

TCCWB Full Board Meeting-Austin, TX

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. Allen called meeting to order at 9:08 am.

Present: Marilyn Demontrond (Region 6), Diane Hicks(Region 1), Anna Rigler (Region 1), Jeanne Stamp (MAL), Estella Olguin (MAL), Joel Williams (Representing CPS for Reg's 4 &5), Sandy Hilliard (Region 4), Tim Allen (President-Region 5), George Ford (ED), Joel Levine (MAL), Janet Stansbury (Region 6), Sandra Haire (ED Team), David Cory (Past president, MAL, Region 3) Catherine Early (MAL), Carole Foster (Region 8), Lee Ikels (Region 7), Nancy Preston (Region 4), Dr. Valerie Woodard (representing Region 8), David Williams (Region 7), Laura Keith (Region 9), & Misty Standard (Region 9)

A quorum was established with Regions 1,3 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 present.

Mrs. Earley read the minutes. Mrs. Earley made a motion to approve as written with spelling corrections. Motion was seconded by Mr. Williams and motion carried.

I. **Opening remarks:** Tim Allen

Mr. Allen stated he appreciated the support he and all of the various committees are receiving and acknowledged all the work being performed by the committees. Special thanks to Mrs Earley and Mr. Cory. Mr. Allen and Mr. Ford have represented the Council at various meetings since we last met.

II. **Executive Director Report:** George Ford

- Introductions were made to the new ED of the TCCWB by all members of the council.
- Mr. Ford has been spending time getting things in order and organized. His team includes Louella Stellar, Kristy Miranda and Sandra Haire. He expressed appreciation for the assistance and support from the Council and especially from Tim Allen and Valinda Bolton.
- Mr. Ford requested that members register on time for hotel reservations for the next meeting and if there are any issues, please contact him and he will see what he can do.
- There have been calls coming in via the 800 number with requests for housing from out of state and he has used the network to be able to assist them. He has also received calls from Jim Wells County and Atascosa County wanting to start child welfare boards.
- Mr. Ford went to TNOYs last week and was surprised that there were many participants completely unaware of CWBs and the role we play. He directed these members to our website. Mr. Ford stated that it is incumbent upon us to keep the website current and feels we can play a greater role.
- Mail will continue to use the Austin address bur Council members should send expense vouchers directly to Houston (Mr. Fords office is in Houston). Travel vouchers should be turned in as quickly as possible.

III. **Treasurers Report:** David Williams

See attached report. Report is through Feb 15th, 2018.

- Current Cash Balance: \$19,792.30
- There is a proposal to pay out sick leave/vacation funds to prior ED be paid over time which will impact this balance. Discussion tabled till later this meeting.

IV. **TNOYS presentation:** Dr. Katherine Barillas-Director of Policy for the Texas Network of Youth Services TNOYS. Houston based.

Dr. Barillas presented Information regarding the lawsuit. Stated that TNOYS is taking a 3-pronged approach: Practice (connecting with service providers to help raise their capacity), Policy (working to change the system for the better) & Participation.

Details of the M.D vs Abbott Lawsuit:

- Filed against the Governor, The commissioners of DFPS and HHS in 2011. The class that was certified was the Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC). Very important because it is difficult to apply just to PMC class and will be complicated to apply to all the other children and expensive.
- Many appeals have been denied. Court Verdict came in 2015 that the state had violated its constitutional responsibilities to PMC in care since the children should have an expectation to be safe in care (they weren't) and also to maintain familial connections (they didn't). The judges position was that this was a long-standing problem and that the state had had plenty of time to correct. Stay denied in 2016.
- 2 Special Masters were appointed. There is concern about this cost as the Special Masters are being paid \$345/hr. and their recommendations have remained the same throughout the lawsuit.
- Also, in 2016, there were spikes in negative media attention regarding case management-children sleeping in CPS offices, a death, high caseloads, and investigators not onsite with kids in a timely manner.
- In January of 2017, the legislative session began and the interim order that came out was very similar to the judge's recommendation. The belief was that the legislature wanted to make changes prior to the judge making it for them. There was widespread frustration with lengthy timelines for privatization, lack of contracts being generated for privatization, and the fact that the legislature felt they had already made appropriate policy changes with funding for the program and yet it was failing. Legislative changes were subsequently implemented: \$142M and 828.8 FTEs was set for new hires and front-line staff receiving raises; SB11 made dramatic changes to "redesign" related to privatizations; SB 1758 youth transitioning out; and HB7-addressed issues regarding group care-moving away from aggregate care and attempting to get kids, especially those with special needs, into a home environment.
- In 2018, Special Masters were appointed as monitors, however they were not allowed to speak to any outside experts or stakeholders as the plans were being developed. State appealed to 5th circuit and stay was granted. The only thing that has been implemented is that in homes with more than 6 children in a group care situation, there must have be the clock care available. Continued and ongoing appeals are anticipated.

