well as updating the strategic plan.

CCMH (Council on Children's Mental Health) is focused on filling all statutorily required member roles. The Council will expand to having a governing group and an open membership group. This move will allow CCMH to serve as the governance structure more effectively for the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service's federal Systems of Care grant. Work is continuing to expand System of Care.

HVLA (Home Visiting Leadership Alliance) is continuing to check in with service providers regarding virtual home visits.

The Zero To Three policy priorities are being finalized.

The Second Look Commission provided sunset hearing and vacancy updates.

Youth Justice (Rob Mortensen, Chair)

Mortensen moved to approve the name be changed from Juvenile Justice to Youth Justice. The committee approved.

Unanimously approved by the commission.

Mortensen reported that the Youth Justice team gave updates on CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) grants management, FFG (Federal Formula Grants), status offender institutionalization, ethnic and racial disparities, and compliance monitoring. The team will be meeting with the Department of Children's Services' new Juvenile Justice Deputy Commissioner Darren Goods to discuss the work of TCCY and opportunities for

partnership.

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Grantee Presentations

Dr. Michelle Fiscus, MD FAAP-TN Department of Health, Medical Director of Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Immunization Program

Dr. Fiscus presented on the State's pandemic vaccination program.

The Vaccines for Children program has an annual budget of \$119 million and manages 2 million vaccine doses per year. The Vaccine Preventable Diseases program handles pandemic preparedness and investigates and mitigates vaccine preventable disease outbreaks. The COVID-19 vaccine has been allocated for distribution to 6.8 million Tennesseans. There were 3,033,370 total child COVID-19 cases in the country as of February 2021. Children are receiving less immunizations since the pandemic started. The AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) recommends anyone 16 years of age and older who meets criteria in phased implementation groups receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Lynne Farrar, Executive Director- Tennessee CASA

Farrar provided the commission with an overview of the CASA program.

CASA's mission is to support, develop, expand, and unite local CASA programs in recruiting and training volunteers to advocate for Tennessee's children who have been abused and neglected. There are 950 programs nationwide in 49 states and the District of Columbia.

The Tennessee CASA Association was formed in 1988 to support local CASA programs. CASA has a strong partnership with TCCY. As of June 30, 2020, 1,550 CASA volunteers advocated for 5,230 of Tennessee's children who have experienced abuse and neglect.

Travis Claybrooks- Raphah Institute

Claybrooks provided the commission with an overview of the Raphah Institute program.

The Raphah Institute partners with community leaders to design, implement, and identify

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solutions such as restorative justice to the systemic challenges that face the community. Their RJDP (Restorative Justice Diversion Program) was developed to increase youth accountability for their crimes. 70 cases have been accepted in to the RJDP since 2018. 29 youths have completed the program.

Ashley Freeberg, Prevention Coordinator- Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition

Freeberg presented on the RCADC (Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition).

The mission of RCADC is to reduce youth substance use; educate and raise awareness of alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues; to promote community involvement; and to strengthen community partnerships and prevention strategies in Roane County. They have been able to offer virtual in classroom sessions since the pandemic started.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, Mortensen motioned to adjourn the February 2021 Commission Meeting. Philyaw seconded.

Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. CST

Prepared by Lea Brandon