



A Message from Commissioner Williams

Dear friends and partners,

It's with much gratitude and great joy that we share with you the news of our upcoming budget for state fiscal year 2024. The Tennessee General Assembly gave its final approval to the budget on April 20, and we are excited to share the additions they made on top of Governor Bill Lee's already generous proposal for TDMHSAS. These additions are a true testament to the work each of us do day in and day out to provide targeted interventions that have positive impacts. As many of you know, we are a people helping people business, and in order to help people, we have to have people in place to help. To that end, we and those we serve are blessed as the additions to our department budget for FY24 total more than \$129 million. Of note, you'll see that the General Assembly matched Governor Lee's \$9 million provider rate increase for a total increase next year of \$18 million. That plus the increase in the current fiscal year is a total of \$36 million. We've heard from so many of you and your teams touching and tangible stories of how the first round of provider rate increases helped with staffing issues. Additionally, we're excited for the \$5 million in FY24 and FY25 which will come to us to help create infrastructure for more children's Crisis Stabilization Units. We know these many investments will go such a long

way to help us serve Tennesseans struggling with behavioral health needs. [Click this link or the image below for a breakdown of all the increases in our FY24 budget.](#)

Program Name	Program Description	Amount
Provider Rate Increase	To provide a pool of recurring funding for provider rate increases in the mental health and substance abuse prevention programs within the department.	\$18,000,000
Residential Re-Entry Housing Program	To provide funding to establish one position and operate six residential facilities. These facilities will serve individuals with severe and persistent mental health challenges re-entering the community from incarceration. This program will provide funding for startup and operational costs of the facilities. Of this total cost, \$6,320,700 is recurring and \$6,748,200 is non-recurring.	\$13,068,900
Substance use Residential Treatment Beds Infrastructure Enhancement	To provide non-recurring funding to increase substance use residential treatment bed capacity. Grants will be provided for the renovation or construction of facilities.	\$12,000,000 NR
School-Based Behavioral Health Liaison Expansion	To provide recurring funding to increase the number of School-Based Behavioral Health Liaisons in Tennessee. Funding will cover 114 new liaisons.	\$8,000,000
Alliance Healthcare Services	To provide non-recurring funding for a grant to Alliance Healthcare Services for a crisis wellness center.	\$7,000,000 NR
Tennessee Sports Gambling Fund	To provide non-recurring funding from the fund for grants to develop and establish treatment programs and resources for gambling addiction and compulsive gambling, pursuant to TCA 4-51-319.	\$2,316,500
Juvenile Justice Diversion	To provide recurring funding to expand the juvenile justice diversion program to serve an additional 300 justice-involved youth with community-based treatment services	\$1,322,000
Davidson County Residential Drug Court Contract	Reorganization of funding for Davidson County Drug Court moving from Department of Corrections to TDMHSAS. Total includes base amount of \$982,000 and \$180,000 increase in funding for FY24. Additional funding will be used to increase capacity in the program.	\$1,162,000
Directed Appropriations	Non-recurring directed appropriations include Centerstone Military Services (\$800,000), Jason Foundation (\$500,000), Families Free (\$250,000), Prevention Alliance of Tennessee (\$200,000), McNabb Center Military Services (\$150,000), Teen Challenge (\$25,000)	\$1,925,000
Total Community Funding \$64,794,400		
Licensure Positions	To provide recurring funding to establish four positions to support licensure and compliance due to an increase in treatment sites.	\$497,900
Contract and Legal Positions	To provide recurring funding for three positions to assist in the creation and review of contracts due to an increase in workload.	\$341,500
Total Department Funding \$839,400		
WMHI New Replacement Facility Phase 2	62,384 Building gross square feet including an additional 25 beds and support space, adjunctive therapy space, dietary department and kitchen facility, administrative and education spaces, environment of care department, and IT and Performance Improvement space.	\$62,990,000
Major Maintenance	To provide recurring funding to recognize maintenance cost inflation and State Building Commission policy changes regarding cost thresholds for capital maintenance projects.	\$450,000
Total Capital and Facilities: \$63,440,000		
Grand Total FY24: \$129,073,800		

As always, we are so grateful for your partnership, your support, and all your hard work on behalf of the Tennesseans we are blessed to serve. We hope you join us in our excitement for this upcoming budget and the possibilities it holds to continue to increase the resiliency, recovery, and independence of Tennesseans living with mental health and substance use challenges.