Judge Jack wants this to be codified. She is worried about the fact that while there are existing regulation/policies on the books, they are never put into practice.

The ongoing theme throughout the lawsuit is children's safety. Children testified regarding horrific stories of abuse. Judge focused on those who were abused and who were identified as aggressors. Wanted them placed in single homes with no children. Wanted it documented everywhere and labeled that children had been abused or if they had any history of being sexually aggressive themselves. Dr. Barillas stated that the state will need to develop more comprehensive policies on child on child sexual abuse. There are concerns about how this will play out in practice. She noted that children that are sexually abused have a high rate of success in treatment. There are worries that the labels will make them more difficult to place throughout their life in foster care. There is a link available regarding the current policies on child sexual abuse that she will send out to the Council.

Final Order: The child needs to be able to call to report they are being hurt. The state must maintain a 24-hr. landline with direct connect to a person, (PDFPS has a 24-hr. reporting hotline already but children do not feel very secure in making the calls). Currently, there are now foster care ombudsman's. (There are 4 FTEs fulfilling this role). There is a dedicated intake line with the ability to do a transfer, if the child brings up maltreatment. They are sent directly to an intake worker without having to wait in any line or queue. This line takes reports only

from children and youth in foster care. The order requires that the state must ensure investigations are completed on time (RCCL investigations timeline match CPS).

Problem: The order does not address why the kids are getting hurt in the first place. There are also serious concerns about licensing issues. Further, training issues surround licensing violations-staff are not well versed in indicators of sexual abuse. With the additional FTEs, they have seen a drop-in caseloads and people leaving. There are concerns about ICU workers (those who check in with kids placed out of county) as they have hundreds of cases and do not have time to work in the same ways a conservatorship worker does. The judge wants the ICU workers to become the child's primary worker. Right now, the supervision is not happening or is inadequate. Bottomline-the judge is worried these kids are not being looked after by anyone person and kids are falling through the cracks.

Safety: Who is there making sure nothing happens or makes sure that if/when it does, care is quickly provided? CASA can't cover all the kids. Judge Jack decided that DFPS will ask for an attorney to be appointed. If no attorney is available then they will appt one that will have their fees paid by DFPS, however there is no money for this. There are multiple issues regarding attorney's time-they have many other cases, they are typically not reimbursed, some judges will mandate an attorney see a child, yet it is often ineffective. There are also issues surrounding appointments and training requirements. Currently the requirement is for 3 hours only of training to work with traumatized children. There is no standardized practice across the state regarding ad litums. Kids in PMC wait for an even longer stretch of time. This is a most dire situation, they may be aging out of the system, and often have the worst outcomes yet we are spending the least amount of time there. CASA workers report their workers aren't as interested in PMC.

Kids aging out: The state required the child be given official documents prior to aging out. Judge Jack wanted to ensure these documents were kept safe but there is no way to ensure this. She wants PAL services (classes) to start at age 14-currently the classes start at age 16. The state will have to develop age appropriate programming across the age-continuum. Life skills assessment will be available to 14 and 15-year old's-but the funds are not there. At this point, they have begun assessing age 15 and next year will start with 14 yrs. old's. She had hoped that it would be done at least annually. In actuality, it will likely happen at permanency meetings (not that often)-Judge Jack wants this to happen every 4 months. Criminal/juvenile records-wants the records sealed or expunged. Wants to ensure drivers ed is provided. But they haven't solved the insurance issue that Foster Parents would be required to provide or who is going to pay for it. Wants to ensure stable housing for youth 16+. There is no housing for these youth after they age out. No way to track what Foster Family and Child Protection Agency responsibilities are trained for. PAL classes (trained in 6 areas for 30 hours on "aging out") are insufficient. Surveys indicate the kids like these classes but need more. How do we serve special populations? There is the expectation to do this but no guidance. Medicaid: some adjustments have been made to signing these kids up before they age out. However, there are concerns about what happens when they are in care and after in terms of their health needs are being met. Also, there are concerns about what is happening with their health passport. They must have a "medical home."

