# Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

# Statewide Councils/Alliances

## Council on Children's Mental Health

Legislation passed in 2008 established the Council on Children’s Mental Health to design a plan for a statewide system of mental health care for children. The Council is a community of statewide stakeholders in children's mental health care that includes children, youth and families. The Council was created to develop a plan for a statewide system of care where children’s mental health services are child-centered, family-driven, culturally and linguistically competent, and provides a coordinated system of care for children’s mental health needs in the state. Other Council duties include stimulating more effective use of resources, assisting in developing interagency agreements, determining whether programs are evidence-based, research-based and theory-based and submitting those findings.

The Council is co-chaired by the commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the executive director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth.

Director: Melissa McGee

Melissa.McGee@tn.gov

## Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA)

The Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) includes leadership from home visiting programs, state departments and other stake holders from across the state. The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) has administrative responsibility for the HVLA through a grant agreement with the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH). HVLA is co-chaired by TDH and TCCY and meets quarterly. The first meeting was on January 13, 2016.

Also included in the grant agreement with TDH is exploration of results-based financing mechanisms and development of sustainability plan for evidence based home visiting programs in Tennessee, including Social Impact Bonds/Pay for Success models.

In Tennessee, there are currently three evidence-based home visiting program models receiving state and/or federal funding. They include Healthy Families America (Healthy Start), Nurse Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers. Two promising practices home visiting models, Maternal Infant Home Outreach Worker (MIHOW) and Nurses for Newborns, also currently receive funding in Tennessee.

Director: Sumita Keller

Sumita.Keller@tn.gov

## Youth Transitions Advisory Council

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC) was established by the Legislature to assist the Department of Children’s Services with developing extension of foster care services for youth in state custody who age out of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Extension of foster care services assists young people who age out of state custody in completing their high school diploma, GED or High School Equivalency Test, and post-secondary education. These young people are no longer in state custody, but voluntarily agree to remain under juvenile court supervision continuing to receive needed services from DCS, while completing their education

The executive director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth is the Chair of the Youth Transitions Advisory Council. All state departments providing services to youth and young adults participate. A broad array of private service providers, mental health advocates, and other community stakeholders also attend. The Youth Transitions Advisory Council meets 3 to 4 times per year.

Director: Steve Petty

Steve.Petty@tn.gov

## Early Childhood Well-Being/Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences/Building Strong Brains Tennessee

Goals:

* Increase the potential that every child born in Tennessee has the opportunity to lead a healthy, productive life.
* Raise public knowledge about ACEs.
* Impact public policy in Tennessee to support prevention of ACEs and to reduce community conditions that contribute to them.
* Support innovative local and state projects that offer fresh thinking and precise measurement of impact in addressing ACEs and toxic stress in children.
* Seek sustainable funding to ensure the state maintains a long-term commitment to reduce the impact of adverse childhood experiences.
* Embrace open, responsive governance through statewide planning groups and the Three Branches Institute , comprised of leadership from the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government, who were invited by the Governor to form a common agenda to advance child welfare and realign the juvenile justice system.

Director: Jennifer Drake Croft

Jenn.Croft@tn.gov

## Second Look Commission

Public Chapter 1060 of the Acts of 2010 creates the Tennessee Second Look Commission (SLC) to review an appropriate sampling of cases involving a second or subsequent incident of severe child abuse in order to provide recommendations and findings to the General Assembly regarding whether or not severe child abuse cases are handled in a manner that provides adequate protection to the children of this state.

The SLC Commission is comprised of a diverse group of professionals dedicated to improving the lives of our children. Its findings and recommendations shall address all stages of investigating and attempting to remedy severe child abuse, including but not limited to:

Director: Craig Hargrow, Esq.

Craig.Hargrow@tn.gov

And TCCY will soon house:

## Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council

## KidCentralTN.gov