Annual Report FY2021

Tennessee. Commission on Children and Youth.

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THE TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Coordinating bodies are a 21-person board whose members are appointed by the governor. At least one member is appointed from each of Tennessee’s nine regional 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.

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

REGULATORY 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.

PROGRAMS
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. TCCY serves as the state advisory group responsible for implementing the provisions of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act in Tennessee.

COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE

Regional Councils

The National Governor’s Association for Best Practices and the Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy produced a case study of the BSSTN project and named six factors that were critical to its success.

1) Champions across the three branches of government; among foundations and within the community; 2) Public/Private Collaboration; 3) Empowering Communities to Act; 4) Focus on Creating Culture Change; 5) Evidence-Informed Messaging; 6) Sustainable Resources.

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

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

E - INDIVIDUALS ON COUNCILS’ MAIL DISTRIBUTION LISTS

Informed Messaging; 6) Sustainable Resources.

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EDUCATION

The American Medical Association and AJOC published a joint statement that promotional materials that do not align with the current consensus guidelines may lead to inappropriate practices and put children at risk.

2021

• Economic Well-Being Rank: 30
• Education Rank: 29
• Health Rank: 39
• Family & Community Rank: 40

Tennessee Overall Rank: 36
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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 improvements 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 regional 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.

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

ADVOCATE AND COLLABORATE
TCCY provides budget recommendations and legislative guidance, and Ombudsman program, supports the Council on Children’s Mental Health. Second Look Commission, Youth Transitions Advisory Council, Tennessee Children’s Home, Young Child Wellness Council, and provides training and advocacy to prevent and mitigate adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATION

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FY 2020-21 Budget $5,825,600

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>$3,452,100</td>
<td>(61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>$1,161,600</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$1,121,900</td>
<td>(19%)</td>
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</table>

TOTAL FUNDS PASS-THROUGH: $1,893,700 (33%)  
OPERATING FUNDS: $3,931,900 (67%)

**TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**
Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor  
502 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, TN 37243  
www.tn.gov/tccy

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**COORDINATE**

Regional Councils:
- 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 children and families. The councils address the needs of children and families.
- Memphis/Shelby County Council: Gwendolyn Wright
- Northeast Council: Jill Grayson Stott
- East Tennessee Council: Lindsey Cody
- Southeast Council: Rosalyn Leavelle-Rice
- Upper Cumberland Council: Kristi Paling
- Mid-Cumberland Council: Susan Cope
- South Central Council: Shaun Noblit
- Northwest Council: Dana Cobb
- Southwest Council: Jerri Moore
- Memphis/Shelby County Council: Gwendolyn Wright

**ADMINISTRATE**

**Juvenile Justice**
- TCCY’s juvenile justice activities include distributing state and federal funds to counties, state-level agencies and community programs to prevent delinquency or improve services for children involved with juvenile courts.
- TCCY is the State Advisory Group responsible for implementing the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JUDP) Act in Tennessee. Funds administered include the federal JUDP funds and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) grants. CASA program volunteers provide a voice for children in the juvenile court system. Reimbursement accounts help counties without youth detention centers defray the costs of providing alternatives to placing children in adult jails. Programs funded include youth and drug courts, mentoring, after-school programs, training for juvenile court staff and probation programs.

- The JUDP Act supports and encourages equitable treatment for all children.
- TCCY assures the state maintains compliance with the JUDP Act’s four core requirements:
  - Deinstitutionalize status offenders (DSO);
  - Remove children from adult jails;
  - Separate children from adult offenders;
  - Address disproportionate contact of minority children with the juvenile justice system.
- TCCY monitors all secure juvenile facilities in Tennessee to assure compliance with federal placement requirements.

**Disproportionate Minority Contact**
- TCCY provides administrative support and technical assistance to the 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.

**EDUCATE**

KIDS COUNT
- TCCY gathers, analyzes and reports information on children and families in various publications, including the annual KIDS COUNT. The State of the Child in Tennessee, tracking the status of children’s educational, socioeconomic and physical well-being. Tennessee’s KIDS COUNT Project is part of the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s network of state-level KIDS COUNT projects. TCCY participates with the Casey Foundation in the release of reports on child well-being nationally, including the annual National KIDS COUNT Data Book.

**Resource Mapping**
- TCCY oversees resource mapping of all funding through the state budget to help children in Tennessee be safe, healthy, educated, nurtured and supported and engaged in activities to succeed in school and become productive adults. A report on prior fiscal year spending is submitted to the General Assembly annually. Twenty-five state agencies serving children reported on expenditures during fiscal year 2013-14.

**Building Strong Brains Tennessee**
- Creating strong brain architecture and healthy child development in the earliest years of life is a critical strategy for preventing disease, disability and social problems across the lifespan. TCCY has initiated the collaboration of young people with youth aging out of foster care, reducing childhood poverty, and reducing and preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). This work includes training, collaboration and advocacy at local, regional and state levels.

**Tennessee Compilation of Laws on Children, Youth and Families**
- TCCY publishes the Tennessee Compilation of Selected Laws on Children, Youth and Families. The compilations are distributed to juvenile court judges and staff, state agencies, attorneys and others serving children.

**Other Publications**
- TCCY also distributes information through:
  - The Advocate newsletter; Website (www.tn.gov/tccy);
  - Facebook (www.facebook.com/tccyonfb);
  - Twitter (www.twitter.com/@tccy).

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

**ADVOCATE AND COLLABORATE**

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, comprised 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 utilizing 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 second or subsequent incident of known child abuse and provide recommendations and findings to the General Assembly regarding whether or not severe child abuse responses provide adequate protection for the children of the state. The SLC is co-chaired by Senate and House minority leaders 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 from across Tennessee who work with youth aging out of foster care, reducing childhood poverty, and reducing and preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). This work includes training, collaboration and advocacy at local, regional and state levels.

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 (TNYCWC), which seeks to improve the well-being of children in Tennessee by improving collaboration among child-serving agencies and programs. 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 care system.