"3 in 30" requirement. Children must be evaluated within 72 hours, by medical professional, within the following 30 days, they are supposed to be evaluated with the CANS, and receive their Tx Healthy Steps. There are concerns about the way this is being implemented in terms of trauma and capacity. A bill was passed that MCO's must notify the specialist if there is a placement change. Not likely to happen in a timely manner.

Group Homes. The state hopes to get kids into family-like placement and made changes made around group homes and congregate care. Group homes must have 24-hour supervision. Cottage homes cannot have more than 6 children per cottage. Cannot place kids in cottage homes if they are 6 years old or under except under extenuating circumstances. Cottage homes are now considered least restrictive environment and considered on

par with foster homes. Dept. is supposed to go from least to most restrictive- (bio family, kin, foster home, cottage, RTC). Cottage homes as initial placement would violate that, but legislators were swayed due to ongoing capacity issues.

Summary: There are great costs for the Special Masters with little proven return. It appears that some of the wrong problems are being addressed. There are issues regarding caregivers not being in place, (kids don't trust the department) and we need more resources to go into the ombudsman. Don't need to have on-going labels on kids that have completed treatment successfully (survivors and aggressors) unless there are ongoing safety concerns. There is an exponentially high number of foster kids that have aged out that are homeless, incarcerated and having children. Housing is a huge issue-we must support them as they age-out. The Legislature has not adequately funded the need. The Family First Prevention Act may make some dollars available but not every program qualifies.

How can the TCCWB help? Major opportunities exist with youth aging out of foster care, for community partners to collaborate with transition centers/PAL providers for experiential learning so that it can be started earlier...by age 14/15. We can help with providing housing options. Need help with outreach for the FCO (Foster Care Ombudsman)-would like CWBs to work to get the word out that this person is there to work for the child (under HHSC). CWBs can support kinship homes. The Department needs help to support these families to help keep the kids out of FC. (Lawsuit did not include this, but these homes are underfunded and under the radar).

Discussion: Mr. Levine brought up the roll out of 3 for 30 in Harris county. They are in the unique position of having a public medical clinic for foster children in care. They plan to contact the caregivers for the initial assessments within a certain number of hours from information received from the county attorney. Will offer the child an appt. in their clinic, then the same physician will be scheduled to complete the follow up care for THSteps in the clinic to ensure continuity of care. There are questions regarding the use of the CANS and appropriateness. Dr. Barillas said initially the idea behind it was that every child was not diagnosed with psychological issues and did not need a psychological assessment. Further, the state became invested in using the CANS due to being convinced it would reflect performance outcomes measures. Mr. Levine said they are not getting the data, kids do not come into care with it. The developer believes that it should be used by the person who is working with the family as a treatment planning tool, not an assessment. Mrs. Early reported that many counties don't have access to it. Dr. Barillas prefers it not be used for community-based health. Medicaid provider reimbursement for this measure is sub-par and providers are dropping out and/or refusing to perform it. There are Issues with the complex data entry with this measure requires-there are the best intentions but inadequate implementation. The culture is not in-line with the policies and there must be increased accountability across the board.

What are we hearing from children in care? Children report issues regarding transitioning out of care; safety issues of having someone to report to when things go wrong; and concerns regarding psychotropic meds, (especially related to accountability for assessments/treatment). They are voicing concerns regarding whether they are being evaluated appropriately and monitored correctly-including their medications.

Advocacy: Hearing scheduled for March 22 will be looking at youth transitioning out of care. Dr. Barillas would like to demonstrate to the legislature what is currently required, what is currently being provided and what the actual outcomes are here in Tx. We need more advocacy at the Capitol as they are setting unrealistic timelines and appropriating insufficient funds yet expect instantaneous results. There are very few child welfare advocates at the Capitol, including CWBs, and/or consumers that get in front of the legislators to reinforce the impact lack of funding causes.

