



# THE ADVOCATE

## Empowering Professionals, Strengthening Families



Welcome to the November, 2024 issue of The Advocate! This month's newsletter will focus on providing child and family professionals with tools and knowledge needed to make a meaningful impact, specifically for children in foster care. From curated academic articles to practical resources, this edition is designed to empower you with research, best practices, innovative strategies and upcoming educational opportunities. As we move into the season of giving, we hope these resources inspire confidence, connection, and strength in your work with families!

## Legislative Updates

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## Children and Youth Articles



The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth provides consistent data surrounding youth in foster care. It's also beneficial to understand how Tennessee children fare compared to the rest of the United States. Click the button to learn about the state of foster care in the U.S. and what you can do.

Learn  
More



You've likely heard about the State's, "Every Child TN" Initiative that launched in late August. Did you know it brought together more than two dozen organizations and non profits who work with children in foster care? Every Child TN mobilizes all Tennesseans to care for children, youth, and families before, during, and after foster care. The new web site is a wonderful resource for those looking to get involved. Click the button to surf the pages and get involved!

Learn  
More



Public spending on children typically indicates an effort to invest in the future. A recent study by the Urban Institute reveals how public expenditures shifted after the pandemic and how federal expenditures on children are projected to unfold



ChildcareTennessee focuses on collaborative opportunities in Tennessee's child care centers' administrative, programmatic, and operational services. The partnership's goal is to improve the quality, accessibility and sustainability of the services

over the next decade under current law. Click the button to learn more.

Learn More

offered to the children and families that are serve. Click the button to learn more.

Learn More

#### LEADERS FOR CHILD WELL-BEING TENNESSEE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2025



Developing People-Focused Leaders in People-Serving Systems

For the past two years the Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth has sponsored a Leadership Academy committed to developing leaders in the child-serving system across Tennessee. Graduates have enthusiastically expressed how much they have grown both personally and professionally, while creating lasting relationships with their fellow leaders.

We're excited to announce the addition of two sponsors for the upcoming 2025 Leadership Academy, the Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee (AIMHiTN) and Centerstone. Their generous contribution, along with TCCY's ongoing support, makes it possible to continue developing child-serving leaders across the state.

The 2025 Leaders for Child Well-Being Tennessee Leadership Academy is an intensive and dynamic experience designed for emerging and established leaders in child-serving organizations. What sets this experience apart is a focus on developing the leader within and creating a positive ripple effect throughout organizations and communities, all with the commitment to improving outcomes for Tennessee's children and youth.

Space is limited, and the selection process is highly competitive. ***Applications are due*** Friday, November 15, 2024.

Apply Today

LEADERS FOR CHILD WELL-BEING TENNESSEE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2025



**Developing People-Focused Leaders in People-Serving Systems**

Are you ready to design and become the **authentic leader** you aspire to be?

Would you like to gain a deeper understanding of your natural **strengths** that optimize success and the **saboteurs** that hold you back?

Are you eager to learn **practical tools** to lead yourself and others?

Would you like to **connect with peer leaders** to build relationships, facilitate growth, and foster collaboration?

**KEY COMPETENCIES**

- Self-Awareness
- Growth Mindset
- Authentic Action

**APPLY NOW!**  
\*Space is limited

Effective leadership begins with leading the most important person you will ever lead—**yourself**. We have been developing 21st Century leaders since 2007 through a Leadership Academy devoted to **child and family-serving leaders** across the state. Our **consensus-based** approach prioritizes:

- public-private collaboration
- immersive training
- research-based assessments
- system projects
- peer learning experiences that turn insight into action

"This course taught me how to rise to my potential and inspire those I am entrusted to lead to rise to theirs. There is a leader inside each of us."  
Steph Freeman, CEO, EPIC-Cul

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

**AIMH:TN** **TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH** **CENTERSTONE**

LEADERS FOR CHILD WELL-BEING TENNESSEE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2025

**DATES** (The first date of the in-person retreats includes travel.)

January 27-30	Opening Retreat	Fall Creek Falls State Park
February 27	Virtual Meeting #1	Zoom
March 31- April 3	Midpoint Retreat	Fall Creek Falls State Park
May 1	Virtual Session #2	Zoom
May 22	Virtual Session #3	Zoom
June 2-4	Closing Retreat	Fall Creek Falls State Park

**TUITION & EXPENSES**

Participant tuition is substantially funded by the generous sponsorships of Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth (TCCY), Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee (AIMH:TN), and Centerstone.

