



# Advocate

October 2018

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### 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. 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](http://www.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/>.

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## 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.

Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT, **Opening Door for Young Parents**, <http://bit.ly/2zCGxyj>.

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## 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.

American Psychological Association, Psychology Help Center, **The Road to Resilience**, <http://bit.ly/2OH1XA4>.

Barker, E., *Business Insider*, **Harvard followed 800 people over the course of multiple decades and found 6 things that make people live longer, happier lives**, <https://read.bi/2QfkGCu>.

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## 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.

Szilagyi, M., AAP News & Journals Gateway, *Pediatrics*, July 2018, **Stress As a Link Between Childhood Trauma and Preterm Delivery**, <http://bit.ly/2mr8lyk>.

Mapes, *Hutch News*, **Endometriosis linked to childhood abuse**, <http://bit.ly/2zS5OXu>.

Schickedanz, A., Halfon, N., Sastry, N., and Chung, P.J., **Parents' Adverse Childhood Experiences and Their Children's Behavioral Health Problems**, July 2018, <http://bit.ly/2mv22Kl>.

Wein, H., National Institutes of Health, *NIH Research Matters*, **Stress Hormone Causes Epigenetic Changes**, Sept. 27, 2010, <http://bit.ly/2ACFIIm>.

Zimmer, C., *The Atlantic*, **Can a Parent's Life Experience Change the Genes a Child Inherits?: Inside the Controversial World of Epigenetics Research**, June 21, 2018, <https://theatlantic.com/2tyqRbt>.

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## 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.

Guerriero, P., & Ditkoff, S.W., *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, **When Philanthropy Meets Advocacy**, Summer 2018, <http://bit.ly/2uFifAa> .

## Advocacy Activities That 501(c)(3) Organizations Can Engage In

Generally few  
limitations  
Some limitations

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE ORGANIZATIONS
Conduct research	Shape the debate by surfacing new insights via nonpartisan, independent, and objective research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▣ Urban Institute</li> <li>▣ American Enterprise Institute</li> </ul>
Develop model policy and administrative rules	Translate academic and policy research into general proposals such as model legislation or administrative rules that states may develop further.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▣ American Legislative Exchange Council</li> </ul>
Litigate	Pursue policy changes and influence administrative practices through litigation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▣ Center for Individual Rights</li> <li>▣ Anti-Defamation League</li> </ul>
Build coalitions	Coordinate an alliance of stakeholders to support a shared position or engage in a joint activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▣ END Fund</li> <li>▣ National Council of Nonprofits</li> </ul>
Develop regulations	Ensure that legislation is backed by effective regulations and that regulations are enforced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▣ Earthjustice</li> <li>▣ Natural Resources Defense Council</li> </ul>
Engage in electoral politics	Engage in and support nonpartisan electoral activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▣ The Western States Center's VOTE project</li> </ul>
Lobby	Lobby policy makers to support specific legislative proposals.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▣ Alzheimer's Association</li> </ul>
Mobilize the base	Attract and maintain a constituent base, and mobilize constituencies to advocate for specific legislation and policies.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▣ Liberty Hill Foundation</li> <li>▣ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids</li> </ul>

\* These activities are based on the assumption that organizations have made an election under IRC 501(h).  
NOTE: Legal counsel should always be consulted when engaging in any advocacy activity.

Source: Stanford Social Innovation Review, Stanford University

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### 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>.

Sign up to receive TCCY Tennessee legislative updates and the **Advocate** at <https://www.tn.gov/tccy/advocate-collaborate/tccy-ac-advlegis/tccy-ac-advocacy/leg-listserv.html>.

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### 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](mailto: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. 2, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., **ETCCY ACEs Knowledge Mobilization Educational Event**, Bridgewater Place Kingston Hall, Knoxville. Event includes presentation of "SAMHSA Trauma Informed Approach: Key Principles: A New Understanding of Trauma." Breakfast buffet included. Approved for 3.5 NASW-TN CEU credits. Register: <http://bit.ly/2zD97zJ>.

