



“Never doubt that a small group
of thoughtful, committed citizens
can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing
that ever has.”

Margaret Mead



A Message from Commissioner Williams

Dear Friends and Community Partners – I hope this finds you well!

It is with a spirit of gratitude and excitement that we share Governor Lee’s budget proposal for FY22 for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS). In all, the Governor and his team are proposing a total investment of more than \$44 million dollars. The Governor’s proposed investments will increase our community-based prevention, treatment, and recovery support services, children’s safety net services, help justice-involved individuals get mental

health and substance use treatment and recovery services, and ensure that we continue to deliver efficient and effective hospital services. In addition, we would note there were no proposed FY22 budget reductions for our department.

In announcing the FY22 budget proposal, the Governor and his team made it clear that their motivation was to make fiscally-prudent and cautious investments while returning to pre-pandemic priorities. They also are proposing investments in services that have been proven effective for the vulnerable populations in the state of Tennessee. Their proposal to invest this amount of new state funding in TDMHSAS speaks to both how needed mental health and substance abuse services are right now and how effective and efficient our community provider, consumer, family, and state teams are at delivering those services.

The next step in this process is our department's presentation of the Governor's budget to different legislative committees. We had our first budget hearing before the Senate Health and Welfare Committee on Wednesday the 24th. [You can watch that video at this link.](#) We are currently scheduled for House Finance Committee on March 8. TDMHSAS has been very fortunate to have a strong and collaborative partnership with the General Assembly and looks forward to the FY22 budget process.

Thank you for all that you do to improve the lives of Tennesseans.

Many blessings,
Marie

[Click this link or the image at right for a PDF of the TDMHSAS FY22 proposed budget increases.](#)

Item	Description	Amount
Behavioral Health Safety Net	To provide recurring funding to expand community-based safety net type services to serve additional uninsured Tennesseans, with a focus on children, who have a serious mental disturbance.	\$5,580,000
Creating homes initiative	To provide funding to expand the proven model of the Creating Homes Initiative (CHI) to create housing opportunities for Tennesseans diagnosed with mental illness and/or a substance use disorder, with a focus on the justice re-entry population.	\$3,583,400
Residential Recovery Court Expansion	To provide funding for the operational costs of two additional residential recovery courts. From this appropriation, \$2,000,000 is non-recurring.	\$4,687,500
Criminal Justice Liaison (CJL) Expansion	To provide recurring funding to increase contracts for CJLs to serve all 95 counties across the state. The CJLs coordinate with local jails to provide services to incarcerated individuals who present with mental illness or substance use disorder.	\$625,000
Mobile Crisis	To provide recurring funding to support the statewide network of 13 mobile crisis providers while addressing the increased population of adults and children needing assessment and services during a mental health crisis. Providers complete a face-to-face assessment with an individual in crisis and make an appropriate referral to services.	\$354,300
Regional Mental Health Institute Revenue Replacement	To provide recurring funding to offset a change in patient mix and the subsequent revenues collected at the RMI's. Patient revenue reductions have decreased as fewer insured and more indigent patients receive emergency mental health services.	\$50,106,100
East TN Private Psychiatric Hospitals	To provide recurring funding to private providers the department has contracted with for inpatient care of uninsured patients in East Tennessee. This funding supports the three private psychiatric hospitals who have provided inpatient care for the uninsured population under TDMHSAS contract since 2017.	\$1,000,000
Total Cost Increases		\$26,855,300
Capital Improvements	WiFi kitchen, MRI-II electrical, MRI-II mechanical	\$17,190,000
FY22 Total		\$44,045,300

FY2020 Annual Report available online

In case you missed it, our [FY2020 Joint Annual report can be found on the TDMHSAS website at this link.](#) Required by Title 33, this report informs the Governor and General Assembly of state departments' achievements and challenges during the previous fiscal year. The Joint Annual Report is prepared annually by the Division of Research, Planning, Policy, and Legislation.

TIES included in National Family Preservation Network

Training of TIES staff was mentioned in the 2020 Annual Report of the National Family Preservation Network (NFPN). NFPN's mission is to serve as the primary voice for the preservation of families.

