



# Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

Fiscal Year 2022-2023  
Annual Report



# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

### TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

#### FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

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# ABOUT THE COMMISSION

## Mission

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth leads systems improvement for all children, youth and families through data-driven advocacy, education and collaboration.

## Tennessee Code Annotated 37-3-102

There is created a permanent commission to be known as the commission on children and youth. The commission shall serve as an informational resource and advocacy agency for the efficient and effective planning, enhancement and coordination of state, regional and local policies, programs and services to promote and protect the health, well-being and development of all children and youth in Tennessee.

## Advocating for data-driven decisions to improve the lives of children and youth in Tennessee

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) is an independent, nonpartisan agency created to ensure the state's policies and programs effectively promote and protect the health, well-being and development of children and youth. Established by the Tennessee General Assembly as a permanent commission, TCCY is the state's centralized informational resource and advocacy agency for timely, fact-based information to aid policymaking and coordination of resources.

## Composition

The commission consists of 21 members who serve overlapping three-year terms. Each member is appointed by the governor based on their demonstrated leadership, interest, knowledge, and involvement in issues concerning children and youth. Each of the state's nine development districts must have at least one representative, and the commission includes residents from both urban and rural areas.

## What TCCY Does

**Data and Insights:** Monitors various child and youth indicators to identify trends and areas of concern; keeps up with best practices for addressing issues affecting children and youth.

**Collaboration:** Convenes various agencies and organizations in leading efforts to improve services for children and youth.

**Policy Advocacy:** Reviews data and outcomes of various policies related to children and youth to provide evidence-based suggestions for improvement.

**Public Awareness:** Promotes public awareness about children's issues and advocates for community engagement in addressing these concerns.

## TCCY is the State Advisory Group for Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs

TCCY administers federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention program (OJJDP) grants. The 1974 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) provided for the creation of State Advisory Groups (SAGs). These governor-appointed bodies are assigned the responsibility of ensuring that their states comply with the JJDPA's four core protections for youth in the juvenile justice system. SAGs are given the authority to assist in setting programmatic goals, guide policy, and administer federal funds received under the provisions of the JJDPA. SAGs have specific membership requirements, including youth members, members with experience with the juvenile justice system, members from public, private and non-profit organizations and members with experience working with community alternatives to detention.

Richard Kennedy was appointed TCCY's Executive Director in 2018. Kennedy joined TCCY in 2000 as an ombudsman and had served as Associate Director since 2011. A native Middle Tennessean, Kennedy holds a BA in political science from Lambuth University in Jackson and an MA in counseling from Trevecca University in Nashville.

Kennedy has spent his entire professional career working directly with and advocating for children and youth. Prior to joining state government, Kennedy worked with the Davidson County Community Services Agency, Camelot, Hermitage Hall and the Greater New Orleans Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He currently serves on the board and is Chair-Elect of the United Ways of Tennessee and previously served as board member and Chairman of Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee.



## NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I could not be more excited to share the 2022-2023 Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Annual Report with you. I am incredibly proud of the work accomplished by the TCCY team and the impact it has had on improving outcomes for Tennessee's children and youth. As we have continued to emerge from COVID, one of our philosophies has been that our work must be "business better than usual" because our children, youth and communities deserve the very best we have to offer.

The TCCY logo was intentional in its design and serves as a visual representation of the agency's mission. The horizontal bars represent numerous organizations working to make life better for Tennessee's children and youth, ranging from state child-serving departments to nonprofits across the state and from locally elected officials to members of faith-based communities. The goal of TCCY is to serve as the thread that connects all these partners, for when we are working together, there is no limit to the positive impacts we can have on the lives of children and youth in Tennessee.

Thank you friends, partners and colleagues for the incredible support you have shown to us during this last year and the trust you have placed in us. I continue to look forward to all we will accomplish together!

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Z. Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "Z" for the middle initial.





The Honorable Robert Philyaw was appointed to the Commission in 2019 and then as Chairman in 2021 by Governor Bill Lee. He has served as Judge of the Hamilton County Juvenile Court since 2013.

Judge Philyaw earned his BA in Business Administration in 1995 and his MBA in 1997, both from Christian Brothers University in Memphis. He earned his JD from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis in 2001, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Tennessee Journal of Practice & Procedure.

Judge Philyaw currently serves as President of the Chattanooga Bar Association and Vice-President of the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He and his wife of 35 years, pediatrician Dr. Kathy C. Philyaw, live on Signal Mountain.

## NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is my pleasure to present the annual report of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth for 2022-23. As I reflect on this year, I am filled with gratitude to be part of the Commission and its rich history of 35 years advocating for Tennessee children, youth and families by helping decision-makers at all levels have the best information available.

There was much to celebrate this year as Tennessee children continue to bounce back from the challenges of the pandemic. Children attended school in person, math and reading scores recovered, older youth increased engagement in school and work and Tennessee children had the lowest poverty rate since we began tracking it decades ago. Many challenges remain. As a Juvenile Court Judge, I am especially attuned to the balance between offering opportunity for rehabilitation to youth offenders while maintaining public safety. The Commission is keenly positioned to provide help and resources as we continue to evolve and improve the delivery of state services to these youth and families.

