



## **Vision**

All children in Tennessee are safe, healthy, educated, nurtured and supported, and engaged in activities that provide them opportunities to achieve their fullest potential.

## **Mission**

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) advocates to improve the quality of life for children and families and provides leadership and support for child advocates.

## **Contact Us**

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**TCCY** is a state agency created by the Tennessee General Assembly. Its primary mission is advocacy for improvements in the quality of life for the state's children and families.

To fulfill this mission, staff of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth gather, analyze and report timely information on children and families for the planning and coordination of policies, programs and services. TCCY administers the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in Tennessee and administers and distributes funding for juvenile justice programs.

TCCY's policymaking body is a 21-member board whose members are appointed by the Governor. At least one member is selected from each of the state's nine development districts. Youth advisory members also serve on the Commission.

 **Advocacy** (TCA 37-3-103): TCCY provides leadership for advocacy activities on behalf of children and families and is integral to state policymaking on child and family issues. TCCY participates on national, state, regional and local task forces, committees and boards for information sharing and networking.

TCCY sponsors Children's Advocacy Days annually and also makes policy recommendations for administrative and legislative action.

 **Budget Recommendations** (TCA 37-3-103): TCCY identifies priorities and makes recommendations to the Governor, Commissioners of state departments serving children and members of the General Assembly regarding the allocation of funds in the state budget to provide essential services and supports for children.

 **Council on Children's Mental Health** (TCA 37-3-110-115): 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 is co-chaired by the commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and the executive director of TCCY. CCMH is composed of a broad range of stakeholders from all across the state.

Legislation establishing the Council set out the principles for a children's mental health system that is child-centered, family-driven, culturally and linguistically competent, and provides a coordinated system of care for children's mental health needs in the state. The plan created by the Council must provide a service delivery system that focuses on the principles for a system of care and include a core set of services and supports that appropriately and effectively address the mental health needs of children and families.

Melissa McGee ([melissa.mcgee@tn.gov](mailto:melissa.mcgee@tn.gov)) directs CCMH.

 **Juvenile Justice** (TCA 37-3-103): TCCY juvenile justice activities include distributing state and federal funds to counties 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 (JJDP) Act in Tennessee. Funds administered include the Federal JJDP Act grants, Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG) and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs.

The JJDP Act supports and encourages equitable treatment for all children. To assure compliance with federal requirements, TCCY monitors all jails and secure juvenile facilities in Tennessee and supports efforts to reduce disproportionate minority contact and confinement (DMC).

Craig Hargrow ([craig.hargrow@tn.gov](mailto:craig.hargrow@tn.gov)) directs TCCY's Juvenile Justice Division.

 **KIDS COUNT** (TCA 37-3-103): 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 and provides a detailed county-by-county picture of the condition of children.

TCCY also distributes information through its periodic newsletter, *The Advocate*, its website ([www.tn.gov/tccy](http://www.tn.gov/tccy)), Facebook ([www.facebook.com/tccyonfb](http://www.facebook.com/tccyonfb)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/@tccy](http://www.twitter.com/@tccy)).

Rose Naccarato ([rose.naccarato@tn.gov](mailto:rose.naccarato@tn.gov)) is the director of the KIDS COUNT project.

## **Legislative Impact Statements and Information** (TCA 37-3-103):

During the annual state legislative session, TCCY produces and disseminates weekly Legislative Updates and the Legislative Reports as part of TCCY's legislative monitoring mandate. TCCY also develops impact statements analyzing the effect of selected pending legislation.

TCCY publishes the *Tennessee Compilation of Selected Laws on Children, Youth and Families*, which is disseminated to juvenile courts, attorneys, state government staff and other children's services professionals.

Steve Petty (steve.petty@tn.gov) staffs TCCY legislative work.

 **Ombudsman Program** (TCA 37-3-103): The Ombudsman Program staff serves as a neutral reviewer to respond to questions, concerns or complaints regarding children in state custody. Referrals are accepted from any individual regarding a child involved with the state's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. This program uses a mediation approach to resolve disputes in the best interests of the child and the protection of the community.

Gerald Papica (gerald.papica@tn.gov) is TCCY's Ombudsman. Contact the Ombudsman Office by calling 615-741-2633.

 **Regional Councils** (TCA 37-3-106): TCCY staffs and coordinates nine regional councils that provide organizational structure for 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 average almost 300 members each and include children's services professionals and other citizens interested in improving the lives of Tennessee's children.

Richard Kennedy (richard.kennedy@tn.gov) directs TCCY's regional coordinators.

 **Resource Mapping** (TCA 37-3-116): TCCY is responsible for designing and overseeing a resource mapping of all federal and state funding sources and funding streams that support the health, safety, permanence, growth, development and education of

children in the state from conception through the age of majority/until they transition from children's to adult service systems.

The 2014 data report reflected program and fiscal information for all identified services provided to children and youth based on data submitted by the 23 state agencies participating in the mapping project. For fiscal year 2012-13, in addition to the Basic Education Program (BEP) funding, around three of every four dollars spent on services for children and families in Tennessee were from federal funding sources (73 percent in FY 2013). Almost nine of every 10 dollars in the non-BEP state budget for children, 90 percent in FY 2013, are either federal or required as match/maintenance of effort for federal funding. Subsequent reports with data are due April 15 of each year.

Rose Naccarato (rose.naccarato@tn.gov) is the director of the Resource Mapping project.

 **Second Look Commission** (TCA 37-3-801-815): Administered by TCCY, the Second Look Commission (SLC) was established to review an appropriate sampling of cases involving a second or subsequent incident of severe child abuse in order to provide recommendations and findings to the General Assembly regarding whether or not severe child abuse cases are handled in a manner that provides adequate protection to the children of this state.

The SLC is co-chaired by Senate and House members, and includes representatives from law enforcement, courts, child abuse service providers and the advocacy community. It reports annually to the General Assembly.

Craig Hargrow (craig.hargrow@tn.gov) directs the SLC.

 **Youth Transitions Advisory Council** (TCA 37-2-601): Created in 2009 and attached to TCCY in July 2011 when the General Assembly's Select Committee on Children and Youth was eliminated, the Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC) brings together young people and other stakeholders from across Tennessee who work with youth aging out of Department of Children's Services (DCS) custody. 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.

Steve Petty (steve.petty@tn.gov) directs YTAC.

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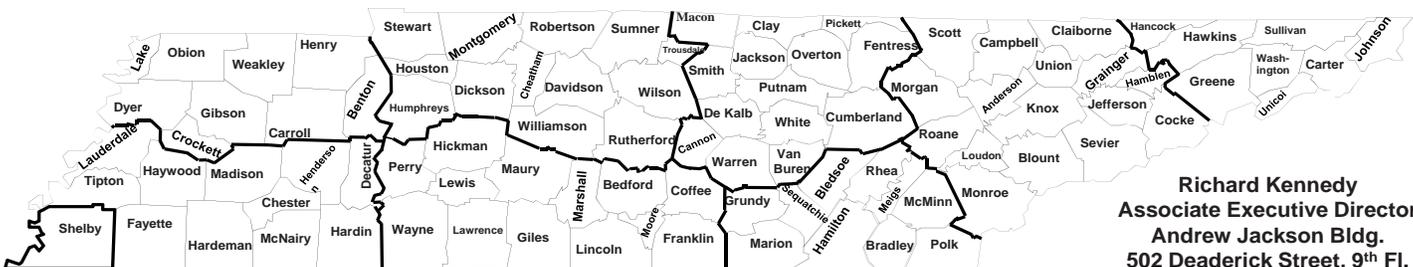
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