

**Tennessee
Commission
on
Children and Youth**

**Annual Report
Fiscal Year 1998-99**

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Fiscal Year 1997-98 Annual Report

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
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In Memory of May Werthan Shayne



Dedicated to the Memory of former Commission member May Shayne

The Tennessee Commission on children and Youth and Tennessee children and families suffered a great loss during the 1998-1999 fiscal year with the death of May Werthan Shayne. Her untimely death on February 2, 1999, was accompanied by great sadness on the part of everyone who knew her or knew of her remarkable work. May was an outstanding advocate for Tennessee children and families. Her advocacy efforts made a significant difference in the Nashville community where she lived and also had a major positive impact on public policy for children and families statewide.

In 1979, May chaired a “Blue Ribbon Committee” appointed by the Tennessee General Assembly to make recommendations regarding children’s services. Her efforts led to legislation combining the Commission on Children and Youth and the Office of Child Development into the Children’s Services Commission in 1980.

From 1980 to 1986, May chaired the board of the Institute for Children’s Resources. There she provided leadership for many agency efforts that have had a positive lasting impact on the juvenile justice system in Tennessee. Accomplishments included the following:

- Developing the first standardized record-keeping system for Tennessee juvenile courts in collaboration with the Children’s Services Commission, the foundation for the record-

keeping system currently used by the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

- Developing and passing the Tennessee Rules of Juvenile Procedure in collaboration with a Committee of the Tennessee Bar Association, the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Judges, and the Tennessee Supreme Court.
- Passing legislation for the removal of children from adult jails to keep Tennessee eligible for federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act funds and field testing the reimbursement account to assist counties in paying for alternatives to adult jails, the program still administered by the Commission on Children and Youth.

In 1988 when the Children's Services Commission and the Juvenile Justice Commission were combined and again renamed the Commission on Children and Youth, May was appointed to the Commission. She served on the Commission for nine years and was either a committee chair or an officer for eight of the nine years. She was instrumental in the early years of the Commission, establishing policies and procedures that contributed significantly to the credibility the Commission developed.

As director for the Center for State and Local Policy at the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies, May played a major role in coordinating and providing training for new legislators in Tennessee after each election. This training included presenting them with information about the importance of good public policy for children and families.

May was very active with the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare Board, where she served as Public Policy chair and Resolutions chair. She played a major role in refining and improving the TCSW resolution process. She worked with the group of past presidents of TCSW in 1994 to produce the TCSW Essential Principles of Welfare Reform, published in the winter of 1995. Other major contributions by May Shayne, as well as her significant impact as an advocate for children and families, were reflected in a *The (Nashville) Tennessean* article and editorial that chronicled her many efforts on behalf of the United Way of Middle Tennessee Needs Assessment efforts, the Edgemoor Community Center, the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee, the League of Women Voters, the Metro Public Education Foundation, and many others.

John Seigenthaler, chairman emeritus of *The Tennessean* and a close friend of May's, described her as "a person whose love of her family, her friends and her community was boundless. Her contributions to all of us are immeasurable."

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth bestowed its 1999 Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award posthumously on May Shayne, and her husband, Herb Shayne, accepted it in his/her honor. The Tennessee House of Representatives Resolution honoring Jim Pryor at his death concluded with the suggestions that all who knew him would reflect "fondly upon his indelible legacy of faithful service to our children." The same is certainly true of May Shayne.

May was my friend and my mentor, and I loved her. I have thought of her frequently and greatly missed her wise counsel. When making a decision regarding advocacy for children and families, I often think, "What would May recommend?" and know that would be the best course of action.



Linda O'Neal
Executive Director

Letter From The Chair

October 13, 1999

Dear Reader:

As the millennium approaches, we all should pause to reflect on our quest of how to serve Tennessee's children best. In order for us to know where we are going, we must first know where we have been.

It is rewarding to see the priority our state demonstrates to family and child advocacy. Governor Sundquist and our legislature continue to improve the plight of our children. While funding remains a concern, it is gratifying to see how well the TCCY and the Department of Children's Services make the most of each dollar budgeted. I wholeheartedly commend TCCY Executive Director Linda O'Neal and our staff for their never-ending efforts to distribute the funds available to those programs that continue to serve Tennessee children and families.

My appointment as a member and chair of TCCY occurred three years ago, and it has passed quickly. The duties as chair are demanding and time consuming but highly rewarding. Because the law is a "jealous mistress," it was my choice to step aside as chair but to continue to support children and families as a Commission member.

During the past three years we have seen many goals accomplished by the commission.

1. A TCCY-sponsored "Children First" special license plate. To date, there have been 24 personalized and 1,814 non-personalized plates sold statewide. These "Children First" plates promote prevention of child abuse and assist in funding.
2. The continued success of the Children's Advocacy Day event has shown the importance and focus placed on the progress of children's advocacy programs across the state. We continue to recognize worthy persons who have "made a difference" with the presentation of the Jim Pryor award. The most recent recipient was the late May Shayne, a lady who embodied making a difference.
3. The Tennessee General Assembly recognized the success of our Commission regarding "Children First" by virtue of its reauthorization of TCCY for six years. I am convinced reauthorization occurred due to overall good management by our staff.
4. This past year resulted in the largest number of youth members participating in the National Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

There are problems yet to be solved: we must make progress in deinstitutionalization of status offenders (DSO,) a requirement of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, to protect against the loss of federal funds; we must continue to improve our working relationship with DCS and our sister agencies.

Our goals are lofty but attainable. We are taught to "suffer the little children to come unto me," and we must remain mindful of these duties.

Respectfully,



Phillip Larry Boyd
Chairman

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



As a reward for its history of successfully speaking for Tennessee's children, TCCY received the highest accolade from the Legislature when it was near reauthorized for a full six years.

The last fiscal year of the century was a busy one for the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. We experienced both farewells and new beginnings. Ongoing projects continued with great success.

The Commission experienced very little turnover in its membership in 1998-99. The organization has welcomed Betty Anderson, Alisa Malone, and Mary Lee as new members since the last annual report. As the year ended, Larry Boyd stepped down as chairman to due to other demands on his time. Betty Cannon was then selected to lead the Commission into the new year.

Despite some changes, the dedicated staff continued its efforts on behalf of children in Tennessee. Work on the Impact Study of health care use by low-income children with mental health problems wound down, but a second legislative specialist and a second ombudsman position were added to aid these important projects.

TCCY continues its work to meet its core goal of advocating for children in Tennessee. The Commission took a stand on 17 bills the General Assembly and had a positive impact on the legislative process. More than 200 advocates from across the state participated in the 11th annual Children's Advocacy Day. In addition, 350 advocates used the information provided by legislative updates and reports to monitor and impact legislation.

TCCY was very successful in educating the public about the state of children in Tennessee through its publications, including KIDS COUNT reports, brochures and other written materials, 81 presentations, and more than a dozen displays.

More than 100 articles appeared in the state's newspapers during 1998-99 based in materials supplied by TCCY or quoting TCCY staff or materials. In addition, TCCY staff members were contacted by 63 members of the broadcast media.

TCCY staff members coordinated their efforts with other advocates, serving on eight national or Southeast regional groups, 40 statewide groups, and 54 area groups. The legislatively mandated TCCY regional councils concentrated the efforts of more than 2,800 people on working for children.

The Juvenile Justice Division of the Commission awarded more than \$1 million in federal formula grants and \$330,508 in federal Title V funds in 1998-99. State funds awarded included \$210,000 for Court Appointed Special Advocate programs that served 2,595 children in state custody and \$950,000 for state supplements for improving juvenile court services. In fiscal year 1998-99 Commission staff conducted 809 monitoring visits at 414 sites to measure compliance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

For the first time in 17 years, Tennessee was found to be out of compliance with a provision of the act. The confinement of status offenders (youths who committed acts that are illegal only for juveniles) in the state's 122 secure facilities exceeded the standards allowed. The reasons for the violations included failure of parents to pick up children on time, record-keeping errors by the



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

secure facilities, and the lack of appropriate placements for children in custody. Progress has been made since the state last was determined out of compliance, but TCCY still faces the possibility of sanctions.

The Commission initiated a program in 1997-98 to address a frequently identified need, the lack of attorneys trained to represent children in juvenile court and in complicated areas related to health care and special education. This year a training program and materials were developed and used in two areas of the state.

The Children's Program Outcome Review Team program continued to review the status of children in state custody. While the status and safety of these children was overwhelmingly positive, the review found that the system continued to struggle with the massive efforts needed to integrate parts of six departments into one; the effect of long-term underfunding of the program, which had impacted the training and retention of workers; and the lack of attorneys to help move children into permanent living arrangements. The governor and the legislature moved to add funding to the Department of Children's Services in the 1999 legislative session. We anticipate that the findings for 1999 will reflect more stability in the program, and in upcoming years, the effect of increased funding.

The Impact Project, a cooperative effort under the direction of the Vanderbilt University Center for Mental Health Policy, neared the end of its work. The project, which involved evaluation of services under TennCare for seriously emotionally disturbed children and children with substance abuse treatment needs, produced some useful information about the mental health needs of young Tennesseans. Although, TCCY's work on the project is ending, work on the data continues, and more information will be forthcoming from Vanderbilt.

This unique state advocacy organization looks back on nearly a half century of work on behalf of children and forward to a new millennium in which children may at last be honored and protected as the seeds of Tennessee's future. TCCY will be leading the way.



The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) is an independent agency created by the Tennessee General Assembly. The primary mission of the Commission is advocacy for improvements in the quality of life for Tennessee children and families. Tennessee has had a Commission on Children and Youth or Children's Services Commission continuously since the 1950s; the current statutory framework for the Commission on Children and Youth was enacted in 1988.

Appointed by the Governor for overlapping three-year terms, the 21 Commission members serve as the policy board for the agency. At least one Commission member represents each development district, and the commissioners of state departments serving children, or their designees, are ex-officio members. The Commission also has youth advisory members as necessary to meet the requirements for serving as the State Advisory Group under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

Committees

The Commission had five standing committees to oversee the operations of the agency during fiscal year 1997-98. The Commission officers and committee chairs served as the Executive Committee. The chair is appointed by the governor to a three-year term. Other officers, the vice-chair and the secretary, are elected by the Commission. Committee chairs and members are appointed by the Commission chair.

The Budget and Data Committee was responsible for fiscal matters such as Commission budget requests, budget analysis, and budget recommendations and for agency efforts to collect and disseminate information, including *The Advocate*, *Kids Count*, and other publications.

The Councils and Interdepartmental Responsibilities Committee reviewed activities related to the nine regional councils on children and youth and interdepartmental activities, including teen-pregnancy and school-dropout prevention.

The Children's Services Committee provided oversight for Commission activities in the evaluation by the Children's Program Outcome Review Team (C-PORT) and for the Impact Study evaluation of mental health service delivery for children who are not in state custody. It also reviewed implementation of the TCCY Ombudsman Program coordination with child welfare services, juvenile justice services, and mental health services to children in custody.

The Juvenile Justice Committee as a committee of the whole supervised the implementation of the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in Tennessee, the administration of state funds for juvenile justice, and other juvenile justice activities.

The Minority Issues Committee ensured adequate consideration of the needs of minority children in all TCCY efforts, with particular attention given to disproportionate minority confinement (DMC) in the juvenile justice system, including recommendations from a statewide task force on how to reduce DMC. The committee was also responsible for the development of the agency plan to address issues related to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.



ADMINISTRATION

Commission Meetings

During fiscal year 1998-99, the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth met five times to carry out its responsibilities. In addition to the Children's Advocacy Day events in March, primary topics for meetings included updates from the Department of Children's Services, and a review of legislation. Outside presenters included

Commission Membership*

Betty Cannon, Chairman
Nashville

Angi Agle
Oak Ridge

Beth Alexander
Nashville

Betty Anderson
Covington

Kimalishea Anderson
Knoxville

Shirlene Booker
Gray

P. Larry Boyd
Rogersville

Wendy Ford
Memphis

Connie Givens
Rogersville

Johnny Horne
Chattanooga

Drew Johnson
Johnson City

Jim Kidd
Fayetteville

Mary Lee
Dickson

Alisa Malone
Franklin

Jerry W. Maness
Memphis

Sharon T. Massey
Clarksville

Linda Miller
Memphis

Semeka Randall
Knoxville

Mary Kate Ridgeway
Paris

M. Kate Rose
Covington

Suzan Stanley
Johnson City

James Stewart
Jackson

Brenda Vickers
Cookeville

Jim Ward
Alamo

Paige Wilson Williams
Knoxville

***At press time.** Jarrett Austin, Nashville, and Suzanne Bailey, Chattanooga, served as members of the Commission during FY 1998-99.

