

Children's Services Committee

Location: WebEx Address: [Link to Children's Services WebEx Meeting](#)
Call in number: 415-655-0003 Access Code: 616 179 513
Date: Monday, 4/28/2020
Time: 1:00 P.M. CDT

Staff Present: Richard Kennedy, Exec. Dir., Craig Hargrow, Dep. Exec. Dir., Cory Bradfield, Jennifer Drake-Croft, Laritha Fentress, Jennifer Jones, Sumita Keller, Jill Murphy, Melissa McGee, Gerald Papica, Steve Petty

Staff Absent:

Commission Members: Amy Jones, Chair, Ella Bentley, Jennifer Harlan, Mackenzie Johnston, Wendy Shea

Commission Members Absent: Hailey Brooks, Kelly Drummond, Rob Mortensen, Steven Neely, Glenda Terry

Guests: None

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

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Jones called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. Jones identified all members present for the WebEx meeting.

2) **Staff Updates**

Ombudsman Program

Papica stated nineteen referrals were received from February 1 to March 31. This figure is comparable with the number of referrals (twenty) for the same time period last year. Also, the USOA conference planning committee began meeting in February. Due to COVID-19, the committee decided to cancel this year's annual event. The plan is to postpone the conference until 2021 and host it in the same venue. The 2020 annual conference was scheduled to take place in Helena, Montana this coming September.

Building Strong Brains Tennessee

Building Strong Brains Learning Conference

Drake-croft stated that given to the challenges with COVID-19, the Building Strong Brains Conference Content Committee decided against moving forward with an in-person conference originally scheduled for May. Instead, the plenary/keynote speakers and some of the track speakers have been asked to participate in a webinar "lunch and

learn” series over the summer.

Building Strong Brains Social Media Campaign

TCCY wrapped up its year-long social media campaign. Given the success of the first year, TCCY will repeat the campaign this year. TCCY is collecting data from the “ambassadors” engaged in the campaign. Thus far, TCCY numbers and reported numbers demonstrate the following impact from April 2019 – March 2020.

- Facebook Reach: 313,436
- Facebook Engagements: 67,374
- Twitter Reach: 352,252
- Twitter Engagements: 2,586
- LinkedIn Reach: 7,795
- LinkedIn Engagements: 191
- Instagram Engagements: 443

Building Strong Brains Webinar Series

TCCY has continued its Building Strong Brains Webinar series and extended it to other TCCY stakeholders during this time of social isolation. We have had 1,048 YouTube views of our webinar series and 384 live participants this fiscal year. Below is a list of webinar topics and participants since the last commission meeting:

- February Webinar: Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health & ACEs, Angela Webster & Kristin Dunn, 7 in attendance, 163 views on YouTube
- March Webinar: RULER: Using Social and Emotional Development to mitigate ACEs, Dr. Heather Sedges & Dr. Katie Conrad, 220 in attendance, 51 views on YouTube
- April Webinar: Preventing and Mitigating ACEs through Mental Health Workforce Development, Alison Peak

Council on Children’s Mental Health (CCMH) and Systems of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT)

McGee stated that due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the safety of Tennesseans, the April 9th meeting was cancelled. However, during this time, the McGee co-led a full day training online on April 3rd held through the SOCAT Training and Technical Assistance Center on Building Strong Brains, System of Care, Engagement, and Trauma Informed Care with 170 people in attendance. She is also collaborating with the Administrative Office of the Courts on a full-day training, co-led with Dr. Mona Ivey-Soto of Belmont, on Building Strong Brains and Implicit Bias, as well as a training on Secondary Traumatic Stress for Juvenile Court staff.

System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT)

The SOCAT Divisional Coordinators, Jill Murphy and Laritha Fentress, have both been working on identifying, coordinating information, and sharing resources to address COVID-19 needs in various areas across the state. All team members have worked to provide support and resources to West Tennessee as well. TCCY supported the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services' recent submission for a new federal grant to support continued expansion of system of care statewide (known as the System of Care Across Tennessee Network (SOCATN) and furthering implementation and use of high-fidelity wraparound services. Application was submitted in February, with notice of award expected late summer and if awarded, implementation to begin September 1, 2020.

McGee also reported Keri Virgo was recently promoted to Director of Children, Youth and Young Adults at the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. McGee also shared Jill Murphy announced May 29, 2020 will be her last day with TCCY. She will start her new role at the East Tennessee Foundation in July.

Jones thanked Murphy for her work and contributions while at TCCY. Kennedy added former Commission Member, Trudy Hughes is at the East Tennessee Foundation.

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA)

Keller stated due to COVID-19 the April in-person HVLA meeting was cancelled. Instead an HVLA meeting was held via WebEx with about 75 participants joining. The group learned about a new program Prevent Child Abuse of Tennessee has launched called Nurture TN. It is a text-based mentoring program for new mothers. Providers also shared the various challenges and successes they are having with trying to move to telehealth. They also highlighted the variety of struggles their families are facing and how they are trying to support the families. As a result of the meeting, a Basecamp group has been established to encourage ongoing conversation and sharing of resources, especially during physical distancing. Keller continues to work with partners at the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services to try to leverage federal funding to expand evidence-based home visiting in Tennessee.

Zero to Three Grant Opportunity

Kennedy shared the National Early Childhood Nonprofit Zero to Three (ZTT) has begun a new state technical assistance project, *Building Strong Foundations for Families*, to support up to ten 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. ZTT reached out to a team of early

childhood stakeholders in Tennessee who now plan to apply for assistance through the project. The TNYCWC Director is took the lead in drafting the grant application responses and TCCY, through the TNYCWC, would serve as the lead agency should the project be awarded to Tennessee. If awarded, TCCY would receive technical assistance and \$40,000 the first year and would be eligible for \$75,000 for the second year.

Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council

Bradfield stated that the last general meeting was held on February 12, 2020 and featured Action Team breakouts, a legislative update from TCCY's Policy Advocate Steve Petty, and programmatic updates from partner organizations. The next meeting will be held on May 13, 2020. The first issue of the TNYCWC monthly newsletter was sent to all council participants on March 6th. It featured a note from the TNYCWC Director, funding opportunities, job postings, and an Issue Spotlight – a brief article on Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems, a priority of the council. The next issue was sent the week of April 13th and will feature COVID-19 resources and information. The Steering Team is scheduled met on 04/15. The meeting will focused on council membership, including participating organizations, and identifying opportunities for outreach to under-or-un-represented stakeholder groups.

Second Look Commission

Hargrow stated the Second Look Commission continues to function despite difficulties created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Hargrow reported they met in February and April. Hargrow also shared they reviewed three cases in April.

Youth Transitions Advisory Council

Petty reported that the Youth Transitions Advisory Council will meet via Webex April 30, 2020 from 1:00 pm to 3:00pm. Due to safe at home order and many of the members being state employees and working from home, there was a huge response to the meeting invitation. Will have updates from the Office of Independent Living at the Department of Children's Services among others. Petty added he will work with McGee to determine the June agenda as it will be done in partnership with CCMH.

3) Approval of February Children's Services Minutes (ACTION)

Jones asked for a motion to approve the Children's Services minutes from the February Commission Meeting.

Shea moved to approve the minutes from February 14, 2020.

Harlan seconded. Unanimously Approved.

4) **Additional Items or Comments**

5) **Motion to Adjourn**

Shea moved to adjourn the meeting. Harlan seconded and all approved.

Prepared by: Sumita Keller