



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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**Mental Health Professional, Media Honored**

**Nashville** --The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth honored the winners of its 2011 awards today in Nashville. A mental health professional, responsive community newspapers and special efforts by broadcast media were commended.

The annual **Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award** recognizes a professional or volunteers for efforts in improving, expanding and advocating for services for children and youth. Journalists and media outlets whose outstanding contributions educate and enlighten Tennesseans about issues concerning Tennessee's children are awarded the **Making KIDS COUNT Media Awards**

The awards ceremony was a part of Children's Advocacy Days, an event that gathers more than 600 people to War Memorial Auditorium each year. Highlights of the program included reports from the new commissioners of child-serving departments and their staff, performers from YouthSpeaks, VSA Arts Tennessee and the School of Nashville Ballet. First Lady Crissy Haslam, Sam Davidson of Cool People Care and early results the Vanderbilt's Tennessee Pre-K Study highlight day two of the event on March 16.

**Timothy Perry**, LPC-MHSP is the 2011 Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award winner. Perry is a licensed professional counselor with many years of direct service and is the coordinator of Children and Youth Services at Bristol Regional and the Johnson County Counseling centers, divisions of Frontier Health. "With a loving heart and strength of character, he has guided numerous children and families toward the path of a positive life," according to his co-workers.

Two ***Making KIDS COUNT Media Awards*** were presented to broadcast media representatives and two print media representatives. Unique in this history of the award, both newspapers are from the same county.

***Nashville Public Television*** and its CEO ***Beth Curley*** received a Making KIDS COUNT broadcast media award for its documentary, ***NPT Reports: Children's Health Crisis*** and its three-year commitment to fostering a community-wide conversation about the state of Nashville children's health. The Emmy-winning documentary was shown to the more than 600 participants at the event.

***Bruce Moore*** and ***WREG News Channel 3 Memphis*** were honored with a Making KID COUNT broadcast media award for organizing an on-air phone bank staffed by child abuse experts. Providing a fresh perspective on the problem, Moore also linked the Memphis Children's Advocacy Center with Memphis Light, Gas, and Water, resulting in utility workers being trained to recognize and report child abuse in the homes they serve.

***Joel Washburn***, editor of the family-owned ***McKenzie Banner***, received a Making KIDS COUNT Awards. He serves on the Carl Perkins Child Abuse Prevention Center board and on other community boards and uses the insight he gains to help the public understand the challenges facing our children and families and those helping them cope.

***Shirley Nanney***, editor of the Carroll County News Leader also received a 2011 Making KIDS COUNT awards for small market print media. She is recognized in her community as a true supporter of anything child- and family-related. She also serves on numerous boards of service agencies that build better programs and services for children and families.

These awards are presented annually by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth at its Children's Advocacy Days. The Commission is an independent agency created in 1955 by the Tennessee General Assembly. Its primary mission is to advocate for improvements in the quality of life for Tennessee children and families.

For more information on the Commission, the awards and the winners, please call (800) 264-0904 or access the agency's website at [www.tn.gov/tccy](http://www.tn.gov/tccy).

**NOTE:** More detailed information about winners is available by contacting [fay.delk@tn.gov](mailto:fay.delk@tn.gov).