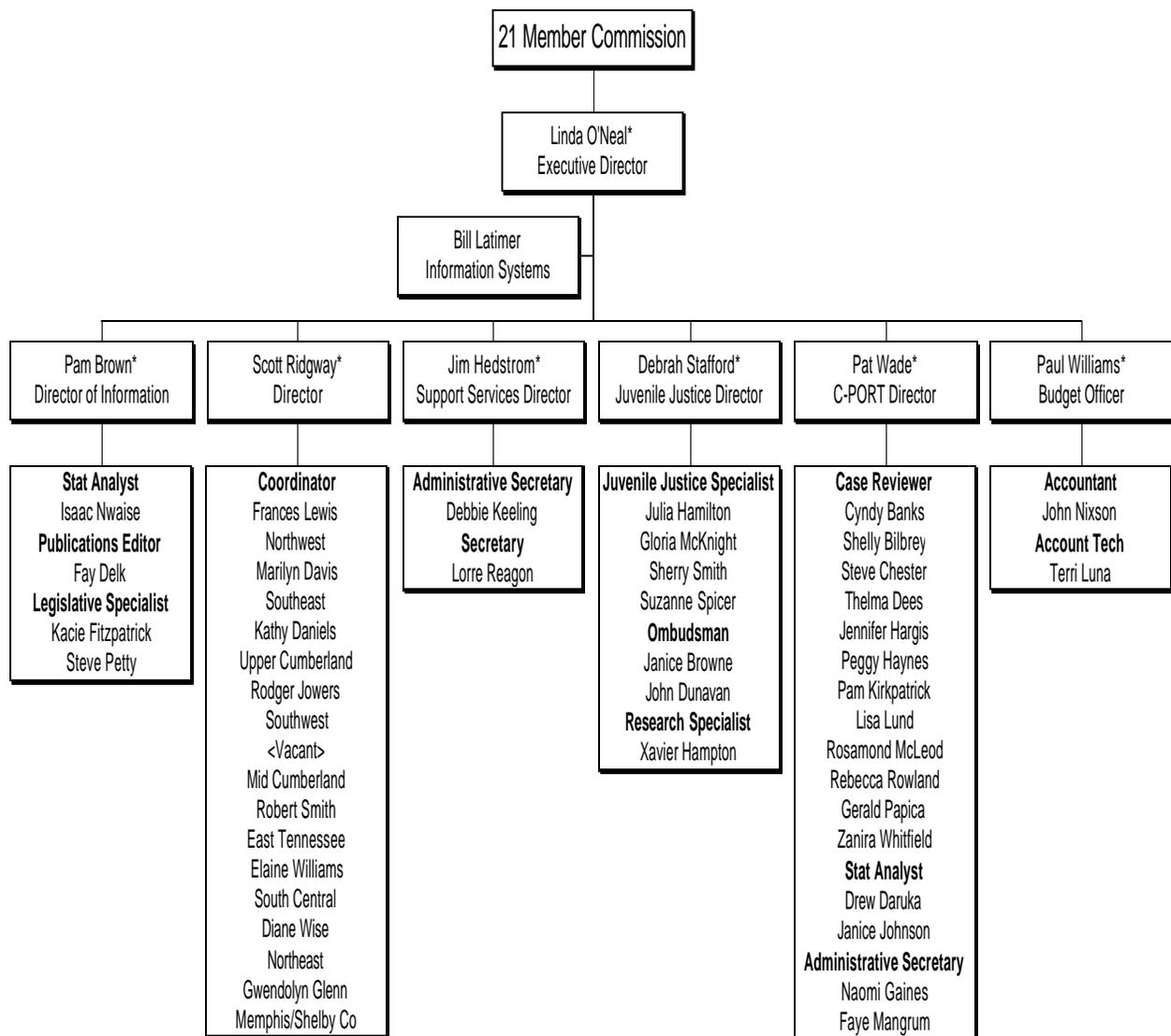
ADMINISTRATION



Staff

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth has 54 full-time positions and five part-time secretarial positions. Nine full-time workers and the part-time staff members provide support to the regional councils on children and youth and carry out other regional and local Commission responsibilities. One full-time staff member, located in Dunlap, monitors facilities for compliance with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and monitors OJJDP federal formula grants. The other personnel are located in the Nashville central office. The organizational chart for the Commission indicates staff members at press time. ■■

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth





BUDGET

TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN and YOUTH						
ACTUAL EXPENDITURES						
BY OBJECT CODE / FUNDING SOURCES						
FISCAL YEAR 1998-1999						
	STATE	FEDERAL	INTER-DEPT.	KIDS COUNT	SED IMPACT STUDY	TOTAL
Personal Services and Benefits						
Salaries / Longevity	416,056	287,666	508,272	101,506	85,968	1,399,468
Benefits	88,475	68,561	135,172	23,127	17,181	332,515
Total Personal Services and Benefits	504,531	356,228	643,444	124,632	103,149	1,731,983
Other Expenditures						
Travel	28,661	64,832	101,631	1,139	22,475	218,738
Printing, Duplicating, Binding	19,809	53,031	12,546	13,102	784	99,272
Communications & Shipping Costs	23,776	3,580	5,549	1,966	2,238	37,110
Maintenance, Repairs & Services	6,683	707	1,644	246		9,279
Professional Services & Dues	34,014	31,644	129,954	2,245	33,731	231,588
Supplies & Materials	8,334	10,785	16,886	2,164	3,461	41,629
Rentals & Insurance	83,192	11,799	73,538	8,169	13,544	190,243
Motor Vehicle Operation	2,053	2,053				4,106
Awards and Indemnities	563	176				739
Grants and Subsidies	54,483	2,555,491	6,258	762		2,616,994
Equipment	5,231	23,719	34,265	1,680		64,896
Total Other Expenditures	266,799	2,757,818	382,271	31,473	76,232	3,514,588
Total Expenditures by Source of Funds	771,330	3,114,046	1,025,715	156,105	179,380	5,246,571
Funding Sources						
State--Appropriations	768,946	188,584		114,604		1,072,134
Federal--O J J D P		1794,641				1,794,641
Interdepartmental--DCS		1130,815	1,025,715			2,156,530
Other--Kids Count				41,501		41,501
--Casey Foundation						
Other--SED Impact Study	2,385				179,380	181,765
--Vanderbilt Univ.						
Total Funding	771,330	3,114,041	1,025,715	156,105	179,380	5,246,571
Positions						
Full-Time	18	9	21	2	4	54
Part-Time	5	0	0	0	0	5
Seasonal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Positions	23	9	21	2	4	59

BUDGET

TCCY FY '98 - 99 Expenditures By Program					
Program	Total Expenditures Of Programs	State Programs	Federal Programs	Interdepartmental Programs	Other Programs
Advocacy:	\$258,416	\$258,416			
To provide leadership for advocacy activities on behalf of children and families in Tennessee.					
Juvenile Justice:	3,097,539	188,584	1,778,140	1,130,815	
To implement the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in Tennessee and efficiently and effectively administer state and federal Juvenile Justice funds.					
Children's Services Evaluation:	1,025,715			1,025,715	
To conduct the Children's Program Outcome Review Team (C-PORT) process, an independent evaluation of the delivery of services to children in state custody and their families.					
Regional Councils:	435,630	419,129	16,501		
To develop and support Regional Councils on Children and Youth and to carry out appropriate regional activities related to the Department of Children's Services.					
Information Dissemination:	156,105	114,604			41,501
To effectively implement the Tennessee KIDS COUNT project for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on indicators of the well-being of children in Tennessee and to disseminate other appropriate information.					
Coordination of Services:	29,864	29,864			
To engage in efforts to improve coordination in the delivery of services to children and families in Tennessee.					
Teen Pregnancy Prevention:	63,922	63,922			
To efficiently and effectively administer state teen pregnancy prevention and teen parenting funds.					
Impact Study:	179,380				179,380
To conduct intensive case reviews to assess the impact of managed care on the delivery of TennCare/Medicaid services to Children, with a special focus on children with serious emotional disturbances.					
Total Expenditures by Fund Source	\$5,246,571	\$1,074,519	\$1,794,641	\$2,156,530	\$220,881

The primary mission of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth is to provide leadership for advocacy activities on behalf of children and families. Major strategies for effective advocacy include extensive networking and efforts to assist in the coordination of services.

A number of Commission activities combine advocacy and coordination of services. Many of these activities also comply with specific statutory mandates of the advocacy and coordination responsibilities. These responsibilities are to:

- Make recommendations concerning establishment of priorities and needed improvements with respect to programs and services for children and youth;
- Advocate and coordinate the efficient and effective development and enhancement of state, local, and regional programs and services for children and youth.

Children's Advocacy Day – 1999

The 11th annual Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Children's Advocacy Day (CAD) was held on Tuesday, March 16, 1999, in the Old Supreme Courtroom of Tennessee's Capitol. More than 200 participants attended the event. Each CAD participant received an information packet. Advocates came together to:

- Meet with legislators to discuss relevant children and youth issues;
- Observe legislative sessions;
- Receive legislative updates;
- Network with advocates from other parts of the state;
- Hear updates on issues affecting children; and,
- Present the Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award.

Chair Larry Boyd welcomed CAD participants and introduced guests. A presentation, "Tennessee Youth Advisory Council Looks at Foster Care from the Inside," followed. Five young people, Jeannie, Jessica, Mary, Michael, and April, who are in foster care and are members of the Tennessee Youth Advisory Council (TYAC), participated. Linda O'Neal, TCCY executive director, gave a legislative update on current bills being considered by the legislature that could have an effect on children and families.

The TCCY Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award was presented posthumously to May Shayne. Ms. Shayne, a TCCY Commission member from 1988-1998 was recognized statewide and nationally for her advocacy work. Her husband, Herb Shayne, accepted the award.

Children's Coalition Platform

With leadership and staff support provided by TCCY, a confederation of individuals and organizations concerned about the quality of life for Tennessee children, youth, and families developed the Children's Coalition Platform in 1994. The coalition met in October 1997.

The platform focuses on the need to develop and empower collaborative models that stress broad participation in planning, decision-making, and implementation of programs and services. To date, the platform has been endorsed by 105 organizations representing 118,978 members, 115,279 individuals, 35,333 volunteers, 5,104 staff members, and 2,331 board members.

Committees, Task Forces, and Boards

A major strategy for advocacy and coordination is the participation of Commission staff on national, state, regional, and local committees, task forces, and boards. This involvement provides an opportunity for critical information sharing, networking, advocacy, and coordination.

National/Southeast Regional Organizations

TCCY staff members served on eight national or Southeast regional committees, task forces, and boards. These groups focused on issues of juvenile justice, early childhood education, health and human services, and family-centered medical services. National and Southeast regional committees, task forces, and boards with Commission representatives included the following:

- Administration of Children and Families Head Start Bureau Grant Review Committee, Washington, D.C.;
- Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Steering Committee, Assessment Committee, Baltimore;
- Coalition for Juvenile Justice Government Committee, Specialist Planning Group Committee, Washington, D.C.;
- Gore Family Reunion, Volunteer Committee, Nashville;
- Southern Coalition of Juvenile Justice Conference Planning Committee, Biloxi, Ms.;
- Southern Coalition of Juvenile Justice Regional Specialists Committee, Washington, D.C.;
- Southern Regional Education Board Health and Human Services Commission, Atlanta; and,
- United States Ombudsman Association, Children and Youth Services Ombudsman Committee, St. Paul, Minnesota.

State Organizations

Staff members participated on a total of 40 statewide committees, task forces, and boards that addressed a broad range of issues, including health, teen pregnancy, child welfare, mental health, child care, family assistance, juvenile justice, and broad-based children's needs. The statewide committees, task forces, or boards with Commission representatives included the following:

- Department of Children's Services Permanency Planning Committee;
- Department of Health Child Fatality Review Team;



ADVOCACY

- Department of Human Services and Advocates Advisory Committee;
- Department of Human Services Child Care Advisory Committee;
- Developmental Disability Council Advisory Board, Legislative Committee;
- Families First Working Group;
- Gore Family Reunion-Tennessee Steering Committee;
- Governor's TennCare Partners Advisory Committee;
- Information Systems Managers Group Steering Committee;
- Interdepartmental School Dropout Task Force;
- Interdepartmental Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Teen Parenting Programs Committee;*
- March of Dimes Advisory Grants Review, Legislative Committee;
- Mental Health Planning Committee;
- Micro Technical Support Partnership Forum;
- Tennessee Action Coalition on Tobacco, Legislative Committee;
- TennCare Advocates Coordinating Committee;
- TennCare for Children Committee
- TennCare Partners Roundtable;
- TennCare Quality Management Technical Advisory Group;
- TennKids Governor's Initiative Data Advisory Committee
- Tennesseans Against Paddling, Advisory Board;
- Tennessee Association of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists, Legislative Committee*;
- Tennessee Association on the Education of Young Children, Public Policy Committee;
- Tennessee Association for Child Care, Board of Directors;
- Tennessee Children and Youth Experiencing Dual-Sensory Impairments Advisory Council (TREDS);
- Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare, Board of Directors, Treasurer, and Finance Committee;
- Tennessee School Health Coalition;
- Tennessee Supreme Court Permanency Planning Commission;
- Tennessee Voices for Children, Board of Directors, Conference Planning Committee, Grant Advisory Committee, and Fundraising Committee*;
- Title 33 Commission on Children and Youth Sub-Committee, Children's Study Committee; and,
- Vanderbilt University Relative Caregiver Policy Committee.

*TCCY staff served as chair.

Regional Organizations

Commission staff served on a total of 54 regional committees, task forces, or boards. At the regional level, representatives of the Commission participated with a number of groups in almost every area of the state. Additionally, staff members also participated on many committees, task forces, and boards unique to individual regions. These regional groups addressed a range of issues, including child abuse, child care, education, Head

Start, health, mental health, family assistance, foster care, adoptions, juvenile justice, substance abuse, and teen pregnancy. The committees, task forces, or boards in each region with relatively consistent staff representation are:

- Department of Children's Services Regional Resource Management Group;
- Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Regional Mental Health Planning Council; and,
- Governor's Community Prevention Initiative.

Presentations and Displays

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth staff members made presentations and prepared displays on a variety of topics to a range of different groups and organizations. These presentations focused on Commission activities, advocacy, Commission priorities, and substantive issues. During fiscal year 1998-99, TCCY staff members made 81 presentations, two national, 28 state, 29 regional, and 25 local, to more than 5,600 people.

