Disability Day of the Hill

Disability Day on the Hill was held on February 3rd and 4th at the State Capital and was a great time for our Leadership Team to be able to be a voice and advocate for and with individuals with disabilities. Anita Teague, Rachel Rudolf, Heather Brown and Travis Rollins represented the Community Development Center in speaking to legislators and policymakers on issues that can affect the communities that we serve.
Around the Child Development Center

**Welcome to the CDC family**

River Grace Rose Gunn was born on February 18th, to Katie and Colton Gunn.

Adalie Raegan Koonce was born on March 28th to Rachel and Justin Koonce.

Breakfast with Santa fundraiser was held on December 7th. Proceeds support the Lincoln County Child Development Center. Thank you to all the many volunteers and contributors that helped to make this a record-breaking year!

Senior Equipment Loan Program
For more information call: 931-684-8681
The Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) is excited to welcome the Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS) into its department. This follows the announcement first made in December 2019, when Gov. Bill Lee issued Executive Order No. 10 transferring the program from the Department of Education to DIDD. It was announced that the transition would officially happen on July 1, 2020.

TEIS is a voluntary program that provides services to children from birth through age two that may have developmental delays or disabilities. TEIS is governed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C. It is provided to children and families at no cost.

In the months since the executive order was signed, both departments have worked together to make this transition seamless for TEIS employees, children, and families. The goal has been to transfer services without any interruption to more than 200 employees, and the approximately 10,000 children that receive early intervention services through the program.

“‘The services and support these children receive at an early age allows them to realize their full potential. It also helps parents know that they aren’t alone,” DIDD Commissioner Turner said. Turner’s 13-year-old daughter, Kinsley, received TEIS services as a young child. “I’m excited to build on the great work that’s already been done by Commissioner Schwinn and our partners at DOE. I want to thank them for their leadership and dedication.”

To date, TEIS has been housed in the Department of Education, which serves Tennessee’s one million students in grades pre-K–12. To elevate and accelerate the work of TEIS, this program has been repositioned in DIDD, providing increased alignment and coordination to across supports and services from the agency whose sole purpose is to support people with disabilities to live the lives they envision for themselves.

“‘TEIS provides a critical service to families and children of this state, and much hard work has gone into making this transition a smooth one,” said Education Commissioner of Education Penny Schwinn. “I am grateful to Commissioner Turner and the DIDD team for their commitment to continue the important work providing Tennessee’s youngest citizens the supports they need to grow and thrive.”

Since the transition was announced, DIDD has brought on an Assistant Commissioner, Dr. Gabrielle Madison, for TEIS as well as a dedicated Public Information Officer. Commissioner Turner has also visited with TEIS staff from all nine point of entry offices and met with vendors and early intervention agencies to understand the successes and challenges for the program ahead.
The Katie Becket Waiver -- Up and Running Soon in Tennessee

On May 24th, 2019, Governor Bill Lee signed into law legislation directing the creation of the *Katie Beckett Waiver for Tennessee. This Waiver will address the needs of Tennessee children under 18 with disabilities and/or complex medical needs who are not Medicaid eligible because of their parents’ income or assets. TennCare has submitted a waiver amendment to The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to establish the new Katie Beckett Program for Tennessee. The State is now waiting for approval, with plans to begin the program later this year.

Tennessee’s Katie Beckett Program will have two parts:

- **Part A** will serve up to 300 children with the most significant disabilities or complex medical needs. Children in Part A will receive full Medicaid benefits.

- **Part B** will serve up to 2,700 with disabilities or complex medical needs. Children in Part B will not be enrolled in Medicaid, but will receive up to $10,000 a year in services for their child, including insurance premiums, respite care, services/therapies that work for the child, but that are not typically covered through insurance.

Families are encouraged to reach out to DIDD; TennCare and DIDD are currently collecting information from families through interest forms. Interest Forms are not applications for the program, but they let DIDD and TennCare know who to reach out to when they begin accepting applications.

