

*Tennessee Commission
on Children and Youth*
ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2008-09



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Fiscal Year 2008-09

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
Andrew Johnson Tower, Ninth Floor
Nashville, TN 37243-0800



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Letter from the Chair

Dear Reader:

Fiscal year 2009 was challenging for TCCY as it was for many Tennesseans. Despite these challenges TCCY was able to maximize its efforts and continue its record of accomplishments.



In a climate of cuts and downsizing, TCCY celebrated two new legislatively-created programs: the Council on Children's Mental Health and the Resource Mapping Project. TCCY staff with other primary responsibilities worked together to get these programs off the ground, anticipating the hiring of new staff.

In August 2008, nearly 50 people - community members and representatives from organizations serving children - met to form the Council on Children's Mental Health and plan for a better system of caring for children with mental health treatment needs. TCCY Executive Director Linda O'Neal and Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmentally Disabilities Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts assumed leadership of the council. Through progressive meetings, the council organized, developed its mission and goals, and began the work of improving services for children with mental health treatment needs.

The Resource Mapping Project is an effort to identify and track how public funds are used to provide services for children. A collateral result is an extensive listing of services for children. The support and participation by child serving agencies is critical to this effort, and TCCY staff worked to engage and encourage representatives of all state agencies serving children to provide information.

The creation of new services did not mean any loss of focus or effort on our other programs. Improvement in services for children in state custody continues to be the goal of the CPORT (Children's Program Outcome Review Team) program through its quality service review collaboration with the Department of Children's Services. The KIDS COUNT program continues its partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT provides data to drive successful child advocacy and provide justification for funding requests for agencies and individuals across the state.

The Juvenile Justice Division works with local organizations and governments to assure state compliance with federal legislation and to help ensure communities and children are safe. Vicki Taylor, who staffs the Enforcing Underage Driving Laws grant program, and other TCCY representatives helped host and participated in the National Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Training Center's 10th Annual Leadership Conference in Nashville in August 2008, which was attended by 1,700 people from across the country. The Ombudsman Office completed its first full year of including Child Protective Services cases in addition to cases of children in state custody or placed with relative caregivers.

TCCY is active across the state with the nine regional councils, each staffed by a resident TCCY coordinator. These coordinators are involved in various ways with activities of all TCCY divisions and continue to provide trainings and information to over 2,500 council members across the state. The 2009 Children's Advocacy Days "Growing the Next Generation" saw the largest attendance ever and provided additional training for child advocates from across the state.

While TCCY struggled to "do more with less," we were acutely aware of the continuing need for our services as a result of the economic downturn. It continues to be an honor and privilege for Commission members to work with such dedicated employees who spend each day advocating for the improvement of the quality of life for Tennessee's children and families.

Sincerely,



Cindy Durham
Chair, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Reader:

Fiscal year 2008-09 was another exciting year for the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY). Commission members and staff continued to work collaboratively to improve public policies and services for children and families.



TCCY took on two major new responsibilities: the Council on Children's Mental Health and Resource Mapping. These new programs were enacted by the General Assembly in 2008. Appropriations for staffing were included, but due to the state budget situation and hiring freeze, we were unable to fill the positions during the fiscal year. Fortunately, an exception to the hiring freeze was received near the end of the fiscal year, and staff to support these initiatives began July 1, 2009.

During fiscal year 2008-09, TCCY staff from all divisions within the agency worked diligently on activities for the Council on Children's Mental Health and on Resource Mapping. Initial reports for both were submitted to the General Assembly in early 2009, as required by their enabling legislation, and a draft template for Resource Mapping data collection was developed. Children's Advocacy Days in 2009 provided an outstanding opportunity for children's services advocates and service providers from all across Tennessee to come together, learn about children's issues and meet with each other and their legislators. The regional coordinators and Regional Councils on Children and Youth continued their excellent work all across Tennessee providing networking and learning opportunities. Regional coordinators are involved in all aspects of TCCY operations and provide support for all divisions.

TCCY Juvenile Justice staff continued to ensure the grants and contract process was implemented in a quality manner. Compliance with the core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act was at a very high level.



The TCCY Children's Program Outcome Team (CPORT) and Department of Children's Services continued collaboration to implement quality service review (QSR) evaluations to support improvements in practice and outcomes for children.

Though very much an agency-wide endeavor, staff in the KIDS COUNT division carried much of the day-to-day responsibility for the Council on Children's Mental Health and Resource Mapping as they also continued outstanding work in publications, legislative advocacy and other areas.

As we move forward in the next fiscal year, TCCY members and staff look forward to continued opportunities to make a difference for Tennessee children and families.

Sincerely,



Linda O'Neal



Administration

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) is an independent agency created by the Tennessee General Assembly. The primary mission of the Commission is advocacy for improving the quality of life for Tennessee children and families. Tennessee has had a Commission on Children and Youth or Children's Services Commission continuously since the 1950s. The current statutory framework for the Commission on Children and Youth was enacted in 1988, with minor revisions in 1999. The agency is currently authorized to 2011, when it will again go through the state's sunset review process.

Appointed by the governor for up to three consecutive three-year terms, the 21 Commission members serve as the policy board for the agency. At least one Commission member represents each development district, and the commissioners of state departments serving children, or their designees, are ex officio members. The Commission also has youth advisory members as necessary, typically five, to meet the requirements for serving as the state advisory group under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

Committees

Seven standing committees oversaw the operations of the agency during fiscal year 2008-09. The Commission officers and committee chairs served as the **Executive Committee**. The chair is appointed by the governor to a three-year term. Other officers, the vice-chair and the secretary, were elected by the Commission. Committee chairs and members were appointed by the Commission chair.

The **Audit** and **Personnel** committees were administrative committees to assure effective operation of administrative processes.

The **Budget and Data Committee** was responsible for fiscal matters, such as Commission budget requests, budget analyses and budget recommendations, and for agency efforts to collect and disseminate information, including *The Advocate*, *KIDS COUNT* and other publications.

The **Children's Services Committee** provided oversight for Commission activities in the evaluation of services for children in the custody of the Department of Children

Services by the Children’s Program Outcome Review Team (CPORT). It also reviewed implementation of the TCCY Ombudsman Program’s coordination with child welfare, juvenile justice and mental health services for children in custody and kinship care and families involved with Child Protective Services.

The **Councils Committee** reviewed activities related to the nine regional councils on children and youth, the Commission’s annual Children’s Advocacy Days and interdepartmental activities.

The **Juvenile Justice and Minority Issues Committee** supervised the implementation of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in Tennessee, the administration of state funds for juvenile justice, and other juvenile justice activities. This committee also ensured adequate consideration of the needs of minority children in all TCCY efforts, with particular attention given to disproportionate minority contact/confinement (DMC) in the juvenile justice system, including recommendations from a statewide task force on how to reduce DMC. The committee was also responsible for the the agency plan to address issues related to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Commission Meetings

During fiscal year 2008-09 the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth met four times to carry out its responsibilities. In addition to Children’s Advocacy Days in March, meetings included reports from commissioners of other state departments who serve as ex officio members of the Commission, or their designees; other related agencies; and regional coordinators about activities across the state. Topics for meetings included alternative education, Juvenile Court Commitment Order (JCCOs) issues, evidence-based services in the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services Juvenile Justice Division, the Council on Children’s Mental Health, Resource Mapping, the Office of Early Learning of the Department of Education grant to evaluate pre-K programs, legislative issues and approval of grant awards.



The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth meeting in Legislative Plaza.



*Commission Membership**

Cindy Durham, Chair
Nashville

Natasha Blackshear, Secretary
Nashville

Sidney Bynum**
Nashville

Leon D. Caldwell
Collierville

Joshua Conner**
Nashville,

Beverly J. Cosley
Chattanooga

Adam Grant Dickson
Jonesborough

James Ford
Brentwood

Joe Fowlkes
Pulaski

Tim Goldsmith
Bartlett

Jere L. Hargrove
Cookeville

Marti Herndon, Vice Chair
Martin

Denise Hobbs-Coker
Shelbyville

Trudy Hughes
Maryville

Susan Lawless-Glassman
Germantown

Carlton Lewis
Nashville

Scott Meltzer**
Franklin

Diane Neighbors
Nashville

Timothy A. Perry
Kingsport

Mary Anne Poe
Jackson

James Roland Reid
Brownsville

Col J. A. Robbins**
Nashville

Tawny Richelle Spinelli**
Nashville

Dwight E. Stokes
Sevierville

Nancy Williams
Memphis

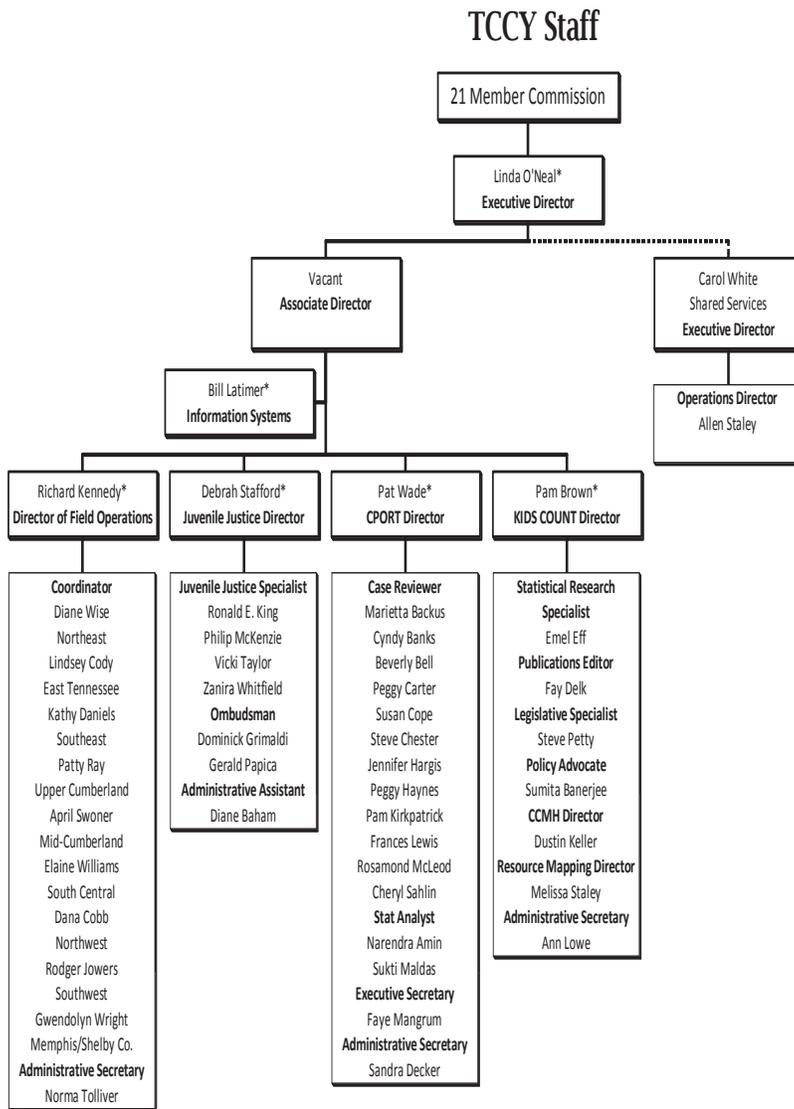
Joetta Yarbro
Dyersburg

***At press time. Emmanuel Frederick and Sue Pilson served as members of the Commission during fiscal year 2008-09.**

****Youth member**

Staff

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth has 49 full-time positions and two part-time secretarial positions. Nine full-time workers and the part-time staff positions provide support to the regional councils on children and youth and carry out other regional and local Commission responsibilities. The other personnel are located in the Nashville central office. The organizational chart for the Commission indicates staff members at press time. 🖨️



***Management Team**

*Management Team

Budget

**Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
Financial Report
For The Period July 1, 2008 Through June 30, 2009***

	State	Inter- Departmental	Juvenile Justice	Kids Count	TOTAL
Personal Services and Benefits					
Salaries / Longevity	\$ 926,590.93	\$ 756,071.59	\$ 232,751.45	\$ 94,652.00	\$ 2,010,065.97
Benefits	339,548.79	301,072.88	89,124.68	37,709.15	767,455.50
Total Personal Services and Benefits	\$ 1,266,139.72	\$ 1,057,144.47	\$ 321,876.13	\$ 132,361.15	\$ 2,777,521.47
Other Expenditures					
Travel	\$ 79,997.79	\$ 82,459.75	\$ 41,209.63	\$ 4,117.64	\$ 207,784.81
Printing, Duplicating, Binding	3,978.42	2,259.08	60,231.18	132.88	66,601.56
Communications & Shipping Costs	6,045.94	512.89	210.31	56.04	6,825.18
Maintenance, Repairs & Services	177.04	108.46	27.12	6.38	319.00
Professional and Administrative Services - Third Party	7,941.98	7,658.58	7,848.44	116.07	23,565.07
Supplies & Materials	34,106.96	3,142.32	8,379.80	465.65	46,094.73
Rentals & Insurance	143,710.11	108,504.13	21,067.63	4,957.25	278,239.12
Awards & Indemnities	1,097.51	43.97	10.99	324.08	1,476.55
Grants & Subsidies	27,084.98	1,338,469.91	2,053,431.13	349.00	3,419,335.02
Professional Services From Another State Agency	215,469.76	64,030.55	18,896.40	4,769.03	303,165.74
Total Other Expenditures	\$ 519,610.49	\$ 1,607,189.64	\$ 2,211,312.63	\$ 15,294.02	\$ 4,353,406.78
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,785,750.21	\$ 2,664,334.11	\$ 2,533,188.76	\$ 147,655.17	\$ 7,130,928.25
Funding Sources					
State Appropriation	\$ 1,771,358.91	\$ -	\$ 273,261.48	\$ 73,966.84	\$ 2,118,587.23
Federal Revenue	-	-	2,241,143.24	-	2,241,143.24
Interest Revenue	-	-	18,784.04	-	18,784.04
Interdepartmental Revenue	500.00	2,664,334.11	-	-	2,664,834.11
Non-Governmental Revenue	13,891.30	-	-	73,688.33	87,579.63
Total Funding Sources	\$ 1,785,750.21	\$ 2,664,334.11	\$ 2,533,188.76	\$ 147,655.17	\$ 7,130,928.25

*Financial information presented is preliminary pending year-end closing 

Advocacy

The primary mission of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth is to provide leadership for advocacy activities on behalf of children and families. Major strategies for effective advocacy include extensive networking and coordination of services.

A number of Commission activities combine advocacy and coordination of services. Many of these activities also comply with specific statutory mandates governing the advocacy and coordination responsibilities (TCA 37-3-103). These responsibilities are to:

- *Make recommendations concerning establishment of priorities and needed improvements with respect to programs and services for children and youth;*
- *Advocate and coordinate the efficient and effective development and enhancement of state, local and regional programs and services for children and youth.*

Children's Advocacy Days - 2009

More than 500 advocates attended the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's two-day 20th annual Children's Advocacy Days (CAD) held on March 10-11, 2009, in the War Memorial Auditorium. This year's event theme was "Growing the Next Generation."

Advocates came together at Children's Advocacy Days to:

- Meet with legislators to discuss relevant children and youth issues;
- Observe legislative sessions;
- Receive legislative updates;
- Network with advocates from other parts of the state;
- Hear updates on issues affecting children;
- Present the Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award;
- Present the Making KIDS COUNT Media Awards.



Leaders of state departments report on their activities at Children's Advocacy Days.

On Tuesday Commission member Joetta Yarbro welcomed participants. Reverend Randolph P. Stafford, minister of Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church in Clarksville, gave the charge



Wolfe presents her project.

to advocates. Roger Conner, an attorney and the adoptive father of Commission member Joshua Conner, the president of the Tennessee chapter of Foster Care Alumni of America, discussed the newly formed organization. High school student Eleanor Wolfe discussed her efforts to improve the social climate in her school and help make it more welcoming for students with disabilities. Dr. Steve Joiner, associate director of the Institute for Conflict Management at Lipscomb University, shared research about workplace generational issues. Bruce Lesley of First Focus in Washington, DC, spoke on advocacy.

A panel representing state child-serving departments moderated by Sue Lasky, of WLJT television, Martin, and a former Making KIDS COUNT Media Award winner, provided updates on their departments. The panel included Sterling VanDerSpuy, Department of Labor and Workforce Development; Robert Greene, deputy commissioner, Department of Education; Steve Hornsby, deputy commissioner, Department of Children’s Services; and Ned Solomon, Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities.

On Wednesday Commission Chair Cindy Durham welcomed advocates. A panel of youth from the Tennessee Alliance for Children and Families presented their priorities. Nick Beres of WTVF in Nashville moderated a panel of state agency representatives reporting updates. The panel included Dr. Veronica Gunn, chief medical officer, Department of Health; Bob Duncan, executive director, Governor’s Office of Children’s Care Coordination; Dr. Gary Nixon, executive director, State Board of Education; and Charles Bryson, Department of Human Services. Mr. Robert Geen, director of Child Welfare Policy of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, reported on the Fostering Success Act. Terrie Lawrence and Rob McDonald showed and discussed their film, “Urban Assault: Escape from Poverty.” Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts, who leads the state Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, concluded the day.

The TCCY Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award was presented to Joetta Yarbro, Commission member and director of the Dyersburg Family Resource Center. The Youth Excellence Award was awarded to



Advocates from across the state learn from TCCY presentations.

Alonzo Coleman, a resident of Mountain View Youth Development Center and moot court competitor. The Making KIDS COUNT small market print award was given to Liz Engle of *The Cookeville Herald Citizen*. The print media-large market award was given to *The (Chattanooga) Times Free Press* reporter Emily Bregel.

Committees, Task Forces and Boards

A major strategy for advocacy and coordination is participation of Commission staff on national, state, regional and local committees, task forces and boards. This involvement provides an opportunity for critical information sharing, networking, advocacy and coordination. TCCY staff served in a total of 257 different roles with governmental and nonprofit agencies serving children and their communities. One hundred and nine of these positions were with local organizations.

National/Southeast Regional Organizations

TCCY staff members served on six national committees, task forces or boards. These groups focused on issues of juvenile justice, early childhood education, health and human services, and family-centered medical services. National and Southeastern regional committees, task forces and boards with Commission representatives included the following:

- Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Network and Working Groups;
- Coalition for Juvenile Justice, Washington, D.C.;
- United States Ombudsman Association Conference Planning Committee (Chair).



Advocates, including TCCY Commission member Diane Neighbors, share information with each other.

