

## **Current Happenings with In Home TN in Knox**

### *Current Areas of Focus:*

The region is currently working on the priorities of Substance Abuse Services and Communication with Community Partners.

The **Substance Abuse workgroup** is working to increase collaboration with local hospitals to include ongoing partnerships with East Tennessee Children's Hospital, the University of TN Medical Center, Tennova Healthcare, Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center, and Parkwest Medical Center. In May 2014, Knox In Home Tennessee partnered with the East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Youth Villages, and the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) to create a specialized training for child welfare workers, hospital staff, and community members to provide education on the current trends, laws, and resources available for babies born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).

Most recently, this workgroup has partnered with the *Governor's Children's Cabinet* to pilot a process where multiple government divisions involved with a case collaborate to have more unified meetings with families, thus causing less disruption and stress to a family's daily life.

The region's work on **Communication with Community Partners** is demonstrated clearly through a quarterly stakeholder meeting called the "Integrated Community Agency Meeting." This group celebrated their two year anniversary in October 2014 and continues to grow and gain momentum with each meeting. Stakeholders discuss issues and barriers to providing effective services and are given time to present updates, new programs, and other information to one another at each meeting.

If you are interested in taking part of the collaborative effort, please contact Misty Miller at [Misty.Miller@tn.gov](mailto:Misty.Miller@tn.gov) or Lindsay Stone with Helen Ross McNabb at [Lindsay.Stone@mcnabb.org](mailto:Lindsay.Stone@mcnabb.org).

## **Up Next**

In July 2015, Knox will hold another large-scale community meeting to re-assess how well communities in the area are able to provide the services needed for vulnerable families and children. The information collected from community members will help guide decisions about the future work of In Home Tennessee in the area.

The regional leadership group, comprised of both DCS and community partners, will review the feedback and related data from the assessment meetings to decide on which (new) areas to create workgroups for quality improvement and potential creation of new resources for families.

## **Get Involved!**

Contact the Regional Project Lead, Amanda Jones at [Amanda.J.Jones@tn.gov](mailto:Amanda.J.Jones@tn.gov) to get involved with In Home Tennessee in Knox.

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