The Therapeutic Intervention, Education, and Skills (TIES) program addresses the complex needs of children, from birth to age 18, who are at-risk of out-of-home placement due to parent/caregiver substance use. Funding is provided by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Our department serves as lead agency and collaborates with DHS as well as the Department of Children's Services in ensuring program oversight.

Centerstone provides program services which are available to eligible families in Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, and Maury counties.

To learn more about the TIES program, [visit our website](#).

Or contact: Dr. Edwina Chappell, Project Director

Edwina.Chappell@tn.gov



Remembering Peggy Large

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the loss of a beloved TDMHSAS family member. Peggy L. Large [passed away Saturday, February 13, 2021](#). Peggy worked for TDMHSAS for more than 24 years, and most recently served as the Standards Coordinator for the Division of Hospital Services where she supported the Regional Mental Health Institutes to maintain Joint Commission accreditation. She also played a vital role in quality improvement measures, standards and regulations of services, and guiding monitoring preparations for mock surveys and Joint Commission surveys.

Peggy's passing will leave a huge void in the world of hospital services as her immense knowledge and committed and dedicated support will be greatly missed. Although she was a bit shy and did not like being in the spotlight, Peggy was dependable and loyal in her behind-the-scenes assistance to so many, both within Central Office and to the RMHIs on a variety of levels. Peggy



rarely complained and always had a smile on her face. Her gentle and kind presence provided an anchor of calmness during times of high stress and her passing will leave an emptiness that will be difficult to overcome.

Peggy cherished and adored her family and spent much of her spare time with them. She enjoyed visiting the Smoky Mountains and was a season ticket holder at Dollywood where she loved to take her grandson. She spent many weekends with her lake family at her houseboat in Cookeville and enjoyed adventuring outdoors.

In lieu of arrangements, Peggy has asked for donations to be made to [friendsofthesmokies.org](https://www.friendsofthesmokies.org).

[You may view the obituary and sign the the guest book here.](#)



Peggy was a welcome presence at Governing Body meetings. In addition to providing vital administrative assistance to Hospital Services leadership including our past and present RMHI CEOs, she was a joy to be around.



Peggy was a thoughtful co-worker who enjoyed assisting with celebrations. Left: Here she is with colleagues Kristen Connell and Melissa Sparks following Kristen's Central Office wedding shower. Right: Having fun at the Service Awards holiday luncheon.



The Central Office Hospital Services staff is small but mighty, and Peggy was proud to be on the team. This photo from a few years ago shows some of the colleagues Peggy enjoyed working alongside.

MTMHI mourning Pranab Ray



It is with a heavy heart that Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute announces the unexpected and sudden passing of our friend, teammate, and coworker, Pranab Ray. "Ray" as he is affectionately known as, passed away on February 12, 2021. His smiling face and positive attitude will be deeply missed. We are grateful for all the contributions that Ray made to MTMHI over the nine years of his career working as a Psychiatric Technician. The Nurse Supervisors dubbed Ray "Mr. Dependable." MTMHI will continue to miss him and his famous words, "yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah" for years to come.

Other co-workers shared: Ray never complained. He was always willing and offers help to get the job done. He was always on time. He was a hardworking, good man who did anything that was asked of him. He was reliable, pleasant, friendly, accommodating, and always smiling. "When my car was in need of repairs, he lent me his car until mine was repaired."

Fellow Psych Tech Robertson Frimpong said, "I remember Ray orienting me to the unit, doing a good job which he had always done. He was humble, obedient, trustworthy, very dependable, and a friend."

Our deepest condolences to Mr. Ray's family and to his family at MTMHI.

Rare winter weather event can't stop Hospital Services



We want to recognize and share a note of gratitude to all of the hardworking staff and leadership at our hospitals, especially those who went above and beyond to serve patients during this month's winter weather.

Beginning on the evening of Valentine's Day, an ice and snow event affected much of the country, including in Middle and West Tennessee where severe winter weather conditions spanning several days are rare. Hospital operations continued per usual in Nashville and Memphis despite hazardous driving conditions, power outages, and other widespread storm-related issues.



