October 2017

Domestic Violence Prevention Month;
Secondary Trauma Hurts;
Helping Parents Helps Children;
Some States Consider Presence of Children in Domestic Violence Laws;
Bullying Awareness;
Blue Ribbon Task Force on Juvenile Justice Continues Work;
Update.

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Domestic Violence Prevention Month

Exposure to domestic partner violence communicates trauma to children. October has been designated Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence is one of the 10 adverse childhood experiences and contributes to the life-long struggles of children exposed to it. The National Network to End Domestic Violence is leading a National Week of Action October 16-22.


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Secondary Trauma Hurts

Exposure to violence against one's mother by her partner is one of the original Adverse Childhood Experiences studied. According to a National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) report, half of female victims of domestic violence live in households with children under age 12. Another report found children younger than age 5 were disproportionately in households where this abuse occurs.

Many children witness domestic violence each year. Children exposed to domestic violence are at higher risk of maltreatment, but the exposure itself has negative effects. These effects may result from maternal stress. Even if they are not targets of abuse, children may be the proximate cause of conflict, victims of collateral damage or forced to be a protector.

As identified in the ACEs study, children exposed to trauma may experience physical and/or mental health effects, which may increase over time.


Helping Parents Helps Children

Differences in access to health care affect ability of victims of domestic violence to receive help. Health care providers may be the first line of identifying domestic abuse. Caring adults strongly contribute to resilience in trauma-exposed children.

A comprehensive approach to domestic violence is guided by the principle that adult victims and their children are firmly connected and responses to abuse should include both adults and children. The core components of evidence-based programs include addressing barriers to seeking service.


Some States Consider Presence of Children in Domestic Violence Laws

In a significant number of states, domestic violence committed in the presence of a child results in increased penalties for the perpetrator. Tennessee law doesn’t currently have any specific provisions addressing domestic violence committed in the presence of children.
Bullying Awareness

October is also National Bullying Awareness Month. Tennessee has worked to create legislation and model prevention programs. Most of the recognized key components of bullying prevention are included in these programs, with legislation including all recommended components.


Blue Ribbon Task Force on Juvenile Justice Continues Work

The next meeting of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Juvenile Justice, on which TCCY Executive Director Linda O'Neal serves, will begin at 9:30 a.m. on October 30 in Tennessee Tower (311 Seventh Ave. N., Nashville) Conference Room D. Streaming video will be available at [http://bit.ly/2wliL5X](http://bit.ly/2wliL5X). The Task Force should report on its work prior to the upcoming 2018 legislative session.


TCCY legislative updates will return in early 2018 when the General Assembly returns and legislators file new bills.


Update

TCCY welcomes three new Commission members appointed by Gov. Bill Haslam: Dr. Altha J. Stewart, associate professor of psychiatry and director of the Center for Health in Justice Involved Youth at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) and president-elect of the American Psychiatric Association, and youth members Hailey Brooks, a student at Belmont University in Nashville, and Middle Tennessee State University student Annemarie Rainwater, of Shelbyville.
Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 5, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., **Youth Transitions Advisory Council Meeting**, Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, 937 Herman St., Nashville. Information: 615-532-1685 or [Steve.Petty@tn.gov](mailto:Steve.Petty@tn.gov).

Oct. 8-10, **2017 Connecting for Children’s Justice Conference**, Embassy Suites, 1200 Conference Center Blvd. Murfreesboro. Information: [tncac@tncac.org](mailto:tncac@tncac.org).


Oct. 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., **Council on Children's Mental Health Meeting**, Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, 937 Herman St., Nashville.

Oct. 21, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., **Tennessee Disability Pathfinder "Future Planning,"** United Way of Knoxville, 1301 Hannah Ave., Knoxville. Free. Preregistration required at [http://bit.ly/2w3sjl5](http://bit.ly/2w3sjl5). Social work CEUs available. Contact: (615) 875-5082 or [megan.hart@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:megan.hart@vanderbilt.edu).

Oct. 25-26, **Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth meeting**, Montgomery Bell State Park, 1000 Hotel Avenue, Burns. Contact Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov for information.

Oct. 25, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mental Health America presents *"Compassion Fatigue and Self Care,"* TriStar Skyline Madison Campus, 500 Hospital Dr., Nashville. CEUs available. Cost: $45 to $75. Register at [http://www.mhamt.org/](http://www.mhamt.org/).


March 13-14, 2018, **Children's Advocacy Days**, War Memorial Auditorium. Contact: John.Rust@tn.gov.

***In the News***


***Research Information***


Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

Children in Low-Income Working Families by Age

Female-Headed Families Receiving Child Support


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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