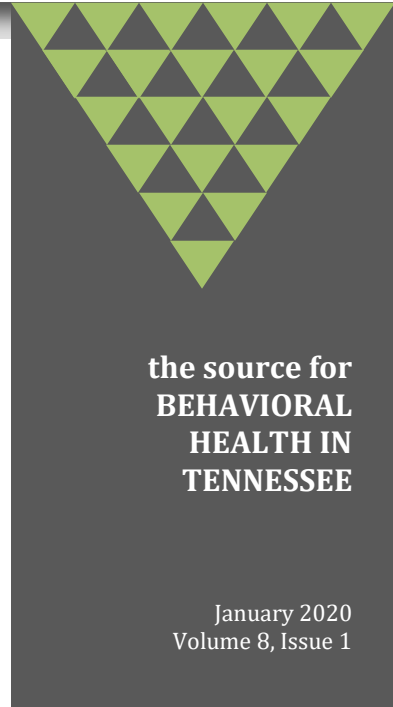




BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEWS AND EVENTS

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**BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH IN
TENNESSEE**

January 2020
Volume 8, Issue 1

The Vision for 2020 . . .

Happy 2020 to each of you. As we start a new year and a new decade, I realize how fortunate we are to have an administration that supports behavioral health and has shown that both in word and action. We were pleased to welcome Governor Lee to TAMHO’s first Board of Directors meeting in February 2019 and hear him discuss his commitment to individuals with mental health, substance use and co-occurring needs. Throughout 2019, he visited behavioral health clinics and met providers and clients to hear more about the importance of a strong service system. Members of Governor Lee’s Cabinet have also been interested in understanding our service system and the challenges providers face in meeting the needs of Tennesseans. We look forward to hearing Governor Lee’s State of the State and budget presentations in the coming days.

In the meantime, we are pleased to share some of the budget increases requested by TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams and TennCare Director Gabe Roberts that if approved would enhance the behavioral health system in Tennessee:

- **TDMHSAS**

- Substance Abuse Clinical Treatment Enhancement - \$6,000,000
- Children’s Behavioral Health Safety Net - \$7,571,800
- Mobile Crisis Services Expansion - \$354,300
- Creating Jobs Initiative Expansion - \$900,000
- Addiction Recovery Program Enhancement - \$1,000,000
- Criminal Justice Liaison Expansion - \$625,000
- School Based Behavioral Health Liaison Expansion - \$3,014,300

For the full presentation, visit <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/governorsoffice-documents/governorlee-hearingfiles/MHSAS%2033900%20FY21%20Governor's%20Presentation.pdf>.

- **TennCare**

- Family and Child Crisis Services \$3,131,400 (total) \$1,068,500 (state dollars) \$2,062,900 (Federal)

For the full presentation, visit <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents/TennCareProposedBudgetFY21.pdf>.

We hope you will join us in supporting these budget requests.

TAMHO 2019 Annual Conference draws a broad interest throughout the behavioral health community . . .

In early December, nearly 300 people attended the TAMHO Annual Conference at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Hotel in Franklin, Tennessee. The conference brought together leading experts to address social determinants to improve overall health in Tennessee. The event also included the annual TAMHO Awards and Recognition Ceremony.



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Special interest . . .

TAMHO Annual Conference

- Subject Matter Experts
- TAMHO’s Highest Honors and Recognitions
- TAMHO President’s Award
- TAMHO Service Award
- TAMHO Leadership Elections and Recognitions
- Recognition of Committee and Section Chairpersons
- Sponsors and Exhibitors add Value to the Annual Conference

TAMHO

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President Elect

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Immediate Past President

Jerry Vagnier | Helen Ross McNabb Center

Treasurer

Kristie Hammonds | Frontier Health

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Phyllis Persinger | Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System

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Memphis | June Winston, Executive Director

Tennessee Mental Health Consumers' Association

Nashville | Anthony Fox, Executive Director

Tennessee Voices for Children

Nashville | Rikki Harris, Chief Executive Officer

TAMHO STAFF

Executive Director | Ellyn Wilbur

Director of Policy and Advocacy | Alysia Smith Knight

Director of Member Services | Teresa Fuqua

Director of Administrative Services | Laura B. Jean

Project Manager TNCODC | Mariam Hashimi

Statewide Peer Wellness Coach | Dina Savvenas

Project Assistant | Carrie Ligon

The following are a few highlights of the conference and awards ceremony.

VIEW PHOTO GALLERY OR DOWNLOAD CONFERENCE PHOTOS BY VISITING: <https://hisimage.shootproof.com/gallery/TAMHO-2019/>

ACCESS AND DOWNLOAD SESSION HANDOUTS BY VISITING <http://www.tamho.org/tamho-annual-conference-2019>

Subject Matter Experts



Randy Wykoff, MD, MPH, Dean and Professor, College of Public Health, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee



Loraine Swanson, MPH, Project Director, National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ), Boston, Massachusetts



Mary Shelton, MA, Director of Behavioral Health Operations, Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, Division of TennCare, Nashville, Tennessee



Dorothy Bennett RN, MBA, Chief Ambulatory Services Officer, Nashville General Hospital at Meharry, Nashville, Tennessee



Kelly Shearin | Stephen Cha, MD | Jeanne James, MD

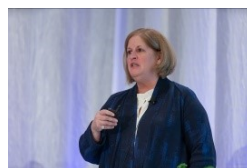
Kelly Shearin, Member Experience & Strategic Partnerships, Amerigroup Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee

Stephen Cha, MD, Chief Medical Officer, United Healthcare Community and State, Washington, D.C.