"Lots of black ice on overpasses and side streets, but we will maintain regular operations as always," said CEO Jeff Coons, Memphis Mental Health Institute (pictured above). Mr. Coons stayed on-site, sleeping on a cot in his office. "Not too bad actually," he said. "I've done plenty of scout campouts in below freezing weather."

Vaccinations continue at our hospitals

We also want to thank the hospital staff who have chosen to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. Some of our Moccasin Bend staff members share why they



made that choice.

Mary Bianchi, House

Supervisor: “Since I had COVID and still can’t smell or taste, I will do anything to make sure I don’t get it again, or at least decrease my risk of getting it again. Plus I really miss spending time with my family.”

Shawn Eason, Lead Psych Tech: “My

mom is up in age and she has a lot of

underlying illnesses. People have said a lot of things about what will happen if you take it. The only problem I had was my arm was sore for a couple of days. I would recommend for everyone to get the vaccine.”

Dr. Audrey Hime: “I am 34 years old with no medical problems – so very low risk for severe disease from COVID-19. But, if enough people get the vaccine to lessen the burden on our health system, the reduced impact on our hospital systems could be huge. I decided to get vaccinated to get started on our slow march back to normalcy. This vaccine is the first OFFENSIVE move we’ve had toward the virus since our lives changed in March!”

CEO Mary Young, MBMHI: “I read the literature and talked to some really smart people who understand the science behind what is being offered and could look objectively and knowledgeably at the data, the safety and the research. Those really smart people happened to be some of our physicians here who have studied the science behind the vaccine and were qualified to answer my questions. Once I had those answers, I felt confident in getting the vaccination. My other reasons were simple – I want to see my 83-year-old mother-in law and feel confident I won’t carry the virus to her. It will be a year in January since I’ve seen her and I love her dearly. I want to make sure I don’t carry the virus to vulnerable people here or those I encounter in the community. I also want to do what I can to help our hospital, our community, our state and our nation move back to a semblance of normalcy. For me, the answer was simple and I’m glad I did it.”

Pictured above assisting with COVID-19 vaccinations at Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute at pharmacists Lance Morgan and Misha Patel.

COVID-19 counseling services are
available to Tennesseans

HELP IS AVAILABLE

HOP



IS REAL

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are going to be with us for some time. If you're feeling overwhelmed, disconnected, hopeless, or just sad—you're not alone. Please know that help is available. Hope is real.

COVID-19 Counseling resources are available in every Tennessee County.

[Find the contact for your area on our website.](#)

Share this video via our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) pages.

Recovery housing coming to
Madisonville





Click the image above to watch a news story about this exciting development.

What's the most essential element to a person's recovery from addiction? On bitterly cold mornings like we had recently, you might say it's a warm, safe, stable place to lay your head. That's why we're so excited for this development in Madisonville, Tennessee! With a grant from the department's Creating Homes Initiative and community support, True Purpose Ministries is going to create housing for up to 40 people at a time.

"We are so grateful to Gov. Bill Lee and the General Assembly for expanding these faith-based recovery options for people as they overcome addiction. And we are so excited to see the vision of the team at True Purpose Ministries come to life and change lives in Monroe County," said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams, LCSW.

Thanks to WVLT in Knoxville for shining a light on this exciting project!

The role of Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists grows

*Submitted by Cate Faulkner, MA, LCSW
State Opioid Response Program Manager*

Tennessee's ROPS are reaching, influencing, and educating the next

generation of medical professionals. On Wednesday, Feb. 17, more than 100 medical students from across Tennessee gathered for an online training presented through the Office of Prevention's State Opioid Response grant. The students received an overview of the opioid epidemic in Tennessee, the principles of harm reduction, information and strategies to combat compassion fatigue and burnout, and the basics of naloxone administration from Candis Batey, Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist, who also shared her story of substance use and her life in recovery.