As the Commission launches its 36th year serving Tennessee children and families, I, along with all the Commission members and staff, continue working to ensure that every child in Tennessee has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Rob Philyaw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# COMMISSION MEMBERS

Judge Robert D. Philyaw, Chairman  
Chattanooga, Southeast

Charmaine Kromer, Vice Chairman  
Nashville, Mid-Cumberland

Ella Britt  
Murfreesboro, Mid-Cumberland

Petrina L. Jones-Jesz  
Cane Ridge, Mid-Cumberland

Randy Butler  
Dyersburg, Northwest

Rob Mortensen  
Nashville, Mid-Cumberland

Cameron Carver, Youth Member  
Nashville, Mid-Cumberland

Steven Neely  
Franklin, Mid-Cumberland

Kelly Drummond, Ed.D.  
Knoxville, East

Michael Rediker, Youth Member  
Nashville, Mid-Cumberland

Ashley Dunkin  
Lawrenceburg, South Central

Stan Settles, Youth Member  
Nashville, Mid-Cumberland

Judge Sharon Green  
Johnson City, Northeast

Mayor Allan Sterbinsky, Ph.D.  
Stanton, Southwest

Makenzie Johnston, Youth Member  
White House, Mid-Cumberland

Altha J. Stewart, M.D.  
Memphis, Memphis-Shelby

Amy Jones  
Jackson, Southwest

Glenda Terry  
Cookeville, Upper Cumberland

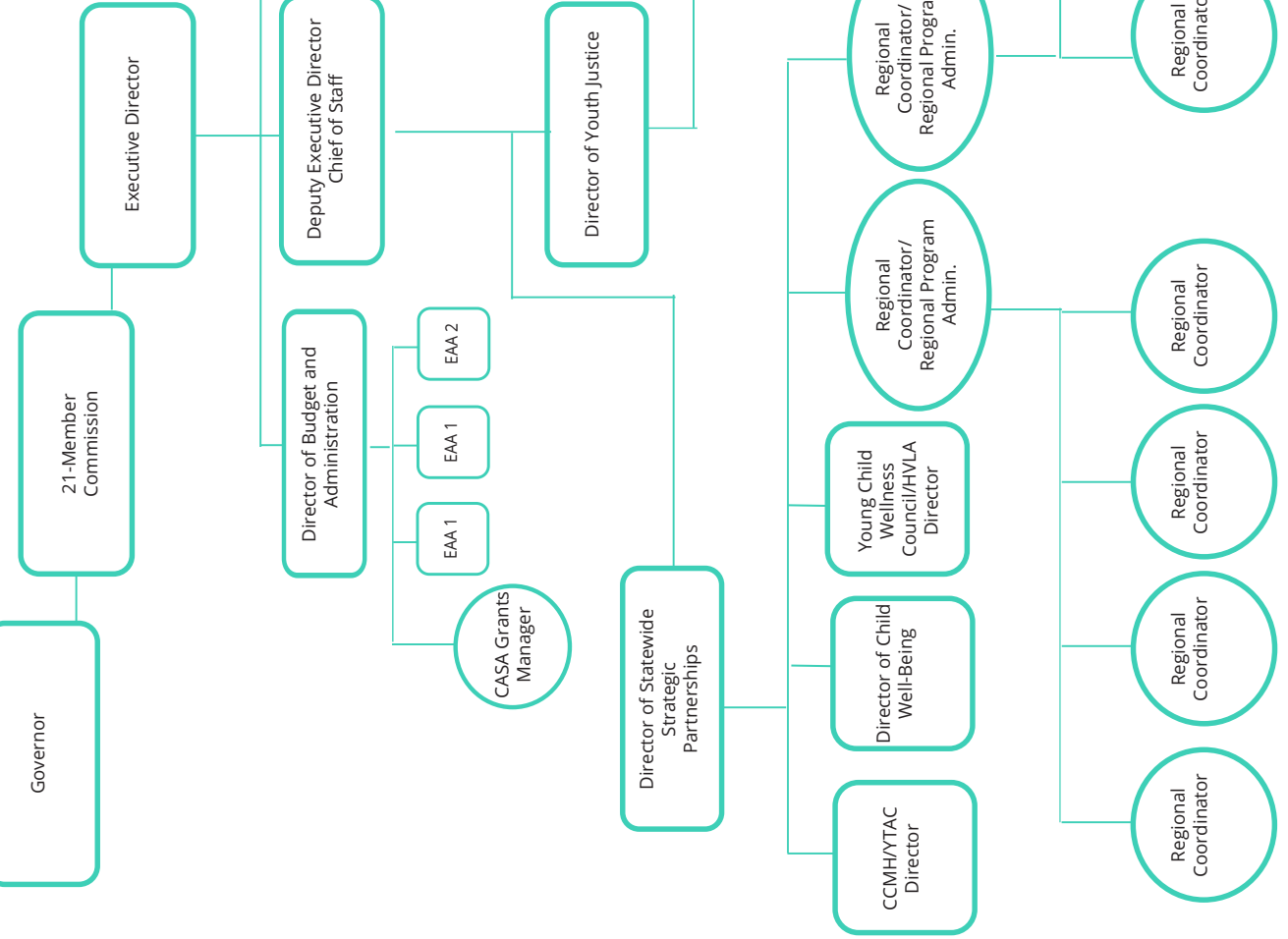
*Three Vacancies*

*As of June 30, 2023*



# Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

FY 2023



Round shapes denote preferred service, whereas square/rectangular shapes denote executive service. Elongated shapes represent supervisory roles.



A group of people in business attire are gathered around a table, reviewing financial documents and charts. The documents feature various data visualizations, including bar charts and pie charts. One person is pointing at a specific data point on a chart, while others hold pens, ready to discuss or sign the documents. The scene is set in a professional office environment, with a laptop and a coffee cup visible in the background.

**30% of Staff Are Leadership Program Graduates**

**TCCY's staff of 26 live in 13 counties across the state**

**70% Participation in State Charitable Giving Campaign**

# **BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION**



# BY THE NUMBERS

TCCY's FY 2022-23 budget was \$6,585,500 while actual expenditures were \$6,101,504.

