



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEWS AND EVENTS

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TENNESSEE**

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TAMHO organizations have increased efforts to ensure that behavioral health needs are met during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fred Rogers shared many messages throughout his life that have influenced scores of children and adults everywhere. I have been thinking a lot recently about one of his messages:

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' To this day, especially in times of 'disaster,' I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers—so many caring people in this world."



Eilyn Wilbur

Nancy Rogers was right. You will always find people helping in scary times and the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly been one of those times. Fear has been an emotion shared by young and old alike: fear of getting the virus, fear of our loved ones getting sick and possibly battling this disease alone, fear of job or income loss, fear of what the future holds, and overall fear of the unknown. The news is bleak and most experts have advised we should limit our consumption of news.

And yet in the midst of this gripping fear, we have seen helpers step up to assist in ways large and small. We have seen first responders, doctors, nurses and other medical professionals put their lives in danger in order to help others. We have seen citizens from all walks of life reach out to ensure that their neighbors have food and supplies. Musicians have hosted virtual concerts to raise money for other musicians whose livelihood has been threatened. Restaurant owners have distributed food that had been ordered for a now shuttered restaurant. Children have made signs to thank those on the front lines of this epidemic. Teachers have created car parades to cheer up children and their parents who are away from their friends, teachers and school.

TAMHO members have also been helpers during the COVID-19 pandemic. You probably have not seen them highlighted on the evening news and maybe you haven't even been aware of their activities in the last few weeks. I want you to know that each and every organization has continued to operate in these difficult situations so that their clients' and staff needs have been met. They have also stepped up in other ways, including sewing their own masks to help ensure staff and client safety, hand writing notes to individuals in group homes to brighten their day, and assisting their local communities by expanding COVID-19 testing. They have responded quickly to a rapidly changing environment and have been creative and tireless in their efforts to keep services available to those who need them.

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This pandemic has created significant fear, to be sure, and nobody could have predicted all that would be required of helpers during this unprecedented time. Mr. Rogers and his mother were on target when they acknowledged so many caring people in the world and how that awareness helps reduce fear.

This pandemic has proven once again that TAMHO member organizations are among the finest. Despite tremendous obstacles, they have continued to exemplify the TAMHO values of “providing compassionate, prompt and effective treatment.”

Please join me in sending them a huge THANK YOU for their tireless efforts.

Commissioner Marie Williams Op-Ed: Tennessee Tough, Tennessee Strong, and Tennessee True

March 27, 2020 | Marie Williams, LCSW, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Dear Fellow Tennesseans,

I write to you at a time of great challenge for our state and local communities. Countless individuals have contacted me to express feelings of fear, anxiety, and stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. While we do not possess all the answers about the COVID-19 crisis, I am writing to offer suggestions that I hope will be instructive and empowering in the midst of such uncertainty. Pat Summit, the acclaimed Lady Volunteers coach, would no doubt give us a legendary pep talk if alive today. That pep talk might start with a quote of hers: "Attitude is a choice. Think positive thoughts daily. Believe in yourself."



Commissioner Marie Williams

What affects our attitude? Let's start with the basics: food, water, air, rest, and shelter. Proper nutrition and hydration have never been more important. Take in some fresh air on a walk around your neighborhood. Do what you can to get a good night's rest. Meditate on all the things we have to be grateful for at this time—our friends, family, loved ones and each other. [Daily you can join in and view motivational posts on our Facebook page at this link.](#) Be mindful of neighbors who are not fortunate enough to have ready access to these basics.

What else influences our attitude? Human connection. Social distancing is a big disruptor to our normal modes of human connection. With schools and churches closed, and many folks working from home, you can fulfill that need by calling a friend, video chatting with a relative, or simply sitting in a lawn chair in your front yard and talking to neighbors as they walk by.

Information and understanding are huge influencers of attitude. Please consume enough news to stay responsibly informed, but make sure it doesn't negatively affect your mental well-being. Turn to trusted sources like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Governor Bill Lee's office ([TN.gov/governor/covid-19](https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19)), and the Tennessee Department of Health to stay updated on the latest precautions and guidance. We have a wealth of information for mental healthcare consumers, families, and providers on a special page on our website: [TN.gov/behavioral-health/covid19](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/covid19) Understanding what's going on in your world can empower you to make the right decisions for you and your family and to become an active part of the response to this pandemic.

When it comes to mental health concerns that rise above the normal anxiety and stress, I encourage you to ask for help. It is okay to not *feel* okay. You are not alone in this, and you need not suffer the burden of anxiety and fear by yourself. Choose the method that works best for you, whether it's a long conversation with a trusted friend, accessing your employer's Employee Assistance Program, talking to your pastor, or reaching out to a therapist. In Tennessee, we have a 24/7/365 phone line for mental health crisis: 855-274-7471. We also have a free talk or text line for referral to addiction treatment: 800-889-9789.

