Tennessee Department of Human Services

Historical Timeline

1796— 2012

1796 Tennessee becomes a state

"Poor relief" is a county duty

1827 Legislation establishes almshouses

1832 First state institution: Hospital for the Insane

1846 School for the Blind (Nashville) and School for the Deaf and Dumb (Knoxville) become state institutions

1895 Tennessee State Board of Charities established to oversee state institutions

1911 Juvenile court established

1917 Legislation defines state's supervision of private and public institutions for children

Commission for the Blind created

1921 Tennessee is **first** Southern state to enact legislation for rehabilitation of physically handicapped

1923 Department of Institutions supersedes State Board of Charities

1925 Welfare Division established in State Department of Institutions to inspect and license child care institutions, maternity homes, jails, workhouses, and almshouses and to organize county welfare committees

1929 The Great Depression

1932 Tennessee administers outdoor relief with a Federal Reconstruction Finance Corporation loan

1933 Federal Emergency Relief Act establishes Tennessee State Relief Administration (TSRA)

Civil Works Administration (CWA) established

1934 TSRA becomes Tennessee Emergency Relief Administration (TERA) and includes CWA and transient care

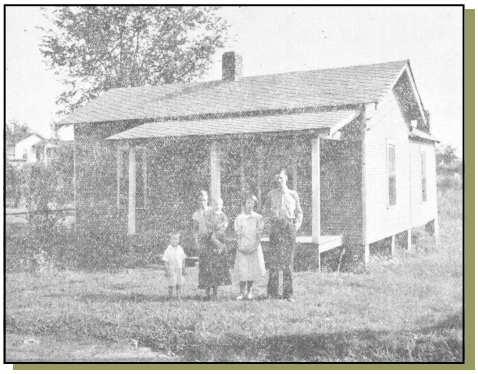
1935 Tennessee Welfare Commission established

August 14 — Social Security Act passed

1937 Welfare Organization Act creates the State Department of Institutions and Public Welfare (DPW)

George Cate
First Commissioner

1937 (cont.) Old Age Assistance and Aid to the Blind pays $25: Aid to Dependent Children pays $12 for first child, $8 for each additional child



Family receives Aid to Dependent Children

1938 Up to $60 per month granted to staff for graduate training

Paul Savage
Commissioner

1939 Separate Departments of Institutions and Public Welfare created

1940 Federal Old Age and Survivors' Insurance program begins

At least one child welfare worker in nine of ten regions

1943 Division of Services for the Blind established

William Shoaf
Commissioner

1946 Formal staff development plan developed for child welfare and public assistance workers

1947 Vocational Rehabilitation Law of Tennessee passed; Business Enterprises Program under Services for the Blind established

1949 Division of Legal Services established

Adoption Law requires all petitions be reported to DPW

J. O. McMahan
Commissioner

1950 Statewide Citizens Advisory Committee appointed

DPW employs 775 persons

1951 Adoption Law provides safeguards for natural parents, their children, and adoptive parents

Interstate Law strengthened

All private child-care agencies must be licensed by DPW

UT School of Social Work faculty conducts first summer training program for county directors

1952 Adoption Resource Exchange developed

1953 DPW required to license all facilities serving three or more children outside their homes

1953 (cont.) Aid to Disabled established

Christine Reynolds
Commissioner

1954 Vocational Rehabilitation Law provides for rehabilitation facilities

1955 First day care standards published and first license issued to day care center

New juvenile court law gives DPW responsibility for dependent, neglected, and abandoned children

Disability Determination begins

1956 Child Protective Services becomes a basic social service

1957 8 child placing agencies, 4 maternity homes, and 37 day care centers licensed by DPW; 87 of 95 counties are appropriating funds for child welfare totaling $306,531

Helping clients achieve self-support becomes DPW initiative; referrals made to other agencies

1958 Standards established for licensing institutions caring for mentally retarded children

Edward J. Boling
Commissioner

Mrs. C. Frank Scott
Commissioner

1959 DPW assists in setting up first optical aid clinic at Vanderbilt University Hospital

Homemaker Services in the 1960s.

