TCCY Commission Meeting August 2020

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Date: Friday, 8/14/2020

Time: 8:30 A.M. CDT

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| **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 Sloan, Jill Stott, Vicki Taylor, Zanira Whitfield, Gwendolyn Wright  **Staff Absent: N/A**  **Commission Members Present**: Brenda Davis, Chair, Rob Mortensen, Vice Chair, Ashley Dunkin, Rob Philyaw, Allan Sterbinsky, Altha Stewart, Steven Neely, Amy Jones, Jennie Harlan, Wendy Shea, Ella Britt, Christy Sigler, Sharon Green, Petrina Jones-Jesz, Mackenzie Johnston, Glenda Terry  **Commission Member Absent**: **N/A**  **Guests**: Cheyenne Luther, BSSW, Claiborne County Home Visitor | |
|  | **Welcome**   * Welcome and Introductions (Brenda Davis, Chair) * Roll Call- (Jennifer Jones)   + Quorum was established * Call to Order- Brenda Davis, Chair   **Approvals and Actions** |
|  | **Approval of May Full Commission Meeting Minutes**  Davis asked for a motion for the approval of the May 2020 Commission Meeting minutes.  ***Britt moved and Philyaw seconded.***  *Unanimously approved by the commission.*  **Approval of TCCY FY 2020 Budget as of August 14th, 2020**  Davis asked for a motion for the approval of the TCCY FY 2020 Budget as of August 14th, 2020  ***Britt moved and Philyaw seconded.***  *Unanimously approved by the commission.*  **Committee Reports**  **Budget and Data Overview ( Allan Sterbinsky, Chair) and (Richard Kennedy, Executive Director )**  Sterbinsky provided the Commission with a brief budget overview. Sterbinsky informed the Commission Members that TCCY has hired two new employees, Lea Brandon and Kylie Burns. Brandon is now the new Executive Administrative Assistant under Budget and Administration, replacing Russette Sloan (who was promoted to Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Grants Manager). Kylie Burns is a former intern hired as the new Communication and Policy Specialist replacing Fay Delk who retired.  Kennedy discussed potential budget impacts due to COVID-19. Kennedy informed the Commission that Finance and Administration asked TCCY to develop a twelve percent reduction plan. The reductions would amount to $433,200 for TCCY and come from state-allocated funds. The reduction plan focused on not eliminating filled staff positions and not negatively impacting programs that directly serve children, youth, and families. Kennedy further explained. The General Assembly will decide which reductions will be used. Considerations included in the reduction plan were:   * Funds allocated to CASA programs that are not being used * Vacant Program Administrator position * Vacant Director of Field Operations position (previously held by John Rust) being reduced from full-time to part-time * Reducing Children’s Advocacy Days (CAD) from two days to one day * Eliminating Regional Coordinators office space statewide * Reducing CASA contract funds by 12%   Sterbinsky updated Commission Members on the financial status as of June 30, 2020. TCCY has collected all outstanding revenue. 89% of state appropriations have been spent. Final CAD expenditures were $45,756 and a total of $38,412 was collected in sponsorships.Unobligated CASA funds, COVID-19, and vacant positions contributed to unspent dollars.  Sterbinsky updated Commission members on Fiscal Year 2020-21 Inter-Departmental revenues:   * $555,000 from the Department of Children’s Services (DCS) to fund CASA * $84,000 from the Department of Health for Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) * $98,500 from the Department of Health for Young Child Wellness Council * $50,000 from the Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) to fund Compilation. * $164,000 from a pending 2-year contract with six child service agencies for KidCentral (waiting on DCS and Mental Health to sign the contracts) * Systems of Care Across TN (SOCAT) ending Sept. 30, 2020 and funds will not be included in the FY 2020-21 budget * Zero To Three is a 2-year project with total funding of $115,000. $69,000 of those funds will be for FY 2020-21. First disbursement check of $36,000 was received in August. * Annie E. Casey funds are usually received around February-with half of the funds being spent in the current fiscal year and the other half being spent in the upcoming fiscal year. $57,782 was reserved from FY 2019-20, bringing total reserves to $117,000.   Isom completed all CASA and Reimbursement Account (RA) contracts. 55 Counties received CASA contracts; 25 counties received RA contracts. The Federal Formula Grants (FFG) contracts will be voted on during the grants review committee update.  Sterbinsky also reported that Newland has been working diligently with Google ads support team to fix an ID verification requirement that has been added to the platform. The statistics for April, May and June are down from previous years, due to the new ID verification requirement. Newland is working hard for a work around in order to see a positive turn around in stats. Social media numbers have increased the last few months, largely due to COVID-19. Sterbinsky shared the top three visited topics on the TCCY website since COVID-19 were Juvenile Justice, KIDS COUNT and Ombudsman. Burns is currently working on reformatting and redesigning *The Advocate* newsletter. Also, TCCY has been incorporating the new branding logo on all social media platforms in the past quarter. Social media platforms have received more engagement and the website is more streamlined and easier to follow.  **Councils (Allan Sterbinsky, Acting Chair)**  Sterbinsky provided the Commission with a brief Councils overview, replacing Ashley Dunkin, Chair in her absence of the Councils Committee Meeting. Sterbinsky stated that the regional program administrators (RPA) and regional coordinators (RC) are: Lindsey Cody, RPA East, Kristi Paling, RC Upper Cumberland, and Jill Grayson Stott, RC Northeast; Rosalyn Leavell-Rice, RPA Southeast, Susan Cope, RC Mid-Cumberland and Shaun Noblit, RC South Central; and Dana Cobb, RPA Northwest, Jerri Moore, RC Southwest and Gwen Wright, RC Memphis/Shelby County.  The Regional Program Administrators and Regional Coordinators continue facility monitoring to collect data through contacts and visits with adult jails and lock ups, court holding facilities, secure juvenile detention and correctional facilities as well as temporary holding facilities. Sterbinsky stated that coordinators each file their report with Zanira Whitfield with the Juvenile Justice division. Those reports are compiled and shared with OJJDP.  Also, the division’s work with Building Strong Brains Tennessee community knowledge mobilization continues to expand. The overall expansion of the knowledge of ACEs and trauma-informed care has enhanced our ability to promote community mobilization. Some county health councils have identified ACEs as a priority of their community health assessments. Some county health departments are focusing on making their agencies more trauma-informed. Many schools involved in trauma-informed practices have partnered with TCCY regional coordinators for learning opportunities, connection and support. They have been diligent to open their online trainings, not only to their council members, but the entire membership of the councils across the state. They will continue to offer shared statewide learning opportunities for council members across the state.  **Children’s Services ( Amy Jones, Chair)**  Jones provided the Commission with a brief update. Jones reported that the Ombudsman Program has taken 29 referrals in 2020, down from 44 in 2019 and 24 in 2018. COVID-19 caused some decline beginning in mid-March. Papica continues to attend the Foster Care Review Board via Zoom and Second Look Commission Meetings. Ombudsman virtual training is in planning for 2021. Jones reported that the Building Strong Brains Conference Content Committee decided to move forward with a Lunch and Learn Series throughout the Summer. To date four have been conducted, attracting approximately 350 participants. Also, the TN Department of Health is partnering with Drake-Croft to form BSB TN “learning communities” focusing on the various Lunch and Learn topic areas.  Kennedy and Drake-Croft worked with a team at DCS and ETSU to make revisions on the BSB TN article for submission to the *American Psychologist.* The Youth Advisory Council met in conjunction with the Councils on Children’s Mental Health and the meeting was well attended. There has been a slight increase in numbers, possibly due to COVID-19. The meetings included more youth involvement, conversation and participation, which was well received from the meeting participants. Jones reported that Fentress remains in her position as the Middle Tennessee SOCAT Divisional Coordinator, while Jill Murphy’s last day with TCCY was May 29th.  The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) submitted a proposal to the Department of Human Services for use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to support one year of SOCAT services. The proposal was approved as currently funded through the final year of the federal grant allowing sites to continue services through at least September 2021. Due to VOICV-19 Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) continues to meet virtually. They last met on June 23rd and heard presentations from partners at the Department of Health. JW Randolph presented on COVID-19 strategies in Tennessee. Monique Anthony from the Office of Minority Health and Disparity Elimination presented on Health Disparities in Tennessee and highlighted the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color in Tennessee.  The Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council met via WebEx on May 13th and featured a panel of Early Childhood Leaders discussing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The next meeting will be held in September, date TBD. Tennessee has been selected by the national Early Childhood Nonprofit ZERO TO THREE (ZTT) to receive a technical assistance grant (with associated funding) as part of their *Building Strong Foundations for Families* project. Lastly, the Second Look Commission met virtually on June 9, 2020 during the quarterly meeting. In that meeting, Hargrow updated the members regarding the sunset audit and discussed the format of the annual report and how the focus might change based on circumstances.  **Juvenile Justice ( Rob Mortensen, Chair)**  Mortensen provided the Commission with a brief Juvenile Justice overview. Mortensen stated that the FY 2020-21 CASA contracts have not been sent out to our grantees for signature. Year-end deadlines and unexpected issues related to COVID-19 have resulted in delays in this process. However, for FY 2019-20 all CASA programs submitted either their fourth quarter claims or accrual documentation by the designated deadline and those have been sent to Centralized Accounting for processing. The FY 2020-21 Federal Formula Grant applications have been made available. The reimbursement grant contracts have been sent to the parties for signatures. Also, OJJDP is assessing whether Tennessee can comply with the compliance monitoring requirements during the pandemic. Taylor and Whitfield are working on a response to the inquiry.  TCCY received fourteen Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders violations (DSO) for FY 2019-20. TCCY Compliance Monitoring audit from OJJDP has been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. OJJDP has not told TCCY when it will be rescheduled. Central Procurement Office (CPO) accepted the proposed changes to the risk scores and monitoring schedules for the Juvenile Justice Reimbursement Account grants, as well as the request to change in-person site visits to virtual site visits for 2020 monitoring. Reporting for 2020 is still in progress. Mortensen stated that none of the local task forces have met since the last Commission meeting. The OJJDP announced the 2020 SRAD/OJJDP conference will be virtual this year due to the pandemic. The CJJ conference will be virtual as well.  Mortensen reported that Kinika Young with the Tennessee Justice Center announced that she and others from the Tennessee Justice Center met with the Department of Children Services recently regarding a change in policy to allow the use of pepper spray at Wilder Youth Development Center (YDC). DCS ultimately made the request due to the increase in youth-on-youth and youth-on-staff assaults. They do have current procedures in place to assist with deflating such situations, however they feel the new policy will assist with controlling the outburst more efficiently. They have asked the existing consent decree be amended to allow use of these measures. TJC researched and laid out a position raising concerns about the use of pepper spray. This chemical agent may further increase risk during COVID-19. Medical staff have to be present after the use of spray, increasing exposure to COVID-19. Young said a letter was sent to DCS on July 20th, but TJC hasn’t heard anything back to date. They are all planning to schedule further conversation via calls and video call to discuss the ramifications further.  **Grants Review ( Jennie Harlan, Chair)**  Harlan provided the Commission with a brief grants review overview. Harlan thanked Taylor and Whitfield, and all involved in the Grant Review process. Harlan confirmed that the Grants Review Committee (GRC) received twenty-two applications, to include eight continuation grantees. The grant period for the applications reviewed is from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. After reviewing the grant applications, members of the GRC discussed and submitted scores. GRC members and Juvenile Justice Staff comments were noted. Central Procurement Office (CPO) monitoring results were presented by Mitchell for continuation applicants. It was also noted that any special conditions must be addressed by each grantee before the contract is executed.  **Approval or Denial of Submitted Grants**  ***Allan Sterbinsky Abstained from all votes.***  The GRC made recommendations as follows:   1. YOUTH COALITION (NDP20-1) NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL;    1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to not recommend funding for Youth Coalition (NDP20-1) application; Motion carried unanimously.** 2. FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION (NDP20-2) NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL;    1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to not recommend funding for Franklin County Board of Education (NDP20-2) application; Motion carried unanimously.** 3. BOYS & GIRLS CLUB of the HATCHIE RIVER REGION (CDP20-3) RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AT $30,000;    1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to continue funding for Boys & Girls Club of the Hatchie River Region (CDP20-3) at $30,000; Motion carried, Kelly Drummond Abstained; Otherwise unanimously approved.** 4. WILLIAMSON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT (CDP20-4) RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AT $29,183;    1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Britt) to continue funding for Williamson County Juvenile Court (CDP20-4) at $29,183; Motion carried, Brenda Davis Abstained, otherwise unanimously approved.