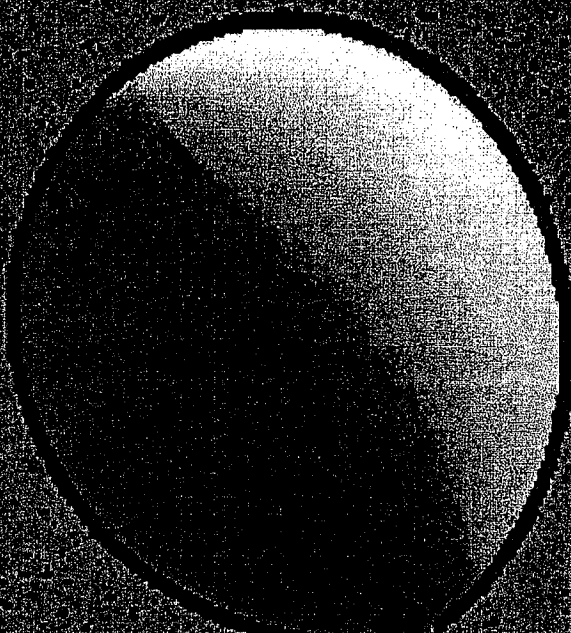


dream



Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's

20th Annual

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY DAYS

TODAY - TOMORROW - TENNESSEE

March 11-12, 2008
War Memorial Auditorium
Nashville, Tennessee

12/15/07
12/15/07
12/15/07
12/15/07



Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY DAYS 2008

Every four years America's political parties convene. They network, support each other, learn more about the world and about each other and work out a statement of beliefs and goals. They dream of the future they want. They also wear buttons and funny hats and chant and cheer and rev themselves up for the fight ahead. And, oh, they choose a presidential candidate to carry those goals and dreams.

Child Advocates have met every year for 20 years in Tennessee. Keeping with the current political spirit sweeping our country and state, Children's Advocacy Days 2008 will create the look and feel of a political convention with a focus on issues facing children and families. We network, support each other, and outfit ourselves to better advocate for children.

Children's Advocacy Days 2008 will provide a forum for those working with, and on behalf of, children and families across the state in order to gain new information and facilitate their efforts to improve the lives of children and families in their communities. The conference, through key speakers and networking, is intended to:

- Promote greater knowledge and understanding of current issues confronting children and their families in Tennessee.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to become more effective advocates for children both in the public policy arena and in their communities.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to interact with Tennessee legislators on critical children's issues.
- Provide an opportunity to hear perspectives on children's issues.

And this year we may even wear buttons and funny hats and chant and cheer.



SPEAKERS

Mary Louise Hemmeter, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University

Professor Hemmeter earned a Ph.D. in Education and Human Development/Special Education in 1991 from Vanderbilt University; a Master's in Early Childhood Special Education in 1987 from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University; and a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Special Education in 1984 from Auburn University. Before joining the faculty at Peabody in 2005, she was faculty at the University of Kentucky and the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. Professor Hemmeter is on the editorial boards of *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*, the *Journal of Early Intervention*, *Young Exceptional Children*, and the *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions*. She is also a member of numerous advisory committees including the Head Start Advisory Committee on Research and Evaluation (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), the Expert Advisor's Group for "Supporting Teachers, Strengthening Families" (National Association for the Education of Young Children), and the Advisory Committee for the Early Head Start/Hilton Special Quest Project. Professor Hemmeter is the Principal Investigator on three research projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, she directs the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Children's Defense Fund

The Children's Defense Fund's (CDF) Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. CDF provides a strong, effective voice for all the children of America who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves. They pay particular attention to the needs of poor and minority children and those with disabilities. CDF encourages preventive investment before children get sick or into trouble, drop out of school, or suffer family breakdown. CDF recently released a new report documenting America's Cradle to Prison Pipeline, an urgent national crisis at the intersection of poverty and race that puts Black boys at a one in three lifetime risk of going to jail, and Latino boys at a one in six lifetime risk of the same fate. Tens of thousands of children and teens are sucked into the Pipeline each year.

The report includes:

- An overview of the major factors behind the Pipeline through stories and statistics and longer term policy goals.
- Calls for the hard work and persistence needed to build a transforming movement to finish the work begun by the Civil Rights Movement and Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign to put the social and economic foundations beneath all children and families descriptions of some promising approaches to help keep children out of the Pipeline and research tables and state-by-state data of key child indicators



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Tuesday, March 11, 2008

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Registration

10:30 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Delegate Introductions

10:45 a.m.

Presentation of Awards

Jim Pryor Child Advocate of the Year
Youth Excellence Award
Making KIDS Count Media Awards

11:00 a.m.

Challenge to Participants

11:20 a.m.

Advocacy 101 and Legislative Update

11:30 a.m.

Legislative Pep Rally

11:45 a.m.

Luncheon and Advocacy Opportunities

Connect with your TCCY Regional Council and visit Legislators
Guided tours of the Tennessee State Capitol
Visit co-sponsor booths
Network with children's advocates from across the state

1:00 p.m.

State Child-Serving Department Updates - Invited

Commissioner Viola Miller - Department of Children's Services
Commissioner Virginia Lodge - Department of Human Services
Commissioner Susan Cooper - Department of Health
Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts - Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
Deputy Commissioner Tim Webb - Department of Education
Bobbi Lussier, Office of Early Learning, Department of Education
Deputy Commissioner Tom Catron, Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination
Sterling Van Der Spuy - Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Wanda Willis - Tennessee Developmental Disabilities Council
Cindy Perry - Select Committee on Children and Youth
Dr. Gary Nixson - State Board of Education

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Lobby of the War Memorial Auditorium
301 6th Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee

OPEN TO ALL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS



Wednesday, March 12, 2008

7:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast and Networking

8:30 a.m.

Reconvene and Opening Remarks

8:45 a.m.

America's Cradle to Prison Pipeline - Children's Defense Fund

9:45 a.m.

Woodland Middle School Youth Choir - Brentwood, TN

10:30 a.m.

Mary Louise Hemmeter, Ph.D. - Vanderbilt University

12:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Advocacy Opportunities

Visits with Legislators
Networking with other Councils
House of Representatives Floor Session
Senate Floor Session
Guided Tour of the Tennessee State Museum