Jeanne James, MD, VP and CMO, BlueCare, BlueCross BlueShield Tennessee, Chattanooga, Tennessee



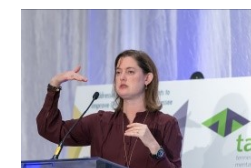
Erine Gray, MPA, Founder & CEO, Aunt Bertha, Austin, Texas



A. Vernon Rose, Executive Director Nashville General Hospital Foundation, Nashville General Hospital at Meharry, Nashville, Tennessee



Jessica S. Hill, MHA, Director of Strategic Planning and Innovation, Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, Division of TennCare, Nashville, Tennessee



Morgan McDonald, MD, FAAP, FACP, Deputy Commissioner for Population Health, Tennessee Department of Health, Nashville, Tennessee



Joseph Webb, D.Sc., MSHA, FACHE, Chief Executive Officer, Nashville General Hospital at Meharry, Nashville, Tennessee



TAMHO's Highest Honors and Recognitions

35 OF HONOR AND
YEARS RECOGNITION

The Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) bestowed its highest honors during their Annual Conference at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Hotel in Franklin, Tennessee. In total, eight awards were bestowed upon ten exceptional individuals and agency programs during the ceremony.



(left to right) Media Award - Best Use of Social Media & Media Award - Best Newsletter | Helen Ross McNabb Center, Knoxville (accepted by Jessica Hill and Mary Blythe); **Personal Courage Award** | Charley Jordan, Centerstone, Nashville; **Frank G. Clement Community Service Award** | Sara Smith, Tennessee Department of Education, Nashville – TAMHO C&Y Section; **Dorothea Distinguished Service Award** | Gino DeSalvatore, Centerstone, Nashville; **Media Award — Print or Electronic** | Blake Farmer, WPLN-Nashville Public Radio, Centerstone, Nashville; **Dix Professional Service Award** | David Cook, Professional Care Services of West TN, Covington; **Program of Excellence Award** | CHERISH Program, Frontier Health, Gray (Brandy Maltsburger) & No Wrong Door Program, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, Murfreesboro (Troy Gilson, *not pictured*); **TAMHO President's Award** | Gabe Roberts, Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, Bureau of TennCare (*not pictured*).

President's Award

Gabe Roberts, Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, Bureau of TennCare

Frank G. Clement Community Service Award

Sara Smith, Tennessee Department of Education, Nashville – TAMHO C&Y Section

Dorothea Dix Professional Service Award

David Cook, Professional Care Services of West TN, Covington

Distinguished Service Award

Gino DeSalvatore, Centerstone, Nashville

Personal Courage Award

Charley Jordan, Centerstone, Nashville

Media Award — Print or Electronic

Blake Farmer, WPLN-Nashville Public Radio, Centerstone, Nashville

Media Award - Best Use of Social Media

Helen Ross McNabb Center, Knoxville

Media Award - Best Newsletter

Helen Ross McNabb Center, Knoxville

Program of Excellence Award

CHERISH Program, Frontier Health, Gray
No Wrong Door Program, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, Murfreesboro

TAMHO President's Award

TAMHO President Jerry Vagnier recognized Deputy Commissioner of TennCare, Gabe Roberts' respected partnership in helping Tennesseans seeking recovery from behavioral health conditions with the TAMHO President's Award during the 2019 Awards and Recognition Ceremony.

Mr. Roberts' leadership in innovation to advance treatment efficacy and effectiveness in an integrated healthcare approach was duly acknowledged.



Gabe Roberts and Jerry Vagnier

Robert Vaughn recognized with a TAMHO Service Award

The TAMHO Service Award is presented in ten year increments to TAMHO Board members to honor their service. This year Robert Vaughn with Carey Counseling Center was recognized for 35 years of service.



Robert Vaughn

TAMHO Committee and Section Chairpersons recognized for their service during 2019

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE | Marlin Medlin, *Quinco Mental Health Center*

ADDICTIONS COMMITTEE | Michael Reynolds, *Centerstone*

COMPLIANCE AND QUALITY COMMITTEE | Gala Murray, *Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System*

CHILDREN & YOUTH SECTION | Mary Katsikas, *Helen Ross McNabb Center*

F&A SECTION | Julie Spears, *Centerstone*

F&A SECTION IT COMMITTEE | Richard French, *Carey Counseling Center*; and, Phyllis Persinger, *Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System*

CRISIS COMMITTEE | Sean Jones, *Carey Counseling Center*



Upper Left | Alysia Smith Knight & Gayla Murray; **Upper Right** | Alysia Smith Knight & Mary Katsikas; **Middle Left** | Julie Spears & Ellyn Wilbur; **Middle Right** | Sean Jones & Ellyn Wilbur; **Lower Left** | Ellyn Wilbur, Phyllis Persinger, Alysia Smith Knight & Richard French; **Lower Right** | Michael Reynolds & Alysia Smith Knight; **not pictured**: Marlin Medlin

Tennessee Co-Occurring Disorders Collaborative (TNCODC)

Recent Regional Learning Community Meetings

The West TN COD Learning Community meeting was held on November 12th, 2019. The topic was "Support Groups- MARA, Double Trouble and more". The discussion was led by Lincoln Coffman from Memphis Area Prevention Coalition. Agencies shared their own experiences with support groups and learned from Lincoln's experiences setting up groups in the Memphis Area.

Upcoming COD Learning Community Events

The Middle TN and East TN meetings will be scheduled for later this quarter and will be posted on the TNCODC site.



Mariam Hashimi



TAMHO bestows Volunteer Leadership awards

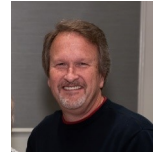
The TAMHO Volunteer Leadership Award is presented to a TAMHO Board member and a Committee or Section Chairperson or member to honor their exceptional leadership and service.

This year **Jimmie Jackson**, Executive Director/CEO, Professional Care Services of West TN, Covington, TN, was named the recipient of the **Volunteer Leadership — Board Member Award**.

