

Advocate

November 2016

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Youth Transitioning from Foster Care

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Youth Transitions Advisory Council Reports on Year's Successes

The TCCY-based Youth Transitions Advisory Council released its eighth annual report since being created by the Legislature to support former foster youth in becoming productive citizens. The report celebrates Tennessee's progress as a leader in assisting all foster youth, including youth with severe emotional disturbance, substance abuse disorders, and developmental and intellectual delays, successfully transition to adulthood and independence. All child-serving agencies were required to assist in the program at its creation, and other stakeholders make up the current membership.



The report includes recommendations, new and continuing, on changes to improve supports for transitioning youth.

Legislation passed in 2016, credited in the report as a step forward, while not addressing youth who have aged out of care, should assist youth as they move to independent living. The "Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard" now in effect allows foster parents to make the decision to include foster youth in school, family and community activities that reasonable parents would make for their children. This should improve the development of social skills and independent living.

The report recognizes the emphasis of the Tennessee Housing and Development Agency (THDA) on serving foster youth because of their high risk of homelessness. The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) also provides programs for youth dealing with serious emotional disturbance or substance abuse.

	Total Aged Out	Total Aged Out Eligible for EFCS	Eligible Population Accepting EFCS	Percent Accepting EFCS
FY 2008-09	1209			
FY 2009-10	1162			
FY 2010-11	1131	813	163	20%
FY 2011-12	1084	748	201	27%
FY 2012-13	1017	768	301	39%
FY 2013-14	984	779	312	40%
FY 2014-15	932	731	353	48%
FY 2015-16	996	815	388	48%

Extension of Foster Care Services (EFCS). The number of youth accepting services after the age of 18 increased for the sixth consecutive year, with nearly half of those eligible participating. **Education.** More than 500 youth were awarded Education and Training Vouchers and Bright Futures Scholarships.

TCCY Youth Transitions Advisory Council Annual Report 2016:
<http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tccy/attachments/yt-ar-16.pdf>.

Youth Transitions Advisory Council: <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/topic/ytac>.

Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS) Youth in Transition Program:
<http://bit.ly/2ebRAS5>.

DCS Resource Links for Youth in Transition: <http://bit.ly/2eHdwVE>.

THDA Housing Trust Fund Program: <http://bit.ly/2ewh0wN>.

YVLifeSet Transitional Living Program: <http://bit.ly/2ewhEKF>.

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Mental Health Initiatives Helping Tennessee Youth

The **Tennessee Healthy Transitions Initiative** is a partnership of groups, including youth-led groups, working to assist Tennesseans ages 16 to 25 to improve their health and wellness if they are at risk of developing a serious mental health condition or co-occurring disorder. Efforts include increasing public awareness and outreach and providing effective and engaging services and supports.

The **Tennessee Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative** began as a grassroots organization in 2010 and has now formally developed into **AIMHiTN**. Membership is made up of individuals who are interested in infant and early childhood mental health and developing mental health services specifically for the birth to age 3 population. Interested people are encouraged to attend.

The **Tennessee First Episode Psychosis Initiative** serves adolescents and young adults between the ages of 15 and 30 who are experiencing psychotic symptoms such as hallucinations, unusual thoughts or beliefs, or disorganized thinking, with symptoms present for more than a week but less than 24 months. In the spring of 2016, Congress increased the set aside in the State Mental Health Block Grant program from five to 10 percent for first episode programs. Carey Counseling provides the services in the Northwest Region. Funding has been provided to Mental Health Cooperative, Inc. to establish services in Davidson County and to Alliance Healthcare Services for Shelby County.

Tennessee Healthy Transitions Initiative: <http://bit.ly/2dLuPDI>.

AIMHiTN on Facebook: <http://bit.ly/2dLGx12>.

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Building Strong Brains: Tennessee's ACEs Initiative Funds Programs

During the last legislative session, a \$1.25 million dollar appropriation for the *Building Strong Brains: Tennessee's ACEs Initiative* was recommended by the Governor and approved by the General Assembly in the FY 2017 budget. TCCY received funding to create a statewide training for trainers. Trainings for TCCY staff and state agency partners have been completed using a format developed by TCCY staff. Trainings for community members planning to share information about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) will be held across the state.