DIDD Regional Offices:

- **WEST Tennessee Regional Office:** (866) 372-5709
- **Middle Tennessee Regional Office:** (800) 654-4839
- **East Tennessee Regional Office:** (888) 531-9876

To stay informed about Tennessee’s Katie Beckett Program, go to:

It is described as a “special brand of basketball” when you hear about the Special Needs League in McMinnville. Mom of Family Support (FS) recipient Wyatt King, 15, described her son’s first time playing as “the best day of his life I believe.” Wyatt is 15, has epilepsy, is non-verbal, and has autism.

Any age, with any disability is able to play in the Special Needs League, and Wyatt’s mom has wanted him to have this type of opportunity for a long time. The walker he was using however would not allow him the flexibility of moving all over the court, especially side-to-side. “It only glided,” his mom said. So she began to research, on-line, different types of walkers and then using Wyatt’s allocated Family Support dollars she had the FS Coordinator to order the one she thought would work, and work it did! Mom took him to the local rec center, his first time in the walker, which looks to be constructed of PVC pipe, and he walked in it. “First time ever walking in anything,’ she said. Next step, mom reported, “…exciting news, Wyatt is signed up for special sports in McMinnville, and he played basketball. For real! Walked that walker all over the gym and shot basketball. He is on a team for the first time and used the walker to play. One of my most special days for him ever.”

Wyatt played in one more game, before the season ended. This time he was more interested in the music playing in the gym. Mom said he danced and ran around for more than an hour, smiling the whole time. “I hadn’t seen him dance in years,” reflected mom. Those in the gym probably saw her smiling the whole time, too.

The Family Support Program is in danger of having its funding cut by the State of Tennessee this current fiscal year, because of a shortfall in state revenue, due to the Coronavirus. Everyone is encouraged to reach out to your state legislators to let them know how important this program is to so many families. You can send an email by logging on to https://cqrcengage.com/
As we geared up for Spring, we celebrated Autism Awareness Week. World Autism Day was April 2nd. Here are some important facts about Autism that our community may not know.

- 1 in 59 individuals will be diagnosed this year in the United States.
- Boys are 4 times more likely to be diagnosed with Autism than girls.
- Autism costs a family on average $60,000 per year.
- There is no medical detection for Autism. It is a complete behavioral diagnosis.
- There is no known cause for Autism. Research suggests that a combination of genetic and environmental influences increase the risk of Autism.
- Savant syndrome is a condition in which an individual demonstrates excelled skills in one topic. For example: Math, Music, or Memory.
- 63% of adult individuals with Autism do not have enough supports to meet their needs.
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the only empirically supported treatment for Autism.
- Eye contact can sometimes be difficult for individuals with Autism, but that doesn’t mean they aren’t paying attention to you.
- Autism can be diagnosed as early as 18 months of age.
CCA moves to Telemedicine

For the month of April, CCA moved to Telemedicine for 100% of services due to COVID19 exposure and prevention action plans. CCA had the opportunity to work with all the parents and caregivers during this time. CCA had great outcomes, and the families had the opportunity to move ABA to 100% in the home during this time. We had huge successes like saying words in the home, managing problematic behaviors, and showing off some of our kids’ great skills.

Do to this success, CCA decided to make Telemedicine home visits a permanent part of the program because it will help kids generalize skills to the home environment, and it will help the families we serve share in the daily successes that we see.

We returned to our center based services in May to ensure that our kids continued to receive the most effective therapy that CCA can provide. As an agency, we took the Tennessee’s pledge to help slow the spread of COVID19. We have strict cleaning procedures and screening of all individuals that enter the center, so we can provide the safest services. We have also sectioned off our entire center to allow for each child to have an individual space to ensure 6 feet for social distance. This means that we spend a lot of time outside. We have gotten very creative in how we teach play skills.
News Around ISC

