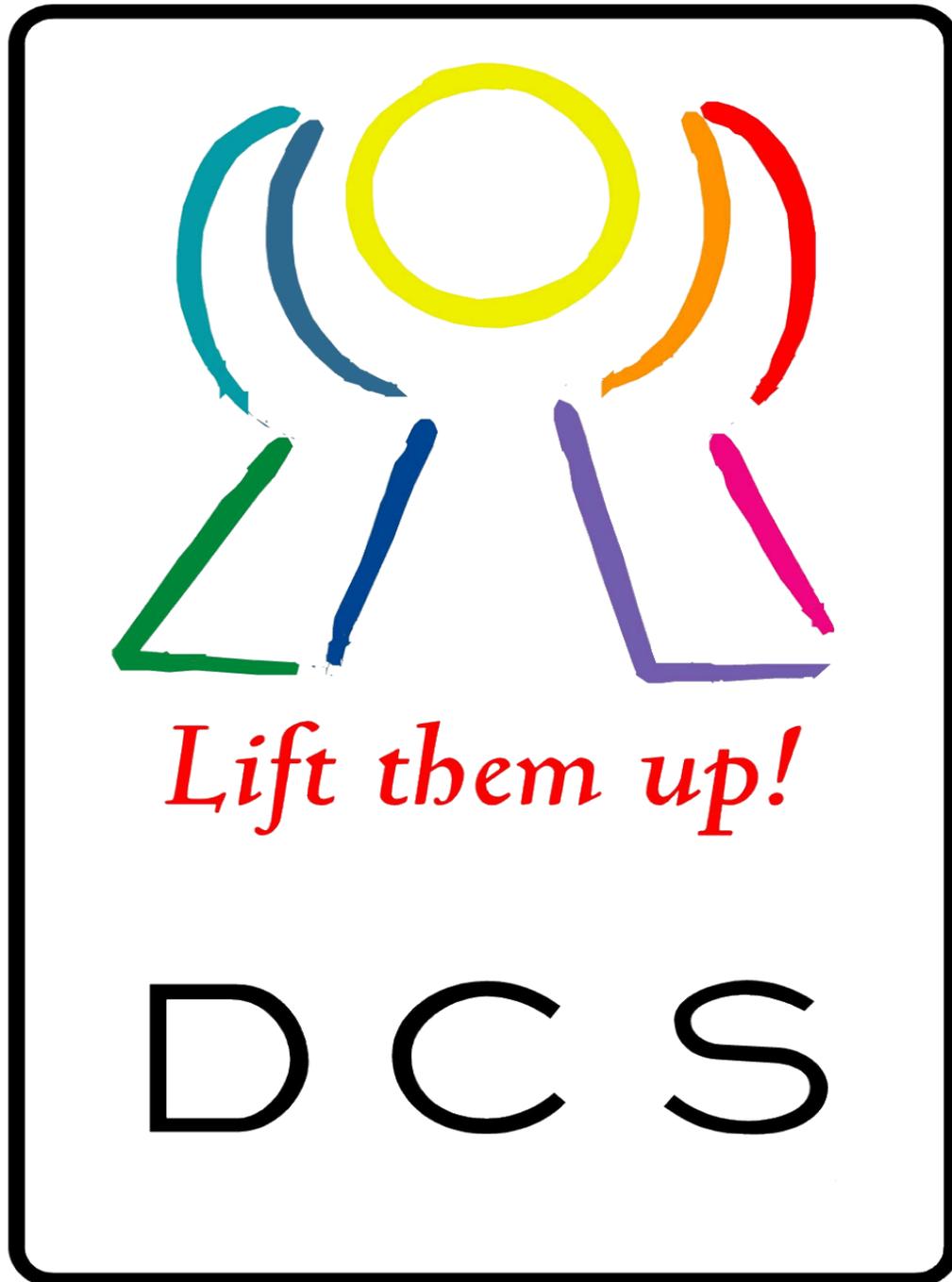


Tennessee Department of Children's Services



Annual Report
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

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STATE OF TENNESSEE

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Bill Haslam
Governor

Kathryn R. O'Day
Commissioner

January 2013

The Department of Children's Services (DCS) has achieved important accomplishments of note in fiscal year 2012. We were #1 in the nation in time to adoption, meaning children available for adoption in Tennessee are finding homes faster than children in any other state. In fiscal year 2012, DCS helped 809 children achieve adoption, up from 761 in fiscal year 2011. The department also led the nation in finding permanency for children who are in foster care for more than 24 months.

One of our most exciting pursuits this year was assisting in passing the Extension of Foster Care legislation which allows foster children to remain in care up to age 21 with continued education and permanency planning. In conjunction, DCS implemented new, more focused Extension of Foster Care program guidelines which were approved by the federal government, making Tennessee one of the first 18 states to gain approval.

DCS increased the number of youth who accepted Extension of Foster Care services from 20 percent in fiscal year 2011 to 26.2 percent in fiscal year 2012. The program helped more than 280 young adults with their secondary and post-secondary educations in the fall of 2012.

The department heard from more than 4,000 staff and stakeholders, who gave us feedback about our work through the Top to Bottom Review in 2011. There were some very important messages to us in those conversations, and we've been working this year to address those issues in a systematic way. We established four key priorities for our work, including: fostering partnerships; child safety, permanency and well being; customer service; and a high-performing workforce.

In Fiscal Year 2012, the department also began its path toward achieving a national Baldrige Award by garnering an Interest Level Recognition Award from the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence.