Oversight: Dr. Woodard from Bexar County remarked about the general lack of oversight regarding implementations of current laws on the books. She stated that training would be most effective if started earlier

than age 14. Paperwork required of kids at the transitional level is complicated and needs to be revised so that it is age appropriate. Bottomline: There is limited oversight of existing laws and yet they want to implement new policies. Dr. Woodard believes we should start with oversight of existing law.

Psychotropic drugs: Kids are responding to trauma, yet many PCPs are prescribing medications without a full assessment.

CWBs: Mr. Cory remarked that the commonality that CWBs bring is to potentially put extra focused resources in to the care the child will get as they go thru the system along with the family. Looking at support of kinship care sounds doable for CWBs. *What can the CWBs do to make sure they are successful in kinship care?* Local accountability from the county boards putting money and volunteer efforts into this to shore it up and help offer hope of improvement versus waiting on the legislature to do it. Kinship care feels forgotten, they are overwhelmed across the state. If we could help them, we could prevent kids from entering foster care. Grandparents need support. That and transitioning care are the two areas CWBs can have the biggest impact. Mr. Williams requested info that we can disseminate to the Regions. Dr. Barillas will provide us with this info so that the TCCWB can pass it along to regions and subsequently counties. Mr. Allen requested that the info she sends be posted on our website as a resource.

Mr. Levine reported that Christina Belcher from Harris county has a great model. This model will be presented at TNOYS June 5-8 in several workshops. Webinars are available to TNOYS members including info on Family First Act.

V. Presentation on Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Team: Charlene Hamilton

3-person team includes Kim Grabert (Director), Charlene Hamilton and Ada McCloud (Program Specialist). There is a 2-year grant from the Governor's office funding this. The mission is to help create programming that is survivor informed, trauma responsive and evidenced based where possible.

Role of DFPS regarding Human Trafficking: Kids in the system are among the most vulnerable. There is a statewide intake process. Calls come into the call center, typically end up being familial trafficking, maltreatment against a caregiver or parent, or that the parent lacks the ability or willingness to provide services for sex trafficking victims. After the call comes in, the Department works to identify, recover and/or assess the placement and service needs for any child in conservatorship. Those beds are very hard to find. This team works hard to find the best placement. All final decisions regarding youth in conservatorship lay with DFPS staff. They are finding that everyone is eager to help but there needs to be a strong protocol in place to make the best decision for the child.

When a child is a runaway, statistics show that a perpetrator is likely to interact with them within 24 hours. NMEC data lines up with this and estimates 1 in 7 runaways will end up involved in trafficking. Of those, 88% were in the care of Social Services when they ran.

Shared Hope International: Grades reflect how states are addressing Human Trafficking. Texas got an A. Despite the high grade, Texas still needs to improve its laws, especially regarding prostitution-these children are rape victims, not prostitutes.

Action Plan Includes:

- A. Stakeholder engagement: Arrow Family Ministries, Pathways Youth and Family Services, Helping Hand Home, The Refuge Ranch, St Jude's Ranch for Children, Center for Success and Independence, Cableway, Safe Alliance, Upbring, EL Paso Center for Children, New Life Refuge, Ministries, The Children's Shelter.

- B. Human Trafficking Task Forces and Coalition statewide by region. (Need help in the Odessa/Midland Region).
- C. Train all front-line staff on Human Trafficking 101 (HT 101)-will be computer based. Still trying to define who this will be-likely will be supervisors, special investigators, regions, and caseworkers.
 - Computer training schedule for DFPS staff will roll out this spring/summer.
 - “Be the One” video is now available online.
 - Sept 27-There will be a “Spotlight on Exploitation” in Midland.
- D. Create “Human Trafficking Champions” for agency employees-These will be either Case Workers or Special Investigators that want to be specialists in trafficking. There will be at least one in every Region.
- E. Over the course of the next Legislative Cycle:
 - Roll out commercial sexual exploitation ID tool (CSE-IT)-This tool will be a way to extract information from victims using key indicators. It does not use an interview format rather it uses conversation as a method to establish comfort and obtain information. Special Investigator and Case Worker take notes separately then compare. Requires extensive training and has already been piloted in Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Harris, Travis Counties. Must use the tool for 6 months prior to rolling it out. It is not evidence based but its use has been directed from the Governor's office.
 - Assess and expand the continuum of care for foster youth-must be holistic and include long-term therapy.
 - A strategic plan and agency protocol has been developed to leverage the limited funding available, the existing expertise, resources and to grow programming across a wide range of placements and settings to meet the unique needs of each child.
 - Will continuum to work with the Gov. Office Child Sex Trafficking Team to help roll out this continuum of care in the top 5 urban areas.