Our state has a comprehensive network of dedicated and resourceful community behavioral health providers who are rising to meet the unique challenges of our current situation ([find a licensed provider in](#)

[your area at this link](#)). They offer safety net services to meet the needs mental health and substance abuse needs of uninsured individuals who have no means to pay. Thanks to new flexibility provided by Governor Lee and our federal partners, these providers are doing amazing things with telehealth to ensure that these essential services continue in a fashion that will reduce the risk to these vulnerable Tennesseans. And at our Regional Mental Health Institutes, we have an amazing team of professionals who are continuing to provide emergency psychiatric services to our state’s most vulnerable citizens. We are in constant contact with all of our resources to ensure that the mental health needs of our residents are being met.

We are proud of the leadership of our Governor, Department of Health, General Assembly, and employees at all levels of government working to lead us through this crisis. We are also grateful for the strong community response of medical professionals and first responders and countless instances of neighbors helping neighbors, though we know we are the Volunteer State. In closing, here is another quote from Coach Summitt that sums up what it’s going to take to get through this: “Teamwork is what makes common people capable of uncommon results.” We are Tennessee tough, Tennessee strong, and Tennessee true. May God continue to bless and keep us all.

Legislative Advocacy

2020 TAMHO Advocacy Day

TAMHO hosted its Advocacy Day on March 10. While it was only about a month ago, it feels like years ago. You see the world as we now know it had not revealed itself just yet. Sure, we all knew about the novel corona virus (while it had been coined COVID-19 at the time, few were using the term) we carried our hand sanitizer, wiped down our display table and took our cues from legislators on whether we would elbow bump, shake hands or hug. Times were different on March 10th, because there were still plenty of handshakes and hugs. In fact, it was one of the most encouraging Hill Days of my career. Legislators were engaged with us. They were well-versed on the issues. They shared our concerns. They offered to co-sponsor amendments. They even asked, “What more can I do?” Perhaps their reaction should not have been a surprise. After all, approximately 1 million Tennesseans experience mental illness each year; three Tennesseans die by suicide each day and five Tennesseans die from drug overdose. Behavioral health issues impact us all! We are all in this together and we thank the 111th General Assembly for standing with us!

Nearly 50 TAMHO members made more than 95 visits during TAMHO’s Hill Day. Advocates met with their legislators to advance TAMHO’s public policy agenda which included:

- A bill that would allow APN and PAs to treat opioid use disorder using buprenorphine within CMHCs and FQHCs. This bill passed in the House last session and passed in Senate Health and Welfare Committee on 3/11.
- An amendment that would support a rate increase for Community Mental Health Centers providing behavioral health services to Encore enrollees.
- Support for Governor Lee’s budget that included essential behavioral health funding for Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Programs, Children’s Behavioral Health Safety Net, Crisis Service, Creating Homes and Jobs Initiatives and expansion of School-based Behavioral Health Liaison and Criminal Justice Liaison Programs.

Because of the Pandemic and the need to “social distance” as well as the unknown impact this has had on Tennessee’s economy, the General Assembly recessed, passing a conservative budget



Alysia Smith Knight

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.



Tennessee Co-Occurring Disorders Collaborative (TNCODC)

The East TN COD Learning Community meeting was held on February 25th, 2020. The topic was Reentry and Recidivism and working with the criminal justice-involved population. The presentation and discussion was led by representatives from the Knox County Sheriff's Office Programs division.

Agencies shared their own experiences with this population and learned from the speakers on ways to get involved with the Jail system.

The Middle TN COD Learning Community meeting was held on March 12th, 2020. The topic was utilizing motivational interviewing as a tool to create buy-in and engagement with clients and staff members. The presentation was from Savak Millis, from Renewal House, who is also a TNCODC Learning Community Steering Member. Due to COVID-19 precautions, this meeting was held in-person with a online call-in option.

In response to feedback from Learning Community steering committee members, a webinar was held with Dr. Minkoff for Learning Community Members for the entire state. The topic was "Welcoming, Principle-Driven Co-Occurring Care during a time of Crisis." The goal and intention of this webinar was to provide practical tips and a resource for staff members as they navigate engagement with clients in the face of a crisis. The webinar included a 30-minute presentation and 15 -minute Q&A. The recording and associated presentation materials will be made available on the TNCODC SI site. The SI continues to obtain feedback and provide resources and support as needed during this time of crisis.



Mariam Hashimi



with hopes to resume in the summer to finalize its business. Please refer to page 10 for a list of budget enhancements for TDMHSAS and TennCare. While this year's legislative session took an unexpected turn, much like the rest of the world, TAMHO stays committed to being flexible and adjusting as necessary so that our members have what they need in order to provide quality behavioral health services to Tennesseans.

What's in your wellness toolkit?

