THE TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH was created by the General Assembly and can trace its statutory history to 1955. The Commission is an independent state agency that advocates for improvement in the quality of life for children and families, collects and disseminates information on children and families for the planning and coordination of policies, programs and services; and administers the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in Tennessee. The policy-making body for the Commission is a 21-person board whose members are appointed by the governor. At least one member is appointed from each of Tennessee’s nine development districts. The Commission staffs and coordinates nine regional councils that address the local needs of children and families, provides organizational structure for statewide networking on behalf of children and families, and provides local input to the Commission.

COORDINATE

STATEWIDE MEMBERS COUNCILS

COORDINATE

REGIONAL COUNCILS

The nine regional councils on children and youth provide training and networking opportunities, create collaborative environments for child-serving organizations, collect and disseminate child-focused information and data across the state, and facilitate communication and understanding at the local, regional and state levels.

ADMINISTRATE

JUVENILE JUSTICE

TCCY works to ensure equal and fair treatment for all youth within the juvenile justice system by advocating for and funding evidence-based practices to prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency.

EDUCATE

DATA AND JUSTICE

As the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT partner in Tennessee, TCCY compiles and provides data to the KIDS COUNT datacenter and produces publications utilizing this and other data to report on the well-being of Tennessee’s children and families. TCCY also administers kidcentraltn.com, a free, one-stop-resource for Tennessee families to access state services and find information to help raise happy and healthy kids.

ADVOCATE AND COLLABORATE

COORDINATE

The tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

MISSION

We lead systems improvement for all children and families through data-driven advocacy, education, and collaboration.

We work to ensure that all children across Tennessee are safe, healthy, educated, and ready for success in life.

TEAM

We build a strong team of advocates, activists, and partners to work together.

PEOPLE

We serve the people served by our agencies, including children and youth.

PROGRESS

We make progress in our work and in our communities.

IMPACT

We have an impact on the lives of children and families.

HOME VISITING LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

The Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) met twice since the last publication date. The November meeting included an overview of the various home visiting programs in Tennessee. The December meeting featured an opportunity for ift participants to network with one another. The next meeting of HVLA is scheduled for April 2022 at 12:30.

YOUTH TRANSITIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC) met twice since the last publication date. The November session provided an overview of the various home visiting programs in Tennessee. The December meeting featured an opportunity for participants to network with one another. The next meeting of YTAC is scheduled for April 2022 at 12:30.

TCCY provides budget recommendations and legislative guidance, and Ombudsman program, supports the Council on Children’s Mental Health, Second Look Commission, Home Visiting Leadership Alliance and Young Child Wellness Council, and provides training and advocacy to prevent and mitigate adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

PUBLICATIONS AND PODCASTS

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TCCY’s nine regional councils provide statewide networking on behalf of children and families. The councils address the needs of children and families at the regional level and offer local-level feedback to the Commission. Councils include children’s services professionals and other citizens interested in improving the lives of Tennessee children.

Northeast Council: Jill Grayson Stott 2057 Plymouth Street Johnson City, TN 37601 423-475-4858; jill.stott@tn.gov

East Tennessee Council: Lindsay Cody 7175 Strawberry Plains Pike, Suite 102 Knoxville, TN 37917-7008 865-594-6068; lindsay.cody@tn.gov

Southeast Council: Rosalyn Leavell-Rice Eastgate Towne Center 5600 Brainerd Road, Suite 302 Chattanooga, TN 37411 423-634-6210; rosalyn.leavell-ric@tn.gov

Upper Cumberland Council: Kristi Paling 1100 England Drive Cookeville, TN 38501 931-646-0955; kristi.paling@tn.gov

Mid-Cumberland Council: Susan Cope Andrew Jackson Blvd., 9th Floor 502 Deaderick Street Nashville, TN 37243-0800 615-532-1579; susan.cope@tn.gov

South Central Council: Shaun Niblit 1600 College Park Drive Columbia, TN 38401 931-380-2582; shaun.niblit@tn.gov

Northwest Council: Dana Cobb 470 Mustard Drive Huntington, TN 38564 731-423-6545; dana.cobb@tn.gov

Southwest Council: Jerri Moore Lowell Thomas Building, Ste. 440, Box 13 225 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Jackson, TN 38301-6984 731-423-6545

Memphis/Shelby County Council Gwendolyn Wright One Commerce Square 40 South Main Street 10th Floor, Suite 1022 Memphis, TN 38103 901-543-7657; gwendolyn.wright@tn.gov

Federal        $1,161,600    (20%)

Other state funding $1,121,900   (20%)

Other Federal        $1,161,600    (20%)

Disproportionate Minority Contact

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) task forces in Tennessee. Tennessee has a statewide DMC Task Force as well as several local DMC task forces. The task forces consist of concerned citizens and agency representatives from across the state who meet periodically to address issues regarding the disproportionate number of minority children who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

Reports produced by TCCY’s collaborative and advocacy programs are available on the agency’s website.

Ombudsman Program

The Ombudsman responds to questions, concerns or complaints regarding children involved with the state’s child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Referrals are accepted from anyone. A mediation approach is used to resolve disputes in the best interests of the child and the safety of the community.

Council on Children’s Mental Health

TCCY has administrative responsibility for the Council on Children’s Mental Health (CCMH) charged with designing a plan for a statewide system of mental health care for children. The Council, composed of a broad range of stakeholders from all across the state, is co-chaired by the commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHAS) and the executive director of TCCY. TCCY also partners with TDMHAS through System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT), a 4-year, $12 million federal grant, which utilizes System of Care values and principles while empowering Tennessee families to work together with child-serving agencies as a partner to guide their care.

Second Look Commission

Administered by TCCY, the Second Look Commission (SLC) was established to review a sampling of cases involving a successful or unsuccessful incident of juvenile behavior and provide recommendations and findings to the General Assembly regarding whether or not severe juvenile behavior provides appropriate punishment for the child of the children involved in the cases. The SLC is co-chaired by Senate and House members, and includes representatives from the Department of Children’s Services (DCS), law enforcement, courts, child abuse service providers and the advocacy community.

Youth Transitions Advisory Council

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC) brings together young people and other stakeholders across Tennessee who work with youth aging out of DCS custody and transitioning from child-serving to adult services systems. YTAC makes recommendations to DCS, courts, schools, higher education and service providers to improve outcomes for successful transition from adolescence to adulthood for young people who often do not have supportive families.

Home Visiting Leadership Alliance

The Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) includes leadership from home visiting programs, state departments and other state holders from across the state. The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) has administrative responsibility for the HVLA through a grant agreement with the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH), HVLA is co-chaired by TDH and TCCY and meets quarterly.

TN Young Child Wellness Council

The Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council (TNYCW), which seeks to improve the well-being of children in Tennessee by improving collaboration among child-serving agencies and programs. TNYCW 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.