



THE ADVOCATE

Building Resilience: Strengthening Children, Families, and Communities



Welcome to the April, 2025 issue of The Advocate! April is a time of renewal and growth, making it the perfect opportunity to focus on resilience, the ability to adapt and thrive in the face of challenges. This month, we explore how child and family advocates can help build resilience at every level: from fostering knowledge about how to assist our most vulnerable child communities, to creating policies that support families and communities in our ever evolving digital era. As we recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Week of the Young Child, we highlight innovative programs that reinforce protective factors and empower families. Together, we can create a stronger, more supportive environment where every child has the opportunity to flourish!

Legislative Updates

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Children and Youth Articles



Children with disabilities are three and a half times more likely to suffer from maltreatment. The federal Early Intervention (EI) program, which serves 3.7 percent of children under three, supports families in meeting the developmental needs of children who have, or are at risk for, developmental delays or disabilities. Click the link to read a study that examines whether EI participation reduces the risk of future maltreatment.

[Learn More](#)



Understanding the current state of maternal and infant well-being, health behaviors, and social determinants of health across several domains offers the opportunity to kindle ideas for interventions to improve well-being. The United States has one of the highest maternal mortality rates among developed nations. Learn more about the data and indicators from nearly two dozen forum agencies in a study that was conducted late last year.

[Learn More](#)



Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming education, particularly in STEM fields. However, most school districts are unprepared to navigate its opportunities and challenges. Without clear policies, districts risk falling behind in equipping students with essential skills for the future. Meanwhile, unstructured AI use can create ethical dilemmas, widen



The parent-child relationship is the foundation of a child's development, shaping their behavior, values, personality, and sense of self. But in today's digital world, where children are using personal media devices earlier than ever in life, how is this critical bond evolving? How do parents' own tech habits, whether it's constant connectivity, guilt and stress

learning gaps, and introduce new concerns about academic integrity and data privacy. Click the button to read an article that focuses on addressing these risks by encouraging school districts to be proactive.

[Learn More](#)

about their own screen time, or digital distractions, impact their children? Sign up for a webinar with [Children and Screens](#) that will focus on these questions!

[Sign Up for Webinar](#)



TCCY's State of the Child in Tennessee Report is one of several reports that TCCY releases annually. Additionally, TCCY publishes County Profiles, Budget Recommendations, the Youth Transitions Advisory Council Report, and Resource Mapping Report. Each report relies heavily on data gathered by state and federal departments as well as non-governmental organizations. Now, many indicators used for each of the reports as well as additional information can be found in one location, TCCY's data dashboard, FUTURE.

[FUTURE Data Dashboard](#)



Children's Advocacy Day's, "Navigating the Digital Frontier: Empowering Children & Youth for a Bright Future" was a huge success last month! On behalf of the team at TCCY, thank you to all who participated in this important and empowering event. This year's theme can be seen, understood and advocated for from capitol hill to inside one's home every day. You can find a full video of the live stream, PowerPoint presentations, and information about this year's speakers by clicking the button below and navigating to "PowerPoints" on the web site.



During April, we recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Month (NCAPM) and the importance of communities working together to support and strengthen families and prevent child maltreatment. Throughout the year, communities are encouraged to increase awareness about child and family well-being and work together to implement effective strategies that support families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

[Learn More](#)[CAD Review](#)

Help celebrate 2025's Week of the Young Child, a fun filled week celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities. Click the button to get involved!

[Week of the Young Child](#)

Mental Health Resources

[TN Partners for Health](#)[TDMHSAS Mental Health Services](#)[988 Hotline](#)

Calendar of Events

Friday, April 11 - ETTCY's The Health Effects of Vaping, Smoking, and Tobacco Use - Bridgewater PL. 205 Bridgewater Rd. Knoxville, TN 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22 - Southeast Council on Children & Youth's Mandatory

Reporting Training - United Way of Greater Chattanooga, 630 Market St.
Chattanooga, TN, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Thursday, April 24 - West Tennessee Resilient Collaboration Summit - Double
Tree Hotel, 1770 US-45 Bypass, Jackson, TN - 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 24 - HVLA - MNP West Precinct, 5500 Charlotte Pike,
Nashville, TN - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Friday, April 25 - Second Look Commission Meeting - 10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - for
more information contact Kylie Graves at Kylie.Graves@tn.gov.

The Tennessee Commission on Children and
Youth | [Website](#)



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