



Relative Caregiver

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

AUGUST 2007

TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN'S
SERVICES

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- DIRECTOR NOTES
- TN CAREGIVER RESOURCES
- RCP UPCOMING CHANGES
- REGIONAL RCP UPDATES
- RCP WISH LIST

Director Notes



I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Chattanooga Police Department Annual Grandparents Luncheon held at the Brainerd United Methodist Church in Chattanooga, TN.

The conference held workshops that include: The Relative Caregiver Program, Medicare Fraud, Medication Management and the Chattanooga Police Department held a workshop on fraud as well.

It was great to see law enforcement officers interacting with caregivers and great to witness the appreciation the CPD expressed to the grandparents present.

I would like to send a special thanks to Police Chief Mike Williams and Officer Diaz for collaborating with Steve Witt and Amy French of the Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability that implements the Relative Caregiver Program in partnership with The Department of Children Services.

This proves that there is power through partnerships. Thanks for making grandparents feel special.

-Robert L. Matthews-

TN Caregiver Resources



Relative Caregiver Warmline

Davidson County Relative Caregiver Program has developed a Caregiver Warmline to offer 24 hours, 7 days a week support services. The program services ensures relative caregivers are knowledgeable on available resources that are provided in the Davidson County area.

For more information about this resource service contact:

The Relative Caregiver Warmline

@ 615-340-9751

TennHelp Website

TennHelp is a website service that has a statewide directory that provides a listing of organizations and agencies across Tennessee. The website also features a section for Relative Caregivers that address advice on legal, health, money, transportation, childcare, housing, support and other services.

For more information about this website go

www.tennhelp.com

TN RCP All Staff Training October 18-19th



The Tennessee Relative Caregiver Program will be engaging in it's 3rd Annual All Staff Training on Octo-

This year's theme: S.E.E Support, Empower, and Encourage Caregivers and Children

ber 18-19 2007 in Nashville, TN. This training will be an opportunity for all twelve regions to come together to build cohesive relationships with other staff across the state. The theme for this year's training is S.E.E (Support, Empower, and Encourage Caregivers and Children), which reflects the

purpose of the program. David Miller and LaMarr Shields from The Urban League Institute in Baltimore, MD will be coming to present two workshops for the staff.

The workshops are titled:

- Bridging the Generation Gap: Keys to Quality Youth Development
- Understanding the Potential of Hip-Hop Culture

“To be successful in our work with young people, we must understand a particular condition of youth”

Bridging the Generation Gap: KEYS to Quality Youth Development

Provided by Urban League Institute

To be successful in our work with young people, we must understand a particular condition of youth: that young people are often mistreated and disrespected simply because they are young.

Therefore, *KEYS to Quality Youth Development* encourages adults to focus on how young people are mistreated or discriminated against

in adult-defined institutions, how young people can internalize mistreatment against themselves, and other youth, and explores strengths of young people to plan and prepare a complete menu for positive youth development.

This session is a *working tool* to stimulate, challenge, and encourage youth and adults as they work to-

gether to plan, conduct, and evaluate quality experiences. Whether you are a parent, teacher, volunteer, youth development professional, or teenager, this workshop will help you work with youth.

Understanding the Potential of the Hip-Hop Culture

Provided by Urban League Institute

Hip-Hop is an undeniable social force for youth, particularly urban youth. This musical form exercises its force by shaping the identities, and furthermore the social character of its listeners. It grooms individuals, particularly youth to accept or reject their economic, political, and social conditions. The future path of the hip hop movement is uncharted. Ultimately it is up to the hip-hop community to accept or reject the current construction and appropriation of this musical form, which

potentially can work as an agent of social and political change.

Therefore, the purpose of this interactive workshop is to share the multi-layered ways in which Hip-Hop can be used as a tool for social justice, education, and empowerment.

This session is highly interactive and will utilize video, music sam-

ples, and other multi-media illustrations of Hip-Hop.

It will particularly benefit those who are looking for new and innovative ways to engage youth.

TN RCP All Staff Agenda

S.E.E

Support, Empower, and Encourage Caregivers and Children



State of Tennessee
 Department of Children's Services
 Relative Caregiver Program
 All Staff Training
 1252 Foster Ave.
 Hardison Bldg Auditorium
 Nashville, TN.