This represents a **total savings of \$483,996 or 7%.**

## Positions

### Executive Staff

Budgeted: 3  
Filled: 3  
Vacancies: 0

### Budget and Administration

Budgeted: 4  
Filled: 4  
Vacancies: 0

### Youth Justice and Child Welfare

Budgeted: 5  
Filled: 4  
Vacancies: 1

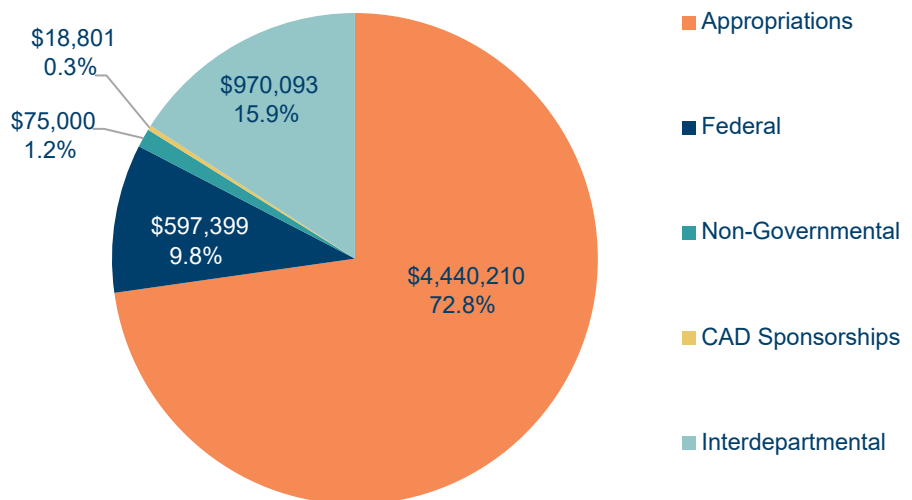
### Regional Councils and Statewide Partnerships

Budgeted: 13  
Filled: 11  
Vacancies: 2

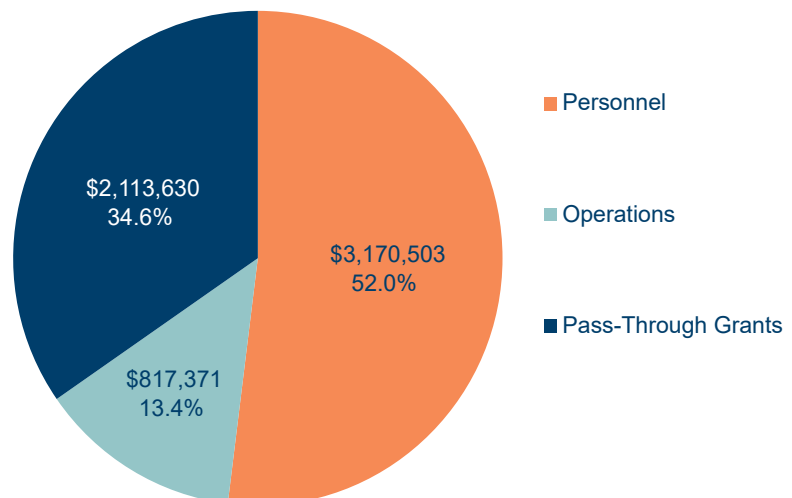
### Data, Policy and Communication

Budgeted: 5  
Filled: 4  
Vacancies: 1

## FISCAL YEAR 2022 -23 REVENUE



## FISCAL YEAR 2022 -23 EXPENDITURES



As of June 30, 2023

A group of diverse young people, including a young man in a white hoodie and a young woman in a beige cardigan, are sitting together and talking in a bright room. The young man in the white hoodie is looking down at a smartphone held by another person. The young woman in the beige cardigan is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor setting with large windows.

**10 Federal Formula Grants  
for \$909,701**

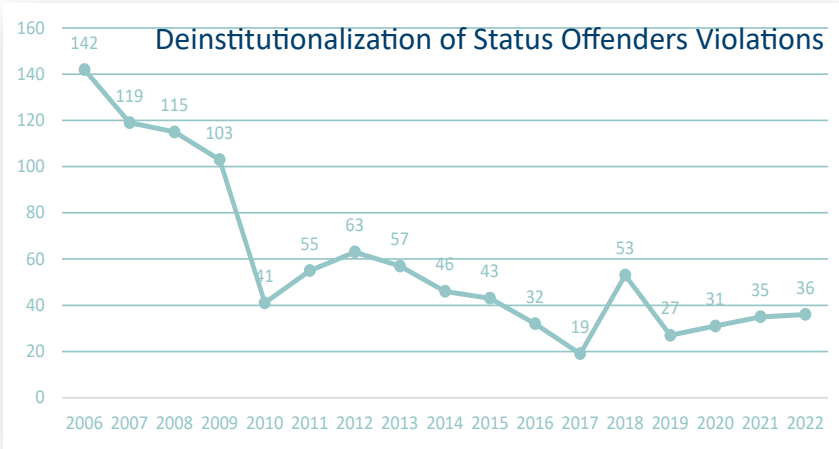
**56 Counties Supported by  
CASA Grants for \$1,298,000**

