

## Council's Committee

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Location: **Teams Meeting**  
Date: Tuesday, 2/8/2022  
Time: 1:00 P.M. CDT

**Staff Present:** Richard Kennedy, Exec. Dir., Dana Cobb, Gwendolyn Wright, Jeni Davis, Jerri Moore, Jill Stott, Kristi Paling, Lindsey Cody, Susan Cope, Carla Walker, Melissa McGee, Steve Petty, Craig Hargrow, and Bill Latimer

**Staff Absent:** N/A

**Commission Members Present:** Ashely Dunkin, Chair, Randy Butler, Steven Neely, Kelly Drummond, Judge Rob Philyaw, Stan Settles.

**Commission Members Absent:** Glenda Terry, Cameron Carver, Allan Sterbinsky, Petrina Jones-Jesz, Ella Britt,

**Guests:**

1) **Call to Order – Ashely Dunkin, Chair**

The Chair asked Walker, new Southeast Regional Coordinator to introduce herself to the committee. Dunkin called the meeting to order after roll call a quorum was ascertained.

2) **Approval of October 2021 Council's Minutes (ACTION)**

Dunkin asked for a motion to approve the Regional Council's minutes from the May Commission Meeting.

***BUTLER moved to approve the minutes from October, 2022.***

***Steven Neely seconded. Unanimously Approved.***

Kennedy talked about process of hiring staff to fill vacant positions, expressed satisfaction with Regional Coordinator Staff. Kennedy also talked about Children's Advocacy Days.

3) **Regional Coordinator Updates**

**Dana Cobb- NW**

1. Cobb completed in-person Compliance Monitoring and Reports on sixteen (16) NW facilities. The facilities included County Jails, Police Department Lockups, Court Holding Rooms, the NW Correctional Complex (Prison) and Juvenile Detention Center. Cobb also attended the virtual OJJDP Conference in November 2021, to learn more about the compliance monitoring changes to the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, that will go into effect December 2021.
2. Cobb and new hire Carla Walker, South Central Regional Coordinator, completed in-person Compliance Monitoring and Reports on twenty-four (24) South Central facilities. The facilities included County Jails, Court Holding Rooms and two Juvenile Detention Centers. Cobb provided Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitoring training to Walker regarding procedures and report timelines.
3. Cobb distributed the 2020 Tennessee Compilations of Selected Laws on Children, Youth and Families books to NW Judges and Juvenile Court staff, Department of Children Services Legal Staff, Juvenile Detention Center, CASA programs, Rural West Child Advocacy Centers, District Attorneys, Public Defenders and others.
4. The West Tennessee Virtual Legislative Forum, “Transforming and Investing in West Tennessee Families”, was held on Friday, February 4, 2022. The Forum was a collaborative effort of the West Grand Division Regional Coordinators, Gwendolyn Wright, Memphis-Shelby County Regional Council, Jerri Moore, SW Regional Council and Dana Cobb, NW Regional Council. Matt Marshall, United Way West TN, co-sponsored and was an integral part of the Forum’s success. Forum speakers and panelists provided information on Building Strong Brains TN and ACEs, Bright Start TN, the Family Opportunity Act and the West TN Blue Oval City Regional Megasite project. Senator Ed Jackson provided a Legislative update. Over 150 were registered within the first week of open registration.
5. The NW Council on Children and Youth made significant financial contributions to the six counties impacted by the destructive and deadly tornados that hit the NW Region.

### **Lindsey Cody- ETCCY**

1. The East TN Council on Children and Youth presented “Domestic Violence and its Effect on Children and Families” with guest speaker, Dr. David Kitts on 10/26/2021. This training examined the legal aspects of domestic relationships, the root cause of unhealthy relationships, and community resources individuals could utilize for assistance. Special emphasis was placed on the impact domestic

violence has on children and what steps might be taken to help children caught in abusive situations. Regional Administrator Cody included all of the TCCY Regional Councils in this training event. There was a total of 372 attendees who participated in this online training event.

2. The East TN Council on Children and Youth presented “Cyber Bullying and Digital Dangers” with guest speaker Special Agent Ted S. Francisco of U.S. Homeland Security. ETCCY included all of the other TCCY Regional Councils to participate in this event. During this presentation, participants learned basic cyber safety and awareness measures that can be used to keep children and families safe as they navigate online. The Presentation also included a section on Bullying and Cyber Bullying. The training showed how predators target young people to persuade suicide through online games that culminate with the teen committing suicide. This presentation gave participants a better understanding of what takes place online including the dark web and how to protect your children and family and provided resources to help protect them. There were 296 attendees who participated in this online event.
3. Regional Administrator Cody and Jill Hunter Murphy of the East TN Foundation conducted an ACE’s KMT presentation for the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association of East TN on 10/2/2021. This ACEs KMT Presentation was also presented at the Smoky Mountain Inter-Community Agency Meeting on 11/5/2021, and at the Roane County Community Advisory Board meeting on 11/18/2021 for which Jill Hunter Murphy chairs. Regional Administrator conducted the presentation once again along with ETCCY Vice-President Kathy Bryant at the Healthy Families Board Meeting at Helen Ross McNabb on 12/10/2021.
4. Regional Administrator Cody completed all Adult Jail Monitoring in the 16 County area which included onsite visits and inspections, reviews of the Inmate Population Analysis and gathering any working papers for any Student that was bound over to Adult Court.

