



THE ADVOCATE

The Best is Yet to Come!

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BEST
IS YET TO
COME
HAPPY NEW
YEAR
2024

TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

Welcome to our January newsletter. Let's bring in the new year by remaining steadfast on the well-being of children and families in Tennessee and across the United States. The new year brings with it a golden opportunity to set meaningful goals, foster community connections and stay informed about policies impacting our most precious assets, our children.

Legislative Updates

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Children and Youth Articles



The start of the new year is a great time to help every member of your family focus on forming good habits. However, New Year's resolutions can be tough topics to tackle, no matter your age! Check out this article by pediatricians who give tips for healthy goals for children and youth of any age!

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The 113th Tennessee General Assembly will reconvene at noon on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. Make sure to stay up to date about the policies and legislations that are being discussed. You can also search legislators and track bills in real time!

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Transform Child Welfare Through Support for the Workforce is a policy brief by the Child Welfare League of America. Click the button to read through the league's assessments on ways Congress can act to insure that child welfare continues to transform to provide the best opportunities for children and families who are a part of the working community. Visit the league's [advocacy center](#) to learn more.

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The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform recently released a new publication called, *Supporting High-Needs Youth at Home and in the Community*, which highlights strategies to keep high-needs youth involved in the legal system within their communities. The publication details the strategies, impact and outcomes resulting from the implementation of the YAP Safely Home Initiative in six different communities across the U.S. Policymakers, youth justice agency leaders, and others interested in supporting community based services and alternatives to youth incarceration

are encouraged to read this new resource in the field.

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Mental Health Resources

TN Partners for Health

TDMHSAS Mental Health Services

988 Hotline



Find the most updated grant funding opportunities through the Federal Government as well as the State of Tennessee.

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Review the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's FY2024-25 Budget Recommendations which includes recommendations for topics around health, child care, education, economics, youth justice and more!

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The number one killer of children older than 1 in Tennessee are firearms. It's a very hard statistic to fathom, especially since many of those deaths are preventable. For children and youth younger than 17-years-old, Tennessee's rate of gun deaths is 36 percent

higher than the national average. Dr. Kelsey Gastineau is a pediatrician at Monroe Carrel Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt and a national expert on firearm violence. She sits down with Roots and Wings podcast host, Jonquil Newland, to discuss this hard truth and the hope that exists to make a change.

Listen Now

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, Jan. 24 - Not Alone: How to Support Youth Who Experience Trafficking from a Survivor Lens **Hosted on Zoom, register [here](#)**

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth | [Website](#)



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