



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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Children's Advocacy Days - March 15-16

March is Youth Art Month, and the Art of Children's Advocacy is the theme of the 2011 Children's Advocacy Days. The event will provide young Tennesseans an opportunity to perform and children's advocates an opportunity to learn about state policies.

Children's Advocacy Days is a two-day event focusing attention on issues affecting children and providing citizens information to strengthen their policy advocacy for children. Sponsored by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth and its regional councils, the free event will be at War Memorial Auditorium March 15-16.

Highlights of the event, in addition to advocacy and networking opportunities, include:

Tuesday, March 15 Highlights

Youth Presentations:

YouthSpeaks - Spoken Word Presentations;

Youth Dulcimer Choir - VSA Arts Tennessee;

Performance by Students from the **School of Nashville Ballet**.

Special Presentations:

Presentation by Tennessee **Sen. Jamie Woodson** of March **Youth Art Month** proclamation;

Challenge to Participants - The **Reverend Dr. Jerome Del Pino**, United Methodist Churches

They Are All Ours! - The Honorable **Judge Betty Adams Green**, Davidson County Juvenile Court.

Updates:

State and Federal Budget and Legislative Update, Linda O'Neal, TCCY

State Agencies: Kate O'Day, Commissioner, **Department of Children's Services;**

Bobbi Lussier, Director of the **Office of Early Learning – Department of Education;**

Dr. Michael Warren, Director of **Child and Maternal Health, Department of Health;**

Doug Varney, Commissioner, **Department of Mental Health;**

Dr. Raquel Hatter, Commissioner – **Department of Human Services;**

Jim Henry, Commissioner, **Department of Intellectual Disabilities;**

Susan Cowden, Administrator, Workforce Development, **Department of Labor and Workforce Development.**

Awards:

Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award;
Making KIDS COUNT Media Awards.

Wednesday, March 16 Highlights

Special Presentations:

"Children's Health Crisis," Nashville Public Television documentary;

Remarks by **First Lady Crissy Haslam;**

This Stuff Really Works! An Overview of the Strategies for Social and Emotional Development, Matt Timm, Ph.D., Tennessee Voices for Children;

Early Results from Tennessee Pre-K Study, Dale Farran, Ph.D.;

Sam Davidson, founder of the website **Cool People Care.**

For more information contact TCCY at (615) 741-2633 or visit the agency website at www.tn.gov/tccy. Online registration is available at <http://cad2011.eventbrite.com/>. After midnight Thursday, March 10, register by e-mailing norma.tolliver@tn.gov. Onsite registration begins at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Additional sponsors include the Tennessee Juvenile Court Services Association, Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, Tennessee Head Start, Child & Family Policy Center, Omni Visions, Tennessee Voices for Children, Youth Villages and Centerstone.

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth is an independent agency created by the Tennessee General Assembly. Its primary mission is to advocate for improvements in the quality of life for Tennessee children and families. Information on the agency is available at www.tn.gov/tccy.

NOTE: Graphic of Gregory Beck Tennessee State Flag Event Logo and Other Graphics Available.