Information about ACEs Innovation Grants funded under the appropriation was distributed, and grant proposals were reviewed and scored by teams of state employees, including TCCY staff members Kennedy, Hargrow, Rust, Keller, Leavell-Rice, Paling and Taylor. Final selection of the recipients of the funds was made largely by the ACEs Coordinating Team, on which TCCY Executive Director Linda O'Neal serves. Proposals from the 72 submitted by agencies across the state, including AIMHiTN, were funded. Factors considered included innovation, system change and transformation of policy, programs, practice or philosophy.

Tennessee Department of Children's Services **ACEs Projects Funded** for Fiscal Year 2017, <http://bit.ly/2e2HG8K>.

Tennessee Department of Children's Services Tennessee ACEs Initiative, <http://bit.ly/2f7U1tX>.

TCCY Building Strong Brains, <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/topic/tccy-aces>.

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TCCY Staff Members Celebrate Two Centuries Working for Tennessee

TCCY staff members were honored for a total of 205 years of service to the state and its children at a recent Commission meeting. Three staff members, Executive Director Linda O'Neal, regional coordinator Gwendolyn Wright and policy advocate Steve Petty, have each been employed by the state for 35 years, with Petty having begun as a college student. Others honored included Vicki Taylor (20 years); Dana Cobb, Richard Kennedy and Kristi Paling (15 years); Rosalyn Leavell-Rice, Nancy Townsend and Craig Hargrow (10 years); and John Rust (5 years).



Above, front row: Kennedy, Taylor, Townsend, O'Neal and Leavell-Rice; back row, Hargrow, Wright, Petty, Cobb and Rust. Paling was unavailable for the presentation.

Updates

Stanton City Mayor Allan Sterbinsky was appointed by Gov. Haslam to serve on the Commission. Dr. Allan Sterbinsky, mayor of Stanton in Haywood County, has been appointed to the Commission. As mayor, he has led the city to receive grant funding for new housing for low-income residents and to reduce flooding in town. He planted The Stanton Orchard and Walking Trail where citizens can pick fruit for free. Stanton also subsidizes The Stanton Clinic, where low-income residents from surrounding counties can receive quality healthcare at low cost.



Dr. Sterbinsky

Before becoming mayor, Dr. Sterbinsky taught and conducted research at Vanderbilt University and The University of Memphis and Jackson-Madison County Schools. He is currently an on-call researcher for Johns Hopkins University. He has presented research findings across the United States and in Europe. His work was cited by Secretary of State Madeline Albright to set policy for the United States.

Congratulations to TCCY staff members **Bill Latimer** and **Sujit Das**, who both recently became grandparents. Best wishes to them and to the proud parents.

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Mark Your Calendar

Nov. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. CDT, **Council on Children's Mental Health Meeting**, Midtown Hills Police Precinct, 1443 Twelfth Ave., S., Nashville. Contact: Melissa.Mcgee@tn.gov.

Nov. 3, 1 p.m. CDT, **Juvenile Justice Realignment Task Force**, Room 16, Legislative Plaza, 301 6th Ave, N, Nashville. Agenda available at <http://bit.ly/2bPJ5gl>.

Nov 9, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. CST, **Webinar: Principles of Cultural Competence**, Sponsored by the Multicultural Alliance on Disability, a partnership of organizations serving culturally and linguistically diverse populations, created by Tennessee Disability Pathfinder of Vanderbilt Kennedy Center. Register at <http://bit.ly/2ekm3zb>. Contact: megan.hart@Vanderbilt.Edu.

Nov. 15-16, **National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs** sponsored by The Ounce, Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. Fee: \$300. Information and registration: <http://bit.ly/2d6YXyf>.

Nov. 16-18, **Rural Health Association Annual Conference**, Music Road Hotel, Pigeon Forge. Contact rhat@rhat.org.

Nov. 18, 9 a.m. to 12 noon EST, **Northeast Tennessee Council on Children and Youth's** meeting will cover **TN Health Link** program for TennCare members with behavioral health needs, Memorial Park Community Center. RSVP by Nov. 16 to jill.stott@tn.gov.