Rockin and Rollin at Special Olympics Bowling

Athletes filled the building at Tullahoma Lanes on Wednesday October 23rd for the Area 13 annual Special Olympics bowling tournament. Each athlete was able to bowl two games, and was awarded ribbons based on the scores from their lane. Several individuals from Skills Development Services in Tullahoma, Fayetteville, and Shelbyville were able to compete, including Scott Cone and Lee McKelvey. Many of the athletes from Skills Tullahoma wore matching t-shirts that read “Wake up. Try. Repeat,” which served as a mantra for the team not to give up and to do their best. Kerry Lowe, who receives services in his home through Caregivers Services, Inc. was able to join in the fun and took home a ribbon as well. Tullahoma Lanes provided lunch for the athletes and high fives and congratulations were a plenty as each tried their best and cheered for their friends.

ISC Appreciation Week

CDC held ISC Team Appreciation Week March 2-6, 2020, where the superheroes of our program were celebrated. Nacho average employees enjoyed a taco bar one day, with pizza and games to end the festivities on Friday. Punny themes ruled the week, with days such as “Muffin to Do Except Appreciate You” providing staff with grab and go breakfast items and “Orange You Glad It’s Almost Friday?” saw staff enjoying orange colored and/or flavored snack foods. The ISC Management team appreciates all staff members within the program and loved the opportunity to demonstrate their thankfulness.
On February 7th, Missy Hanson and Jason Cox attended the “Night To Shine” prom. This brother/sister duo rocked the night away at Springfield Church in Springfield, TN, dancing with friends and having a great time! The Night to Shine Prom is held every year, and is hosted by various local civic and religious organization in partnership with the Tim Tebow Foundation’s Night to Shine Ministry.
Employment Services

We are growing as a department! We are happy to announce the addition of Kelli Lafont to our program. Kelli is helping us take on a new role provided transitions services within several school systems. We are conducting Pre-Employment Transition Services with students in Lincoln, Bedford, Coffee and Franklin counties, and are looking to expand into other regions.

We are continuing to work with Vocational Rehabilitation, and have two clients who are receiving Independent Living Skills Training through ECF CHOICES.

Employment Services has gone through some big changes recently. Travis Rollins moved to a position with the state and Vanessa Craddock is the new Employment Services Coordinator. We have learned how to work with our clients remotely in this ‘new normal’, and closed two cases successfully last month. Next up, we get to develop a virtual Pre-ETS program and we are super excited to work with our students again in August!
Look Who’s Joined the CDC Family!

Ariel joined our team as an Independent Support Coordinator in our Shelbyville office. Ariel enjoys reading, gaming, watching musicals, and baking. She has a large family of seven siblings and ten nieces and nephews, so there’s never a dull moment during family gatherings and holidays. Her favorite book is The Paper Magician.

Tiffany joined our team as the Billing Coordinator. Her and her husband, Josh, have been married for almost 30 years and they have one daughter, Hannah, who graduated from SCHS this year. She loves spending time with family, reading and watching Hallmark movies!

Jon joined our team as an Independent Support Coordinator in Columbia. He enjoys traveling, going to music & sporting events. He enjoys spending time with his daughters and family. He also enjoys reading & going to poetry lounges as well.

Kayla joined our team as an Registered Behavior Technician. She is married to AJ and they will be married five years this September and they have two children. Paislee, her daughter is four years old, and Jax, her son is two years old. She enjoys spending time with family and watching her kids play, she also enjoys reading and learning new things.

The Big Payback is 24 hours of giving to support your local non profits. It was held on May 6th-7th from 6pm-6pm. The Big Payback annually hosts more than 800 organizations. This year the event was held entirely virtual and we raised over $700!!!
<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Wade</td>
<td>15 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teah Obeidalla</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelli Holt</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Gunn</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabatha Norton</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Rudolf</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenna Garner</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa Winnette</td>
<td>23 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martha Baker</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda McCall</td>
<td>14 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheri Vaughn</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Brown</td>
<td>13 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britney McConnell</td>
<td>8 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie Carter</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Singleton</td>
<td>13 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Fosbinder</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Hatchett</td>
<td>8 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Besse</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sign up at smile.amazon.com then choose Community Development Center