Wellness Tools are simply things you have done in the past, or could do, to make yourself feel better. Things like healthful eating, talking with a friend, getting some physical activity, journaling, deep breathing, taking a walk outside in nature, drinking more water. What is important is that the tools you choose actually work for you. It may be helpful to make a list of these things and keep that list handy. We share evidence-based guidelines from Stanford University and the University of Colorado with peers who want to improve healthy behaviors, guidelines such as aiming for 5-7 servings of fruits and vegetables per day, choosing whole grains whenever possible, getting a good night's sleep, and making 30 minutes of physical activity most days a goal. One simple way to meal plan, something you may have heard of called the Plate Method, can be a helpful tool and you can find the USDA version at www.choosemyplate.gov and Harvard's version at <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/healthy-eating-plate/>

During this time of social distancing, most of our Peer Wellness Coaches have not been able to facilitate groups but they have been providing Wellness Coaching over the phone and via telehealth, and doing more outreach to check in with peers who are currently receiving services and those who have received services in the past. Many of our peers have been confused about whether or not they can leave their homes at all with shelter in place orders, and our coaches have been working to help ease their confusion and stress, and to help them set realistic goals of their choosing such as: Going outside for 15 minutes each day to get some fresh air and physical activity 5 days per week, making a list of hobbies – new ones or hobbies they haven't done in a while - to stay occupied during quarantine, making healthier meals by mixing half white with half whole-grain pasta, or adding whole wheat flour to muffin mix. The PWC's have reported seeing many positives as a result of peers getting to spend more time at home with their loved ones and, although some of the grandparents have reported having some difficulty helping their grandchildren with their school work, after doing brainstorming during coaching sessions many of them have been teaching the young ones new skills like how to sew, cook, do laundry, identify different bugs outdoors, and the art of simply spending quality time with your elders.



The possibilities are endless when it comes to choosing a wellness tool, and one of my go-to favorites is meditation, also called the Relaxation Response in one of the Wellness Curriculums we facilitate in our agencies – WHAM (Whole Health Action Management). To elicit the Relaxation Response, sit in a



Dina Savvenas



comfortable position and think of the words “breathing in” while taking a nice, deep breath in, and “breathing out” while exhaling slowly and fully. That’s it! Continue doing this for 3-5 minutes, thinking only of those words as you inhale and exhale and bringing your mind gently back to doing just that each time it wanders. This will become easier with practice. You may decide to start with 1 minute, adding more time whenever you are ready. A cell-phone timer works great for this.

While Peer Wellness is experiencing disruptions like everyone else at this time, our statewide trainings are now listed on our website at <https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/my-health-my-choice-my-life.html> Please check there for changes as we continue to monitor the covid-19 crisis. Be well!

Self-Care . . .

ARTICLE REPRINT | Metro Government of Nashville & Davidson County | March, 2020 | <https://www.nashville.gov/>

You cannot control everything life throws your way, but you can control how well you take care of yourself. It is natural to experience increased anxiety because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It can be difficult to know how to react, especially as news continually changes. We encourage you to take notice and prioritize your behavioral health. Here are a few tips to relieve stress in the coming weeks as we face this situation together:

Limit exposure to news:

- It is important to stay updated on what is happening regarding COVID-19, but too much information can be overwhelming.
- Set parameters that work for you. Consider checking the news 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the evening to ensure you have the most important updates.
- For specific information and updates about COVID-19, travel restrictions and precautions, turn to reliable websites such as this one, the CDC, NIH and WHO.

Consider your entire health.

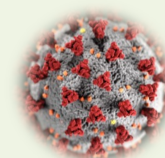
- Maintain a healthy diet that emphasizes fruits, vegetables and lean meats, and limits processed foods.
- Get at least 7-8 hours of regular sleep each night.
- Go outdoors for a walk or time in the sun. Aim for 30 minutes of exercise a day.
- Keep a journal to record your feelings, stressors and points of gratitude.

Enjoy life:

- With the CDC’s recommendations of social distancing in place, many of us will spend more time at home during these uncertain times than we are used to. Find creative ways to make the time enjoyable and rewarding.
- Start a new book, puzzle or TV series.
- Catch up with your family members over a cup of coffee or tea.

Resources for Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS)



<https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/covid19.html>

Tennessee Department of Health (TDH)

<https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov.html>

Tennessee Department of Children’s Services (TDCS)

<https://www.tn.gov/dcs/covid-19.html>

Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS)

<https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/humanservices/forfamilies/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/office-locator-family-assistance.html>

Bureau of TennCare

<https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/information-statistics/tenncare-information-about-coronavirus.html>

State of Tennessee, Office of Governor Bill Lee

<https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19.html>

CDC—Center for Disease Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
fbclid=IwAR0I2J49LbCZEPm3CnbLDISdfVw29QXT_OKL_aj7vr0IoSGPxy9rUxw4jwg

SAMHSA—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

<https://www.samhsa.gov/coronavirus>

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

<https://www.who.int/>

The National Council

<https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/covid19/>



TDMHSAS Receives Federal Grant for COVID-19 Response

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) announced they will be receiving a \$2 million federal grant to provide additional services in response to COVID-19 over the next 16 months. The grant will fund mental health and substance abuse treatment and recovery services.

The funding will be used to bolster the state's existing crisis services continuum, Behavioral Health Safety Net, and substance abuse treatment and recovery services.

"While the physical symptoms of the COVID-19 pandemic are visible almost immediately, this outbreak is going to have long-lasting behavioral health impacts that will rise to the surface and need attention in the coming months. This grant will allow the department to expand its services to best respond to the growing needs of Tennesseans," said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams, LCSW.

The department's grant proposal included a comprehensive implementation approach which includes five facets: assessment, capacity, planning, implementation, and evaluation. Services will be planned, developed, and delivered with a special focus on telehealth treatment to ensure statewide availability.

