

THE NETWORKER

1st Quarter 2014

in this issue:

***Charlotte Bryson
Retirement Celebration***

***Just Care Family
Network receives
national recognition***



A Letter From The CEO

Dear Friends, Supporters and Partners,

The start of my new role as the Chief Executive Officer at Tennessee Voices for Children has been exciting, challenging, and rewarding beyond compare. As I have begun to gain a broader perspective of the mental health landscape across the state, there have been so many positive experiences that demonstrate what a phenomenal group of people are working to support the success of children and their families. There is also evidence that the mental health community is continually evaluating what works and what does not in Tennessee's mental healthcare system for children.

While there have been a number of moments making tough decisions and understanding the depth of my words daily, one of the early and most humbling moments was sitting in a room with a group of community stakeholders in children's mental health. As stakeholders, we had been invited to share our opinion about the system for children's care. I had to stop and take it in because it was at that moment that my dreams really came true. I was in a position to use my voice on behalf of the children and families of this great state; and they are counting on me to say the good things as well as the hard things.

Since then there have been and will continue to be moments that I am charged to speak up, speak out, and speak well in order to make a difference in the lives of children and families. It is for this reason that I wanted so much to work for TVC. "TVC speaks out as active advocates for the emotional and behavioral well-being of children and their families." I invite you to join me in continuing the good work and engaging in new opportunities with us.

Sincerely,

Rikki Harris



Rikki Harris, Chief Executive Officer



Table Of Contents

Charlotte Bryson Retirement Celebration	4
Legacy Fund	5
Just Care Family Network National Award	6
Programs and Events	7
TVC Staff Update	8-9
TVC Trainings	10
About TVC	11
Calendar of Events	Back Cover

YOU can make a difference...

Tennessee Voices for Children continues to be part of the solution, and YOU can too with our many opportunities for support. TVC needs your gifts, in-kind donation, and volunteerism to further our mission. Consider making a contribution that helps make our families and communities stronger. Donations can be sent via check, cash, or credit card (convenient processing available online at invoices.org/supportTVC).

Contributions can be made in the following ways: Direct contribution, Pledge, Honorarium, In-Kind Donation, and Bequest. For more information contact Rikki Harris at 615-269-7751 or rharris@tnvoices.org or visit invoices.org/supportTVC

- Benefactor - \$20,000+**
- Visionary - \$10,000 – \$19,999**
- Champion - \$5,000 – \$9,999**
- Patron - \$1,000 – \$4,999**
- Sustainer - \$500 – \$999**
- Supporter - \$100 – \$499**
- Friend of TVC - Up to \$99**

2014 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Dick Blackburn - President
Sheila Peters, Ph.D. - President Elect
Paula Sandidge, M.D. - Secretary
Chad Poff - Treasurer
Michele Johnson - Past President

Board of Directors

Thomas Beck
Kristin Brownlee
Bradley Fiscus
Merril Harris
Edith Kidd
Linda O'Neal
Cece Ralston
Molly Bee Rollins
Sabrina Clark - Board Intern

TVC Leadership

Rikki Harris
CEO
Brian Taylor
CFO
Kim Sterling
HR Director
Adam Horn
CQO

Please contact Kelsea LaCroix with questions or comments regarding The Networker

Charlotte Bryson Retirement Celebration

On January 10, 2014 TVC staff, supporters, board members, and friends gathered together to celebrate Charlotte's many accomplishments during her eighteen years of leading Tennessee Voices for Children. The event was held at the W.O. Smith Music School in Nashville, and featured musical entertainment provided by Derek Pell and his band. Once the program began, speakers took their turns speaking about Charlotte's wonderful achievements as an advocate for Tennessee children. After the presentations, Charlotte took the stage for a special presentation to acknowledge TVC's founding board members who she worked with in the early 90's to establish TVC. The event was also the unveiling of the Charlotte Bryson Legacy Fund.

Everyone at TVC extends a heartfelt thank you and congratulations to Charlotte as she enjoys a well-deserved retirement!





The Charlotte Bryson Legacy Fund

After 18 years at Tennessee Voices for Children's Executive Director, and 40+ years of success in advocacy and support for children and their families, Charlotte has left behind an honorable legacy of commitment and dedication to children's mental health issues. Upon the announcement of Charlotte's retirement, monetary gifts in her honor have come in to Tennessee Voices for Children, and many have asked how they can honor her work at TVC.

For this reason and upon Charlotte's request to continue to support TVC programs, we have created the Charlotte Bryson Legacy Fund. The mission of the fund is to engage those who have a deep passion for supporting youth with mental health challenges to participate in strengthening and empowering activities that ultimately lead to their success as adults.

This Legacy Fund is an opportunity to use targeted funds to develop the Youth Council activities and Youth Programs, as these programs exist to provide peer to peer support for youth as they face personal and family challenges. Several of these youth were featured in the documentary film, *Hear Our Voices*, which was produced by Charlotte. She desires to ensure that youth have a voice and are heard when they communicate their needs and desires for supportive programs.