** 5. EPIC GIRLS, INC (CDP20-5) RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AT $30,000;    1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to continue funding for Epic Girls, INC (CDP20-5) at $30,000; Motion carried unanimously.** 6. YMCA of METRO CHATTANOOGA (NDP20-6) RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AT $60,000;    1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to award YMCA of Metro Chattanooga (NDP20-6) at $60,000; Motion carried; Rob Philyaw Abstained, otherwise unanimously approved.** 7. SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS (NDP20-7) NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL;    1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to not recommend funding for Shelby County School (NDP20-7) application; Motion carried, Altha Stewart Abstained, otherwise unanimously approved.** 8. COALITION FOR KIDS (CDP20-8) RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AT $20,043;    1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to continue funding for Coalition for Kids (CDP20-8) at $20,043; Motion carried, Sharon Green Abstained; Otherwise unanimously approved.** 9. JIFF (NDP20-9) RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AT $45,000;    1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to continue funding for JIFF (NDP20-9) at $45,000; Motion carried, Altha Stewart Abstained; Otherwise unanimously approved.** 10. MARSHALL COUNTY JUVENILE COURT (NDP20-10) NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL;     1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to not continue funding for Marshall County Juvenile Court (NDP20-10); Motion unanimously approved.** 11. RAPHAH INSTITUTE (NDP20-11) RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AT $60,000;     1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to continue funding for Rapha Institute (NDP20-11) at $60,000; Motion carried unanimously.** 12. JACKSON COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT (NDP20-12) NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL;     1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to not recommend funding for Jackson County Police Department (NDP20-12) application; Motion carried; Amy Jones Abstained, otherwise unanimously approved.** 13. BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS of DUMPLIN VALLEY (NDP20-13) NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL;     1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to not recommend funding for Boys & Girls Club of Dumplin Valley (NDP20-13) application; Motion carried; Kelly Drummond Abstained, otherwise unanimously approved.** 14. BOYS & GIRLS CLUB of TN VALLEY (NDP20-14) RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AT $60,000;     1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to award Boys and Girls Club of TN Valley (NDP20-14) at $60,000; Motion carried; Kelly Drummond Abstained, otherwise unanimously approved.** 15. HARMONY FAMILY CENTER (NDP20-15) NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL;     1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to not recommend funding for Harmony Family Center (NDP20-15) application; Motion carried unanimously.** 16. MONROE COUNTY BOXING CLUB (CDP20-16) RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AT $30,000;     1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to continue funding for Monroe County Boxing Club (CDP20-16) at $30,000; Motion carried unanimously.** 17. BOYS & GIRLS CLUB of CUMBERLAND PLATEAU (NDP20-17) NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL;     1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to not recommend funding for Boys & Girls Club of Cumberland (NDP20-17) application; Motion carried; Kelly Drummond Abstained, otherwise unanimously approved.** 18. STANTON ACADEMY (NDP20-18) NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL;     1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to not recommend funding for Stanton Academy (NDP20-18) application; Motion carried unanimously.** 19. BEDFORD COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER. (NDP20-19) NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL;     1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to not recommend funding for Bedford County Juvenile Detention Center (NDP20-19) application; Motion carried unanimously.** 20. FLORENCE CRITTENTON AGENCY (CSA20-1) RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AT $30,000;     1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to award Florence Crittenton Agency (CSA20-1) at $30,000; Motion carried unanimously.** 21. ROANE COUNTY ANTI-DRUG COALITION (CSA20-2) RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AT $28,575;     1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to award Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (CSSA20-2) at $28,575; Motion carried unanimously.** 22. MEMPHIS FAMILY CONNECTION CENTER (RED20-1) NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL;     1. **It was moved (Harlan) and seconded (Davis) to not recommend funding for Memphis Family Connection Center (RED20-1) application; Motion carried unanimously.**   **Child-Serving Department and TCCY Division Reports** |