Richard French, Fiscal Director, Carey Counseling Center, Paris, TN, was named the recipient of the **Volunteer Leadership — Committee or Section Award**.



Jimmie Jackson



Richard French

TAMHO elects leadership team for 2020

The Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) recently elected officers for 2020 at the organization's annual meeting held in Franklin, Tennessee.

Jimmie Jackson, Executive Director, Professional Care Services of West TN, Covington, TN will serve as **President**. He will succeed **Jerry Vagnier**, CEO, Helen Ross McNabb Center, Knoxville, TN, who will remain on the Board as **Immediate Past President**. **Florence**

Hervery, Executive Director, CMI Healthcare Services, Inc., Memphis, TN, was elected **President Elect**. **Kristie Hammonds**, President & CEO, Frontier Health, Gray, TN will serve a two year term as **Treasurer** replacing **Richard French**, Fiscal Director, Carey Counseling Center, Paris, TN who just completed a two year term. **Phyllis Persinger**, Executive VP/COO, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, Murfreesboro, TN, will fill the remaining year of **Florence Hervery's** two year term as **Secretary**.



(left to right)
Florence Hervery, Brian Buuck, Richard French, Jimmie Jackson, Jerry Vagnier, Phyllis Persinger, and Kristie Hammonds

TAMHO Exhibit Hall Provides Fun, Networking, and Valuable Resources

A huge "Thank You" to our event sponsors, exhibitors, and advertisers!

The TAMHO Annual Conference success is made possible in part through the generous support of our many sponsors, exhibitors, and advertisers. We are proud to be associated with these organizations and encourage your consideration of their products and services. We are excited to share opportunities such as this conference and the many other events produced by TAMHO throughout the year. If you would like to learn more about partnerships and marketing opportunities we have available, please contact us at 615-244-2220 ext.

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TAMHO Member Organization Happenings . . .

Community celebrates grand opening of apartment complex in South Memphis

New apartments are changing lives for Memphians in need

ARTICLE REPRINT | WMC 5 Action News | December 16, 2019 | Brandon Richard | <https://www.wmc5actionnews5.com/2019/12/16/community-celebrates-grand-opening-apartment-complex-south-memphis/?outputType=amp>

Shirley Nelson walked through her new apartment for the first time recently, something she did not think would be possible just a few months ago. "It means everything," Nelson said. "It's a long time coming." Nelson is one of the more than 1,200 people in Memphis that federal statistics show are homeless.



The people at CMI Healthcare Services, a nonprofit that helps the homeless and people suffering from mental illness, decided they wanted to fix an abandoned apartment building on Kansas Street to help people like Nelson. "It had been empty for almost ten years. It was totally dilapidated and part of a lot of blight in this community, but we saw potential," said Florence Hervy, CEO CMI Healthcare Services. CMI Healthcare Services received a \$225,000 grant from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency to renovate the



My Health, My Choice, My Life — Peer Wellness in Tennessee

My Health My Choice My Life completed two Tobacco Free update trainings, in Memphis and Johnson City, for a total of 21 participants, during the months of November and December. Also in November, one of our PWC's at Cherokee Health Systems,



Dina Savvenas

Leanne Crawford, CPRS, along with her supervisor Stella Melton and Hope Reynolds, CPRS, facilitated a webinar for the Center for Care Innovations in California, entitled "How Peer Recovery Can Improve MAT For Your Patients". Cherokee Health Systems has been utilizing both Integrative Services and Peer Recovery Specialists for many years now, and will likely be sought out as a model for these services for more providers in the nation.

Do you struggle with maintaining your wellness during the winter months, as many do? If so, here is a tool to help strengthen your winter wellness toolkit, from the Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey - <https://cspnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Winter-well-planner-2019-2020-.pdf>

And, if you find it more difficult to reach the 5-7 daily servings of fruits and vegetables recommended by experts for optimal health, smoothies can be a great way to fill in the gaps when fresh produce is less plentiful. This recipe from our Recipe Guide uses fresh or frozen cranberries which are very high in antioxidants to help keep your immune system strong during cold and flu season:

Recipe	SERVINGS	PREP TIME	COOK TIME
Cranberry Orange Smoothie			
INGREDIENTS			
DIRECTIONS			
¾ cup fresh or frozen whole cranberries			
1 cup ripe pear			
1 ½ cups orange juice			
2 cups ice			
Add all ingredients to a blender and mix well.			
FROM THE KITCHEN OF			



TAMHO MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Jimmie Jackson | Executive Director | PROFESSIONAL CARE SERVICES OF WEST TN

We're so excited to share our first quarter 2020 member highlight. Jimmie Jackson currently serves as the incoming TAMHO President. He is the Executive Director of Professional Care Services of West TN in Covington, Tennessee. Jimmie has worked for PCS for over 21 years, starting in October 1998. This was his first full-time job. He actually started to work in the accounting department while finishing his college degree, working his way from staff accountant, HR Director, and Compliance Officer, to become the CEO/Executive Director. One of his favorite areas has been working to develop relationships with legislators and educating and keeping legislators informed on key areas impacting the behavioral health system. Jimmie holds an Associates degree in Accounting from Dyersburg State, a Bachelor's degree in Business with emphasis in Organizational Leadership from Union University, and an MBA with emphasis in Healthcare Administration from Freed-Hardeman University.



Jimmie Jackson



When asked about his favorite memories with PCS, Jimmie reports that it is hard to pick just one memory looking back at the last 21-years. He states, "I've been extremely blessed and fortunate to work with some really talented folks who are great individuals. I've enjoyed playing a small part in efforts to effectively advocate and tell the important story about the essential programs and services our agency has in each community". He further stated how that includes advocacy for TAMHO members across the state in addition to PCS. As he reflects, Jimmie says he smiles at the role he has had in working with such a great team to open new offices which has created greater access for behavioral health services and built new outpatient clinics in Ripley and Dyersburg that provide the infrastructure to carry out our mission to enhance the quality of life of every individual and family we treat. His favorite memories come from hearing their workforce members share their patient success stories and knowing the difference their workforce makes each day in all of their communities.