**You, or your employer, are responsible for \$600 in tuition, plus food, travel, and lodging expenses for 3 in-person retreats.** Tuition includes course materials, required books, and assessments. To secure your spot in the Leadership Academy, a non-refundable tuition deposit of \$300 is required upon your acceptance of the invitation. The remaining balance is due to TCCY no later than January 10, 2025.

If you are selected to join the Leadership Academy, you or your employer must be willing and able to fund these costs. Payment details will be provided along with your invitation to join.

"This experience and being immersed in a psychological safe and interactive learning environment allowed me to experience a deeper understanding of my long and shadowy past in the workplace and how that has become a great asset to my leadership."

—Katie Thompson, Vice President, Early Head Start Director

**PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS**

The Leadership Academy includes in-person retreats, virtual sessions, and peer learning activities. These intentionally designed experiences create an environment that supports transformative change and a community of peer leaders.

Regular attendance, intentional engagement, and openness to growth are essential in all activities. Experiential learning builds over the course of the Leadership Academy, and attendance at the first retreat is vital to laying a solid foundation and setting the tone for the group.

**Attendance at the 1st retreat is required.** Following the 1st retreat, a maximum of 3 absences will be allowed. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, the facilitators will work with you as needed to support your learning.

**APPLY NOW!**  
\*Space is limited

LEADERS FOR CHILD WELL-BEING TENNESSEE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2025



**GRADUATES**

**JOIN THIS PREMIER COMMUNITY OF CHILD WELL-BEING LEADERS!**

**State & Local Govt.**

- Metro Nashville Police Department (BNMPD)
- TN Bureau of Investigation (TBI)
- TennCare
- TN Commission on Children & Youth (TCCY)
- TN Department of Children's Services (TDCS)
- TN Department of Health (TDOH)
- TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS)
- TDMHSAS, Regional Intervention Program (RIP)

**Private/Non-state Govt.**

- Agilent VOPB
- Association of Infant Mental Health in TN (AIMH:TN)
- Bishop's Promise
- CASA Nashville
- Center of Hope for Behavioral Health (COHBH)
- Centerstone
- East TN State University (ETSU)
- Epic Care
- Northeast TN Head Start/Early Head Start
- Partnership River City Youth Collective
- Redesign Behavioral Health Services (RBHS)
- Save The Children
- TN Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO)
- TN CASA Association
- TN Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN)
- United Way of Greater Nashville

**APPLY NOW!**  
\*Space is limited

**LEADERS FOR CHILD WELL-BEING INSTITUTE**

Over half a century of executive leadership experience in state and private sector systems of child welfare, behavioral healthcare, and youth justice.

**Heather Taylor Griffin, LCSW, CPC**  
Coach, Consultant, Facilitator

**Judith Stone Morley, JD, CLE**  
Coach, Consultant, Facilitator



The Youth Transitions Advisory Council brings dedicated advocates together from across the state who are developing and implementing new strategies to meet the challenges of engaging former foster youth and other young adults as they make the critical transition from adolescence to adulthood. The 2024 Youth Transitions Advisory Council Report was just released, click the link to read the full report.

[Learn More](#)

## Mental Health Resources

TN Partners for Health

TDMHSAS Mental Health Services

988 Hotline

## Calendar of Events

**Thursday, November 7** - TCCY Commission Meeting and Retreat -Pickwick Landing State Park

**Thursday, November 14** - Home Visiting Leadership Alliance - Lentz Public



Health Center, Nashville TN, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Friday, November 15** - Northwest Council Fall Conference and Provider Fair-  
UT Martin's Boling University Center, 2nd floor ballroom, Martin, TN, 8:30 a.m. -  
2:30 p.m.

**Friday, November 15** - ETCCY's Five Protective Factors in Child Welfare  
Prevention - Calhoun's on the River, Knoxville, TN 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Thursday, November 21** - Council on Children's Mental Health Quarterly  
Meeting - Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington Ag Center, Nashville, TN.

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



Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth | 502 Deaderick Street 9th Floor - Andrew  
Jackson Building | Nashville, TN 37243 US

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