I know the department has many challenges ahead, but we have also had many important achievements over the past year. I believe with continued partnership, we can further improve Tennessee's child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

We hope you find this annual report to be a helpful resource in understanding the department and our work. If you have questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kathryn O'Day

Vision and Values

Vision

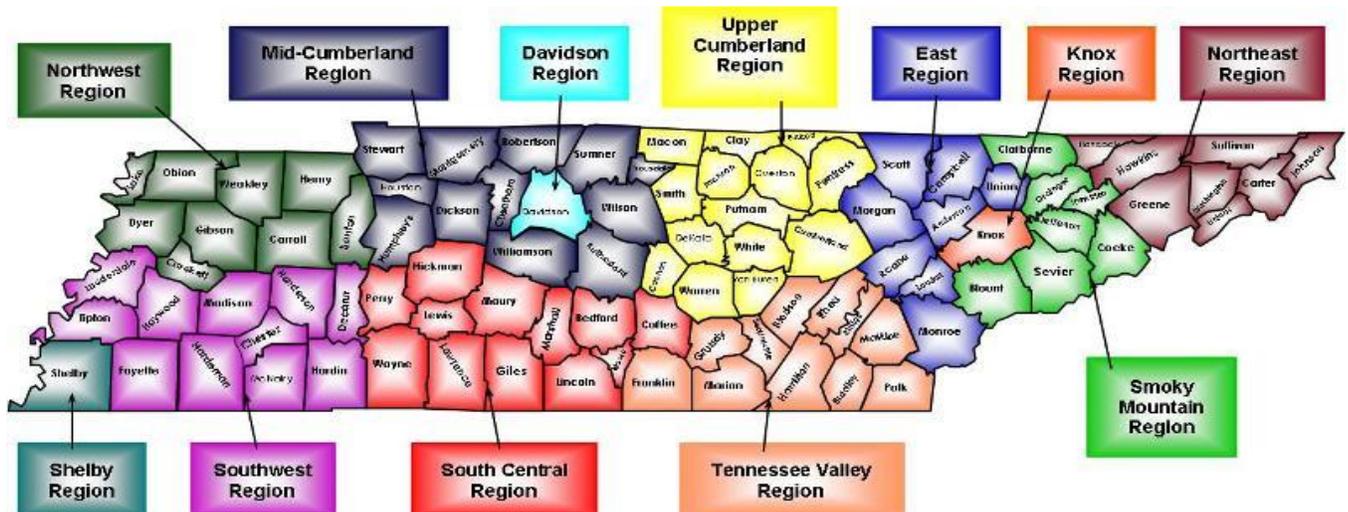
Tennessee's children thrive in healthy, safe and stable families. Families thrive in healthy, safe and strong communities.

Tennessee's citizens benefit from the best child welfare and juvenile justice agency in the country.

Mission

Fostering partnerships to protect children, develop youth, strengthen families and build safe communities.

DCS Regional Map



Introduction

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS, the agency or the department) is mandated by TCA 37-2-411 and 37-5-105 to produce an annual report each year. This report is being submitted to comply with that requirement, share the agency's vision and mission and provide a basic overview of the department. DCS continues to face challenges with its Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and is still unable to produce some of the data required by the statutes. Additionally, the mandates were written prior to our family-centered case practice, a shift from our previous child specific practice. Reporting features in the Tennessee Family and Child Tracking System (TFACTS) are frequently updated, however, its full capacity

remains to be developed. The data in this report represents point in time information on activity which occurred from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012.

DCS Program Overviews

The department's primary objective is to protect children from abuse and neglect. The Office of Child Welfare performs this assignment. Child Protective Service (CPS) staff investigate reports of abuse and neglect and work with families to resolve issues that may threaten the safety or well being of children. DCS also will maintain children in their own homes whenever safe and appropriate. Children who cannot safely remain in their homes are served by the Division of Foster Care and Adoption. DCS works with families and other relevant parties to achieve permanency and stability in the child's living situation. If it is determined that a child cannot safely return home, the department strives to provide a nurturing permanent home through placement with relatives, kin or adoption. The Office of Child Welfare is also responsible for ensuring the well being of all children under its supervision and does that job through the Division of Well Being. The Well Being Division includes health and education services as well as independent and transitional living services to prepare young people for adulthood. Independent and transitional living services offer important opportunities that expand the competencies, resiliency and self-confidence of youth transitioning from foster care. If a teen has not achieved reunification, he/she may choose to extend their education, physical health, mental health, employment, housing and personal support services with DCS as they enter the adult world. DCS seeks to help these young adults if they leave custody with no safe, reliable or stable family connections.

The Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) was created during the 2006 legislative session to coordinate statewide services to youth adjudicated delinquent and their families. The division's programs consist of custody, probation and aftercare services which, include out-of-home placement; clinical; medical and well being services; supervision and monitoring; family engagement; and resource linkage. Male custodial youth with more serious delinquent offenses are served through one of three Youth Development Centers (YDC), while female custodial youth with similar offenses are served under a contract with a private provider at the G4S Academy for young women. In the past, some of these delinquent youth might also have been served in a state owned and operated community residential center; however, these facilities were phased out during this fiscal year. Currently, any custodial delinquent youth who can be served in the community is placed in a resource home or are served by a contracted private provider.

The Office of the General Counsel is located in Central Office and has staff in field offices across the state. These attorneys provide legal advice and counsel to the Commissioner and the department's employees. An Administrative Procedures Division is responsible for all hearings and appeals or contested departmental cases under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. The lead Administrative Procedures attorney may also sit as the Commissioner's designee in employee grievance hearings governed by the Rules and Regulations of the Tennessee Department of Human Resources.

The Communications Office serves as the public face of the Department of Children's Services. The Communications Office is the first place that the press, researchers, and the public turn to find information and answers. The Legislative and Constituent Services Unit (LCS) is a part of the office which serves as a customer service unit accepting and responding to complaints and concerns on both public and private issues. The goal of LCS is to judiciously respond to executive and legislative inquires. The LCS Unit conducts investigative research and serves as an internal/external liaison and agency representative. The LCS Unit also works diligently with DCS regional and Central Office staff to respond to inquiries. The purpose of the Legislative and Constituent Services Unit is to review and respond to concerns of and/or inquiries by clients,

parents, foster and adoptive parents, advocates, legislators, and other concerned citizens regarding all areas within DCS, such as child protective services, foster care, adoption, agency programs, DCS policies and procedures, and service delivery. The LCS Unit provides objective and neutral analysis of data, while maintaining confidentiality and working cooperatively with others. The LCS Unit is focused on providing timely, thorough, and accurate responses to inquiries and complaints that come to the department.