Jimmie's advocacy and outreach efforts recently included PCS hosting a visit by Tennessee Governor Bill Lee and TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams and several TDMHSAS staff. This visit provided a highlight of the Behavioral Health Safety Net in action within their community. Jimmie relayed his pride in the PCS team and how they articulated the role PCS and other CMHCs play within our communities. Many of the local community stakeholders were on hand for this visit including law enforcement, school administrators, legislators, first responders, hospital staff, and many others. For a period of time, key community leaders were transfixed on behavioral health services and hearing first-hand the role CMHCs have in their community.

When asked if there was anything we might be surprised to learn about him, Jimmie shared his love of gardening and sharing the harvest with others. Each year he manages several fairly large gardens — mostly vegetables. They are a community garden but not in the aspect of shared work. Just like his commitment to advocacy for behavioral health and providing access within his community, Jimmie loves doing the gardening and then sharing the harvest with members in his community, church, and family. He shared, "Most years I'll have over 100 tomato plants along with other vegetables. I also enjoy growing pumpkins. I have 3 pumpkin patches in late summer and early fall with a variety of all types of pumpkins from pumpkin seeds I order from all over".

During his time away from PCS, he enjoys spending time with family and serving his church. He and his wife serve in the Gideon Ministry and are qualified speakers and work to distribute Bibles around the world. When asked about any favorite sayings or quotes, Jimmie shared, "I've always told my wife to 'stick with me and you will be alright' — so far for 25-years she has. I also often use the phrase from Dave Ramsey when people ask how I am by responding, 'Better than I deserve'". He further shared how he likes the phrase from Roman Philosopher, Lucas Seneca, "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity" and the quote/phrase from Aristotle, "Be a free thinker and don't accept everything you hear as truth. Be Critical and evaluate what you believe in". As a Vol fan, he couldn't end without one last favorite — "It's football time in Tennessee" and "Give Him Six".

building. Several community organizations stepped up to help, including the Home Depot Foundation, which donated refrigerators and stoves.

Community members recently gathered for the grand opening of the new Boyette Memorial Apartments. The hope is that all eight tenants will be moved in by Christmas. "It would be a beautiful Christmas present," said Nelson.

Hervy describes the renovations as a two-year labor of love. She said CMI Healthcare Services is now planning future projects like this one. "This is just a little drop in the bucket of what our community actually needs, so we're hoping to do bigger and better," said Hervy.

View full story at <https://www.wmcactionnews5.com/2019/12/16/community-celebrates-grand-opening-apartment-complex-south-memphis/?outputType=amp>.

TDMHSAS announces grants to community-based agencies to create substance use disorder recovery housing

Grants to hire regional facilitators to leverage resources to create housing opportunities for people recovering from addiction to opioids and other substances

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAMHO MEMBERS — FRONTIER HEALTH AND HELEN ROSS McNABB CENTER

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) is proud to announce five community-based behavioral health agencies that will be instrumental in the state's efforts to increase housing opportunities for people recovering from substance use disorder.

The five agencies selected will receive new state funding to hire Regional Housing Facilitators under the department's new Creating Homes Initiative (CHI) 2 program. The facilitators are an essential part of the model working with community-based groups to inventory assets, identify needs, and create solutions.

CHI-2 looks to build off the department's highly successful



Creating Homes Initiative which has created more than 22,000 housing opportunities and leveraged more than \$692 million in state, federal, local, grant, foundational, and other sources for people living with mental illness. The original CHI was started in 2000 under the leadership of now-Commissioner Marie Williams.

“We are so excited, grateful, and humbled to bring this proven model of creating new housing options for vulnerable populations to the area of substance abuse recovery,” said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams, LCSW. “Safe and affordable housing is an essential component on a person’s journey to recovery, and this investment by Gov. Bill Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly will change the trajectory of countless lives for decades to come.”

After a competitive grant submission and selection process, the following agencies were chosen to serve the following TDMHSAS planning regions:

- Upper East Tennessee: Frontier Health
- Knoxville / East Tennessee: Helen Ross McNabb Center
- Cumberland Plateau / Southeast Tennessee: Helen Ross McNabb Center
- Middle Tennessee (Outside Nashville/Davidson Co.) Coffee County Drug Court Foundation
- West Tennessee: Aspell Recovery Center
- Memphis/Shelby County: CAAP, Inc.

“We know that the addiction crisis in our state looks different depending on where you are. In spreading these housing facilitators across the state, we wanted to ensure that all Tennesseans who need recovery housing have access to an advocate who’s working on their behalf,” said Neru Gobin, TDMHSAS Director of Housing and Homeless Services.

In addition to the \$3 million in state funding budgeted by Gov. Lee and appropriated by the General Assembly in the department’s FY20 budget, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency is matching the state’s investment with \$3 million of their funding. THDA is accepting applications for this funding until January 16, 2020. [More information at this link.](#)

The remaining state funding to build and operate housing under CHI-2 and the Regional Housing Facilitator for Region 4, Nashville/Davidson County will be chosen at a later date after additional announcements of funding.

Kathy Benedetto, Frontier Health’s SVP of Tennessee Children and Youth Services retires

Mr. Tim Perry promoted as successor.

Mrs. Kathy Benedetto, Frontier Health’s Senior Vice President of Tennessee Children and Youth Services, retired at the end of December, 2019 after 43 years of service. Mr. Tim Perry, the current Director of Children and Youth Services at Frontier Health, has been named as her successor.