Discussion: Additional training may come thru partners with the Gov. Office. The Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Team currently only focused on training DFPS staff. Mrs. Standard requested an email of the presentation. Mrs. Hamilton stated she would request permission from her agency for distribution.

VI. DFPS: Valinda Bolton

Q&A Session:

- A. **Describe the separation of Investigations.** Investigation is its own division now and includes residential child care and CPS Investigations. Goal is to make sure those Investigations are more uniform and consistent. Associate Commissioner Kristine Blackstone, and Jim Sylvester Associate Commissioner-for Investigations. Emphasis on the special investigator piece. At CPS level (state office and regions) RDs for Investigations and RD for "ongoing services." The Ongoing services is everything that is not investigations. Investigations is now smaller overall. Community Engagement team are still working with everyone. There are a series of stakeholder webinars available on the DFPS website in the search box type in stakeholder webinars and there is a list of multiple resources there regarding various initiatives that have been launched in the past year.
- B. **Do we have mortality rates for 2017 yet?** Mrs. Bolton did not know at this time however referred us to the Databook online. We can access this off the website and it can give us lots of data and can find it on the bottom of landing page under resources. Mrs. Haire reported that the link to this page is not working on our website to DFPS. Mrs. Bolton stated that the departments website has been redone, so we need to remap the links.

Report: The Department has just launched an expanded volunteer program. Commissioner Whitman wanted more "eyes on kids" and to find ways to alleviate some to the time stressors on case workers. CPS needs

additional Direct Service volunteers. They will be looking for retired teachers, law enforcement, CPS workers. Not 100% required but that is the targeted population. Requesting 4 hours per month time commitment. There are four primary needs: 1). Recruiting and utilizing volunteers to provide transportation to biological parents/guardians for service plan related appts, 2) hospital sitting (Operation Baby Watch)-children in care that are hospitalized require 24 hour adult supervision, 3) Adult Protective Services-need folks to pick up and deliver prescription meds and companions that will visit and check on them regularly and 4) Training on trauma informed care, recognizing abuse and neglect, how to report child abuse and neglect, and a the human trafficking video. Requesting us to pass this information on. Interested parties can search Volunteer on website for more information.

Please give Mrs. Bolton feedback. Right now, this process requires a minimum of a couple of weeks to vet the volunteers and typically longer and then there is additional training time. Everything is online (applications, training, background checks, etc.).

Hard to place children: There was a big push to get these numbers down and there has been increased funding for no-reject beds. There are now specific beds set aside for hard to place kids. The numbers of CWOP (children without placement) has subsequently significantly decreased.

Mr. Ford stated he would be talking to Mrs. Bolton about recruiting members from other regions.

VII. Break for Committee meetings, reporting on Day 2

- Mr. Williams recommended revamping how the committee's and new members are handled including reviewing orientation, bylaws, reimbursement forms, new training manual, and awards information. ED states will have something ready by September meeting.
- Need updates from Regions for rosters, activities, etc. Send to Sandra and Kristy at kMiranda@tccwb.org

VIII. Full Council Business

PTO/Vacation Time for prior ED: Mr. Ford reported that there is a balance of 252 hours have been verified and total \$6,058.08. There has been an offer made to pay this out over 12 months however prior ED hoped for a one time pay out and new ED advised her it would be brought to council. Current cash position was reviewed including outstanding receivables, monthly expenses and all reserved funds. There was extensive discussion that ensued especially regarding whether License Plate money was accessible for this purpose.

A motion was made by Mr. Williams that we move forward with Mr. Ford's proposal to repay the balance at a rate of \$558.08 on March 15th and then \$500 per months until paid in full for the next 11 months to get to the \$6058.08. Mrs. Stansbury seconded. There was subsequent discussion regarding HR law, license plate fund availability and related concerns. Motion failed to carry.