Additionally, TCCY staff presented 13 displays at conferences, health fairs, college recruitment meetings, government days, and teen meetings. The purpose of these displays was to disseminate TCCY information and recruit members for the regional councils.

Legislative Advocacy

During the 1999 session of the Tennessee General Assembly, the Commission prepared and distributed a *Legislative Report* briefly summarizing 435 bills and resolutions affecting children and families. Eleven weekly *Legislative Updates* that identified and tracked 72 bills were prepared and distributed. After adjournment, a *Legislative Summary* was prepared summarizing 85 bills and resolutions dealing with children and families. Each of these documents was sent to more than 350 child advocates and council members across the state.

The Commission reviewed the most significant legislation affecting children and families and took specific positions on 17 bills. Of these 17 the Commission supported 12 bills, seven of which passed. Additionally, the Coordinated School Health Improvement Act of 1999, was passed by both the House and Senate and sent to a conference committee for agreement and final action in 2000. The Commission opposed five bills, none of which became law. 

EVALUATION

Tennessee Code Annotated Section 37-3-103(a)(1)(D) establishes the following Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) responsibilities in the juvenile justice arena: “To implement the provisions of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended; and to distribute, consistent with the purpose of the Commission as set forth by Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-3-102(a), such funds as the general assembly shall direct.”

Each state participating in the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974 is required to have a state advisory group. In Tennessee, TCCY serves as the state advisory group responsible for the administration of funds received through the act. It is important for TCCY to exercise the powers and duties designated in the Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-3-103, which includes advocating for efficient, effective, and relevant programs and services for children and youth. TCCY also identifies problems and gaps in programs and services for children and families.

In addition to the requirement to have a state advisory group, a state must maintain compliance with the act’s four core requirements for continued participation. The core requirements are to:

1. Deinstitutionalize status offenders (DSO);
2. Remove children from adult jails;
3. Separate children from adult offenders; and,
4. Address minority overrepresentation in secure confinement.

Another requirement for participation in the act is the annual submission of a three-year plan or plan update to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). In fiscal year 1998-99 the Commission submitted a plan update that included a crime analysis of juvenile court referrals and adjudications categorized by race, gender, and specific offense. Minority overrepresentation in rural and metropolitan areas of Tennessee was also identified. The three-year plan includes program areas to receive priority for JJDP Act funds.

Facilities Monitoring

To assure compliance with the core requirements, TCCY conducts periodic on-site monitoring of all adult jails and lock-ups and all secure juvenile facilities in Tennessee, including juvenile detention centers, temporary holding resources, and training schools. Commission staff members review records to determine the numbers of children detained and the circumstances of their detention. In fiscal year 1998-99 Commission staff conducted 809 monitoring visits at 414 sites as follows.

TCCY Juvenile Justice Monitoring Activities FY 1998-99			
Number	Type of Program	Monitoring Activity Frequency	Total Number of Monitoring Activities
14	Court Appointed Special Advocate Programs	Semi-Annually	28
93	State Supplement Grants	Semi-Annually	186
93	Federal Formula Grants	Quarterly	228
56	Reimbursement Accounts	Annually	112
122	Jails and/or Lockups	Annually	122
14	Temporary Holding Facilities	Quarterly	28
5	Juvenile Detention Centers	Monthly	60
6	Juvenile Detention Centers	Quarterly	24
2	Juvenile Detention Centers	Six Times	12
5	Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	Annually	5
4	Mental Health and Other Facilities	Annually	4
414			809

***TCCY fiscal year includes part of two federal grant years, and grants differed in number each year (48 for FY98 and 45 for FY99).**

Compliance Monitoring Report

A monitoring report summarizing violations of the act's mandates was also submitted to OJJDP. The 1998 Compliance Monitoring Report indicated a total of 484 deinstitutionalization of status offenders (DSO) violations for the state. The maximum allowed was 399. Unfortunately, for the first time in 17 years, Tennessee was found to be out of compliance with the JJDP Act. The violations were a result of children being held in secure confinement longer than the time limits specified in the act. The reasons for violations include, but are not limited to, the failure of parents to pick up their children, the problems in record keeping at secure facilities, and the failure of Department of Children Services to find placements for children in a timely manner. However, the total violations for 1998 were significantly fewer than the more than 1,800 DSO violations in 1977.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act has had a positive impact on Tennessee's juvenile justice system regarding children held in jails. The number of children in adult jails has been reduced from approximately 10,000 in 1980 to only three jail removal violations in the 1998 monitoring period. In the rare instances where juveniles were placed in adult facilities, they were inadequately separated from adult offenders only five times. This was down from almost 3,800 violations in 1977.

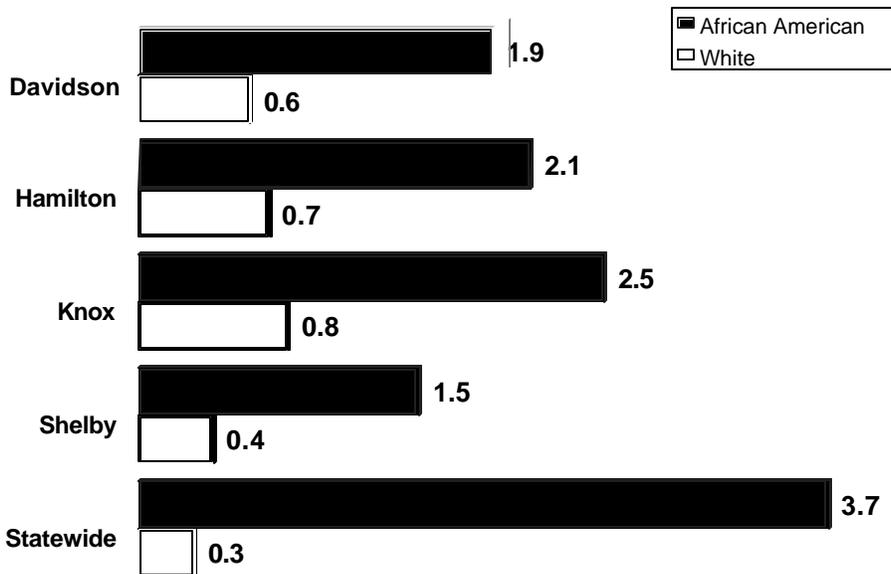
Minority Overrepresentation

Compliance with the minority overrepresentation core requirement was maintained by: 1) collecting the data that there is a disproportionate number of minority youth in secure confinement (DMC) in rural and metropolitan areas of the state; 2) educating communities regarding DMC; and 3) developing an action plan to address the problem. TCCY staff also provided an analysis of how DMC occurred at different decision points in the juvenile justice system. The statewide DMC Task Force formed in 1995 met two times during fiscal year 1998-99 to develop strategies to reduce minority overrepresentation in problem areas. Local DMC Task Forces were formed to focus on the problem in various communities.

For Tennessee, as a whole, 20 percent of at-risk youth ages 12 to 17 are African-American. Overall, referrals for African-American youth had a significantly higher rate of secure detention than referrals for white youth. In Tennessee, 53 percent of juveniles between the ages of 12 through 17 were placed in secure detention centers for calendar year 1997.

Statewide referrals to the juvenile court for secure detention had an index of 3.7 (overrepresentation) involving African-Americans and 0.3 (under representation) involving white youth. This is compared to a 1.0 index representing proportionate numbers, which means that African-American youth are 3.7 times more likely to be referred to secure detention centers than would be expected based on their representation in the at-risk population. Some of the data regarding minority overrepresentation follow.

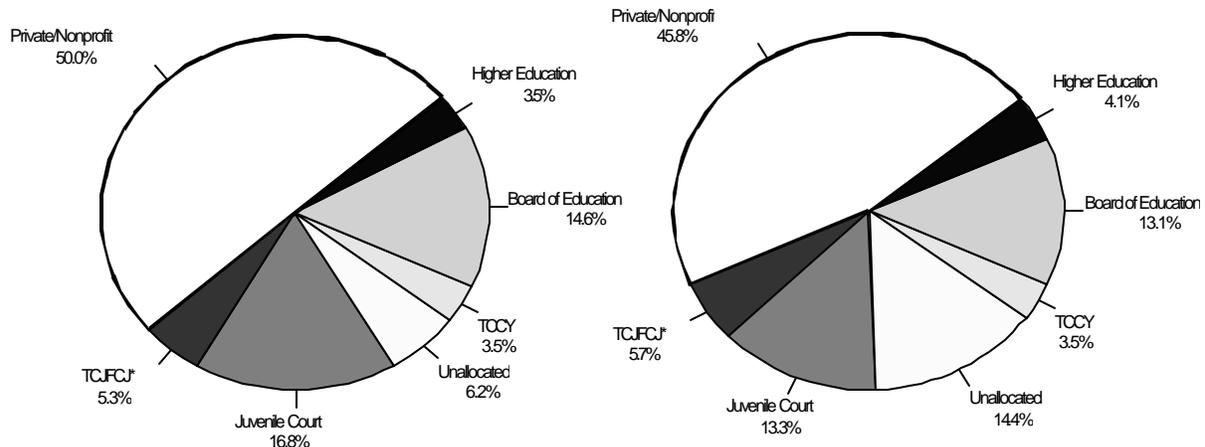
**Juveniles Confined in Secure Juvenile Detention Facilities
By Metropolitan Area for Tennessee-Calendar Year 1997**



Source: Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges CY97 Data

Programs established with JJDP Act funds have resulted in significant increases in the availability of services for youth. Advocacy projects funded by the JJDP Act have prompted important system changes for the benefit of Tennessee children and youth.

Distribution of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Funds by TCCY Oct. 1, 1997-Sept. 30, 1998 Oct. 1, 1998-Sept. 30, 1999



*Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Federal Formula Grants

Tennessee received approximately \$1.6 million in federal formula grant funds in 1998-99. The Commission awarded grants to agencies for delinquency prevention and intervention to ensure that youth who commit offenses receive appropriate placements and services. There were 48 federal formula grant programs in operation during the last quarter of fiscal year 1998, while a total of 43 new and continued programs were awarded federal formula grants in July 1998 to begin implementation on October 1, 1998. These included private, not-for-profit organizations as well as educational programs and juvenile courts. In addition, there were more than 26,000 children served directly by programs funded in fiscal year 1998-99.

Projects are funded on a year-to-year basis, generally for a maximum of three years. Usually a declining-share system is used, with 100 percent of an approved budget funded in the first year, 75 percent of the first year's budget amount funded in the second year, and 50 percent of the first year's budget amount funded in the third year.

TCCY staff provides grant-writing training and technical assistance to potential applicants for formula grants. In fiscal year 1998-99 approximately 205 people attended the seven training workshops conducted in Memphis, Jackson, Nashville, Chattanooga,

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Columbia, Knoxville, and Johnson City. Also, orientation training was given to new grantees to enable them to obtain basic information for the successful implementation of their program during the first year of funding. The training sites included Memphis, Nashville, and Knoxville. In addition, TCCY staff monitor programs on a quarterly basis to assure compliance with contracts and offer technical assistance.

Title V Grants

The 1992 reauthorization of the JJDP Act included a new Title V allocation to promote collaboration within communities to develop delinquency prevention strategies. Unlike formula grants, which may be awarded to individuals or single agencies, Title V funds must be given to local units of government. To be considered for funding, a community must demonstrate collaboration by the establishment of a multidisciplinary prevention policy board and the development of a three-year plan for delinquency prevention. A risk and resource assessment of the target area must also be completed to ensure the community will be served. To be eligible, a community must also be in compliance with the mandates of the JJDP Act.

Title V Grantee	FY 1998-99 Award
Davidson County Juvenile Court	\$60,000
Franklin County Board of Education	\$44,629
Hamilton County Government	\$128,071
Madison County Juvenile Court Services	\$95,909

In fiscal year 1998-99 TCCY continued its participation with the Tennessee departments of Health, Children's Services, and Education and the United Way in the Governor's Community Prevention Initiative for Children. Title V programs and those funded by the Department of Health through the Governor's Prevention Initiative share similar philosophies and goals. To receive these funds, community collaboration must be demonstrated in the development of strategies to prevent negative behaviors and outcomes for children.

Challenge Activities

The 1992 reauthorization of the JJDP Act also added 10 Challenge Activities, classified as categories A-J, to the programs funded by OJJDP. The purpose of the Challenge Activities is to provide states with incentives to develop, adopt, and improve policies in one of 10 specific areas. The Challenge Activities program was funded for the first time in fiscal year 1995. Tennessee received \$174,000 in fiscal year 1996, \$175,000 in fiscal year 1997, and \$170,000 in fiscal year 1998 for Challenge Activities.

For each of the first two years of Challenge Activities funding, TCCY chose to participate in two activities. Challenge Activity A involves developing and adopting policies and programs to provide basic health, mental health, and appropriate education

services, including special education, for youth in the juvenile justice system as specified in standards developed by the National Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention prior to October 12, 1984. Funds set aside for Activity A were earmarked for the development of policies and procedures for the new Department of Children's Services.

Funds set aside for Activity F were used to start an Ombudsman office. The program was created to resolve questions or concerns regarding services to children and youth in state custody. The process helps to ensure that the best interest of the child is the focal point for mediation and facilitation.