## **Jill Stott- NE**

1. Regional Coordinator Stott, along with Regional Coordinator Paling volunteered to travel to the Southeast Region in November and December to conduct the Annual OJJDP Compliance Monitoring visits. There was a total of 39 to monitor.

2. Regional Coordinator Stott is working with other statewide coordinators to plan for 2022 virtual meetings.
3. Regional Coordinator Stott was asked to participate in county steering committees to work on collaborating county health councils, community advisory councils and drug coalitions.
4. Regional Coordinator Stott completed all Northeast Regional Annual OJJDP Compliance Monitoring visits.

## **Susan Cope- MC**

1. Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth hosted their annual legislative event on November 7, 2021. TCCY Deputy Executive Director, Craig Hargrow moderated a Legislative Panel Discussion with panel members: Senator Ferrell Haile, Representative Mary Littleton, Representative Harold Love, Jr., and Representative Mike Stewart. The Council held their last Executive Board meeting for FY 2021 on December 3, 2021, immediately followed by their Annual Meeting that was open to all council members. Guest speaker, Rachel Westbrook, presented: **Breathe In, Breathe Out**: a reminder of why we do the work we do and how to take care of ourselves so we can keep doing it. MCCY By-Laws and the Regional Councils Funds Administration Guidelines were emailed to all members, prior to the annual meeting. The first Executive Board meeting for 2022 was held on January 25.
2. Cope completed the compliance monitoring of her nine assigned facilities. These included five county jails, two court holding facilities, on juvenile detention center and one police department. While conducting monitoring visits, Cope learned two new court holding facilities have been added in the Mid-Cumberland region. She visited these new facilities and provided technical assistance on reports and documentation that is required from these facilities for FY 2022. Cope attended the annual virtual Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Conference (OJJDP). New compliance monitoring requirements were discussed at several sessions during the conference.
3. Cope prepared 660 copies of the Tennessee Compilations of Selected Laws on Children, Youth and Families for distribution and personally delivered approximately 536 copies to juvenile court staff, DCS staff, jails, police, CACs, CASAs, DHS staff, AOC and private attorneys. Cope posted to the TCCY Facebook

page announcements of the MCCY annual legislative event. Cope also maintains an email distribution list of approximately 1100 individuals and sends weekly emails on child-and family-focused information and data released by TCCY. Information disseminated included announcements from Building Strong Brains, Youth Justice, Home Visiting Alliance, Young Child Wellness, Children's Mental Health and Youth Transition Advisory and the **2021 Kids Count State of the Child**.

4. Cope continues to work with Wilson County Knowledge Mobilization team, **Wilson Cares**, to offer community partner educational events. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Wilson Cares showed the Resilience Film to community partners and had approximately 100 individuals in attendance. On December 14, 2021, Brittany Ash and Wilson County CASA , hosted **Resilience and Beyond** with a in-person and zoom attendance option. Attendance numbers are not available at this time.

#### **Carla Walker- SC**

1. Walker accepted the South Central Regional Coordinator position and began employment with TCCY on January 4, 2022. Walker worked for her previous employer, the Department of Children's Services for sixteen years. She brings a wealth of child and family knowledge and experience, having worked in Child Protection Services, Family Support Services and as the South Central Resource Linkage Coordinator. We welcome Carla to the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth.
2. Walker shadowed her supervisor, Dana Cobb, for the twenty-four (24) South Central Compliance Monitoring visits. Walker had a positive previous relationship with many of the agencies and staff encountered during monitoring. Walker worked hard to understand the Juvenile Justice Reform Act compliance monitoring procedures, paperwork required and report deadlines.
3. Walker distributed the 2020 Tennessee Compilations of Selected Laws on Children, Youth and Families Compilation books to South Central Judges and Juvenile Court staff, Department of Children Services Administrative and Legal Staff, Juvenile Detention Centers, District Attorneys, Public Defenders and others.
4. Walker serves as chair of the Maury County Students in Transition (MCSIT). The group focus is school students experiencing homelessness. The group assists families in paying rent, with utility bills, food, and gas. The other primary focus is school enrollment, attendance, and success.

