

Be A Voice

March 2020



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mission

TN Voices seeks to be the collaborative leader guiding mental health transformation.

core values

Family-Driven Services

Access to Services

Family Member/Caregiver Education

Lived Experience/Peer Support

Statewide Presence

Leadership through Collaboration

a letter from the CEO



TN Voices (also known as Tennessee Voices for Children) is proud to reveal our new look. We still have the same promise, to advocate for the families of TN and deliver excellent support to our constituents. The motivation for this change is to remove barriers, treat the whole family, and fill gaps for those with mental health needs whenever possible. TN Voices has been serving children, families, and transition age youth, as well as adults and caregivers for over 30 years. As we grow we recognize the importance of expanding our brand to be inclusive of the adults we already serve as well as those in the future who need our advocacy services.

Our new mission is to be the collaborative leader guiding mental health transformation. We want to build hope for all generations as we seek to provide solutions that promote access to support for those in need.

A special thanks to GS&F of Nashville for their commitment and support in helping TN Voices put our best look forward with the new branding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rikki Hunt".

CEO
TN Voices



TN VOICES

Support Services From
Firsthand Experiences

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Tennessee Head Start Association's Spring Conference



Kelli Celsor and Victoria Finch presented on behalf of TN Voices Early Childhood Program at the annual Tennessee Head Start Association's spring conference. This year's forum was held March 3-5 at the Music Road Resort Convention Center, which overlooks the picturesque smoky mountains of Pigeon Forge, TN. Head Start teachers, directors, and staff joined for 3 days to dive deep into the theme: "20/20 Vision: Sharpen Your Focus," which explored topics on children's mental and emotional well-being as well as leading best practices in education. Celsor and Finch led two sessions during the event. The first session explored building resilience in early childhood classrooms and examined evidence-based practices early childhood educators can use to support young children's positive mental health. The second session was a workshop on how to write scripted stories to address challenging behaviors.



Keynote speakers at the conference included former Nashville mayor, Megan Barry, who spoke of her current efforts to raise awareness for mental health issues in the state, and author and advocate for emotionally intelligent leadership, Holly Elissa Bruno, who debuted her new memoir on overcoming childhood trauma. The conference was a perfect opportunity for collaboration and reflection, as well as a chance for educators and staff to get in touch with local service providers in their communities! An extended thanks to Belva Weathersby, Head Start Collaboration Director, for such a wonderfully engaging and hospitable event. We look forward to next year!

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

Speaking out

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth hosted Children's Advocacy Days (CAD) on March 10-11, 2020 at the War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville, TN.

This year's conference focused on moving ideas to action through a series of Compelling Conversations. The conversations included current and relevant topics critical to the goals and mission of all child advocates. Participants enjoyed inside access to conversations among national, state, and local experts as they examined ideas that work and how to replicate them.



After over 30 years of history, CAD continues to be an opportunity for children's advocates, service providers, and others to come together to be inspired by speakers, leaders and peers. Commissioner Marie Williams from the TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services spoke at the event on new funds in Governor Lee's budget for mental health and the importance of legislative advocacy and improving the lives of children in Tennessee.

Several TNV staff attended the conference and met with their legislatures afterwards to discuss important legislation in regards to mental health in Tennessee.



Pictured above are TN Voices staff making a visit to State Representative Rick Eldridge.
L to R: Amy Blackwell, CFSS, Tammy Wilson, Survivor Connection Program Manager, State Representative Rick Eldridge, Will Voss, Director of Contracts, and Kelli Celsor, Early Childhood Program Manager



Pictured above are TN Voices staff and a volunteer at the TN Voices booth for outreach and information at CAD.

L to R: Lupe Armengol, TN Voices FSS and Brian Sullivan, TN Voices volunteer

Upcoming events

Purity Moosic City DairyPure Dash

TN Voices is thrilled to be the beneficiary of the 2020 Purity Moosic City DairyPure Dash! The Purity Moosic City DairyPure Presents a running/walking event that is fun for the entire family. This is an incredible race day experience with so much to enjoy before and after the race. TN Voices staff will set-up games and activities in the kids play area and Purity ice cream and snacks will be served to race participants at the finish line! You do not want to miss out on this event!

RACE START TIMES:

Lee Company/Glenn Wunder Might Mile @ 7:00am

Dairy Dash 5K @ 7:30am

10K & Regions/The Smitty 15K @ 8:00am (Common Start)



*No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.



TN VOICES

Support Services From
Firsthand Experiences



TN Voices now offers low cost, price adjusted therapy services through the Tipper Gore Hope Fund. The Tipper Gore Hope Fund began in 2019 when she made a 20 year investment in Tennessee's uninsured and those who couldn't afford their copays for therapy services. Low cost counseling for those without insurance and teletherapy services are available in Tennessee. Please call 800-670-9882 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

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