During fiscal year 1996-97 TCCY voted to continue funding for Challenge Activity F, the Ombudsman Program. TCCY also voted to fund Challenge Activity B, which involves developing and adapting policies and programs to provide access to counsel for all juveniles in the justice system to ensure that juveniles have access to legal personnel before waiving their right to counsel. Challenge Activity B was implemented during fiscal year 1997-98 through the program provided by West Tennessee Legal Services and Rural Legal Services of Tennessee. Training was provided for attorneys and juvenile court staff on working with juveniles, which included the special needs population. Also, pamphlets and handouts were developed to inform parents and juveniles of their rights and responsibilities.

Juvenile Justice Reimbursement Account

The Commission administers a combination of state and federal JJDP Act funds to provide financial assistance to counties for removing children from adult jails. These funds can be used to provide services to children who meet the criteria of TCA 37-1-114(c), which describes appropriate placement of children in secure facilities. Allowable services include, but are not limited to, the following programs: attendant care, emergency transportation, emergency shelter care and foster care, temporary holding, and secure detention. In fiscal year 1997-98 TCCY contracted with 76 counties for use of reimbursement account funds. Through the reimbursement account, 1,765 children received services in fiscal year 1997-98.

Each county accepting reimbursement account funds must develop and submit local rules and procedures for each service provided. Account funds can only be used to provide services to children who are taken into custody in a county that does not operate a secure detention facility in 1983. Funds are allocated to counties according to a weighted formula based on historical usage of the reimbursement account. Counties that participated in the reimbursement account with contract amounts are listed on pages 20 and 21.



EVALUATION

State Juvenile Justice Supplements

The Commission administers state funding for improving juvenile court services. In fiscal year 1997-98, each county received \$10,000. In counties with more than one juvenile court, each court is entitled to an equitable share of the county's allocation. To receive the funds, the juvenile court must have at least one part-time youth services officer who is appointed and supervised by the juvenile court judge. The youth services officer must meet identified educational requirements and receive training annually.

State juvenile justice funds cannot be used to pay salaries or expenses of juvenile court judges or for construction or remodeling of adult facilities. In fiscal year 1997-98, 94 counties used approximately 75 percent of the state supplement funds to pay the salaries of youth services officers or enhance the services of the court. The next largest use of the funds was for training of court staff. Use of these funds is limited only by the imagination of the courts, as long as the expenditures improve juvenile court services and do not supplant local funds.

Court Appointed Special Advocates

The Commission administers state funds for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs in Tennessee. The purpose of the CASA programs is to recruit, train, and supervise court-approved volunteers. These volunteers advocate for the best interests of abused, neglected, or dependent children and other children who are placed out of home by the court. CASA volunteers provide assistance to the court by collecting background information, preparing reports for court, and participating in

County	FY '98-'99	No. Served	FY '99-'00
Anderson	\$15,000	410	\$15,000
Blount	15,000	25	15,000
Davidson	15,000	358	15,000
Hamblen	15,000	62	15,000
Hamilton	15,000	127	15,000
Knox	15,000	227	15,000
Madison	15,000	79	15,000
Sevier	15,000	35	15,000
Shelby	15,000	480	15,000
Sullivan	15,000	305	15,000
Sumner	15,000	203	15,000
Washington	15,000	102	15,000
Williamson	15,000	98	15,000
Wilson	15,000	84	15,000
Totals	\$210,000	2,595	\$210,000

case reviews. The CASA volunteer works with the court and other agencies to ensure that a permanent placement is found as quickly as possible and to ensure those appropriate resources are made available to meet the needs of these children. In fiscal year 1997-98, state CASA funds provided services for more than 2,300 children in Anderson, Davidson, Hamblen, Hamilton, Knox, Madison, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner, Washington, Williamson, and Wilson counties. Each county except Madison received \$15,000. Madison received \$5,000.

Transfer Hearings

Tennessee Code Annotated 33-3-401 et seq. establishes procedures for the involuntary transfer of young people between the departments of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR) and Children's Services (DCS). A transfer hearing is scheduled before a five-person review panel composed of two representatives each from MHMR and DCS and one representative from the Commission.

A transfer hearing is called when:

1. The transferee objects to a transfer;
2. There is a need for an emergency transfer; or,
3. A transferee is being returned.

During fiscal year 1998-99, 24 hearings were held. A transfer hearing is convened by the department requesting the transfer or, in an emergency situation, by the receiving facility.

Following is a profile of the youth involved in the hearings:

- 20 males and two females (two males had two hearings during fiscal year 98-99);
- 16 white and four African American; and
- An age range of 14 to 18 years, with an average age of 16.

Twenty-one of the transfer hearings were held at the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute in Nashville and one each at Lakeshore, Moccasin Bend, and Western Mental Health Institutes in Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Bolivar, respectively. ■



EVALUATION

**Federal Formula Grants Awarded By TCCY
Grant Period – October 1, 1997 – September 30, 1998
By Program Category**

GRANTEE		AMOUNT
Compliance Monitoring		
TCCY	Nashville	\$ 45,000
Delinquency Prevention		
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Tri-Cities	Kingsport	15,000
Boys and Girls Club of Cleveland	Cleveland	24,750
Boys and Girls Club of Pulaski	Pulaski	10,000
CASA of Memphis	Memphis	18,750
Child and Family Services	Knoxville	15,000
Clinch Powell Resource	Rutledge	41,200
Community Mediation Center (VORP)	Crossville	21,828
Dede Wallace Center	Nashville	24,750
Henry County Schools	Paris	18,750
Kids on the Block	Chattanooga	10,000
Memphis City Schools	Memphis	22,500
Metro Nashville Board of Education	Nashville	12,500
South Central Exchange Club	Columbia	32,201
Trenton Special School District	Trenton	12,500
Juvenile Court Services		
Cheatham County Juvenile Court	Ashland City	11,958
Claiborne County Juvenile Court	Tazewell	3,735
Grundy County Juvenile Court	Altamont	10,151
Houston County Juvenile Court	Erin	10,740
Humphreys County Juvenile Court	Waverly	12,550
McMinn County Juvenile Court	Athens	15,000
Marshall County Juvenile Court	Lewisburg	9,550
Montgomery County Juvenile Court	Clarksville	30,845
Overton County Juvenile Court	Livingston	15,000
Roane County Juvenile Court	Kingston	9,875
Rutherford County Juvenile Court	Murfreesboro	24,750
Sequatchie County Juvenile Court	Dunlap	15,000
Minority Overrepresentation		
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Memphis	Memphis	26,352
Boys Club of Memphis	Memphis	25,000
Children and Family Services	Covington	24,750
Chattanooga Area Urban League	Chattanooga	22,500
Columbia Cares, Inc.	Columbia	12,500
Crittenton Services, Inc.	Nashville	45,000
Nashville Center for Black Family Life	Nashville	24,750
Northwest YMCA	Nashville	20,000
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	Chattanooga	24,750
West Tennessee AHEC	Memphis	24,750
Systems Improvement		
TCJFCJ (Information System)	Nashville*	33,760
TCJFCJ (Training)	Nashville*	49,886
Total Amount of Grants		\$ 1,208,714

Federal Formula Grants Awarded By TCCY
Grant Period – October 1, 1997 – September 30, 1998
By Program Category

GRANTEE		AMOUNT
Compliance Monitoring		
TCCY	Nashville	\$ 45,000
Delinquency Prevention		
Anderson County Health Council	Clinton	15,000
Clinch-Powell Resource	Rutledge	20,600
Community Mediation Center VORP		10,914
Cookeville Police Department	Cookeville	23,396
Grundy County Schools	Altamont	22,500
Humphreys County Board of Education	Waverly	37,500
Kids on the Block	Chattanooga	5,000
Martin Police Department	Martin	6,562
Maury County Public School	Columbia	27,000
McMinn County Sheriff's Dept.		12,825
Metropolitan Board of Education	Nashville	26,250
PEACE, Inc.	Nashville	21,911
Polk County Department of Education	Benton	40,000
Sevier County Sheriff's Dept	Sevierville	26,123
South Central Exchange Club		16,101
Juvenile Court Services		
Greene County Juvenile Court	Greenville	27,836
Hawkins County Juvenile	Rogersville	19,430
Madison County Juvenile Court	Jackson	22,376
Montgomery County Juvenile Court	Clarksville	15,423
Putnam County Juvenile Court	Cookeville	22,500
Roane County Juvenile Court	Kingston	15,656
Minority Overrepresentation		
Big Brothers and Big Sisters	Memphis	13,176
Crittenton Services, Inc.	Nashville	24,500
Family Life Resource Network	Somerville	26,810
Greene, Peters, & Associates	Nashville	27,023
Memphis Partners Inc.	Memphis	27,098
Project Get Smart	Dyersburg	22,500
The University of Memphis	Memphis	18,584
YMCA of Metropolitan Knoxville	Knoxville	33,750
Systems Improvements		
TCJFCJ (Information System)	Nashville	23,016
TCJFCJ (Training)	Nashville	39,515
Jail Removal		
Various Counties	Various	117,000
Total Amount of Grants		\$1,010,800

EVALUATION

The Children's Program Outcome Review Team

During fiscal year 1998-99 TCCY continued to implement the Children's Program Outcome Review Team (C-PORT) evaluation. This process evaluates the service delivery system designed for children and their families involved in state custody. The ultimate goal of C-PORT is to promote positive system change by providing qualitative (measuring quality) and quantitative (objective) information for a process of continuous improvement in the delivery of services to children and families.

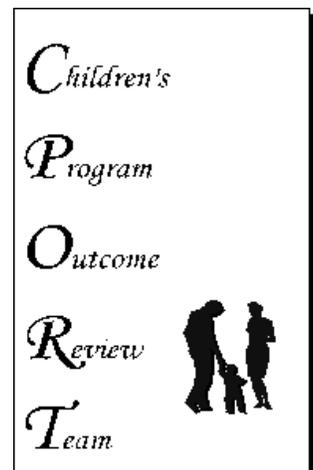
The C-PORT evaluation collects and organizes essential information about the population of children served, the needs of the children and families, and the system's ability to adequately perform or function to meet the needs of the children and families it serves. The pertinent information was collected using a special instrument called a protocol. The protocol is a booklet containing a series of in-depth, structured interviews, and each interview contains a set of questions regarding the status of the child and family, the functions of the service delivery system, demographics, and TennCare implementation.

Structured interviews were conducted with the following: child (if age appropriate), parent(s), Community Services Agency worker(s) (formerly Assessment and Care Coordination Team or ACCT), custodial department worker(s), caregiver(s) (foster parent or direct care staff in a group facility), court representative(s), teacher(s), and other relevant service providers. The case records were reviewed, and Plans of Care, social histories, and court orders were copied and reviewed. The majority of information was collected through the interview process.

The C-PORT reviews, conducted on a calendar-year basis as opposed to a fiscal year, began February 23, 1998, and involved 45 to 60 randomly selected cases in each of the 12 Community Services Agency regions. The order of the reviews was based on the Department of Children's Services (DCS) dates scheduled for implementation of the new model. Data for 1998 were reflective of the population under the new model of service delivery. By December 7, 1998, 587 cases were reviewed. These data were then summarized and compared to the cases randomly selected for statewide analysis.

The statewide sample consisted of 350 child custody cases and was at expected levels of difference from the total sample because of the impact of regional variations. The sample size was the number of cases needed to be statistically significant at the 95 percent level of confidence statewide within plus or minus five percentage points and at the 85 percent level of confidence for the regional population within plus or minus 10 percentage points.

In 1998, 12 full-time C-PORT Case Reviewers determined the status of children and families being served. Twenty-three new external reviewers representing a variety of departments and providers were trained to perform C-PORT intensive case reviews.



External reviewers were staff from various direct service agencies, including private providers, juvenile courts, Department of Children's Services (DCS), Department of Education (DOE), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR), and Community Services Agencies (CSA). External reviewers were instrumental in disseminating information about the review process and outcome orientation, which consequently fostered system improvements internally. Two external-reviewer training workshops were held in Nashville on February 10-13 and July 20-23, 1998.

Reviewer training required intensive instruction and field-work preparation activities focusing on the administration of the C-PORT protocol and the procedures required for its use. In addition, basic techniques of interviewing were taught, as well as standards of evaluation and research principles. The full-time case reviewers also spent time in training sessions to review protocol revisions and system changes in order to adequately train external reviewers. A modified training was held on February 17, 1998, to train experienced external reviewers on all revisions.

Necessary revisions and refinements were made to the C-PORT protocol and process. This is an integral part of the process. The evaluation suggests improvements in the delivery of services to children and families, and C-PORT continually improves the data-gathering process.

The Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) and the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) provide supplemental assessments to the C-PORT review process. These assessment tools were administered during the review process. The CBCL was developed by Thomas M. Achenbach and provided a behavior-rating scale, which assessed behavior problems and social competencies of the children reviewed. The CAFAS was developed by Kay Hodges and was used to assess a child's psychosocial functioning. It has been adopted by several other states for evaluating state-served children.

The C-PORT evaluation documented the adequacy of the status of the child and family and how the system is functioning to meet the needs of the child by providing qualitative and quantitative data for continuous improvement in the delivery of services to children and families. The quantitative data were a result of an examination of 13 status indicators for the child and family and 15 essential system functions or capabilities in the context of how the system served one child at a time. The indicators for determining the status of the child and family and for determining the adequacy of service system functions were established by a Design Team representing the DOE, Finance and Administration (F&A), DOH, DHS, MHMR, Youth Development (DYD); ACCT; Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (TCJFCJ); service providers; and the University of Tennessee College of Social Work (UTCSW). Its function was to develop the specifications for the C-PORT evaluation.