Dr. Brian Winbigler, a professor of pharmacy at UT College talked about effective prescribing practices for opioids and how to effectively use the Controlled Substance Monitoring Database to monitor prescriptions. After the presentations, Candis and Dr. Winbigler fielded questions for more than half an hour on topics ranging from best practices around naloxone administration, collaborative approaches to combatting the opioid epidemic, and specifics of the brain's interaction with various substances. The engagement of these future medical leaders is an indicator of our state's growing capacity to address the opioid crisis. Thanks to everyone who participated.

To schedule a free naloxone training and connect with a Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist near you, [visit our website.](#)

Virtual Naloxone Training

For Tennessee Medical Association Medical Students

Presented by:



Dr. Brian Winbigler
Assistant Professor, UTHSC



Candis Batey
Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist

ROPS assist outreach team, patients needing medical attention

On a blustery Friday morning, the DEA, FBI, and TBI raided a pain and OBOT clinic in Smyrna. Patients with appointments would arrive to find a clinic without a doctor. Upon arrival, they were met with the friendly and helpful faces of



Outreach Coordinator (First Responders) Josh Crews, Care Coordinator Erica Phemister (First Responders), Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist Michael Bare, Will Taylor (Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist/Lifeline Coordinator) and Lifeline Coordinator Allen Burnette (not pictured).

Once onsite, the outreach staff contacted a local community provider who made accommodations to see 12 patients who needed same-day appointments to continue receiving their Medication-Assisted Treatment. Since then, Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists and other outreach programs in neighboring regions have been working with community partners, law enforcement, and other agencies to provide additional outreach and resources to those affected by the clinic closure.

Lifeline Coordinator named 2020 "Person of the Year"

Randall Bryge's dedication to helping those battling addiction is changing lives in Scott County and beyond

Congratulations to Randall Bryge! Randall was named the 2020 Person of the Year by the Independent Herald newspaper and the Scott County Chamber of Commerce.

Randall is a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, a recovery coach, and one of our awesome Lifeline Peer Project coordinators helping connect Tennesseans to addiction recovery services and working to spread the word that recovery is possible! Through their lived experience, "Lifeliners" know this first hand and freely share their own personal recovery stories in order to help others.

After living in active addiction for several years, Randall turned his life around with the help of a faith-based recovery center in Texas. He will celebrate nine



years of sobriety this November. Randall credits his recovery first and foremost to his faith. His "**Everyone has a problem no one fix . . . but God**" signs have become a beacon of hope in Scott County. The saying was inspired by Ephesians 2:4, the Bible verse that Randall says changed his life. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us. Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ (by grace ye are saved.)"



Dr. Monty Burks, TDMHSAS Director of Faith-Based Initiatives, is grateful to work with Randall. "It is with great

honor to have Randall Byrge on our team.

Through our joint partnership with DHS, we were able to hire him as the Hybrid Lifeline Coordinator for Region 2 North. From the moment he hit the ground, he changed the conversation around addiction and became a living example of what recovery looks like. Working with Trent Coffey and STAND prevention coalition, Scott County and the surrounding counties now have a person with lived experience that is not afraid to challenge stigma and be part of the change One step at a time."

Congratulations, Randall. Keep up the great work!

[Read more of Randall's story](#) and why he was chosen Person of the Year.

System of Care Across Tennessee hires new director

Please help us welcome Patrick Luther



Please help us welcome Patrick Wm. Luther as the new System of Care Initiatives Director. In this role, Patrick will oversee the System of Care Across Tennessee Network (SOCAT-N) federal grant and SOCAT-TANF grant. He joins the Office of Children, Young Adults, and Families and provides supervision and leadership to the SOCAT team.

Patrick brings with him twenty years of experience in programming design and implementation and a master's degree in human services. He formerly served as the Chief Program Officer at Nashville CARES overseeing multiple multi-million-dollar grants, program areas, and staff. During his tenure there he assisted in the expansion of services and staff within the organization. He also spearheaded the development of a health and wellness center that received recognition by the Center for Non-Profit Management as an award-winning community health solution for innovation and collaboration.