|  | **Rose Naccarato, Director, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth**  **KIDS COUNT Data Update and National KIDS COUNT Book Release**  Naccarato provided the Commission with a KIDS COUNT National Data Book update. The KIDS COUNT national data book was released in June. Tennessee ranked 39th overall in 2020. Tennessee did see a drop in ranking. For children living in poverty in Tennessee, we did have some improvement in the past decade but fell shortly in 2020 due to some increased numbers in other areas.  The indicator representing the percent of children in families where no parent has full time, year-round employment, Tennessee ranked 38th. This indicator shows that racial disparities do exist in this measure and that black/African American families do not have full time/year-round employment, but Hispanics have closed the gap in this indicator this year.  The indicator representing the percent of children in households spending more than 30% of their income on housing, Tennessee ranked 30th. Again, we do have racial disparities in this category. However, you do see a differences in rural and urban areas by county.  The indicator representing the percent of teens ages 16-19 not attending school and not working, Tennessee ranked 40th. This year, Tennessee increased from 7% to 9% of teens ages 16-19 years of age which dropped our overall ranking from 28th to 40th. There is not a clear indicator as to why this change occurred, but we are looking into this. Overall, in the Education domain we ranked 29th. Within the domain for percent of young children age 3-4 who do not attend school, Tennessee ranked 44th. In this indicator we overall have not ranked very high, however the racial gap is not large. We have learned that the Head Start programs in Tennessee do a very good job of reaching out and accommodating lower income families. The indicator representing the percent of 4th graders who scored below proficient reading, Tennessee scored 22nd. Across the nation we have a vast issue with all races not being able to read. Racial disparities in math show high as well. The state of Tennessee is ranked 3rd in percent of high school student not graduating on time.  The overall health of Tennessee was ranked 48th. The change of this indicator did knock our ranking down this year. The percent of babies born at a low birth weight; Tennessee ranked 41st. The rate has increased since 2010. However, disparities in prenatal care lead to disparities in birthweight. Tennessee ranked 24th in the ranking of percentage of children without health insurance. The child and teen death rate maintained at a flat rate, with that the agency has pushed more media content regarding safe gun storage. Having a gun in the house increases the chances of a teen mortality rate. The percentage of children and teens ages 10 to 17 who are overweight or obese, Tennessee ranked 48th. Our percentage did increase from 49th to 48th over the year, but overall Tennessee does not do well.  All of the data and rankings are available on the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT datacenter at [www.datacenter.kidscount.org](http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org)  **Steve Petty, Director, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth**  **Legislative Update**  Petty informed the commission that TCCY drafted legislative briefs or documents concerning certain bills that were presented during the last open session. Of those 56 bills that were reviewed, only seven of those bills have been passed. COVID-19 may play a big part as to why only seven bills were approved this term. In comparison to last year, over 200 bills were approved. The bills listed below are the bills that TCCY took a deeper look at.   1. SB2088/HB2461 Child abuse reporting by schools. 2. SB2620/HB2841 Reporting Truancy. 3. SB2032/HB2588 Requires a video on adverse childhood experiences at the parent educational seminar. 4. SB2629/HB2357 Surrendering custody of a newborn without criminal liability. 5. SB1659/HB1737 Sunset- Commission on Children and Youth 6. SB1731/HB1829 Adds an ABC Representative to the human trafficking advisory council 7. SB2520/HB2708 Tennessee pregnant workers fairness act   The legislative report is present on the TCCY website, listed below.  <https://www.tn.gov/tccy.html>  **Katie Houghtlin, Tennessee Department of Education**  **Child Well Being Task Force Update**  Katie Houghtlin thanked the commission for the opportunity to present to them today. Houghtlin informed the staff on the purpose, mission and goals of the Child Well Being Task Force. Houghtlin explained that Governor Bill Lee created the Child Well Being Task force to ensure that the needs of Tennessee children are met during and after extended periods away from school, and to empower local communities to meaningfully engage in ways that support child wellbeing. The Task Force will operate with the following concrete objectives:   * Empowering Local Implementation: Identify local infrastructure, relationships, and resources to promote supports for students and families. * Supporting Rapid Response for late summer and back-to-school 2020: Develop a set of action items that local communities may utilize over the summer and throughout the traditional back-to-school season to support the needs of children. * Determining Ongoing Support for Academic Year 2020-2021:Develop a set of action items that local communities may utilize to support the needs of children when school resumes in the fall of 2020.   