State Organizations

Staff members participated on 85 statewide committees, task forces and boards addressing a broad range of issues, including health, teen pregnancy, child welfare, mental health, child care, family assistance, juvenile justice and broad-based children's needs. The statewide committees, task forces or boards with Commission representatives included the following:

- Administrative Office of the Courts Court Improvement Program Advisory Council;
- Administrative Office of the Courts Law Subcommittee;
- Advisory Committee for Children of Incarcerated Parents;

- > Child and Family Service Review;
- > Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Project Advisory Committee;
- > Council on Children's Mental Health Cultural and Linguistic Workgroup*;
- > Council on Children's Mental Health MIS and Accountability Workgroup*;
- > Council on Children's Mental Health*;
- > Court Appointed Special Advocate Expansion Committee;
- > Disproportionate Minority Contact Task Force;
- > Emergency Preparedness Training Subcommittee;
- > Foster Care Alumni of America - Tennessee Chapter;
- > Framework-State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG) Advisory Committee*;
- > Governor's Children's Cabinet;
- > Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination Collaborative-Adolescent Substance Abuse;
- > Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination Interagency Collaboration Meeting;
- > Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors Revision Committee;
- > Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination Steering Panel;
- > Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination Unique Identifiers;
- > Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination - Children with Sexual Behavior Problems Workgroup;
- > Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination;
- > Information Technology Management Association (ITMA);
- > Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition;
- > Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Work Group;
- > Juvenile Records Task Force;
- > Minority Health Summit Planning Committee;
- > Practice and Assessment Work Group;
- > Resource Mapping Advisory Committee*;
- > Resource Mapping Steering Committee*;
- > Select Committee on Children and Youth Education in Detention Study Work Group;
- > Shared Services Solutions Board;
- > State Epidemiology Workgroup;
- > State of Tennessee Technology Implementation Group (TIG);
- > Statewide Drug Court Advisory Committee;
- > Subcommittee to Review Education for Children in Secure Facilities;
- > Tennessee Alliance for Drug



Tennessee Children Welcome the Candidates as they came to debate in Nashville.

Endangered Children;

- > Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services Board of Directors;
- > Tennessee Coalition on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services;
- > Tennessee Community Services Agency;
- > Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare Board of Directors;
- > Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare Strategic Planning Committee*;
- > Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare Public Policy Committee;
- > Tennessee Coordinated School Health Statewide Advisory Committee;
- > Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities;
- > Tennessee Court Appointed Special Advocate Association;
- > Tennessee Department of Children's Services Advisory Board;
- > Tennessee Department of Children's Services Children's Justice Task Force;
- > Tennessee Department of Children's Services Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice Steering Panel;
- > Tennessee Department of Children's Services Justice Task Force Court Improvement Subcommittee;
- > Tennessee Department of Children's Services Program Improvement Plan Committee;
- > Tennessee Department of Health Maternal and Child Health Advisory Comsmittee;
- > Tennessee Department of Health Child Fatality Review Team;
- > Tennessee Department of Health Early Childhood Comprehensive Services (ECCS) Advisory Committee;
- > Tennessee Department of Human Services Advocates Committee;
- > Tennessee Department of Human Services Child Care Board of Review;
- > Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Children's Committee;
- > Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Mental Health Planning Council;
- > Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Division



Work is done in collaboration at TCCY events.

- of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services Strategic Prevention, Framework State Incentive Grant Advisory Committee*;
- > Tennessee Home Visitation Collaboration, Outcomes Committee;
- > Tennessee Justice Center;
- > Tennessee Juvenile Court Services Association (TJCSA);
- > Tennessee Lives Count, Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee;
- > Tennessee Quality Service Review Reviewer Certification Committee*;
- > Tennessee Quality Service Review Team*;
- > Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network Interdepartmental Group;
- > Tennessee Voices for Children

- Advisory Board/Board of Directors;
 - University of Tennessee Advisory Committee;
 - Yes2Kids Conference Planning Committee;
 - Youth Transitioning Workgroup.
- *TCCY Chaired Group

Regional Organizations

Commission staff served on a total of 57 regional committees, task forces or boards. At the regional level, representatives of the Commission participated with a number of groups in almost every area of the state. Additionally, staff members also participated on many committees, task forces and boards unique to individual regions. These regional groups addressed a

range of issues, including child abuse, child care, education, Head Start, health, mental health, family assistance, foster care, adoptions, juvenile justice, substance abuse and teen pregnancy. The committees, task forces or boards in each region with relatively consistent staff representation are:

- Child Fatality Review Task Force;
- Children’s Advocacy Centers;
- Interagency Coordinating Councils;
- Relative Caregiver Program Advisory Boards;
- Suicide Prevention Networks;
- Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare;
- Tennessee Department of Health Regional Health Council;
- Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Regional Mental Health Planning Council.



TCCY members find lots of information is available from displays.

Presentations and Displays

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth staff members made presentations and

prepared displays on a variety of topics to a range of different groups and organizations. These presentations focused on Commission activities, advocacy, Commission priorities and substantive issues. During fiscal year 2008-09, TCCY staff members made 41 presentations - one international; three national, 23 statewide, seven regional and seven local - to nearly 1,666 people.

Additionally, TCCY staff presented 25 displays to about 4,300 individuals at one national, five statewide, 15 regional and four local conferences, health fairs, college recruitment meetings and teen meetings. The purpose of these displays was to disseminate TCCY information and recruit members for the regional councils.

Legislative Advocacy

Tennessee Code Annotated 37-3-103(b)(2) mandates the following activities for TCCY:

Prepare and distribute impact statements analyzing the potential effect of proposals under consideration by the general assembly which relate to the health, well-being and development of children and youth.

During the 2009 legislative session of the 106th Tennessee General Assembly, the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth produced 21 Legislative Reports tracking 569 bills, 20 Legislative Updates tracking 164 bills, and four Legislative Summaries tracking 143 Public Acts.

During the 2009 Legislative Session the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth took positions on 50 pieces of legislation filed for consideration this year. The Commission supported 31 bills and opposed 19 bills. Of the 31 bills TCCY supported, 14 passed. Of the 19 bills opposed only one passed. There were seven bills TCCY commented on rather than take a position. Three of those bills were enacted with consideration of the Commission comments. The other four bills TCCY commented on did not pass.

TCCY legislative staff provided regional council members and child advocates with weekly updates beginning March 6 and continuing throughout the legislative session. The updates and other information were made available statewide electronically, both through e-mail and posting to the TCCY web page. TCCY also surveyed participants' interest in receiving information using newer communication such as social networking. Results indicated that subscribers liked receiving legislative information by e-mail. No changes in information distribution are planned at this time.

TCCY also provided Internet links to contact information on the Tennessee General Assembly website, including e-mail links, office addresses and phone numbers; links to portable document files (pdf) of specific legislation or amendments under consideration; and links to other relevant advocacy groups, state agencies or reports related to legislative policy issues.

Child Care Board of Review

Under Tennessee law, a Child Care Board of Review shall review actions of the Tennessee Department of Human Services' Child Care Licensing Division revoking, denying or otherwise limiting an operator's license to operate a program; any civil penalties imposed; and any long-term (90-days or longer) safety plan required. Under TCA 71-3-510(a)(2) the executive director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth is a permanent member of the board. TCCY staff members serve as representatives of the executive director. During 2008-09, Field Staff Director Richard Kennedy served TCCY on this board, which met two times.

Foster Care Review Board

(4) Monitor foster care review boards; report on the impact of foster care review on children and youth in foster care; and make recommendations for improvement of the state's foster care system to the governor and each member of the general assembly.
TCA-37-3-103

Tennessee law (TCA 37-2-406) mandates cases of children in state custody be reviewed by juvenile courts within 90 days of entering custody and at least once every six months thereafter until they exit custody. Although juvenile court judges may review the cases, the preferred method is to form a foster care review board made up of community members. According to a 2005 publication by the Administrative Office of the Courts, 88 of Tennessee's counties reported having 108 foster care review boards. Most of the boards met monthly and had from five to seven members. The members, who are appointed by Juvenile Court judges, may include a doctor, a lawyer, a staff member of a social service agency, a staff member of a mental health agency, a young adult (18 to 25 years old) and must include a parent of a minor child. In about half the boards, Department of Children's Services staff members schedule meetings; court staff schedule the rest of the boards .

Although boards are not required to review the cases of delinquent children in youth development centers, more than half the boards do so.

As a part of its efforts to fulfill its legislative mandate and to advocate for children in care, TCCY staff members serve on local foster care review boards. At least eight staff members served on foster care review boards, attending up to 12 meetings each during the year. 🖐️

Regional Councils

Tennessee Code Annotated 37-3-106 requires the Commission on Children and Youth to organize a regional council on children and youth in each of the state's nine development districts. It establishes the councils as the ongoing communication link between the Commission and regional and local areas in Tennessee. The statute requires one locally based staff person for each regional council and identifies the following duties of the councils:

- Provide for mutual exchange of information and networking among service providers, advocates and elected officials;
- Educate council members, officials, others involved in services for children and youth and the general public concerning the needs and problems of children and youth in the region and the state;
- Coordinate regional and local efforts between public and private service providers to enhance services for children and youth;
- Advocate for legislation, policies and programs at the local and regional level to promote and protect the health, well-being and development of children and youth; and
- Collect, compile and distribute data and to make recommendations of the needs and problems of children and youth.

In fiscal year 2008-09, nearly 2,500 community representatives and professionals were active members of the nine regional councils.

The information below presents the nine regions and the regional coordinators. Summary information about each council is presented on the following pages.

Northeast Tennessee Council on Children and Youth

Coordinator: Diane Wise
1233 Southwest Avenue, Extension
Johnson City, TN 37604
Phone: (423) 979-4585
Fax: (423) 979-3267
E-mail: Diane.Wise@tn.gov

Northeast Tennessee Council on Children and Youth

The Northeast Council has 290 members representing the eight counties in the region: Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington.

Northeast Tennessee Council Officers

President	Jane Pack, Department of Children's Services
Vice-President	Stephanie Sanders, CASA of Northeast Tennessee
President-Elect	Jeff Berry, Washington County Juvenile Court
Past-President	Ralph Sparks, Upper East Tennessee Regional Detention Center
Secretary	Sheree Pierce, Northeast Tennessee Regional Health Office
Treasurer	Teena Johnson, Northeast Tennessee Regional Health Office

Northeast Tennessee Council Committees and Chairs

Juvenile Justice Committee	Samantha Prater, Carter County Juvenile Court
Legislative Committee	Darrell Holden, Retired/Volunteer
Child and Family Support	Rose Rasmussen, Johnson County Schools
Child Advocacy Committee	Amy Williams, CASA for Kids
Membership and Nominating	Vacant
Hospitality and Public Relations	Karen McCrary, Upper East Tennessee Regional Juvenile Detention Center

Northeast Tennessee Council Meetings and Topics

September 16, 2008	Step Up For Kids Forum
October 1, 2008	"America's Cradle to Prison Pipeline"
February 6, 2009	Annual Breakfast for Our Legislators
May 1, 2009	Activities of the 106 th Tennessee General Assembly

Northeast Tennessee Council Special Events

November 21, 2008	Department of Children's Services: "Creating Community Partnerships" Conference
March 10-11, 2009	Children's Advocacy Days
April 17, 2009	Teen Pregnancy Prevention Conference: "Are We Helping? "

Northeast Tennessee Council Award

Fred Adams, regional administrator, Tennessee Department of Health, and Elizabeth “Betsey” Brown, community corrections manager 2, Tennessee Department of Children’s Services, were recognized as co-recipients of the 2009 Child Advocate of the Year.

East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth

Coordinator: Lindsey Cody
531 Henley Street, Suite 735
Knoxville, TN 37902
Phone: (865) 594-6658
Fax: (865) 594-6658
E-mail: Lindsey.Cody@tn.gov

East Tennessee Council Membership

The East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth has 191 members representing the 16 counties in the region: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier and Union.

East Tennessee Council Officers

President	Vacant 2008-09
President-Elect	Vacant 2008-09
Secretary	Vacant 2008-09
Past President	Amy Dilworth, Tennessee Protection and Advocacy
Treasurer	Cynthia Hudson, Knox Area Pregnancy Prevention Initiative

East Tennessee Council Committees

Nominating Committee	Vacant 2008-09
Legislative Committee	Vacant 2008-09
Juvenile Justice/Education	Vacant 2008-09

East Tennessee Council Meetings

October 2008	East Tennessee Step Up for Kids
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East Tennessee Council Special Events

Ongoing	Knox Teen Assessment Program
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Southeast Tennessee Council on Children and Youth

Regional Coordinator: Kathy Daniels
540 McCallie Avenue, Suite 643
Chattanooga, TN 37402
Phone: (423) 634-6210
Fax: (423) 634-3094
E-mail: Kathy.Daniels@tn.gov

Southeast Tennessee Council Membership

The Southeast Council has 250 members representing the 10 counties in the region: Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, McMinn, Marion, Meigs, Polk, Rhea and Sequatchie.

Southeast Council Officers

President: Hugh Reece,
Progressive Sentencing, Inc.
Vice President: Becky Encizo
Bradford Health Services
Secretary: Dalton Mook
UTC Social Work Department
Treasurer: Katie Larue
Partnership for Families,
Children, and Adults
Past President: Jeanne Bille
Child Advocate

Hiwassee Council Officers:

President: Lisa Wiley
Action Counseling
Vice President: Teresa Shull
Hiwassee Mental Health Center
Secretary: vacant
Legislative: Max Hood
Parkridge Valley Hospital

Southeast Tennessee Council Committees and Chairs:

Legislative	Becky Encizo, Bradford Health Services
Public Relations	Hugh Reece, Progressive Sentencing, Inc.
Hospitality and Child Welfare	Katie Larue, Partnership for Families, Children and Adults
Nominations/Awards	Shula Yelliott, Hamilton County Read 20
Mental Health	Stephanie Austin, HCA Parkridge Valley Dorthy Stephens, Fortwood Mental Health Center
Juvenile Justice/Youth Issues	Vacant 2008-09



Southeast Council and Hiwassee Council Meetings and Topics

September 19, 2008	Children’s Mental Health Town Hall Meeting
November 7, 2008	Bradley County Anti-Drug Coalition
December 7, 2008	Lunch with Southeast Legislators
January 16, 2009	MLK Annual Conference
May 22, 2009	Early Childhood Trauma and Brain Development

Special Projects for Children and Youth

Santa for All Seasons - Christmas Donation for Children in Foster Care
Co-Sponsored “Show Me You Care,” Children’s Mental Health Conference

Southeast Tennessee Council Awards

The Advocacy Award was presented to Max Hood, alcohol and drug counselor at Parkridge Valley Hospital in Cleveland, Tennessee.

Upper Cumberland Council on Children and Youth

Coordinator: Patty Ray
1000 England Drive, Suite F
Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone: (931) 646-4041
Fax: (931) 520-0080
E-mail: Patty.Ray@tn.gov

Upper Cumberland Council Membership

The Upper Cumberland Council had 269 members representing the 14 counties in the region: Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Van Buren, Warren and White. Forty-one agencies were represented.

Upper Cumberland Council Officers

President	Jody Roberts, Coordinator, Avalon Center
President Elect	John Rust, Program Coordinator, Cover Kids, Community Services Agency
Secretary	Kim Knotts, Resource Linkage Coordinator, Department of Children's Services
Treasurer	Betty Vaudt, Child Care Resource and Referral Center
Past President	Christy Nason, Eckerd Wilderness Educational System

Upper Cumberland Council Committees and Chairs

Executive Committee	Officers, Past President, and Committee Chairpersons
Legislative/Advocacy	Kelly Dishman, County Mayor, Van Buren County
Membership/Hospitality	Christy Pailing, Upper Cumberland Training Specialist, MTSU
Program Committee	Lorie Krauss, Upper Cumberland Training Specialist, MTSU
Publicity Committee	Jessica Tucker, Resource Linkage Coordinator, DCS

Upper Cumberland Council Meetings and Topics

July 31, 2008	Lunch and Learn, Cannon County, Cannon County Art Center
August 28, 2008	Lunch and Learn, Clay County, Upper Cumberland Child Advocacy Center
September 5, 2008	Quarterly Council Meeting/Networking Conference Presenters were Amanda Lewis, Department of Children's Services, Division of Juvenile Justice, "Juvenile Justice in Tennessee" and Cheri Richards, Upper Cumberland Regional Administrator for DCS, "State of the Child Report".
September 16, 2008	"Step Up 4 Kids Day" at Van Buren County High School
September 26, 2008	Lunch and Learn, Cumberland County, The House of Hope
October 30, 2008	Lunch and Learn, DeKalb County, Highlight; New Frontiers
December 12, 2008	Legislative Appreciation Brunch, Guest Speaker was Eric Lulow
January 5, 2009	Quarterly Council Meeting, Presenters were Patti Van Eys, Ph.D., clinical director, Vanderbilt Center of Excellence, "Sexual Behaviors in Children: What's Normal and What's Not?"

January 29, 2009	Lunch and Learn, Fentress County, Children's Advocacy Center
February 26, 2009	Lunch and Learn, Jackson County, L.B.J. & C. Head Start
March 26, 2009	Lunch and Learn, Macon County, Valley Ridge/Volunteer Behavioral Health
April 23, 2009	Lunch and Learn, Overton County, The Stevens Center
May 8, 2009	Quarterly Council Meeting, Presenter, David Sevier, Deputy executive director, Department of Education, "Tennessee's Report Card Update"
May 28, 2009	Lunch and Learn, Pickett County, The Relative Caregiver Program
June 19, 2009	Annual Business Meeting, Officers for upcoming year appointed, Advocate of the Year Award presented, Guest Speaker was Tony Rankin

Upper Cumberland Council Special Events

Annual Children's Advocacy Days
 "A Blast From the Past" fundraiser for Putnam County CASA
 "Blue Ribbon Tree Memorial" co-sponsored Child Abuse Prevention Month
 Methamphetamine Protocol Development for Putnam County co-sponsor

Upper Cumberland Council Award

John Rust with the Tennessee Community Service Agency was presented the awards at the UCCCY Annual Meeting held June 19, 2009.
 Ms. Liz Engle, with the Cookeville Herald-Citizen, received the Making KIDS COUNT Media Award in the small print market Category.



Upper Cumberland officials participate in the regional council's Step Up for Kids event.

Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth

Coordinator: April Swoner

710 James Robertson Parkway, Ninth Floor

Nashville, TN 37243-0800

Phone: (615) 532-1579

Fax: (615) 741-5956

E-mail: April.Swoner@tn.gov



Mid-Cumberland Council Membership

The Mid-Cumberland Council has 600 members representing the following 13 counties in the region: Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson and Wilson.