1960 Homemaker Service begins in Knox County

Maximum annual income levels for ADC families: $500 for family of three; $750 for family of four

1961 Demonstration project to establish paternity of ADC children begins in Davidson County

Tennessee begins pilot project of Food Stamp Program in Campbell, Claiborne, and Scott Counties

1963 Child Protective Services Law

1963 (cont.) protects children from abuse and neglect

Noble Caudill Commissioner

Roy Nicks Commissioner

1964 Foster Care becomes separate social service and for first time public assistance funds purchase foster care for 152 AFDC children

National Food Stamp Program begins

Protective Services units operate in four urban counties

First state-operated family planning clinic opens in Williamson County

1965 Child Abuse Act passed

Herman Yeatman
Commissioner

1968 WIN and services for unmarried parents become separate social services State's Medical Assistance Act implements Medicaid in Tennessee

1971 **Fred Friend**
Commissioner

1973 Community Services becomes separate division

Rehabilitation Act strengthens services for handicapped

1974 Adult Protective Services Law passed

TN Tower displays message about elder abuse

1975 Department renamed Department of Human Services

Title XX becomes effective

Child Support Program established

Horace Bass
Commissioner

1976 Foster Care Review Law passed

1977 Child Abuse Law strengthened

1978 Council for Hearing Impaired established

1979 Post-Adoption Law allows for sibling search

Foster Care Review Law gives foster parents first preference to adopt

Mose Pleasure
Commissioner

1980 **Sammie Lynn Puett**
Commissioner

1981 Services for refugees begins

1983 Rehabilitation Services becomes part of DHS
Community Services Block grant, WAP, and LIHEAP transferred to DHS

1985 Friends of Black Children Project begins

State funded Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Protection Program begins

Child Sexual Abuse Act passed

Rehabilitation Center for the Blind incorporated with Tennessee Rehabilitation Center

Marguerite Sallee
Commissioner

1986 Community Services begins federal Crime Victim Assistance Program

Food stamps no longer taxed
Right to Work and Support Act passed

Independent Living Program for Handicapped begins

1987 Teen pregnancy project "Responsible Adolescent Parenting" selected as model program

Nancy-Ann Min
Commissioner

1988 Congress passed the federal Family Support Act which required states to develop and implement a voluntary comprehensive work program for welfare recipients, and to implement child support improvements

1989 Planning efforts began for a major Family Assistance eligibility computer system, ACCENT (Automated Client Certification and Eligibility Network for Tennessee), which in 1992 automated the eligibility process for the Food Stamp, AFDC and Medicaid programs. ACCENT was the nation's first fully-operational paperless computer system for public assistance programs and one of the largest computer systems in state government

Robert Grunow
Commissioner

1990 DHS created the state's JOBSWORKS voluntary training program in response to the Family Support Act

1992 The Amendment to the Rehabilitation Act emphasized consumer choice in career opportunities with competitive employment being the desired outcome

1993 Special Adoption Task Force was appointed to overhaul Tennessee's adoption laws

Bringing awareness to the adoption program

Work begins on the federally-required child support enforcement computer system

1994 Amendments to the Child Support Law implement the legal framework for the integration of the court clerks into the federally-required automated Tennessee Child Support Enforcement System (TCSES). This amendment also strengthened income withholding provisions to improve the collection of child support.

Rehabilitation Services Blind Vendors---Amendment to 1973 law strengthening it by giving blind vendors "priority" in state government buildings

1995 Domestic Violence Coordinating Council established to increase statewide awareness of domestic and family violence. The act also strengthened penalties for domestic violence and provided additional training for law enforcement and judicial system personnel.

New legislation was passed to enable DHS Adult Protective Services staff to provide custodial protective services to adults at an earlier state in case work services

Linda Rudolph
Commissioner

1996 Tennessee's welfare reform legislation, Families First, was passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Don Sundquist. U.S. Health & Human Services approved the state's waiver request.

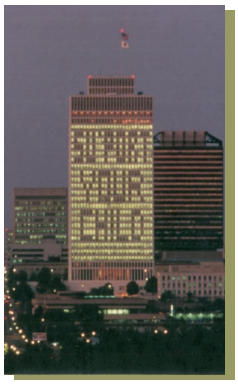
The Department of Children's Services was created. DHS Child Welfare personnel (adoptions, foster care, child

1996 (cont.) protective services) and children and youth services personnel from six state agencies were transferred into the new department

Legislation was passed requiring DHS to license Adult Day Care Centers

1997 Contract to provide Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) services was signed by state government officials allowing benefits such as food stamps, cash assistance, and other federal benefits to be accessed through new debit card technology beginning in the fall of 1998.

Landmark child support legislation was enacted to implement the requirements of the federal Welfare Reform Act of 1996, which provided better enforcement tools for the states to use in the collection of child support. Provisions included mandatory reporting by businesses of newly hired employees, improved 19 methods of interstate enforcement, better access for child support enforcement staff to a variety of records and a legal basis for administrative seizure for assets of delinquent obligors.



