TCCY Welcomes Additional Programs

TCCY has grown. We welcome two new programs, the Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council and kidcentral tn and their staff into the agency. Both programs have successful histories in other state agencies.

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, has moved from its previous home at the Tennessee Department of Health to TCCY. The council formed in 2013 when the governor’s Early Childhood Advisory Council and the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems State Action Team merged. Council membership includes representatives from state agencies, private care providers, advocates and families from all over the state.
the state. 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. TNYCWC is staffed by Cory Bradfield.

kidcentraltn.com was created by the Governor's Children's Cabinet as a one-stop shop for Tennessee families to connect with important information and resources. This website pulls content from across state departments, making it easier for families to find what they need. kidcentral tn at TCCY is staffed by Jonquil Newland. kidcentral tn provides the following features.

- Information on children's health, education, development and support;
- Searchable directory of state services for children and families;
- My Profile section to see developmental milestones;
- Social media and email alerts.

kidcentral tn: https://www.kidcentraltn.com/.

Support for Young Adult Parents Helps Build Better Communities

With limited access to opportunities to advance their education and find family-sustaining jobs, Tennessee’s 75,000 young adult parents face hurdles to support their children and fulfill their own potential, according to Opening Doors for Young Parents, the latest KIDS COUNT® policy report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The 50-state report reveals that, at 13 percent, Tennessee is above the national average, (10 percent) of youth ages 18 to 24, who are also parents.

The report highlights the following statewide trends and areas of concern:

- 99,000 children in Tennessee have young parents ages 18 to 24.
- 73 percent of children of young parents in Tennessee live in low-income families, which is above the national average.
- Only 12 percent of young parents ages 18 to 24 have completed an associate degree or higher.
- 39 percent of Tennessee’s young parents are people of color, facing challenges exacerbated by discrimination and systemic inequities, with their children standing to suffer the most.


Resilience and Prevention

We at TCCY have learned to take a solutions or wellness focus, as opposed to a problem or illness focus, on issues related to childhood trauma. The Building Strong Brains Training for Trainers is working to instill knowledge of adverse childhood experiences in professionals and the community while emphasizing trauma exposure is fact not fate. Resilience and coping skills can be developed through trusting relationships with supportive adults and other positive life factors. We continue to share resources on these skills.
Epigenetics: To the Second and Third Generation

Since the mid-1990s, research has confirmed the impact of adverse childhood experiences stretches over a lifetime. However, more recent study suggests toxic stress may have an even longer, deeper impact, even into future generations. This may begin by affecting reproductive health. One study found a link between ACEs and painful endometriosis. Another study of three generations of mothers found having been in foster care made a moderate contribution to the risk for preterm delivery.

Parents with greater exposure to ACEs are more likely to have children with behavioral health problems. Additionally, evidence suggests trauma and stress may actually alter genes, which may be passed down to the generations.


Rethinking Advocacy

Groups formed to improve their communities - nonprofits and foundations - have to consider how to extend their mission through advocacy efforts in a polarized nation. Stanford University has created this chart of advocacy efforts nonprofit organizations can engage in.

TCCY's Budget Recommendations Released

One of TCCY's legislative mandates is to make recommendations on the state's budget. Each fall, prior to the next year's legislative session, TCCY compiles recommendations for the legislative session beginning 2019, are now available.

Sign up to receive TCCY federal policy information by following the instructions at https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/tccy/advocacy-policy/federal-advocacy-issues/leg-listserv.html.


Update

After a decade of reporting and anchoring the news in television markets across Tennessee, Jonquil Newland has joined the TCCY team as the new director of kidcentral tn. While Jonquil’s professional career has taken her to every region of this state she is a true middle Tennessean. Jonquil and her family moved to Nashville from Michigan when she was 5-years-old. She grew up in Bellevue and in Spring Hill where she graduated high school.
Jonquil spent her college years on Rocky Top at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and traveled the world with the Pride of the Southland Marching Band and University of Tennessee Wind Ensemble. After graduating from UT’s College of Communication and Information Jonquil got her first on air job at WBBJ in Jackson. Her broadcasting career then took her to WRCB in Chattanooga and most recently to WTVF in Nashville, TN. Jonquil is extremely excited to start a new chapter with TCCY and kidcentral tn! You can reach her at jonquil.newland@tn.gov.

Sumita Keller has been promoted to serve as TCCY’s director of Statewide Partnerships. In her new role, she will provide leadership, guidance and support for the Home Visiting Leadership Alliance, Council on Children’s Mental Health, Early Childhood Well-Being and the Young Child Wellness Council and will serve on the agency’s senior leadership team. Keller has previously served as director of the Home Visiting Leadership Alliance and Policy Advocate with TCCY. Prior to returning to TCCY, she served as Customer Service administrator with the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

During her career, she has also worked at Vanderbilt University as an International Student Adviser, TeenPEACE and the YW. She holds a Master of Education degree from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Barnard College at Columbia University.

Lindsey Cody, TCCY East Tennessee regional program administrator, has been elected to the board of directors for the Mental Health Association of East Tennessee starting in 2018. Lindsey is the regional coordinator of the East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth. The MHA will draw on his expertise in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) as ACES so often are linked to the onset of mental illness or addiction.

Russette Sloan has welcomed back her son, Marc, from a two-month stay in Ghana. Mar was completing a junior field placement for his bachelor’s in science in Social Work working on health education projects.
Mark Your Calendar


Oct. 4, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., **Youth Transitions Advisory Council**, Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, 937 Herman St., Nashville. For additional information, call 615-532-1685.

Oct. 9, 10 a.m., **Second Look Commission**, Administrative Office of the Courts Conference Room, 511 Union St., Ste. 600, Nashville. Contact: [Craig.Hargrow@tn.gov](mailto:Craig.Hargrow@tn.gov).


Oct. 18, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., **Council on Children's Mental Health**, Midtown Hills Police Precinct, 1441 12th Ave., S., Nashville. Contact [Melissa.McGee@tn.gov](mailto:Melissa.McGee@tn.gov).


Oct. 19, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Upper Cumberland Council on Children and Youth presents "**Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities,**" Collegeside Church of Christ, 252 E. Ninth, Cookeville. The morning session, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., is the Ruby Payne Bridges Out of Poverty workshop. The afternoon session will be an interactive poverty simulation. No charge, but lunch is not provided. Contact [Kristi.Paling@tn.gov](mailto:Kristi.Paling@tn.gov). Register: [http://bit.ly/2laap7X](http://bit.ly/2laap7X).


Oct. 31, 10 a.m., **Northwest and Southwest Councils on Children and Youth** present the **Rural West ACEs Knowledge Mobilization Team** meeting. Details forthcoming. Contact [Dana.Cobb@tn.gov](mailto:Dana.Cobb@tn.gov) and [Rodger.Jowers@tn.gov](mailto:Rodger.Jowers@tn.gov).

March 12-13, **Children's Advocacy Days**, War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville. Contact: [John.Rust@tn.gov](mailto:John.Rust@tn.gov)

**In the News**

Prohow, J., WBIR-10, **The barriers young parents and their children face loom large in Tennessee, report says**, Sept. 25, 2018, [https://on.wbir.com/2Ig1qlz](https://on.wbir.com/2Ig1qlz).


Gonzales, J., *Tennessean*, **Tennesseans largely support strengthening early education, poll shows**, [https://tnne.ws/2QglCa0](https://tnne.ws/2QglCa0).


**Research Information**


Drug Related Arrests for Youth Under Age 18

Children in Foster Care Waiting for Adoption by Amount of Time Waiting


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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