Nov. 18, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST, **Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare Southeast Fall Conference**, Christ United Methodist Church, Chattanooga. NASW Social Worker and CRCC Certified Rehabilitation Counselor CEUs approved. Includes ethics workshops. More information: <http://bit.ly/2dWYvRj>. Register: <http://bit.ly/2eRJFue>. TCCY's Jenn Drake-Croft will lead a workshop on ACEs.

Dec. 1, 1 p.m. CST, **Juvenile Justice Realignment Task Force**, Room 16, Legislative Plaza, 301 6th Ave, N, Nashville. Agenda available at <http://bit.ly/2bPJ5gl>.

Dec. 4-6, **Coalition for Juvenile Justice National Disproportionate Minority Contact Conference**, "Confronting the Crisis: Creating Pathways to a More Equitable Juvenile Justice System," Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor. Registration fee required. Register at <http://bit.ly/1UiAy5P>.

Dec. 7-9, **ZERO TO THREE's Annual Conference 2016**, "Building Powerful Connections," Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Register at <http://bit.ly/221JLBj>. More information at www.zerotothree.org/annualconference.

March 14-15, 2017, **Children's Advocacy Days**, War Memorial Auditorium. Contact: John.Rust@tn.gov.

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In the News

Carson S., Public News Service, **3-Star Health Plan Could Foster Healthier Economy**, <http://bit.ly/2eOIYC4>.

Anderson, M.D., *The Atlantic*, "**How the Stress of Racism Affects Learning**," <http://theatlantic.com/2ePnJ2S>.

Tatter, G., *Chalkbeat Tennessee*, **Tennessee students more likely to be suspended if they're black boys — or live in Memphis**, <http://bit.ly/2eOvZPp>.

WGNS, **Governor Proclaims Oct. 20th Lights On Afterschool Day!**, <http://bit.ly/2dLBFc9>.

Marshall, B., *WTVF-NewsChannel5*, **Drug Epidemic Causes Crisis For Foster Care System**, <http://bit.ly/2f5gojC>.

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Research Information

Centers for Disease Control *Vital Signs*, "**School Dental Sealant Programs Could Prevent Most Cavities**," <http://bit.ly/2dGAqUk>.

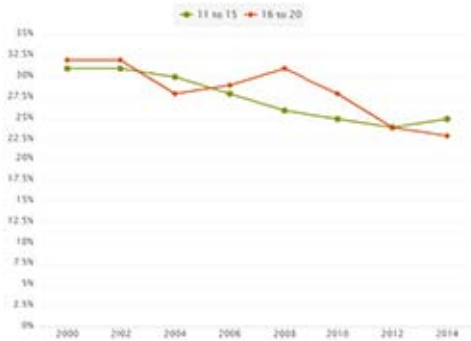
Gagnon, D., and Mattingly, M., Carsey School of Public Policy, **Most U.S. School Districts Have Low Access to School Counselors: Poor, Diverse, and City School Districts Exhibit Particularly High Student-to-Counselor Ratios**, <http://bit.ly/2fdcRPy>.

McCarthy, P., et al., National Institute of Justice, Harvard Kennedy School, **The Future of Youth Justice**, <http://bit.ly/2eIXpbk>.

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Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

Children Exiting Foster Care by Age Group - Percent

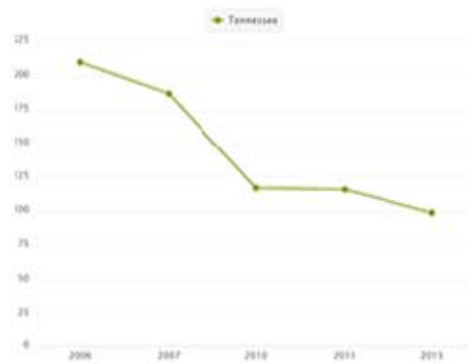


Note: Non-consecutive years appear adjacent in the trend line because one or more years have been deselected.

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE BY AGE GROUP: 2 SELECTED (PERCENT)

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

Youth Residing in Juvenile Facilities Rate per 100,000



YOUTH RESIDING IN JUVENILE DETENTION, CORRECTIONAL AND/OR RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES (RATE PER 100,000)

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

<http://bit.ly/2f5dbRd>

<http://bit.ly/2eCfzgx>

More data on Tennessee child well-being are 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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