"We are grateful to our department staff who prepared this winning grant proposal on such short notice and to our community behavioral health providers who will deliver these essential services to people across our state," said Matt Yancey, LSCW, TDMHSAS Deputy Commissioner of Behavioral Health Community Programs.

- Pet and play with your dog or cat.
- Watch movies or listen to music.
- Pick up a new hobby – try photography or painting.

Seek help:

- If COVID-19 news is causing you deep anxiety or depression, please seek support from mental health professionals.
- This situation is unlike any other we have encountered and the disruption to our routines and sense of well-being can challenge us in new ways.

TAMHO Member Organization Happenings . . .

Although face-to-face services may have the doors closed at many physical service locations, TAMHO member agencies remain open and continue to serve those in need during this unprecedented time of uncertainty with unique means to meet client needs.

As with past disasters and infectious disease outbreaks, TAMHO member agencies stand ready to assist communities throughout Tennessee before, during, and after these situations.

Behavioral health issues do tend to increase during times of crisis. Individuals should view these conditions like any other healthcare concern and seek treatment or assistance.

Access to services can be located on the TAMHO website at <http://www.tamho.org/#services> or more immediately by calling the Tennessee Statewide Toll-Free Crisis Line, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 1-855-CRISIS-1 (1-855-274-7471).

Cherokee Health Systems expanding in Frayser

ARTICLE REPRINT | Daily Memphian | January 17, 2020 | Omer Yusuf | <https://dailymemphian.com/article/10089/cherokee-health-systems-expanding-services-frayser>

An East Tennessee-based health care organization is expanding its footprint in Frayser as part of Memphis Business Academy's \$15 million Harmony Plaza development.

Cherokee Health Systems confirmed plans to be one of the new tenants when renovations are completed for the development this fall. A building permit for a nearly \$1 million health care clinic in Harmony Plaza was filed Dec. 19 at 2146 Frayser Blvd.

The anchor tenant at Harmony Plaza will be Memphis STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Academy. The academy is operated by charter school operator Memphis Business Academy, founded in 2005, and currently operates at 2450 Frayser Blvd.

The development at Harmony Plaza represents the most significant renovation of a longtime blighted property in Frayser, officials there say.

Memphis Business Academy executive director and founder Anthony Anderson called its partnership with Cherokee a "game-changer" for the Frayser community.

In addition to traditional health care services, Cherokee specializes in integral and behavioral



health care, and Anderson believes the proximity to those services will be valuable for students and their families.

“Urban children deal with trauma every day,” Anderson said. “They see kids being shot; they see people being shot. They go to homes where the lights are cut off. That’s trauma.”

The 13,000-square-foot facility will be Cherokee’s second clinic in the Frayser area. The nonprofit health care organization, which served nearly 70,000 people last year, has another location at 2574 Frayser Blvd. Cherokee has 24 clinics in 13 counties statewide.

Chief clinical officer Dr. Parinda Khatri said Cherokee is committed to “whole person care.”

“You may see a child just with a sore throat, but it’s also important to recognize food insecurity (may be) present,” Khatri said. “Have they been exposed to violence or abuse? Do they have a safe and stable place to sleep at night? That all affects their overall health and well-being.”

Khatri said Cherokee also wants to recognize the strengths of the Frayser community — one being its resiliency.

“Our hope is to help enhance those strengths and help people recognize they can be resilient, and even if they are facing a number of challenging social determinants of health, they do have the capacity to adapt and rise above,” Khatri said.

Renovations on Harmony Plaza are expected to be completed in time for the 2020-21 school year.

The new Memphis STEM Academy building is expected to have 400 students and feature new classrooms, labs, a multipurpose room, library, administrative offices and athletic facilities.

The \$15 million Harmony Plaza renovation is being financed in part with a New Markets Tax Credit program deal through HOPE Credit Union, SunTrust Community Capital, Boston-based nonprofit BlueHub Capital and the Philadelphia-based Nonprofit Finance Fund.

State leaders visit school-based mental health program in Lake County

School-Based Behavioral Health Liaison Program

Commissioner Marie Williams and leaders with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) recently visited Ridgely, Tennessee to see the department’s School-Based Behavioral Health Liaison program in action.

Services are offered at Lara Kendall Elementary School in partnership with Carey Counseling Center.

Lake County is one of 36 counties currently receiving School-Based Behavioral Health Liaison services. Under Governor Bill Lee’s FY21 budget, the department will receive an additional \$3,014,300 to expand the program to all 95 counties in Tennessee.



Carey Counseling Center, Inc.



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United States®
Census
2020

[https://2020
census.gov/](https://2020census.gov/)

Get Counted!

It's important for all of us to get counted so funding for services flows into the places it is needed. Please <https://2020census.gov/> to be counted.

TAMHO MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

As staff of our member agencies are busy responding to the recent and on-going disaster response and infectious disease needs of citizens across Tennessee, we are postponing this feature and look forward to the member highlight returning next quarter.

**Governor
Bill Lee
Names
Stephen Smith
Director of TennCare**

Governor Bill Lee recently announced the appointment of Stephen Smith as the Director of Tennessee's Division of TennCare, the state's Medicaid program that provides health care for approximately 1.4 million Tennesseans.