**75 Cases Resolved through  
Ombudsman Mediation**

**YOUTH JUSTICE AND  
CHILD WELFARE**

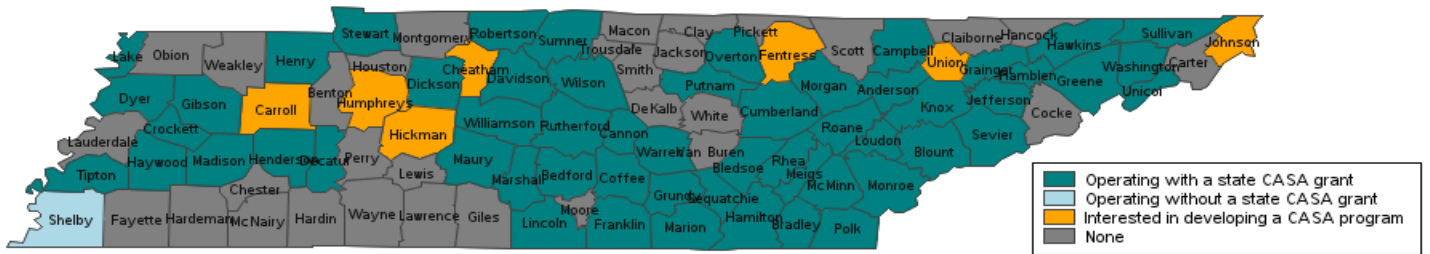
# BY THE NUMBERS

TCCY reports Youth Justice data to the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and to the Tennessee General Assembly



Status offenses are offenses that only apply to minors whose actions would not be considered offenses if they were adults. The most common are skipping school, running away, breaking curfew, and possession or use of alcohol. Under the JJDA, status offenders may not be held in secure detention or confinement, with limited exceptions.

## Tennessee Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Programs

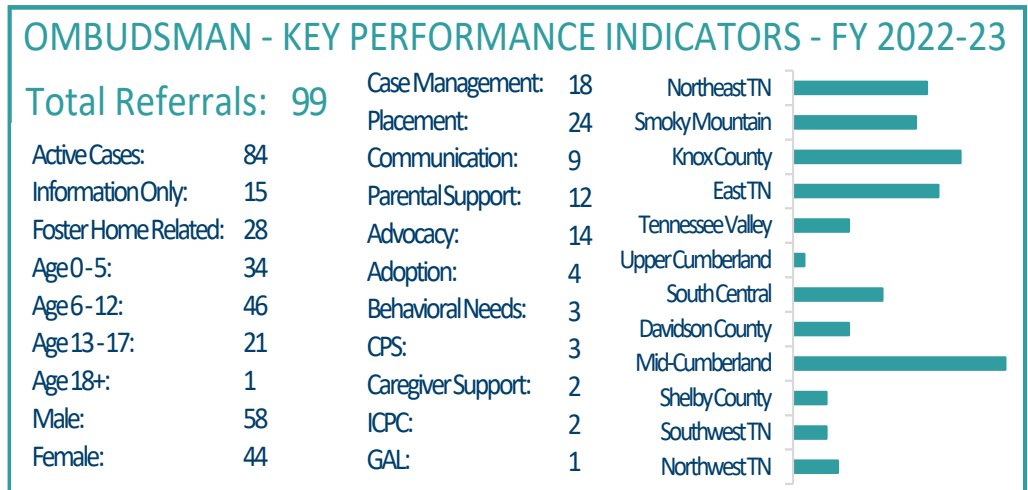


Tennessee CASA’s mission is to support, develop, expand and unite local CASA programs in recruiting and training volunteers to advocate for Tennessee children who have been abused and neglected. Tennessee CASA also received a state grant through TCCY of \$200,000 in support of this mission.

In calendar year 2022, Tennessee’s county CASA programs served

**5,258** children with **1,721** volunteers

The TCCY ombudsman submits periodic written and verbal reports of key performance indicators to Commission members. These include numbers and types of active cases along with age, gender, region and legal representation, if any, for the child who is subject of the case.





# TCCY IMPACT ACROSS THE STATE



*When serving youth within the Juvenile Justice system, we have such a small window of opportunity to impact them and we must make the best use of what time we have. Dana Cobb with TCCY has been our go-to person to ensure that while we serve these youths, we are doing so by state standards and upholding their legal rights. She has been an invaluable member of that team.*

*Karen Parker  
Dyer County Juvenile Court Services*



*Ombudsman clients:*

*I really appreciate the reply. I was afraid I was being shuffled off and ignored again, but it's a relief knowing someone is taking my concerns seriously. -D.V.*

*Thank you so much for your response, and for being a listening ear. -J.B.*



*Thanks to our partners at TCCY for their support in requesting additional state funding for counties. I believe TCCY administering the CASA funding gives credibility to the CASA network and the General Assembly that state dollars are spent responsibly.*

*Lynne Farrar, Tennessee CASA*





TCCY Youth Justice staff maintain a three-year delinquency reduction plan, updated annually to include the most recent data in its analysis of youth crime and needs.

## ADMINISTER FEDERAL FORMULA GRANTS

TCCY serves as the State Advisory Group for federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) grants. TCCY awards grants to innovative programs addressing delinquency prevention, substance and alcohol abuse, system improvement or racial/ethnic disparities.



TCCY Youth Justice staff coordinate monitoring of and technical assistance to facilities across the state that may house youth to document and improve compliance.

## COMPLIANCE WITH FOUR CORE REQUIREMENTS

The Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act requires states to commit to achieve and maintain deinstitutionalization of status offenders, separation of juveniles from adult inmates, removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and addressing racial and ethnic disparities.



TCCY Youth Justice staff work with county Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) organizations to ensure they meet requirements for and receive state grants.

## ADMINISTER STATE CASA GRANTS

CASA programs recruit, train, and supervise volunteers to serve as advocates for the best interests of abused, neglected or dependent children whose placements are decided by the courts. CASA volunteers collect background information, prepare reports for the court and participate in case reviews.



TCCY's SLC Director manages meetings, randomly selects a sample of appropriate cases for review, presents cases at meetings and reports findings and recommendations.

## MANAGE SECOND LOOK COMMISSION

The Second Look Commission reviews a sample of cases involving a second or subsequent incident of severe child abuse and provides recommendations and findings to the General Assembly to ensure severe child abuse cases are handled in a manner that adequately protects children.