Mid-Cumberland Council Executive Officers

Past President	Tom Murdock, Centerstone
President	Monica Causey, Tennessee Voices for Children
Vice President	Tom Murdock, Centerstone
Secretary	Daphne Richardson, DCS
Treasurer	April Byrd, DCS

Mid-Cumberland Council County Representatives

Cheatham and Robertson	Regina Duffie, Tennessee Child Protective Services
Davidson	Dr. Lee Norton, Private Therapist Michael Kirshner, Mental Health Cooperative
Dickson	Kim Stringfield, 23rd District Children's Advocacy Center
Houston	Vacant
Humphreys	Vacant
Montgomery	Monica Causey, Tennessee Voices for Children Patrice Jessie, Army New Parent Support Group
Rutherford	Alesha Martin, Smyrna Police Department
Stewart	Nancy Spiers, Dover Elementary School
Sumner and Trousdale	Thomas Marks, Department of Health
Williamson	Vacant
Wilson	Laura Swanson, CASA

Mid-Cumberland Council Meetings and Topics

January 8, 2009	Lunch and Learn, Kids Count, Nashville
February 16, 2009	Lunch and Learn, Parenting Skills, Nashville
February 24, 2009	Lunch and Learn, Drug Awareness, Smyrna
March 4, 2009	Lunch and Learn, Parenting Skills, Clarksville
March 5, 2009	Lunch and Learn, Drug Awareness, Nashville
March 10-11, 2009	Children's Advocacy Days
March 17, 2009	Lunch and Learn, Signs of Sexual Assault, Lebanon
April 21, 2009	Lunch and Learn, Signs of Sexual Assault, Nashville

May 12, 2009
May 19, 2009

Lunch and Learn, Strengthening Families, Nashville
Spring Conference, "Compassion Fatigue," Nashville

South Central Tennessee Council on Children and Youth

Coordinator: Francis Elaine Williams
815 South Main Street
P.O. Box 397
Columbia, Tennessee 38402-0397
Phone: (931) 490-5887 or 381-2040
Fax: (931) 381-2053
E-mail: Elaine.Williams@tn.gov



South Central Tennessee Council Membership

The South Central Tennessee Council has 329 members representing but not limited to the 13 counties in the region: Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, Maury, Moore, Perry and Wayne counties.

South Central Tennessee Council Officers

President	Bobbie Cox, Director of Foster Grandparent Program, South Central Human Resource Agency, Fayetteville
Vice President	James McCune, Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill
Secretary/Treasurer	Brenda Miller, Administrative Assistant, Middle Tennessee Juvenile Detention Center, Lewisburg
Past President	Tabitha Steadman, EMT IV, Lawrenceburg

South Central Tennessee Council Committees and Chairs

Executive	Bobbie Cox, South Central Human Resources Agency, Fayetteville
Juvenile Justice/CARE	James McCune, Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill
Legislative	Ann Roberts, Parent, Tullahoma

South Central Council Meetings and Topics

August 18, 2008	Council Business and Committee Meeting, Columbia
September 16, 2008	Step Up for Kids Day Event, Columbia
October 6, 2008	Attended "Tennessee Children Welcome the Candidates," Nashville
October 7, 2008	Conference Committee Meeting, Columbia
November 3, 2008	Council Business and Committee Meetings, Columbia
November 6, 2008	TCCY and "KIDS COUNT: A Profile of the County," Fayetteville
November 5, 2008	Conference Committee Meeting, Columbia
December 3, 2008	Council Business and Committee Meeting, Columbia
January 6, 2009	Conference Committee Meeting, Columbia
February 13, 2009	Council Legislative Committee

February 18, 2009	“Juvenile Justice: DMC and KIDS COUNT”
March 5, 2009	Legislative Workshop, Tullahoma
March 10-11, 2009	Children’s Advocacy Days, Nashville
March 27, 2009	Co-sponsored Children and Youth Suicide Prevention Conference, “How to Save a Life: A Community Response to the Issue”
April 30, 2009	FrameWorks Training, Columbia: “Framing Messages to the Media and Public”
May 1, 2009	Council Business and Committee Meetings, Columbia; Bylaws/Council Funds, Audit and Election of Officers
May 20, 2009	Participated in Health Expo Event, Columbia
June 9, 2009	Council Business and Committee Meeting

Northwest Council on Children and Youth

Coordinator: Dana M. Cobb
 1235 Buena Vista Road
 Post Office Box 586
 Huntingdon, TN 38344
 Phone (731) 986-4243
 Fax (731) 986-3200
 E-mail: Dana.Cobb@tn.gov



Northwest Council Membership

The Northwest Council has 302 members representing the nine counties in the region: Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion and Weakley.

Northwest Council Officers

President	Jenifer Hart, Baptist Behavioral Health
Vice President	Shannon Mayo, Northwest Tennessee Head Start
Secretary	Sharye Hendrix, Child Advocate
Treasurer	Michelle Horton, U.T. Martin Social Work Program

Northwest Council Committees and Chairs

Education/Prevention	Marilyn Goodman, Milan High School Lori Hendon, Weakley and Obion Child Abuse Prevention Center
Juvenile Justice	Derrick Palmer, Carey Counseling Center Eddy White, Dyer County Juvenile Court Lee Hayes, Gibson County Juvenile Court Clerk David Johnson, Benton County Juvenile Court
Legislative	Joetta Yarbrow, Dyersburg Family Resource Center Sherri Sedgebear, Carey Counseling Center Gina Hampton, Northwest Tennessee Head Start

Membership

Betty Rasberry, Retired
Gretchen Beauchamp, Northwest Child Care Resource
and Referral
Allison Downs, Department of Children Services

Northwest Council Meetings, Trainings and Topics

August 31, 2008	Ethics Training: "What Everyone Should Know To Protect Themselves"
September 16, 2008	Northwest Region Step Up for Kids Celebration
November 7, 2008	Northwest Council Fall Conference and Provider Fair
January 23, 2009	Northwest Council Legislative Forum and Networking Breakfast
March 10-11, 2009	Children's Advocacy Days
April 17, 2009	Co-sponsored Teen Suicide Prevention Conference
April 30 - May 1, 2009	TJCSA - West Mini Conference

Northwest Tennessee Council Special Events

Northwest Imagination Library Project
Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month Cookie/Goody Basket Project
Reelfoot Rural Ministries Dental Program

Northwest Tennessee Council Awards

2008 Child Advocate of the Year Award Winner: Joetta Yarbro, Dyersburg City Schools
2008 Agency of the Year Award Winner: Martin Housing Authority

Southwest Tennessee Council on Children and Youth

Coordinator: Rodger D. Jowers
Lowell Thomas State Office Building, Suite 440 - Box 13
225 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive
Jackson, TN 38301
Phone: (731) 423-6545
Fax: (731) 423-6612
E-mail: Rodger.Jowers@tn.gov

Southwest Council Membership

The Southwest Council has 189 members, representing the 11 counties of the region: Chester, Decatur, Fayette, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Lauderdale, McNairy, Madison and Tipton.

Council Leadership

Chairperson	Jimmie Trice-Baylor, Department of Children's Services
Vice Chairperson	Carol Burroughs, Henderson County Schools
Treasurer	Barry Cooper, JACO

Secretary
Past Chairperson

Rhonda Ewing, Tennessee Voices for Children
Jonathan Searcy, West Tennessee Children's Home

Council Meetings and Events

September 16, 2008	Step Up for Kids Rally
October 23, 2008	"The Real Costs of Teen Motherhood "
December 12, 2008	"EXTREME ETHICS: A Case-Based Ethics Workshop for Human Service Workers"
March 10-11, 2009	Children's Advocacy Days
March 27, 2009	TCCY Grant Training
April 17, 2009	Teen Suicide Awareness and Prevention Workshop
May 6, 2009	"Building Blocks For Kids" Web Conference

Memphis/Shelby County Children and Youth Council

Coordinator: Gwendolyn Wright
170 N. Main Street, 9th Floor
Memphis, TN 38103
Phone: (901) 543-7657
FAX: (901) 543-6462
E-mail: Gwendolyn.Wright@tn.gov

Memphis/Shelby County Council Membership

The Memphis/Shelby County Children and Youth Council has 281 members representing Memphis and Shelby County.

Memphis/Shelby County Officers

President	Sandy Guntharp, University of Memphis
President Elect	Peggy Pryor Johnson, Memphis City Schools
Past President	Kelli Grissom, Memphis Child Advocacy Center
Treasurer	Vince Robertson, Minister
Secretary	Jacqueline King, Porter Leath

Memphis/Shelby County Committees and Chairs

Prevention	Henrietta Jones, Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
Youth and Juvenile Justice	Gwendolyn Harbert, Department of Human Services
Legislative	Bobbie Thompson, University of Tennessee College of Social Work
Executive	Sandy Guntharp, University of Memphis

Memphis/Shelby County Meetings and Topics

August 27, 2008	"Cradle to Prison Pipeline"
November 19, 2008	Youth Assets Building

February 18, 2009
May 27, 2009

Grassroots Programs for Children and Youth
“Helping Children and Families Deal with Grief”

Memphis/Shelby County Council Events

September 16, 2008

Step Up For Kids Rally

March 11-12, 2009

Children’s Advocacy Days, Nashville

Memphis/Shelby County Council Award

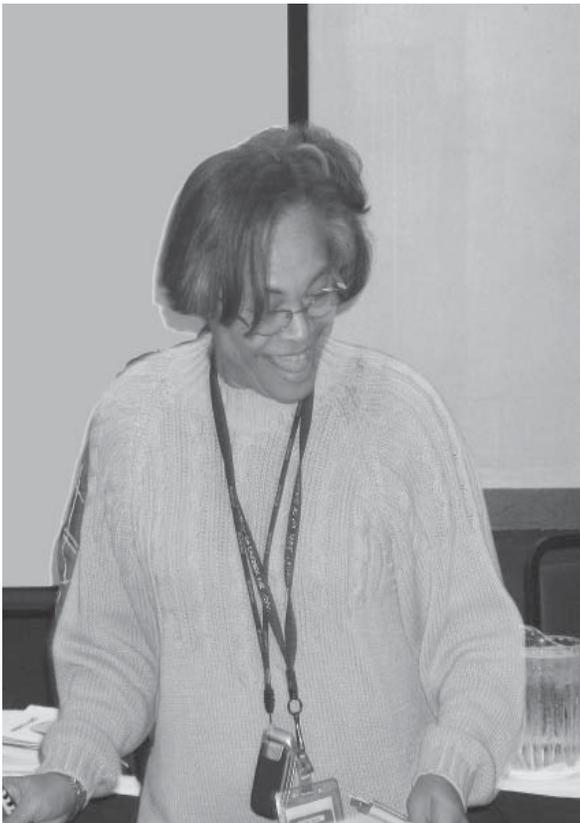
Ruth Hamblen with Le Bonheur Center for Children and Parents was the recipient of the Council’s Mary F. Todd Advocacy Award. 🙌

Juvenile Justice

Tennessee Code Annotated Section 37-3-103(a)(1)(C) establishes the following Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) responsibilities in the juvenile justice arena:

- *To implement the provisions of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974; and distribute, consistent with the purpose of the commission as set forth by Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-3-102(a), such funds as the general assembly shall direct.*

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) strives each year to improve advocacy services for children and youth by complying with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act. Each state participating in the Act, reauthorized in 2002, is required to have a state advisory group (SAG). TCCY serves as Tennessee's SAG. It is also important for TCCY to exercise the powers and duties designated in the Tennessee Code Annotated Section 37-3-103, which includes advocating for efficient, effective and relevant programs and services for children and youth. TCCY also identifies problems and gaps in programs and services for children and families.



Debrah Stafford leads TCCY's Juvenile Justice Division.

In addition to meeting the requirement to have a SAG, a state must maintain compliance with the Act's four core requirements for continued participation. Compliance with these requirements enables Tennessee to receive Federal Formula Grant funds to address delinquency prevention and intervention issues.

The core requirements are to:

- Deinstitutionalize status offenders (DSO);
- Remove children from adult jails;
- Separate children from adult offenders;
- Address disproportionate minority contact of children with the juvenile justice system.

Another requirement for participation in the Act is the annual submission of a three-year plan or plan update to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Each year the Commission submits a plan that includes a juvenile crime analysis of court referrals, adjudications, offenses and transfers to adult court categorized by race and gender. With the use of JJDP Act funds, the three-year plan includes program areas Tennessee will focus on to reduce juvenile delinquency. Funds provided to projects across the state will focus on evidence-based programs that have proven to work well with at-risk and delinquent youth. Programs are required to submit performance measures to indicate results of services provided. The program areas for this period included Delinquency Prevention, Minority Over-Representation, Youth Advocacy and Alternatives to Detention.



Alonzo Coleman receives the 2009 Youth Advocacy Award.

Monitoring

Program Monitoring

Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration Policy 22 requires that all sub-recipients receiving state or federal funds from state departments, agencies and commissions in Tennessee be monitored on a regular basis following monitoring guidelines it established, in consultation with the Comptroller of the Treasury. TCCY completed its 2009 Policy 22 Plan in September 2008. The plan contained sub-recipient contracts to be monitored during fiscal year 2008-09, sample monitoring guides for each federal or state award TCCY receives, program descriptions for each federal or state award and a corrective action process for programs identified with findings and/or observations that need to be corrected. Core monitoring areas covered included allowable or unallowable activities; civil rights assurances; allowable costs/cost principles; eligibility; matching; level of effort; earmarking; program income; cash management; Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage compliance; equipment and real property management; period of availability of funds; procurement, suspension and debarment from federal grant programs; real property acquisition and relocation assistance; reporting; and special tests and provisions.

During the period January 1, 2008, to December 31, 2008, TCCY program monitors completed 77 monitoring reviews of grants totaling \$2,790,567. This fulfilled the Tennessee Policy 22 guidelines requirement that each state grantor monitor at least one-third of its contracts totaling at least two-thirds of grant funds each year. The programs monitored during fiscal year 2008-09 are presented in the following table.

TCCY Juvenile Justice Monitoring Activities Fiscal Year 2008-09			
Number	Type of Program	Monitoring/On-Site Frequency	Total Number of TCCY Monitoring Activities
24	Court Appointed Special Advocate Programs (CASA)	Annually	24
95	State Supplement Accounts*	Annually	95
64	Reimbursement Accounts**		64
22	Federal Formula Grant Programs	Annually	22
2	Title V Grant Program	Annually	2
7	Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program	Annually	7
12	Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Grant Program	Annually	8
110	Jails and/or Lockups	Annually/Quarterly	150
9	Temporary Holding Facilities	Monthly	108
18	Juvenile Detention Centers	Monthly	216
3	Youth Development Centers	Annually/Quarterly	6
2	Youth Development Program	Monthly	8
368	Total		714

* Each year monitors do desk reviews for 100 percent of the State Supplement Grants.

** A desk review is completed for Reimbursement Accounts.



Phil McKenzie compiles violation information.

Compliance Monitoring Report

Each year TCCY submits to OJJDP a monitoring report summarizing violations of the Act's mandates. For the 2008-09 Compliance Monitoring Year Tennessee had a total of 103 deinstitutionalization of status offender (DSO) violations for the state. The maximum allowed to prevent the loss of federal funding is 409. The decrease from 115 the previous year can be credited to the ongoing education of detention facility staff and juvenile court staff on dealing with status offenders and finding alternatives to detention. The agency strives to make new and seasoned youth service officers aware of the guidelines set by the JJDP Act. TCCY continues to provide the updated,

necessary materials and clarify understanding of the Act and the use of Valid Court Orders.

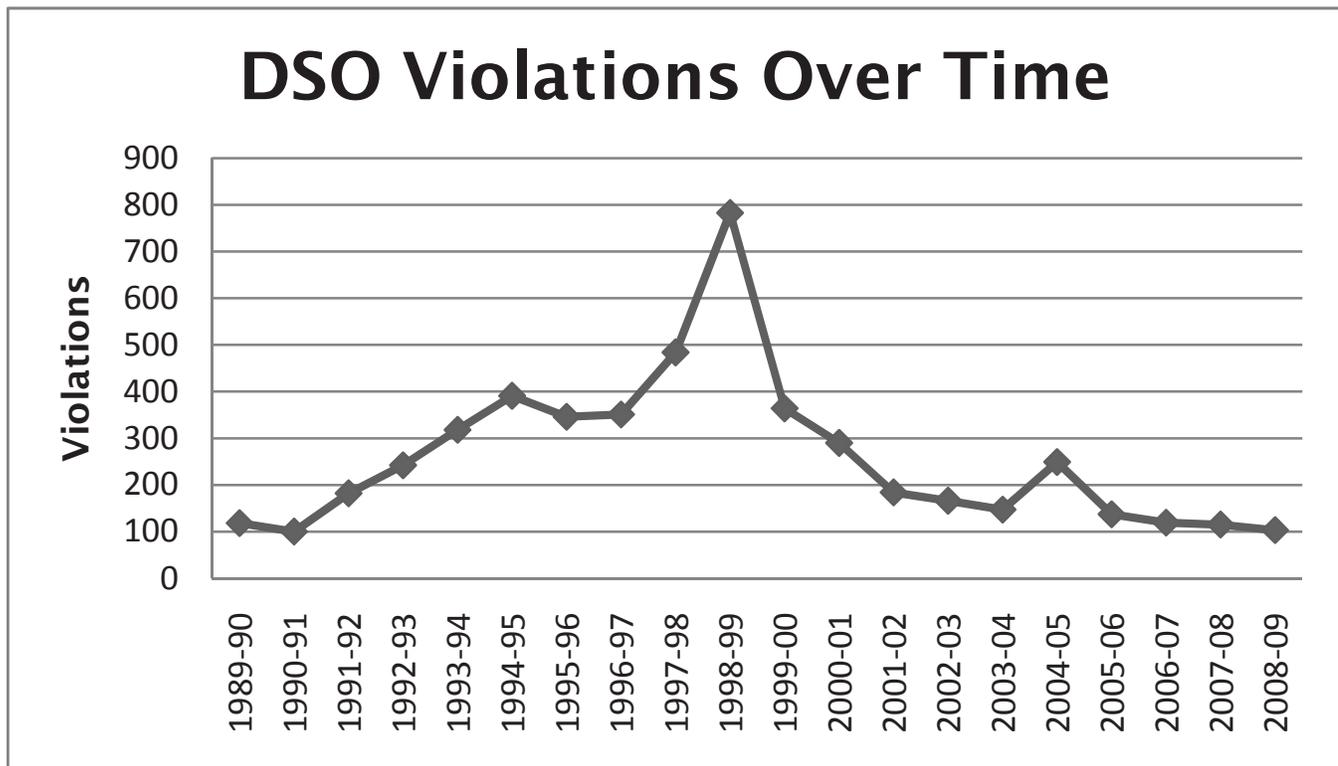
If a county is out of compliance, it is ineligible to receive certain federal juvenile justice funds.

