

Office of Juvenile Justice

The DCS Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) was created by an act of the legislature during the 2006 legislative session to coordinate statewide services to adjudicated delinquent youth and their families. TCA§ 37-5-201 requires the establishment of Youth Development Centers (YDCs) for the detention, treatment, rehabilitation, and education of children found delinquent. OJJ reserves YDC secure placements for youth who need the most restrictive supervision and treatment.

Central Office

Central Office oversees the operation of 3 YDCs; secure residential treatment facilities that provide delinquent male youth, ages 13 to 19, with 24-hour supervision and care. Each YDC has a Superintendent that manages the daily operation and care of the youth residing in their facility. In 2012, OJJ began contracting with G4S Youth Services, a 24-bed residential program to provide services for females ages 13-18 in need of level III care.

- Wilder Youth Development Center is a 144-bed facility located in West Tennessee – Fayette County, in the city of Somerville. Most of the youth at Wilder are from Shelby County and most of them have a determinate sentence.
- Woodland Hills is a 132-bed facility situated in Middle Tennessee – Davidson County, in the city of Nashville
- Mountain View YDC in Dandridge is a 144-bed facility located in East Tennessee – Jefferson County, in the city of Dandridge

Each facility is accredited by the American Correctional Association. Services provided at the YDCs include fully accredited school programs with GED preparation and vocational training, medical services, mental health and substance abuse counseling, Aggression Replacement Training (ART), case management and individualized planning for youth. Mt. View and Wilder provide sex offender treatment programs.

Food Service

DJJ employs a Food Service Director who oversees the nutrition program at each YDC. This director is responsible for monitoring, directing and developing standardized menus that adhere to the National School Lunch and School Breakfast program requirements and ensures the YDCs meet and adhere to the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans to include modified diet menus for children with nutritional related complications.

The Food Service Director works directly with YDC Food Service Managers to discuss and coordinate menu and recipe development, school nutrition standards, menu evaluations, and any other problems or concerns with food service operations.

The director reviews and submits meal consolidations and claims for reimbursement to DOE, ensures all food service operations are in compliance with ACA standards, and conducts nutrition counseling for students per referral

Evidence Based Programming

In June 2008, the Tennessee General Assembly adopted TCA§ 37-5-121. This legislation directs the OJJ to show over a graduated amount of time that funds expended on JJ services are evidence based; meaning that money spent on programs for delinquent youth must be based on evidence that they work, are effective in preventing recidivism, and make communities safer. OJJ, in conjunction with Vanderbilt, Peabody Institute Researchers, Dr. Mark Lipsey and Dr. Gabrielle Chapman continues to score and track evidence based programs (EBPs) in YDCs and contract provider placements to enable a more uniform cataloging and measurement of effective programs. Data collection has continued on a bi-annual basis and enables evaluation of the EBP's effectiveness.

Youth Level of Service Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI)

In 2007 OJJ implemented the YLS/CMI, an evidence based assessment tool which measures the youth's criminogenic risk factors and provides protective factors which will aid the youth in becoming a productive member of society. The Juvenile Justice Family Workers (JJFSW) are certified annually to complete this tool. The results are used in case planning, residential placement decisions and to determine the level of supervision a youth in the community requires.

Youth Placement

DJJ oversees a Population Management Committee that monitors placements in the facilities to include referrals, waiting lists, and waiver requests. The Population Management Committee reviews waivers for youth to enter the YDC who do not meet DCS policy 11.3 (Criteria for Assessment and Placement of Delinquent Youth in Youth Development Centers). The Committee also ensures that youth are appropriate for placement in a YDC. A designated staff person maintains a log of the cases reviewed, the decisions made, and the reason for the decision.

Victims Assistance Program

Pursuant to TCA § 40-38-101, the Victim's Bill of Rights, victims have the right to be notified of any hearings, be present at hearings, and be notified of discharges. OJJ provides notification to individuals who make a formal request for information regarding the release of juvenile offenders from OJJ contract facilities and YDCs.

Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ)

Pursuant to TCA § 37-4-101, OJJ administers the ICJ program for Tennessee. This program consists of an agreement between member states to provide supervision of delinquent youth and status offenders on probation or parole (aftercare) supervision that move to or from Tennessee. Interstate Compact supervision is provided in all of Tennessee's 95 counties. The ICJ is administered by the Interstate Commission for Juveniles and provides youth and families the ability to move to and from Tennessee if their children are under juvenile Probation or Aftercare supervision. The compact also assists in the return of all runaway youth, delinquent and non-delinquent, as well as processes travel permits for youth under supervision to visit others states as well as monitor out of state youth visiting Tennessee.

ICJ Benchbook 2014 link:

http://www.juvenilecompact.org/Portals/5/library/legal/benchbook/Bench%20Book_Web.pdf

Juvenile Court Grants

DJJ annually awards grants to 32 juvenile courts and community agencies that target youth at risk of entering state custody for delinquency, truancy and other status offenses. Funded services include intake, county probation, educational programs that provide an effective learning environment and a continuum-of-care for at-risk students. Currently, there are twenty-one (21) juvenile court programs for which funding is in three major program areas (custody prevention, truancy prevention and child and family intervention), there are eight (8) community intervention programs that provide intensive probation services, two (2) aftercare programs that provide services to youth returning home from state custody and one (1) afterschool program that provides prevention services for 5-7 year olds (K-2nd grade), at a Memphis elementary school.

State Supplements

In accordance with 2012 Public Chapter 1026, codified as TCA § 37-1-162, each year DCS administers and distributes a state supplement to counties for the improvement of juvenile court services. In order to be eligible for the funds, the county juvenile court must employ a full or part-time youth service officer who possesses at least a 4-year degree from an accredited college and obtains fifteen (15) hours of training each year. There are two counties that don't have a person who meets the qualifications specified by DCS. Of the 95 counties, 93 receive \$9,000 state supplement. When more than one (1) court exercises juvenile court jurisdiction within a single county (i.e., Washington and Sullivan) the courts split the \$9,000.

Regional Services

Juvenile Justice Family Service Workers are located in the 12 DCS regions. This work is driven by receiving an order from the juvenile court to provide the specific service. Case management is provided for the following types of cases:

Non-Custodial Services

Probation:

TCA § 37-1-131 provides that, after a finding of delinquency, the court may place a youth on state probation; this is when DJJ's direct involvement begins. Probation services are provided as preventive measures to divert delinquent youth from entering state custody. Probation services are provided in all 95 counties; but the numbers are very low for Davidson, Shelby, Knox and Hamilton counties because they employ their own staff of probation officers. JJ FSWs are responsible for supervising youth who have been placed on probation by monitoring compliance with court ordered terms. JJ FSWs are charged with helping youth under their supervision to succeed in becoming law abiding, productive members of their community by:

- Ensuring court ordered stipulations are followed by compiling the Rules of Probation.
- Utilizing the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) assessment tool to determine the level of supervision and guide interventions.
- Completing the Family Functional Assessment - documenting what has happened to the family in the past, what is taking place now and what needs to be provided going forward.
- Empowering and engaging the youth and family in the development of an individualized Family Permanency Plan that will chart a "plan of action" on how the needs/concerns identified in assessments will be addressed.
- Maintaining contact with youth, parents/guardians, school officials and service providers
- Face-to-face contact with youth through home and school visits.
- Monitoring school attendance, behavior and grades.
- Conducting random drug screens.
- Working with local courts

JJ FSWs can refer youth and parents to programs such as community service, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, anger management, Life Skills, as well as educational and vocational programs.

Custody

If neither county probation, state probation, nor intensive probation services are successful in reorienting the youth, the juvenile court judge has the authority under TCA § 37-1-131 to commit an adjudicated delinquent youth to state custody. Youth can be committed to DCS custody if they are 18 or younger. Once they are committed, they may remain in DCS custody until age 19. When the court commits a youth, custody transfers to DCS; the court can make placement recommendations, but DCS has the ultimate authority in placement. Case management is provided by JJ FSW for delinquent youth placed in the custody of DCS.