Kathy has been a highly respected leader not only in Northeast TN but across the state. She has been instrumental in policy related to services to children and their families and has been a strong supporter of TAMHO and its Children and Youth Section. She received TAMHO’s prestigious Distinguished Service Award in 2012.

We congratulate Tim Perry in his new position as Senior VP of Tennessee Children and Youth Services. As a 22 year employee of Frontier, Tim has also been instrumental in improving the service system for youth and their families over his career and has been an active participant in TAMHO’s Children and Youth Section and Addictions Committees.

Frontier Health’s President and CEO, Kristie Hammonds says “Kathy has done amazing things for our community, and for the entire region by raising awareness, increasing services, and

The trusted voice for Tennessee’s behavioral health system for sixty years.

TAMHO member organizations serve adults and children with a range of emotional disorders, mental illnesses, and addiction disorders.

ADOPTION SERVICES	OPIOID USE
CRISIS SERVICES:	DISORDER
CRISIS RESPONSE,	TREATMENT
CRISIS RESPITE,	OUTPATIENT
WALK-IN CENTER	TREATMENT:
SERVICES	PSYCHIATRIC
CRITICAL INCIDENT	EVALUATION,
STRESS	MEDICATION
DEBRIEFING	MANAGEMENT,
DISASTER RESPONSE	INDIVIDUAL
FAMILY SUPPORT	THERAPY, FAMILY
SERVICES	THERAPY,
ILLNESS	SUBSTANCE USE
MANAGEMENT	TREATMENT
AND RECOVERY	PEER RECOVERY
(IMR)	SERVICES
INPATIENT SERVICES	PREVENTION
INTEGRATED	SERVICES
MEDICAL CARE	PSYCHOSOCIAL
INTENSIVE	REHABILITATION
COMMUNITY-	RESIDENTIAL
BASED SERVICES:	TREATMENT
CONTINUOUS	SERVICES
TREATMENT TEAM	SCHOOL-BASED
(CTT),	SERVICES
COMPREHENSIVE	SPECIALTY
CHILD AND FAMILY	TREATMENT
TREATMENT	SERVICES
(CCFT), PROGRAM	SUPPORTED
OF ASSERTIVE	EMPLOYMENT
COMMUNITY	SUPPORTED HOUSING
TREATMENT	TENNESSEE HEALTH
(PACT)	LINK
INTENSIVE	THERAPEUTIC FOSTER
OUTPATIENT	CARE
SERVICES	TRAUMA FOCUSED
	TREATMENT

With the implementation of Tennessee Health Link in 2016, most TAMHO members also coordinate physical care as well as provide interventions for mental illness, addictions and co-occurring disorders.



**Harris
Frazier
Government
Relations** celebrate
years of experience on
Tennessee's Capitol Hill



Meagan Frazier is beginning her 20th consecutive year on Capitol Hill. Meagan began her career in Nashville as a legislative intern for the House Conservation & Environment Committee. She then worked as a Clerk for the House of Representatives before making her way into the lobbying world. Frazier joined the firm, formerly Smith Johnson & Carr, in 2003, became a partner 2008, and in 2018 the firm name changed to Harris Frazier Government Relations.

Estie Harris is beginning her 33rd year in and around state government. After working in the Executive branch, Estie joined the firm, Smith Johnson Anderson & Carr, in 1994. She rose quickly to partner in 1997 when the firm became Smith Johnson & Carr.

TAMHO is proud to join them in celebrating years of experience their partners have and can put to valuable use for our members.

developing clinical strength for our Tennessee Children and Youth Division. Her efforts have had lasting impacts on countless children and families in our region." During her career, Mrs. Benedetto addressed several unmet needs through development of the TRACES and Project BASIC programs. TRACES (Tennessee Regional Alternative Care Environments Services) was designed to help children with behavioral or emotional problems and was the first program of its kind in the Tri-Cities region. Project BASIC is a school-based program that helps children achieve positive self-concept, cultivate healthy self-esteem, and develop much needed social skills. In addition to the development of these innovative treatment methods, she has served on the Statewide Planning Council for Mental Health and has co-chaired the Children's Subcommittee of that body. Mrs. Benedetto is a former chair of the Region I Planning Council and serves on the Adolescent Substance Abuse Advisory Council. She serves on the boards of the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, the 1st Judicial District Children's Advocacy Center, and the Board for the Johnson City Housing Authority.

Mrs. Benedetto was also recently appointed to the Governor's Juvenile Justice Reform Implementation Council. While the list of her accomplishments is impressive, Mrs. Benedetto chooses to focus on the number of children she has worked with over the years, and those who have been served by the programs she developed. With a career spanning 43 years, she has had the privilege to meet many adults that she worked with as children. The positive impact she has had on these individuals, and the success they have gone on to experience, prove that treatment is effective and does change lives.

Mr. Tim Perry, the current Division Director for Tennessee Children and Youth Outpatient Services, will be promoted to SVP of Tennessee Children and Youth Services January 2020. Mr. Perry has served with Frontier Health for 22 years and is a licensed professional counselor. He has provided outpatient clinical services, clinical supervision, oversight of the Children and Youth Office at Bristol Regional Counseling, and currently serves as Division Director of all children's outpatient programs in Tennessee. Mr. Perry has also served on several local and state Advisory Boards and as a presenter at state and local trainings related to children's mental health issues. Kristie Hammonds states "Tim has played a significant role in the development and oversight of evidence-based program initiatives for families, development of Frontier Health's Behavioral Health Homes, and the expansion of clinical services in numerous Northeast Tennessee settings. We are excited to see Tim bring his talents and wealth of experience into his new role."

Anderson County celebrates new building

HRMC's new space provides quality services to more individuals.