The DCS Office of Inspector General (OIG) is currently responsible for conducting agency audits, monitoring for management, and ensuring compliance with state and federal policy. The OIG also conducts investigations of public complaints and allegations of employee misconduct by malfeasance, misfeasance and fraud. The divisions within this office perform specialized functions in accordance with their areas of expertise. These units are Internal Audit (IA), Internal Affairs (IAD), Quality Service Review (QSR) and Policy and Planning. The OIG also maintains a direct connection with the National Crime Information Center for criminal background investigations surrounding the emergency placement of children. Additionally, an Absconder Recovery Program aids in the prevention, location and apprehension of custody children who runaway from custodial placements. The Divisions of Human Resources, Training and Diversity Initiatives are a part of this office each with a responsibility to all departmental staff. The divisions must provide support services in the areas of training and development, human resource development, data and program support. Overall, the Office of Inspector General provides the fail-safe to assure that employees have the tools needed to deliver high quality services.

Placement and Service Costs

In providing protection and permanence for children, one of the greatest costs the department carries is the cost of room and board for children in care. The state shoulders all the cost of its Youth Development Centers (YDCs) and until the end of this fiscal year, group homes. A portion of the cost of DCS foster home care and contract foster care placements is reimbursed by the federal government when the children and the placement meet predetermined eligibility criteria. This fiscal year brought an end to state run group homes. Children who had been served in those facilities are now served through contract placements, thus minimizing the state cost burden for custodial care. The table below outlines the amount of state and federal money that was used to pay for foster care maintenance payments, group homes and YDCs. The chart also shows the amount of money DCS spent to fund services to custodial children and their families.

Table 1: Placement and Service Costs – FY'11/'12 Source: Fiscal Database

Program	Total by Program	Federal	Other *	State
DCS Foster Care Homes	24,273,000	8,518,700	3,104,500	12,649,800
Contracted Residential Services	179,772,700	14,472,300	112,915,100	52,385,300
Custodial Support Services to Children/Families	14,854,200	4,412,200	22,600	10,419,400
Independent Living Services	3,777,300	1,698,400	5,700	2,073,200
Total Custodial Services	222,677,200	29,101,600	116,047,900	77,527,700

Program	Total by Program	Federal	Other *	State
Youth Development Centers	48,505,000	1,490,900	947,000	46,067,100
Total Juvenile Justice Services	48,505,000	1,490,900	947,000	46,067,100
Total Custodial and Juvenile Justice	271,182,200	30,592,500	116,994,900	123,594,800

* The "Other" funding category includes TennCare, Education, and Child Support. No local funds are used.

To prevent child abuse and entry into DCS custody, DCS Case Managers help families identify their needs and then determine the resources available to meet the needs. Some of the preventive services provided to families are: home visitation, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, respite care, provision of concrete needs (such as food, shelter, clothing), and parenting classes. Many of the Exchange Club Family Centers (Memphis, West Tennessee, Nashville, Livingston, Rutherford County) provide Parent Education, as do Child and Family in Knoxville, the Behavioral Research Institute in Cleveland, and Frontier Health in Johnson City. The Exchange Clubs, Catholic Charities, LeBonheur Hospital and Nurses for Newborns provide home visiting. Local mental health agencies provide counseling; Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) provide counseling for sexual abuse victims and non-offender counseling to the parents.

Custodial Placement Data

Unfortunately, even with these efforts, there are still children who cannot remain safe in their home and must come into state custody. As of June 30, 2012, there were 8,323 children in DCS custody. The figure below shows the regional assignment of those children. There are also tables providing information about the length of stay for children and the placement levels and types for children in DCS custody.

Figure 1: Number of Children in DCS Custody by Region – FY '11/'12 Source: TFACTS

TFACTS is a "live" system that receives continuous updates; therefore results may vary based on when data are collected.

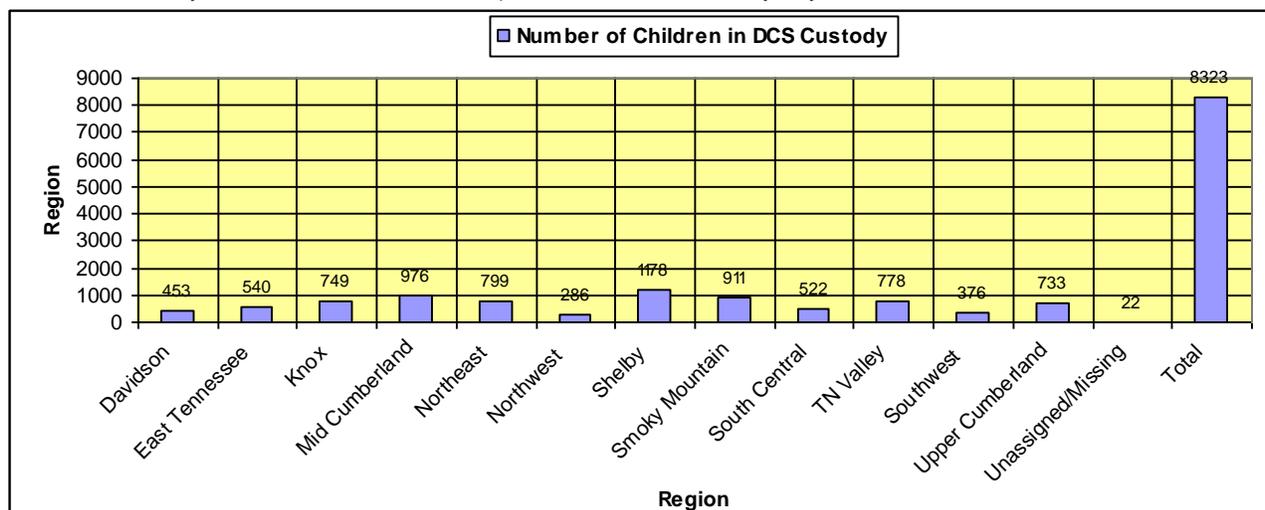


Table 2: Length of Stay by Region – FY ‘11/’12 Source: TFACTS

TFACTS is a “live” system that receives continuous updates; therefore results may vary based on when data is collected.

