



SUPPORTING FAMILIES

of individuals with intellectual & developmental disabilities
THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE • FUNDED BY THE ADMINISTRATION ON INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

TENNESSEE STATE TEAM

Context

Tennessee (TN) served approximately 8,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) through three home and community based (HCBS) waivers offered by the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities' (DIDD). Current challenges in the state include wait lists for services and state budget reductions. Initiatives underway include responding to national and state policies, such as the HCBS Settings Rule, Aging Caregivers Act, ABLE Act Employment First Core State initiative (ODEP grant), and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA).

Goals

- Strengthen relationships with state agencies and community organizations who support families and individuals with IDD.
- Revise procedures related to first point of contact with service system to ensure that it is a meaningful encounter regardless of eligibility.
- Provide meaningful information and support to those on state agency waiting lists for services.
- Embed values and principles of LifeCourse and supporting families into daily business approach across state agencies.

Anticipated Outcomes

- Individuals and families are aware of and use the LifeCourse planning tools for achieving a good life with connections to community.
- LifeCourse principles are embedded in the culture of DDS and applied to strategic planning and problem-solving.
- System reforms that increase appropriate and flexible supports to families
- System-wide awareness of LifeCourse principles
- Integrated approach to supports across state agencies and community organizations guided by LifeCourse principles.

Activities

Discovery & Navigation

- Providing information through monthly Supporting Families e-newsletter and other communication tools
- Creating and disseminating "TN Kindred Stories Collection" to educate families and policymakers about experiences of families
- Disseminating the Community Resource Folder listing services and supports for individuals and families
- Incorporating LifeCourse information in keynote presentations and break-out sessions at TN Disability Megaconference

Connecting & Networking

- Collaborating with and strengthening the state sibling support network
- Increasing awareness of state peer mentoring initiatives

Goods & Services

- Implementing new DD waiver focused on employment services and support to families to be administered by managed care organizations (July 2016)
- Conducting "Lunch and Learn" events to share information and engage more partners
- Incorporating LifeCourse tools into intake assessment process
- Training managed care organizations on LifeCourse framework principles and tools
- Developing leadership academy for state personnel working in disability programs

Hosted By



**TN Council on
Developmental Disabilities**



**TN Department of
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Get Involved

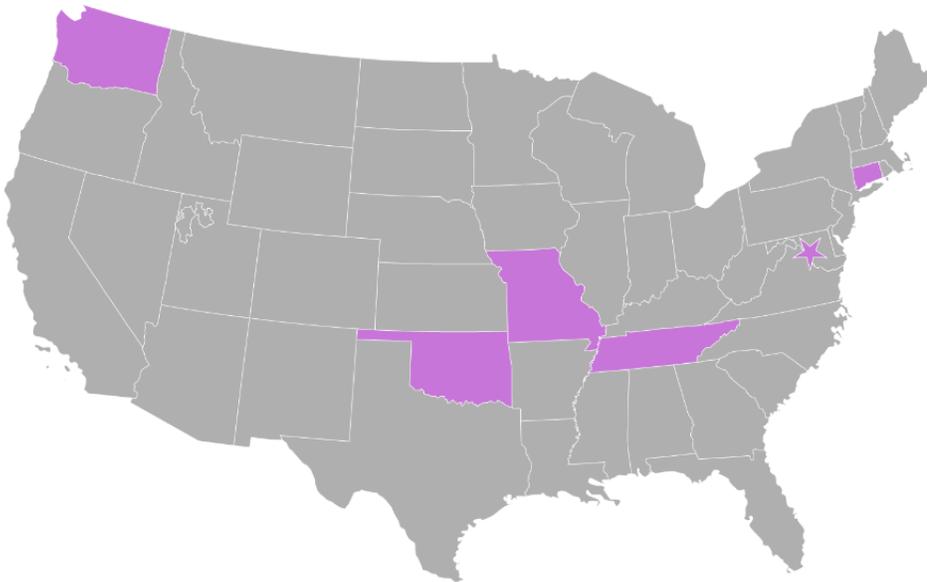
CONTACT

Laura Doutre,
TN Department of Intellectual & Developmental
Disabilities

laura.doutre@tn.gov

(800) 535-9725

About the National Community of Practice



The overarching goal of the National Community of Practice for Supporting Families of Individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities is to develop, test, and learn from states how to recognize and support families so that they can continue to support their family member to be fully engaged in the community, whether that person is living at home or elsewhere in the community.

States are focusing on policies and practices that reach across an

individual's life span, think about all people with I/DD regardless of their connection to the formal systems, and work across agencies and communities to impact the trajectory of information.

Project



This project is funded by the Administration on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, grant number ACF 90DN0298. AIDD is dedicated to ensuring that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are able to fully participate in and contribute to all aspects of community life in the United States and its territories.