

## **Current Happenings with In Home TN in Shelby County**

### *Current Areas of Focus:*

The region is currently working on the priorities Domestic Violence Services, Mental Health Assessments, and Community & Family Preservation.

The **Domestic Violence workgroup** has been meeting consistently since August 2013 and has made great strides in partnering with the Child Abuse Hotline to earlier identify which cases involve domestic violence. Earlier identification of these issues helps better inform the worker on which community services to link the families. The group is currently working on a joint (provider and DCS) protocol to help workers with these cases.

Most recently, the workgroup hosted a mini conference with national leaders in the domestic violence field. Group and community members were provided with a variety of information and guidance on proceeding with work in this area.

The **Mental Health Assessment workgroup** has also been meeting consistently since August 2013. This workgroup partnered with the Regional DCS Psychologist to provide training to frontline DCS staff on how to properly request services for families requiring assessments. This work is vital to ensure families receive the needed services in a precise and timely manner.

The **Community & Family Preservation workgroup** has also been meeting consistently since August 2013. Over the past year and moving forward, this group is focused on the area of the region (Frayser) from which the greatest number of youth consistently enters state's custody. In their work, the group has held community forums in the Frayser community where participants from the local school systems, the juvenile court, the Mayor's office, private providers, and DCS and other state government attend to discuss practical ways to support the families and children of this community.

## **Get involved!**

Contact the Regional Project Lead, Tonni Chew, at [Tonni.Chew@tn.gov](mailto:Tonni.Chew@tn.gov) to get involved with In Home Tennessee in Shelby County.

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