Responsible Region	Median Length of Stay in Months for Children Exiting Care in FY 2011-2012	Median Length of Stay in Months for Children Remaining in Care on June 30, 2012
Davidson	9.8	13.0
East Tennessee	8.7	13.9
TN Valley (Hamilton)	11.6	13.5
Knox	12.9	12.6
Mid Cumberland	9.6	11.9
Northeast	7.8	14.4
Northwest	9.6	10.7
Shelby	8.7	13.6
Smoky Mountain	11	12.7
South Central	8.9	13.2
TN Valley (Southeast)	8.5	13.9
Southwest	10	14.8
Upper Cumberland	10.2	12.3
Statewide	9.4	12.9

Figure 2: Number of Children with More than One Placement as of 6/30/12 Source: TFACTS

TFACTS is a “live” system that receives continuous updates; therefore results may vary based on when data are collected.

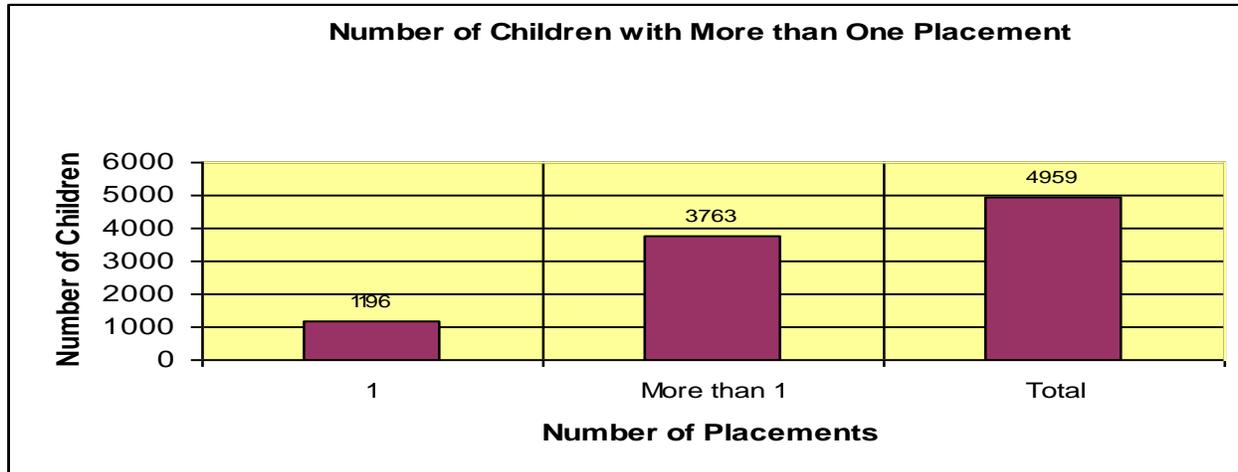


Table 3: Number of Children by Placement Level/Type and Region as of 6/30/12 Source: TFACTS

TFACTS is a “live” system that receives continuous updates; therefore results may vary based on when data are collected.

Location	Placement Level/Type	Number of Children
Davidson	Contract Foster Care	56
Davidson	DCS Foster Care	80
Davidson	Detention/Jail Placement	8
Davidson	Level 2	14
Davidson	Level 3	48

Location	Placement Level/Type	Number of Children
Davidson	Level 4	3
Davidson	Medically Fragile foster home	3
Davidson	Pre-adoptive Home	19
Davidson	Trial Home Visit	33
Davidson	Youth Development Center Placement	30
Total Davidson		294
East Tennessee	Contract Foster Care	55
East Tennessee	DCS Foster Care	194
East Tennessee	Detention/Jail Placement	3
East Tennessee	Level 2	15
East Tennessee	Level 3	38
East Tennessee	Level 4	4
East Tennessee	Medically Fragile foster home	5
East Tennessee	Pre-adoptive Home	31
East Tennessee	Runaway	5
East Tennessee	Youth Development Center Placement	9
Total East Tennessee		359
Knox	Contract Foster Care	178
Knox	DCS Foster Care	152
Knox	Level 2	13
Knox	Level 3	27
Knox	Level 4	7
Knox	Medically Fragile foster home	1
Knox	Pre-adoptive Home	29
Knox	Trial Home Visit	66
Knox	Youth Development Center Placement	8
Total Knox		481
Mid Cumberland	Contract Foster Care	229
Mid Cumberland	DCS Foster Care	164
Mid Cumberland	Detention/Jail Placement	6
Mid Cumberland	Level 2	19
Mid Cumberland	Level 3	51
Mid Cumberland	Level 4	5
Mid Cumberland	Medically Fragile foster home	3
Mid Cumberland	Pre-adoptive Home	25
Mid Cumberland	Trial Home Visit	90
Mid Cumberland	Youth Development Center Placement	20
Total Mid Cumberland		612
Northeast	Contract Foster Care	150
Northeast	DCS Foster Care	236
Northeast	Detention/Jail Placement	6
Northeast	Inpatient	2
Northeast	Level 2	12
Northeast	Level 3	33
Northeast	Level 4	9
Northeast	Medically Fragile foster home	2
Northeast	Pre-adoptive Home	17
Northeast	Trial Home Visit	57

