

Children's Services Committee

Location: **Microsoft Teams meeting**
Join on your computer or mobile app

Date: Tuesday, 2/1/2022
Time: 1:00 P.M. CST/2:00 P.M. EDT

Staff Present: Cory Bradfield, Kylie Burns, Lindsey Cody, Katie Cannon, SaVone Cole, Dana Cobb, Susan Cope, Jeni Davis, Craig Hargrow, Richard Kennedy, Bill Latimer, Russette Marcum Embry, Melissa McGee, Jerri Moore, Jonquil Newland, Kristi Paling, Gerald Papica, Steve Petty, Jill Stott, Carla Walker, Gwendolyn Wright.

Staff Absent: None

Commission Members: Ella Britt, Randy Butler, Amy Jones, Charmaine Kromer, Steven Neely, Petrina Jones Jez, Judge Rob Philyaw, Stan Settles, Glenda Terry.

Commission Members Absent:

Guests: None

1) **Call to Order – Amy Jones, Chair**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Jones called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Jones identified all members present for the Teams meeting. Jones asked for any new persons to introduce themselves, Katie Cannon, TCCY intern, introduced herself to the group. Wendy Pickering new TCCY Staff person introduced herself.

2) **Approval of August Children's Services Minutes (ACTION)**

Jones asked for a motion to approve the Children's Services minutes from the October 2021 Commission Meeting. Brit moved Neely Seconded. The motion was approved.

Staff Updates

Ombudsman Program

- 3) Papica reported eighteen new referrals were received for the months of October, November, and December. For the same reporting period, there were 15 new referrals

in 2020 and 27 new referrals in 2019. As of 12/31/21, 34 cases remain active or open in the Ombudsman Program database

He also participated in one Second Look Commission meeting on December 14 via WebEx and attended two FCRB #3 on November 22 and December 13 via Zoom from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Papica also participated in nine CFTMs via WebEx. Topics of discussion range from Progress and Status Review, Permanency Plan update, placement change, etc.

No daycare licensing case was heard for the months of October, November, and December partly due to postponements or settlements. Due to the retirement of Dr. Papica on Feb. 28, Cory Bradfield has agreed to fill in as the agency designee and Russette Marcum-Embry will be the back-up.

In anticipation of Dr. Papica's retirement, he is drafting and completing a 50-page manual or standard operating procedure that can be used as a guide how to manage as well as maintain TCCY's Ombudsman Program. When Dr. Papica's retirement was announced to DCS, Commissioner Jennifer Nichols sent this statement of support, *"How happy I am for you! Congratulations on your retirement; you will be missed. Thank you for working with our department in the way that you have; you've always been professional, solution focused and transparent."*

Building Strong Brains Tennessee

TCCY continues the strong partnership with DCS in leadership of Building Strong Brains Tennessee through the BSB Coordinating Team, comprised of identified public and private leaders, and the BSB Public/Private Steering Group, comprised of a broad base of community members partnering in this work. TCCY coordinated a half day retreat in December for the BSB Coordinating Team to further progress on the Strategic Plan for 2022. Kennedy and McGee oversee organization and execution of meetings of the Coordinating Team and Public/Private Steering Group.

Training for Trainers

McGee and the TCCY Building Strong Brains (BSB) team have resumed regular meetings and will continue to ensure training material and presentations are up to date.

Dates for Spring 2022 Training for Trainers (T4T) were finalized:

March 29th – 30th

April 12th – 13th

May 17th – 18th

Two of the training dates will be for targeted audiences, one for faith-based leaders (May) and one for business leaders (April). The other date (March) will be open for applications from the general population. The TCCY training group was also reconvened.

Building Strong Brains – Community

Kennedy and McGee met with Dr. Monty Burks of TDMHSAS to discuss partnership with the faith community. McGee met with several community leaders about continued collaboration, including Jen Trail, TDOH, and Becky Haas, Community Trauma Informed leader. McGee has also begun review and cleaning of the BSB Learning Collaborative, comprised of those who have completed BSB T4T, and will solicit a survey to identify active trainers and support needs.

Kennedy provided information about a partnership between East Tennessee State University and Ballad Health called the Building Strong Brains Institute. They have a contract with the Department of Health to develop what a trauma informed business would look like. Kennedy also reported working with Dr. Kathy Taylor at Belmont University about a one day summit with faith leaders. Additionally, one of TCCY's budget requests was for three positions to implement Building Strong Brains in the three Grand Divisions. The budget included funding for the Compilations and also for CASA \$5.4 million for expansion statewide.

Youth Transitions Advisory Council

Petty provided report that the Youth Transitions Advisory Council, has not met since the previous meeting on October 7, 2021. The Youth Transitions Advisory Council annual report was completed and delivered prior to the October meeting. The next proposed meeting date for the Youth Transitions Advisory Council is Thursday, March 24, 2022. If a suitable location is available, we will meet in-person. If not, the Council will meet virtually via Teams. Petty reported that the budget included addition funding for extension of foster care services.

