1 episode/165 views

THE TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH was created by the General Assembly and can trace its statutory history to 1955. The Commission is an independent state agency that advocates for improvement in the quality of life for children and families; collects and disseminates information on children and families for the planning and coordination of policies, programs and services; and administers the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in Tennessee. The policy-making body for the Commission is a 21-person board whose members are appointed by the governor. At least one member is appointed from each of Tennessee's nine development districts. The Commission staffs and coordinates nine regional councils that address the local needs of children and families, provides organizational structure for statewide networking on behalf of children and families, and provides local input to the Commission.

Andrew Jackson Building-9th Floor * 502 Deaderick Street * Nashville, Tennessee * 37243-0800 * 615-741-2633 * www.tn.gov/tccy



MISSION

We lead systems improvement for all children, vouth and families through data-driven advocacy. education, and collaboration.

ADVOCATE AND COLLABORATE

ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATION

TCCY provides budget recommendations and legislative guidance, an Ombudsman program, supports the Council on Children's Mental Health, Second Look Commission, Youth Transitions Advisory Council, Home Visiting Leadership Alliance and Young Child Wellness Council, and provides training and advocacy to prevent and mitigate adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

OMBUDSMAN - KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS, FY 2021-22 Total Referrals Received: 99 Northeast TN Active Cases: 84 Smoky Mountain Information Only: 15 Knox County Foster Home Related: 28 East TN Age 0 - 5: 33 Tennessee Valley Age 6 - 12: 44 Age 13 - 17: 21 Upper Cumberland Age 18+: 1 South Central Male: 56 Davidson County Female: 43 Mid-Cumberland Most Common Classifications: Shelby County Placement: 24 Southwest TN Case Management: 18 Advocacy: 14 Northwest TN

SECOND LOOK COMMISSION

Findings on Safety of Placements, Criminal Court, & Community Concerns

- · In several cases, members noted a child returned to their parents who were only partially compliant with their permanency plan or had not yet completed the required services. Members continue to see need for more post-placement caregiver support, including day
- care vouchers and training similar to foster care training for noncustodial placements.
- SLC noted the need to reassess the safety of the child when family circumstances change • The decision to not prosecute child abuse was discussed in several cases. SLC members discussed the need for additional resources including personnel dedicated to prosecuting child abuse. Individuals continue to fail to report child abuse without consequence. SLC members continue to see the need for birth control education, particularly long-acting reversible contraception.

COUNCIL ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH, FY 2021-22 Meetings:

August 26, 2021 - 94 attended February 24, 2022 - 96 attended April 21, 2022 - 78 attended June 23. 2022 - 73 attended

TCCY and TDMHSAS are restructuring CCMH to best meet the needs for SOCAT Network grant governance.

FENNESSEE YOUNG CHILD WELLNESS COUNCIL, FY 2021-22 Meetings: September 29, 2021 December 15, 2021 February 23, 2022 May 5, 2022 (with HVLA)

TNYCWC hosted an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (I/ECMH) policy summit on December 8, 2021.

YOUTH TRANSITIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL, FY 2021-22

Meetings: August 5, 2021 - 27 attended October 7, 2021 - 43 attended March 24, 2022 - 42 attended June 23, 2022 (with CMMH)

Of 801 youth aging out of foster care, 680 were eligible for extension of foster care services and 297 (44%) accepted.

HOME VISITING LEADERSHIP **ALLIANCE, FY 2021-22** Meetings:

September 28, 2021 -November 30, 2021 - 70 attended January 25, 2022 - 70 attended May 5, 2022 (with TNYCWC)

2.899 children and their families across all 95 Tennessee counties received EBHV services in 2021-22.



FY 2021-22 Budget \$5,133,661

\$3,611,280 (70%) \$382,042 (8%) \$1,140,339 (22%)



TOTAL FUNDS PASS-THROUGH: \$1,749,928 (34%)

JND5 PA55-THROUGH: \$1,749

OPERATING FUNDS:

\$3,383,733 (66%)

COORDINATE

State

Other

Federal

Regional Councils

TCCY's nine regional councils provide statewide networking on behalf of children and families. The councils address the needs of children and families at the regional level and offer local-level feedback to the Commission. Councils include children's services professionals and other citizens interested in improving the lives of Tennessee children.

> Northeast Council: Jill Grayson Stott 2557 Plymouth Street Johnson City, TN 37601 423-979-4585; jill.stott@tn.gov

East Tennessee Council: Lindsey Cody 7175 Strawberry Plains Pike, Suite 302 Knoxville, TN 37914-7006 865-594-6658; <u>lindsey.cody@tn.gov</u>

Southeast Council: Marissa Player-Montgomery Eastgate Towne Center 5600 Brainerd Road, Suite 602-D Chattanooga, TN 37411 423-634-6210; marissa.player-montgomery@tn.gov

Upper Cumberland Council: Kristi Paling 1100 England Drive Cookeville, TN 38501 931-646-0955; <u>kristi.paling@tn.gov</u>

Mid-Cumberland Council: Kate Gonzales Andrew Jackson Bldg., 9th Floor 502 Deaderick Street Nashville, TN 37243-0800 615-532-1579; kate.gonzales@tn.gov

South Central Council: Carla Walker 1400 College Park Drive Columbia, TN 38401 931-380-2582; <u>carlotte.d.walker@tn.gov</u>

Northwest Council: Dana Cobb 470 Mustang Drive Huntingdon, TN 38344 731-986-4243; <u>dana.cobb@tn.gov</u>

Southwest Council: Jerri Moore Lowell Thomas Building, Ste. 440, Box 13 225 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Jackson, TN 38301-6984 731-423-6545; jerri.moore@tn.gov