TCCY's Ombudsman performs intake evaluations, reviews relevant materials and interviews children, families and state and private agency staff to help resolve problems.

## MEDIATE THROUGH OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

TCCY's Ombudsman Program is an external, third-party resolution mechanism for children with Department of Children's Services (DCS) interaction. The ombudsman takes referrals from across the state, addressing problems through mediation and always working for the child's best interest.



TCCY Youth Justice staff find meeting space, develop an agenda, publicize meetings, preside over meetings, keep minutes and maintain membership lists.

## LEAD COUNCIL ON YOUTH JUSTICE

The Council on Youth Justice brings together members of agencies focused on youth justice or providing youth justice services for quarterly meetings to provide opportunities for networking and education. Members can highlight successes and showcase innovative ideas among their peers.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022-2023

## Improving Processes

Youth Justice staff received accolades from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for their updated Compliance Manual.

## Focus on Customers

TCCY's Ombudsman, noting the complexity and opportunities for error in the intake process, created an online form customers can complete themselves.

## Convening Experts

The Commission authorized staff to create the Council on Youth Justice to help those working in all aspects of Juvenile Justice share ideas for effective reform.

## Building Relationships

TCCY's Chair and Co-Chair traveled with the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and Youth Justice staff to Washington, DC for the Coalition for Juvenile Justice convening in May.

While there, the group (left) met with members of the Tennessee delegation, and TCCY Juvenile Justice Specialist Zanira Whitfield participated in a panel on compliance monitoring.







**Nine Regional Councils with  
almost 4,000 Members**

**Resilient TN Collaborative  
Summit Attended by 220+**

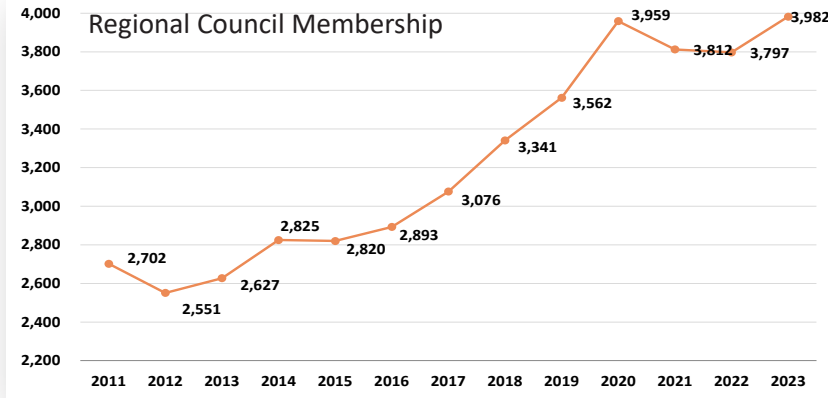
**56 Statewide and Regional  
Educational Opportunities**

**REGIONAL COUNCILS  
AND STATEWIDE  
PARTNERSHIPS**



# BY THE NUMBERS

TCCY staffs nine Regional Councils on Children and Youth and five Statewide Partnerships operated in collaboration with various child-serving departments.



TCCY has a staff member in each region to coordinate its Regional Council on Children and Youth. Each Council operates under its own membership structure, with local officers, local meetings and locally-determined membership fees. Each Council keeps a list of members and a wider list of e-mail contacts. Regional Council membership has recovered from its pandemic drop.

## Tennessee Regional Councils on Children and Youth



TCCY's five Statewide Partnerships are coordinated by staff who collaborate with child-serving departments to convene service providers, local officials, advocates and interested citizens. Statewide Partnerships meet quarterly to network, share information, celebrate successes and model the public policies behind them.

### Home Visiting Leadership Alliance

Quarterly meeting average attendance: 65

In FY 2022-23, **127** Tennessee families in **95** counties were served by Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs

### Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council

Quarterly meeting average attendance: 84

TCCY (through TNYCWC) serves as a **lead partner** in Tennessee for a ZERO TO THREE Built for Babies grant.

### Youth Transitions Advisory Council

Quarterly meeting average attendance: 48

Active participation was **up almost 50%** in Extension of Foster Care, from 266 in FY22 to 389 in FY23.

### Council on Children's Mental Health

Quarterly meeting average attendance: 64

**Parent and youth members** are now part of CCMH, fostering community connections.

### Resilient Tennessee

Quarterly meeting average attendance: 168

**12 child advocates** graduated from TCCY's first Leadership Academy, a year-long program to drive results.

# TCCY IMPACT ACROSS THE STATE



*At Lindsey Cody's invite, I held my first in-person training since the pandemic. Interacting with workshop participants, I was impressed that Lindsey has managed to foster a strong sense of community through the pandemic. The support network at his events helped sustain service providers and their clients.*

*Linda Oxford, LCSW, LMFT*



*In May, Madison County Mayor A.J. Massey asked Councilwoman Olivia Abernathy to convene a Children's Cabinet. TCCY SW Regional Coordinator Jerri Moore was chosen as one of 20 members. At the first meeting, Dr. Keri Randolph of Chattanooga 2.0 utilized TCCY's 2022 County Profiles to demonstrate setting goals. Mayor Massey noted that improving children's outcomes in the TCCY Madison County Profile was a top priority in his campaign.*



*Our initial BSB training was thorough and engaging, and I am excited that positive childhood experiences are becoming a Resilient TN priority as well--it's great to focus on how to nurture youth as well as how they are affected by not being nurtured.*

*Cindi Huss, RISE, Kingsport*





TCCY Regional Coordinators provide staff support to the Regional Councils. They also serve on multiple local boards, councils and committees related to children and youth.