Many Blessings,

TDMHSAS Applauds Food and Drug Administration Ruling on Over the Counter Narcan

TDMHSAS applauds the [Food and Drug Administration decision](#) to make the opioid overdose reversal drug Narcan available without a prescription. Tennessee has had a statewide collaborative pharmacy practice agreement in place since 2016 allowing pharmacists to dispense naloxone to customers without a conventional prescription, but this decision at the federal level will expand the availability of the life-saving medication even further.

While the ruling will take some time to implement, the department's long-standing and highly successful training, education and naloxone distribution program is still in effect. TDMHSAS has trained Tennesseans on how to recognize and respond to an overdose, including the use of naloxone since October 2017 through its Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist (ROPS) program.

ROPS
REGIONAL OVERDOSE PREVENTION SPECIALISTS
Tennessee's front-line harm reductionists serving communities and saving lives across the state

Tennessee's Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists (ROPS) serve all 95 counties as points of contact for live training and education on opioid overdose and for overdose prevention through the distribution of naloxone. The ROPS have varied backgrounds, including peer nurses, in recovery, paramedics, and Certified Peer Recovery Specialists. TDMHSAS has more than 20 ROPS operating in 18 regional divisions across the state. The ROPS are employees of their local Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions and are equipped to connect people with treatment and recovery resources.

60,000+
Documented lives saved. Actual number believed to be much higher due to under-reporting.

450,000+
Doses of naloxone distributed. Each unit of naloxone contains 2 doses.

300,000+
Individuals trained on naloxone usage, brain science of addiction, stigma and compassion fatigue.

Numbers reported from program start in October 2017 through March 2023.

PRIORITY POPULATIONS FOR TRAINING & DISTRIBUTION

- People at High Risk, Families, and Friends
- Community-Based Agencies
- First Responders
- Community Groups

FREE ROPS TRAINING COVERS:

- Causes and Impacts of the Overdose Epidemic
- Impact of Substance Misuse on the Brain
- Harm Reduction Principles
- Recognizing and Responding to an Overdose
- How to Administer Naloxone

Contact your local ROPS to schedule a training or get more info. Scan the code or visit the website below.

Cate Faulkner
State Opioid Response Prevention
615.640.0362
Cate.Faulkner@tn.gov

TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
TN.gov/behavioral-health/ROPS

In addition, ROPS have provided Narcan and other forms of naloxone, the opioid overdose antidote to high-risk individuals, law enforcement and

community agencies. In that time, the ROPS have distributed more than 450,000 units of naloxone resulting in more than 60,000 reported lives saved.

In addition to distributing naloxone to people at risk of overdose, addiction service providers, community service providers, and first responders, the ROPS have educated hundreds of thousands of Tennesseans on the brain science of addiction, how to use naloxone, and stigma reduction. In recent years, the ROPS presentation has included new material on fentanyl to help participants understand the chemical that's continuing to drive Tennessee's drug overdose numbers without causing unnecessary fear.

TDMHSAS Colligate Recovery Initiative Expands with New Campus Certification

Initiative has already trained more than 1,500 people on 27 campuses statewide

TDMHSAS is proud to expand its Collegiate Recovery Initiative with a new certification. The Tennessee Certified Collegiate Recovery Campus designation shows a college or university's commitment to creating a student-centered culture that puts mental health and wellbeing at the heart of student success.

The TDMHSAS Collegiate Recovery Initiative grew out of the Lifeline Peer Project and is led by a former Lifeliner, Nathan Payne. In the last two years, Payne has traveled the state training more than 1,500 recovery allies at 27 campuses. Institutions participating in the Collegiate Recovery Initiative range from public universities to private and faith-based universities to community and technical colleges. The goal of the initiative is to start conversations on campus that create opportunities for students in recovery or students who are struggling to feel heard and validated in their journeys as well as connecting them to resources and supports if needed.

