



A Message from Commissioner Williams

Dear Friends,

As the sun begins to set on 2022, I'm filled with gratitude for another great year serving alongside all of you. In all my interactions, I'm struck by one thing: what a privilege it is to be a Tennessean working in this field at this time. When you look at where we've been and how far we've come, it's truly amazing to think of the tens of thousands of our neighbors who are connecting with care each and every year who previously would have gone without. When you think about the innovative and outcomes-focused services we're able to offer today thanks to support from our Governor and General Assembly, it's truly humbling to be in the position we're in. And yet, we know our work isn't done. That's why we continue, we persist, and we persevere – to see a new day, years from now, when we can look back yet again and think about how far we've come in putting

people on the road to recovery.

Thank you always for all you do on behalf of the Tennesseans we are blessed to serve.

Have a blessed day,

Marie

Governor Bill Lee sees School-Based Services in Action



TDMHSAS was blessed to join Governor Bill Lee in Lake County earlier this month to witness the power of the School-Based Behavioral Health Liaison program. Governor Lee toured Lara Kendall Elementary School in Ridgely and talked with two liaisons, school staff, leaders from Carey Counseling, and department staff about the impact of the program in rural northwest Tennessee and across the state. The Governor asked several questions to learn more about how students access services, the challenges they're dealing with, and how their lives improve through services provided by the program. He also saw the specially designed room where the liaison works and mental health

positivity messages throughout the school.

Special thanks to Principal David Ayers for welcoming Team TDMHSAS back a second time, and thanks to the amazing team at Carey Counseling for the day-in, day-out, life-changing services they provide!



TDMHSAS Announces New Grants for Community-Based Services

TDMHSAS has received a pair of new grants to fund community-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment services.

A \$400,000 federal grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will allow the department to continue the [Clinical High Risk for Psychosis \(CHR-P\) program](#) in Memphis. CHR-P works with youth and young adults ages 12-25 is to identify, prevent, intervene, and lessen the impact of psychotic disorders. Services provided through CHR-P help clients understand what they're going through, connect with therapy, and develop skills to gain employment.

[Read the full news release about CHR-P at this link.](#)

TDMHSAS is receiving a five-year, \$3,000,000 grant to support families and children affected by opioids and other substance misuse.

The Regional Partnership Grant through the Federal Administration for Children and Families is designed to increase the well-being, improve permanency, and

enhance safety of children who are in or are at risk of out of home placement due to a parent or caregiver's opioid or other substance misuse.

[Read the full news release about this grant at this link.](#)

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is this Saturday

Taking Back is Easy as 123

- 1**

Go to tntogether.com to find a drop off near you
- 2**

Gather all expired and medication you no longer need
- 3**

Drive to your closest drop off location to safely dispose

TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services **TN TOGETHER** ENDING THE ADDICTION CRISIS **TN** Department of Health

TDMHSAS is encouraging all Tennesseans to participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day this Saturday, October 29 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. local time.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is a biannual opportunity for everyone to dispose of medications that are expired or no longer needed. These medications, including prescription opioid pain relievers and stimulants, can be habit-forming leading to addiction or overdose.

[Click this link to find a Take Back Day event near you.](#)

On Take Back Day, community organizations including Tennessee's Substance Use Prevention Coalitions partner with local law enforcement to collect medications and share information about their activities to prevent addiction. Medications can be safely and securely disposed with no questions asked.

During the April 2022 Take Back Day, Tennesseans safely and securely disposed of more than 5,600 pounds of medications.

Tennessee's Opioid Abatement Council Holds Second Meeting



Tennessee's Opioid Abatement Council held its second meeting on September 30 in Knoxville. The Council formed a subcommittee called the Application Process Workgroup which will draft an application process for presentation and review at the next meeting. The [List of Opioid Remediation Uses](#) was accepted by the Council members with two revisions (using updated CDC Guidelines and adding TN Guidelines to language within the document) to be the abatement strategies that are used by the counties for the 30% of the funding that comes through the Council. The next meeting is Dec 5 in Jackson. [You can find more information about the Opioid Abatement Council at this link on TN.gov.](#)



Above, left: TBI Special Agent In-Charge Tommy Farmer and Sheriff Armando Fontes chat during a break. Above, right: Council Chair Dr. Stephen Loyd chats with Dr. Stephanie Vanterpool.