This month, we celebrated the ribbon cutting at our newest facility serving Anderson County and surrounding areas with a short program featuring Lt. Gov. Randy McNally as well as Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank and Oak Ridge City Administrator Mark Watson.

"This new building gives the Center a larger space in order to reach more individuals," said Jerry Vagnier, Helen Ross McNabb Center president and CEO. "We will continue to be a fixture in the community and look forward to providing quality services."

This facility, in the heart of Oak Ridge, will allow staff to continue to deliver outpatient mental health, addiction and social services and will also house the Center's new scheduling team.



Statewide Happenings . . .

TDMHSAS continues state leadership in expanding employment opportunities for people with disabilities

New opportunity will bring national experts to Tennessee

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) is continuing the state's leadership in improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities through a new grant award.

Tennessee is one of 13 Capacity Building States identified for the Visionary Opportunities to Increase Competitive Employment (VOICE) program through the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy. The grant represents technical assistance which will flow to community behavioral health providers who use the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment model to connect people with severe mental illness to competitive integrated employment opportunities.

"When we talk about employment for people living with serious mental illness, we're talking about a key that unlocks a future filled with hope," said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams, LCSW. "Employment builds natural supports, increases self-worth and confidence, and develops independence for a person."

TDMHSAS has identified three areas of focus for the technical assistance opportunity:

1. Expansion of IPS Services Statewide - update the current interagency agreement between DMHSAS and VR to expand IPS through VR's 4 to 1 match, Medicaid, TANF, and SNAP E & T funding.
2. Dual Diagnosis- provide collaborative opportunities, resources, and training to mental health/IDD providers statewide to effectively support people with dual diagnosis (IDD + mental illness) who want to pursue competitive integrated employment.
3. American Job Centers- provide resources and guidance to create a cross-training for AJC staff members to more appropriately support people with disabilities, including people with behavioral health diagnoses.

The grant looks to build on the gains Tennessee has made as an Employment First State since 2012. In that year and every year since, Tennessee was awarded technical assistance through the predecessor of the VOICE Program. Previous opportunities focused on increasing competitive integrated employment and assist the state in moving away from segregated employment for people with disabilities.

Learn more about [IPS Supported Employment in Tennessee at this link](#).

Statewide business solutions to fight the Opioid Crisis — Three statewide events aimed to provide awareness and resources

Tennessee has been hit hard by the opioid crisis—harming individuals, families, communities, and employers. Each year, Tennessee's economy loses billions in lost workforce productivity. Businesses across Tennessee need solutions to help combat this problem and the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry is working to provide real solutions to employers to better manage the opioid crisis.

Join us for a breakfast discussion, connect with recovery resources, and learn how to create programs to support employees struggling with opioid dependence. Each event will highlight local resources and organizations employers can work with to prevent opioid misuse in the workplace, create programs to reduce stigma, and help direct opioid dependent employees to recovery services. We'll convene employers with first responders, law enforcement,

TENNESSEE CHAMBER
of Commerce & Industry
TENNESSEE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

**TN CHAMBER PRESENTS:
TOOLS TO HELP EMPLOYERS
NAVIGATE THE OPIOID CRISIS**

JANUARY 17- JACKSON
JANUARY 30- KINGSPORT
FEBRUARY 11- NASHVILLE
FEBRUARY 20- MARVILLE

Tennessee's lost workforce productivity due to opioid misuse

TENNESSEE CHAMBER of Commerce & Industry

TDMHSAS publishes Grantee Manual



For anyone with questions about providing contracted behavioral health services in Tennessee, we are here to help! This is a new resource developed to provide guidance related to the responsibilities and duties that come with being a contracted community services provider of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The manual covers the following topics: (1) pre-award requirements and process, (2) state of Tennessee grant contracts, (3) post-award requirements, (4) considerations for line-item budgets, (5) considerations for unit-rate budgets, (6) subrecipient monitoring, (7) sanctions and termination of funding, and (8) other available resources.

Please feel free to [download the manual on our website](#).

Governor Lee signs order transferring early education program



The Tennessee Early Intervention System will be moving from the Department of Education to the Department of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities. Governor Lee has signed the official order.

Visit

https://www.wsmv.com/news/gov-lee-signs-order-transferring-early-education-program/article_12ced760-4212-52bc-8441-77ae8cd5cb87.html to access the report provided by WSMV.

recovery organizations, and community leaders to foster meaningful dialog on working together to solve this community and economic crisis.

TN Chamber Presents:

Tools to Help Employers Navigate the Opioid Crisis

Thursday, January 30 – Kingsport, TN

Co-Hosts: Leadership Kingsport/Kingsport Chamber;

NETWORKS; Bristol Chamber

8:30-10:30am ET

Location: Food City (next to Kingsport Chamber)
300 Clinchfield St, Kingsport, TN 37660

Tuesday, February 11 – Nashville, TN

Co-Hosts: Nashville Chamber; Williamson Inc.

8:30-10:30am CT

Millennium Maxwell House Hotel
2025 Rosa L Parks Blvd., Nashville, TN 37228

Thursday, February 20 – Maryville, TN

Co-Host: Blount Partnership

8:30-10:30am ET

Hilton Knoxville Airport
2001 Alcoa Hwy., Alcoa, TN 37701

To register and find out more, visit

www.TNChamber.org/otk

If your organization would like to be involved in the program, please contact Kelly Boutwell, Kelly.boutwell@tnchamber.org, 615-981-9304.

TennCare Director, Gabe Roberts, Announces Departure



Gabe Roberts

Tennessee’s Division of TennCare director Gabe Roberts announces today he is leaving Tennessee state government to return to the private sector. His anticipated last day will be Monday, March 2, 2020. Governor Lee has not yet named a successor to the position.