Child support message on TN Tower

1999 **Natasha Metcalf**
Commissioner

2000 Child Care Reform Bill signed into law, which aimed to improve the health and safety of children and the quality of child care programs

2002 DHS became responsible for determining TennCare eligibility

2003 **Virginia T. Lodge**
Commissioner

2004 The first Family Assistance Service Center began operations.

2005 Division of Appeals and Hearings created to handle appeals for TennCare, other Family Assistance programs, Child Support and Vocational Rehabilitation

Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing unit established to enhance vocational rehabilitation services to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing

2006 Implemented changes required by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 including obtaining documentary evidence of citizenship for every medical assistance applicant and recipient.

2007 Completed the website for the On-Line Application and Potential Eligibility Screening

Contract with five agencies to provide job training, placement, and retention services to Tennessee's Families First (TANF) clients

The federal waiver under which Families First operated expired, and Families First now conforms to all federal TANF regulations.

2008 The Emergency Shelter Grant program transferred to the Tennessee Housing Agency

Responsibility for operation of the Refugee cash, medical and social services programs transferred to Catholic Charities

DHS initiated the eligibility determination process for Standard Spend Down (SSD), a new TennCare Waiver category providing medical coverage to the non-pregnant adult Medically Needy population.

The name of the federal Food Stamp Program was changed to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

2009 Implemented an internet application to support the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 Weatherization Assistance Program

DHS operates the Child Care Scholarship Program to help working families with no connection to the Families First program pay for their child care. This program is funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding of the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF).

2011 Division of Organizational Performance Management created

Raquel Hatter
Commissioner

2012 Weatherization Assistance Program successfully transitioned to the Tennessee Housing Development Agency

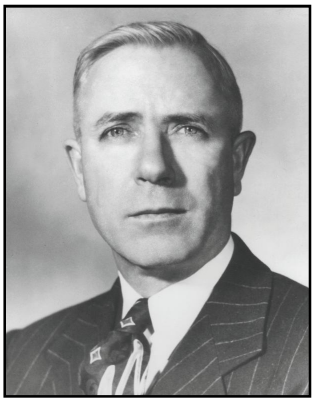
Office of Customer Service was created

DHS Commissioners

George H. Cate, Sr.
1937 - 1939

Paul Savage
1939 - 1943

William A. Shoaf
1943 - 1949



J. O. McMahan
1949 - 1953

Christine Reynolds
1953 - 1958

Edward J. Boling
1958

Mrs. C. Frank Scott
1958 - 1963

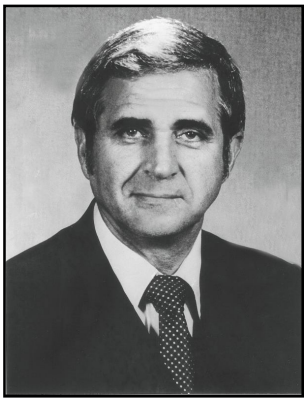
Noble C. Caudill
Feb. – Aug. 1963

Roy S. Nicks
Aug. 1963 – Sept. 1965

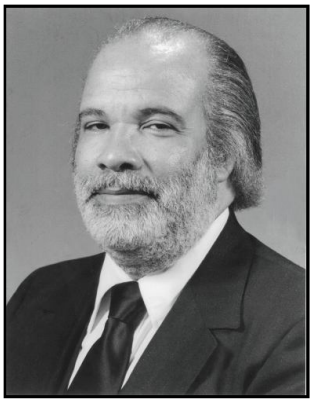
Herman L. Yeatman
October 1965 - 1970

Aubrey Blankenship
Dec. 1970 – Jan. 1971

Fred E. Friend
Jan. 1971 – Jan. 1975



Horace Bass
Jan. 1975 – Mar. 1979

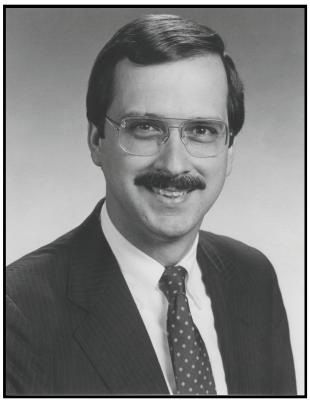


Mose Pleasure, Jr.
Mar. 1979 – Jan. 1980

Sammie Lynn Puett
Jan. 1980 – May 1985

Marguerite W. Sallee
June 1985 – Jan. 1987

Nancy-Ann E. Min
Jan. 1987 – Aug. 1989



Robert A. Grunow
Aug. 1989 – Jan. 1995

Dr. Linda B. Rudolph
Jan. 1995 – Dec. 1998

Natasha K. Metcalf
Jan. 1999 – Jan. 2003

Virginia T. Lodge
Jan. 2003 – Jan. 2011

Dr. Raquel Hatter
Jan. 2011 -