EVALUATION

The following 13 status indicators were examined for the child and family. Design team members agreed the indicators with asterisks must be found positive for an overall adequate finding regarding the status of the child and family. The indicators were:

1. Safety of the child and community;*
2. Emotional well-being;*
3. Physical well-being;*
4. Caregiver functioning;*
5. Stable home;
6. Permanence;
7. Appropriateness of placement;
8. Educational and vocational progress;
9. Family unification;
10. Independent living if 13 years of age or older;
11. Family satisfaction;
12. Child satisfaction; and,
13. Overall status of child and family.

The reviewers evaluated the following 17 essential system functions or capabilities in the context of how the system served one child at a time. Once again, the functions or capabilities with the asterisks must have been found positive for an overall adequate finding for the system. The functions or capabilities were:

1. Assessment of needs;*
2. Long-term view for services;*
3. Child participation;*
4. Family participation;*
5. Service plan design;*
6. Service plan implementation;*
7. Service coordination;*
8. Monitoring change;*
9. Advocacy;
10. Early child and family intervention;
11. Home and community resources;
12. Placement resources;
13. Supportive interventions for staying or returning home;
14. Urgency response;
15. Progress achieved-child;
16. Progress achieved-family; and,
17. Overall adequacy of services.

The quantitative results were then presented at an Exit Conference in each region. Overhead transparencies illustrating the data with charts and graphs and a qualitative report summarizing specific strengths, noteworthy accomplishments, and weaknesses of the system were used. The participants in the review process, such as direct service staff; supervisory and management personnel; social counselors and case managers from DCS, CSAs, MHMR, and DOE; placements; and the juvenile courts, attended.

Exit Conferences were scheduled following each review to report the data-gathering results. Research standards and guidelines specify the importance of reporting results to all research participants. The average attendance at a C-PORT Exit Conference per region was approximately 17 professionals. Statewide, approximately 204 professionals attended. Additional state agency administrative staff, legislators, and child advocates were also provided copies of the C-PORT results. The first Children's Plan Outcome Review Team 1994 Evaluation Results report was published in February 1995. The 1995 C-PORT results were published in June 1996, and the 1996 results were published in August 1997. The 1997 C-PORT results were published in August 1998 and the 1998 results were published in June of 1999.

In 1998, C-PORT reported the following data on children in state custody:

- 25 percent of the total petitions were filed by DHS, with another 32 percent by Department of Children's Services; law enforcement was second at 13 percent, followed by courts at 9 percent and parents at 8 percent;
- 68 percent of the children were adjudicated dependent; 23 percent, delinquent; and 9 percent, unruly;
- 33 percent of the children were in custody primarily because of the child's behavior problems, and 31 percent, due to neglect by caretaker;
- 43 percent were in a foster placement (including regular and therapeutic custodial department foster homes and regular and therapeutic contracted foster homes); 30 percent were in a group placement (any congregated living environment); 22 percent were with birth or adoptive parents or other relatives, 5 percent were on runaway status;
- 57 percent were 13 years or older; 24 percent were 6 to 12 years; 19 percent were newborns to age 5;
- 52 percent of the children were Caucasian; 41 percent African American; 7 percent were categorized as "other" (includes Asian American, Hispanic, and biracial);
- 59 percent of the children were male; 41 percent were female; 52 percent male, 48 percent female was the breakdown on adjudication of dependent/neglect; 44 percent male, 56 percent female, for unruly adjudication; 83 percent male, 17 percent female, for delinquent;
- 46 percent of the children came from single-parent families where the mother was the head of the household; and,
- 57 percent of the children reviewed had parents who were or had been incarcerated; 25 percent involved the father, 15 percent of the families involved the mother, and 17 percent involved both parents.

An analysis of the data showed two important findings. First, it appeared custody could have been avoided for 7 percent of the children reviewed if needed services had been provided at the time of custody. This is the same as 1997 compared to 6 percent in 1996, 12 percent in 1995, and 16 percent in 1994. Another important finding was that children remained in custody too long (29 percent in 1998, 24 percent in 1997, 22 percent in 1996,

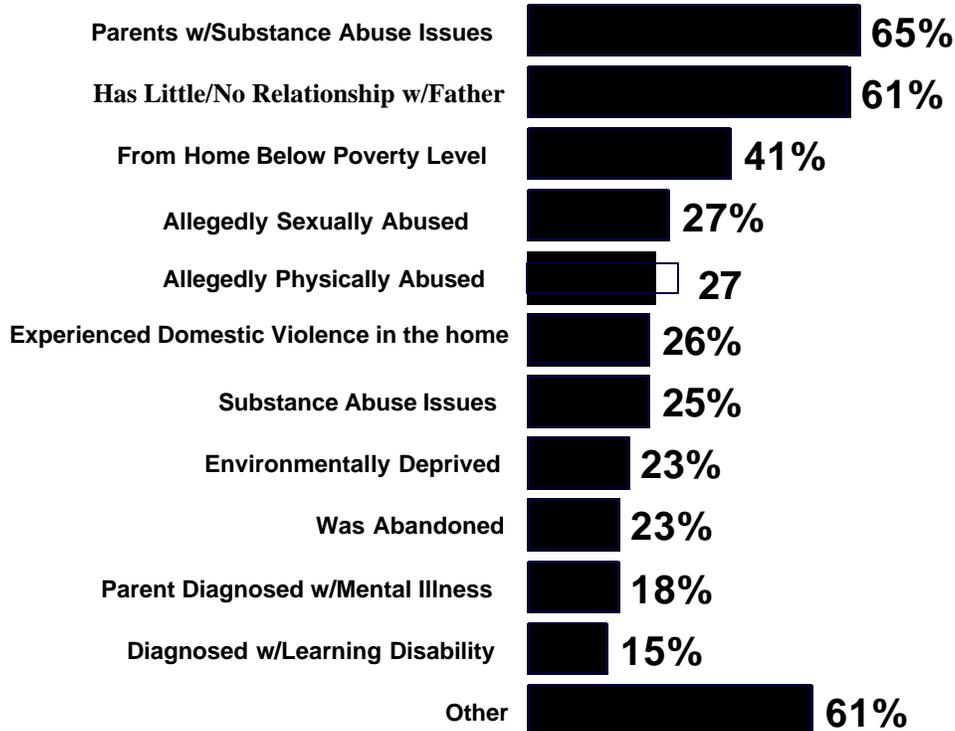
EVALUATION

26 percent in 1995, 20 percent in 1994) due to delays in release from custody, delays in termination of parental rights, and delays in the adoption process.

In 1998, children and family conditions that possibly contributed to the risk of entering or remaining in custody were categorized under “Critical Issues.” These are issues characteristic of children and their families that influence the need for services.

Critical Issues for the Child

All Cases



The “other” category consisted of a range of issues, including children diagnosed Attention Deficit/Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, children with deceased parents, children diagnosed with mental retardation (MR), children with borderline intellectual functioning (BIF), children who were substance exposed prenatally, children who are parents/pregnant, children whose parent(s) have been diagnosed with mental retardation, etc. All of these issues contribute to the child’s emotional and physical well-being and to the need for the system to address them in the form of supportive services for both the child and the family.

Strengths Identified Statewide in 1998 C-Port Findings

- Children were appropriate for custody.
- Most foster homes were effective in providing a stable, nurturing home-like environment.
- Children were placed in the least restrictive, most appropriate placement.

- Efforts were made to place siblings together when appropriate.
- Many children had experienced only one placement or only one placement following assessment.
- The number of unruly children in custody was down.

Weaknesses Identified Statewide in 1998 C-Port Findings

- Children remained in custody too long.
- There was a general lack of or inadequate legal representation provided for children and families.
- Families were not receiving needed services to facilitate reunification.
- Plans of care were insufficient due to inadequate individualized identification of services, especially for families.
- Substantial turnover and vacancies in positions.

C-PORT Findings on the Status of the Child/Family Reported as Percents

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
➤ Cases reviewed in an overall positive status	74	75	79	83	88
➤ Safety of children positive	91	93	92	93	95
➤ Children's physical well-being addressed	95	94	96	95	99
➤ Children placed with adequate caregivers	90	92	91	94	94
➤ The child's emotional well-being was being addressed	78	78	82	84	85
➤ Families were receiving services to remain intact or to reunify with children	58	62	66	68	60
➤ Families were satisfied with services received	85	59	67	69	65

Families not receiving services appeared to be the greatest overall deficiency that would have a direct result in children returning home in a timely manner and maintaining a successful reunification. Families not receiving services had a mutual relationship with families not satisfied because they were not always receiving appropriate services in a timely manner at the level needed.

C-PORT Findings on Adequacy of Service System Functions Reported as Percents

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
➤ Service system functioned adequately to meet needs of child/family	31	40	46	51	33
➤ Assessment of needs of child/family	75	80	86	86	73
➤ Plan of Care design	64	63	71	72	48
➤ Service plan implementation	63	66	67	73	69
➤ Service coordination	52	61	65	70	59
➤ Monitoring/change	52	61	66	72	60
➤ Supportive intervention for children to stay or return home	55	64	65	72	64
➤ Progress achieved by family	80*	50	56	56	52

*Child and family progress were rated together in 1994, resulting in an inflated percentage for family progress.

Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) Findings Summary

Among the cases reviewed, the most problems in functioning were reported in two domains: role performance (the effectiveness with which the child fulfills the roles most relevant to his or her place in the community) and behavior toward self or others. Almost two-thirds of the children (61 percent) were rated as impaired in at least one of the five areas, with 42 percent receiving impaired ratings in two or more areas. Overall, the CAFAS total scores indicated the following treatment needs for the sample population of children and youth in state care: 39 percent needed supportive intervention; 19 percent, short-term treatment (up to six months); 18 percent, periodic treatment over a six- to 24-month period; and 24 percent, long-term treatment (one to five years). This indicates a significant proportion of children needing long-term care.

Thirty-one percent of the children had a formal mental health diagnosis reported, and, of these, many were also rated with moderate or severe impairment in psychosocial functioning. Twenty-four percent of the CAFAS sample could be classified as seriously emotionally disturbed (SED).

1999 C-PORT Reviews

In 1999 the C-PORT protocol was revised, and full-time case reviewers were trained on the new protocol as well as system changes. One external-reviewer training workshop was held on February 1-49, 1999. Thirteen new external reviewers were trained to adequately implement the review process. In addition, one modified training workshop was conducted on February 5, 1999. The modified training included TCCY staff and past external reviewers. The 1999 C-PORT reviews began March 1, 1998, and, as of June 30, 1998, 234 cases had been reviewed, encompassing five of the 12 CSA regions. ■

The Impact Project, a longitudinal study of children and youth diagnosed with severe emotional disturbances (SED), was set up to compare and contrast the TennCare managed care system in Tennessee with the Medicaid fee-for-service system. This project is totally funded by the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a division of the U.S. Public Health Service. In addition to the Tennessee/Mississippi study, five other sites studied mental health services to children in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington. The Tennessee site was also approved to study substance abuse services during 1997-98.

Six sites also studied mental health services to adults, and six sites, substance abuse services to adults. The Vanderbilt University Center for Mental Health Policy collaborated with TCCY, Tennessee Voices for Children, the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, the TennCare Bureau, the Tennessee Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the Tennessee Association for Mental Health Organizations, Tennessee alcohol and drug treatment providers, Mississippi Division of Medicaid, Mississippi Families As Allies, and the Mississippi Department of Mental Health to develop a consumer-focused evaluation of mental health service delivery with protection of study participants' confidentiality. Craig Anne Heflinger, Ph.D., at Vanderbilt was the principal investigator for the study. The project studied more than 740 TennCare children and adolescents and their families

TCCY was responsible for recruiting Tennessee families whose children were high-end users of mental and behavioral health services to participate in the study. Using a structured-interview protocol, TCCY staff members collected information regarding health status, mental health symptoms, substance use, psychosocial functioning, and quality of life from each family at three points in time over a one-year period. TCCY staff was responsible for conducting in-depth case reviews of families with severely emotionally disturbed children in Tennessee. TCCY staff was also responsible for conducting in-depth case reviews of families of severely emotionally disturbed children in Mississippi.

Service-delivery issues evaluated included whether or not provider met the ideal goals established by the Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP). The goals are that care be individualized, in the least restrictive but appropriate environment, family-focused, coordinated, and culturally competent. Also identified were barriers to services and level of parent/guardian satisfaction with the care.

Tennessee families who qualified for the study had children who:

- Were 2-17 years old and had TennCare/Medicaid coverage during 1995-96;
- Received intensive mental health services paid by TennCare/Medicaid during 1995-96; and
- Who were not in state custody at the time of the first interview.

A control group of children who had not used services during 1995-96 was also studied.

EVALUATION

The project reported that a large proportion of the children and adolescents had ongoing severe emotional and behavioral problems. Eighty-six percent of those that had had previous had received intensive mental health services in 1995-96 and 43 percent of the other group. Seventy-one percent of the high use group and more than one-fourth of the no use group met federal guidelines for serious emotional disturbance. However, 31 percent of those diagnosed with SED had received no behavioral health services. Barriers to services included access issues, including inconvenient locations, lack of money, transportation or TennCare coverage and delays. Family barriers included the fear that children would be labeled and belief that the problems were not serious. Nearly half, or 48 percent, of those who received services were reported to have not been helped by them.

Although 47 percent of the SED children had excellent or good health, 50 percent also had a chronic physical health problem. Children with SED had significantly more health problems than those without SED. Almost one-fourth of the adolescents with SED were also found to have a substance abuse disorder.