Report findings show that economic, physical and mental health are interconnected, and, during times of crisis, may contribute to childhood adversity. Experienced family stress, such as unemployment, may contribute to increased rates of domestic violence, substance abuse and child abuse. Nationally the pandemic has impacted populations disproportionately, raising concern of a widening equity gap.  Staying connected with the Child Wellbeing Task Force is simple. Find reports, guidance documents and materials at: <https://www.tn.gov/education/childwellbeingtaskforce>  You can also find additional information regarding academic resources and information concerning the whole child at: <https://bestforall.tnedu.gov/>  The full PowerPoint slide can be located at TCCY’s website page below.  <https://www.tn.gov/tccy.html>  **JW Randolph, Assistant Director of Strategic Initiatives, Tennessee Department of Health**  **Tennessee COVID-19 Update**  Randolph thanked the commission allowing him and other members on his team to present today. Randolph stated that he works with the office of strategic initiatives and they oversee the strategic plan for the department of health and we also manage the county health assessment process which is led by county health councils that exist in all 95 TN counties. Randolph is currently on assignment with TEMA. Randolph is working with the hospital coordinating team assisting with reporting hospital capacity and other job duties. Randolph provided the commission with TN COVID-19 update. The week of June 15-June 2, we saw 43 new deaths, 3,942 new cases, 30,058 new recoveries and 185 hospitalizations. Compared to the previous weeks (June 8-June 14) of 54; 4,051; 2,333 and 139. In summary we see a lot of cases where a lot of people live. As of today, we are at 443 hospitalizations and 9,597 active cases total. The rise in hospitalizations has increased but the total number of active cases has decreased in recent weeks.  The “Tennessee Pledge” is a plan to help Tennesseans return to work in a safe environment, restore their livelihoods and reboot our state’s economy. To support the Tennessee Pledge, all employers and employees should take steps to reopen, safely help other industries to open more quickly and allow Tennessee to remain healthy and open for business. You can find more at [www.tnpledge.com](http://www.tnpledge.com)  Randolph stated that they understand and know that the pandemic will continue to have negative impacts on the economy unless we reduce the spread of COVID-19. Public Health’s goal is to reduce COVID-19 spread; safety must be a top concern to everyone. Safely reopening businesses and resuming community activities allows the economy to grow while lowering the risk of further COVID-19 spread. Also, Public Health stands ready as a key partner to help businesses and communities return to regular activities.  We also understand that different racial and ethnic groups are experiencing issues related to COVID-19. We must address systemic issues in the conditions in which people live, learn, work and play that contribute to these disparate outcomes. We are all in this together, this pandemic makes it clear that each and every person’s health is intertwined. Steps to protect yourself and others include washing your hands often, avoiding close contact with others, staying home if you are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, wearing a facemask and cleaning and disinfecting regularly. Public Health strategies include regular testing for anyone who wants one, contact tracing and monitoring, and quarantine and isolation. If you would like additional information and data, you can find it at the link below. <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov.html>  **Jen Trail, Community Health Assessment and Strategy Manager, Tennessee Department of Health**  Trail reported that the local county health councils are located in all 95 counties and they serve as the bridge between the local health department and their communities. They are a super important community coalition that set priorities for health and wellness in their communities. To this point, the local counties have not had a direct contact to the central office here in Nashville and she will be the new point of contact.  **Motion to Adjourn**  ***There being no further business, Davis motioned to adjourn the August 2020 Commission Meeting. Sterbinsky seconded,***  ***Unanimously approved*.** |
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|  | ***Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.*** |
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| Prepared by Jennifer Jones | |