"I am pleased to announce that Stephen Smith will be the new Director of TennCare," said Gov. Bill Lee. "I am confident that his leadership will keep TennCare as a leader in the nation, and my administration appreciates his willingness to continue serving our state."

Smith currently serves as deputy director and chief of staff for the Division of TennCare where he manages multiple program areas, including policy, legal and legislative affairs, budget and finance, and information technology. Before that, he served in former Governor Haslam's administration in a variety of roles, including chief of staff, policy director, senior advisor, and deputy commissioner for policy and external affairs at the Tennessee Department of Education.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Nashville Law School, Smith resides in Nashville with his wife, Christina, and their

Centerstone partners with Blue Ridge Pharmacy

Nashville-based behavioral health nonprofit Centerstone has announced a partnership with Asheville-based Blue Ridge Pharmacy to manage three on-site pharmacies at clinics in Tennessee.

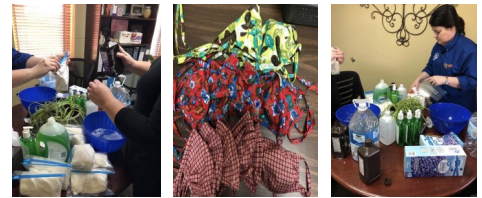


The partnership will streamline prescription delivery and increase accessibility for patients, according to a press release.

"Offering pharmacy services in our continuum of care is part of Centerstone's commitment to delivering care that changes people's lives," Centerstone Regional CEO Bob Vero said in the release. "We're excited about our partnership with Blue Ridge Pharmacy and working together to coordinate care and maximize positive healthcare outcomes."

Staff at Professional Care Services of West TN step-up in response to PPE shortage

Jimmie Jackson, Executive Director/CEO of PCS, recently shared his pride in the hard work and collective efforts of the staff at CPS during the time of crisis being experienced. Even though they have scaled back many of their services, PCS continues to deliver significant amounts of essential behavioral health and substance abuse services. In many ways, the agency has completely redesigned their delivery process. The collective efforts demonstrates their workforce's resiliency, innovation, and spirit to serve PCS patients.



Due to the shortage of approved cleaning supplies and PPE, management took it upon themselves to make their very own. Staff, and even family members of staff, created homemade masks, too. All items followed the CDC guidelines.

Kathy Benedetto receives 2020 Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award

Kathy A. Benedetto SPE, LPC, LMFT is the 2020 recipient of Tennessee Council on Children and Youth (TCCY) Jim Pryor award. Jim Pryor was an attorney, a former assistant district attorney, a member of the state Child Sexual Abuse Task Force, and an active member of the Northeast Regional Council on Children and Youth. He was an excellent advocate for children and youth. Mr. Pryor passed away in 1995 and each year, TCCY bestows this award to another outstanding children and youth advocate.



**Kathy
Benedetto**

No one is more deserving than Ms. Benedetto, who actually worked with Mr. Pryor when he was Assistant District Attorney. She recently retired as Senior Vice President for Tennessee Children's Services for Frontier Health.

For more than 40 years, Ms. Benedetto has been a long-time advocate for children, youth and their families and has advanced the mental health treatment options available for them in Northeast Tennessee.

In her role as a member of TAMHO, Ms. Benedetto attended each TAMHO Advocacy Day, ensuring that legislators in both the House and Senate understood the impacts that legislation or budget proposals would have on children, youth and families in her community and across the state. When TennCare began developing its Health Home and Episodes of Care models, Ms. Benedetto was right there at the table standing up and speaking out about the needs of children and the impacts to their families and was successful in influencing those decisions.

Ms. Benedetto has been passionate about suicide prevention for many years. She was the 2019 recipient of the Madge and Ken Tullis Suicide Prevention Award in recognition of her contributions to suicide prevention and awareness over her career. She was appointed to the Governor's Juvenile Justice Reform Implementation Council and is a Board member for the Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee (AIMHiTN), two roles she will continue throughout retirement.

Ms. Benedetto fervently believes that behavioral health services should be accessible to children. This is why she led the effort to secure Safe Schools programs in five school systems as well as early intervention, prevention and school-based mental health services in eight school systems.

Ms. Benedetto has strived to get behavioral health services in all school districts in Northeast TN and accomplished that goal in 2019!

Ms. Benedetto has been advocating for mental health liaisons in the juvenile courts in her region for years. In 2018, Ms. Benedetto was instrumental in helping secure funding from the Juvenile Justice Reform Grant that allowed Frontier Health to place mental health liaisons in every juvenile court in Northeast Tennessee to facilitate the connection between juvenile justice services and mental health treatment.

Working with a population that often is unable to speak up and seek services on their own, Kathy Benedetto has made every effort to ensure that children and youth have all the available opportunities to lead productive, fulfilling lives. Without a doubt, she has a lifelong commitment to serving the needs of children, youth and families and expanding services both locally and statewide, making her an ideal candidate for the 2020 Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award.

Mental health care is on everyone's minds

One area clinic is standing by ready to help military families

A recent study released by Cohen Veteran's Network (CVN) shows Americans are concerned about their mental health during this coronavirus pandemic. With more than 90 percent of the U.S. population under some form of stay-at-home order, and physical distancing in place, the situation is beginning to have an impact on peoples' state of mind and bringing mental health care to the forefront. The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Centerstone in Clarksville, Tenn. wants area veterans and military family members to know its behavioral health providers are on call to help them navigate these difficult times.