Patrick is active in public health, program monitoring and evaluation, and community engaged research activities with Vanderbilt and Meharry Medical College. He currently serves both institutions on the Community Engaged Research Advisory Council and is a member of Vanderbilt's Institute for Clinical & Translational Research Learning Healthcare Committee. He is a retired Captain of the Air Force

Welcome, Patrick!

MTMHI establishes a Diversity Awareness & Action Committee

As we wrap Black History Month, we wanted to let you know about a new diversity awareness initiative happening in Hospital Services. Even while COVID-19 was demanding time, attention, and resources at our hospitals,

Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute (MTMHI) social worker Victoria Dinkins and psychologist Rena Isen were inspired and compelled to organize the MTMHI Diversity Awareness & Action Committee (DAAC) "to promote workplace inclusion and to develop cultural competence among staff." The committee has been creative with social distancing guidelines to begin work on their mission. Recent projects have included an educational display for Hispanic Heritage Month as well as email communications to highlight cultural and provide information. The committee also has plans for virtual events in the future.



DAAC founding members are pictured above, left to right (first row): Jennifer Thompson, Dr. La'Wanda Jenkins, and Patricia A. Harris (second row): Dr. Rena Isen, Ashley McGowan, and Victoria Dinkins (third row): Carl Booker, Jessica Grant, Weslee "Blake" Massey, and Joshua Boria.

NAMI kicks off 'Days on the Hill'

Commissioner Williams talks advocacy



Due to the pandemic, 2021 "Day on the Hill" activities have expanded from a one-day event to several days, offering people interested in learning about advocacy multiple opportunities to do so virtually. You can catch the kick-off in the video above. We encourage watching the full presentation. Scroll to 5:00 to hear from Commissioner Marie Williams. She spends about 45 minutes speaking and answering questions from attendees.

"Days on the Hill" events run through March 10. [Find the full schedule here.](#)

Shout Outs!

This month we're launching a new feature for the Update newsletter, inspired by our wonderful hospital staff members. These words of recognition and appreciation were submitted by Brenda Chatman, LPN3 Treatment Team Coordinator, Western Mental Health Institute, Bolivar.

"I would like to do a couple of shout outs to some great leadership employees because without them, I wouldn't be able to do my job efficiently."

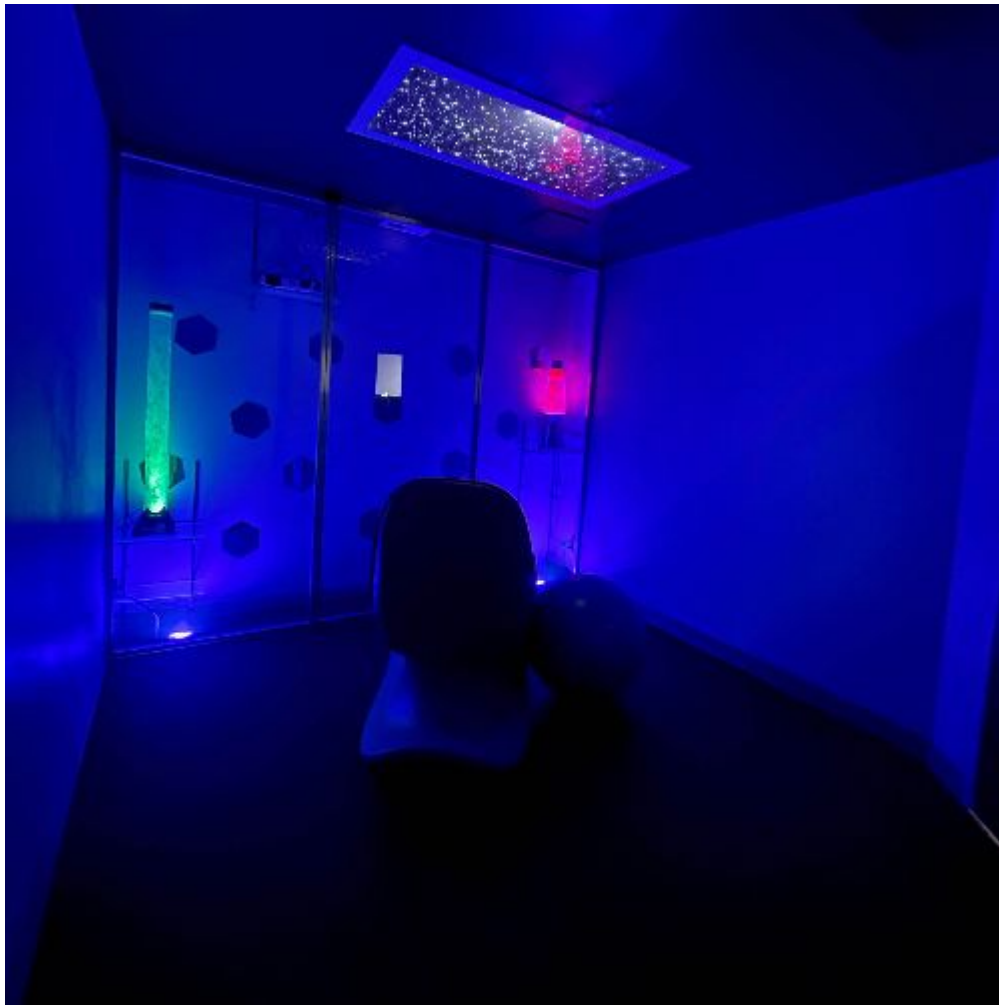
1. **Gladys Bell** is a phenomenal Unit Nurse Manager. She leads with Humility, Compassion, and by Example. There is nothing she asks the treatment team coordinators to do that she wouldn't do herself. I am glad to be a part of such a group of caring employees.

