Core Functions

- Case Consultation
- Record Review
- Evaluation
- Care Plan Development
- Training and Education
- Promoting evidence-based public policies affecting children

Referral Indicators

- Complex cases with diagnostic uncertainty
- Conflicting diagnoses or recommendations
- Concerns about medications
- Concerns about developmental delay
- Placement disruptions
- Treatment issues

Interdisciplinary Staff

- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Pediatrics
- Social Work
- Speech Pathology
- Training Coordinator

The Boling Center COE is part of a statewide network of five regional Centers of Excellence dedicated to improving behavioral and physical health services to children in or at risk of state custody by providing both consultative and direct services. Referral questions may include mental health, physical health, developmental, medication, or placement issues. The development of an individualized Care Plan for each child is a primary service of the COE. Following a thorough case review, clinical interview, medical exam, and/or more comprehensive evaluation, a Care Plan is developed by an inter-disciplinary team. The Care Plan includes specific treatment and placement recommendations. COE staff also provides training opportunities to Department of Children’s Services (DCS) staff, caregivers, and mental health treatment providers.

Disseminating Evidence-Based Practices

The COE is coordinating statewide efforts to advance the implementation of Best Practices in the treatment of behavioral, cognitive, and emotional difficulties associated with child maltreatment and parent-child attachment problems. Current dissemination projects include:

**Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT).** The COEs, in consultation with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), have developed three regional TF-CBT Learning Collaboratives, training over 190 clinicians and administrators from 32 community treatment agencies across the state. The COEs are providing ongoing support to the agencies involved in the Learning Collaborative and are planning new training.

**Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) Training Project.** The COE offers training in PCIT to agencies that provide services to children in or at high risk of state custody. PCIT is designed to improve the relationship between a parent and child. It is one of the most effective treatments known for children with behavior problems between the ages of 3 and 7.

The COE will continue to provide leadership in the dissemination of additional Best Practices in Tennessee.

Assessing Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)

The COE CANS consultants provide training and consultation to DCS and treatment providers on the CANS assessment tool, a tool designed to help case managers and treatment providers identify and communicate the clinical needs of children and families.

Promoting Evidence-Based Policies

The COE participates in the development of public policies affecting children through participation on the Governor’s of Children’s Care Coordination Steering Panel and on several statewide task forces, including the following:

- DCS Clinical Needs Task Force
- Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
- Best Practices Workgroup of the Children with Sexual Behavior Problems Collaborative
- Evidence-Based Practices Workgroup of the Council on Children’s Mental Health