A second motion was made by Mrs. Preston that the TCCWB to include in the payout monthly funds current from her resignation date, with the first payment of \$558 and then \$500 month from resignation date. Mr. Cory proposed an amendment that if the offer is unacceptable that Mr. Ford be authorized to pay the full amount. Mrs. Preston amended her motion to read that the council pay the prior ED vacation pay at a rate of \$558 initially and then \$500 per month from resignation date to current, however if that is not acceptable then ED is authorized to fund the entire amount due using the license plate fund. Discussion ensued to change the wording to strike vacation pay rather to say negotiated severance package paid. Mr. Williams suggested we pay her as quickly as possible. The motion was amended to read the council will pay the prior ED a negotiated severance package as

offered by ED at a rate of \$558 initially and then \$500 per month from resignation date to current, however if that is not acceptable then ED is authorized to fund the entire amount due using the license plate fund. as Mr. Williams recommended. Amendment seconded by Mrs. Hilliard. Motion passed 9-3.

Recommendations were made that the Council have a better understanding of what our contract reads regarding funding for part-time positions, especially related to PTO accrual.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01.

Day 2

Present: Joel Levine, Marilyn Demontrond, Diane Hicks, Anna Rigler, Laura Keith, Estella Olguin, Sandy Hilliard, Tim Allen, George Ford, Sandra Hicks, Misty Standard, Nancy Preston, Janet Stansbury, David Cory, Carole Foster, Catherine Earley, Lee Ikles, David Williams

Meeting called to order 9:11

Discussion: Mr. Williams has concerns regarding summer meeting: we do not have enough time at TNOYs conference to fully handle business. Various options were discussed. Planning committee will have a meeting to more fully discuss.

- I. **Child Protection Roundtable Report: Misty Standard**
See attached
- II. **Regional Reports:** All regions please email Mr. Allen a list of legislative champions, why they would make a great candidate and what your Regions are doing for the webpage.
 - A. **Region 8-Carole Foster.** Mrs. Foster is the new Regional Chair. They are working on developing their website. Hunter Beacon (of Hunters Bags) received a proclamation statewide on National Adoption Day. Every single county in Texas issued a proclamation for no more trash bags. Bandera County had a presentation on human sex trafficking from Chuck Paul, LLC (He can be found on Facebook. Training conference has been planned in Fredericksburg on Fundraising. Valinda Bolton is assisting with this. The San Antonio Area Foundation will assist CWBs with grant writing. They have added a new county to their role-Atascosa. Guadalupe County is now more involved.
 - B. **Region 1 -Dianne Hicks-** Board training is scheduled for March 22nd teleconference on child trafficking and legislative updates. Grey County is now back and represented on the board. Moore County is also participating some. PAL banquet scheduled for the Spring. Rainbow Room is now a subcommittee of the CWB.
 - C. **Region 4-Sandy Hilliard-**Regional meeting is next week. Have requested all the CWBs bring in the number of children in care and activities they have scheduled for April especially to include on TCCWB calendar. Van Zandt Co having a candle-light vigil. Christmas efforts were successful. "Care and Share"-if the counties have promotional items or items for the Rainbow Room they are not using or are left over-request that they bring these items to regional meeting for distribution.
 - D. **Region 7-Lee Ikles-**They have had more County participants than usual. Mrs. Anna Farr long time CWB worker from San Marcos (Hays County) has passed away. She served 40 years on CWB. Mr. Ikles requested she be recognized on website.

- E. **Region 9-Laura Keith** -Promotional materials were distributed, the president just resigned. Held our first meeting via teleconference and all CWBS were sent out invitations to attend in hopes that teleconference will increase attendance for this large region. Participation in this region so far has been very limited.
- F. **Region 5-Tim Allen**-Mr. Allen is the temporary president for Region 5. Went to insurance companies for car seat donations and the insurance companies began competing with one another for donations. Got Hunters Bags. Working on increasing participation from counties. Region 5 shares a CIS with Region 4-will be teaming up more with them. Gave each CPS worker (3) McDonalds gift cards worth \$20 so they can feed the kids during removals. Recognize CPS workers with \$49 gift cards-sometimes monthly. Each CPS Worker also has a \$100 Walmart Card and submits receipts.