The Steven A. Cohen
Military Family Clinic
at Centerstone

According to CVN's COVID-19 Pulse Study, 58 percent of the 2,000 U.S. adults surveyed are concerned about their mental health because of social distancing. Two-thirds reported feeling anxious; half cite feeling lonely or isolated and are having trouble sleeping due to the pandemic. Additionally, 80 percent of respondents said they're also worried people who need mental health services won't be able to get help.

Lisa Eggebeen, regional director of the Cohen Clinic at Centerstone said, "We are all facing this crisis and should never feel alone, but for some military families this pandemic is causing additional unique challenges such as cancelled welcome home ceremonies, delayed redeployments, travel restrictions, duty station changes and much more. This population has earned our help and we are here to provide it."

The Cohen Clinic at Centerstone, located at 775 Weatherly Drive, may have temporarily closed its physical doors due to COVID-19 response guidelines, but staff continue to remain ready for business. Already equipped with telehealth capabilities; intake, clinicians, case management and

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



support staff transitioned quickly to offering services virtually and are now meeting with clients via video or phone wherever they are located.

“It’s amazing really,” Julie Adams, the clinic’s lead clinician who also facilitates the team’s weekly meeting now via Zoom, said. “Clients who were once concerned that telehealth would not be as effective as in-person therapy are thriving in this new environment and are making great strides in treatment. It’s been a seamless transition for our team and it’s wonderful to see our clients making the adjustment so well and still striving for back to better.”

The Cohen Clinic at Centerstone front desk staff play a vital role in the clinic’s conversion to telehealth. They too are set up remotely and are available to book same-day appointments.

“Our hours are staying the same, just as if the clinic doors were open,” Office Manager, Lindsey Chantler said. “We are here to support our military families through this difficult time and we’ve taken all the steps to ensure we do it well.”

This includes reinstating the clinic’s community room enrichment opportunities in a virtual setting. At this time, staff members are identifying potential online classes, such as Arts for Hearts crafts events and a “learn to crochet” class.

“We really strive to be more than a mental health clinic,” Outreach Director, Meghan Williams said. “One thing that has always made the Cohen Clinic at Centerstone unique is the passion our staff holds for supporting our military families. For us that means being a community hub for social interaction and encouraging relationships, now we’re simply searching for new ways to do that.”

For more information on the Cohen Clinic at Centerstone, visit www.centerstone.org/cohen or call 1-877-HOPE123.

Statewide Happenings . . .

Legislature passed a budget and recessed until June 1

The Legislature passed an amended budget late and recessed on March 19, with a possible return date of June 1. The quick recess means that any legislation that had not been addressed prior to that time will be addressed when the Legislature re-convenes. In light of the significant impact of the COVID-19 virus on the state’s economy, in amending his budget, the Governor reduced projected economic growth for both the current fiscal year and the 20/21 fiscal year and deleted most of his signature legislation in order to maintain state services. Many new items we had hoped would be funded were deleted from the budget.

All of the budget news is not bleak, however, and a few key DMHSAS budget items **are** funded beginning July 1 including:

- Expansion of the school based liaisons - \$3.4 million recurring (new funding)
- Children’s behavioral health safety net - \$7.5 million recurring (new funding)
- Naltrexone in Recovery Courts - \$1 million non-recurring
- East TN Hospital funding - \$1 million non-recurring

TennCare’s budget includes the additional \$3.1 million in new TennCare funding for crisis services and salary improvement for Masters level staff in CCFT programs.

TDMHSAS announces Project Rural Recovery

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) is receiving a \$10 million federal grant to take behavioral services to the rural Tennesseans who need them the most. The funding will be spread over five years and will fund a pair of mobile health clinics to address the behavioral health and physical health needs of residents in ten rural Tennessee Counties.

The counties served by the mobile health clinics are clustered in Middle Tennessee (Lawrence, Lewis, Marshall, Perry, and Wayne Counties) and East Tennessee (Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hancock, and Jefferson Counties). Counties were chosen based on distressed status and need for services. The department will be doing this work in partnership with community behavioral health providers Buffalo Valley, Inc. and Helen Ross McNabb Center.

“In his very first executive order, Governor Lee challenged us all to take stock of how we serve rural Tennesseans and to do more and to do better. With Project Rural Recovery, we’re thinking outside the box to create mobile clinics that will overcome infrastructure limitations in our rural areas. As our communities respond to COVID-19, these mobile clinics will allow us to create better access to services,” said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams, LCSW. “We are truly grateful to our federal partners, our Governor for his leadership, our community providers, and our team at the department. This grant is going to have a legendary impact for years to come.”

The goals of Project Rural Recovery are to create a model of care in rural Tennessee that unites primary care and behavioral health and to engage and treat Tennesseans who are underserved by current service delivery methods. Once fully implemented, the goal of the program is to serve about 2,000 Tennesseans at about 4,800 clinic visits per year.