Although TCCY's part of the project was scheduled to end in September 1999, Vanderbilt will continue to evaluation and analyze the data. The Impact Study is an example of the way TCCY has been about to access funding from non-state sources in order to expand its efforts. 

Tennessee Code Annotated 37-3-106 requires the Commission on Children and Youth to organize a regional council on children and youth in each of the state's nine developmental districts. It establishes the councils as the ongoing communication link between the Commission and regional and local areas in Tennessee. The statute requires one locally based staff person for each regional council and identifies the following duties of the councils:

- To provide for mutual exchange of information and networking among service providers, advocates, and elected officials;
- To educate council members, officials, others involved in services for children and youth, and the general public concerning the needs and problems of children and youth in the region and the state;
- To coordinate regional and local efforts between public and private service providers to enhance services for children and youth;
- To advocate for legislation, policies, and programs at the local and regional level to promote and protect the health, well-being, and development of children and youth; and,
- To collect, compile, and distribute data and to make recommendations of the needs and problems of children and youth.

In fiscal year 1998-99, more than 2,830 community representatives and professionals were members of the nine regional councils. The information below presents the nine regions and the regional coordinators. Summary information about each council is presented on the following pages.

TCCY Regional Councils and the Coordinators

Francis Lewis
Northwest Council
Post Office Box 505
Dresden, TN 38225
(901) 364-5000
(Voice and Fax)
flewis2@mail.state.tn.us

Scott Ridgway
Mid-Cumberland Council
Andrew Johnson Tower, 9th Fl.
710 James Robertson Pky.
Nashville, TN 37243-0800
(615) 523-1579
(615) 741-5956 (Fax)
sridgway@mail.state.tn.us

Kathy Daniels
Upper Cumberland
435 Gould Drive
Cookeville, TN 38506
(931) 432-4494
(931) 432-6995
kathy@arcmis.com

Robert Smith
East Tennessee
531 Henley St., 7th Fl.
Knoxville, TN 37902
(865) 594-6658
(Voice and Fax)
rsmith9@mail.state.tn.us

Diane Wise
Northeast Council
1233 Southwest Ave.,
Extension
Johnson City, TN 37604
(423) 979-3200 Ext 105
(423) 979-3267 (Fax)
dwise@mail.state.tn.us



Gwendolyn Glenn
Memphis/Shelby County
170 N. Main St.
Memphis, TN 38103
(901) 543-7657
(901) 543-6462 (Fax)
gglen@mail.state.tn.us

Rodger Jowers
Southwest Council
Lowell Thomas Bldg., Box 13
225 Martin Luther King Drive
Jackson, TN 38301
(901) 423-6545 (Voice/Fax)
rjowers@mail.state.tn.us

Elaine Williams
South Central Council
Post Office Box 397
Columbia, TN 38402-0397
(931) 388-1053
(931) 381-2053 (Fax)
ewilliams@sctdd.org

Marilyn Davis
Southeast Council
540 McCallie Ave., Ste. 643
Chattanooga, TN 37402
(423) 634-6210
(423) 634-3094 (Fax)
mdavis@mail.state.tn.us



REGIONAL COUNCILS

Northeast Tennessee Council On Children And Youth

Diane Wise, Regional Coordinator
1233 Southwest Avenue, Extension
Johnson City, TN 37604
Phone: (423) 979-3200, Extension 105 FAX: (423) 979-3267

Northeast Tennessee Council Membership

The Northeast Council has 352 members representing the eight counties in the region: Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington.

Northeast Tennessee Council Officers

President	Marian Hensley, Holston United Methodist Home
Past President	Wilhelmina Williams, Community Services Agency
Vice President	Mary Granger, Advocate
President Elect	Diane Cupp, Johnson City Juvenile Court
Secretary	Terry Henson, Carter County Health Department
Treasurer	Beverly Lovegrove, Advocate

Northeast Tennessee Council Committees And Chairs

Legislative	Sandi Fisher, Ph.D. Community Services Agency Neil Fisher, Camelot Care, Inc.
Juvenile Justice	O. Kirk Lane, Department of Children's Services
Child and Family Support	Kay Freer, Holston United Methodist Home Diana Finlay, Frontier Health, Inc.
Membership/Nominating	Donna Sowers, Johnson City Schools Patti Fatheree, Johnson City Schools
Hospitality/Public Relations	Nancy Hunt, Comprehensive Community Services

Northeast Tennessee Council Meetings And Topics

October 7, 1998	Overview of Juvenile Justice Commission
November 20, 1998	Grant Search Tool and The HIT Site
February 17, 1999	TN Care/TN KIDS
May 21, 1999	Legislation of the 101 st Tennessee General Assembly

Northeast Tennessee Council Special Events

November 12, 1998	Child Watch of Washington County
January 18, 1999	Breakfast for our Legislators
March 16, 1999	Children's Advocacy Day
April 16, 1999	"Parenting Partnerships" Seminar

Northeast Tennessee Council Award

The 1998-99 Northeast Tennessee Council's Child Advocacy Award was presented to Sandi Fisher, Ph.D., Northeast Tennessee Community Services Agency.

East Tennessee Council On Children And Youth

531 Henley Street, Suite 735

Knoxville, TN 37902

Phone (423) 594-6658

FAX (423) 594-6658 Email: rsmith.knoxville@worldnet.att.net, or AF01034

Coordinator: Robert E. Smith

East Tennessee Council Membership

The East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth has 320 members representing the 16 in the Region: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier, and Union.

East Tennessee Council Officers

President

Leann Human-Hillard, Helen Ross McNabb

President-Elect

Carolyn Stinnett, Ph.D., Knox County Family Resource Center

Secretary

Regina Surber, KAAEYC

Treasurer

Claudia Ritchie, Dept. of Children's Services

East Tennessee Council Committees

Executive Committee

Leann Human-Hillard, President, Helen Ross McNabb Center

Nominating Committee

Jim Muir, Juvenile Justice Committee, Episcopal Dioceses of East Tennessee

Legislative Committee

Ginger Sharrer, Helen Ross McNabb Center; and Tannis Duncan, Sevier County Schools, Special Education Currently Vacant

Membership Committee

Juvenile Justice/Community

Mike Harkleroad, Knox County Regional Administrator

Education Committee

East Tennessee Council Meetings

July 14, 1998

Summer Social at Alex Haley Farm. Guest Speaker: Cynthia Finch

September 2, 1998

Non-Custodial Network Overview, Lynnelle Hammett, Child and Family Services

November 4, 1998

Who's Caring For the Children?: A Panel Discussion

January 6, 1999

Department of Children's Services Update: Mike Harkleroad, Knox County Department of Children's Services

February 3, 1999

Anderson Co. S.T.A.R.S/Families First: A Parent's Perspective

March 3, 1999

Keys to Successful Lobbying and Advocacy, Jennifer Cooper, Government Relations at May and Associates

May 5, 1999

Awards Presentation/Installation of New Officers/Legislative Update: Kacie Fitzpatrick

East Tennessee Council Special Events

October 7, 1998

The Hidden Problem: Discovering Homeless Children and Youth: A Mental Illness Awareness Week Event

December 4, 1998

Public Official's Breakfast

March 16, 1999

TCCY Children's Advocacy Days

April 8, 1999

Juvenile Justice Seminar, Full Day

East Tennessee Council Awards

The Dr. Mildred Doyle Advocate of The Year Award for 1998-99 was presented to Leann Human-Hilliard, EXIT Program, Helen Ross McNabb Center. The Dr. Mame MacIlwain Volunteer of The Year Award for 1998-99 was presented to Dr. Jo Lynn Cunningham, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Department of Child and Family Studies.

REGIONAL COUNCILS

Southeast Tennessee Council On Children And Youth

540 McCallie Avenue, Suite 643

Chattanooga, TN 37402

Phone: (423) 634-6210 FAX: (423) 634-3094 E-mail: mdavis@mail.state.tn.us

Coordinator: Marilyn Davis

Southeast Tennessee Council Membership:

The Southeast Council has 335 members representing the 10 counties in the region: Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, McMinn, Marion, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, and Sequatchie.

Southeast Council Officers:

President: Trudy Hughes

Children's Advocacy Center

Vice President: James Nelson

Harriet Tubman Express

Secretary: Jennifer Jackson

Community Foundation

Treasurer: Jan Taylor

Private Practice

Hiwassee Council Officers:

President: Sandra Falagan

Hiwassee Mental Health Center

Vice President: Erin Creal

Family and Children's Services

Secretary: Mona Patton

Rhea County Juvenile Court

Legislative: Shirley DeWitt

Polk County Schools

Carol Rhan

Polk County Family Resource Agency

Public Relations: Lisa Mantooth, Family Friends

Nominations/Awards: Max Hood, Hamilton County Family, Preservation Network

Membership: Sharon Putnam, Southeast Community Services Agency

Southeast Tennessee Council Committees And Chairs:

Legislative:

Teletha McJunkin, Kudzu Grill

Shula Yelliott, Williams Henson Homes

Public Relations:

Frank Hill, Hamilton County Juvenile Court

Hospitality:

Dorothy Stephens, Fortwood Center

Nominations/Awards:

Carla Askonas, Invest in Children

Membership

Sharon Putnam, Southeast Community Services

Juvenile Justice Youth Issues:

Erin Creal, Family and Children's Services

Grace Seals, Bledsoe County Juvenile Court

Southeast Council and Hiwassee Council Meetings And Topics

September 16 – 17, 1998

Select Joint Committee on Children and Youth Hearing on Child Abuse Issues, Advocacy Centers and Character Education

November 18, 1998

Hamilton County and Southeast Region Family Preservation Networks – Max Hood and Gerald Linton, Directors

January 26, 1999

Legislative Issues for Children and Families for the 101st Assembly, Senator David Fowler

March 11, 1999

Legislative Issues and Update: Kacie Fitzpatrick, TCCY legislative specialist.

May 12, 1999

Regional Intervention Program, Christy Womack; Children's Advocacy Center's Forensic Interviewers, John Pompei and Leigh Jackson

December 1, 1998

"Parents Are The Key" – Dr. Steven McFadyen Ketchum, Vanderbilt

February 10, 1999

Domestic Violence: Programs and Issues – Panel presentation.

April 13, 1999 Family Preservation Networks Access and Services for the Southeast Region, Max Hood and Carolyn Gibbon
October 28, 1998 C-TAG (Coming Together Against Gangs), DeDe Shearon and Nick Hoffner, Davidson County Juvenile Court

Southeast Council Special Events

July 21, 1998 A Community Conference “Towards the 21st Century: Build A Community Response for Children and Families,”
Commissioner George Hattaway, Judge Van Deacon, Sheriff Dan Gilley, Mayor Tom Rowland, Cleveland Police Chief Lee Reece, Pastor Gary Sears.
October 13, 1998 America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth, General Colin Powell, guest speaker
October 29, 1998 Strategy Session for Child Care Licensing Standards
February 22, 1999 Grant Training – TCCY Grants
February 1999 Child Watch – Focus groups on Foster Care
March 15 – 16, 1999 Children’s Advocacy Days

Southeast Tennessee Council Awards

Outstanding Advocate for Children and Families – 1999 was awarded to Robbye Lewis, Kids on the Block.
The Outstanding Service and Volunteer Spirit – 1999 was awarded to Pat Eaker, Volunteer Center. The Outstanding Service Award – 1998 was awarded to Jeanne Bille, Hamilton County Health Department

Hiwassee Council Award

Outstanding Service Award was awarded to Evelyn Visage, Cleveland City Schools.

REGIONAL COUNCILS

Upper Cumberland Council On Children and Youth

435 Gould Drive
Cookeville, TN 38506-4194
Phone: (931) 432-4494 FAX: (931) 432-6995 E-Mail: kathy@arcemis.com
Coordinator: Kathy Daniels

Upper Cumberland Council Membership

The Upper Cumberland Council has 175 members representing the 14 counties in the region: Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Van Buren, Warren, and White.

Upper Cumberland Council Officers

President	Clydene Roberts, Director, Family Resource Ctr., Van Buren County
V-President	Kelly Bush, Director, Family Resource Ctr., Smith Co.
Secretary	Carolyn Freeze, Dept. Children's Services, Warren Co.
Treasurer	Felicia Prowse, coordinator, Family Home Day Care Registration

Upper Cumberland Council Committees And Chairs

Executive	Council Officers and Chairpersons
Legislative	Kacie Fitzpatrick, Healthy Start
Youth Issues/JJ	Sherrie Foster, U.C. Community Services Agency
Prevention	Cheri Richards, U.C. Community Services Agency
Membership	Shelly Painter, Family Day Care and Janell Clark, Genesis House
Nominating	Clydene Roberts, Van Buren Co. Family Res. Center

Upper Cumberland Regional Council Meetings And Topics

September 1, 1998	Networking Conference, Child and Family Services
November 3, 1998	Sylvan Learning Center
December 1, 1998	Prevention Initiatives, Cumberland and Cannon Co.
February 2, 1999	Governor's Study Partner Program
March 2, 1999	ImagiNation, Peer Mediation and Conflict Resolution
May 4, 1999	Presentations for Children, Ellen Wolfe Hiker

Upper Cumberland Council Special Events

October 9, 1998	Prevention Summit
November 12, 1998	Grassroots Assembly at Cookeville High School
March 16, 1999	Children's Advocacy Day
April 10, 1999	Teen Parenting/Male Responsibility Community Forum

Upper Cumberland Council Award

The 1999 Advocate of the Year Award was presented to Derrick Young, Director of TRIAD Youth Home.

Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth

710 James Robertson Parkway, Ninth Floor
Nashville, TN 37243-0800
Phone (615) 532-1579
Fax (615) 714-5956
E-Mail sridgway@mail.state.tn.us
Coordinator: Scott Ridgway

Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth Membership

The Mid-Cumberland Council has 753 members representing 13 counties in the region: Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, and Wilson.

Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth Officers

Past President	Frank Mix, Mid-Cumberland Community Services Agency
President	Cheryl Patton, Camelot Care Center, Inc.
Vice President	Mike McCulla, Hermitage Hall
Secretary	Darci Halfman, Monroe Harding Children's Home
Treasurer	Elizabeth Reinhardt, Department of Children's Services

Mid-Cumberland Council Children and Youth Committees and Chairs

Child Welfare Committee	Michael Hullett, Chair: Therapeutic Intervention, Inc.
Child and Adolescent Health	Phillip Many, Chair: Camelot Care Center, Inc.
Juvenile Justice Committee	Carter Anderson, Chair: Chad Youth Center
Legislative Committee	Rainey Gibson, Chair: Mid-Cumberland CSA
Membership Committee	Kelley Binkley, Chair: TRAC, Inc.

Mid-Cumberland Regional Council Meetings and Topics

The Mid-Cumberland Council held 7 Council County Meetings in Cheatham, Dickson, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Wilson.

Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth Special Events

February 26, 1999	Legislative Breakfast ~ "Children's Issues and Effective ways to communicate with your Legislators"
March 16, 1999	TCCY Children's Advocacy Day
April 30, 1999,	Mid-Cumberland Council Networking Conference "Health Care Services For Children in Tennessee."

1998 Mid-Cumberland Council Awards

The Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth Child Advocate of the Year award was given to Kelley Binkley, executive director of TRAC, Inc.



REGIONAL COUNCILS

South Central Tennessee Council on Children and Youth

815 South Main Street
Post Office Box 397
Columbia, TN 38402-0397
Phone: (931) 388-1053 or 381-2040 FAX: (931) 381-2053
Coordinator: Francis Elaine Williams

South Central Tennessee Council Membership

The South Central Tennessee Council has 293 members representing but not limited to the 13 counties in the region: Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, Maury, Moore, Perry, and Wayne counties.

South Central Tennessee Council Officers

President	James Martin, Columbia Cares
Vice President	Elizabeth Rasori, Marshall County Juvenile Court
Secretary/Treasurer	Nedra Dailey, Giles County Juvenile Court

South Central Tennessee Council Committees and Chairs

Executive/Juvenile Justice	James Martin, Columbia Cares
CARE Committee	Dana Simpson, St. Thomas Pediatric Center
Legislative	Elizabeth Rasori, Marshall County Juvenile court
Nominating/Membership	Ruth Davis, South Central Regional Health Office

South Central Tennessee Council Meetings and Topics

August 21, 1998	General Business Meeting and Plans for 1999
October 02, 1998	Without Violence and Estate Planning for Families with Children
March 3, 1999	Moving Toward Resolution: Minority Overrepresentation
June 30, 1999	Plans for the Fall Conference and Recruitment

South Central Tennessee Council Special Events

February 6, 1999	Teen Summit
March 16, 1999	Children's Advocacy Day

Northwest Tennessee Council on Children and Youth

Post Office Box 505
112 West Maple
Dresden, TN 38225
Phone (901) 364-5000 Fax (901) 364-5000
Coordinator: Frances Lewis
Email: flewis2@mail.state.tn.us

Northwest Council Membership

The Northwest Council has 204 members representing the nine counties in the region: Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion, and Weakley.

Northwest Council Officers

President	Alan Webb, Benton County Juvenile Court
Vice President	Kris Moore, Youth Villages
Secretary	Hope Patterson, West Tennessee Health Care
Treasurer	Tom McWherter, Executive Director, Northwest Community Services Agency

Northwest Council Committees and Chairs

Education/Prevention	Marilyn Goodman, Gibson County Board of Education Karen Fowler, Day Care Licensing
Juvenile Justice	Kim McCurdy-Stephenson, Youth Villages Penny Snow, LCSW
Legislative Membership	Lisa Norris, Carroll Academy Denise Nichols, Baptist Hospital Adolescent Center Sherry White, St. Francis Hospital Outreach Center
Program	Becky Holland, Family Resource Center Sid Nichols, Youth Villages

Northwest Council Meeting and Topics

August 21, 1999	Quarterly Council Meeting
March 12, 1999	Quarterly Council Meeting/Child Watch Activity, "A Day on the Bus." Regional facilities toured were Baptist Hospital Adolescent Unit, Union City, and McDowell Center for Children in Dyersburg.

Northwest Council Special Events

October 31, 1998	Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force Public Forum
February 25, 1999	OJJDP Grant Information/Training Session
March 16, 1999	Children's Advocacy Day
March 22-27, 1999	SECA Conference, "Remembering Our Past-Embracing Our Future"

Northwest Council Awards

A special recognition plaque was presented to Debbie Anderson Derington for seven years service with the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth as the Northwest regional coordinator.

REGIONAL COUNCILS

Southwest Tennessee Council On Children And Youth

Lowell Thomas State office Building, Box 13
225 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive
Jackson, TN 38301
Phone: (901) 423-6545 Fax: (901) 423-6545
E-mail: rjowers@mail.state.tn.us
Coordinator: Rodger D. Jowers

Southwest Council Membership

The Southwest Council has 142 members, representing the 11 counties of the region: Chester, Decatur, Fayette, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Lauderdale, McNairy, Madison, and Tipton.

Southwest Council Officers

Chairperson	Karen Smith, Southwest Community Service Agency
Vice-Chairperson	Jonathan Searcy, West Tennessee Children's Home, Henderson
Secretary	Thelma Barker, Jackson-Madison County School District
Treasure	Janis McCall, Citizen Advocate, Henderson

Southwest Council Committees And Chairs

Bylaws	June Perrigan, Individual Advocate, Jackson
Children's Advocacy Day	John Searcy, West Tennessee Children's Home
Juvenile Justice	Jane Jarvis, West Tennessee Legal Services
Legislative	Pam Ford Wright, Tennessee Justice Center
Membership	Delaine Bottoms, Exchange Club/Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse

Southwest Council Meetings And Topics

August 14, 1998	"Building Resiliency in Children"
November 13, 1998	"Teamwork '98: Project Child – 2 nd Joint Conference", in joint session with the Northwest Council on Children and Youth
February 26, 1999	"Allergies and Asthma: Impact on the Behavioral Development and School Performance of Children"
May 21, 1999	"School Safety Resources and Opportunities in Tennessee," and "ASFA – 10 Things You Need To Know"

Southwest Council Special Events

February 25, 1999	Presentation on Disproportionate Minority Confinement to the Jackson Diversity Lunch Group
February 25, 1999	Training for Prospective Applicants to OJJDP Formula and Title V Grants
March 16, 1999	Children's Advocacy Day
May 21, 1999	C-PORT Exit Conference for the Southwest region

Council Awards

The "Most Outstanding Advocate of the Year," an annual recognition of a child service worker, nominated by Council members or peers, for outstanding achievement and contribution to the lives of children in the Southwest Region, was awarded to Jimmie Trice-Baylor, of the Southwest Community Service Agency.

MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH COUNCIL

170 N. Main Street-9th Floor

Memphis, TN 38103

Phone: (901) 543-7656 FAX: (901) 543-6462 E-Mail: gglenn@mail.st.tn.us

Coordinator: Gwendolyn Glenn

Memphis/Shelby County Council Membership

The Memphis/Shelby County Children and Youth Council has 256 members representing Memphis and Shelby County.

Memphis/Shelby County Council Officers

President

Leigh Ann Jordan, Victims Assistance Center

President-Elect

Mona Winfrey, LeBonheur Healthy Families

Secretary/Treasurer

Sheronda Smith, Porter Leath Children's Center

Memphis/Shelby County Council Committees And Chairs

Prevention Committee

Diana Bedwell, Porter Leath Children's Center

Executive Committee

Leigh Ann Jordan, Victims Assistance Center

Youth and Juvenile Justice Issues

Karen Lewis, Porter Leath Children's Center

Legislative Committee

Bobbie Thompson, Department of Human Services

Memphis/Shelby County Council Meetings And Topics

August 26, 1998

Volunteerism and Delinquency Prevention

November 24, 1998

TennCare, EPSDT, and the Consent Decree

February 24, 1999

Educational Initiatives in Memphis City Schools

May 26, 1999

Making Schools and the Internet Safe for Children

Memphis/Shelby County Council Special Events

December 2, 1998

Annual Legislative Reception and Christmas Party

January 29, 1999

Prevention Workshop - "Improving Behavior Through Choices"

March 2, 1999

TCCY Grant Writing Training

March 16, 1999

Children's Advocacy Day

March 25, 1999

Annual Spring Conference - "Taking Youth and Their Families to the New Millennium"

May 13, 1999

Tennessee Juvenile Court Service Association Mini-Conference

May 28, 1999

Second Annual Graduating Teen Luncheon



INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Kids Count Project Publications

The Tennessee Kids Count Project is part of a national effort to track the status of children throughout the United States. Kids Count seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussions of ways to secure better futures for all children by providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being. The KIDS COUNT publications released in fiscal year 1998-99 were: *The State of the Child in Tennessee*, the national *Kids Count Data Book*, and *When Teens Have Sex*.

Kids Count: The State of the Child in Tennessee

At the state level, the principal activity of the Tennessee Kids Count Project is the publication and dissemination of the annual *Kids Count: The State of the Child in Tennessee*. The resource book uses the best available data to measure the physical, educational, social, and economic well-being of children in the state. The report also fulfills TCCY's mandate according to Tennessee Code Annotated 37-3-103 (a)(1)(F) to annually publish "a comprehensive report on the status of children and youth in Tennessee."

This 91-page report published in fiscal year 1998-99, presented data on 25 statistical indicators on the well-being of Tennessee's children from birth to age 18. The report also included narrative on national trends for comparison to give a theoretical framework for statistics. These 25 indicators are as follows:

- TennCare;
- prenatal care;
- Teen pregnancy;
- low-birth-weight babies;
- Infant mortality;
- Child death;
- Teen violent death;
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse;
- Child Care/Head Start
- School Safety;
- Education;
- Special Education;
- High School Dropouts;
- School Nutrition;
- Child Abuse;
- Juvenile Justice;
- State Custody;
- Income;
- Families First;
- Food Stamps;
- Labor;
- Housing;

- Single-Parent Families;
- Population.

The data sources for *The State of the Child in Tennessee* were the Tennessee departments of Employment Security; Human Services; Health; Education; Children's Services; TennCare Bureau; Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; Business and Economic Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University; Business and Economic Research Center, University of Tennessee; the Tennessee Housing Development agency and other state agencies; and various state and national reports.

Sixty-one graphics and 26 tables were used to illustrate the statistical information. A narrative for each indicator was also presented. *The State of the Child in Tennessee* was widely disseminated in Tennessee and, to a limited extent, nationally.

National Kids Count Data Book

At the national level, the principal activity of the Kids Count Project is the publication of the annual *Kids Count Data Book*, which uses the best available data to measure the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children. Each of the states and the District of Columbia are ranked on 10 indicators of child well-being. The Tennessee Kids Count Project works with the Casey Foundation and Podesta Associates, the Casey Foundation's public relations firm, to disseminate and publicize the findings of the Data Book. TCCY also distributed a national Kids Count program report on teen pregnancy.

The Advocate Newsletter

TCCY publishes *The Advocate*, a newsletter on children's issues, to inform children's advocates, children's service providers, legislators, policy makers, and regional council members about children's issues. During fiscal year 1998-99, TCCY produced and distributed nearly 5,000 copies of four issues of *The Advocate*.

The first 1998-99 issue of *The Advocate* was released in August 1998 and focused on the Governor's Prevention Initiative's Governor's Summit. The issue included information on the Search Institute and its list of protective assets needed for children to grow up successfully. It also included reports on the recently released *Kids Count: A Region-by-Region Look at the Status of Tennessee's Children* and on TCCY regional councils.

The November 1998 issue of *The Advocate* focused on school safety issues, including the work of the Tennessee House of Representatives' Ad Hoc Committee to Study School Safety; the newly released federal Annual Report on School Safety, 1998; national and state-level statistics; prevention efforts; and new state funding for schools.

Issues published in May and June summarized results from a survey of judges who preside over cases involving juveniles. Judges had responded to questions about truancy, child protective services and care of children in state custody, legal representation in juvenile court, and proposed changes in the state's juvenile code. The May issue also



INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

presented information on TCCY-implemented federal juvenile justice funding and the potential loss of funds because of violations of federal rules limiting the time status offenders can be institutionalized. The June issue included a report on *the Kids Count State of the Child* report.

The newsletters also included events of interest to child advocates and reports from TCCY's regional councils.

News Media Contacts

Tennessee Kids Count data were provided on the Internet during the fiscal year. The Tennessee Department of Health's HIT or Health Information Tennessee and SPOT or TnKids sites provided access to the *The State of the Child* 1996 database to Internet users. TCCY also made the information available on the agency's Web site (www.state.tn.us/tccy).