The new certification process asks campuses to commit to the best practice model as it is laid out by the Tennessee Collegiate Recovery Initiative including:

- Understanding the definition of recovery and the role that college may play in an individual's long term recovery journey
- Building awareness around recovery and recovery support on campus through direct partnership with the Collegiate Recovery Initiative and the

department

- Identifying key volunteers on campus to lead and champion the work

Colleges and Universities that pursue the certification will receive direct support in planning of events, hosting trainings, and connecting students with necessary recovery support needs. They will receive access to resources including tools to aid in advocating for collegiate recovery, as well as videos on how to support students and videos specifically for students who are embarking on the recovery process. The certification will facilitate connections between the campuses and state and community resources including community behavioral health providers, recovery support groups, and more.

Learn more about the Collegiate Recovery Initiative and the Recovery-Friendly Campus certification process at this link: [TN.gov/behavioral-health/collegiate-recovery](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/collegiate-recovery)



The Rocky Top Recovery Ambassadors and students from Elevate High School celebrated Collegiate Recovery Week by painting the rock on the UT Knoxville campus! [Rocky Top Recovery is part of an on-campus recovery support project](#) funded with a grant through the department. Pictured above: the Ambassadors pause to enjoy their hard work!

Tennessee Represents at RX and Illicit Drug Summit



*Proud Tennesseans pose for the camera after a presentation on the
Drug Endangered Children Response Team*

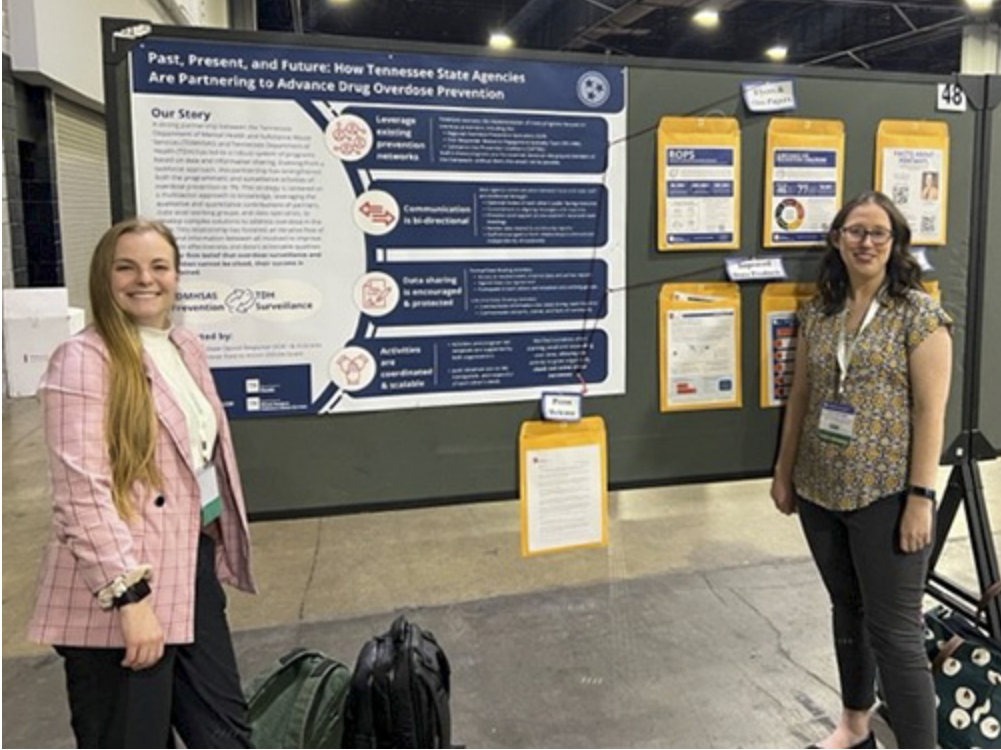
The hard work of countless Tennesseans was represented well yet again at the RX and Illicit Drug Summit. The annual convening of people from all spheres working in addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery was held in Atlanta April 10-13. Tennessee presentations included:

- Supporting Connected Ecosystems: How Collegiate Recovery and Faith-Based Initiatives Utilize Recovery Capital featuring Jaime Harper, Nathan Payne, and Monty Burks
- Training and Support for Opioid Crisis Frontline Responders featuring Sarah Murfree and Josh Crews from Prevention Coalition for Success
- Tennessee Drug Endangered Children Response Team Communities featuring Spencer Earhart, Nicole Miller, and Laura Durham representing their Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions and Tabitha Curtis with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.