TDMHSAS Staffing Announcements

The department made several key staffing changes just before the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, and they have proved to be very valuable.



First, the department welcomed Heather Gundersen back as our Deputy Commissioner of Administrative and Regulatory Services. Heather previously served as our Executive IT Director and worked with the Department of Finance and Administration as the Domain Director for TDMHSAS and other departments with similar roles. Heather's first week back at TDMHSAS was our last week in office, and she has hit the ground running. Heather's leadership and work have been truly legendary in getting supplies from PPE to laptops out to the people who need them.

Ty Thornton very ably stepped into the newly-created role of Chief of Staff. Ty has served the people of Tennessee faithfully for the last 15 years and the department for the last 10 years. His knowledge, demeanor, and persistent nature have proved priceless in this current situation and will make him very successful long-term in this new role.



Leandra Mitchell is stepping into the role of Deputy General Counsel. Previously, Leandra served as Assistant Deputy Counsel, and in her time at the department, she has proven herself to be a dedicated, wise, and trusted advisor. With Quinn Simpson on maternity leave, Leandra is also taking on responsibility for contracts as we approach the new state fiscal year.



Finally, congratulations to Alex King and Amanda Pettry. Alex has been promoted to Deputy Assistant Commissioner in the Division of Administrative & Regulatory Services. Amanda has been promoted to Director of Licensure.



While we've had a lot of change in a short amount of time over the first few months of 2020, these changes have made us a stronger department and increased our capacity to serve the people of Tennessee both in times of crisis and after this storm passes.

Jennifer Armstrong Appointed New TDMHSAS Director of the Office of Crisis and Suicide Prevention Services



Jennifer Armstrong, LPC-MHSP has been named as the new Director of the Office of Crisis and Suicide Prevention Services at TDMHSAS. With over 20 years' experience in behavioral healthcare, Jennifer has

experience in therapeutic foster care, school-based, residential, outpatient and crisis services.

In her prior role at Centerstone, Jennifer served as the Vice President of Customer Engagement Operations, providing oversight for Customer Engagement Initiatives, including development and implementation of Centerstone's multi-state Customer Engagement Center, a single point of access for all Centerstone consumers and new inquiries. Additionally, she was responsible for providing leadership and day-to-day management of a multi-site engagement operation for Centerstone, including but not limited to customer satisfaction and enhancing the customer treatment experience. Prior to this, Jennifer's work, for almost a decade, included oversight of Centerstone's Crisis Care Services, including the multi medium, national crisis call center. In addition, she served as program director for TDMHSAS's TARGET and Connect federal suicide prevention grants.

Jennifer received a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from the University of Tennessee at Martin, and a Master's of Science in Clinical Social Work from the University of Tennessee at Memphis. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor with Mental Health Service Provider Designation.

Jennifer currently serves on the Standards, Training and Practice Committee for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, is a Board Member for the National Association of Crisis Organization Directors, and is a national site accreditor for Contact USA. She was named a 2016 Healthcare Hero by the Nashville Business Journal.

Jennifer resides in Nolensville, TN, with her husband, Chad and her two daughters, 13-year-old Reece and 11-year-old Bricyn.

Jennifer can be reached at Jennifer.Armstrong@tn.gov or 615-532-6580.

Our children are little heros, too.

- Missing their grandparents, extended family, friends and school.
- Lack of normal routines. Loss of structure to their day.
- Parents who are stressed, worried, scared and just *different*.
- Overhearing talk and news without an understanding of what they hear.

NoCrySolution.com

Give your little hero more cuddles, more one-on-one playtime, and an extra dose of patience and forgiveness.

TDMHSAS expands successful jail diversion program

New round of grants to focus on rural, underserved, and distressed counties | Congratulations to TAMHO members Pathways, Volunteer and Ridgeview for being awarded grant funding through the Pre-Arrest Diversion Infrastructure – Capital Grants program!

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) is excited to announce the expansion of a successful program to divert people from jail into mental health treatment services. Pathways Behavioral Health, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, and Morgan County Government have been recommended for grants through the Pre-Arrest Diversion Infrastructure – Capital Grants program.

Governor Bill Lee budgeted and the Tennessee General Assembly appropriated \$1.5 million in one-time, non-recurring funding for pre-arrest diversion capital grants in the FY20 Budget. The goal of pre-arrest diversion is to reduce or eliminate the time individuals with mental health, substance use, or co-occurring disorders spend incarcerated by redirecting them from the criminal justice system to community-based treatment and supports.

Applicants were asked to focus on rural, underserved, and distressed areas of the state with emphasis on local community investment to sustain programming after the capital grant. Selected agencies have designed programs to serve residents of at least eleven rural counties including two distressed counties.

“We’ve seen the amazing effect that our first round of pre-arrest diversion sites have had improving the lives of Tennesseans struggling with mental illness, and we are excited that this set of grants will serve people in rural areas of the state,” said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams, LCSW. “Mental illness truly does not discriminate by zip code, and these grants will be an immense benefit to the people who are connected to services and a relief to local law enforcement to help their neighbors in need.”