TCCY also improved its tracking and reporting on media coverage. Stories on the national *Kids Count Data Book* were broadcast on numerous radio and television stations across the state. More than 33 stories, including six editorials appeared in Tennessee newspapers in fiscal year 1997-98. Two editorial cartoons were documented as being published, including one that was syndicated across the state. Both large and small papers ran several-part articles on the reports expanding Kids Count coverage to days or weeks. Two newspapers also ran national columns based on information in the Kids Count publication. In addition, TCCY staff members reported being contacted by 26 representatives of the media, including nine people representing radio stations, eight television stations, seven newspapers, and two wire services or other group serving many outlets.

During the fiscal year 1998-99, the *1999 Kids Count: State of the Child in Tennessee*, which was released in late June was covered in 14 newspaper articles, including one editorial and one editorial cartoon. TCCY staff members were contacted by 31 representatives of the media, including people representing five radio stations, 10 television stations, 15 newspapers, and the Tennessee Radio Network that serves radio stations across the state. Also earlier this year, 30 newspaper articles, including one editorial, reported information from the Kids Count regional report.

In January 1999, the national Kids Count project produced a data book on teen pregnancy, which TCCY helped to promote. Eighteen articles were printed in newspapers as a result of TCCY activity, and TCCY staff members had 25 contacts with the media, including representatives of 14 radio stations, three television stations, and six newspapers and representatives of wire services and other media.

In addition to the Kids Count Project news coverage, other TCCY programs, events and staff members received coverage in 39 newspaper articles, including 11 articles about C-PORT and DCS issues, three on funding, one on DSO violations, 23 on TCCY meetings

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

and awards, and one on other issues. Staff members were interviewed by more than 24 members of the media, including representatives from four radio stations, seven television stations, 12 newspapers, and five other media.

One agency Web site included information about TCCY funding.

Web Site

During the 1998-99 year, the TCCY Web site was expanded as a vehicle to convey information. The Kids Count State of the Child was placed on the Web in a pdf file. The TCCY calendar of events and a listing of information sources on social service providers were also added to the site.

Juvenile Justice Publications

TCCY contracts with the Michie Company to publish *The Tennessee Compilation of Selected Laws on Children, Youth, and Families*. Nearly 2,000 copies were distributed to juvenile courts, state government staff, and other children's services professionals. Members of the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges have asked for annual updates of the compilation when financially possible. ■



OMBUDSMAN

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's Ombudsman for Children and Families serves as a neutral reviewer of questions and concerns regarding state child custody services. As a neutral reviewer, the Ombudsman is understood to be an advocate for the child, family, and service system when appropriate. It should be underscored that the Ombudsman will not mediate a dispute resolution that is contrary to the best interests of the child or is inconsistent with the law or state policy. Additionally, the Ombudsman cannot and will not:

- serve as an agent of law enforcement;
- find individual fault, act as an attorney;
- provide legal advice, or,
- in any way participate in a case that is imminently bound for court upon the petition of termination of parental rights, abuse, neglect, dependency, or child custody.

Any individual who has knowledge of a child or family who may be the recipient of state custody services may contact the Ombudsman program with his or her questions or concerns. To date, referrals have been received from representatives of the following:

- the departments of Children Services, Education, Health, and Mental Health and Mental Retardation;
- the governor's regional offices;
- juvenile court judges and staff; various Legal Services offices; private legal representatives;
- therapists and residential services providers;
- foster parents;
- biological and adoptive parents; family members;
- neighbors; and,
- child and family services ombudsmen from other states.

Upon initial contact, the Ombudsman will first determine if the referent has attempted to resolve his or her question or concern through normal administrative channels. The Ombudsman program is not designed or intended to supersede the existing complaint and grievance mechanisms established within the child and family services system. Referents who have not attempted to have their concerns answered in this manner are informed of the appropriate contacts for their specific issue. When referents have valid reasons to depart from normal administrative systems or have attempted these and been dissatisfied with the results, the Ombudsman may accept the referral.

During the data-gathering phase of the referral review, the Ombudsman initiates a series of structured interviews with individuals directly involved in the child's and family's custody case. These contacts may include the parent or parents, Department of Children's Services case manager or probation officer, Department of Children's Services field services management or central office staff, juvenile court staff, direct caregiver, residential provider, foster parent, therapist, counselor, Home Ties therapist, guardian ad litem, attorney, managed care organization (MCO) representative, behavioral health

organization (BHO) representative, private insurance representative, medical provider, teacher, school principal, school superintendent, relatives, and friends.

Preliminary contacts are used to:

- verify referral information specific to the child's custody status;
- the type and level of services provided; and,
- facts specific to the question or concern.

Following initial interviews, follow-up contacts are used on an ongoing basis to share information among parties involved in the case. The data-gathering phase of the referral process may require anywhere from two days to two weeks on any given case.

Through case-specific contacts, the validity of the question or concern is determined. Referrals determined to emerge from issues of a lack of information or misinformation concerning state custody services result in Ombudsman efforts to provide the referent with accurate and pertinent information. This information may be provided directly by the Ombudsman, when appropriate, or a topic-related expert, when available or necessary.

Referrals determined to emerge from issues related to the referent's concern about or mistrust of the information provided within the children's services system are responded to with a neutral explanation of policies and procedures by the Ombudsman.

Referrals that emerge from issues related to specific complicating factors resulting in obstacles to the agreed case outcome or the best interests of the child result in mediation facilitated by the Ombudsman. Building on a common goal - the best interests of the child - the Ombudsman facilitates communication between all parties involved in a problematic case. Mediation efforts lead to the re-staffing of the case to finalize the agreed-upon strategy for overcoming the obstacles in the case.

Upon resolution of the referral, the Ombudsman conducts periodic follow-up interviews with the parties involved. The intent of these follow-up contacts is to determine satisfaction with Ombudsman services, answer additional or remaining questions, and monitor adherence to agreed-upon strategies for problem resolution. In referrals where communication between consumer and provider was problematic, periodic Ombudsman re-involvement may be required to facilitate ongoing progress.

The TCCY Ombudsman office has created outreach opportunities with a wide range of Tennessee children's services stakeholders. Efforts have included addressing TCCY Regional Councils and child advocacy organizations at their statewide meetings and conferences. Of particular importance have been meetings and joint training opportunities with the departments of Children's Services, Education, Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and Health, and the Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. TCCY printed two informational brochures featuring the rights of dependent children in state custody and information about the Ombudsman program.



OMBUDSMAN

In 1998-99, the TCCY Ombudsman office was expanded to include one additional ombudsman.

The TCCY Ombudsman is a voting member of the United States Ombudsman Association and is a founding member of that organization's children's Ombudsman chapter. The Ombudsman is trained in civil and family law mediation.

The Ombudsman For Tennessee's Children and Families

Fiscal Year 1998-99

Referral Source	Referrals	Non-Referrals*	Information	Total
Immediate Family	50	4	22	76
Extended Family	9	-	3	12
Foster Family	12	-	-	12
State/Government	8	2	6	16
Advocate	8	1	3	12
Community	-	2	6	8
Court	2	-	1	3
School	-	-	1	1
Therapist	5	-	2	7
Total	94	9	44	147

Contacts Per Case	Referrals	Non-Referrals	Information	Total
Total	702	54	167	923
Average	7	6	4	
Range	1 – 49	1 – 13	1 – 37	

Referral Outcomes	Active Cases	Closed Cases	Total
Total	84	10	94

*The category Non-Referrals refers to cases for which custodial status either cannot be determined or is in a state of transition. ■

TEEN PREGNANCY

In 1988, Public Chapter No. 874 established the annual designation of model community-based programs that are “worthy of emulation” with respect to one or more of the following services for teens: family life education, prevention of teen pregnancy, counseling services for teens who are or think they are pregnant, prenatal care, parenting skills education, job training and placement, or education and support services.

Model programs were jointly designated by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth and the state departments of Education, Health, Human Services, Labor, and Youth Development and recognized by a special legislative committee chaired by Representative Lois DeBerry.

In fiscal year 1991-92 the statutory authorization for designating Model Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Teen Parenting Programs (Tennessee Code Annotated 37-3-111) expired. Under separate statutory authority through the appropriations bills, small one-time grants of up to \$6,000 each continued to be available to community-based programs to replicate the model programs or add components of the models to existing programs. TCCY coordinates the application and the interdepartmental review process for selection of Model Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Teen Parenting replication programs. An Interdepartmental Committee with representatives from the TCCY and the state departments of Children’s Services, Education, Health, Human Services, and Labor selects the replication grantees each year.

The following programs have been designated as “Model Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Teen Parenting Programs” in Tennessee:

- Athens Junior High School Family Life Education, Athens;
- Baby Boosters, Nashville;
- Bristol City Schools/Sullivan County Health Department Family Life Education, Bristol;
- Cannon County Child Protection Council, Woodbury;
- Chattanooga Adolescent Awareness Team (CHATT), Chattanooga;
- Crittenton Awareness Team, Nashville;
- Crittenton Services School-Based Counseling Program, Nashville;
- I Have a Future Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program, Nashville;
- Johnson City Schools Family Life Education Program, Johnson City;
- Kingsport City Schools Family Life Curriculum, Blountville;
- Male Connection, Memphis;
- Memphis City Schools Collaborative Care Project, Memphis;
- Mother Love, Memphis;
- Networking for Children and Families, Newport;
- PG-13 Players, Nashville;
- Project Responsible Adult Parenting (RAP), Memphis;
- Rule High School Preschool and Parenting Learning Center, Knoxville;
- Sunrise Program, Memphis;
- Teens Caring for Teens Team (TACT Team), Ripley;
- Tender Loving Care (TLC) Program, Chattanooga;



TEEN PREGNANCY

- Washington County Schools Pregnancy Prevention Program, Jonesborough;
- Young Adult Parenting Program, Kingston; and,
- Young Moms Program, Johnson City.

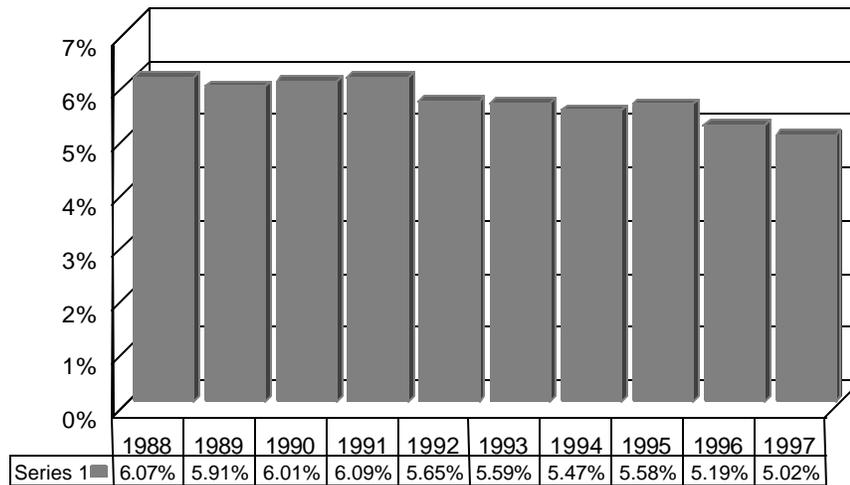
In fiscal year 1998-99, 32 applications were received, and 14 were funded for replication of model programs. A list of the recipients of the competitive grants follows:

- Henry-Carroll County Medical Society Alliance, Paris;
- Refuge Temple Church, Dyersburg;
- Dr. Robert Thomas Foundation, Sevierville;
- Women's Wellness and Maternity Center, Inc., Madisonville;
- Rural Cumberland Resources, Crossville;
- Grundy County High School, Coalmont;
- Child and Family, Inc., Knoxville;
- Moccasin Bend Girl Scout Council, Inc., Chattanooga;
- Jackson-Madison County Health Department, Jackson;
- Anderson County Health Council, Clinton;
- Metropolitan Nashville Public School, Nashville;
- Florence Crittenton Agency, Knoxville;
- Metro Richland Village, Nashville; and
- Porter-Leath Children's Center, Memphis.

The teen pregnancy rate has declined since reaching its highest level in 1991. The Model Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Teen Parenting Programs and replications, the Adolescent Pregnancy Initiative, implementation of the family life curriculum, and improvements in education regarding AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases are factors thought to have contributed to an end to continually rising rates. ■

Tennessee Teen Pregnancy Rate

Percent of All Tennessee Girls, Ages 15-17



Source: Office of Health Statistics and Information, Tennessee Department of Health

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states:

“No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” (Public Law 88-352, Title VI, § 601, July 2, 1964, 78 Stat. 252.)

As an administrator and recipient of Federal funds, it is the intent of TCCY to bind all agencies, organizations, or governmental units operating under its jurisdiction and control or receiving its funding to fully comply with and abide by the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

From July 1, 1997, to June 30, 1998, there were no complaints reported to the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth regarding discrimination on the grounds laid out in Title VI.

Specific Title VI related activities during fiscal year 1997-98 included the following:

- The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth continued to administer the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act federal formula grant and Title V prevention funds in Tennessee.
- The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth submitted its annual Title VI Plan before the required deadline of June 30, 1998. In compliance with the previous suggestion, the 1998 Title VI Plan included a letter from a minority person verifying review of the plan.
- The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth had no Title VI complaints.
- The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth included information about Title VI requirements in Grant Writing Training for prospective grantees in March 1998. This training was provided in six locations across the state (Nashville, Memphis, Knoxville, Cookeville, Johnson City, and Jackson, plus a second time in Nashville). The grant application packet for the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth includes Title VI requirements.
- The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth had training in August 1998 in each of the Grand Divisions for new grantees with projects beginning October 1, 1998. Title VI requirements were reviewed in that training.
- Additional Title VI activities included distribution of a Title VI brochure and poster. ■■