2. **Sherry Dunavant**, Nurse PHNUM on Unit B2, leads the unit with great compassion and integrity. Sherry is [often] out on the floor giving a helping hand to the Nurses, Psychiatric Technicians and patients. She has a kind heart and always jumps in to help others.

3. **Archie Reeves** is another prime example of great leadership. Archie has a magical presence as he has replaces any needed supplies before you can attempt to get them. He has a great rapport with the technicians and patients. He has a kindness that overflows onto each one on the unit. He always has a kind word and smile regardless of how stressed the situation may be. He is a really great Lead Tech.

If you'd like to "shout out" to a TDMHSAS colleague, please send an email to OC.TDMHSAS@tn.gov. Tell us who you'd like to recognize and why.

Serenity Now



We love the new Serenity Room on Unit 3 at Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute. This is "a low-stimulus environment that has been repurposed to create a space for patients with high anxiety. Soothing ocean waves, diffused lighting, a rocking chair, and yoga ball are part of the serenity experience that helps patients to decompress and reduce stress. Staff are reporting that patients find this space allows them the reset they need to heal and relax."

Submitted by MBMHI



*By Arthur Reed, Information Security Analyst
Strategic Technology Solutions, TDMHSAS*

Whether you are working from home or at the office, one of the best ways to protect yourself, your workplace, and the people we serve is by keeping desktops clean and secure. Getting a head start on spring cleaning by de-cluttering your devices and desktops will also lend to more peaceful workspaces. Ahhhh.

1. Clean it!

Everyone loves a tidy desk. TDMHSAS stands committed to the development and implementation of secure policies and practices, in the office and during AWS. One of the easiest ways to have a big impact is to make sure we follow the state's Clean Desk Policy.

2. Shred it!

What is a clean desk policy? Put simply, it means not leaving sensitive information where others can see it when the work day is done: passwords on post-its, printed PII and PHI and other things we wouldn't want others to know. If you're done with it, dispose of it properly whether working from home or in the office.

3. Lock it!

Naturally, some documents will need to be kept for the next day. If so, put it in a locked place: a drawer, a safe, or somewhere not easily accessed by others. If possible, try to be discreet in marking the location of the documents. You wouldn't want to label these locations "HIPAA boxes," for instance.

4. Delete it!

Is your desktop computer screen cluttered with files? Try deleting ones you don't need anymore. Not only does this reduce our risk of exposure in the event of an incident, it may also prevent inadvertently sharing sensitive information when you share your screen during a Zoom, WebEx, or Teams meeting.

