Tennessee Voices for Children (TVC) is a nonprofit organization located in Goodlettsville, Tennessee that provides services for children and young adults with mental, emotional, and behavioral healthcare needs. TVC was organized in 1990 as a statewide coalition to promote children’s health and education services. TVC works collaboratively with parents, professionals, state and federal officials, policy makers and other key stakeholders to ensure that services provided to children and families in Tennessee are family driven, community based, and culturally and linguistically competent. Since 1990, TVC has become a statewide and national source of referral, support, and advocacy for families and the systems that serve them.

Mission: Tennessee Voices for Children provides leadership, support, and services that promote voice, hope, and empowerment for the emotional and behavioral well-being of children, youth, and their families.

Vision: Tennessee Voices for Children seeks to become a diversely funded, accredited organization providing best practice in advocacy and services for the emotional and behavioral well-being of children and their families in the state of Tennessee.

Core Values of TVC

- Providing family-driven, youth-guided services
- Improving accessibility to services
- Empowering families and caregivers through education
- Emphasizing lived experience and peer support services
- Cultivating a statewide presence in rural, urban, and suburban communities
- Leading through community collaboration

About Tennessee Voices for Children

The following agency needs were identified:

- Incorporation of occupation-based activities and ideas into the current treatment planning and goal-setting process
- Restructuring the current evaluation process to be more client-centered and more systematic
- Education on the development of measurable, occupation-based goals
- Creation of intake packets that include educational materials and resources for families
- Development of a comprehensive resource guide for families in crisis in Middle Tennessee

Family Connections Program

The Family Connections Program was my primary focus during my time at TVC. This program serves children from ages 2-18 in Davidson County. All clients in this program are referred to TVC through the Department of Children’s Services. This program is meant to provide temporary, intensive intervention for children who are at risk of being placed into state custody or who are already in custody but hope to gain the necessary supports and services to return home. The majority of the children and families served are in crisis and have experienced multiple forms of trauma, or adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

The Family Connections provides the following services and supports to families in the program:

- Weekly in-home support from a certified Family Support Specialist
- Intensive in-home services by a Youth and Family Therapist to build skills needed to maintain the youth in the home/school/community
- 24/7 behavioral support for the family
- Guidance on how to build collaborative relationships with providers
- Assistance with navigating systems and accessing community resources
- Education about trauma-informed care and the impact of ACEs on development and behaviors

- Development of an occupation-based manual to serve as a companion guide to treatment planning. Includes information and activities to address the following skill or function areas:
  - Coping Skills
  - Optimism and Reframing Negative Thoughts
  - Assertive Communication Skills
  - Leisure Exploration
  - Sleep and Wellness
  - Establishing Routines
  - School Participation and Behaviors

- Development of a comprehensive resource guide for Middle Tennessee geared towards families in crisis

- Creation of a treatment planning template for the Child and Family Team Meeting (CFTM)
- Creation of an educational handout on goal-writing, including tips on how to write measurable, meaningful goals that are client and family centered
- Organization of the Interpretive Summary by domains to improve the usability of the document

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