Thursday, October 18, 2007

9:00 a.m. Registration

10:00a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
 Robert Matthews, TN RCP Director
 Viola Miller, DCS Commissioner

11:00 a.m. Lunch

11:20 a.m. **Subgroup Breakout Session**
 (Working Lunch)

11:50 p.m. Break

12:00 p.m. **Operations Manual Presentations**
 Regional RCP Staff

2:20 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. **Update on Families First and Child Only Grant Changes**
 Paul Lefkowitz, Director of DHS Families First

3:30 p.m. Q & A

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

Friday, October 19, 2007

7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. **Welcome**
 Betty Smith, TN RCP Program Coordinator
 Vickie Jones, TN RCP Program Specialist

8:50 a.m. **Introduction of Speaker**
 Robert L. Matthews, TN RCP Director

9:00 a.m. **Keynote Message**
 LaMarr D. Shields, M.Ed.
 Co-Founder and President
 Urban Leadership Institute, Baltimore, MD

9:35 a.m. Break

9:50 a.m./11:45 a.m. **Workshops (Offered twice)**
Understanding the Potential of Hip-Hop Culture -Conf. A
 LaMarr D. Shields, M.Ed.
Bridging the Generation Gap -Conf. B
 David Miller, M.Ed.
 Co-Founder and Chief Visionary Officer
 Urban Leadership Institute, Baltimore, MD

11:00 a.m. Lunch

12:50 p.m. **Q&A/Closing Remarks**

1:30p.m. Adjourn



Davidson RCP Updates

Davidson Co. RCP
Family and Children Services
3203 Brick Church Pike
Nashville, TN. 37207
Office: 615-226-4917
Fax: 615-226-4971
Director: Aimee Brake

New Cases

Davidson Co. RCP opened 10 new cases during the month of August.

Best Success

DCRCP was able to assist a grandmother who was unable to care for her 3 grandchildren anymore. The children’s aunt was identified and the children were placed with an aunt. DCRCP assist the aunt with applying for child only grant an also provided material assistance. DCRCP also linked the aunt with other agencies that were able to provide more assistance with stability for the children and aunt. The children are thriving in the environment with the aunt.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 1st/15th-DCRCP Sup Grp.
 Oct. 2nd-Training - Taking Care of Me@ McGruder
 Oct. 6th-Training– Talking to Kids about Puberty/Sex @ McGruder
 Oct. 9th/23rd-McGruder Sup Grp.
 Oct. 12th-Teen Act.-Hunted House
 Oct. 13th- CG Enrich-General Jackson Showboat;
 Youth Act.-DCRCP Halloween Party.
 For more information on locations and times contact Family and Children Services @ 615-226-4917.

Tennessee Relative Caregiver

- Program offers the following services:**
- Family Advocacy/Short Term Case Management
 - Caregiver Support
 - Youth/Teen Activity Group
 - Education Workshops
 - Information and Referral
 - Respite & Enrichment
 - Emergency One Time Financial or Start up Assistance
 - Material Assurances

Shelby RCP Updates

Shelby Co. RCP
University of TN Boling
Center for Developmental
Disabilities
711 Jefferson Ave.
Memphis, TN 38105
Office: 901-448-3133
Fax: 901-448-3534
Director: Juanita Williams

New Cases

Shelby Co. RCP opened 18 new cases during the month of August.

Best Success

The Tennessee Department of Human Services Volunteer Support Committee donated 50 pairs of Payless Shoes for the children in the SCRCP, just in time for back to school.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 4th, 11-12:30- New Life CG Support Groups
 Oct. 11th, 11-12:30 -Mt. Vernon CG Support Group
 Oct. 16th, 3:00-4:00- Birth Parent Support Group @UTBCDD
 Oct. 18th, 9:30 -Caregiver Breakfast @ IHOP
 Oct. 25th, 11:00-12:30 CG Support Groups @ Benjamin L. Hooks
 For more information on locations and times contact UT Boling Center @ 901-448-3133.

Upper Cumberland RCP Updates

Upper Cumberland Region RCP
Upper Cumberland Development District
1225 South Willow Ave.
Cookeville, TN 38506
Office: 931-432-4111
Fax: 931-432-6010
Director: Patty Jones

New Cases

Upper Cumberland Region RCP opened 9 new cases during the month of August.

Best Success

UCRCP had great success and participation during the Annual Rodney Atkin’s Golf Tournament Fundraiser. The Upper Cumberland Development District

raised \$50,000.00 for Relative Caregiver Program and Area Agency on Aging and Disability Program

Upcoming Events

Upper Cumberland RCP will hold their monthly support groups in each of the 14 counties.
 For more information on locations and times contact Upper Cumberland Development District @ 931-432-4111.