“We’re grateful to Gabe Roberts for his many years of service to the state of Tennessee,” said Governor Bill Lee. “Gabe has been instrumental in guiding TennCare during the first year of my administration, and I’m thankful for his leadership. While his service in state government is coming to an end for now, I’m certain our state will continue to benefit from his contributions in his future endeavors. Maria and I wish him and his family all the best.”

Roberts’s service in Tennessee state government began in 2013 joining TennCare as general counsel. He was promoted to deputy director and chief operating officer in 2016. Roberts was subsequently appointed by Governor Lee as director of TennCare in January 2019.

“It has been the honor of my professional life to serve the state of Tennessee during my seven years at TennCare and for serving alongside Governor Lee this past year,” said Gabe Roberts. “I am thankful to my phenomenal wife and family for supporting me every day in my journey to serve our state and the members of the TennCare program. And I am indebted to my incredible team who has worked tirelessly with stakeholders across the state for so long to ensure that our Medicaid program remains on the leading edge of positive transformation, innovation, and fiscal sustainability. I am excited to see what they will accomplish with Governor Lee on behalf of the state in the coming years.”

During his tenure at TennCare, Roberts, among other things, was instrumental in the design and implementation of many of the agency’s initiatives including the Tennessee Health Care Innovation Initiative, the Employment and Community First CHOICES program, and the agency’s strategy to combat the opioid epidemic in Tennessee. Most recently under Roberts’s leadership, TennCare submitted two innovative proposals including Tennessee’s Katie Beckett program and Tennessee’s Block Grant plan which are both pending approval by the federal government.

Brent Culberson named Assistant Commissioner of Health Licensure and Regulation



Brent Culberson

Brent Culberson has been appointed assistant commissioner of Health Licensure and Regulation for the Tennessee Department of Health. In this role, Culberson oversees a staff of approximately 350 employees in Health Professional Boards, Health Care Facilities, the Office of Investigations and Emergency Medical Services.

"Brent will be a great asset to the Department of Health, and I am pleased the state will once again benefit from his service and leadership," said Tennessee Health Commissioner Lisa Piercey, MD, MBA, FAAP. "He has the experience and knowledge needed to meet the demands and complexity of this important position in protecting the health of Tennesseans."

As assistant commissioner for Health Licensure and Regulation, Culberson leads the division responsible for licensing and certifying health care professionals in the state of Tennessee. This division investigates complaints against health care professionals and works closely with the TDH Office of General Counsel to present cases before the various boards. The Office of Health Care Facilities licenses and regulates health care facilities to ensure compliance with state and federal standards of care and conditions of participation in the Medicaid and Medicare programs through facility surveys and incident investigations. The Office of Emergency Medical Services provides quality assurance and oversight for pre-hospital emergency medical care and medical transportation systems in the state.

Prior to joining the Department of Health, Culberson served as director of the Office of Neighborhood, Community and Government Relations in the Office of Advancement at Lipscomb University in Nashville. In this role he developed and managed a strategic plan to build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders of Lipscomb in the community, business community and throughout government. Culberson has prior state government service, having served as a member of the Secretary of State's senior management team as director of the Division of Charitable Solicitations, Fantasy Sports and Gaming. Culberson also serves as an adjunct faculty member and instructor at Lipscomb University for courses on topics including international and public policy conflict management and American law.

Governor Lee Announces 2020 Staff Additions



Governor Lee announced six new additions to his staff on Wednesday. Valerie Yancey will serve as Assistant Director for Legislation, Gillum Ferguson will serve as Interim Press Secretary, Eric Mayo will serve as a new legislative liaison, Heidi Ridley will serve as Assistant Scheduler, Spenser Carder will serve as the Assistant for Constituent Services, Hannah Torbett will serve as Assistant to Senior Advisor Brandon Gibson.

(Photo: The Tennessean)

TAMHO ADVOCACY DAY

March 10, 2020

TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF
MENTAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS

www.tamho.org

42 Rutledge Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37210-2043
615-244-2220 ext. 14
800-568-2642 ext. 14 *toll free in TN*





Planning and Policy Council

Schedules for the **Statewide Planning and Policy Council** and **Regional Council** meetings and information are available online at:

<https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/research/data--research--and-planning/planning/planning/council-overview.html>

General information is accessible at:

<https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/planning.html>

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Amy.Holland@tn.gov

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

Nationwide Happenings . . .

Save the Date: Hill Day 2020

Mark your calendar for June 23 – 24, 2020 for behavioral health's largest advocacy event of the year: National Council Hill Day. Join hundreds of your fellow advocates, from individuals with lived experience to providers, to speak up and make your voices heard in the halls of Congress. Stay tuned over the next few months for exciting announcements about speakers, events, and the pieces of legislation for which we will be advocating.



You're Invited!

National Council for Behavioral Health's
HILL DAY 2020

June 23-24, 2020
Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill
400 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001

★★★★★

 Don't miss this opportunity to take part in behavioral health's **largest advocacy event!** Come **make your voice heard** on Capitol Hill! 

Questions?
Contact **Michael Petruzzelli** at MichaelP@TheNationalCouncil.org.

HILL DAY



Stay tuned!
More details coming soon!