For questions, feel free to contact arthur.reed@tn.gov

Save-the-Dates

Art for Awareness is March 9!



Calling all Tennessee artists in recovery!

Art for Awareness is back and going virtual! Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon Central.**

Our theme this year is "Connecting with Art and Heart," and we can't wait to connect with all of you! Art for Awareness 2021 will include art activities, an online art exhibit featuring your artwork, and more!

Ready to register to attend?

[Click this link to register on Eventbrite](#)

Want to submit your art for this year's celebration?

[Click this link for a form to send in your work!](#) Deadline to submit art is March 1.

Thanks to Healing Arts Project, Inc. (HAPI) for partnering with us and to Selina Hyzer (HAPI) for creating artwork (above) for this year's event!

Day of Hope returns in 2021

Last year, just before the pandemic hit, [Governor Bill Lee proclaimed March 10, 2020 as "Tennessee's Day of Hope."](#) It was a day to educate, energize, and empower Tennesseans to do what they can to get involved and help reverse the trends of deadly drug overdoses and suicides.

This year's "Day of Hope" will look a little different, but activities are being planned statewide, including this virtual event (below) "Behind the Scenes of Addiction" led by Faith-Based Community Coordinator Jaime Harper and organized by Prevention Coalition for Success (Rutherford County) and Maury County Prevention Coalition. [Click the flyer or this link to register for the event.](#)



Inspiring hope and purpose for people struggling with mental health and substance use challenges, their families, and their communities.

Join us for a FREE Virtual Event!
March 10 | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Behind the Scenes of Addiction

with Jaime Harper, Faith-Based Community Coordinator

- The impact of traumatic experiences
- Reducing the stigma surrounding substance use disorder
- The belief system
- Breaking the cycle of the struggle

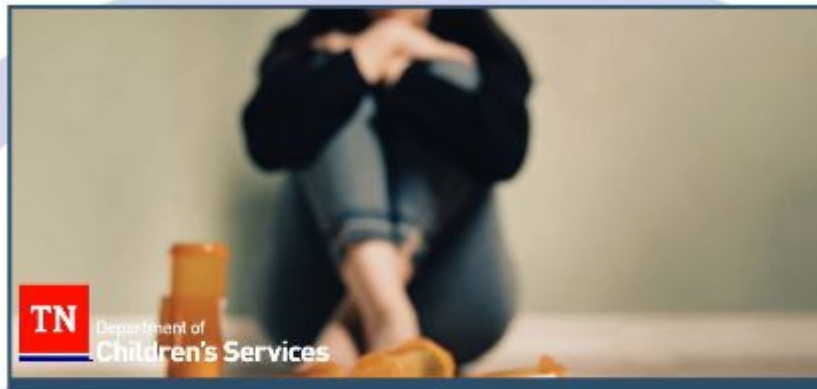
Registration: <http://bit.ly/TNDayofHope>
On Zoom, Facebook Live @PreventionCoalition4Success, and YouTube on the Prevention Coalition for Success channel



This project is funded under a grant contract with the State of Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services



DCS hosting monthly recovery series



Substance Use Disorder/Long Term Recovery Series

Office of Child Safety is pleased to announce a new informative monthly training series involving topics on Substance Use Disorders and Long Term Recovery. We have invited various subject matter experts to come and speak with you and answer any questions you may have on that topic. All sessions will be recorded and uploaded to Edison for those unable to join. Below are instructions on how to register for individual sessions. **If you would like to register for all sessions, please do so by emailing Amy.taylor@tn.gov or clicking [here](#).**



Long Term Recovery

Monty Burks, Director of Faith Based Initiatives for Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
February 5, 2021 9-10AM CST
[Register Here](#)
Or email Amy.taylor@tn.gov



Drug Trends

Thomas Harmer, FBI Special Agent and State Director of TN Dangerous Drugs Task Force
March 10, 2021 9-10AM CST
[Register Here](#)
Or email Amy.taylor@tn.gov