Northeast Region RCP Updates

Northeast Region RCP
Foothills Care, Inc.
663 Emory Valley Road
Oak Ridge, TN. 37830
Office: 865-483-9111
Fax: 865-483-9102
Director: Jim Lambert

New Cases
Northeast Region RCP opened 6 new cases during the month of August.

Best Success
NERCP had great participation and attendance from Caregivers, youth and teen at their Enrichment Activity.

Upcoming Events
For information about events and support groups that are occurring in Northeast Region, contact Foot Hills Care, Inc. @ 865-483-9111.

Tennessee Relative Caregiver Program offers the following services:

- Family Advocacy/Short Term Management
- Youth/Teen Activity Group
- Emergency One Time Financial or Start up Assistance
- Education Workshops
- Information and Referral
- Respite & Enrichment
- Caregiver Support
- Material Assistances

East Region RCP Updates

East Region RCP
Foothills Care, Inc.
663 Emory Valley Road
Oak Ridge, TN 37820
Office: 865-483-9111
Fax: 865-483-9102
Director: Kalia Akue

New Cases
East Region RCP opened 9 new cases during the month of August..

Best Success
ERCP was able to strengthen the relationships with their families through intensified home visit.

Upcoming Events
All East region's counties will hold Support Groups and Children's Enrichment Activity during the month of October.

For more information on locations and times contact the Foothills Care Inc. @ 865-483-9111.



Knox County RCP Updates

Knox Co. RCP
Foothills Care Inc.
663 Emory Valley Road
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
Office: 865-483-9111
Fax: 865-483-9102
Director: Sheryl Curry

New Cases
Knox Co. RCP opened 6 new cases during the month of August..

Best Success
KCRCP set-up an exhibitor booth at the Knox Co. First Day of School Festival. The event drew 5000 participants which gave KCRCP great exposure.

Upcoming Events
For more information about events and support groups that are occurring in Knox County, contact the Foothills Care Inc. @ 865-483-9111.



Mid-Cumberland Region RCP Updates

**Mid-Cumberland Region RCP
New Visions Inc.**
4204 Home Haven Dr.
Nashville, TN 37218
Office: 615-473-3006
Fax: 615-876-1167
Director: Tim Malone

New Cases

Mid-Cumberland Region RCP opened 2 new cases during the month of August.

Best Success

MCRCRP assisted DCS in locating a birth father that was a viable placement for a teen at risk of entering state custody. The teen was reunited with her birth father and paternal family.

Upcoming Events

For more information about events and support groups that are occurring in the Mid-Cumberland region, contact New Vision Inc. @ 615-473-3006.

Tennessee Relative

Caregiver Program offers the following services:

- Family Advocacy/Short Term Management
- Youth/Teen Activity Group
- Emergency One Time Financial or Start up Assistance
- Education Workshops
- Information and Referral
- Respite & Enrichment
- Caregiver Support
- Material Assistances

Southwest Region RCP Updates

**Southwest Region RCP
Carl Perkins Center**
51 Klear Vu Drive
Brownsville, TN 38012
Office: 731-772-8378
Fax: 731-772-2752
Director: Beth Wilson

New Cases

Southwest Region RCP opened 17 new cases during the month of August.

Best Success

SWRCP received \$3900 worth of gift cards that were donated by a private group. These gift cards were used to purchase new school clothing and shoes for 49 RCP children.

Upcoming Events

All Southwest counties will hold their monthly support groups .
Oct. 12th, 6-9:30-Chester Co. Education Workshop-Babysitting
Oct. 26th, 6-8- Tipton/Lauderdale Enrichment/Respite Act.-Trunk-or-Treat Cookout
Oct. 26th, 4-6-Henderson/Decatur Co. Whole Family Enrich.-Fall Festival
Oct. 29th, 4-8- Chester Co/Whole Family Enrich-Fall Fest.
For more information on locations and times contact Carl Perkins Center @ 731-772-8378.

Northwest Region RCP Updates

**Northwest Region RCP
Carl Perkins Center**
51 Klear Vu Drive
Brownsville, TN 38012
Office: 731-772-8378
Fax: 731-772-2752
Director: Beth Wilson

New Cases

Northwest Region RCP opened 5 cases during the month of August.