## **Kristi Paling- UC**

1. Regional Coordinator Paling attended a kick-off meeting as one of the stakeholders in the UC region at the Upper Cumberland Development District on January 5<sup>th</sup>. UCDD has been awarded a TANF Opportunity Act Planning Grant to aid in reimagining the social services systems of the region. The grant was awarded to 17 collaborations throughout the state and allows UCDD to go after a three-year 25-million-dollar implementation pilot grant. The Pilot grants will be awarded to 6 collaborations throughout the state, 2 awards per grand division. The goal is to bring 500 children out of poverty during the three-year pilot grant period.
2. Regional Coordinator Paling has been concentrating efforts on Compliance Monitoring for the Upper Cumberland Region and partnering with Regional Coordinator Stott in completing the monitoring for the Southeast Region.
3. Regional Coordinator Paling is finalizing plans in collaboration with WillowBend Farms (Human Trafficking 501C3 support agency) and Power of Putnam (prevention coalition) for the 2-day Drug Endangered Children's event, "Are you Awake" on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> to be held in-person at The River Church in Cookeville.
4. Regional Coordinator Paling has identified April 8, 2022, for the Upper Cumberland Legislative Breakfast Event and planning has begun.
5. Paling will be delivering the Handle with Care/ACEs presentation along with the Cannon County YSO, to Cannon County school teachers and school personal on January 19<sup>th</sup> and to law enforcement on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## **Gwen Wright- Memphis Shelby**

1. The West Tennessee Virtual Legislative Forum, "The Transforming and Investing in West Tennessee Families", was held on Friday, February 4, 2022. The Forum was a collaborative effort of the West Grand Division Regional Coordinators, Gwendolyn Wright, Memphis-Shelby County Regional Council, Jerri Moore, SW Regional Council and Dana Cobb, NW Regional Council. United Way West TN co-

sponsored and was an integral part of the Forum's success. Participants heard from **legislators & experts who discussed the impact increased investments in West TN will have on Child Welfare, Education, and Human Services.** Presentations were made on the state of Building Strong Brains Tennessee and ACEs (Richard Kennedy), Bright Start (Blair Taylor, Tennessee Quality Early Childhood), and the Family Opportunity Act (Commissioner Clarence Carter, TN Department of Human Services) and a panel, West Tennessee Blue Oval City Regional Megasite Panel with Commissioner Bob Rolfe, TN Department of Economic and Community Development, Kyle Spurgeon, Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Mark Herbison, HTL Advantage and Ted Townsend, Memphis Chamber of Commerce. Senator Ed Jackson provided the Legislative Update.

2. Wright completed in-person Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitoring and Reports on twenty-one (21) Shelby County facilities throughout the months of November and December. The facilities included area County Jails, Memphis Police Department Precincts and Bureaus, Shelby County Court Holding Facility, the Airport Police Department and the Shelby County Juvenile Detention Center.
3. Wright distributed the 2020 Compilation of Selected Laws to Shelby County area Jails, District Attorney, Juvenile Court Staff, Department of Children Services Leadership and Legal Staff, Juvenile Public Defender's Office, and others.
4. Wright convened a virtual meeting of the Memphis/Shelby County Children and Youth Council's Executive Committee to discuss and make plans for future learning opportunities. The Council also adopted three children from the DCS Angel Tree and Wright made the purchases of their requested gifts and delivered them to DCS staff.
5. Wright continued to participate in Memphis/Shelby County Community Advisory Boards, Councils, Coalitions, and Boards and continues to serve as chair of the Tennessee Community Services Agency Board of Directors.

### **Jerri Moore- SW**

1. Moore completed Compliance Monitoring checks for eleven (11) jails, Wilder Youth Development Center, Madison County Juvenile Detention, and Tipton County Court holding during this quarter. During this time, Moore also distributed 2020 Tennessee Compilations of Selected Laws on Children, Youth

and Families books to 109 Southwest contacts. Moore attended the annual 2021 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Conference virtually.

2. Moore participated in a Macro Level Advocacy Panel for a Master's of Social Work class at Union University to discuss how some agencies and organizations advocate for groups and individuals without direct service.
3. Moore partnered with Cobb, Wright, and Matt Marshall with United Way West Tennessee to plan and present the 2<sup>nd</sup> West TN Legislative Event (virtually) on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Over 150 were registered within the first week of open registration.
4. Southwest Council voted to sponsor 2 DCS custodial youth for Christmas. The Council provided each youth with Walmart gift cards.
5. Moore continues to manage the duties of the Home Visitation Leadership Alliance due to the current TCCY vacancy. Moore worked with the Department of Health staff to create the agenda, update the current HVLA distribution list, and view previous HVLA recordings. This quarter, Moore held HVLA meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> and January 25<sup>th</sup> with around 75 Evidence-Based Home Visiting Leaders in attendance each time.

4) **Motion to Adjourn**

***Steven Neely made a motion to adjourn. Dunkin seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:51pm.***

Prepared by: Steve Petty