Mr. Williams proposed that Mrs. Judy Bowman be recognized on website. Discussion regarding a Posthumous Award. Mrs. Sandra Haire asked that the text be sent to her and she will recognize Mrs. Bowman on the website along with Anna Farr.

- G. **Fostering Brighter Futures-Catherine Earley**- Website is a constant work in progress-please continue to check and update volunteer agencies on website. Posting constantly, request counties submit content and success stories. Requests that CWBs submission of Success Stories a part of monthly meetings. Share and get people to like pages. Make sure to click "See First" option on FB to see all the posts.
 - **FBF needs statistics.**
 - **Catherine went to speak to 2 regions. Submitted application to present at TNOYS along with FBF intern, Hannah. Hannah's research thesis is on whether what FBF is doing to change foster care perception really makes a difference.**
 - **Donation money is being researched to figure out donations that have come in that should be allocated to FBF for promotional. Carole Foster is working on application for Meadows Foundation.**

III. Committee Reports:

- A. **Advocacy Committee:** Please send biographies of legislative champion to Tim Allen.
 1. Looked at family code and what our responsibilities as Board. It is very vague and doesn't reflect what we do. HB723-Advocacy will email everyone Sen Wu's bill. The TCCWB needs to decide what want to be known for in hopes of changing the Family Code. Will have a conference call April 9th-Please read both the code and the bill prior to call.
 2. Discussion of delegates and alternates for Child Protection Round Table. Misty Standard and Carole Foster will continue to act as primary delegates with several others indicating they would be happy to participate by phone or as alternates. Mr. Cory suggested the alternates attend all the meetings at least via phone.
 3. Previously there were packets for Child Abuse Prevention. Estella has one from 2006 that contains tips for parents, sent out to schools and foster parents, newspaper articles, proclamations, and tips for child abuse prevention month. They stopped doing this and created a calendar and then a website. The committee would like to bring this back for local boards. Some of this is available on the Health and Hope website. Go Blue Sunday poster is on website. National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse may also have a kit-if so we might just be able to link to it on our website. In the past, these kits were distributed from DPS to the local CWB boards. "Moments in America" website has some facts that can be utilized for FBF or for local boards. We would need current infographics for packet.
- B. **Education Committee:** Will be working on checklist for what CWBs must have. TNOYS-Jeanne and Catherine have submitted proposals, working on items for the revision. Training manual moving along-

conference call coming up to try and finalize the version. Webinar planned for CWBs and record. Move onto beginning Orientation Kit for new board members.

C. Awards: Forms have been organized for nominations. Letter due to Regional Chairs by May 1st for nominations. Forms will also be sent to CIS, and Chairs and on websites. They should distribute to county boards. Mr. Williams said there was missing information on the foster parent form-will have his CWB send the form they created to Awards to incorporate into the form. Male /Female youth of the year.... want to change it from "must be a senior" to senior or college student till in foster care. Want to rename the Linda and David Topp to Tx Council Award. Same for the Lucille Rochs. Janet made a motion to change the names. Carole seconded. Passed. Region 3 and 3A to look at licensed agencies for nominations-look on FBF website. Once nomination back to TCCWB, have a meeting face to face to decide winners to make it fairer. Would like to go 1 day early to TNOYS for face to face meeting. Mr. Williams wants to have a summer planning retreat. Strike \$ amount and mention monetary award.

D. Resource Committee: License plates-there is additional information available we can utilize to developing to market License Programs. Funding for TCCWB scholarships need to be looked at along with the costs of putting on the Awards Program. Mrs. Foster is working on money from sources such as Meadows. Need donations from the CWBs for awards. Needs to be announced at the Regional Meetings.

IV. Wrap up:

- New Release this am from DFPS today-deaths down 20%. 80% of these are aged 3 years and younger. 182 deaths.
- Recommendations: Next time, emailed minutes should be read before meeting to save time.
- George stated that he would like info from counties regarding the numbers of volunteer hours so that we could put that info on the webpage.
- Conference Call for Exec Committee to determine feasibility (Bylaws, Strategic Plan, Awards)
- TNOYS June 5-8
- Next meeting set for Sept 20 and 21, 2018

Move to adjourn at 12:30 by Mr. Tim Allen, Seconded by Mrs. Sandy Hilliard. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Misty Standard.