Each year monitors do desk reviews for 100 percent of the State Supplement Grants.

A desk review allows counties to send in requested information. This allows the monitor to review the cases without having to disrupt the daily schedule of others. If there are questions/violations, each county is allowed time to come up with an action plan that will provide TCCY with a solution along with an ongoing preventive plan.

Jails and lockups are generally monitored annually unless the volume of inmates is so large the monitor will visit quarterly to save time. Temporary Holding Facilities are monitored monthly as well as Juvenile Detention Centers, both public and private. Youth Development Centers are monitored annually unless the monitor feels it is necessary to monitor quarterly due to the volume of juveniles.

The violation prevention process continued with an ongoing training program. Monitoring juvenile detention facilities (temporary holding resources, jails and lockups) on a monthly rather than a quarterly basis by juvenile justice specialists and TCCY regional coordinators helped to stop problems before they got started. The monitoring





Beverly Cosley chairs TCCY's Juvenile Justice and Minority Issues Committee.

also provided an opportunity for technical assistance and advice on alternatives to secure placements. Commission members continued reduction efforts by talking to judges and facility directors in their areas regarding the alternatives to secure placements. Tennessee had five counties out of compliance for DSO violations in the state. One county had one violation; two counties had two violations each. One county, which had one or two violations in the past, ended the year with seven. The seven violations were due to new juvenile court staff, and all seven violations were in the same month. This is the main reason for monitoring on a monthly basis. The fifth county had 17 violations, all dealing with the Valid Court Order. Each county has received a letter notifying it the number of its DSO violations make the county out of compliance and offering to provide technical assistance at its convenience.

In regard to the jail removal and separation core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, Tennessee has remained in compliance since 1986. The Act has had a strong impact on Tennessee's juvenile justice system regarding children held in adult jails. The number of violations for children held in adult jails has been reduced from approximately 10,000 in 1980 to no violations for 2008-09, a great accomplishment for this state. Even with no separation or jail removal violations, TCCY will continue to work with the local sheriffs, jail administrators and correction facilities to prevent future violations.

TCCY continues to strive to make Tennessee violation free. Training is planned for new juvenile court judges and their staff, new sheriffs and jail administrators and their staff. TCCY has notified youth service officers and Administrative Office of the Courts staff it is willing to provide any and all information required to those who are having trouble understanding or are unaware of the DSO, Jail Removal and Separation rules and guidelines of the JJDP Act.

Minority Over-Representation

One of the four core requirements of the JJDP Act of 1974 was to address minority over-representation (MOR) in secure confinement. The act, reauthorized in 2002 (and currently up for reauthorization again), included disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system as a core requirement to replace disproportionate minority confinement. Minority over-representation occurs when the "rate of contact with the juvenile justice system of a specific minority group is significantly greater than the rate of contact for Whites (non-Hispanic) or for other minority groups."

Disproportionate Minority Contact/Confinement (DMC) Task Force Members*

West

John Hall, Chair	Memphis City Schools	Shelby County
Susan Adams	Service Provider	Shelby County
Wanda Halbert	Memphis School Board	Shelby County
Wayne Pitts	University of Memphis	Shelby County

Middle

Linda Copeland	Department of Children’s Services	Mid-Cumberland
Gwen Harris	Department of Children’s Services	Mid-Cumberland
Trish Hayes	Public Defender’s Office	Mid-Cumberland
Atica Helms	Attorney	Mid-Cumberland
Yolanda Hockett	Metro Juvenile Detention	Mid-Cumberland
Davalynn Johnson	Family Support Specialist	Mid-Cumberland
Marcy Melvin	Centerstone	Mid-Cumberland
Merriel Neal, Esq.	Metro Juvenile Court	Mid-Cumberland
Elvira Newcomb	Administrative Office of the Court	Mid-Cumberland
Beverly Norment	Department of Children’s Services	Mid-Cumberland
Rebecca Rhodes	Administrative Office of the Court	Mid-Cumberland
Tommy Vallejos	Faith Outreach Church	Mid-Cumberland
Jaunita Veasy	Black Children’s Institute	Mid-Cumberland

East

Dwight Stokes, Vice Chair	Juvenile Court Judge	Northeast
Hoan Bui	Professor, University of Tennessee-Knoxville	East
Beverly Cosley	TCCY Commission Member	Southeast
Amadou Sall	Professor, University of Tennessee-Knoxville	East
Bo Walker	Administrator	Southeast

The state of Tennessee remains in compliance with the minority over-representation (MOR) core requirement of the JJDP Act by:

- Ongoing data collection, which verified a disproportionate number of minority youth in secure confinement in rural and metropolitan areas of the state;
- Educating local Tennessee communities regarding disproportionate minority contact/confinement (DMC);
- Making presentations on Tennessee achievements at national conferences on DMC and keeping updated on the latest information on minority over-representation;
- Acquiring Technical Assistance (TA) from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and Design Systems Group (DSG) on strategies to

address and reduce the large numbers of children of color at all levels of the juvenile justice system;

- Using some Federal Formula Grant funds for programs that develop alternatives to detention;
- Funding grant applications that focus services on children of color;
- Establishing a statewide DMC Task Force Coordinator;
- Diversifying the racial and ethnic composition of the DMC Task Force membership;
- Developing local DMC Task Forces in five cities in the state (Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Memphis and Clarksville);
- Updating the DMC brochure (updated February 2009) to reflect current data on the issue;
- Seeing that state legislation HR 890 was passed to authorize the Select Committee on Children and Youth (SCCY) to work with TCCY on the DMC issues;
- Funding the Special DMC Project in Memphis City Schools, the School House Adjustment Program Enterprise (SHAPE) to reduce the number of minority youth in the juvenile justice system;
- Increasing statewide DMC Task Force budget for operations.



TCCY DMC Coordinator Ron King

The statewide DMC Task Force was first formed in 1995. It works to address minority over-representation issues at the state and local levels. The task force (see current membership list in this section) met four times during fiscal year 2008-09 to develop strategies to reduce DMC in problem areas. The latest research and best practice programs show the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) has proven to be the best nationwide effort to reduce the number of children of color found in secure confinement, as well as the number of majority American children who find themselves confined in secure confinement.

For Tennessee, 29 percent of at-risk youth ages 10 to 17 were children of color, with African-American youth comprising 21 percent of the total. Overall referrals of minority youth to juvenile court were at a significantly higher rate than White youth. This significantly higher referral rate translates into significantly higher incarceration rates in state secure facilities. A comparison of Tennessee's 2006 and 2007 Relative Rate

Indexes (the indicator of disproportionate overrepresentation of children of color in our state juvenile justice system) shows that transfers to adult court increased from 5.45 (260 transfers) in fiscal year 2006 to 7.65 (304 transfers) in fiscal year 2007. This indicates that children of color, in fiscal year 2006, were five times as likely to be transferred to adult court compared to their White youth counterpart. This compares to over seven and a half times as likely in fiscal year 2007, with African-American children being the largest group of youth transferred. According to the 2007 Tennessee Annual Juvenile Court Statistical Report, African American youth were 80 percent of the youth transferred to adult court. However, White youth are almost three times as likely as African-Americans to be held in non-secure placements such as Temporary Holding Resources (THRs), emergency foster homes and emergency shelters. The report also shows there is a slight difference between pre-adjudicated White youth (49 percent) and African American youth (47 percent) held in secure detention. Data regarding placements after secure detention hearings indicate African-American juveniles (59 percent) detained are more likely to receive more restrictive placements than White juveniles (38 percent). For example, African-Americans are almost twice as likely as White youth to be placed in a juvenile detention facility following a detention hearing.

TCCY is serious and proactive in trying to reduce the number of children of color in secure confinement. Several initiatives have been completed that will actively assist TCCY in its overall goal. The new initiative that has proven to be effective in reducing minority youth in the juvenile justice system is the School House Adjustment Program Enterprise (SHAPE) in Memphis-Shelby County. SHAPE is a collaborative effort between Memphis City Schools, the Memphis Police Department, the offices of the Memphis City and Shelby County mayors, the Public Defender's Office, Juvenile Court and the local Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Task Force. Started in October 2008, the program's purpose is to reduce the number of minority students referred to juvenile court for minor offenses committed at school (e.g., simple assault with no serious injury, criminal trespass and disorderly conduct). There are presently 18 schools participating in the program (17 high schools and one middle school). The students selected attend after school sessions involving homework assistance, tutoring, mentoring and social and life skills training, which lasts approximately nine weeks. To date, about 190 students have been involved in the program with a success rate of 62.5 percent completing the program successfully. Successful completion of SHAPE is defined as completing all curriculum requirements and having no contact with juvenile court while in the program. During the 2006-07 school year, more than 1,700 students were



Zanira Whitfield assists TCCY grantees.

Federal Formula Grants Awarded by TCCY
Grant Period: October 1, 2007-September 30, 2008
By Program Category

Grantee	Location	Amount
Alternatives to Detention		
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Memphis	Memphis	\$ 22,500
MARRS	Memphis	\$ 45,000
TN Voices for Children	Nashville	\$ 45,000
Disproportionate Minority Confinement		
Memphis City Schools - SHAPE Project	Memphis	\$ 100,000
Delinquency Prevention		
Coalition for Kids, Inc	Johnson City	\$ 24,976
Family Guidance Training Institute	Clarksville	\$ 25,000
Little Children of the World Inc	Etowah	\$ 51,176
Madison County Juvenile Court	Jackson	\$ 3,128
New Visions, Inc	Nashville	\$ 44,988
UT Chattanooga	Chattanooga	\$ 40,000
Exchange Club of Mid-South	Memphis	\$ 40,000
The Carpetbag Theatre	Knoxville	\$ 40,000
Knox Co Public Defenders Law Office	Knoxville	\$ 30,000
Children's Center of the Cumberlands	Oneida	\$ 40,000
Williamson County Youth Inc	Franklin	\$ 40,000
Kingsport Housing Authority	Kingsport	\$ 25,454
Martha O'Bryan Center	Nashville	\$ 18,826
Webb Alumni Association	McKenzie	\$ 30,000
Youth Advocacy		
Administrative Office of the Courts	*Nashville	\$ 60,000
Tennessee Legal Community Foundation	*Nashville	\$ 60,000
		\$ 726,048

* Grantee is located in Nashville, but scope is statewide.

transferred to juvenile court from Memphis City Schools. In 2008-09, there was a reduction of 29.4 percent of students transported to juvenile court.

Federal Formula Grants

In addition to monitoring for compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 2002, TCCY annually awards grants from funds provided through the Act. Federal Formula grants are awarded for one year and are renewable for up to two additional years. Renewal is not automatic, and grantees must submit an application each year. If a project is approved for funding after the first year, the funding levels for the second and third years will be 75 percent and 50 percent, respectively, of the first year's budget.

Federal Formula Grants Awarded by TCCY
Grant Period: October 1, 2008-September 30, 2009
By Program Category

Grantee	Location	Amount
Alternatives to Detention		
Memphis Leadership Foundation - MARRS	Memphis	\$ 26,250
TN Voices for Children	Nashville	\$ 33,750
Disproportionate Minority Confinement		
Boys & Girls Club of TN Valley	Knoxville	\$ 70,000
Clarksville Police Department	Clarksville	\$ 20,000
Shelby County District Attorney General	Memphis	\$ 65,000
Scott Street Community Resource Center	Brownsville	\$ 60,000
Memphis City Schools - SHAPE Project	Memphis	\$ 141,967
YMCA of Nashville	Nashville	\$ 35,000
Delinquency Prevention		
Little Children of the World Inc	Etowah	\$ 34,118
New Visions, Inc	Nashville	\$ 29,992
UT Chattanooga	Chattanooga	\$ 30,000
Exchange Club of Mid-South	Memphis	\$ 30,000
The Carpetbag Theatre	Knoxville	\$ 30,000
Knox Co Public Defenders Law Office	Knoxville	\$ 22,499
Children's Center of the Cumberlands	Oneida	\$ 30,000
Williamson County Youth Inc	Franklin	\$ 30,000
Kingsport Housing Authority	Kingsport	\$ 16,871
Youth Advocacy		
Administrative Office of the Courts	*Nashville	\$ 60,000
Tennessee Legal Community Foundation	*Nashville	\$ 60,000
		<u>\$ 765,447</u>

* Grantee is located in Nashville, but scope is statewide.

Federal regulations require funds be allocated for programs as a part of a comprehensive and coordinated community system of services, including collaborative efforts such as the Community Prevention Initiative. It is important that funded programs ensure services for the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency are consistent with policies focusing on preserving families and providing appropriate services in the least restrictive environments. TCCY gives preference to programs that provide direct services to youth and are evidence-based. Also, funded projects should focus on early intervention efforts for children at risk of developing emotional or behavioral problems because of physical or mental stress and abuse. In addition, TCCY encourages private and public partnerships in the delivery of services for the prevention and intervention of juvenile delinquency.

Tennessee received approximately \$1 million in Federal Formula Grant funds in fiscal year 2008-09. The Commission awarded grants to agencies for delinquency prevention and intervention projects to ensure youth at risk of committing offenses received appropriate services. During this reporting period, grantees served more than 2,000 children.

TCCY staff provided grant-writing training and technical assistance to potential applicants for all federal grants it administers. In addition, an orientation session was conducted for grantees approved for funding. TCCY staff also provided technical assistance to agencies and organizations to assure successful implementation of programs.

Title V Grantee	FY 2008-09 Award Amount
Franklin Special School District	\$47,050
Hancock County	47,050

Title V Delinquency Prevention Grants

The 2002 reauthorization of the JJDP Act included a Title V allocation to promote collaboration within communities to develop delinquency prevention strategies. A community-based planning process focused on reducing risks and enhancing protective factors to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system is required. Local communities completed risk and resource assessments to determine effective strategies and specific programs for target populations.

Unlike Federal Formula grants, which may be awarded to individuals or single agencies, Title V funds must be given to local units of government. To be considered for funding a community must demonstrate collaboration by the establishment of a multidisciplinary prevention policy board (PPB) and the development of a three-year plan for delinquency prevention. In addition, the local unit of government must provide a 50 percent cash or in-kind match. Also, to be eligible, the county must be in compliance with the mandates of the JJDP Act.

In fiscal year 2008-09, TCCY continued its participation with the Tennessee departments of Health, Children’s Services and Education and the United Way in the Community Prevention Initiative for children. Title V programs and those funded by the Department of Health through the Community Prevention Initiative share similar philosophies and goals. To receive these funds, community collaboration must be demonstrated in the development of strategies to prevent negative behaviors and outcomes for children. During this reporting period, Title V grantees served more than 80 children.

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Program

In fiscal year 1998, Congress authorized the attorney general to provide grants under the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) program for use by states and units of local government to promote greater accountability in the juvenile justice system.

The Department of Children's Services (DCS) initially administered the JAIBG program for Tennessee. In October 2001, JAIBG program administration was transferred to the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. In federal fiscal year 2001, Tennessee received \$4,302,300 in federal JAIBG dollars to be used for projects that reinforced accountability through a graduated sanctions system for crimes committed by juveniles. Grantees must submit an application to TCCY every year because renewal is not automatic. In October 2002, when the program was reauthorized the name was changed to the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program.

If it does not request a waiver, each state must distribute not less than 75 percent of the state's allocation among units of local government in the state. In making this distribution, the state allocates to each unit of local government an amount by a federal formula based on a combination of law enforcement expenditures for each unit of local government and the average annual number of violent crimes reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports Division by each unit of local government for the three most recent calendar years for which data are available.

There are two types of distribution for the JABG funds. They include local Pass-Through funds and State-Allocated funds. According to the federal formula calculations, all local jurisdictions eligible to receive at least \$10,000 can receive these funds if they request them. The amount for each unit of local government is determined by the state's percentage for Pass-Through funds. TCCY did not apply for a waiver; therefore, 75 percent of the JABG funds were passed to the units of local government. The remaining 25 percent were used by the state to benefit those areas not eligible to receive at least \$10,000. Grants were distributed through a request for proposals focused on accountability and enhancing services for youth in the juvenile justice system.

Funds are available for the following 17 program purpose areas (a 10 percent cash match is required when applying for these funds, except for Purpose Area 1):

- Purpose Area 1. Developing, implementing and administering graduated sanctions for juvenile offenders.
- Purpose Area 2. Building, expanding, renovating or operating temporary or permanent juvenile corrections, detention or community corrections facilities.
- Purpose Area 3. Hiring additional juvenile court judges, probation officers, and court-appointed defenders and funding pre-trial services for juveniles, to promote the effective and expeditious administration of the juvenile justice system.
- Purpose Area 4. Hiring additional prosecutors, so more cases involving violent juvenile offenders can be prosecuted and case backlogs reduced.
- Purpose Area 5. Providing funding to enable prosecutors to address drug, gang and youth violence problems more effectively and for technology, equipment and training to assist prosecutors in identifying and expediting the prosecution of violent juvenile offenders.

- Purpose Area 6. Establishing and maintaining training programs for law enforcement and other court personnel with respect to preventing and controlling juvenile crime.
- Purpose Area 7. Establishing juvenile gun courts for the prosecution and adjudication of juvenile firearms offenders.
- Purpose Area 8. Establishing drug courts for juvenile offenders that provide continuing judicial supervision over juvenile offenders with substance abuse problems and to provide the integrated administration of other sanctions and services.
- Purpose Area 9. Establishing and maintaining a system of juvenile records designed to promote public safety.
- Purpose Area 10. Establishing and maintaining interagency information-sharing programs that enable the juvenile and criminal justice system, schools and social service agencies to make more informed decisions regarding the early identification, control, supervision and treatment of juveniles who repeatedly commit serious delinquent or criminal acts.
- Purpose Area 11. Establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs designed to reduce recidivism among juveniles who are referred by law enforcement personnel or agencies.
- Purpose Area 12. Establishing and maintaining programs to conduct risk and needs assessments of juvenile offenders that facilitate the effective early intervention and the provision of comprehensive services, including mental health screening and treatment and substance abuse testing and treatment to such offenders.
- Purpose Area 13. Establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs that are designed to enhance school safety.
- Purpose Area 14. Establishing and maintaining restorative justice programs.
- Purpose Area 15. Establishing and maintaining



A youth speaks out on the issues.

- Purpose Area 16. programs to enable juvenile courts and juvenile probation officers to be more effective and efficient in holding juvenile offenders accountable and reducing juvenile recidivism. Hiring detention and corrections personnel and establishing and maintaining training programs for such personnel to improve facility practices and programming.
- Purpose Area 17. Establishing, improving and coordinating Pre-Release and Post-Release systems and programs to facilitate the successful reentry of juvenile offenders from state or local custody in the community.