## REGIONAL COUNCILS ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

TCCY's nine Regional Councils provide organizational structure for statewide networking. Councils address needs of children, youth and families at the regional level and offer local-level feedback to the Commission. Councils are comprised of service providers, advocates and concerned citizens.



TCCY's Executive Director co-chairs CCMH with the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. TCCY staff coordinate meetings and activities.

## COUNCIL ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

The Council is a community of statewide stakeholders in children's mental health care 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 provide a coordinated care.



TCCY's Youth Transitions Advisory Council Director plans and manages meetings, tracks data on use of transition-age programs and reports results annually.

## YOUTH TRANSITIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council assists 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 help youth transition successfully to independent living.



TCCY's Resilient TN Director works with a public-private coordinating team of service providers, advocates and officials of child-serving departments to set and meet goals.

## RESILIENT TENNESSEE COLLABORATIVE

The Resilient TN Collaborative builds on foundational work of Building Strong Brains through training, education, collaboration and advocacy. TCCY remains a leader in the work to prevent and mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences and build and support Positive Childhood Experiences.



TCCY's TNYCWC Director coordinates with the Department of Health to plan and manage meetings and to ensure state compliance with federal MIECHV requirements.

## TENNESSEE YOUNG CHILD WELLNESS COUNCIL

The Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council seeks to improve the well-being of children in Tennessee by improving collaboration among child-serving agencies and programs. TNYCWC serves as the advisory committee for Tennessee's Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program.



TCCY's HVLA Director coordinates with the Department of Health to plan and manage meetings and works with alliance leadership to set and achieve collaboration goals.

## HOME VISITING LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

The Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) includes leadership from home visiting programs, state departments and other stakeholders from across the state. TCCY has administrative responsibility for the HVLA through a grant agreement with the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH).



# REGIONAL COUNCIL



Reimagining Juvenile Justice



Building a More Resilient Tennessee (ET)



Northwest Tennessee Fall Conference



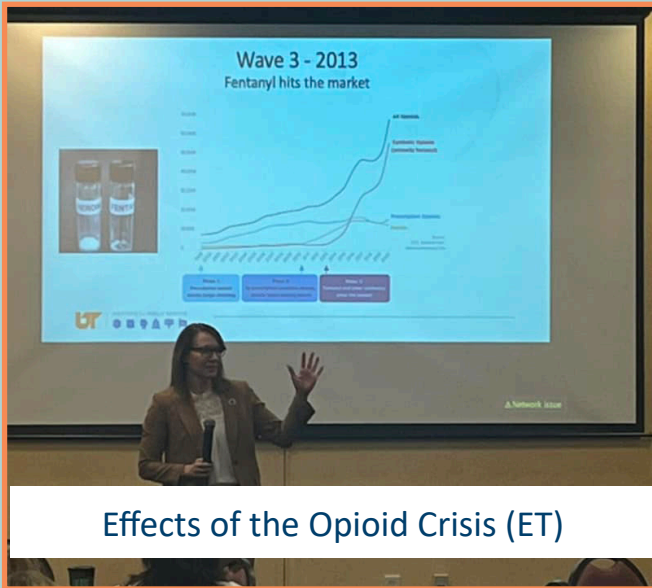
Building a More Resilient Tennessee (SE)



East TN Legislative Lunch on the River



# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Effects of the Opioid Crisis (ET)



Grant Writing 101 (NW)



West Tennessee Legislative Forum



Upper Cumberland Legislative Breakfast



Girls Leadership Summit (SE)

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022-2023

## Convening Experts

TNYCWC proposed an Early Childhood State Advisory Council Symposium for ECSAC directors from across the country. Planning is already breaking barriers.

## Fostering Communication

CCMH now includes parent and youth members as well as new appointees from the Departments of Children's Services, Health and Human Services.

## Education Opportunities

TCCY's Resilient TN Collaborative's May summit (below) brought statewide partners together to focus on promoting Positive Childhood Experiences.

## Serving Communities

TCCY's Regional Coordinators work with many local community organizations, including community advisory boards, school boards, healthy family boards, public health councils, drug-free and prevention community task forces, foster care review boards, safe baby courts, 911 boards, afterschool networks, children's justice task forces, and many more.





A person in a grey suit and pink tie is holding a silver microphone and a blue sign that says 'PRESS'. The background is a blurred office setting.

**8,994 Followers across Five  
Social Media Platforms**

**Four Podcast Episodes with  
390 Downloads**



**22 Training and Event Videos  
Viewed 1,778 Times**

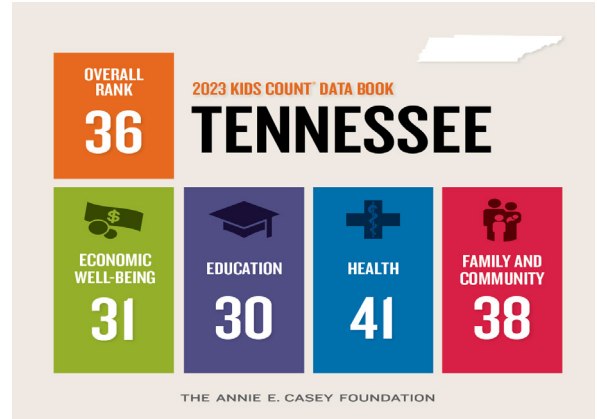
**DATA, POLICY AND  
COMMUNICATION**

# BY THE NUMBERS

TCCY tracks a variety of media statistics to understand the reach of our messages. TCCY also tracks Tennessee's national KIDS COUNT rankings.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

 **5,702 followers, up 8%**  
 **1,453 followers, up 4%**  
 **839 followers, up 27%**  
 **333 subscribers, up 33%**  
 **669 Connections, up 23%**