Location	Placement Level/Type	Number of Children
Northeast	Youth Development Center Placement	16
Total Northeast		540
Northwest	Contract Foster Care	38
Northwest	DCS Foster Care	87
Northwest	Detention/Jail Placement	2
Northwest	Level 2	6
Northwest	Level 3	25
Northwest	Pre-adoptive Home	6
Northwest	Trial Home Visit	22
Northwest	Youth Development Center Placement	7
Total Northwest		193
Shelby	Contract Foster Care	300
Shelby	DCS Foster Care	179
Shelby	Detention/Jail Placement	21
Shelby	Inpatient	1
Shelby	Level 2	5
Shelby	Level 3	78
Shelby	Level 4	7
Shelby	Medically Fragile foster home	3
Shelby	Pre-adoptive Home	14
Shelby	Trial Home Visit	77
Shelby	Youth Development Center Placement	90
Total Shelby		775
Smoky Mountain	Contract Foster Care	247
Smoky Mountain	DCS Foster Care	221
Smoky Mountain	Detention/Jail Placement	2
Smoky Mountain	Level 2	21
Smoky Mountain	Level 3	39
Smoky Mountain	Level 4	10
Smoky Mountain	Medically Fragile foster home	8
Smoky Mountain	Pre-adoptive Home	36
Smoky Mountain	Trial Home Visit	88
Smoky Mountain	Youth Development Center Placement	15
Total Smoky Mountain		687
South Central	Contract Foster Care	95
South Central	DCS Foster Care	163
South Central	Detention/Jail Placement	5
South Central	Independent Living Placement	1
South Central	Inpatient	1
South Central	Level 2	20
South Central	Level 3	23
South Central	Level 4	3
South Central	Medically Fragile foster home	2
South Central	Pre-adoptive Home	22
South Central	Trial Home Visit	41
South Central	Youth Development Center Placement	13
Total South Central		388
TN Valley	Contract Foster Care	189

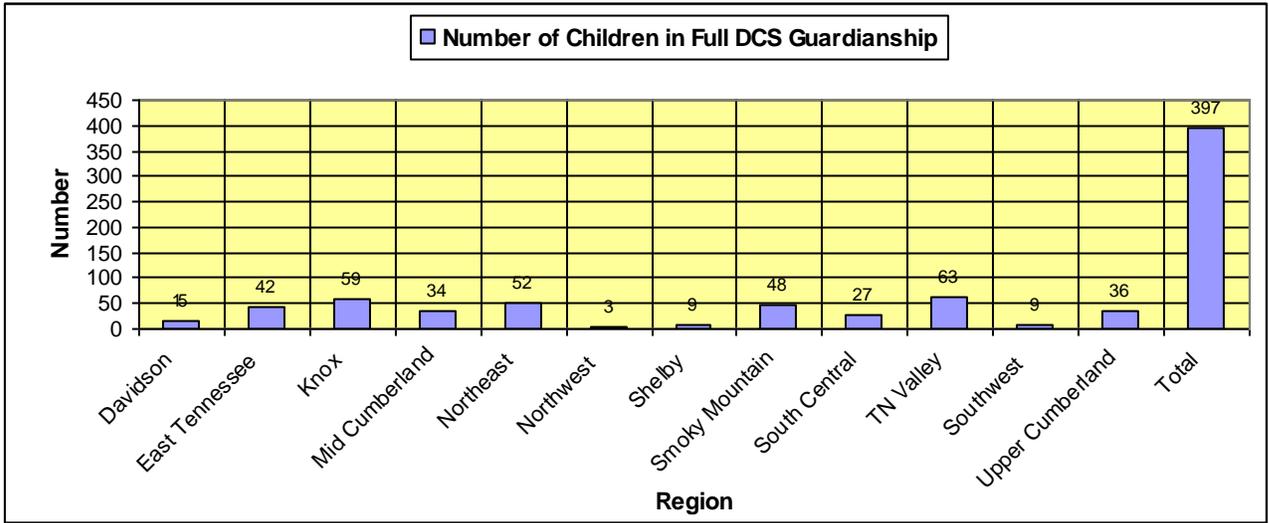
Location	Placement Level/Type	Number of Children
TN Valley	DCS Foster Care	181
TN Valley	Detention/Jail Placement	10
TN Valley	Inpatient	1
TN Valley	Level 2	21
TN Valley	Level 3	31
TN Valley	Level 4	13
TN Valley	Medically Fragile foster home	7
TN Valley	Pre-adoptive Home	26
TN Valley	Trial Home Visit	44
TN Valley	Youth Development Center Placement	35
TN Valley		558
Southwest	Contract Foster Care	46
Southwest	DCS Foster Care	94
Southwest	Detention/Jail Placement	4
Southwest	Level 2	9
Southwest	Level 3	32
Southwest	Level 4	1
Southwest	Medically Fragile foster home	1
Southwest	Pre-adoptive Home	11
Southwest	Trial Home Visit	37
Southwest	Youth Development Center Placement	10
Total Southwest		245
Upper Cumberland	Contract Foster Care	93
Upper Cumberland	DCS Foster Care	212
Upper Cumberland	Detention/Jail Placement	1
Upper Cumberland	Level 2	31
Upper Cumberland	Level 3	46
Upper Cumberland	Level 4	5
Upper Cumberland	Medically Fragile foster home	1
Upper Cumberland	Pre-adoptive Home	23
Upper Cumberland	Trial Home Visit	57
Upper Cumberland	Youth Development Center Placement	12
Total Upper Cumberland		481
Statewide Grand Total		8117

Permanency Data

The majority of children in DCS full guardianship have either a dual or sole goal of adoption identified in their current permanency plan. DCS reviews this population monthly. There were a total of 397 children in full DCS guardianship this fiscal year and 127 children were adopted. Two-hundred-thirty-one children of these children left care through permanent guardianship. Fifty-nine (59) children had a sole permanency goal of PPLA.

Figure 3: Number of Children in Full DCS Guardianship FY '11/'12 Source: TFACTS

TFACTS is a "live" system that receives continuous updates; therefore results may vary based on when data are collected.



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For children/youth in guardianship, the agency tracks whether the child has an adoptive family identified or anticipated. If children do not have families identified, assessments occur that include the child's desire for adoption, further attempts to identify relatives through public records searches and the exploration of prospective adoptive families. Through these sets of work, permanency goals other than adoption may evolve. The following figures show the number of children who exited custody through adoption or permanent guardianship.

Figure 4: Number of Children in Full DCS Guardianship who were Adopted FY '11/'12 Source: TFACTS

TFACTS is a "live" system that receives continuous updates; therefore results may vary based on when data are collected.