Moccasin Bend Holds Rapid Hiring Event



With staffing challenges persisting in all sectors of the economy and continuing to affect the Regional Mental Health Institutes, TDMHSAS held another Rapid Hire Event, this time at Moccasin Bend in late September. The 2-day event

ended with the hiring of 31 new staff: 28 Psychiatric Technicians, 1 Admissions Psychiatric Technician, 1 Food Service Worker and 1 Security Guard.

Staff at MBMHI credit the collaboration and hard work of their team members, Central Office HR staff, and the Department of Human Resources. They had numerous staff members working behind the scenes and directly with the potential new hires, and the sense of excitement and shared their passion for the work made the new teammates feel incredibly welcome.

Staffers share why they choose Moccasin Bend



To help promote careers at the RMHIs, the department is producing more employee testimonials. When William Sanford (pictured above) and his family relocated to the Volunteer State, he started a new chapter in his nursing career. And what he found was an environment that was welcoming and unlike any other he was in previously!

Push play on the video above to watch his story.

Tennessee Recovery Navigators Continue to Grow

STATE FY22 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



3,058

Patients received
Navigator Services



69%

Patients placed in
Treatment Services



91

more patients
served. Tennessee
Recovery Navigators
have increased their
number of patients
served every year.

55

Hospitals
Served

+13

Hospitals
Added in
FY22

34%

of patients
served reported
some type of
victimization



DEPARTMENT OF
Mental Health &
Substance Abuse Services

The Tennessee Recovery Navigators continue their life-changing and life-saving work! In state FY22, Navigators worked with more than 3,000 patients admitted to hospitals across the state after an overdose or experiencing symptoms associated with substance use disorder. And 7 out of 10 accepted a referral to community based treatment and recovery supports! Want to learn more about this program? Check out the annual report on [TN.gov/recoverynavigator](https://www.tn.gov/recoverynavigator)

Shipments that Save Lives



In November 2021, TDMHSAS and Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute teamed up to support the department's work to distribute naloxone, the most common opioid overdose reversal medication, to the Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists and other community partners. Through this partnership over the last eleven months, TDMHSAS was able to provide more than 60,000 units of naloxone, including a new higher dose naloxone (Kloxxado) and the far less expensive type of naloxone, intramuscular vials, which are used at syringe service programs across the state. We estimate that at least 9,000 lives have been saved through this project. This partnership supports and enhances the impact of the department's efforts to curb the overdose crisis through training, education, and stigma reduction. Since program inception (Oct 2017), the TN Save a Life Program has trained more than 300,000 Tennesseans and distributed more than 330,000 units of naloxone with more than 58,000 successful overdose reversals reported.

This would not have been possible without these great teams:

MTMHI: Steve Blair, Michael Grigsby, Paul Black, Leonard Foster & Fred Boyle

Office of Clinical Leadership: Dr. Wes Geminn & Dr. Erica Schlesinger

Office of Prevention (Substance Abuse Services): Cate Faulkner & Tony

Jackson

Lipscomb University Holds Second Annual Collegiate Recovery Academy

Congrats to the team at Lipscomb University on their second annual Collegiate Recovery Academy that was held at the end of September! The on-campus community planted by the Collegiate Recovery Initiative is healthy and GROWING. We stopped by earlier this month as they held a recovery month event. Students panted the bison and shared about their work to make the campus a welcoming and open space for folks in recovery.





Gwen Hamer Honored with Excellence in Community Suicide Prevention and Awareness Award



The Metro Public Health Department and the Division of Behavioral Health and Wellness presented TDMHSAS Gwen Hamer with the Phillip Whitehead Award for Excellence in Community Suicide Prevention & Awareness. The award was given out at the first ever Hope is Available banquet and recognition ceremony. Congrats Gwen, and thank you for all you do for the department and within the community!

TDMHSAS Sends Chris Loftis and Christy Spangler to TGMI



Congratulations to Chris Loftis, Director of Hospital Services, Christy Spangler, Assistant Director, from the Office of Housing and Homeless Services. They honed their leadership skills while participating in the Tennessee Government Management Institute. TGMI is a two-week residential leadership program that provides mid-level managers in Tennessee state government with opportunities for academic study, learning in practical management skills, and cross agency networking to enhance the individual skills of middle managers.

