



Advocate

October 2014

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October is Juvenile Justice Awareness Month

Juvenile justice is an important aspect of Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's work, as the agency serves as the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act State Advisory Group. The events at Woodland Hills and Mountain View have shed light on the need to change gears in the system that serves youth in youth development centers. In line with that, this newsletter includes information on issues surrounding juvenile justice, especially in Tennessee.

TCCY intern Kaila Gilbert provided much of the content of this newsletter.

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New Memphis Juvenile Court Judge Calls for Balance

Juvenile Court Judge Dan Michael recently provided a hopeful direction for juvenile justice. In a speech to the Southeast Memphis Betterment Association (SEMBA), the new judge acknowledged both the need to address important issues and the need to do so in a way that makes sense and does not cause more harm. He stressed the humanity of individuals, the futility of locking up youths as a solution and the context for young offenders. The Memphis judge stated, "I got away with some things, some that would get people in prison, like the simple possession of certain drugs." He continued, "A life is worth something." The Memphis Flyer called the approach a balance between meeting a serious need while doing so in a way that acknowledges what is best for everyone involved.

Michael is a former chief administrator under former Judge Curtis Person and a veteran of 20 years in the area of juvenile justice. "We cannot incarcerate ourselves out of crime," he said. "My role is to save that child's life while protecting you."

- Read the full article [here](#):

Alternative Treatment Programming for Youth More Effective than Correctional Approaches

TSU Joins Tennessee to the Front Lines of Effective Juvenile Justice

Tennessee State University, in partnership with Pearl-Cohn High School, has signed on to one of the most promising intervention programs for at-risk youth. The Youth Empowerment Project (YEP), a Wisconsin-based anti-violence initiative, has broken ground in its ability to treat and restore at-risk youth through after-school programming.

By providing grants to programs that include a youth center, mentorship and summer/after-school programming, YEP supports a model that is proven to have a high impact on children's lives. Since its birth in 2010, the community-focused program surpassed most traditional methods of dealing with troubled youth. When comparing students within the YEP program to those who received no programming, YEP saw extraordinary returns in juvenile arrests, school suspensions, teen pregnancy, childhood obesity and school disciplinary incidents.

Tennessee's YEP program provides 50 students at Pearl-Cohn High School with mentoring, tutoring, life skills development, civic engagement, personal development and wellness, and cultural enrichment components. In addition, the program addresses a multitude of issues related to academic enrichment, anti-violence, career development, and healthy behaviors.

YEP's success adds to the already overwhelming evidence that community-based programs which employ therapeutic approaches yield better results in the short and long run than simply incarcerating troubled youth.

School House Adjustment Program Enterprise (SHAPE)

In 2007, TCCY provided initial funding to another effective program, the School House Adjustment Program Enterprise (SHAPE) in Shelby County Schools, which reduces the number of children referred to juvenile courts by the school system. This program has been identified by the U.S. Department of Justice as a model program.

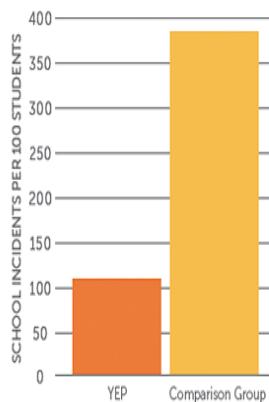
For more information on effective juvenile justice programs, look into the following sources:

- [Youth Empowerment Programs Summary;](#)
- [TSU's Triple Impact YEP Initiative;](#)
- [Tennessee's SHAPE Model;](#)
- [The Missouri Model;](#)
- [Safely Home Report for Effective Community-Based Alternatives;](#)
- [Model Programs supported by OJJPD.](#)

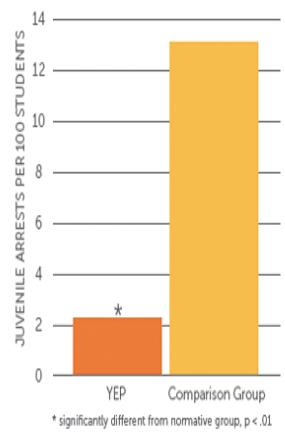
FAST FACTS

- PROGRAM NAME: Triple Impact
- PROGRAM ENROLLMENT: 50
- RACE/ETHNICITY: Black non-Hispanic
- SEX: Male/Female
- AGE RANGE: 13-16
- TIME COMMITMENT: 4 hrs/week (academic year); 180 hrs (summer program)
- FOCUS: Academic Enrichment, Healthy Behaviors, Anti-Violence, Career Development
- ENRICHMENT: Mentoring/Tutoring, Life Skills Development, Civic Engagement, Personal Development and Wellness, Cultural Enrichment

SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY INCIDENTS
(ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-11)
FIGURE 3-4



JUVENILE ARRESTS
(ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-11)
FIGURE 3-5



Smaller is Better: The Missouri Approach

Missouri closed its juvenile justice youth development centers/training schools 30 years ago, resulting in consistently better outcomes than other states. The more solutions- and treatment-based, positive approach includes:

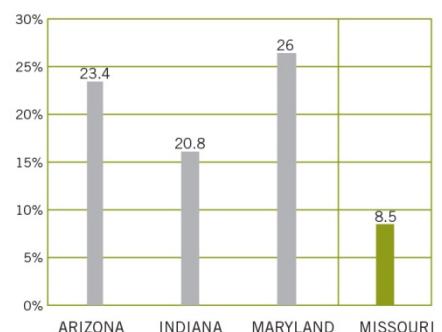
- Replacing large institutions with smaller group homes, camps and treatment facilities;
- Maintaining safety through relationships and "eyes-on" supervision rather use of hardware secure buildings and isolation;
- Intensive youth development by dedicated specialists rather than correctional supervision by guards.

Much evidence finds higher levels of post-traumatic stress disorder, exposure to violence and other toxic stress among youth within the juvenile justice system, reinforcing the need for a treatment orientation. A 2010 Annie E. Casey Foundation examination of the Missouri Approach reported no youth had died from suicide in more than 25 years since beginning a more therapeutic approach.

More information on the Missouri Approach is available:

- **The Missouri Approach, Division of Youth Services:** <http://bit.ly/tccyad52>.

FIGURE 1
Percentage of Youth Sentenced to Adult Prison within Three Years of Release/Discharge



Tennessee Lands in the Top Ten States for Afterschool Programs

Tennessee's children during the afterschool hours	Children in an afterschool program	Low-income children participating in an afterschool program	Average time a child spends in an afterschool program per week	Children in self-care
	18% RANK: 19	52% RANK: 10	7.24 hours RANK: 20	17% RANK: 49
	13% 2009 TN	41% 2009 TN	7.48 2009 TN	29% 2009 TN
	18% 2014 National	45% 2014 National	7.37 2014 National	20% 2014 National

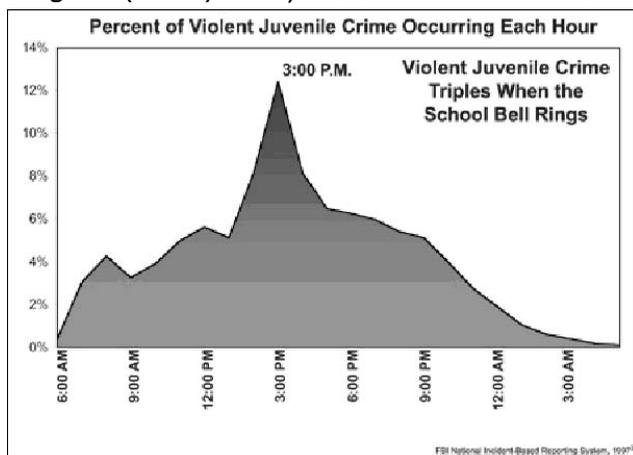
Source: Afterschool Alliance website

The relationship between afterschool opportunities and contact with the juvenile justice system has long been established, so it is good news Tennessee was recently ranked ninth in the nation for its afterschool programs, the first time the state has made the top 10.

Increasing numbers of high needs students being served allowed Tennessee to break into the top of the nation. Executive Director Linda O'Neal, at a press conference on Thursday, added, "As the people who share the annual Kids Count reports, we know it's rare when Tennessee is in the top 10 of anything—so it is good to be on the top for once."