Drug Endangered Teams

Tabitha Clums, Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, Statewide Coordinator
April 7, 2021 9-10AM CST
[Register Here](#)
Or email Amy.taylor@tn.gov



Recovery Courts

Judge Doube Stone
May 5, 2021 9-10AM CST
[Register Here](#)
Or email Amy.taylor@tn.gov



Working with Families

Alisha Singley, Team Coordinator Smoky, Clinch and East Drug Teams
June 9, 2021 9-10AM CST
[Register Here](#)
Or email Amy.taylor@tn.gov



Long Term Recovery

Will Taylor, Lifestime Coordinator Region 5 North / Overdose Prevention Specialist Region 5N2
July 8, 2021 9-10AM CST
[Register Here](#)
Or email Amy.taylor@tn.gov



Reaching Out to Community Providers

Amy Kosick, Senior State Director of Investigations
August 5, 2021 9-10 AM CST
[Register Here](#)
Or email Amy.taylor@tn.gov



Medication Assisted Treatment

Dr. Stephen Lloyd, Journey Pure Medical Director
September 1, 2021 9-10 AM CST
[Register Here](#)
Or email Amy.taylor@tn.gov

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services is hosting a webinar series focused on recovery! Dr. Monty Burks led the first session this month. See the schedule of upcoming events and speakers below. These monthly training sessions are geared toward child protective services staff but others are welcome to join. To register, email Amy.Taylor@tn.gov.

March is Social Workers Month



SOCIAL WORKERS

ARE ESSENTIAL

It's always a good day to thank a social worker! March is Social Workers Month, providing 31 days to offer some extra appreciation and recognition for these dedicated professionals doing vital work across communities, in hospitals, schools, provider agencies (and more) every day.

It is fitting that this year's theme is Social Workers are Essential, and we hope every social worker feels the love!

[Meet some of our TDMHSAS social workers in this video series produced last year.](#)

Resources

Hope Line: Support for Tennesseans 60+

TN HOPE LINE

Connect with compassionate,
trained, and loving listeners for
help, hope, & encouragement.



ARE YOU

**LONELY?
AGE 60+?**

M-F 9-3CT

844-600-8262

A partnership of The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives,
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, and Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability

Emotional support for healthcare workers ...

COVID-19 EMOTIONAL SUPPORT LINE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Need to talk to someone about feelings of stress, anxiety, sadness, or depression related to work? The COVID-19 Emotional Support Line for healthcare workers can help.



888-642-7886

Calltakers are available: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. (CT), 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. (ET)



And support for teachers ...

COVID-19 EMOTIONAL SUPPORT LINE NOW OPEN TO TENNESSEE EDUCATORS

CALL: 888-MHART-TN
or 888-642-7886

HOURS: 6 am - 10 pm CT
7 am - 11 pm ET



In the event of a mental health emergency ...

STATEWIDE
CRISIS LINE
HELP IN A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS
855-CRISIS-1 TN.gov/CrisisLine
855-274-7471 

For questions about addiction treatment/referrals ...



TN
REDLINE
1.800.889.9789
CALL OR TEXT

To talk with a TDMHSAS Consumer Advocate ...



Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services

HELPLINE

1-800-560-5767

OCA.TDMHSAS@tn.gov

We can help with

- finding mental health and substance abuse resources in your area
- questions about insurance
- where to find housing options
- communicating with mental health and substance abuse providers
- questions about the Certified Peer Recovery Specialist program
- filing a complaint

We are available

- Monday through Friday
- 8 am to 4:30 pm
- Closed on state holidays

If we cannot answer your question, we will work with you to find the appropriate resource.

www.tn.gov/behavioral-health

We hope you've enjoyed this issue of the Update! If you have news to share (a story idea, accomplishment, provider news, etc.) or if you'd like to be added to the distribution list, please email: the Office of Communications at OCA.TDMHSAS@tn.gov.

And please connect with us on social media!



Find us on
Facebook

Thanks to our [Facebook family](#) for "liking" us and sharing our posts!



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Instagram



LinkedIn