

TEEN VIOLENCE & THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

I. Introduction and Video

- a. Skip Gant and Meghan Blackwell

II. Adverse Childhood Experiences

- a. Introduction of Ms. O'Neal: Vidhi Joshi
- b. Research Discussion: Mrs. Linda O'Neal, *Executive Director, TN Commission on Children and Youth*

III. Privilege Line

- a. Chris Fowler, Tiffany Burba, and Jennifer Lankford

IV. Youth Violence Summit

- a. Introduction of Mr. Matthews: Gregg Ramos
- b. Mr. Lonnell Matthews, *Director, Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement*

V. Panel Discussion

- a. Moderator: Laurence Pendleton
- b. Panelists: Hon. Sheila Calloway, *Metro Juvenile Court Judge*
Dr. Tony R. Majors, *Executive Officer, MNPS*
Ms. Beth Cruz, *Education Attorney, Juvenile Division, Office of the Public Defender*

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GUEST SPEAKERS

LINDA O'NEAL

Since 1988, Linda O'Neal has been the executive director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY), an independent state agency with a primary mission of advocacy to improve the quality of life for Tennessee children and families and provide leadership for other children's advocates.

As executive director for TCCY, Linda chairs the Youth Transitions Advisory Council, co-chairs the Council on Children's Mental Health, and serves on the following groups: Administrative Office of the Court's Court Improvement Program Advisory Committee and Law Subcommittee; Department of Children's Services Advisory Committee and Children's Justice Task Force; Department of Health Child Fatality Review Team and Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council; Department of Human Services Advocates Committee and Child Care and Development Fund Advisory Committee; Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Policy and Planning Council; and the Second Look Commission.

Linda began her career working with children in foster care. She was involved in juvenile justice system advocacy with the Tennessee Law Enforcement Planning Agency and as executive director of the Institute for Children's Resources (ICR). At ICR, she led advocacy efforts to pass legislation to remove children from adult jails, worked with the Tennessee Bar Association and the Supreme Court to develop the first Tennessee Rules of Juvenile Procedure, and with the Tennessee Children's Services Commission, a TCCY predecessor agency, and the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to develop the first record keeping system for Tennessee juvenile courts.

Immediately prior to coming to TCCY, Linda was employed by the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services where she provided legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf low-income people, and she chaired a statewide task force on children in foster care. Linda currently serves on the board of directors for Tennessee Voices for Children and United Ways of Tennessee and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice Government Relations Committee. She previously served on the boards for Tennessee Alliance of Legal Services; Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare (President 1995-1996); Metro Action Commission; Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee; and the inaugural KIDS COUNT Steering Committee.

Linda is a licensed attorney with a J.D. from the Nashville School of Law where she was inducted into Cooper's Inn. She also has a bachelor of science. in History, cum laude, from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and a master's in Public Administration from a joint UT-MTSU program.

Over the years, Linda has received national, southeast regional, state and local recognition for her work in children's services and juvenile justice advocacy, including: Outstanding Leadership for Youth and Families in Tennessee, Southeastern Network of Youth & Family Services, Inc., 1987; Dedication to Tennessee's Children, Tennessee Foster Care Association, 1988; Friend of Children Award, Tennessee Voices for Children, 2003; Children's Champion, Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children, 2004; Advocate of the Year, Tennessee CASA Association, 2006; A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award, National Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 2008; Lifetime

Invisible Child Award, Tennessee Voices for Children, 2010; The Linda Christie and William F. Moynihan Lifetime Achievement Award, Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare, 2010; Tennessee Chapter Public Official of the Year, National Association of Social Workers, 2010; Friend of Children Award, Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, 2010; Children's Champion, Nashville Area Association for the Education of Young, 2011; and Policy Leadership Award, Ready by 21, 2011.

Linda has been married 42 years and has a 32-year-old daughter who is a nurse practitioner, a son-in-law who is an experimental pilot with the United States Army and a grandson. One of the volunteer activities that has meant the most to Linda was serving as a Girl Scout leader for 13 years.

LONNELL MATTHEWS

Former Metro Councilman Lonnell Matthews, Jr. heads the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement. Matthews, who represented District 1 on the Metro Council from 2007 to 2015, is tasked with giving Nashville residents a stronger voice in their local communities as well as the government.

At age 27, Matthews was the youngest African-American ever elected to the Metro Council. While on the Metro Council, Matthews led as President Pro Tempore, Minority Caucus President and served as the chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, Parks Committee and Education Committee.

Matthews also served as District Executive Director of the YMCA Community Action Project and Urban Services Youth Development Center for the YMCA of Middle Tennessee. He is also the owner of SpreadLuv, an organization that aims to "create a platform of exposure for every independent artist, musician and visual artist through the fusion of art, music and live events."

Matthews graduated from Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet High School for Health Sciences and Engineering in 1997. He went on to study accounting and business law at Tennessee State University.

Matthews is married to Johari, and they one child, Ari Jah-Fir. They are members of Temple Baptist Church.

JUDGE SHEILA D.J. CALLOWAY

After graduating from Vanderbilt Law School, Judge Sheila Calloway worked at the Metropolitan Public Defender's Office in both the adult system as well as the juvenile system.

In January 2004, she was appointed by Judge Betty Adams Green to the position of Juvenile Court Magistrate and served in that position until November 2013, when she announced her intention to run for the position of Juvenile Court Judge. Judge Calloway was elected Davidson County's Juvenile Court Judge in 2014 and was sworn into office for her eight year term on August 28th, 2014.

Judge Calloway serves as an Adjunct Professor at Vanderbilt University where she teaches both in the Undergraduate and Law Schools.

DR. TONY R. MAJORS

Dr. Tony Majors heads the Office of Student Support Resources for Metro Nashville Public Schools.

Majors, a graduate of Antioch High School, began his education career in 1991 teaching physical education at Pembroke Pines Elementary in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. The following year he moved to Nashville and began with MNPS.

Majors was honored as the 2011 Metro Nashville Public Schools High School Principal of the Year before first joining the central office as the district's assistant superintendent for student services.

Majors earned a bachelor's degree in K-12 education from Tennessee State University and a master's in education leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University.

BETH CRUZ

Beth Cruz has served as an Education Attorney in the Juvenile Division since 2010. Beth joined the office after graduating from Vanderbilt University Law School, where she was an active participant in the Legal Aid Society's Street Law Program. She also enjoyed participating in Mock Trial and Moot Court competitions. She received the Bass Berry & Sims Moot Court Competition Best Oralist Award in 2009.

Beth earned her undergraduate degree in Biology and Health and Society from the University of Rochester, where she graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. Before attending law school, Beth taught Biology, Chemistry and General Science. After teaching, Beth served as a campus minister with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Rochester Institute of Technology. During her time as a campus minister, Beth's experience leading a learning and service trip to South Africa solidified her passion for social justice.

Beth is a native of Syracuse, New York. She enjoys hiking, skiing, yoga and spending time with her husband, Manuel, and their two fabulous children.