Council on Children's Mental Health (CCMH)

The final meeting of CCMH occurred on Thursday, October 21st. The meeting focused on youth just work in Tennessee and updates on federal requirements, as well as

information on trauma-informed schools and TDMHSAS' Tennessee Resiliency Project grant. McGee will be transitioning into a different position at TCCY but will provide assistance with CCMH until the position is filled. Dates for 2022 CCMH meetings were provided:

February 24, 2022

April 21, 2022

June 23, 2022

August 25, 2022

October 20, 2022

McGee continues to support TDMHSAS and the SOCAT work statewide through targeted meetings with TDMHSAS/TCCY leadership, general meetings and presentations. She also participated in various community meetings, including TSPN's Intrastate Departmental Group, TDOE's Mental Health Collaborative and AWARE State Management Team, TDMHSAS' Policy and Planning committee, and was invited to be part of AOC's Family Preservation Initiative. She also provided presentations for AOC, TECTA and United Way of the Mid-South.

McGee was also nominated to serve on the Children's Justice Task Force and is awaiting final decision and recently graduated from LEAD Tennessee. In November, she attended her first in-person conference and supported the SOCAT booth at the Rural Health of Tennessee Annual Conference, held in Pigeon Forge.

Kennedy reported on the position combining duties for the Council on Children's Mental Health, the Youth Transitions Advisory Council and the Home Visiting Leadership Alliance.

Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council

Bradfield reported that the last general meeting of the Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council (TNYCWC) was held via WebEx on 12/15 and featured an update on *Building Strong Foundations for Families* from the Director as well as presentations from the Tennessee Department of Human Services' Child Care Office and the Tennessee Department of Health's Early Childhood Initiatives Section. The next TNYCWC meeting will be held on 02/23.

The TNYCWC Newsletter continues to be issued monthly. The newsletter features upcoming webinars, job postings, issue spotlights, and profiles of participating agencies.

The Steering Team has operated as the Core Team of the *Building Strong Foundations For Families* project for the duration of that grant period. The Steering Team met on 11/04, 12/02, and 02/02. Now that the *BSFF* project is ending, the Steering Team will re-evaluate its meeting schedule, membership and purpose for the next phase of the council's work.

Zero to Three Technical Assistance Opportunity

February is the final month of the council's work with the ZTT on the Building Strong Foundations for Families (BSFF) project. Funded by national nonprofit ZERO TO THREE, the goal of the project has been to support a cohort of states in building and strengthening comprehensive policies, programs and systems that ensure families with infants and toddlers have the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

The Director, with the rest of the Core Team, participated in a virtual cross-site wrap-up meeting with other state teams from 12/07-12/09. The teams discussed successes and challenges from the BSFF project as well as advocacy opportunities related to potential federal spending.

As part of the BSFF project, the TNYCWC hosted an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (I/ECMH) policy summit on 12/08. The summit aimed to familiarize policymakers with the basics of I/ECMH, the positive impact of I/ECMH-focused policies and programs and establish the TNYCWC and its partners as resources for I/ECMH policy expertise. Featured speakers included experts provided by ZERO TO THREE as well as administrators of I/ECMH programs and initiatives that make up Tennessee's I/ECMH system.

As the result of collaboration stemming from this project, the Director and other members of the TNYCWC are engaged a project with Building Strong Foundations for Families counterparts in KY. The project will explore issues surrounding accessing maternal care in neighboring states when such care is unavailable locally, utilizing focus groups of consumers and providers. The teams from KY and TN are spending the closing weeks of the grant period conducting research.

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA)

Moore is currently still managing Home Visitation Leadership Alliance duties and convening HVLA meetings. During this quarter, Moore led meetings in November and January with about 70 in attendance at each.

Parents as Teachers, Healthy Families Tennessee, Nurse Family Partnership, and

Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee all gave program updates during the November meeting. Kennedy offered updates on the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. Sarah Sanders contributed Tennessee Department of Health updates with news that the department completed a grant application for American Rescue Plan funds that would add more funding to all home visitation agencies. Sanders said she was pleased with the application that was submitted and was hopeful for a positive outcome. Jonathan Scoonover with Tennessee Quality Early Education also joined this meeting to share information about the statewide Bright Start TN initiative.

The January meeting included department updates from the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth and Department of Health. Kylie Graves with Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth joined the meeting for a presentation and discussion on the 2021 State of the Child Kids Count Report.

Second Look Commission

Hargrow reported that the Second Look Commission (SLC) met virtually on November 9 and December 14, 2020. Both meetings were dedicated to working on the SLC annual report.

Hargrow sent preliminary findings, recommendations, and observations to several child abuse prevention stakeholders for input. Hargrow received excellent comments, most of which were included in the report.

With the help of Steve Petty, Kylie Graves and others, the SLC submitted the report in a timely manner. The findings, observations and recommendations included providing more and better services, protection of children through court orders, and optimizing medical professionals in investigations.

DCS provided helpful feedback on the report and Rep. Littleton's office reported filing three bills she is sponsoring with Senator Jackson as a result of the recommendations from the report.

4) Additional Items or Comments

TCCY has a new intern. SaVone Cole is a Master of Social Work graduate student at Union University in Jackson, TN, and will be completing her internship with TCCY during the spring 2022 semester. McGee will provide oversight and Sloan will provide required

supervision. Cole will be provided a general internship with experience in most areas of TCCY.

5) **Motion to Adjourn**

Neely made the motion to adjourn, Britt seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.