The Department of Justice, for instance, finds that 29 percent of juvenile crimes occur on school days between the hours of 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Afterschool programs during these critical periods offer opportunities to enrich kids and prevent external interaction with alcohol, drugs and criminal behavior.

Reasons for Tennessee's high ranking included allocation of the Tennessee Lottery for Education: Afterschool Program (LEAP) Fund, the coordination of the Nashville After Zone Alliance under Mayor Karl Dean and the



Tennessee School-Age Developmental Standards developed by the Department of Education.

While participation in afterschool programs in Tennessee has increased, the state remains in the middle of the pack regarding overall participation in afterschool programs. There are currently 263,754 children who would be enrolled in afterschool care if it were offered to them. California, the District of Columbia, and Florida led the nation as best states for afterschool programs.

Read more about the rankings and criteria [here](#). For the

Tennessee Fact Sheet, click [here](#).

October Is Also Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Domestic Violence Roundtable states "Witnessing domestic violence is the single best predictor of juvenile delinquency and adult criminality." The Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence works to address this problem.

Other Domestic Violence Effects on Children

According to Safe Horizon, domestic abuse has striking effects on the families it plagues:

- Every year, more than 3 million children witness domestic violence in their homes.
- Children who live in homes where there is domestic violence also suffer abuse or neglect at high rates (30 percent to 60 percent).
- A 2005 Michigan study found children exposed to domestic violence at home are more likely to have health problems, including becoming sick more often, having frequent headaches or stomachaches, and being more tired and lethargic.
- A 2003 study found children are more likely to intervene when they witness severe violence against a parent – which can place a child at great risk for injury or even death. ([source](#))

In 2010, the TBI Crime in Tennessee Report estimated domestic violence makes up 51 percent of all crimes against persons ([source](#)). The year 2011 saw more than 85,000 victims in Tennessee, including 92 victims of domestic homicide. In 2013, Tennessee ranked third in the nation for the number of women killed by men

Last April, Nashville Public Television issued "Domestic Violence: Living in Fear," a documentary on domestic violence. Included in the video is a description of the cycle of violence, which includes three stages: tension builds, acute explosion and apologetic honeymoon.

- [Watch the NPT Report;](#)
- [Domestic Violence PSA from](#) Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (TCEW);
- For TCEW resources on addressing domestic and sexual abuse, click [here](#).

Did You Know?

October is the national month for many causes, including:

- Breast Cancer Awareness;
- Pregnancy and Infant Awareness;
- Disability Awareness;
- Fair Trade.
- Bullying Prevention;
- Teen Driver Safety;
- Cybersecurity;

October is also jokingly referred to as "Month Awareness Month."

Updates

About Us. Melissa McGee has joined TCCY as director of the Council on Children's Mental Health (CCMH). McGee, who has participated with CCMH, transferred from the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS), where she served as the family and youth engagement coordinator with the Office of Statewide System of Care Initiatives. She led DMHSAS efforts to expand family-driven, youth-guided care across the state.

Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 31, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., **Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth sponsors "Clinicians' Co-Parenting Tools" Lunch & Learn**, Mental Health Cooperative, 275 Cumberland Bend Ste. 109A, Nashville. Free. Register: <http://bit.ly/MCCY1031>. Contact Susan Cope for further information/assistance.

Nov. 1, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., **The Rutherford County Suicide Prevention Coalition presents "Emerging Issues in Suicide Prevention,"** Patterson Park Community Center, 521 Mercury Blvd, Murfreesboro. Register: EISPnovember1.eventbrite.com, (615) 297-1077 or fax (615) 269-5413. Space is limited.

Nov. 4, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., **TCSW Lunch & Learn: Get Covered Nashville & Health Assist Navigation Programs.** International Plaza Bldg, 3rd Floor Conference Rm, 2 International Plaza Drive, Nashville. [View the flyer](#) to learn more; Space is limited so [register now](#).

Nov. 7, **Upper Cumberland Council on Children and Youth Networking Conference**, Upper Cumberland Regional Health Facility. More details TBA.

Nov. 7, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., **Northwest Council on Children and Youth Fall Conference and Provider Fair, "The Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Toxic Stress on Development,"** Ballroom, Bowling University Center, UT Martin. Register: Dana.Cobb@tn.gov or call (731) 571-7271. Fee: \$15 for members, \$35 for non-members. Registration deadline: Oct. 31.