If you would like to contribute to the Charlotte Bryson Legacy Fund to honor a lifetime of dedication to youth and families dealing with mental illness, please visit our website at www.tnvoices.org/SupportTVC or contact Rikki Harris:

615.269.7751 • rharris@tnvoices.org • www.tnvoices.org/SupportTVC

Just Care Family Network Receives Award

We are very pleased to announce that Just Care Family Network has been selected to receive the 2014 American Psychiatric Foundation Award for Advancing Minority Mental Health.

This award was established to recognize mental health professionals and mental health programs that are undertaking special efforts to increase public awareness of and secure quality and comprehensive mental healthcare for underserved minorities.

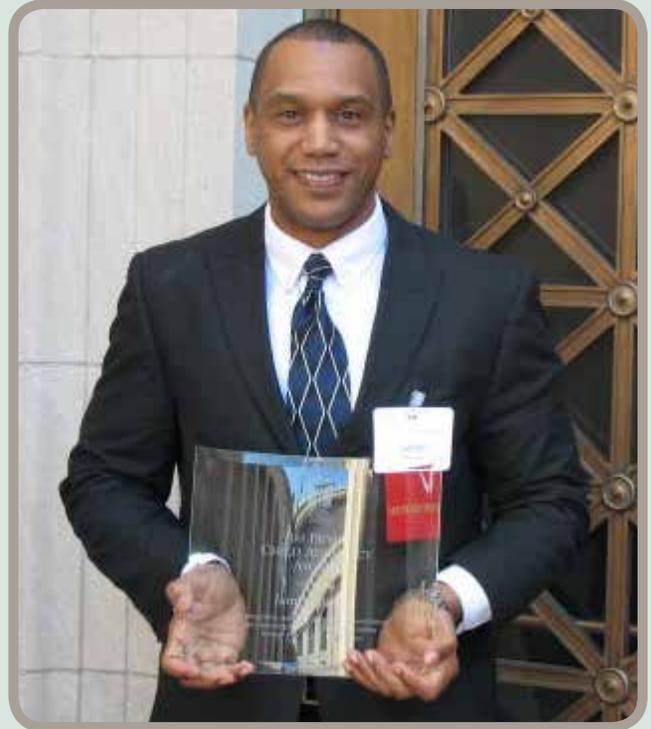
“Just Care Family Network is honored to have been named recipient of the American Psychiatric Foundation Advancing Minority Mental Health Award for 2014. We are pleased to join the ranks of other recipients across the nation and proud of the work that Just Care Family Network has done to warrant this honor. As director of this program, I witness on a daily basis the strength and resilience in our youth and families and the pride and passion for this work by the hardworking staff. We thank Shelby County government and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for their support of the program, as well as our 31 community partner organizations, and of course the youth and families of Just Care Family Network. This award is concrete evidence of the value of the work we are doing and is now part of the national effort on behalf of improving the quality of life for the population we serve here in Shelby County. I am personally honored and humbled to be a part of this initiative and know that we have created something that will benefit the community for years to come,” expressed Dr. Altha Stewart, JCFN Executive Director.

Presentation of this award, including a check for \$5,000, will be made during the Foundation’s benefit on Saturday, May 3, 2014. Just Care Family Network will travel to New York City with staff and families to accept the award.

Programs and Events

James Martin Receives Award*

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth honored James Martin, Youth M.O.V.E. Program Manager with Tennessee Voices for Children, with the Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award. The award was presented March 11 during Children's Advocacy Days at War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville. Martin, who is from Columbia, was nominated because, "When (the youth he works with) do well, he ensures they are the ones that receive recognition and acknowledgement; when they are challenged, he stands with them to find solutions and ensures they have a voice in what is happening to them." Congratulations James!



K-Town GED program has its first graduate

The K-Town Youth Empowerment Network's GED program recently had its first graduate, Bryan Moreno, pass the official GED test.

Moreno had been attempting to earn a GED for several months. However, he said it wasn't until he enrolled in K-Town's educational lab program that he felt fully prepared to take the official test.

"K-Town is my home," Moreno said. "Mr. Maddox [the instructor] teaches every student like they are the main priority. I haven't found that at any other school program."



Youth Excellence Award*

This year the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's (TCCY) Youth Excellence Award was bestowed on Edward Johnson of Memphis. During his teen years, Johnson was repeatedly in juvenile court and out of school - suspended or expelled. However, working through the Just Care Family Network (JCFN), the mental health System of Care program in Memphis, he is now studying social work at Lemoyne Owen College, serves as a mentor and spokesperson for the program, and is a youth leader. "We are all so proud of Edward and his accomplishments." said Dr. Altha Steward, JCFN Executive Director.



