

# DREAM



20<sup>TH</sup> Annual Children's Advocacy Days  
TODAY – TOMORROW – TENNESSEE

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Disabilities

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**“Of all the forms of inequality,  
injustice in health is the most  
shocking and the most inhuman.”**



**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**At the Second National Convention of the  
Medical Community for Human Rights  
Chicago, March 25, 1966**



# The Dream in Tennessee...

## Ensure every child has a

- 
- ❖ Healthy Start
  - ❖ Head Start
  - ❖ Fair Start
  - ❖ Safe Start
  - ❖ Moral Start



- Children's Defense Fund

It is essential and fundamental to one's overall health status.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2001). Mental Health: Culture, Race, and Ethnicity-A Supplement to Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General. Rockville, Maryland. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Public Health Service, Office of the Surgeon General.



# TODAY in TENNESSEE

- 1 in 5 children has a mental health problem
  - 1 in 10 children (125,000) may have a serious emotional disturbance
  - 2 out of 3 children with mental health problems do not get the services they need
  - Children in elementary school with mental health problems are more likely to be unhappy, absent, suspended, or expelled
  - Youth in high school with mental health problems are more likely to fail or drop out of school
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# Today for Tomorrow: Transforming the System

- Embedding the System of Care vision:
  - The Mule Town Family Network (Maury County)
    - Currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> year
  - JustCare Family Network (Shelby County)
    - Submitted January 2008
- Tennessee Lives Count grant
  - Currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> year
  - Focuses on youth suicide prevention and early intervention through gatekeeper training



# Today for Tomorrow: Promoting Resiliency in Children

- TDMHDD co-sponsored a number of statewide and regional resiliency and recovery symposia
  - These symposia help to ensure that children's resiliency is an integral part of the overall recovery movement
  - Symposia partnerships included Magellan Health Services, AmeriGroup, AmeriChoice, NAMI, Tennessee Mental Health Consumers Association, and Tennessee Voices for Children



# Today for Tomorrow: Promoting Evidence-Based Practice

- TDMHDD has now completed an Evidence-Based Practice Guide for Children and Adolescents
  - The guidelines promote high quality care for children and adolescents served by Tennessee's public health system
  - You can access this guide by visiting TDMHDD's website:



<http://state.tn.us/mental>



# Today for Tomorrow: Early Intervention and Prevention Programs

- Regional Intervention Program (RIP)
    - Minority RIP in Memphis
    - Negotiating with China
    - Training Iowa
  - School-Based Mental Health Liaisons
    - Negotiating with Department of Education to expand the program in the 3 grand regions
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# Today for Tomorrow: Moving Forward

- Senate Joint Resolution 799
  - SJR 799 resolved to study the children's mental health system in Tennessee and develop recommendations for its improvement
  - TDMHDD is involved at all levels



# Today for Tomorrow: The Dream Fulfilled



"I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow I shall have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream."



That all things are possible... if we continue to move forward working united and focused on a common dream to Leave No Child Behind (CDF), the dream will be fulfilled.