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
TheNationalCouncil.org

Anthem, Aspire Exec Brad Smith to lead Medicare's Innovation Center

ARTICLE REPRINT | Home Health Care News | January 6, 2020 | Andrew Donlan | <https://homehealthcarenews.com/2020/01/anthem-aspire-exec-brad-smith-to-lead-medicare-innovation-center/>

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI)'s new director is Brad Smith, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced Monday. Previously, Smith co-founded and worked as the CEO of the home-based palliative care provider Aspire Health before it was sold to national insurance giant Anthem in May 2018. He most recently served as the COO of Anthem's diversified business group, which Aspire became a part of. In addition to directing CMMI, Smith has been tabbed as a senior advisor to HHS Secretary Alex Azar. In his advisory role, Smith will specifically focus on value-based transformation, among other topics. U.S. Senate Health Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander spoke highly of Smith's background in a statement also released Monday. "Brad has exactly the right experience to lead a center charged with coming up with innovative ways to lower health care costs and improve quality," Alexander, a Republican from Tennessee, said. "He has founded a successful health care company and knows how state and federal governments work, having served under Governor Bill Haslam and Senator Bob Corker, and at the White House."

The CMMI works with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to innovate and develop health care payment and service delivery models that can reduce costs. The former director of CMMI, Adam Boehler, left the position in July when he was selected to lead the International Development Finance Corp. (DFC). Among his accomplishments, Boehler tried to reduce costs by emphasizing in-home and value-based care. "Brad is in the business of providing ideas and practical solutions to seemingly insurmountable problems," Former U.S. Senator Bill Frist told Nashville Public Radio (WPLN) in September. Frist co-founded Aspire Health with Smith in 2011. Smith will likely attempt to further innovate in the in-home and value-based care spaces where Boehler left off. "Brad's experience thinking outside-the-box to improve health care as a successful entrepreneur, along with his stellar academic and policy background, have prepared him well to lead CMMI and bring innovative solutions to our health care system's most pressing challenges," CMS Administrator Seema Verma said in a statement. "I am excited that we have selected Brad to join the ranks of CMS and help us build on the important work the Trump Administration has undertaken to transform our healthcare system to deliver better value to patients."

The right to vote lies at the heart of our nation's founding principles – it is the bedrock of our democracy. Every citizen that can vote should have the opportunity to



Get out the vote.
It's your voice. It's your right. Use them.
Download the **voter toolkit** and **register to vote** today.

exercise their civic right, including those living with behavioral health conditions. This year, community mental health and addiction treatment centers have the unique opportunity to engage everyone in their centers, including clients, in nonpartisan voter registration and education.

In 2020, elected officials across state and federal ballots will be asking for your vote. They will be asking their fellow citizens to elect them to office to make needed change in our communities and our country. It is critical that you and your clients' needs are understood and voices are heard in politics and at the ballot box.

Be an impetus for change in our behavioral health care system by advocating for the civic right to vote. Our new Get Out the Vote 2020 Toolkit will help your organization create, launch and sustain a successful voter registration and voter education program for the 2020 General Election Cycle.

Have any questions or need assistance in your voter registration efforts? Reach out directly to Michael Petruzzelli at MichaelP@TheNationalCouncil.org.

Senate Committee & FCC Unanimously Approve 9-8-8 Suicide Hotline Update

The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act (S. 2661) has passed unanimously out of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and now moves to the Senate floor. The bill would change the current, difficult to remember 10-digit number for the national suicide prevention hotline to "9-8-8." Additionally, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) yesterday unanimously voted in favor of a proposal that aligns with the Senate bill, and the change will soon be open to public comment.



Strong Bipartisan Support for Increased Mental Health & Addiction Treatment Funding

VOTERS MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT CANDIDATES THAT PROMISE TO DO MORE



A bipartisan majority of American voters **think the federal government is not doing enough to address mental health and addiction.**

NOT DOING ENOUGH TO ADDRESS **MENTAL HEALTH**:



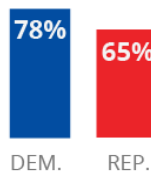
NOT DOING ENOUGH TO ADDRESS **ADDICTION**:



More than half of registered voters **think the federal government does not provide sufficient funding for mental health and addiction treatment in the U.S.**

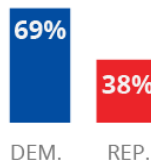
Federal government is **responsible for providing funding to mental health and addiction treatment:**

69%
OF ALL AMERICANS



Federal government provides **too little funding for mental health and addiction treatment:**

53%
OF ALL AMERICANS



A bipartisan majority of voters are more likely to **vote for a candidate in 2020 who promised to do more to address mental health and addiction.**



75%
MORE LIKELY TO VOTE



52%
MORE LIKELY TO VOTE

{ **39%** MUCH MORE LIKELY TO VOTE }

{ **24%** MUCH MORE LIKELY TO VOTE }

“ For too long, this country has underfunded and undervalued mental health and substance use care with devastating results. Americans want policymakers to stand up for mental health and addiction treatment. The mandate is clear: members of Congress from both sides of the aisle should move quickly to turn this bipartisan consensus into meaningful policy changes. ”



Chuck Ingoglia,
 President and CEO of the National Council for Behavioral Health

Methodology: This poll was conducted between August 16-August 18, 2019 among a national sample of 1,994 registered voters. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of registered voters based on age, educational attainment, gender, race, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

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TAMHO WHITE PAPER Addresses Tennessee's Mental Health Workforce Shortage

Access the complete white paper online on the TAMHO website home page at www.tamho.org.

Contact TAMHO for printed copies.



tamho

tennessee association of
mental health organizations

2020 & 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCES

December 10-11, 2020

December 9-10, 2021

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FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

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HOPE

As long as there is life,
there is hope.

ACCESS

Staying informed will be
helpful when services are



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This project is funded under a Grant Contract with the State of Tennessee, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

The Behavioral Health News & Events is a newsletter publication produced by the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) that is edited and published quarterly by TAMHO. It is distributed electronically to behavioral health professionals, advocates, members of the Tennessee General Assembly and representatives of various State Departments of Government, as well as key stakeholders in the provision of behavioral health products and services procured by behavioral health agencies, and numerous individuals in local communities and throughout the state and nation who have an interest in the advancement of behavioral health in Tennessee.

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