The Power of Peers! A group of amazing CPRS represent smile for the camera with Dr. Monty Burks. Pictured L to R: Nikki Green, Lori Patterson, Ashlee Crouse, Jeremiah Lovelady, Jennifer Street, Jessica Stanley

Tommy Farmer with the TBI and Michael Yates with Ridgeview Behavioral Health Services also presented at the conference. Pictured below: Cate Faulkner with TDMHSAS and Kate Durst with TDH presented a poster on preventing overdose deaths.



Regional Intervention Program Shines at Conference



The Regional Intervention team presented at the National Training Institute on Effect Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior Conference in Tampa, Florida.

RIP Director Melissa Binkley and RIP Technical Assistance Coordinator Ashley Jasinski presented alongside NCPMI (National Center on Pyramid Model Innovations) staff – Sharing RIP's philosophy of Parent Implementation and, specifically, implementing Positive Solutions for Families (PSF) to enhance our service delivery.

They also featured videos of several of their incredible PSF facilitators (Jasmine Davis, Geno Haffner & Kanika Williams). They heard tremendous feedback about the presentation and how others wish they had a program like RIP that emphasized community building for caregivers!

You can connect with RIP in Nashville and ten other locations across the state at: [TN.gov/parenting-that-works](https://www.tn.gov/parenting-that-works)

National Prescription Drug

Take Back Day



National Prescription Drug Take Back Day was held Saturday April 22 giving Tennessee communities the chance to expose of their expired and no longer needed medication. Thanks to all the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions, community partners, and law enforcement agencies across the state who participated! Find more information about how to safely dispose of your medication year-round visit tntogether.com/takebackday.

Grantee Manual Updated for FY24

TDMHSAS is proud to announce that the department's Grantee Manual has been updated for FY24. The Grantee Manual includes useful information on the TDMHSAS grant process and touches on helpful topics ranging from grant opportunity notifications and general grant eligibility to the grantee monitoring process. [The new Grantee Manual can be downloaded at this link.](#)



FY 2024 Grantee Manual

Information and Introduction for Subsequent Wide Agencies
The Office of Administration, Health & Services, Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
April 2023



Welcome to Team TDMHSAS



Brittany Willis has joined the Office of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention! Brittany comes from the TN Dept of Health, where she served as Project Director, Suicide Prevention. In her new role, she will serve as Program Manager, Crisis Services-Quality Assurance, and will provide oversight for all data collection and analytics, along with program monitoring.

Ashley Eubanks joined the TDMHSAS Office of Licensure in April as the MH Licensure Manager for the Middle Tennessee Region. Ashley has worked in mental health for several years in East Tennessee, serving the community in outpatient, transitional living, and crisis services. Ashley received her MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Southern New Hampshire University in 2018. Ashley is an avid reader, houseplant enthusiast, and sports lover.



Spring Garner has is joining the MTMHI family as Dietitian Supervisor. Ms. Garner received a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Science with a concentration in Dietetics from MTSU. She previously worked with the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Shout Out!

Moccasin Bend Initiative 'Change 4 All' going strong.



Moccasin Bend held a St. Patrick's Day Green Donut Breakfast. It was another Change 4 All events put on by the Retention and Morale Committee to continue the momentum of the wonderful program. Change 4 All shirts were also handed out to staff.

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

TennCare Renewal



**View your renewal month on
TennCare Connect today!**

TennCareConnect.TN.gov | 855-259-0701

If you work with people on TennCare, there's an important event happening that you should be aware of. You may receive a packet in the mail or an electronic notification with instructions on what to do and the deadline for submitting your renewal. To prepare for the renewal process, please make sure TennCare has your updated contact information and find your renewal date. You can do this online at TennCareConnect.TN.gov or by calling 855-259-0701. For information on completing a renewal visit: TN.gov/tcrenew