Release/Discharge

Central office staff processes all contract agency Release to Home Placement Requests (THV) and Discharges; as well as review of YDC release packets to ensure accuracy, completeness and adherence to standards before discharge and releases are signed by the OJJ Deputy Commissioner.

Aftercare & Reentry

A juvenile offender who is released from a facility after adjudication faces reentry into his or her family and community. Some of these youth are sent back to surroundings that may have contributed to their delinquent acts in the first place; communities that have high rates of crime and poverty, poor performing schools, and a lack of community health and social services.

Recognizing that juveniles who are released from institutional facilities have a greater chance of succeeding and are less likely to recidivate if they have access to quality aftercare services, OJJ contracts with providers that offer continuum of services, meaning the provider continues to deliver services for the youth during the 30-day trial home visit and during aftercare for a minimum of 120 days.

If the placement from which the youth was released does not provide aftercare services, the JJ FSW provides aftercare supervision, to help the youth develop the skills and protective factors they need to resist further risky and delinquent behavior and, ultimately, to avoid returning to custody.

Department of Children's Services Regional Structure 1.23.14 (Following 02/2014 County Realignment)

Northwest, 13 Counties
 RA Kitty Oliver 731-364-3149x114

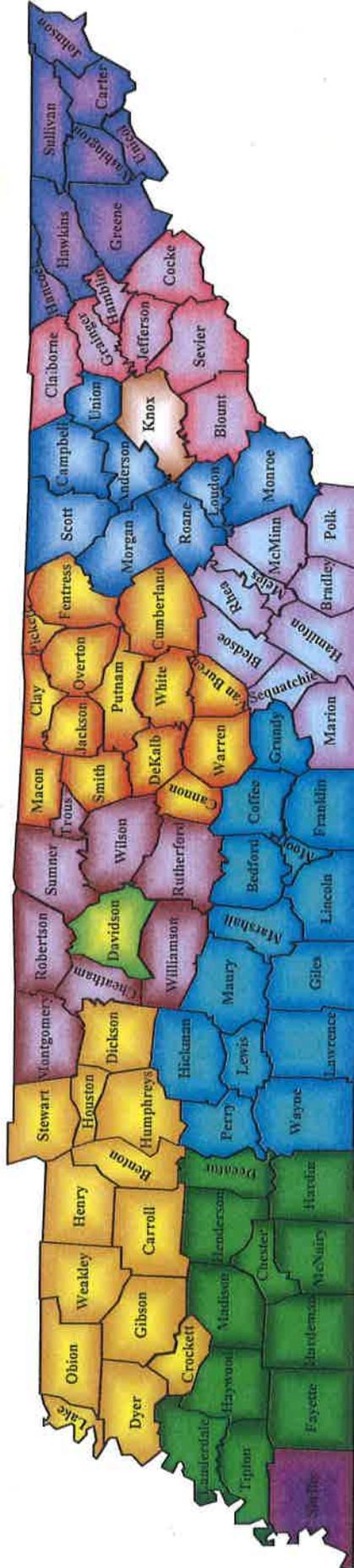
Davidson County/Woodland Hills YDC
 RA Tiwana Toney 615-532-2461

East Tennessee, 8 Counties
 RA Julie Rotella 865-425-4458

Mid-Cumberland, 8 Counties
 RA Lisa Brookover 615-360-4396

Upper Cumberland Region 14 Counties
 RA Cheri Richards 931-646-3004

Northeast, 8 Counties
 RA Lucretia Sanders 423-854-5130



Shelby County
 RA Marlene Hyman 901-578-4371

South Central, 14 Counties
 RA Lisa Williamson 931-380-2587

Tennessee Valley, 9 Counties
 RA Sandy Holder 423-296-2266

Knox County
 RA April Anderson 865-329-8879 ext. 1012

Southwest, 11 Counties/Wilder YDC
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