## PUBLICATIONS, NEWSLETTERS, PODCASTS, VIDEOS AND LIVE EVENTS

July, 2022-September, 2022	October, 2022-December, 2022	January, 2023-March, 2023	April, 2023-June, 2023
TCCY Annual Report FY 2021-22	YTAC Annual Report FY 2021-22	CCMH Annual Report FY 2021-22	County Profiles of Child Well-Being
Budget Recommendations for FY 2023-24	Second Look Annual Report FY 2021-22	The Advocate	Resource Mapping Annual Report FY 2021-22
The Advocate	State of the Child in Tennessee in 2022	3 issues/1,299 opens	Legislative Report from 2022 Session
3 issues/1,668 opens	The Advocate	Updates from kidcentraltn	The Economic Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in Tennessee - with UT Boyd Center
Roots and Wings	3 issues/1,308 opens	6 issues/20,548 opens	The Advocate
1 episodes/185 downloads	Updates from kidcentraltn	7 episodes/1,249 views	3 issues/1,279 opens
Updates from kidcentraltn	6 issues/23,852 opens	Webinars/Videos/Live Events	Roots and Wings
6 issues/24,063 opens	Webinars/Videos/Live Events	2 episode/236 views	3 episodes/205 downloads
Webinars/Videos/Live Events	This quarter's most-watched video (159 views) was an educational opportunity presented by the Memphis/Shelby County Regional Council entitled <i>Reimagining A Juvenile Justice System</i> .	This quarter's Webinars/Video/Live Events include TCCY's live stream of Children's Advocacy Days on March 7-8, 2023. In addition to several hundred in-person attendees and hundreds joining online live, these videos have been viewed nearly 700 times with an average watch time of over an hour.	Updates from kidcentraltn
1 episodes/148 views			6 issues/22,529 opens
One video was posted this month: the Resilient Tennessee Collaborative Kickoff meeting. In addition to 145 attendees, it has had 148 views.			Webinars/Videos/Live Events
			1 episode/59 views

TCCY tracks press stories on the agency and/or its data and policy products.

July-September, 2022:  
18 stories, 15 on the KIDS COUNT data report.

October-December, 2022:  
12 stories, 8 on the KIDS COUNT data report.

January-March, 2023:  
74 stories, 47 on the *State of the Child in TN* report.

April-June, 2023:  
30 stories, 15 on TCCY County Profiles.

During FY 2022-23, TCCY's website had **over 100,000 page views** including **over 30,000 unique visitors**. The most-visited page was **County Profiles** at **16,504** with **6,284 unique visitors**.

 **kidcentral tn**  
 **4,484**  **726**  **1,016**  
**FOLLOWERS**



# TCCY IMPACT ACROSS THE STATE



*As a Supervisor of Coordinated School Health, TCCY county profile data helps me choose goals for children and families in Trousdale County. As a member of the Trousdale County Health Council, we use the Health data to guide change. Using data helped us move our county ranking from 85th in 2011 to 19th in 2022.*

*Kathryn Atwood, Trousdale County Schools*



*kidcentraltn information is so helpful. I found the relative care program for my niece. They are such a blessing.*

*kidcentraltn user survey*



*I use KIDS COUNT data as part of my curriculum in the Early Childhood Education courses I teach, as a way to be informed as a parent and in my work as the President of the Appalachian Association for Children's Early Education.*

*Beth Huber, Johnson City*

*TCCY has been a critical data partner supplying data on multiple occasions including one of the proxies for one of our 15 measures of success. TQEE has used TCCY county profiles for our Bright Start TN work as well.*

*Tennesseans for Quality Early Education*





TCCY's Data, Policy and Communication staff gather data continuously and track several standard indicators across time to tell the story of Tennessee's children.

## STATE OF THE CHILD IN TENNESSEE

Both by Tennessee statute and as a member of the Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT network, TCCY is required to present an annual data book analyzing state-level indicators of child well-being using social, educational, economic, health and child welfare/youth justice data.



TCCY's Data, Policy and Communication staff gather data from almost thirty state agencies to map expenditures on programs benefiting Tennessee children and youth.

## RESOURCE MAPPING ANNUAL REPORT

The annual Resource Mapping of Expenditures on Tennessee Children report examines expenditures on children's programs, analyzing data on funding sources, program goals, geographic availability, level of intervention, location of services, etc. It includes a look at any missed federal funding.



TCCY's Data, Policy and Communication staff work with leadership to identify budget priorities for children and youth and report to the Governor and legislature.

## BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

TCCY recognizes services for children and families come in all forms and include public-private and state-local partnerships to implement an essential "infrastructure" supporting the basic needs of children and youth in the state. TCCY's budget recommendations seek to keep this foundation strong.



TCCY's Data, Policy and Communication staff gather county-level data to produce profiles for all 95 counties and present the data to many groups, including county officials.

## COUNTY PROFILES OF CHILD WELL-BEING

TCCY's county profiles rank counties on twelve indicators of child well-being in the areas of economics, health, education and family/community context. Each profile includes an analysis of the county's strengths and challenges and helps connect counties to state and federal services for families.



TCCY's Data, Policy and Communication staff work with subject matter experts to find and present evidence-based policies that have helped children, youth and families.

## POLICY BRIEFS AND DATA SNAPSHOTS

Data snapshots pull together indicators in a single policy area to put relevant information in the hands of service providers and policymakers. Policy briefs examine issues facing Tennessee children, youth and families and report on related evidence-based policies that have shown promise.



TCCY's Data, Policy and Communication staff maintain TCCY and kidcentral websites and social media, produce podcasts and send newsletters to various subscriber lists.