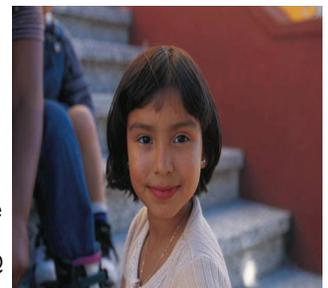
Best Success

NWRCP had the opportunity to assist a family with emergency hotel services, rent, and security deposit in order to secure appropriate housing.

Several community embers and board members also donated their time and services to assist the family.

Upcoming Events

For more information about events and support groups that are occurring in Northwest region contact the Carl Perkins Center @ 731-772-8378.





Hamilton County RCP Updates

Hamilton Co. RCP
Southeast TN Area
Agency on Aging and Disability

P.O. Box 4757
Chattanooga, TN. 37405
Office: 423-424-4258
Fax: 423-424-4225
Director: Amy French

New Cases

Hamilton Co. RCP opened 6 new cases during the month of August.

Best Success

HCRCF was able to assist in the reunification of a child with their birth parents.

Upcoming Events

For more information about events and support groups that are occurring in Hamilton county, contact Southeast TN Area on Aging and Disability @ 423-424-4258.

Tennessee Relative Caregiver Program offers the following services:

- Family Advocacy/Short Term Management
- Youth/Teen Activity Group
- Emergency One Time
- Financial or Start up Assistance
- Education Workshops
- Information and Referral
- Respite & Enrichment
- Caregiver Support
- Material Assistances



Southeast Region RCP Updates

Southeast Region RCP
Southeast TN Area
Agency on Aging and Disability

P.O. Box 4757
Chattanooga, TN. 37405
Office: 423-424-4258
Fax: 423-424-4225
Director: Amy French

New Cases

Southeast Region RCP opened 10 new cases during the month of August.

Best Success

SERCP had the opportunity to assist a caregiver who is caring for two grandchildren. The caregiver became ill and was hospitalized and had no family support to care for the children. Caregivers from the support group cared for the children while he was in the hospital for a couple

of day. This kind gestured prevented the children from coming into DCS custody. SERCP, also assisted the family with school clothing and shoes for the children.

Upcoming Events

For more information about events and support groups that are occurring in the Southeast region, contact the Southeast TN Area Agency on Aging and Disability @ 423-424-4258.

South Central Region RCP Updates

South Central Region RCP
The Center for Family Development

100 Eastside Square
Shelbyville, TN 37160
Office: 888-462-2999
Ext. 206
Fax: 931-684-5140
Director: Sue Fletcher

New Cases

South Central Region RCP opened 9 new cases during the month of August.

Best Success SCRCF had great participation during the Caregiver, Youth and Teen Enrichment Activity at Hands on Science Center. This event allowed the families to gain knowledge and emotional support from other caregivers.

Upcoming Events

Support Groups
 Oct. 9th, 10-11-Bedford Co.
 Oct. 10th, 10-11-Giles Co.
 Oct. 11th, 10-11-Marshall Co.
 Oct. 16th, 10-11- Law./Coffee/Wayne Co.
 Oct. 17th, 10-11-Lincoln/Moore Co.
 Oct. 23rd, 10-11-Perry/Lewis Co.
 For more information on locations and times contact The Center for Family Development @ 931-684-5140, Ext. 206, 219, 221, or 222.

Tennessee Department of Children's Services
Relative Caregiver Program
436 6th Avenue North
8th Floor, Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243
Fax# 615-253-1717



Staff

Robert L. Matthews, Director 615-253-2342 Robert.L.Matthews@state.tn.us
Betty Smith, Program Coordinator 615-253-2397 Betty.X.Smith@state.tn.us
Vickie Jones, Program Specialist 615-253-1776 Vickie.Jones@state.tn.us

Development of Relative Caregiver Program

The Tennessee Department of Children's Service administers this program in collaboration with public/private agencies to support children who are not able to be raised by their parents, and are being cared for by their relatives. These committed and caring relatives have stepped in to raise children whose parents are unavailable, and serve as a safety net for our children.

Relative Caregiver Program Wish List

RCP offers material assistance to relative caregivers. This program depends on the generosity and support of the community. Please review the list below, if you can be of help in providing any of these items please contact your local RCP to coordinate pick-up on any of these items.

1. Twin Beds
2. Clothing
3. Shoes
4. Pampers
5. Toilet Paper
6. Paper Towels
7. Household Furniture
8. Food
9. Lotion
10. Deodorant
11. Soap
12. Toothpaste
13. School Supplies