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. 14-16, Children's Advocacy Centers of Tennessee presents the **2018 Connecting for Children's Justice Conference: "Promise to Protect; Pledge to Heal,"** Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro. Contact: [www.tncac.org](http://www.tncac.org).

Oct. 18, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., **Southeast Council on Children and Youth** and Bethany Christian Services present "**Beyond the Sky: Reaching TN Children's Resilient Star Potential**," Christ United Methodist Church, 8645 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga. Keynote speaker Dr. Mary Crnabori, Trauma-Informed Schools coordinator, Metro Nashville Public Schools. Cost: \$25 per individual registration; \$45 per Agency (2 people); and \$175 per Corporate Cost (10 people). RSVP by Oct. 12 at <http://bit.ly/2NgvsGL>.

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. 18, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., SCORE presents the **Future Ready Summit: "Helping Students Discover Successful Routes to College, Career and Opportunity,"** Omni Nashville Hotel, 250 5th Ave S, Nashville, <http://bit.ly/2Nejlu0>.

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**," Collegiate 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>.

Oct. 25-26, **Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth meeting**, Montgomery Bell State Park, Nashville. Contact [Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov](mailto:Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov).

Oct. 26, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., **TCSW West Regional Ethics Workshop**, Delta Medical Center, Medical Office Building, 3000 Getwell Rd., Memphis. Cost: \$50, TCSW Members; \$65, Non-TCSW Members; and \$2, Full Time Students. Information: <http://bit.ly/2pq2ydX>. Register: <https://conta.cc/2pu3Bta>.

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).

NSSF and AFSP, **Webinar on Firearms and Suicide Prevention** (posted April 2018, available on demand), <http://bit.ly/2AAERYY>.

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

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## 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/2lg1qlz>.

Carson, S., Public News Service, **Report: TN Missing Chance to Support Young Parents and Kids**, Sept. 25, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2xCg5U2>.

Gonzales, J., *Tennessean*, **Tennesseans largely support strengthening early education, poll shows**, <https://tnne.ws/2QglCa0>.

Fite, E., *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, **Childhood Trauma Changes the Brain, Experts Say**, July 20, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2vb9y1C>.

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## Research Information

First Lady's Office, Tennessee State Government, ***Prioritizing Tennessee's Children: Our Promise to Future Generations***, <http://bit.ly/2Qfdt5C>.

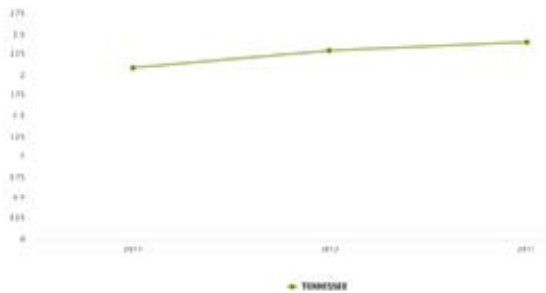
TSPN, **Status of Suicide**, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2IHTCCY>.

Malik, R., Center for American Progress, ***The Effects of Universal Preschool in Washington, D.C.***, Sept. 26, 2018, <https://ampr.gs/2zzSSTY>.

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# Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

## Drug Related Arrests for Youth Under Age 18

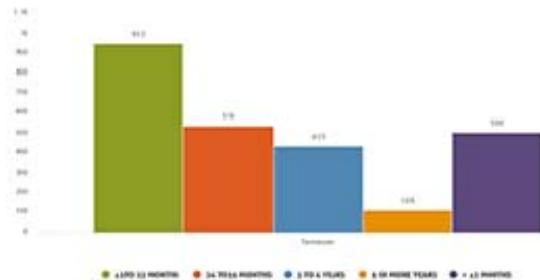


Drug Related Arrests For Youth Under Age 18

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth  
KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)  
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

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

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



Children In Foster Care Waiting For Adoption By Amount Of Time Waiting

National KIDS COUNT  
KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)  
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

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

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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