The benefits to Tennessee have been numerous, including the following.

- Tennessee has received a total of \$30,369,700 from 1998 through 2008 for accountability-based juvenile justice system programs.
- Rural counties across the state have received funds to help with juvenile court services and the backlog of juvenile cases.
- Programs funded have included: 1) intensive probation services; 2) residential observation and assessment services; 3) intensive after care services; 4) alternative school and summer adventure-based programs; 5) additional referees to handle cases; 6) improved data systems for tracking juveniles; 7) new youth and drug courts for diversion from the regular juvenile justice system; etc.
- Juvenile courts in rural areas, which normally have minimal resources, now have a greater variety of services to meet more individualized needs.
- In Tennessee, juvenile offense referrals for crimes such as homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, rape, larceny, and burglary have been reduced by 8 percent from 2001 to 2007.

Unfortunately, JABG funds to Tennessee have been drastically reduced since 2001. The total award for 2008 was \$810,200 compared to \$4,302,300 in 2001.

It is important to maintain Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funds to continue the success of reducing juvenile crime in Tennessee and providing more individualized, accountability-based interventions for youth involved with the juvenile courts.

Following are the grantees and the amount received for the 2008-09 year:

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Pass-Through

Grantee	Amount
Davidson County Government	\$103,788.00
Hamilton County Government	\$20,088.00
Knox County Government	\$34,087.00
Shelby County Government	\$182,558.00

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant State-Allocated

Grantee	Amount
Frontier Health	\$161,000.00
Madison County Government	\$208,000.00
TN Community Services Agency	\$86,000.00

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Program

Adolescence marks the age in which experimentation with mood-altering substances is most active. More youth in the United States drink alcohol than smoke tobacco or marijuana, making it the drug most used by American young people. Binge drinking among girls is equal to that of boys. Long-term studies now show a direct link between alcohol advertising and youth drinking. Young people who see and hear more alcohol advertisements are more likely to drink than their peers.

According to the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Summary Report from January to September 2008, the following data were reported for Davidson, Hamilton, Knox and Shelby counties:

- 47 juveniles were referred to juvenile court for driving under the influence;
- 224 were charged with public intoxication;
- 510 were referred for Alcohol and Drug Counseling;
- 173 were referred to Alcohol Safety School.

According to the Tennessee Department of Education Annual Zero Tolerance Report, the number of offenses committed for possession of alcohol increased from 185 in 2006-07 to 228 in 2007-08.

In order to combat underage drinking, in 1999 Congress appropriated \$360,000 to each state to address and reduce the use by and sale of alcohol to minors. The Department of Children's Services (DCS) administered the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) program in Tennessee from its inception until February 2002, giving the money to MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) of Tennessee for its Youth in Action Program. Since that time the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) assumed the administrative responsibilities. The total funds per state have been changed to \$350,000 per year.



Vicki Taylor, TCCY EUDL program coordinator, speaks before 1,700 people attending the National Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Training Center's 10th Annual Leadership Conference in Nashville in August 2008.

A request for proposals was developed, and training on the program was given to agencies and organizations interested in reducing the sale and use of alcohol. Activities funded currently are as follows:

- Statewide task forces of state and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies that target establishments suspected of a pattern of violations of state laws governing the sale and consumption of alcohol by minors;
- Innovative programs to prevent and combat underage drinking;
- Public advertising campaigns to educate establishments about statutory prohibitions and sanctions.

Programs funded and areas of focus for 2008-09 include the following.

- Bradley County Juvenile Court provided alcohol education to youth ages 11-17 in detention.
- Memphis City Schools educated students, parents and the community on health and social consequences of underage drinking.
- Johnson City Schools implemented prevention strategies to combat underage drinking.
- Center for Youth Issues (STARS) targeted youth ages 14-19, implementing two research based programs (Too Good for Drugs and Violence and Reconnecting Youth).
- Fayette County Schools provided awareness and prevention services concerning underage drinking and its consequences.
- STAND provided treatment interventions for students identified as having alcohol abuse issues.
- Polk County Family Resource Center provided intervention services for ages 12-20.
- Knoxville Metro Drug Commission implemented a community wide, multi-strategic program designed to enhance the enforcement of underage drinking laws, limit access and examine weaknesses in the laws, policies and regulations regarding minor consumption.
- Gatlinburg Police Department, in conjunction with Sevier County School System's Driver's Education classes, educated students, faculty, merchants, bartenders and servers about the dangers of underage drinking and driving and false IDs.
- Trousdale County Schools provided students kindergarten to fifth grade with an evidence-based program that improved resiliency and self-esteem while enhancing their leadership potential.
- Lenoir City Schools supported a student-driven educational program focusing on legal and physical consequences of underage drinking.
- Martin Housing Authority operated an after-school prevention program for middle and high school students. Crossroads Teen Center utilizes the skills of law enforcement to educate youth on the underage drinking laws and the dangers of alcohol use among minors.

Reimbursement Account	
County	Amount
Anderson	\$ 6,000
Cannon	\$ 800
Carter	\$ 5,000
Cheatham	\$ 400
Chester	\$ 300
Cocke	\$ 2,500
Coffee	\$ 6,500
Crockett	\$ 1,500
Dickson	\$ 6,000
Giles	\$ 1,600
Hamblen	\$ 12,000
Hardeman	\$ 700
Hardin	\$ 400
Hawkins	\$ 5,600
Haywood	\$ 300
Henderson	\$ 500
Henry	\$ 300
Hickman	\$ 300
Humphreys	\$ 300
Jefferson	\$ 5,000
Johnson	\$ 300
Lauderdale	\$ 5,500
Lawrence	\$ 300
Lewis	\$ 300
Loudon	\$ 1,700
Marshall	\$ 1,400
Maury	\$ 5,000
McMinn	\$ 2,500
Montgomery	\$ 12,000
Robertson	\$ 4,900
Sequatchie	\$ 2,400
Unicoi	\$ 300
Union	\$ 300
Warren	\$ 3,400
Washington	\$ 12,000

Juvenile Justice Reimbursement Account

The Commission administers a combination of state (\$17,810) and federal (\$119,190) JJDP Act funds to provide financial assistance to counties for alternatives to placing children in adult jails. These funds can be used to provide services to children who meet the criteria of TCA 37-1-114(c), which describes appropriate placement of children in secure facilities. Allowable services include, but are not limited to, the following programs: attendant care services, emergency transportation, emergency shelter care and foster care, temporary holding and secure detention. In fiscal year 2008-09 TCCY contracted with 36 counties for the use of Reimbursement Account funds.

Each county accepting these funds must develop and submit local rules and procedures for each service provided. Account funds can only be used to provide services to children who are taken into custody in a county that did not operate a secure detention facility in 1983. Counties that established secure detention centers since the passage of legislation in 1983, which prohibited the placement of children in adult jails, are eligible for reimbursement for nonsecure placements only. Funds are allocated to counties according to a weighted formula based on historical usage of the grants.

Juvenile Justice State Supplements

The Commission administers state funding for improving juvenile court services as provided by TCA 37-1-162. In fiscal year 2008-09, each county was eligible to receive \$9,000; however, two counties opted out of State Supplement funding.

In counties with more than one juvenile court, each court is entitled to an equitable share of the county's allocation. To receive the funds, the juvenile court must have at least one full- or part-time youth services officer (YSO) who is appointed and supervised by the juvenile court judge. The youth services officer must meet identified educational requirements (60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of undergraduate credit from an accredited college or university in a social service-related field) and receive training annually (40 hours during the first year of employment and 20 hours of training during each subsequent year).

State supplement funds cannot be used to pay salaries or expenses of juvenile court judges or for construction or remodeling of adult facilities. In fiscal year 2008-09, 93 counties used approximately 87 percent of the state supplement funds to pay the salaries of youth services officers (YSOs) or other staff to enhance the services of the court. In addition, funds may be used for travel for YSOs, equipment, supplies and training for court staff. Use of these funds can vary as long as the expenditures improve juvenile court services and do not supplant local funds.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Programs

TCCY also administers state funds for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs in Tennessee. The purpose of the CASA programs is to recruit, train and supervise court-approved volunteers. These volunteers advocate for the best interests of abused, neglected or dependent children and other children who are placed out of their homes by the court. CASA volunteers assist the court by collecting background information, preparing reports for the court and participating in case reviews. The CASA volunteer works with the court and other agencies to ensure that a permanent placement is found as quickly as possible and to ensure that appropriate resources are made available to meet the needs of these children.

In fiscal year 2008-09, CASA funds provided services to more than 4,749 children in Anderson, Bedford, Blount, Campbell, Coffee, Davidson, Decatur, Greene, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hawkins, Henderson, Knox, Madison, Maury, Meigs, McMinn, Monroe, Morgan, Overton, Putnam, Rhea, Roane, Robertson, Rutherford, Scott, Sevier, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner, Washington, Williamson, Wilson and Unicoi counties. Each county received \$15,000. 🇺🇸



Cheryl Hultman directs the statewide organization of CASA programs.

Ombudsman

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's (TCCY) Ombudsman Program, in the Juvenile Justice Unit, acts as an impartial and independent reviewer of concerns, issues and complaints pertaining to children in state custody (foster care and juvenile justice systems) and in the kinship care (relative caregiver) program. As a neutral and autonomous reviewer, the ombudsman is a public servant who advocates for the well-being of children, ensures adequate family support and evaluates appropriate delivery of services.

In February 2008, Commissioner Viola Miller issued a memorandum to all DCS Regional Administrators announcing a "new process has been developed to provide oversight and support to the regions" pertaining to Child Protective Service (CPS) and Special Investigations Unit (SIU) cases that will require external, impartial reviews. The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) agreed to perform third party case reviews as a "means to address complaints that are not resolved satisfactorily" within the current DCS process. The goal of this collaborative effort is to assist the department in providing quality services to children and families. The new procedure can affirm when policies and best practices were followed, and it can identify areas for improvement based upon review findings.

The Ombudsman Program does not seek resolution of a dispute if it is contrary to the best interest of the child or community safety or is inconsistent with local, state or federal laws and regulations. Additionally, the ombudsman cannot and will not:

- › Serve as an agent of law enforcement;
- › Act as an attorney;
- › Provide legal advice;
- › Find individual fault; or,
- › Participate in a case bound for court due to Termination of Parental Rights, Child Protective Services, child custody or other non-jurisdiction circumstances.

Any individual or agency calling about a child or family receiving state services may get in touch with the ombudsman office with his or her questions or concerns. Referrals are obtained from a variety of sources:

- › The departments of Children Services, Education, Health, and Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities;
- › The offices of the governor and state legislators (senate and state representatives);
- › TennCare Consumer/Child Advocacy Program;

- Tennessee Voices for Children;
- ACLU and Legal Aid Services;
- Guardians ad litem, therapists and service providers;
- Out of state children’s advocacy groups;
- Foster parents, caregivers and relatives;
- Biological/adoptive parents; and
- Child/youth, neighbors and friends.

Statistical information with graphics for fiscal year 2008-09 and fiscal years 2003 to 2009 are embedded towards the end of this summary.

Upon initial contact, the ombudsman will determine if the referral has merit or is legitimate per the Ombudsman Program protocol and jurisdiction. Additionally, the ombudsman will assess if the referent has sufficiently attempted to resolve his or her problem through normal administrative channels. The service is not designed or intended to supersede any existing complaint and grievance mechanisms established



Gerald Papica is one of TCCY’s two ombudsmen.

within the custodial department or other agencies providing state-funded services to children. Referents who have not attempted to get their concerns addressed in this manner are informed of the appropriate contacts and steps that can assist with their specific issues. When referents have sufficient reasons to depart from normal administrative systems or have been reasonably dissatisfied with the outcome of their complaints, the ombudsman may activate the referral as a valid case.

During the data-gathering phase, the ombudsman will plan a series of interviews with individuals directly involved in the case. These contacts may include the parents or caregivers, child or youth, custodial department’s case managers, probation officers and middle to upper level management, juvenile court staff, caregivers or caretakers, residential and medical providers, foster parents, therapists, guardians ad litem, attorneys, teachers, relatives, friends and relevant others or stakeholders.

Preliminary contacts are used to:

- Verify referral information specific to the child's status or condition;
- Collect additional facts or information specific to the question or concern.

Through case-specific contacts, the validity as well as reliability of the complaint is assessed. Following initial interviews, follow-up contacts are used on an ongoing basis to provide updates and share information with individuals invested in the case. The data-gathering phase of the referral process may require anywhere from two days to two weeks or more on any case.

The Ombudsman Program also provides information-only services. Increasingly, the number of information-only cases has become proportionate to the number of active or open cases. Referrals related to the referent's lack of familiarity with the department and the system or misunderstanding of information given by the Department of Children's Services or service providers are resolved by providing a thorough explanation of policies and procedures adhered by the custodial department or other agencies.

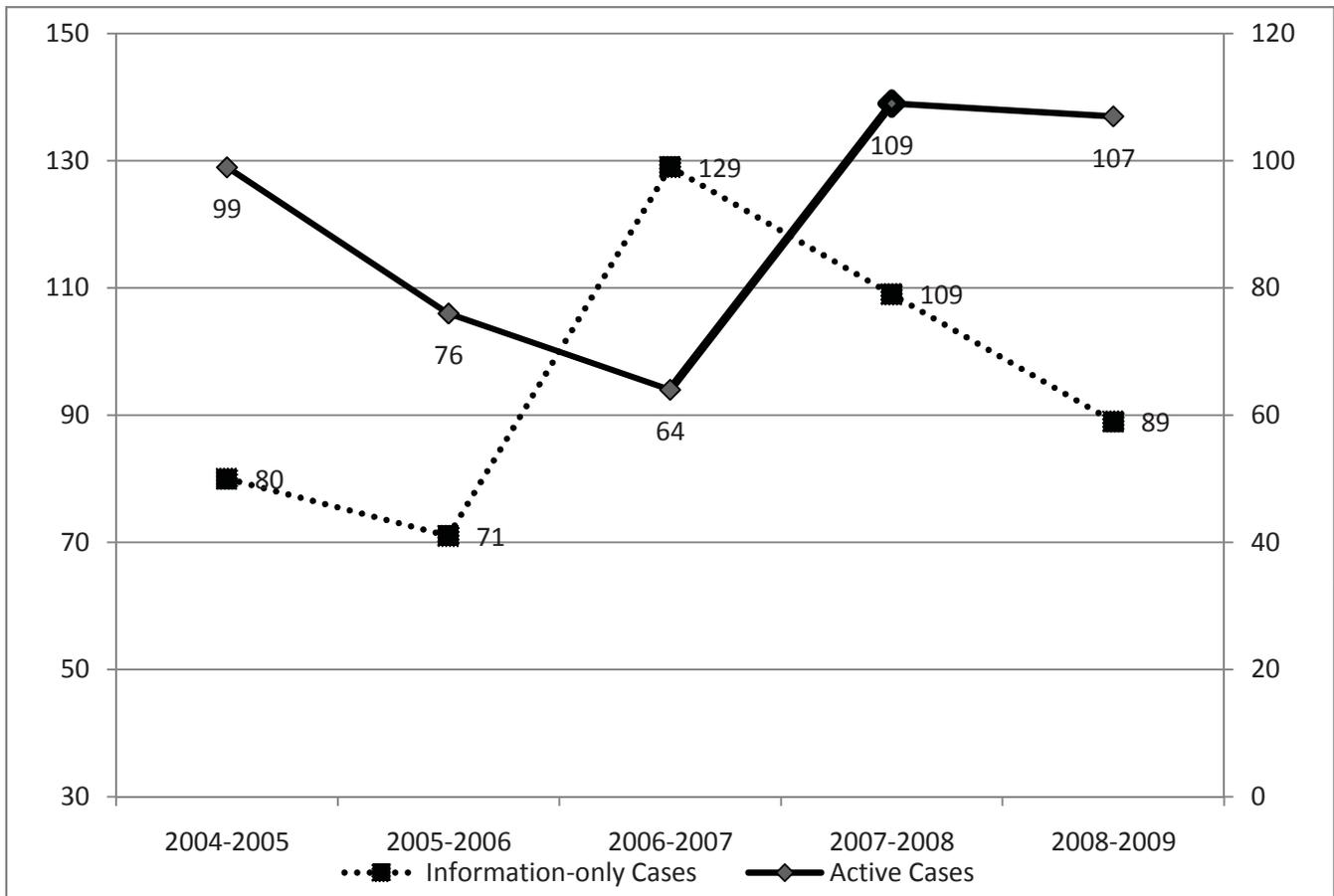
Referrals about obstacles to achieving agreed upon case outcome can lead to formal or informal mediation facilitated by the ombudsman. The ombudsman also tries to establish seamless communication among all parties involved in the case. Education and mediation efforts can lead to a meeting or re-staffing to strengthen and finalize the strategy for overcoming obstacles and achieving the desired outcome. Building on a common goal – the best interest of the child – is the overarching goal.

The TCCY Ombudsman Office takes advantage of ongoing outreach opportunities with a wide range of Tennessee children's services stakeholders. Dissemination of information efforts have included participation in TCCY regional councils and child advocacy organizations. Informative presentations during local and statewide meetings and conferences are made upon requests. The Ombudsman Office is always available to provide lectures and workshops to any interested community groups, nonprofit organizations, and other agencies working with children.

Originally funded in 1996 by a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Challenge Grant (Activity F), the Ombudsman Program has a mandate to improve the quality of children's lives in Tennessee by emphasizing thorough and expeditious service delivery. In fiscal year 2002-03 the program was expanded to include children in kinship care. As the Challenge Grant funds phased out, the state continued to fund the program.

The program, among other things, relies on confidentiality and a credible review process in achieving problem resolution. Referrals to the ombudsman are taken from any individual or agencies concerned with the plight of a child in the foster care system or relative caregiver program. Referrals must involve conditions or situations that may adversely affect the health, safety, welfare or rights of children and youth. The ombudsman assumes various roles that include:

- A voice or an advocate on behalf of the child;



- An informal or formal mediator between a child and the system;
- A communicator or educator to help stakeholders understand policies/procedures;
- A facilitator expediting timely delivery of services.

Highlights of Fiscal Year 2008-09

- Total number of referrals received from July 1 to June 30 was 218.
- Total number of referrals closed from July 1 to June 30 was 179.
- There were 109 active cases and 89 information-only cases.
- From October 2003 to June 2008, a grand total of 842 referrals were received.
- In 2007 and 2008, the Ombudsman Program produced a poster, a new brochure and a “Your Rights and Responsibilities as a Minor” leaflet explaining its unique services designed for children in state custody, kinship care/relative caregiver program, and Child Protective Services.
- The chair of the USOA’s Conferences and Training Committee for the last six years was a TCCY ombudsman.