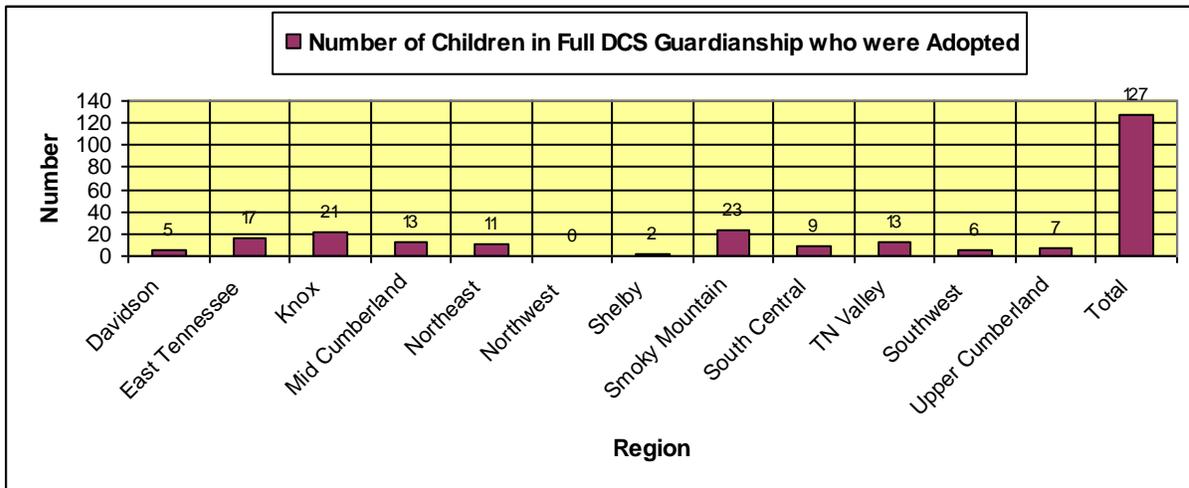
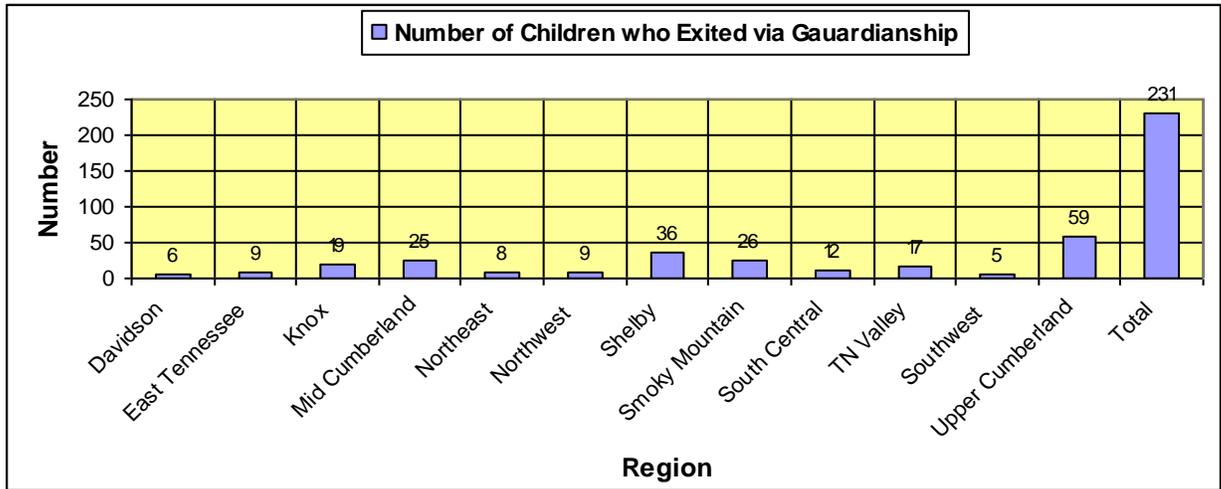


Figure 5: Number of Children who Left DCS Custody via Permanent Guardianship FY'11/'12
 Source: TFACTS

TFACTS is a "live" system that receives continuous updates; therefore results may vary based on when data are collected.



Caseload Information

The Foster Care program is governed by best practice caseload standards as articulated by the Council on Accreditation (COA), the DCS accrediting agency, in accordance with FC Standard 19.06, Kinship Standard 16.06 and Adoption Standard 13.06. Additionally, the terms of a federal lawsuit settlement agreement dictate foster care caseload caps for the agency. Both the COA and the Settlement Agreement recognize that caseload sizes above the recognized standards/caps negatively impact staff’s ability to effectively serve children and families. An example would be the potential inability of an FSW to visit children/families frequently enough to impact timely permanency if caseload sizes were too large. Remaining within an established cap (20 maximum), enables agency staff to comply with best practice visitation standards.

There is some variation in caseload size because of court activity; moreover, staff turnover has an impact. DCS strives to maintain manageable caseload numbers. The TFACTS system allows managers to monitor caseload sizes. The typical custodial social service FSW carries a caseload of around 14. The juvenile justice FSW carries caseloads with custody and non custodial cases with an average of five custody cases. The non-custody cases are now counted as a family case and those caseload numbers average about 13. These numbers are average family case numbers and do not reflect the total number of unique children each worker must support. Currently the system does not distinguish between probation and social service non-custodial cases, nor will it allow DCS to monitor case transfer.

Service Assessment

The service array provided to families and children across the state may vary from region to region, but we have contracts available to support child needs and provide services to families across the state. The department contracts with thirty private provider agencies to provide custodial services to children who have been identified as needing a higher level of support and supervision than those being served in "traditional" foster care and most of these agencies offer a wide range of other contracted services. There are three primary ways that service effectiveness is measured and tracked:

1. Internal review – The department’s Program Accountability Review (PAR) process monitors provider contract compliance through on site reviews with a focus on the appropriateness and quality of services. The annual Quality Service Review (QSR) review of casework activity in each service region, utilizing qualitative outcome scores. The review scores furnish a baseline for regional practice improvements over the next year.
2. Monthly tracking of contract outcome expectation – DCS measures contractor performance each month measured by data reporting. For example, the department tracks adoption dissolutions within our Adoption Support and Preservation (ASAP) contract. The timeliness and quality of home studies and the number of foster family referrals and follow-up also is monitored. Through monthly report reviews and follow-up conversations with providers, we are able to ensure expectations are being met.
3. Regional/Central Office review of outcome data - Reports from Chapin-Hall, a research and policy center at the University of Chicago, and our SACWIS system allow us to track timeliness of permanency for children, the number of placement disruptions, timeliness to adoptions, and many other outcomes that can contribute to successful services provision.