Nov. 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m., **Tennessee Children's Advocacy Centers presents "Stewards of Children,"** a training program that teaches adults how to recognize, prevent and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. South College West Campus, 400 Goody's Lane, Knoxville. Free and open to the public but registration required. Contact Ambler Brown at abrown@tncac.org or (865) 986-1505 x109 to RSVP/learn more.

Nov. 11, **Mental Health Law. CEU. TBA.** Contact Mental Health America-MT at www.mhamt.org, (615) 269-5355 or tstarling@mhamt.org.

Nov. 11, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., **TCSW Lunch & Learn: TennCare Eligibility, Enrollment and Appeals.** International Plaza Bldg, 3rd Floor Conference Rm, 2 International Plaza Drive, Nashville. [View the flyer](#) to learn more; Space is limited, so [register now](#).

Nov. 14, **Southeast Council on Children and Youth and Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare Fall Conference.** Contact Rosalyn.Leavell-Rice@tn.gov.

Nov. 14, 12 noon-1:15 p.m. CST, **Webinar: Exercising Judicial Leadership on the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders**, Coalition for Juvenile Justice. Register at <http://bit.ly/tccyad50>.

Nov. 19-21, **Rural Health Association of Tennessee Conference: "Twenty Years of Reaching for the Stars,"** Music Road Hotel & Inn, 303 Henderson Chapel Road, Pigeon Forge. Contact susan@rhat.org for information.

Nov. 23-25, **Connecting for Children's Justice Conference.** Sheraton Music City Hotel, Nashville. Register [here](#), or visit the conference [website](#) for more information.

Nov. 25, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., **TCSW Lunch & Learn: Healthcare and Finances – How to Use Health Insurance Wisely.** International Plaza Bldg, 3rd Floor Conference Rm, 2 International Plaza Drive, Nashville. [View the flyer](#) to learn more; Space is limited so [register now](#).

In the News

The (Nashville) Tennessean, "Tennessee Afterschool Network aims to help students." <http://bit.ly/tccyad42>

WSNS Radio, Murfreesboro, "Governor's proclamation recognizes the state's afterschool programs' role in developing children," <http://bit.ly/tccyad47>

Memphis Daily News, "Group to Promote Afterschool Programs in Tennessee," <http://bit.ly/tccyad42>

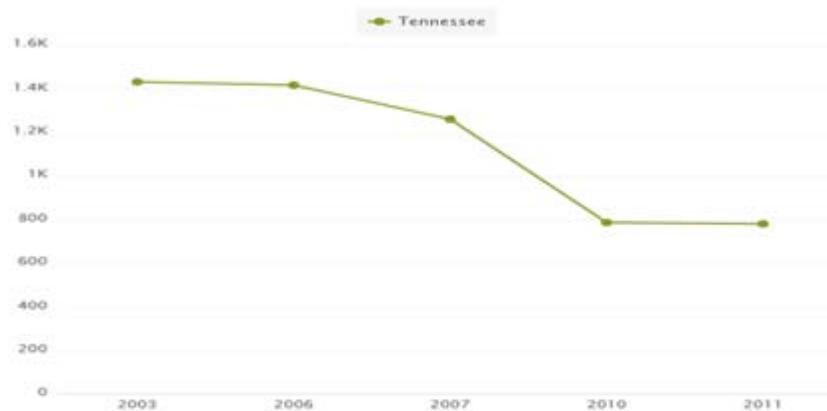
Research Information

Public Favors Public Funding to Support Parents and Children, Children's Leadership Council:

<http://bit.ly/tccyad51>

Assessing Alternative Modifications to the Affordable Care Act, reporting on impact of eliminating tax credits and individual mandate, Rand Corporation: <http://bit.ly/1zADU5b>

Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts



YOUTH RESIDING IN JUVENILE DETENTION, CORRECTIONAL AND/OR RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES (NUMBER)

National KIDS COUNT
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

More data on Tennessee child well-being is available at <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>.

“No person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or ability to pay, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity operated, funded, or overseen by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY). It is the intent of TCCY to bind all agencies, organizations, or governmental units operating under its jurisdiction and control to fully comply with and abide by the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.”

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