Memphis/Shelby County Council: Gwendolyn Wright One Commerce Square 40 South Main Street 10th Floor, Suite 1023 Memphis, TN 38103 901-543-7657; gwendolyn.wright@tn.gov

ADMINISTRATE

Juvenile Justice

TCCY juvenile justice activities include distributing state and federal funds to counties, state-level agencies and community programs to prevent delinquency or improve services for children involved with juvenile courts.
TCCY is the State Advisory Group responsible for implementing the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act in Tennessee.
Funds administered include the federal JJDP funds and Court Appointed
Special Advocate (CASA) grants. CASA program volunteers provide a voice for children in the juvenile court system. Reimbursement accounts help counties without youth detention centers defray the costs of providing alternatives to placing children in adult jails. Programs funded include youth and drug courts, mentoring, after-school programs, training for juvenile court staff and probation programs.

The JJDP Act supports and encourages equitable treatment for all children. TCCY assures the state maintains compliance with the JJDP Act's four core requirements:

- Deinstitutionalize status offenders (DSO);•
- Remove children from adult jails;•
- Separate children from adult offenders;•
- Address disproportionate contact of minority children with the juvenile justice system.

TCCY monitors all secure juvenile facilities in Tennessee to assure compliance with federal placement requirements.

Racial/Ethnic Disparities

TCCY provides administrative support and technical assistance to the Racial/Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) task forces in Tennessee. Tennessee has a statewide R/ED Task Force as well as several local R/ED task forces. The task forces consist of concerned citizens and agency representatives from across the state who meet periodically to address issues regarding the disproportionate number of minority children who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

EDUCATE

KIDS COUNT

TCCY gathers, analyzes and reports information on children and families in various publications, including the annual *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee*, tracking the status of children's educational, socioeconomic and physical well-being. Tennessee's KIDS COUNT Project is part of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT network. TCCY participates with the Foundation in the release of reports on child well-being nationally, including the annual *National KIDS COUNT Data Book*.

Resource Mapping

TCCY oversees resource mapping of all funding through the state budget to help children in Tennessee be safe, healthy, educated, nurtured and supported and engaged in activities to succeed in school and become productive adults. A report on prior fiscal year spending is submitted to the General Assembly annually. Twenty-nine state agencies serving children reported on expenditures during fiscal year 2021-22.

kidcentral tn

kidcentral tn is a free, one-stop resource for Tennessee families to raise healthy and happy kids. Created by the Governor's Children's Cabinet, kidcentral tn is maintained by TCCY and features articles on health, education, development and more. It also includes a searchable directory for state-sponsored services for children and families.

Resilient Tennessee Collaborative

Creating strong brain architecture and healthy child development in the earliest years of life is a critical strategy for preventing disease, disability and social problems across the lifespan. TCCY has intensified its advocacy of and collaboration for early childhood well -being and preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). This work includes training, collaboration and advocacy at local, regional and state levels.

Tennessee Compilation of Laws on Children, Youth and Families

The *Compilation* is published by TCCY and distributed to juvenile court judges and staff, state agencies, attorneys and others serving children.

Other Publications

TCCY also distributes information through: *The Advocate* newsletter, *Roots & Wings* podcast, Budget Recommendations, Legislative Updates, webinars and County Profiles of Child Well-Being

Website (www.tn.gov/tccy); Facebook (www.facebook.com/tccyonfb); Twitter (www.twitter.com/@tccy); LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/in/tccy-info); Instagram: (www.instagram.com/tccy_nashville) and YouTube (@tennesseecommissiononchild4281)

Reports produced by TCCY's collaborative and advocacy programs are available on the agency website.

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ADVOCATE AND COLLABORATE

Ombudsman Program

The Ombudsman responds to questions, concerns or complaints regarding children involved with the state's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Referrals are accepted from anyone. A mediation approach is used to resolve disputes in the best interests of the child and the safety of the community.

Council on Children's Mental Health

TCCY has administrative responsibility for the Council on Children's Mental Health (CCMH) charged with designing a plan for a statewide system of mental health care for children. The Council, composed of a broad range of stakeholders from all across the state, is co-chaired by the commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) and the executive director of TCCY. TCCY also partners with TDMHSAS through System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT), a 4-year, \$12 million federal grant. SOCAT utilizes System of Care values and principles while empowering Tennessee families to work together with child-serving agencies as a partner to guide their care.

Second Look Commission

Administered by TCCY, the Second Look Commission (SLC) was established to review a sampling of cases involving a second or subsequent incident of severe child abuse and provide recommendations and findings to the General Assembly regarding whether or not severe child abuse responses provide adequate protection for the children of this state. The SLC is co-chaired by Senate and House members, and includes representatives from the Department of Children's Services (DCS), law enforcement, courts, child abuse service providers and the advocacy community.

Youth Transitions Advisory Council

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC) brings together young people and other stakeholders from across Tennessee who work with youth aging out of DCS custody and transitioning from child-serving to adult services systems. YTAC makes recommendations to DCS, courts, schools, higher education and service providers to improve outcomes for successful transition from adolescence to adulthood for young people who often do not have supportive families.

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance

The Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) includes leadership from home visiting programs, state departments and other stake holders from across the state. The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) has administrative responsibility for the HVLA through a grant agreement with the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH). HVLA is co-chaired by TDH and TCCY and meets quarterly.

TN Young Child Wellness Council

The Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council (TNYCWC), which seeks to improve the well-being of children in Tennessee by improving collaboration among child-serving agencies and programs. TNYCWC serves as the advisory committee for Tennessee's Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. MIECHV is a grant from the Health Resources & Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that is received by the Tennessee Department of Health to administer Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs and support the state's early childhood system of care.