How to find an Ombudsman: www.tn.gov/tccy/ombuds.shtml or 1-800-264-0904. 🙌

Title VI

As an administrator and recipient of federal funds, it is the intent of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) to bind all agencies, organizations or governmental units operating under its jurisdiction and control or receiving its funding to fully comply with and abide by the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

From July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009, there were two complaints reported to TCCY regarding alleged discrimination. After review of the TCCY Title VI Plan with the complainant, it was determined one complaint had no merit, since it was inappropriately filed with TCCY. The second complaint was addressed and resolved with the complainant and the organization by providing the information needed.

Specific Title VI-related activities during fiscal year 2008-09 included the following list.

- ✦ All grantee programs awarded funds by TCCY completed the Title VI Self Survey by the scheduled due date.
- ✦ TCCY improved the distribution of the Title VI policies this year. A copy of the Title VI Implementation Plan was given to each TCCY employee, Commission member and grantee. Additional Title VI information, including Title VI brochures and posters, was also distributed to the appropriate groups.
- ✦ Title VI requirements were included in the Monitoring Review Guide used by the TCCY staff when monitoring TCCY grantees and sub-grantees.
- ✦ The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth submitted its annual Title VI Plan before the required deadline of October 1, 2009.
- ✦ The 2009-10 Title VI Implementation Plan includes a letter from a minority person verifying review of the plan.
- ✦ An explanation of the Title VI policies was presented at grantee application trainings for continuation and new grantees. Training sessions were held in Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Memphis and Jackson.
- ✦ All grant application packets for Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth funds included Title VI requirements.
- ✦ TCCY regional coordinators and central office staff visited grantees to assure compliance with the Title VI policies and provided technical assistance on Title VI issues.
- ✦ TCCY Grantee Matrix on Minority Vendors was completed.
- ✦ TCCY staff reviewed the Title VI Self Survey for updating. TCCY staff member attended Title VI training in Nashville. 🙌

Information Dissemination

The Tennessee KIDS COUNT project is part of a national effort to track the status of children throughout the United States, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state and national discussions of ways to secure better futures for all children by providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being. Publications completed and promoted during fiscal year 2008-09 included *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee 2008*.

KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee

At the state level, the principal activity of the Tennessee KIDS COUNT Project is the publication and dissemination of the annual *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee*. *The State of the Child in Tennessee* uses the best available data to measure the physical, educational, social and economic well-being of children and families in the state. The report also fulfills TCCY's mandate in Tennessee Code Annotated 37-3-103(a) (1)(E) to annually publish "a comprehensive report on the status of children and youth in Tennessee."

The most recent 91-page report produced in fiscal year 2007-08 presented data on 40 indicators of child well-being. The narrative report focused on *Opportunity for All Children in Tennessee*. The areas are as follows:

- ✦ Births to Unmarried Females;
- ✦ Child Abuse, Reported;
- ✦ Child Abuse, Substantiated;
- ✦ Child Care;
- ✦ Child Death;
- ✦ Children in State Custody, Commitments;



Emily Bregel of the Chattanooga Times Free Press receives a 2009 Making KIDS COUNT Media Award from KIDS COUNT Director Pam Brown.

- ✦ Children Remaining in State Custody;
- ✦ Children on Families First;
- ✦ Children Younger than 6 on WIC;
- ✦ Cohort Dropout Rate;
- ✦ Dentists by County of Practice;
- ✦ Event Dropout Rate;
- ✦ Fair Market Rents;
- ✦ Food Stamps, Children Under Age 18;
- ✦ Food Stamps, Total;
- ✦ Free and Reduced Price Lunch;
- ✦ Infant Mortality;
- ✦ Juvenile Court Referrals;
- ✦ Low-Birthweight Babies;
- ✦ Median Home Sale Price;
- ✦ Medical Doctors by County of Practice;
- ✦ Per Capita Personal Income;
- ✦ Population, Total;
- ✦ Population, Younger than Age 18;
- ✦ Population, Hispanic Younger Than Age 18;
- ✦ Population, Minority Under Age 18;
- ✦ Population, Total Hispanic;
- ✦ Prenatal Care;
- ✦ Recorded Divorces;
- ✦ Recorded Marriages;
- ✦ School Expulsions;
- ✦ School Suspensions;
- ✦ Special Education;
- ✦ Teen Births;
- ✦ Teen Pregnancy;
- ✦ Teen Violent Death;
- ✦ Teens With Sexually Transmitted Diseases;
- ✦ TennCare, Total;
- ✦ TennCare, Under 21;
- ✦ Youth Unemployment.

The data sources for *The State of the Child in Tennessee* were the Tennessee departments of Children’s Services, Education, Health, Human Services and Revenue; the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; Administrative Office of the Courts; the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration; the Department of Labor and Workforce Development; other state agencies; the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Juvenile Court; and various state and national reports.

National KIDS COUNT Data Book

The National KIDS COUNT Data book was released June 12, 2008, with an essay on juvenile justice reform. At the national level the principal activity of the KIDS COUNT Project is the annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, which uses the best available data to measure the educational, social, economic and physical well-being of children. Individual states and the District of Columbia are ranked on 10 indicators of child well-being. Tennessee ranked 42nd in overall cumulative rankings when compared with other states in the most recent publication. The Tennessee KIDS COUNT project works with the Casey Foundation and the Casey Foundation's public relations firm to disseminate and publicize the findings of the *Data Book*.

Electronic Access to Data

Tennessee KIDS COUNT data were provided on the Internet during the fiscal year 2007-08 using the National KIDS COUNT CLIKS site at <http://www.kidscount.org/cgi-bin/cliks.cgi>. The KIDS COUNT CLIKS site houses information for all 95 Tennessee counties on 75 indicators, with the option to map, graph, rank, and download raw data for Tennessee.

The Advocate

TCCY publishes *The Advocate*, a newsletter on children's issues, to inform children's advocates, children's service providers, legislators, policy makers, and regional council members about children's issues. During fiscal year 2008-09, TCCY newsletter continued to be available on the agency's Internet site and distributed through TCCY's ListServ.

The first 2008-09 issue of *The Advocate* was released in December 2008 and focused on the Council on Children's Mental Health. The second issue reported on children in state custody in Tennessee. The final issue included a wrap up of the legislative session and its work affecting children.

ListServ

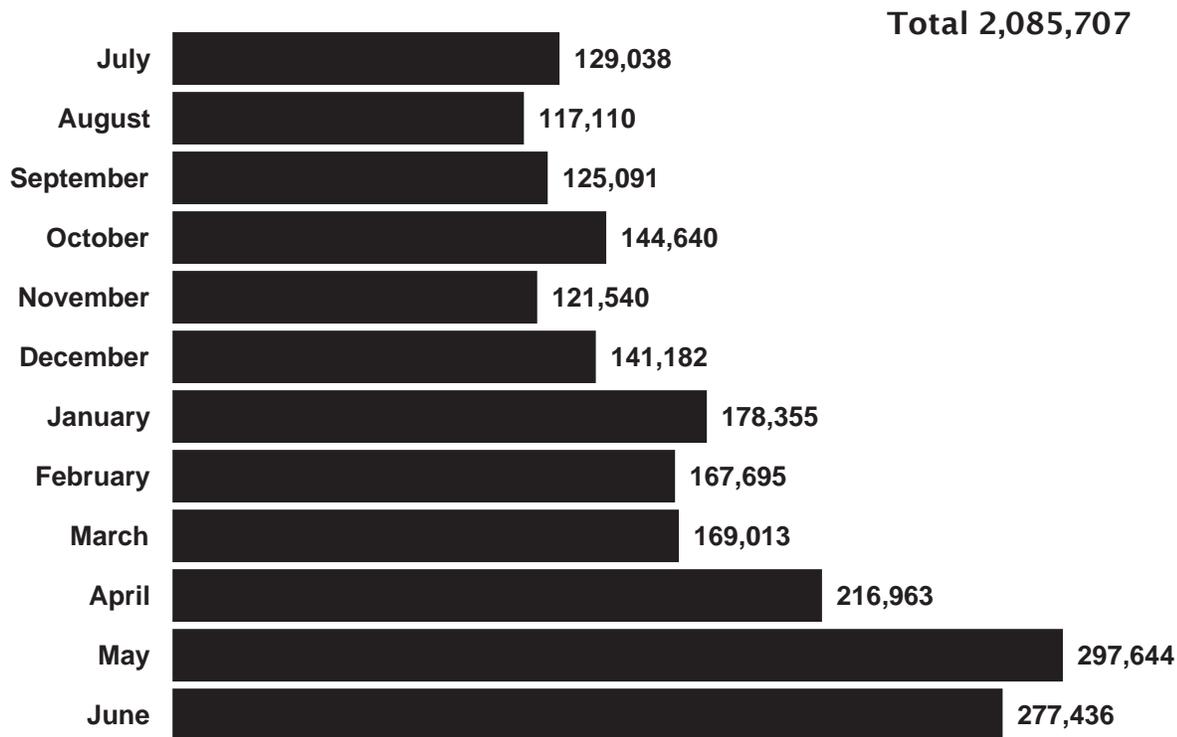
TCCY uses a Listserv to distribute updates about state legislation during the legislative session, and alerts about other issues and national legislation and information about newsletters as they are released. Directions for Listserv access can be found at <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/listserv.html>.

Website

During the fiscal year 2008-09, the TCCY website included information about all available Juvenile Justice funds, the Children's Program Outcome Review Team (CPORT) report, *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee*, and *The Advocate*. All of the publications were on the Internet in pdf format. The TCCY calendar of events was updated weekly, and a listing of sources of information on social service providers was also included on the site. During 2008-09, there were 2,085,707 visits to the site. 🙌

Web Statistics FY 2008-2009

All Areas by Month



Source: Tennessee Web Statistics

Council on Children's Mental Health

TCA 37-3-111 established the Council on Children's Mental Health Care.

- (a) There shall be a council on children's mental health care organized by the commission that shall design a plan for a statewide system of mental health care for children.***
- (b) The council shall be co-chaired by the executive director of the commission on children and youth and the commissioner of mental health and developmental disabilities or either of their designees.***

In fiscal year 2008-09 TCCY added the Council on Children's Mental Health as a new program. Legislation passed in 2008 (Public Chapter 1062) established a Council on Children's Mental Health to design a plan for a statewide system of mental health care for children. The Council began its work in August 2008. The legislation set out the principles for a children's mental health system that is child-centered, family-driven, culturally and linguistically competent, and provides a coordinated system of care for children's mental health needs in the state.

The Council is co-chaired by the commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Virginia Trotter Betts, and the executive director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, Linda O'Neal.

The plan created by the Council must:

- Provide a service delivery system that focuses on the principles of care for a system of care;
- Include a core set of services and supports that appropriately and effectively address the mental health needs of children and families;
- Develop a financial resource map and cost analysis of all federal and state funded programs for children's mental health, updated on an annual basis, to guide and support the plan.



Executive Director Linda O'Neal and Chair Cindy Durham learn from TCCY event presentations.

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 on Children's Mental Health is composed of a broad range of stakeholders from all across the state. The Council formed six workgroups:

- 1) Accountability Management Information Systems Workgroup;
- 2) Funding Workgroup;
- 3) Interagency Collaboration Workgroup;
- 4) Service Array Workgroup;
- 5) Cultural and Linguistic Competency Workgroup;
- 6) Evidence-Based Services Workgroup.

The group came together in fiscal year 2008-09 eight times with an average attendance of 60. The following is a list of meetings dates and abbreviated agenda topics:

- July 22, 2008
 - Overview of Public Chapter 1062 creating the Council;
 - Reviewed System of Care Principles and the Senate Joint Resolution 799 leading up to the creation of P.C. 1062;
 - Updates from related activities and project in the state, including the Tennessee Adolescent Coordination of Treatment program (T-ACT), School and Mental Health Integration Grant, Early Childhood Comprehensive System and Center on Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning; and
 - Structured committees and their related assignments.
- August 28, 2008
 - Overview of child-serving departments related projects/initiatives;
 - Reviewed common language and definitions from related projects; and
 - Discussed barriers/challenges in children's mental health.
- October 21, 2008
 - Presentations from Tennessee System of Care sites; and
 - Updates from the workgroups.
- December 5, 2008
 - Announcement of Memoranda of Understanding for the development of the preliminary report between TCCY, TDMHDD and GOCCC; and
 - Overview of assessment instruments currently in use within state departments.
- January 22, 2009
 - Discussion about the juvenile court commitment orders;
 - Impact of the current funding situation on CMHCs and agencies;

- Update on the most recent federal system of care application; and
 - Reviewed the draft preliminary report.
- March 13, 2009
 - Reviewed CoverKids and Managed Care Organization services related to children’s mental health; and
 - Received a report from the Policy Academy for family-driven care.
 -
- April 23 - 24, 2009
 - The council received technical assistance related to system of care structures and funding from Shelia Pires.
 -
- June 25, 2009
 - The council received technical assistance related to the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths instrument from John Lyons.

Approval for an exception to the state hiring freeze to fill the Council on Children’s Mental Health director position was finally obtained late in the fiscal year, and a staff person was hired effective July 1, 2009. 🙌

Resource Mapping

(a) The commission shall design and oversee a resource mapping of all federal and state funding sources and funding streams that support the health, safety, permanence, growth, development and education of children in this state from conception through the age of majority or so long as they may remain in the custody of the state (TCA 37-3-116).

TCCY solicited participation from child serving agencies statewide to form the Resource Mapping Advisory Group. This stakeholder group, composed of a mix of programmatic and fiscal delegates from representative agencies, met on September 18, 2008, October 28, 2008, and January 16, 2009. As a result of this ongoing work, a comprehensive list of children's services was created to support the capture of program and expenditure data for all children's services.

A great deal of effort and creative thought was invested throughout the course of fiscal year 2008-09 by TCCY staff to develop and refine the data collection tool for resource mapping. In addition, discussions occurred with the state's Office of Information Resources to explore the possibility of establishing a web portal for data collection. As required by 2008 Public Chapter 1197 establishing resource mapping, a preliminary report was delivered to the state legislature on February 5, 2009. Legislation was passed changing the date of the subsequent report to April 15.



TCCY staff engaged in discussions with the state's Office of Information Resources to explore the possibility of establishing a web portal to facilitate data collection.

Approval for an exception to the state hiring freeze to fill the resource mapping director position was finally obtained late in the fiscal year, and a staff person was hired effective July 1, 2009. 🌱

CPORT: Children's Program Outcome Review Team

In its 16th year of evaluating children's services, the Children's Program Outcome Review Team (CPORT), under the direction of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, continues to provide an independent review of service delivery outcomes for children and families served by the Department of Children's Services (DCS).

Since September 2005, the CPORT division staff has worked collaboratively with staff from DCS to conduct a case-based quality services review (QSR) process. The integration of CPORT and DCS QSR produces quantitative and qualitative results that can be used for continuous system improvement and implementation and reinforcement of best practices to children and their families. Beginning July 2006, the implementation of the QSR process was moved to a fiscal year cycle, succeeding the pilot year of 2005-06.

The collaboration with DCS resulted in a newly designed QSR protocol and an expansion of the process to include case manager feedback at the frontline and supervisory level. New indicators were created for appraising system performance as well as child and family status with new definitions to better identify outcomes for children and families, while some indicators remain the same.

The CPORT staff provided ongoing assistance in pre-training for regional and targeted reviews, protocol revisions, training assistance and facilitation for the statewide reviews throughout the fiscal year as needed and/or requested by DCS.

In addition, CPORT staff worked collaboratively with Child Welfare Policy and Practice Group (CWPPG), a DCS contracted technical assistance service provider out of Alabama and the Brian A. monitor's office. TCCY also contracted with CWPPG to provide technical assistance and training for CPORT staff from January to December of 2008.

The process for the reviews included face-to-face interviews (except when circumstances prevented) with the following: child (if age appropriate), parents, custodial department caseworkers, caregivers (foster parent or direct care staff in a group facility), court



CPORT staff discuss the process.

representatives, teachers and other relevant service providers. The case records were reviewed, and pertinent documents or reports were copied and compiled for the reviews. The majority of information was collected through the interview process.

Thirteen full-time CPORT case reviewers, along with DCS, CWPPG, the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare (TCCW) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Brian A. monitor's office worked in pairs to examine and determine the status of children and families and the adequacy of performance of key system practices and services for the children reviewed.

The quantitative data were a result of an examination of 11 status indicators for the child and family and 11 system functions or capabilities in the context of how the system served one child at a time.

During fiscal year 2008-09, quality service reviews were conducted in each of the 13 DCS regions and involved 21 to 22 random cases stratified over age, race, gender, adjudication and DCS case manager or team leader and reflective of the population of children in custody of DCS 90 or more days. By May 2009, 284 cases were reviewed.

The statewide sample consisted of 162 child-custody cases designed to be statistically significant at the 99 percent level of confidence with a plus or minus 10 percent accuracy. Additionally, regional samples were designed to be statistically significant at the 85 percent level of confidence with a plus or minus 15 percent accuracy.

The following 11 status indicators were examined for the child and family:

- Safety;
- Stability;
- Appropriate Placement;
- Health/Physical Well-Being;
- Emotional/Behavioral Well-Being;
- Learning and Development (three different life stages);
- Caregiver Functioning;
- Permanence;
- Family Functioning and Resourcefulness;
- Family Connections; and
- Satisfaction.



Pat Wade directs TCCY's CPORT program.

The reviewers evaluated the following 11 system functions or capabilities in the context of how the system served one child at a time.

- Engagement;
- Teamwork and Coordination;
- Ongoing Functional Assessment;
- Long-Term View;
- Child and Family Permanency Planning Process;
- Permanency Plan/Service Implementation;
- Tracking and Adjustment;
- Resource Availability and Use;
- Informal support and Community Involvement;
- Placement Supports; and
- Transitioning for Child.

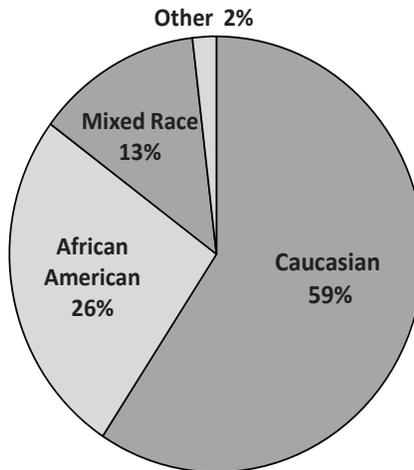
Toward the end of fiscal year 2008-09 and beginning 2009-10, in collaboration with DCS Juvenile Justice Division, CPORT conducted quality service reviews of children residing in five Youth Development Centers (YDC): Woodland Hills, June 1-3; New Visions, June 15-17; Mountain View, July 14-16; Taft, August 4-6; and Wilder, August 18-20. Children placed at the youth development centers are adjudicated delinquent and meet criteria as established by the DCS for placement at these secure facilities. The sample consisted of 43 child-custody cases randomly pulled for qualitative research and was based on the number of children residing in the facilities at the time of the review.

