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Children's Champion

• June 12, 2019 •
Tennessee Justice Center

Please welcome our Children's Health summer intern, Christine Samuel.



Christine is a native of Utica, New York and is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Public Health from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. She completed her undergraduate degree last year at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama. As an intern with the Tennessee Justice Center she will be working with the Children's Health Team researching how Tennessee's policies have impacted children's health and overall well-being.

ICYMI

Nominations for TJC's Community Healthcare Heroes

- Do you want to nominate your mom, dad, neighbor, friend, or other caretakers you know?

- Kids aged 3-9 can submit a drawing or photo that shows why their nominee is their health care hero.
- Kids aged 10 and up can submit a short essay (300 words or less) saying why their nominee is their special health care hero.
- Adults can help! Friends and family can, of course, send in a nomination as well.
- Submissions should include a photo of the child and their nominee with the nominee's name, the child's name, phone number, and address. (We apologize, but photos cannot be returned). Parents must send an entry release form with their child's drawing, photo, or essay. Submissions should be mailed to Tennessee Justice Center, 211 7th Ave N. #100, Nashville, TN 37219, or you can email your nominations to akent@tnjustice.org and include a digital picture of the child and the nominee. Nominations must be received by **June 26, 2019**. Cash prizes will be awarded to winners in each age category.

[DOWNLOAD THE SUBMISSION PACKET](#)

THE MORE YOU KNOW

Proposed changes to the federal poverty measure

The Trump administration has submitted a proposal through the Office of Management and Budget to change the measure used to adjust the poverty line for inflation from CPI-U (the current, standard measure) to a slower growing index, like the chained CPI. **OMB is taking public comments on the proposal until June 21.**

Every year, eligibility for programs including Medicaid, Affordable Care Act insurance premium subsidies, SNAP and school meals, and home heating and cooling assistance is determined relative to the federal poverty line. That measure is adjusted annually for inflation. The Trump Administration's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is now considering changes to the ways inflation is calculated to grow more slowly over time. If implemented, fewer people would be eligible for assistance, because their incomes would be higher than the allowable guidelines. Over time, millions of people would be affected, including children, seniors, people with disabilities, and others who are poor or near poor.

The [estimated impact](#) in 10 years:

- More than 250,000 seniors and people with disabilities would lose their eligibility, or receive less support from Medicare's Part D Low-Income Subsidy Program for prescription drugs and more than 150,000 seniors would lose Medicare premium assistance.
- More than 300,000 children would lose Medicaid and CHIP coverage. More than 250,000 adults would lose coverage through Medicaid expansion.
- More than 150,000 federal Marketplace consumers would lose cost-sharing subsidies and see higher deductibles. Tens of thousands would lose premium tax credits to help afford Marketplace insurance.

What you can do

- Submit a comment! Quantity and quality are both important.
 - [Comment portal for individuals](#)
 - [Comment portal for organizations](#) (including sector-specific guidance)
 - Numerous resources and comment guidance can be found [here](#).

LOOKING FORWARD

Federal updates

The House of Representatives passed the Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act (H.R. 987) by a [234 - 183 vote](#) on May 16. The legislative package includes bills that stop practices that delay the availability of generic drugs; restores funding for navigators and enrollment outreach; provides funding for states to establish their own state-based exchanges; and resets short-term plans as only three-month options.

Let's thank members who voted for H.R. 987 and supported efforts to strengthen the ACA and address rising drug prices and hold the members who voted against it accountable. We are also asking the Senate to protect our coverage and pass H.R. 987.

Resources to help:

- Learn how your member voted [HERE](#)
- Here are [topline talking points](#) and Community Catalyst's [statement for guidance](#)

Take Action:

- Step 1: Thank your House member or hold them accountable on [this action page](#)
- Step 2: Reach out to your senators and ask them to support H.R. 987 on [this action page](#).

State updates

We'd like to thank Rep. Harold Love and others for sponsoring and passing the amended version of [HB 405](#) to require LEAs and public charter schools to adopt a trauma-informed discipline policy. The legislation is a strong step forward in helping create safe, stable, and nurturing environments at schools. We also know that trauma-informed practices are in the best interests of all children, not just those dealing with trauma and toxic stress. We look forward to seeing the policies developed by school districts and the guidelines created by the Tennessee Department of Education.

JOIN US

7th Annual NALS Silent Auction and TN Bar Association Reception

June 14
5:30 PM-7:00 PM CT

Renaissance Hotel
Melrose Room
611 Commerce Street
Nashville, TN 37203

[RSVP HERE](#)

Are you excited about giving back to the community and winning something for yourself? Please join us for the 7th Annual NALS After Hours Silent Auction. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the Tennessee Justice Center.

We hope you'll also consider donating auction items! Items that have gone for large amounts in past years include art, a week in a vacation home, services like photography, handmade pottery, and gift certificates. Do you have something to donate? Do you have a business you frequent that you would be willing to ask for donations?

If you are interested in sponsoring the event, donating an item, or volunteering, please contact Ashlan Jackson at ajackson@tnjustice.org.

Metro Nashville Public Schools and Alignment Nashville are hosting the **2019 Music City Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Conference!** Visit selconference.org for more information.

As a reminder, the Tennessee Justice Center also helps with:

- 1. Enrollment onto TennCare and CoverKids
- 2. Service Issues
- 3. Redetermination Issues

If you ever encounter anyone who is having trouble getting health insurance or getting health services, please call TJC: (615) 255-0331.

If there is any information you would like us to share on your behalf, including events and resources, please reply to this email.

Sincerely,

Kinika Young
Director of Children's Health
Tennessee Justice Center

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