We are so excited to welcome Austin Hollimon as the 2019-2020 King Health Fellow.

He first worked for the Tennessee Justice Center as a Summer intern in 2011 and was inspired to return in 2019.

Austin graduated from Princeton in 2013 with a BA in U.S. History. After graduating, he joined Teach for America as a 2013 Corp Member. After finding that programs to inspire students were missing in education, Austin founded of a nonprofit, Commit Youth, to provide “motivation materials” to high schools. In 2015 Austin earned a sponsorship to chase his Olympic dream through partnership with Dick's Sporting Goods. He trained through 2016.
After his push for an Olympic bid in 2016, Austin joined the staff at Cristo Rey Atlanta as an administrator where he worked (and ran as Olympic hopeful) until June 2019. He begins his journey to become an attorney as a King Health Fellow and will enroll in law school in August of 2020. He hopes to attend either Georgetown, Penn, or Emory University for his J.D.

Welcome, Austin!

ICYMI

- **Racism & children's health**: American Academy of Pediatrics released a [new study on racism's impact on children's health](http://example.com). The stress generated by experiences of racism may start through maternal exposures while in utero and continue after birth with the potential to create toxic stress. This transforms how the brain and body respond to stress, resulting in short- and long-term health impacts on achievement and mental and physical health. We see the manifestations of this stress as preterm births and low birthweights in newborns to subsequent development of heart disease, diabetes and depression as children become adults. The policy asks that pediatricians reflect on their own biases and integrate structural and individual-level strategies that optimize professional practice.
  
  More resources:
  - [AAP Voices blogs](http://example.com)
  - [Letter from the President: "How you can prevent, mitigate impact of racism on child health"](http://example.com)

- **Block grants**: Currently, our state officials are working to submit a proposal to CMS to become the first state in the nation to radically change the way our Medicaid program is funded. Because it is unprecedented and the legislation passed gives so much leeway to the state, there are many questions that haven't been asked or answered. Medicaid is such a significant part of our state budget that we encourage everyone who works on children's issues to find out how a Medicaid block grant would affect our state. Here are some [questions](http://example.com) from Georgetown Center for Children and Families that state leaders should be considering.

- **Special session**: Tennessee legislature will meet for a special session on next Friday, August 23rd to elect a new speaker of the House of Representatives. [Email Gov. Lee and your legislators to deal with Tennessee's urgent health crisis](http://example.com) during the special session.

THE MORE YOU KNOW

Thousands of Tennessee children have lost health insurance. Many parents don't know.

The Tennessean recently reported that [at least 220,000 Tennessee kids faced loss of health insurance due to lacking paperwork](http://example.com). This report is based on data that TJC obtained through an open records request to the state. After we learned that an alarming number of children lost health coverage through TennCare between 2016 and 2018, our team submitted an open records request to the state on February 18th seeking any information relating to the loss of TennCare or CoverKids coverage for children. In late May, we received the state’s reply which reveals that, between 2016 and 2018, at least 220,000 kids lost health coverage or were slated to be cut from TennCare or CoverKids because something got lost in a bureaucratic maze; not because they were deemed ineligible for coverage.
For more in-depth analysis of the issue, read our new policy brief.

State officials have been speculating that the coverage losses are simply the result of Tennessee's declining unemployment rate, but the numbers clearly tell a different story. Our kids can't wait — and neither should we. It's no longer acceptable to keep existing systems in place, as kids go without the coverage they need.

Click here to email Gov. Bill Lee and ask him to get these kids covered.

As we call on Tennessee's leaders to address these critical issues, please click here for talking points, template letter to the editor, and social media posts. We hope you will add your voice, as we call on our leaders to ensure eligible children get the health coverage they need and deserve. Thank you for your work advocating on behalf of Tennessee’s children.

Please call 1-877-608-1009 if your child has lost their coverage. Almost every child is eligible for free or low-cost health insurance through TennCare or CoverKids.

LOOKING FORWARD

Federal updates

The final public charge rule was officially released on Monday, starting a 60-day period before it goes into effect. This rule seeks to deny a green card or visa to certain low income and working class immigrants based on their income, education, family size, or if they've accessed life-saving health, nutrition, or housing services. These changes will drastically reshape our legal immigration system and lives of immigrant families for decades to come. If litigation does not stop implementation, the rule will take effect on October 15, 2019.

In the coming days, the Tennessee Immigration and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) and TJC will be creating resources for service providers and the community in Tennessee to understand the public charge rule and mitigate panic and misinformation. Together we are providing a training on the new public charge rule next Wednesday at 11 am CT. Register here.

What you need to know:

1. If you are in the US already, the rule won’t go into effect until October 15, 2019.
2. When it goes into effect, it will only apply to certain individuals on a case-by-case basis.
3. There are exemptions to the rule, including refugees and asylees.
4. Immigrants should not disenroll from benefits before speaking to a trusted attorney. It is very important they continue to get qualified assistance to protect themselves and their families well-being. Call TIRRC’s hotline at 615-414-1030 for a legal referral.
5. We know that the best way to build a strong country is to ensure that the families who live here—who are woven into the success of our communities—have the tools they need to thrive. When immigrants succeed, all our communities succeed.
6. We need you to monitor the impact of the rule in the lives of your patients, members or clients. If you are a service provider or other organization whose immigrant clients are afraid to enroll in necessary public benefits program or if they have questions they can call TIRRC’s hotline: 615-414-1030.

State updates

A draft of the Katie Beckett Program is now available for review and open to public comments until September 6. We will provide comment guidance shortly.
• Read the draft here.
• You can submit comments by:
  ○ Email to public.notice.tenncare@tn.gov.
  ○ Mail to:
    Gabe Roberts
    Director, Division of TennCare
    310 Great Circle Road
    Nashville, TN 37243
  ○ In person:
    ▪ East Tennessee Location:
      ▪ John T. O’Connor Senior Center,
        611 Winona Street
        Knoxville, Tennessee
        Date: Tuesday, August 20
        Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time
    ▪ West Tennessee Location:
      ▪ STAR Center
        1119 Old Humboldt Road
        Jackson, Tennessee
        Date: Wednesday, August 21
        Time: 1:00 p.m. Central Time
    ▪ Middle Tennessee Location:
      ▪ Bordeaux branch of Nashville Public Library
        4000 Clarksville Pike
        Nashville, Tennessee
        Date: Thursday, August 22
        Time: 2:00 p.m. Central Time
    ▪ Individuals with disabilities or individuals with limited English proficiency who wish to participate in one of the hearings and who may require language or communication assistance to do so should contact Talley Olson of TennCare’s Office of Civil Rights Compliance by phone at (855) 857-1673 or by email at HCFA.fairtreatment@tn.gov prior to the date of the hearing.

JOIN US

TJC & TIRRC: Public Charge in Tennessee Webinar
Wednesday, August 21
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CT
REGISTER HERE

PQI Collaborative Youth Ambassadors
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
Tennessee Justice Center
211 7th Ave N
Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37219
United States

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).

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