Two full-time CPORT statistical analysts provided technical support producing QSR samples, data analyses and reports, including the data presented on the following pages. 🖨️

Statewide Totals

Race of the Child

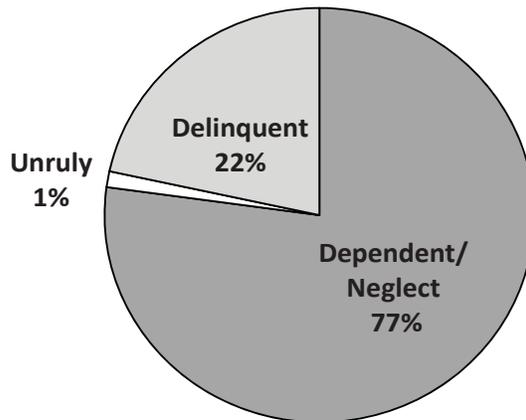
N= 162



CPORT Evaluation Results 2008-2009

Adjudications

N= 162

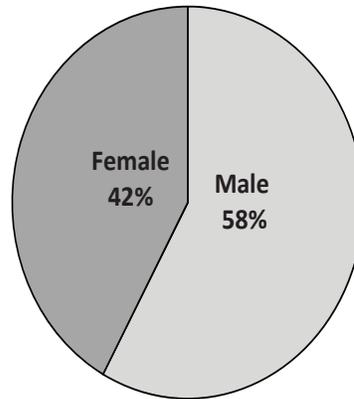


CPORT Evaluation Results 2008-2009

Statewide Totals

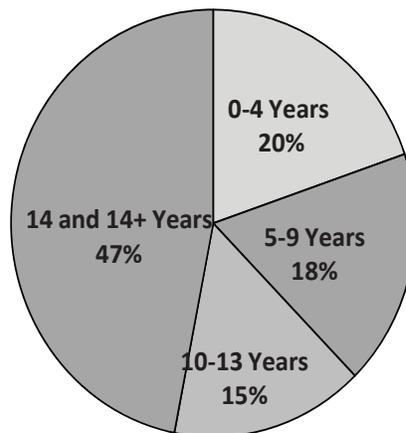
Gender of the Child

N= 162



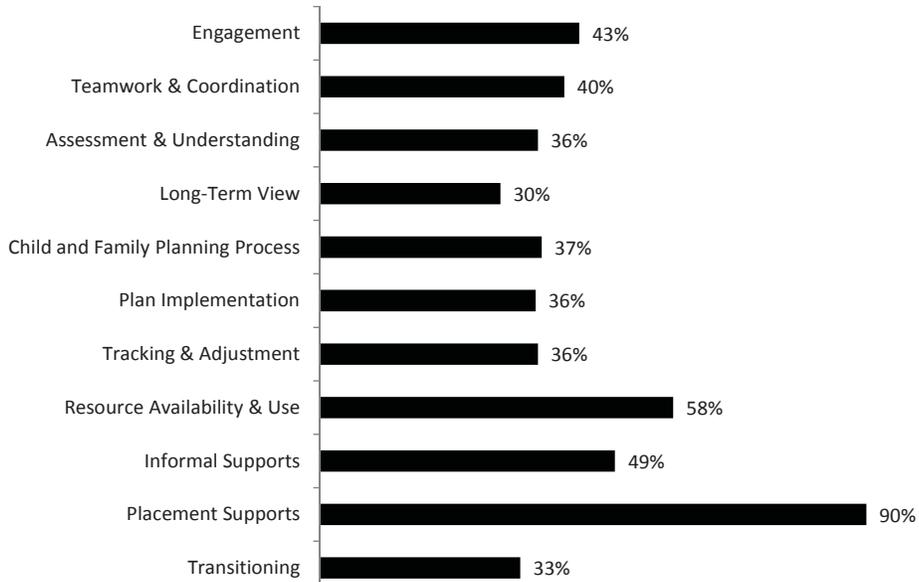
Age Group/Age of the Child

N= 162



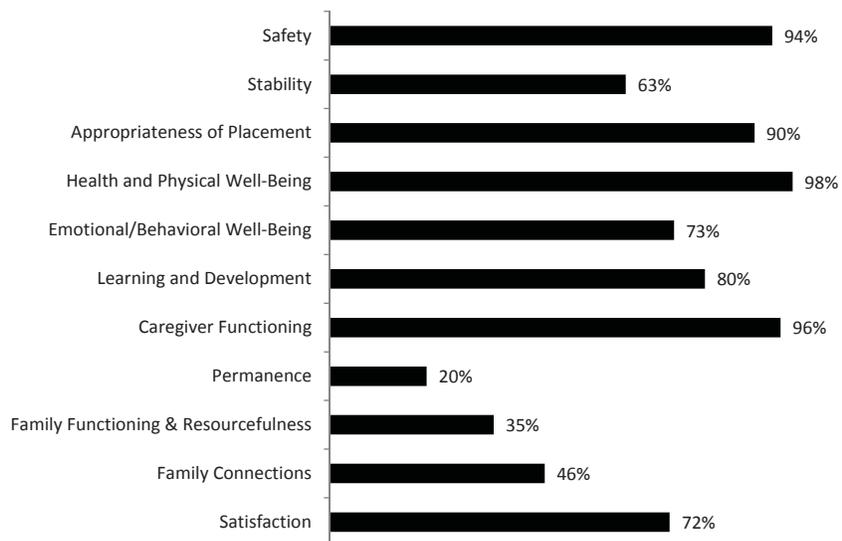
Statewide Totals

System Performance Indicators Percent Acceptable N= 162



CPORT Evaluation Results 2008-2009

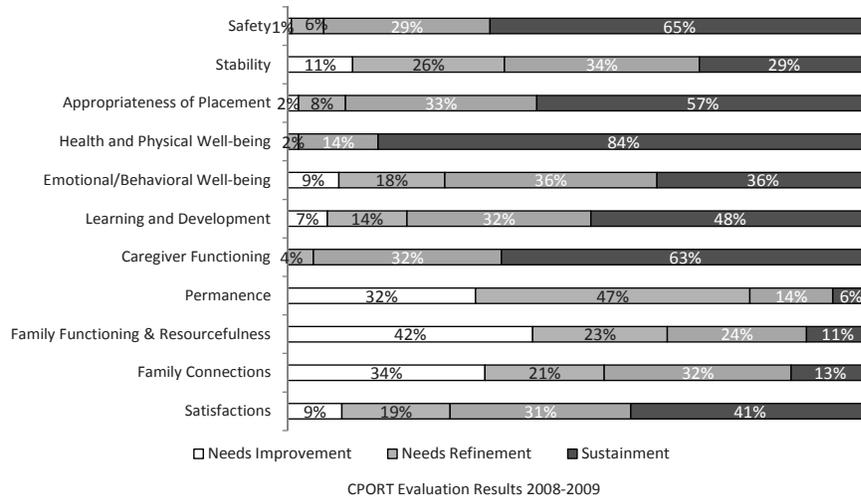
Child and Family Status Indicators Percent Acceptable N= 162



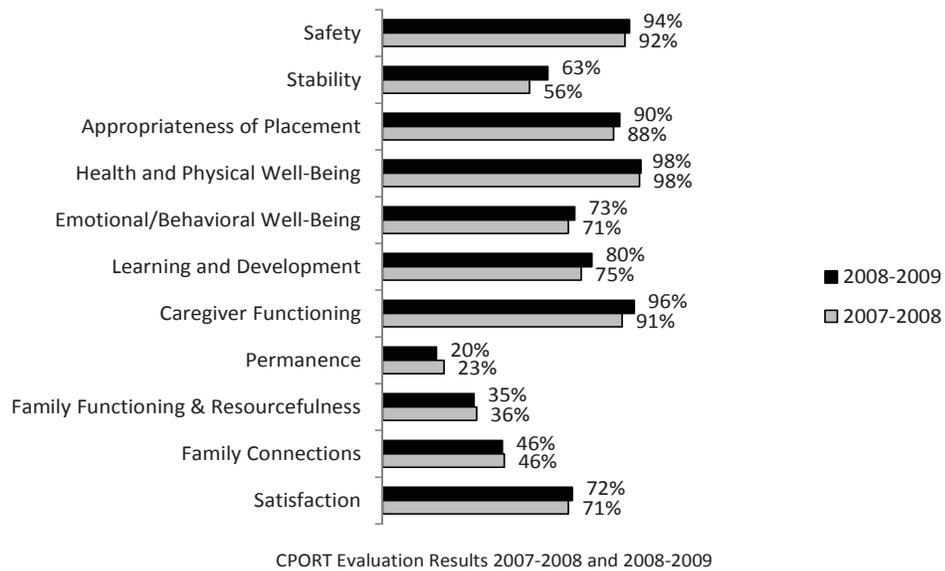
CPORT Evaluation Results 2008-2009

Statewide Totals

Child and Family Status Indicators (2008-2009 State Cases n=162)

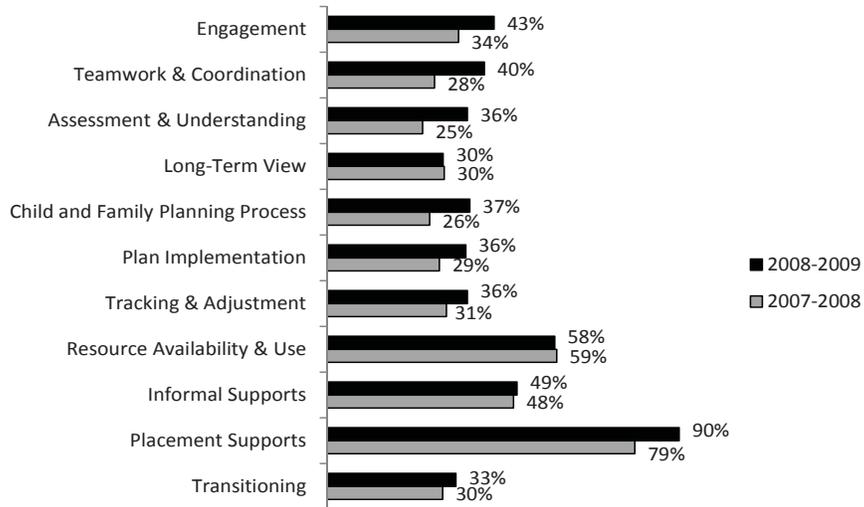


Child and Family Status Indicators - Percent Acceptable Comparison By Year (N '08-'09=162 ; N '07-'08= 163)



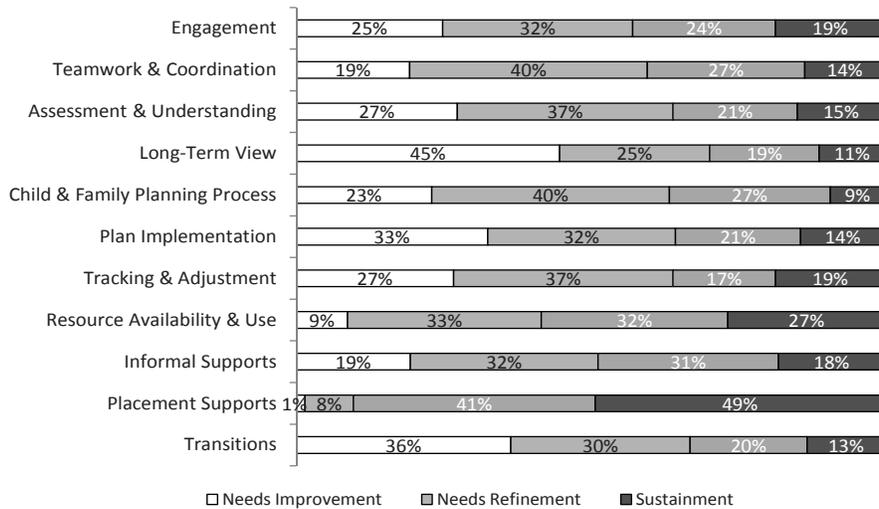
Statewide Totals

System Performance Indicators - Percent Acceptable Comparison By Year (N '08-'09=162 ; N '07-'08= 163)



CPORT Evaluation Results 2007-2008 and 2008-2009

System Performance Indicators (2008 - 2009 State Cases n=162)

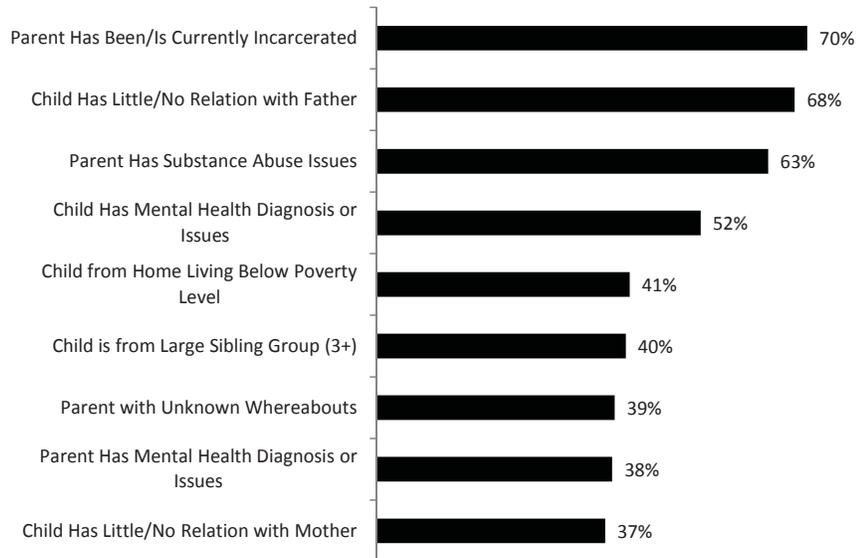


CPORT Evaluation Results 2008-2009

Statewide Totals

High-Risk Critical Issues

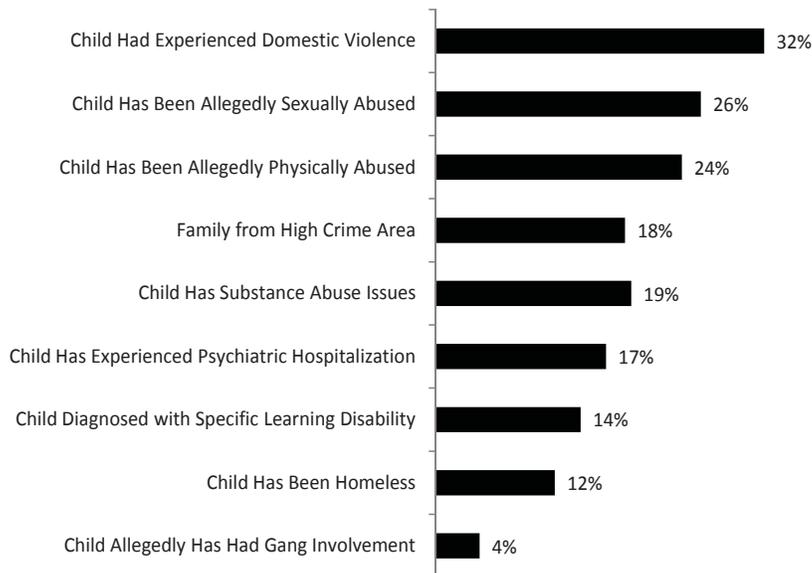
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CPORT Evaluation Results 2008-2009