Through the outlets described above, DCS can assess its ability to meet the needs of children/youth, the quality of services, and determine when other service needs arise.

Measuring the effectiveness of child and family in-home services has been challenging. There is no formal evaluation process for contracted or community-based resources that provides quality data to determine effectiveness. TN has partnered with the Atlantic Coast Child Welfare Implementation Center to develop a service array process that incorporates an evaluative component and contractual changes to individually meet the needs of the families and then to determine if services requested for a family were successful, thus resulting in a reduction of repeat maltreatment and custodial episodes. There are eight regions in various stages of this project to enhance the service array of in-home services. The project should be implemented statewide by the end of 2013.

The prevention and intervention programs implemented and monitored by the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) have proven quite effective. Four custody prevention programs established in Carroll, Montgomery, Tipton, and Rutherford counties provide education and day-treatment services for delinquent youth who have been referred by the local juvenile courts. These specialized educational programs are approved by the Department of Education (DOE), and also offer a therapeutic component utilizing cognitive behavioral interventions. There are 12 other custody prevention and family intervention programs for delinquent youth that provide an array of services such as case management, individual and group counseling, probation, parenting classes, and other family services as deemed necessary. The division sponsors five truancy grant programs that are designed to decrease truancy and improve academic performance. These programs are monitored monthly by the division, using diversion as the measure of success. No youth served by these grant funded programs have entered state custody.

Community Intervention Services (CIS) programs provide community-based intervention, treatment, and intensive probation services. The youth placed in CIS programs are delinquent youth (felony offenders) who have violated county and/or state probation, and would be placed in DCS custody if these services were not available. DCS contracts with seven service providers that provide intensive probation, counseling, and other therapeutic services for these youth.

The Division of Juvenile Justice has also improved the quality of services provided to its custodial population this year within its compliance with T.C.A 37-5-121, which requires all programs related

to the prevention, treatment or care of juveniles adjudicated delinquent be evidence-based. Evidence-based programs are those that are governed by a manual or protocol that specifies the nature, quality and amount of service that constitutes the program; and, that scientific research, using at least two separate client samples, has demonstrated improvement in client outcomes. DCS' Youth Development Centers (YDCs) played an integral role complying with this fiscal year's statutory benchmark. Due to the hard and coordinated work of our YDC staff, our consulting team, and staff from the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare, the evidence-based program Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®) is now utilized in the youth development centers statewide.

Personnel Information

Basic qualifications for a DCS Case Manager 2, internally denoted as Family Service Worker (FSW), are as follows: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree and experience equivalent to one year of full-time professional work providing child welfare services, including, but not limited to, one or a combination of the following: social, psychological, or correctional counseling or case management; volunteer services coordination for a children's service program; and/or juvenile classification coordination.

There is also a training level in the case manager series where an individual with no experience can be hired as a DCS case manager 1 and serve a longer probationary period of one year to then qualify and promote automatically to a Case Manager 2. All FSWs have the same basic requirements, whether they serve social service foster care children, delinquent juvenile justice youth, or non-custodial child protective services cases. There are four levels in the DCS case manager series, CM 1 – CM 4. This series has a salary range from \$2,617 per month to \$3,794 per month, with the average salary being about \$3,120 per month. All caseload carrying staff must have 40 annual in-service training hours each year. There were 2,430 available FSW positions during FY2011-12, with 2,316 filled and 114 vacant.

The basic requirements for DCS attorneys are graduation from an accredited school of law and a passion to serve children. The basic qualification for a DCS paralegal is graduation from an accredited college, university, or professional school with one of the following: (1) an Associate's Degree in Paralegal or Legal Assistant Studies; (2) a Bachelor's Degree in Paralegal or Legal Assistant Studies; (3) a Paralegal Certificate; or (4) one year (28 semester hours) of graduate level law school. A paralegal may also be considered if he/she has a high school diploma and two years of full-time experience in researching legal issues and documenting findings to assist in building case files, settling legal disputes, and/or providing legal counsel to clients. There were 77 available DCS attorney positions during FY2011-12. All but 2 were filled. Of the 11 paralegal positions available, 10 were filled during the fiscal year.

Figure 6: Number of Family Service Workers (FSWs) as of 6/30/12 Source: DCS HR Database