*TCCY accepts nominations for awards from community groups. For information regarding the nomination process, please contact Fay Delk at Fay.Delk@tn.gov

TVC Staff Update

New staff members:



Emily Steinmetz

Family Support Provider
Early Connections Network



Brenda Beverly

Program Manager
K-Town Youth Empowerment Network

Staff position changes:



Rikki Harris • CEO

Rikki Harris is Chief Executive Officer for Tennessee Voices for Children. Rikki holds a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Counseling and a Master's in Christian Education. In her previous role at TVC, Rikki served as the organization's Director of Development and Marketing since 2011. Prior to her employment at TVC, she had six years of experience in management as the Director of Children's Mental Health Services in Fort Worth, Texas. There she served as community leader, advocate, and network partner with other child serving agencies. Rikki also worked as a consultant for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice entities in Texas where she wrote curriculums for staff training and wrote grant applications for funding. She has experience in supervising grant funded programs as well as research. Upon her move to Nashville, Rikki taught Child and Adolescent Development in the Department of Psychology at Welch College while serving her previous employer and other Texas agencies as a consultant on children's mental healthcare. Her background in the field provides a solid foundation to lead TVC in today's fast-changing healthcare environment. When not working, Rikki enjoys spending time with her family and friends. She is an active member of Alpha Chi Honor Society, CABLE, Nashville Chamber of Commerce, and Kiwanis Club of Nashville.



Brian Taylor • CFO/COO

Brian Taylor was named the CFO/COO for Tennessee Voices for Children in 2014 after serving as the Interim Executive Director that same year. Prior to filling the CFO/COO role, Brian was the Assistant Director of Operations, a post he has held since 2006. In that capacity he oversaw Information Technology, personnel and benefits administration. Also part of that role included management of the Finance Department including organizational and program budget development, compliance, and audits. Brian joined TVC in 2002 and was promoted to the Information Technology Coordinator in 2003. In that role he introduced new initiatives to advance program training for children's mental health professionals and directed website development. Prior to joining TVC, Brian was the MIS Associate with Beacon Federal, a financial institution based in Syracuse, New York where he was part of the software conversion team and involved with administering cash transaction services, audits/compliance, trainings, and systems support. He earned his B.S. in Business Administration from Lemoyne College in 1999.



Adam Horn • Chief Quality Officer

Adam Horn has been appointed as Tennessee Voices for Children's Chief Quality Officer. In this role, he will lead agency efforts in quality of care, clinical leadership and supervision, staff training and development, and will direct our quality assurance and improvement process. Prior to assuming this position, Adam was the agency's Clinical Director. He has been with TVC since 2009 and has also managed TVC's Family Connection and Youth Screen programs. Adam holds a Masters in Family Therapy and is a licensed Marital and Family Therapist. He has a background in Quality Assurance management and clinical training with twenty-three years of service in mental health organizations, eighteen of which have been in mental health management/administration. He has been an AAMFT Clinical Member since 1999 and received Child Mental Health Specialist designation in Washington State. Adam currently serves as board treasurer with the Tennessee Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

Strengthening Families

Are you ready to learn and practice being a strong family unit?

The Center for Family Driven Care is excited to offer the Strengthening Families Program across Tennessee.

The Strengthening Families Program is a nationally and internationally recognized parenting and family strengthening program for all families, including those that are high-risk. The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) is an evidence-based family skills training program found to significantly reduce problem behaviors, delinquency, alcohol and drug abuse, and improve social competencies and school performance in children. As parents strengthen bonds with their children and learn more effective parenting skills, child maltreatment also decreases.

Strengthening Families Program includes three skills courses:

Parenting skills • Skills for children and teens • Family skills

Strengthening Families Program teaches skills that are beneficial for all families, and are not exclusively for struggling families. This program makes family life less stressful and more rewarding.

**Family sessions will be starting in May 2014
in a community near you!**

Davidson County

Maury County

Sumner County

For Registration Information Contact Brenda Donaldson, Tennessee Voices for Children Training Coordinator at:

615.269.7751 or bdonaldson@tnvoices.org

There is no cost to attend this program.

Contact Us

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Fax 901-222-4501

**Call us toll-free at 800-670-9882
or visit us online at www.tnvoices.org**

About Tennessee Voices for Children

Tennessee Voices for Children speaks out as active advocates for the emotional and behavioral well-being of children and their families.

TVC Provides:

Support	Referral
Advocacy	Prevention
Training	Early Intervention
Information	Public Policy

... for families, professionals, and educators.

TVC assists children, youth, and families across Tennessee who are currently struggling with having a child who has been diagnosed with a mental, emotional, or behavioral health challenge or think their child may have a diagnosis.

**Mental health problems are real and treatable.
And we're here to help.**

For more information, or to find a support group near you, call 1-800-670-9882 or visit us online at www.tnvoices.org



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Tennessee Voices for Children speaks out as active advocates for the emotional and behavioral well-being of children and their families. We provide Advocacy, Training, Support, Referral, Prevention, and Early Intervention Services. Visit our website for more information.

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| May 3, 2014 | Nashville • Mayor's Field Day • LP Field • 9am - 12pm
Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Celebration |
| May 8, 2014 | Knoxville • Family Justice Center • 2pm • 865-474-6682
Celebrating Children's Mental Health Awareness Day with a free screening of the film <i>Hear Our Voices</i> |
| May 8, 2014 | Memphis • Location and Time TBA • 901-758-2522
Awareness Day Proclamation Ceremony |
| May 21-22, 2014 | Memphis • 800 Madison Ave • 9am - 3pm
Educational Forum on Family Driven Care in Shelby County |