High-Risk Critical Issues

N= 162

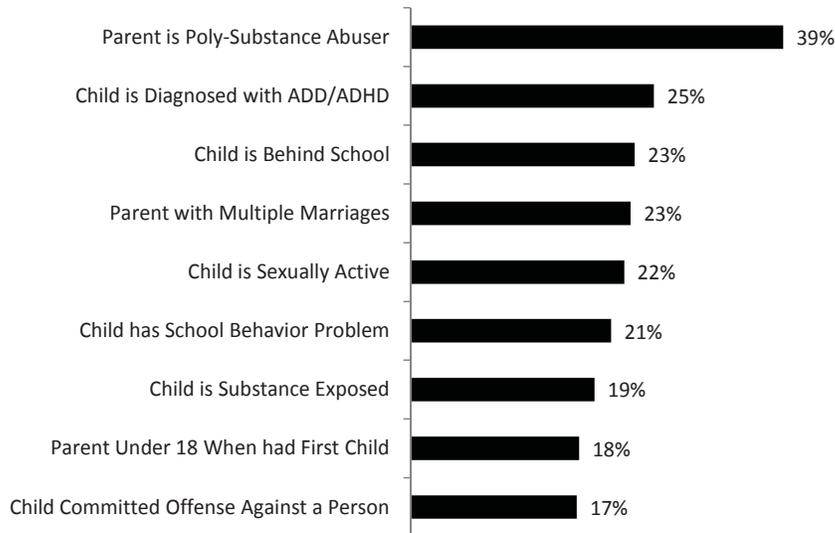


CPORT Evaluation Results 2008-2009

Statewide Totals

Other Critical Issues

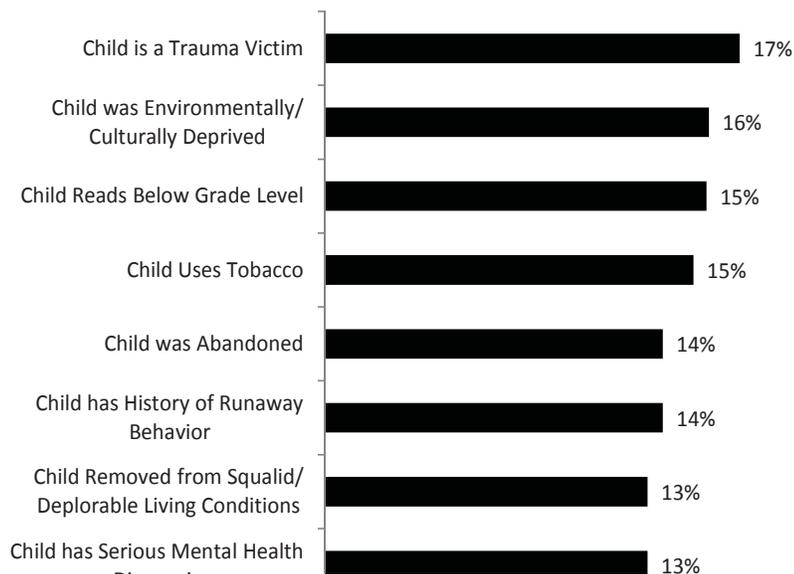
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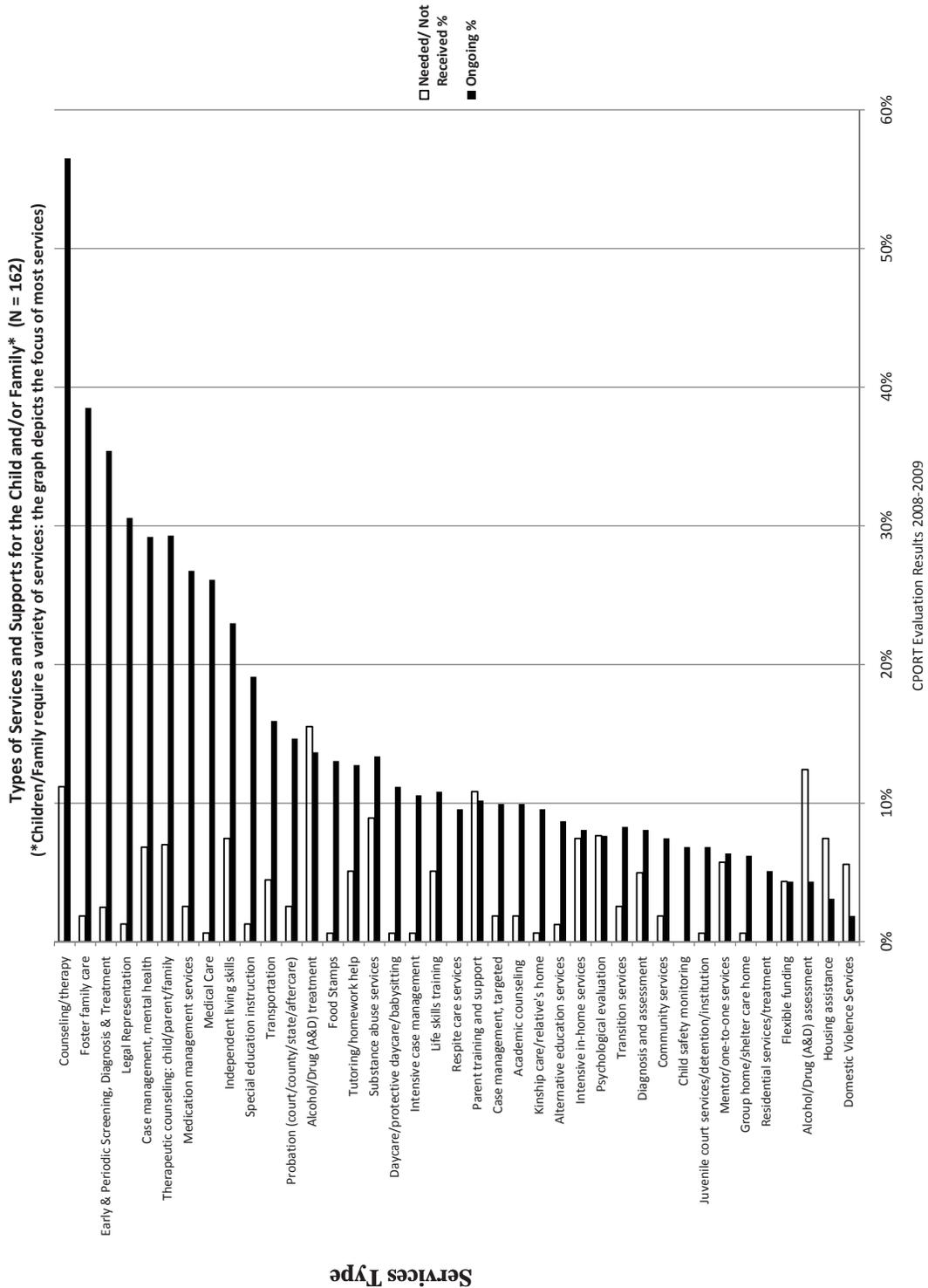
CPORT Evaluation Results 2008-2009

Other Critical Issues

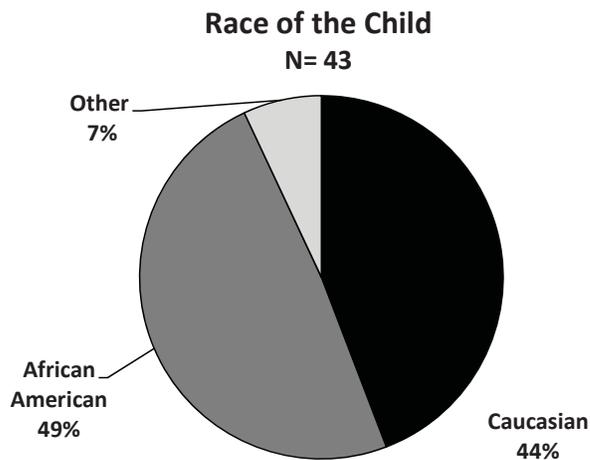
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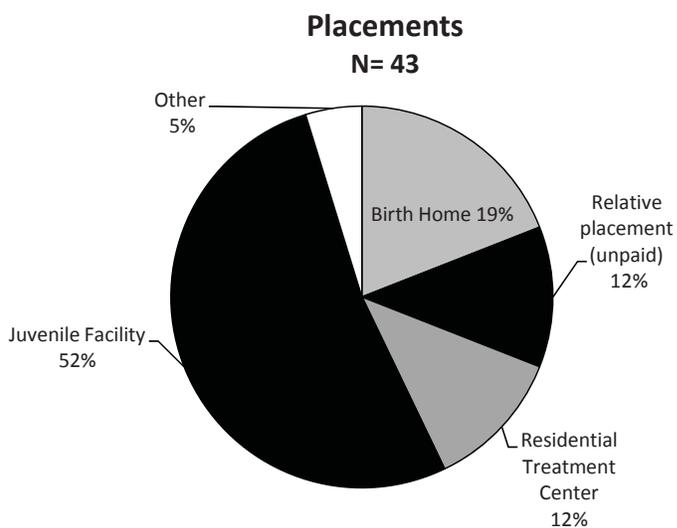
Statewide Totals



Youth Development Center Cases

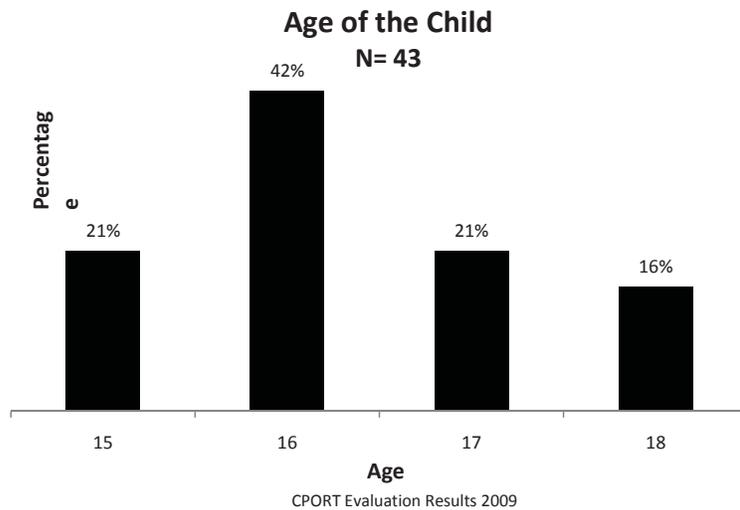
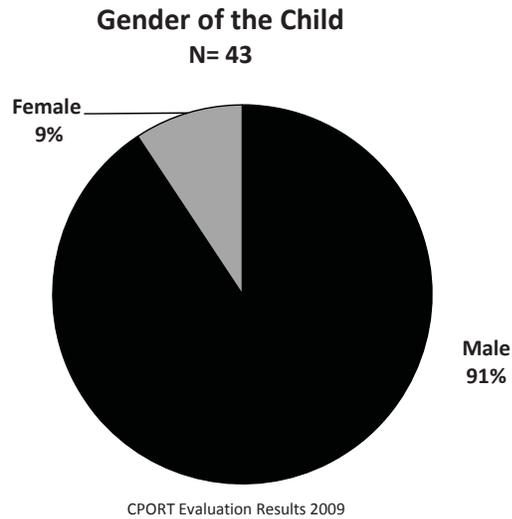


CPORT Evaluation Results 2009



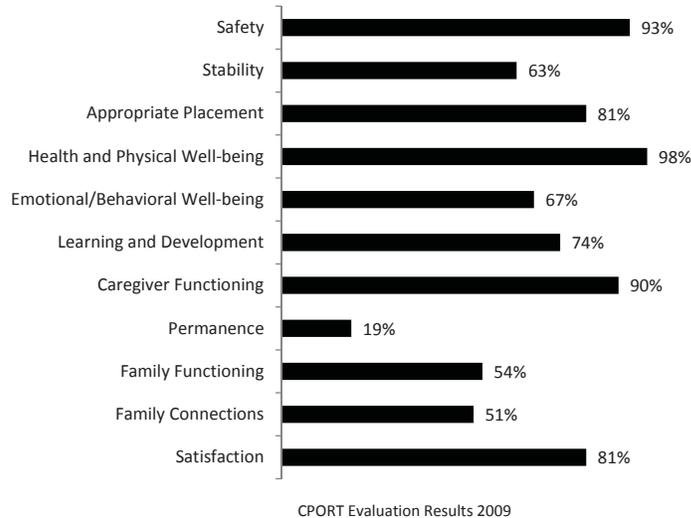
CPORT Evaluation Results 2009

Youth Development Center Cases

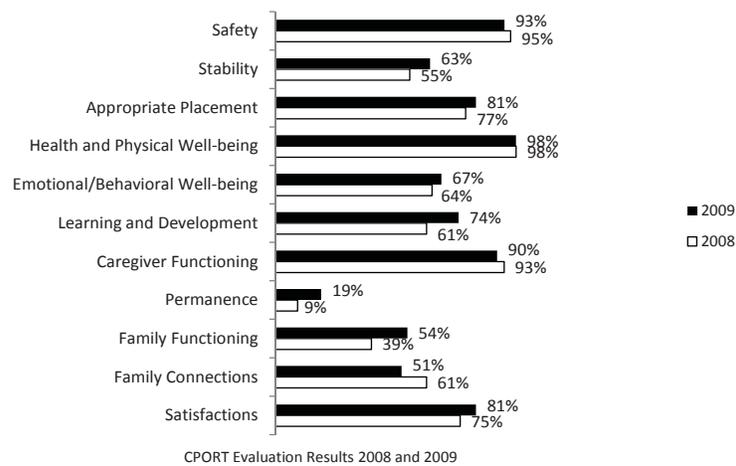


Youth Development Center Cases

Child and Family Status Indicators Percent Acctable (N= 43)

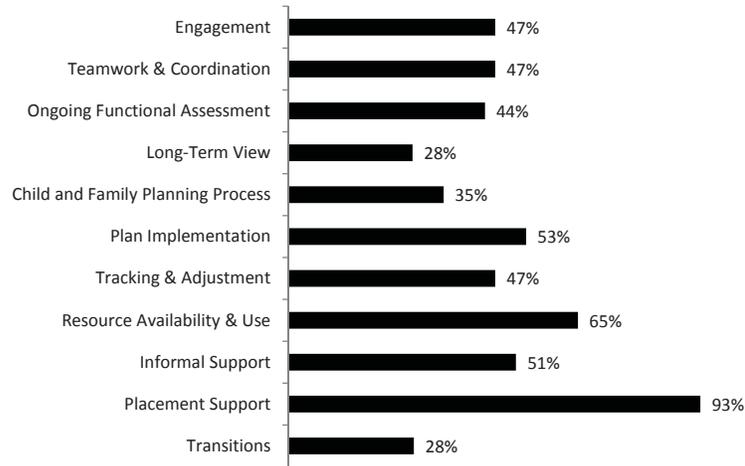


Child and Family Status Indicators - Percent Acctable Comparison By Year (N'09 = 43; N'08 = 45)



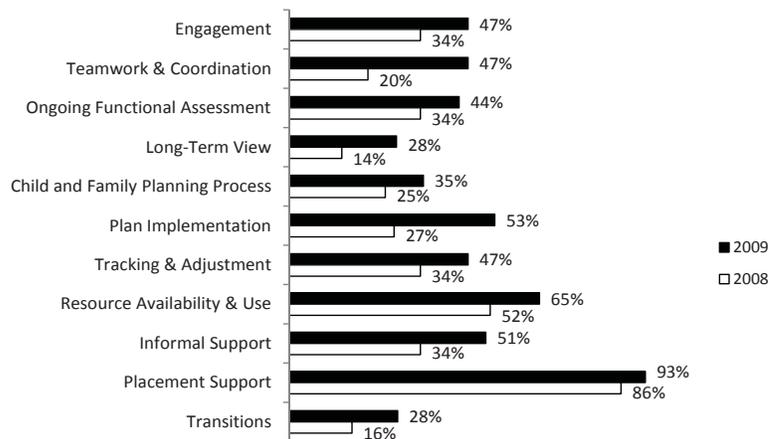
Youth Development Center Cases

System Performance Indicators Percent Acceptable (N= 43)



CPORT Evaluation Results 2009

System Performance Indicators - Percent Acceptable Comparison By Year (N'09 = 43; N'08 = 45)

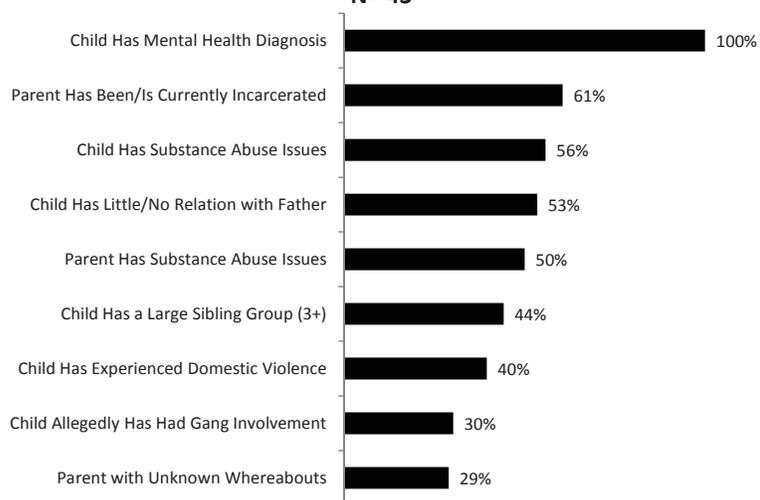


CPORT Evaluation Results 2008 and 2009

Youth Development Center Cases

High Risk Critical Issues

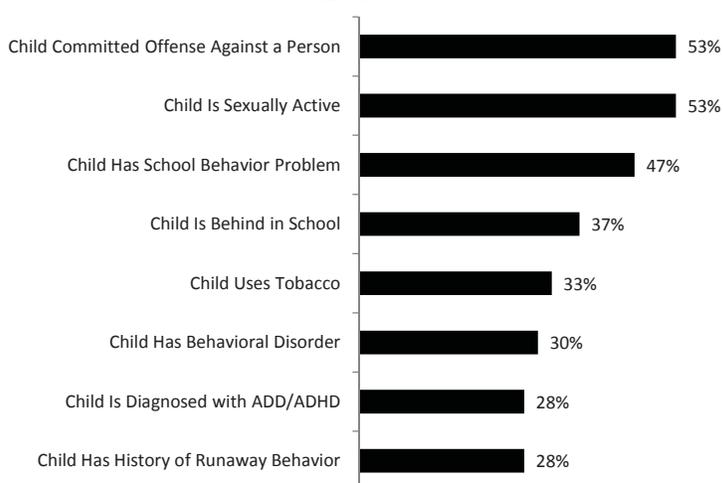
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CPORT Evaluation Results 2009

Other Critical Issues

N= 43

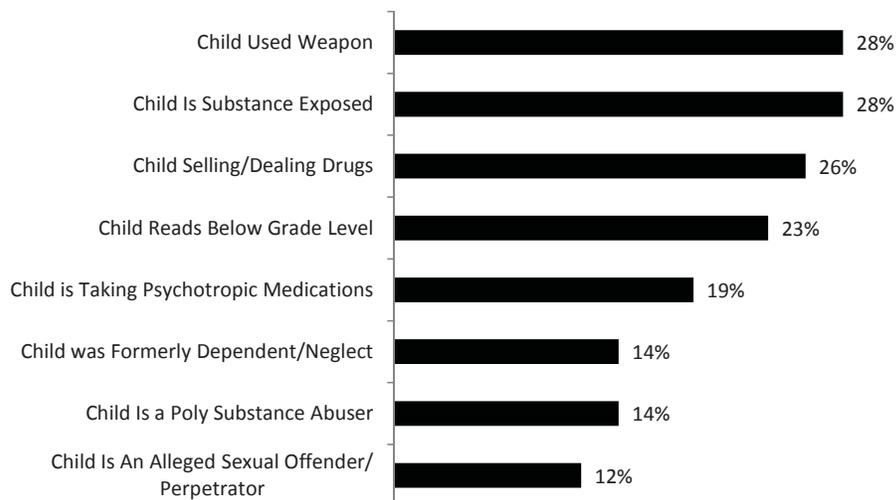


CPORT Evaluation Results 2009

Youth Development Center Cases

Other Critical Issues

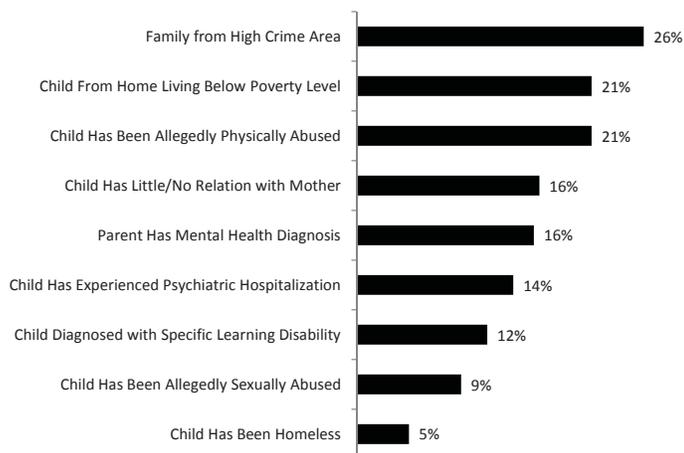
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CPORT Evaluation Results 2009

High Risk Critical Issues

N= 43



CPORT Evaluation Results 2009