Save-the-Dates

Planning and Policy Council Meetings

Children's Committee

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. CST

TDMHSAS

Conference Room 339, 6th Floor

Andrew Jackson Building

500 Deaderick Street

Nashville, TN 37243

Region IV

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. CST

TAADAS

1321 Murfreesboro Pike, Suite 130

Nashville, TN 37217

Region V

Thursday, May 4, 2023

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CST

Volunteer Behavioral Health

1504 Williams Drive

Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Region I

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST

Frontier Health Corporate Offices

1167 Spratlin Park Drive

Gray, TN 37615

Region II

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. EST

Helen Ross McNabb Center, Training Room

201 West Springdale Avenue

Knoxville, TN 37917

To verify the schedule and plans for future meetings, please visit the department website at these links:

[Statewide & Committee Meeting Schedule \(tn.gov\)](#)

[Regional Council Meeting Schedule \(tn.gov\)](#)

TDMHSAS is committed to providing individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from TDMHSAS programs, activities, and services. To request reasonable accommodations or modifications, please contact Amy Holland at amy.holland@tn.gov at least 10 business days prior to the meeting. Requests for accommodations or modifications made after the deadline will be honored to the maximum extent feasible, but it may not be possible to fulfill them.

SAVE *the* **DATE**

A graphic featuring a silhouette of a person standing on a large, 3D, golden letter 'H' that is part of the word 'HOPE'. The word 'HOPE' is rendered in large, golden, 3D block letters. The background is a soft-focus image of a sunset or sunrise over water. The text 'Anchored in' is written in a cursive font above the 'H'. Below the word 'HOPE', the text 'Suicide and the Black Church Conference' is written in a sans-serif font, followed by '20 years later' in a cursive font, and 'Wednesday, June 14th & Thursday, June 15th 2023' in a sans-serif font. At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'For More Information: 901-370-4673 Email us at thcsuicideconference@gmail.com'.

Anchored in

Suicide and the Black Church Conference

20 years later

Wednesday, June 14th & Thursday, June 15th

2023

For More Information: 901-370-4673 Email us at thcsuicideconference@gmail.com

Resources

In the event of a mental health emergency ...

An advertisement for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. It features a woman in a light blue shirt wearing a headset and holding a microphone, looking to the right. To her right is a blue speech bubble containing three white circles. Below the speech bubble is a dark blue brushstroke graphic with the text 'Call, text, or chat today.' Above the woman is a dark blue brushstroke graphic with the text '988 is here to help.' and a small logo for '988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE' in a light blue box.

988
is here to help.

988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

Call, text, or
chat today.

For questions about addiction treatment/referrals ...

TN
REDLINE
1.800.889.9789
CALL OR TEXT

TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
TAADAS
TN TOGETHER
ENDING THE OPIOID CRISIS

To talk with a TDMHSAS Consumer Advocate ...

Need help with mental health or substance use services?

Call the TDMHSAS Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services

HELPLINE

1-800-560-5767

We can help with:

- finding mental health and substance abuse resources in your area
- questions about insurance
- finding 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
- 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CT
- Closed on state holidays



Department of
**Mental Health &
Substance Abuse Services**

OCA.TDMHSAS@tn.gov | [TN.gov/behavioral-health](https://tn.gov/behavioral-health)



OUR MISSION: CREATING
COLLABORATIVE PATHWAYS
TO RESILIENCY, RECOVERY & INDEPENDENCE
FOR TENNESSEANS LIVING
WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

OUR VISION:

A STATE OF *RESILIENCY, RECOVERY, AND INDEPENDENCE*
IN WHICH **TENNESSEANS**
LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS
AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS **THRIVE**

AS A DEPARTMENT, WE VALUE:

CUSTOMER FOCUSED:

An unwavering commitment to keep patients and those who serve them at the forefront of every decision.

INTEGRITY:

Honesty and truth in all we do.

INSPIRED PURPOSE:

The call to action in service of a cause greater than one's self.

EXCELLENCE:

The highest standards for services, efficiency, and conduct.

COMPASSIONATE

AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP:

The commitment to make effective decisions and inspire others through active listening and empathy.

SOLUTIONS AND OUTCOMES-ORIENTED:

The commitment to positive outcomes and meaningful changes in response to the critical needs of the Tennesseans we serve.

PARTNERSHIP:

Beyond teamwork, collaboration based on mutual success to the benefit of the Tennesseans we are blessed to serve.

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 OC.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

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Website



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Instagram



LinkedIn