Welcome to Team TDMHSAS



Shai Robinson is the new Administrative Services Assistant-III for the Division of Mental Health Services (DMHS). Before joining TDMHSAS, Shai served in the Tennessee Department of Veteran Services (TDVS) where she assisted in ensuring that those who have selflessly served our country are able to receive the benefits commensurate with their veteran status. Additionally, her experiences include supportive roles in various healthcare agencies. Shai holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from Bethel University.

Shout Out!

Thank you for 34 dedicated years of service!



Congratulations and happy retirement to Blondie Johnson! Her last day at Moccasin Bend was October 4th. Blondie has been a pioneer in the Adjunctive Therapy department and the hospital serving patients for 34 years. She developed the recovery bags that are passed out to each patient as they discharge from the hospital.

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.

Save-the-Dates

Planning and Policy Council Meetings

Children's Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 2, 2022
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. CST

Region IV

Wednesday, November 2, 2022
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CST

Region V

Thursday, November 3, 2022

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. CST

Region I

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST

Region II

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. EST

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.

STOP suicide

Save a life. Choose to live.



RUTHERFORD COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION
PRESENTS: QPR TRAINING (QUESTION, PURSUADE, REFER TRAINING)



- GET THE INFORMATION
- LEARN THE SIGNS
- DISCOVER RESOURCES
- LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE A LIFE

CONTACTS

RHONDA ALLEY

alleyrhonda@yahoo.com

GWEN HAMER

Gwen.hamer@tn.gov

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22, 2022

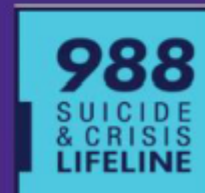
11am- 1pm

Silver Springs Missionary

Baptist Church

129 Mill Lane, Smyrna TN

(light taco brunch will be served)



**18th Annual TARCP
Recovery Court Conference**

Recovery Courts
PART OF THE SOLUTION

December 7-9, 2022

EMBASSY SUITES • MURFREESBORO

<https://tarcp.org/conference2022>



Resources

In the event of a mental health emergency ...

988
**24/7 Crisis
& Support**



For questions about addiction treatment/referrals ...



To talk with a TDMHSAS Consumer Advocate ...

Need help with mental health or substance use services?

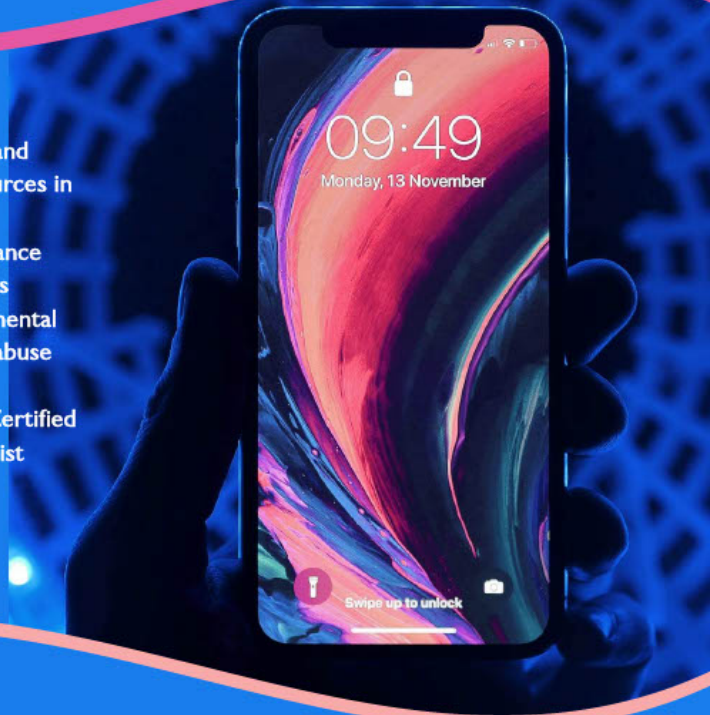
Call the TDMHSAS Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services

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

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.

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