## NEWSLETTERS, SOCIAL MEDIA & KIDCENTRALTN

TCCY's podcast, *Roots and Wings*, monthly newsletter, *The Advocate*, and kidcentraltn updates provide relevant and timely information to families and connect them to services and resources. TCCY's social media stays fresh and keeps children's issues in front of parents and service providers.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022-2023

## Collaborating on Research

TCCY worked with the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research at UT to measure the economic cost to TN of child abuse and neglect (\$3.3 to \$5 billion annually).

## Modeling Data Work

TCCY's Resource Mapping report was chosen by the national Children's Funding Project as the model in their work to encourage similar reports in all 50 states.

## Focus on Customers

Child Advocacy Center staff asked for county profile data by judicial district. Staff worked with KIDS COUNT to set up the datacenter and added multiple data sets.

## Partnering with Business

TCCY and Best Place for Working Parents partnered to offer business a self-assessment on family-friendly policies, including resources to better support their employees. TCCY celebrated with Tyson Foods in Humboldt (left) when their subsidized on-site child care program won the inaugural National Innovator Award from Best Place for Working Parents.





Children's Advocacy Days is an annual event designed for those working with and on behalf of children and families in Tennessee. The goal is to promote greater knowledge and understanding of current issues confronting children and their families and to provide opportunities for participants to become more effective advocates for children, both in the public policy arena and in their communities.

**578 In-Person Attendees**

**368 Day One Live Streamers**

**280 Day Two Live Streamers**



**MUSICAL MOVEMENTS**



**OF TENNESSEE CHILDREN & COMMUNITIES**

**TCCY Awards to Outstanding Child Advocates were Presented at Children's Advocacy Days.**

**Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award: Blair Taylor, Tennesseans for Quality Early Education**

**Linda O'Neal Lifetime Achievement Award: Karen Franklin, NASW TN**

**John Seigenthaler Making KIDS COUNT Media Award: Ben Hall, WTVF News Channel 5**

**Friends of Children Award: Ronda Paulson, Isaiah 117 House and**

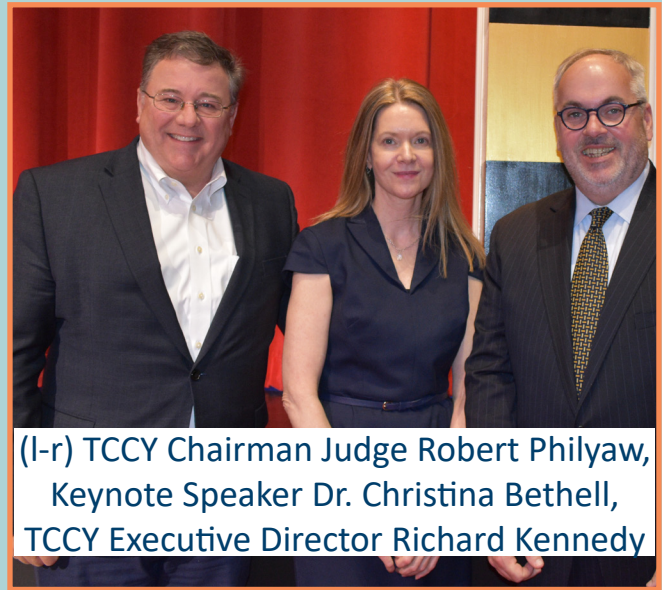
**Dr. Stephen Patrick, Vanderbilt Center for Child Health Policy**

**Youth Excellence Award: Kunia Pullen, Joshua Weaver and Preston Yokley-Owens**

# CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY DAYS 2023



Beech High School Step Team



(l-r) TCCY Chairman Judge Robert Philyaw, Keynote Speaker Dr. Christina Bethell, TCCY Executive Director Richard Kennedy



Southern Word Youth Poet



Executive Preview Reception



Keynote Speaker Cyntoia Brown-Long





**Twelve Child Advocate  
Leadership Graduates**

**Five Leadership Summits  
over Twelve Months**

**Multiple Small Group Peer  
Leadership Pod Meetings**

**ADVOCATES FOR  
TENNESSEE'S CHILDREN  
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**



# Be. Lead.



**Advocates for  
Tennessee's Children  
Leadership Academy  
2022 - 2023**

**"This Leadership Academy taught me how to rise to my potential and inspire those I am entrusted to lead to rise to theirs. There is a leader inside each of us."**

-Stacia Freeman  
CEO, EPIC Girl

**Inaugural  
Class**

## Developing People-Focused Leaders in People-Serving Systems

Effective leadership begins with leading the most important person you will ever lead—yourself. Using a framework grounded in the most recent scientific research and time-honored practices, this academy presents a new model of leadership for the 21st Century. Through this dynamic experience, participants gain a deeper understanding of their natural strengths, learn to recognize the internal saboteurs that hold them back and connect with peer leaders to build relationships, facilitate growth, and foster collaboration—all with the focus of working to improve the lives of Tennessee's children and youth.

## TCCY's Leadership Academy's Inaugural Class Graduates

**Dr. Anita Herron**, Metropolitan Nashville Police Department

**Lynne Farrar**, Tennessee CASA

**April Scott**, Centerstone

**Jaime Herndon**, Regional Intervention Program, TDMHSAS

**Rob Burke**, TCCY

**Morenike Murphy**, Center for Hope Behavioral Health

**Alysia Knight**, Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations

**Evangeline Watanabe**, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

**Stacia Freeman**, EPIC Girl

**Elizabeth Setty Reeve**, TDMHSAS

**Melissa Roberts**, Appalachian Promise Alliance

**SeVynn Athalone**, Partnership for Families, Children and Adults

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TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON  
CHILDREN & YOUTH



**Heather Taylor Griffith, LCSW, CPC**  
Coach. Consultant. Facilitator



**Judge Steve Hornsby, JD, CLC**  
Coach. Consultant. Facilitator