

Youth Justice Committee

Location: **WebEx Meeting**
Date: Friday, 5/7/2021
Time: 10:00 A.M. CDT

Staff Present: Richard Kennedy, Exec Dir., Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir., Bill Latimer, Melissa McGee, Russette Marcum-Embry, Latasha Mitchell, Steve Petty, Vicki Taylor

Commission Members Present: Rob Mortensen, Chair, Cameron Carver, Judge Sharon Green, Amy Jones, Charmaine Kromer, Judge Rob Philyaw, Michael Rediker

Commission Members Absent: Brenda Davis, Jennie Harlan, Mackenzie Johnston, Trey Jones, Stan Settles, Dr. Altha Stewart, Glenda Terry

Guest: Alyssa Malcomson, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Grants Management Specialist

1. **Call to Order – Rob Mortensen, Chair**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Mortensen called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Kennedy introduced new youth members, Michael Rediker and Cameron Carver. Mortensen asked Commission members and staff to introduce themselves.

2. **Approval of February 2021 Youth Justice Meeting Minutes (ACTION)**

Mortensen asked for a motion to approve the Youth Justice Committee minutes from the February Commission meeting.

Judge Sharon Green asked to make a correction to a statement she made in February minutes expressing her frustration with in-person hearings. Judge Green's frustration was with the extensive amount of time spent on zoom hearings every day due to COVID-19 and not in-person hearings.

Judge Rob Philyaw moved to approve the minutes from February 2021 with Judge Green's correction. Judge Sharon Green seconded. Unanimously Approved.

3. **Staff Updates**

CASA Grants Management – Craig Hargrow

Marcum-Embry was having connection difficulties. Hargrow reported Marcum-Embry continues to provide technical assistance to CASA program coordinators as necessary. Third quarter expense reports and quarterly reports are coming in for review and approval. Once approved, these are submitted for payment through Centralized Accounting. Marcum-Embry prepared the contract application documents for FY 2021-2022 and distributed to grantees. Applications for funding are due to TCCY by May 14th.

Federal Formula Grant Update- Vicki Taylor

Whitfield and Taylor conducted site visits with all FFG grantees. Nine were held virtual and two were in person. Grantees are still finding creative ways to continue programming.

The OJJDP FY 2021 Title II Solicitation has not been released at this time. This is the application we prepare and submit to receive our federal funding. Youth Justice staff continue to participate on monthly juvenile justice specialist calls and have been told the solicitation will be released soon. There were changes in the JJRA 2018, OJJDP administrative changes and a new unified grants management system was created, JUSTGrants, where TCCY submits everything pertaining to TCCY's application.

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders Update- Zanira Whitfield

Hargrow reported Whitfield is on leave and will present on DSO violations next quarter. Youth justice staff and Regional coordinators continue to monitor facilities and provide technical support.

Compliance Monitoring Update- Latasha Mitchell

CPO Plan

The Grant Contract Monitor has begun preparing for the 2022 CPO Plan submission, which is due October 1, 2021.

2020 Monitoring

The Grant Contract Monitor began sending out scheduling letters for 2021 Monitoring in April. 2021 Monitoring is set to begin in May and will run through the summer into the fall. 2020 Monitoring is still in progress due to COVID-19 delays. Subrecipients have adjusted to the new process and continue to demonstrate improvement in overall findings and observations. Consequently, the Grant Contract Monitor has less site visits to complete in 2021 than in previous years, and more programs have been able to skip a year for monitoring.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities- Craig Hargrow

None of the local task forces have met since the last Commission meeting. Hargrow continues to work individually in Davidson county to address racial and ethnic disparities.

Hargrow pre-recorded and made a presentation for the Joint Conference on Juvenile Justice held on April 10, 2021.

Hargrow has prepared drafts of RFPs that include a racial and ethnic disparities component in them to make sure most TCCY subgrants address the issue.

Youth Justice Challenges- Open Dialogue

Mortensen reported on meeting with DCS Commissioner Jennifer Nichols and DCS Deputy Commissioner of Juvenile Justice Darren Goods regarding working collaboratively to make lives better for youth in Tennessee. Mortensen suggested having the next meeting in-person. Hargrow spoke with Deputy Commissioner Goods to share ideas with hopes of forming a working relationship.

Kennedy reported on the submitted agency budget reduction plan and CASA dollars were restored to TCCY budget, but the language in the sponsored budget amendments was incorrect.

Kennedy reported on the Juvenile Justice Reform Act 2018 Implementation Council recommendation to create a consistent Data management system. Kennedy and Hargrow had a phone conversation with Rachel Harmon, Administrative Office of the Courts, about including data TCCY will need.

Kennedy reported the House and Senate passed a bill that prohibits using seclusion for punishment or administrative convenience and eliminates youth being in seclusion

MINUTES

longer than six hours.

Kennedy reported the Racial and Ethnic Disparities work being done by TCCY continues to address disparities in the youth justice system to fulfill OJJDP requirements and TCCY will be mindful how this work will continue. Kennedy reported the legislature passed a bill prohibiting schools from teaching critical race theories. Petty will share a copy of the bill with the Youth Justice committee.

Petty gave a legislative update reporting on a few bills that passed and did not pass.

Kennedy reported on a conversation with Senator Page Walley who is interested in Youth Transition work and youth aging out of foster care. Kennedy will schedule a time to meet with Senator Walley to discuss what TCCY does as an agency and possibly schedule a tour of Wilder Youth Development Center. Several Youth Justice committee members expressed interest in touring Wilder YDC.

4) **Motion to Adjourn**

Mortesen moved to adjourn the meeting. Judge Philyaw seconded and all approved

Meeting ended at 11:06 a.m.

Prepared by: Vicki Taylor