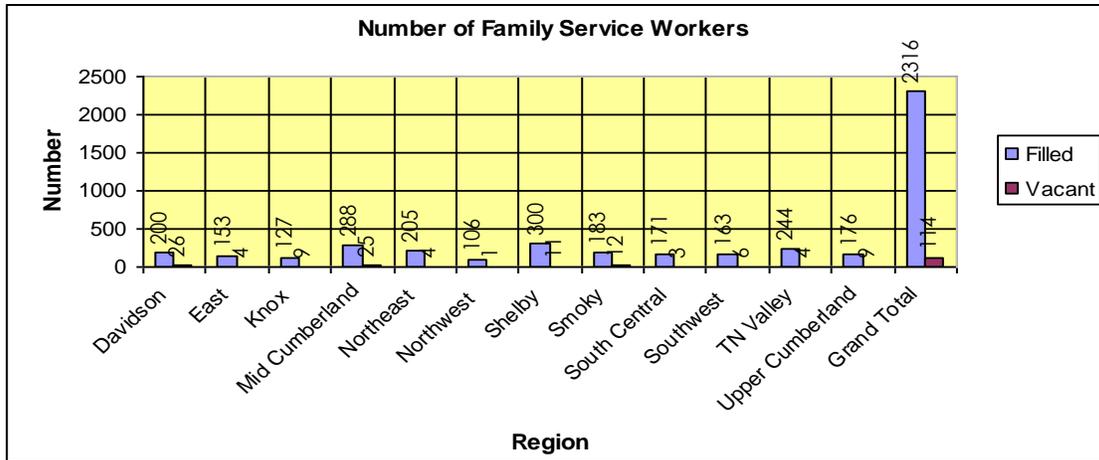


Figure 7: Number of DCS Attorney as of 6/30/12 Source: DCS HR Database

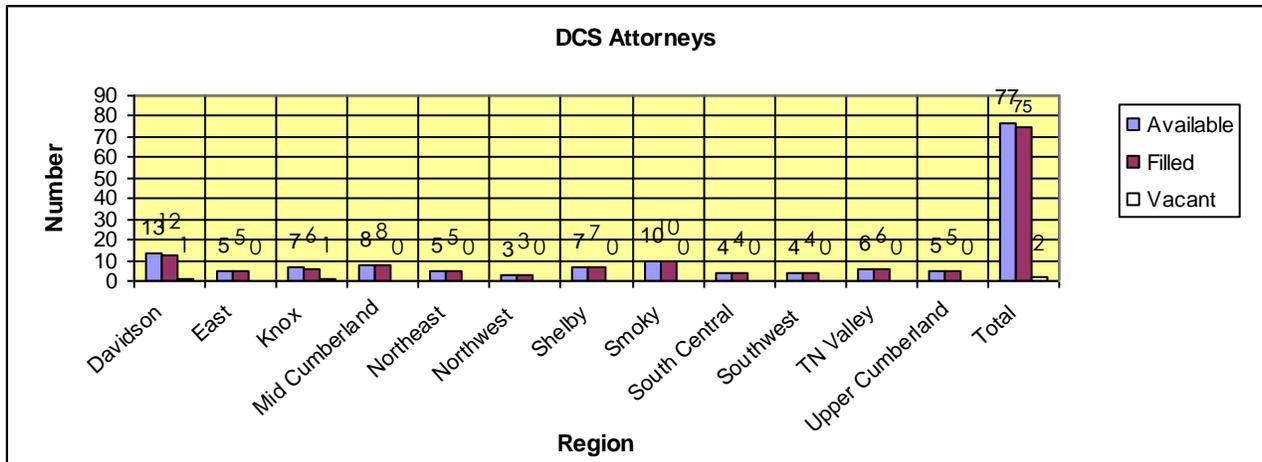
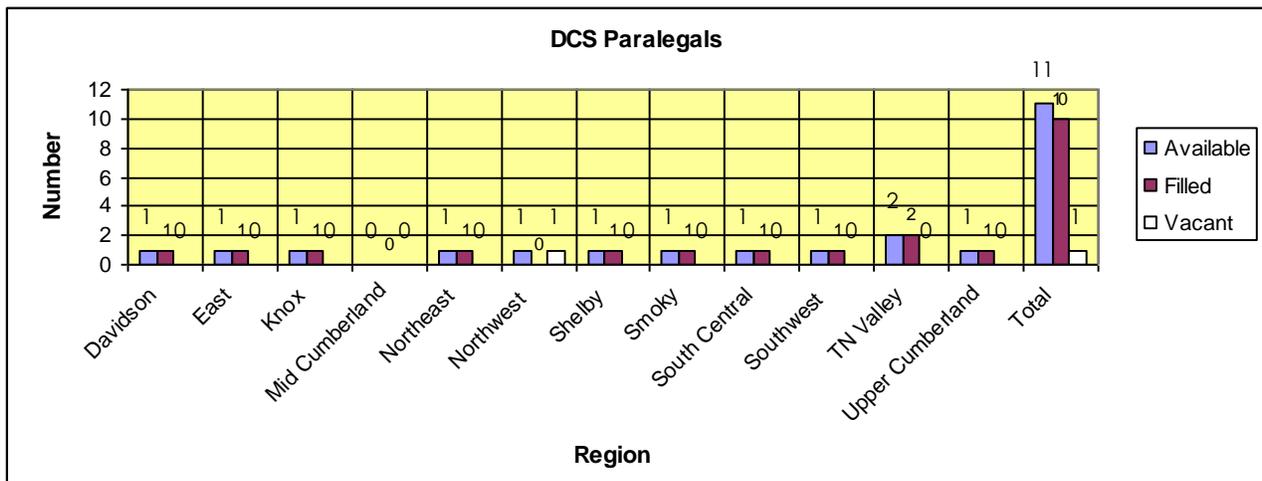


Figure 18: Number of DCS Paralegals as of 6/30/12 Source: DCS HR Database



This concludes the DCS FY 2011-12 annual report.



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
Division of Licensing

Annual Licensing Summary FY2012

The DCS Division of Licensing is a regulatory authority governed by statute and regulates all programs making application for licensure that fall within the purview of applicable state licensing statute and rules. The DCS Division of Licensing develops and promulgates applicable rules; issues conditional and annual licenses; reviews, investigates, documents and processes grievances and complaints, implements disciplinary actions; ensures compliance with applicable federal and/or state laws, regulations, and/or department rules, standards, and guidelines; reviews and makes recommendations on applicable legislation; coordinates annual adoption fees scheduling and compiles annual data on the activities of the entities it licenses.

The following information is based on annual self-reported data collected from all agencies licensed by the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS) during the 2012 fiscal year. Please note that this information is compiled for all reporting licensed agencies and is therefore not limited to those DCS-licensed agencies contracting with the department for residential and/or foster care.

Self-Reporting Summary

Private and public agencies licensed or approved by the Department of Children's Services providing residential childcare served **7,931** children during the 2012 fiscal year (July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012).

These agencies served a total of **7,212** children whose cases were subject to foster care review law. This included **6,513** cases subject to review through the Department of Children Services for those children residing in custodial foster care; and **699** children for whom the agencies themselves were responsible for foster care review.

The total number of children residing in programs licensed by the Tennessee Department of Children's Services on June 30, 2012 was **3,087**.

The number of children placed for adoption by the licensed private agencies or approved public agencies totaled **493**. Of this total:

126 were in the age range of infant to two years;

81 were in the range of 2 through 6 years;

286 were aged 7 or older