Grant recommendations were made by TDMHSAS, in consultation with the Department of Finance and Administration, and will be administered by the Department of General Services. After approval by the State Building Commission, each of the three grantees will receive \$500,000 to implement the program they designed for their communities. Designs include:

Pathways Behavioral Health: Crisis services including a walk-in-center and crisis stabilization unit located in Humboldt to connect clients to treatment and services for Gibson, Crockett, Dyer, Obion, Lake, Weakley, Benton, Carroll, and Haywood Counties

Volunteer/Hiwassee Mental Health Center: Crisis services will be expanded to include a 24/7 walk-in-center with observation and respite services located in Cleveland to serve Bradley and surrounding counties.

An existing crisis stabilization unit in Hamilton County will be available to support the expanded crisis services.

Morgan County Government: In partnership with Ridgeview Behavioral Health, facility for co-located community services in Wartburg, Morgan County

“General Services is honored to serve as a partner in providing help to individuals struggling with mental illness through the Capital Grants program,” said Department of General Services Commissioner Christi Branscom. “Through the administering of this funding, TDMHSAS will be able to reach these individuals in rural, underserved, and distressed counties and drastically improve their lives as well as their local communities.”

In the initial round of Pre-Arrest Diversion Infrastructure Program grants, seven grantees received funding to create or expand jail diversion options in Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Cookeville, Jackson, and Morristown. In state fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19, pre-arrest diversion sites connected 7,180 people with mental health treatment instead of incarceration at an estimated savings of more than \$9.8 million to local partners. Additionally, more than 4,500 law enforcement officers and nearly 800 behavioral health professionals received training.

To learn more about pre-arrest diversion efforts in Tennessee, visit this link: TN.gov/behavioral-health/prearrest

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SAFETY NET

TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

34,450 PEOPLE SERVED IN FY2019

Behavioral Health Safety Net of Tennessee provides essential mental health services to people who are uninsured, underinsured, or have no means to pay.

TOP SERVICES

- Assessment and Evaluation
- Case Management
- Psychiatric Medication Management
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services
- Therapeutic Interventions

CURRENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Primary Qualifying Mental Health Diagnosis
- No other behavioral health coverage
- Income at or below 138% FPL
- 18 Years of age or older
- Tennessee Resident

IMPORTANT FACTS

- 146 Office Locations Statewide
- Outpatient Services Only
- Behavioral health medication provided through CoverRx
- Is not insurance or part of TennCare

PROVIDER NETWORK

WEST		MIDDLE	EAST	
Alliance Healthcare Services 901-369-1400	LifeCare Family Services 901-800-4645	Centerstone of TN 888-291-4357	Cherokee Health 866-231-4477	Helen Ross McNabb 865-637-9711 423-266-6751
Carey Counseling 800-611-7757	Behavioral Health 731-541-8200	LifeCare Family Services 877-881-0359	Frontier Health 855-336-9327	Mental Health Cooperative 423-697-5950
Case Management, Inc. 901-821-5600	Professional Care Services 877-727-2778	Mental Health Cooperative 615-726-3340	Peninsula 865-970-9800	
Cherokee Health Systems 866-231-4477	Quinco Community MHC 800-532-6339	Volunteer Behavioral Health 877-567-6051	Ridgeview 800-834-4178	Volunteer Behavioral Health 877-567-6051

Link for more information: tn.gov/behavioral-health/safety-net

State Departments appeal to retirees and Master’s program students to meet potential workforce needs

Departments respond proactively to potential needs caused by COVID-19 Pandemic

The commissioners of Tennessee’s Departments of Children’s Services (DCS) and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) are asking for individuals who are students who have earned or are pursuing a master’s degree or are retired from counseling, clinical therapy, social work, and related fields to consider joining the workforce in the event there are workforce needs caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

The four state-operated psychiatric hospitals, known as Regional Mental Health Institutes, have immediate openings in many job classifications. The RMHIs also have entry-level Psychiatric Technician and other positions available which could be a fit for workers displaced from food- service or hospitality jobs. RMHI locations include Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga, and Bolivar, Tennessee.

“We know this is an unprecedented situation, and Governor Lee has asked us all to be agile in our staffing practices to meet the needs of our state. Tennessee has a wealth of professionals with both a head and a heart to help our state’s most vulnerable citizens,” said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams, LCSW.

The Department of Children’s Services is building a register of retired DCS case managers or masters-level students who are interested in part-time employment working with children and families. DCS is also currently hiring part time security officers and other support staff at Wilder Youth Development Center in west Tennessee.

“COVID-19 has caused the operations of many businesses and families to pause. It does not however, permit our department to do the same. The needs of the children and families we serve will continue and we must be ready. Having a pool of social work professionals who desire to serve during this crisis will help ensure Tennessee’s children are safe and thriving,” said DCS Commissioner Jennifer Nichols.

Individuals interested in submitting their information should visit: [TN.gov/behavioral-health/jobinfo](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/jobinfo).

Nationwide Happenings . . .

National Council Hill Day

Twenty-one million people in the U.S. currently struggle with substance use addiction. Mental illness touches the lives of one in five Americans. And suicide rates have been steadily rising for the past decade.

At Hill Day 2020, your advocacy can make a difference in the lives of countless people who need support. Speak up and ensure they get the help they need!

Let’s UNITE on Capitol Hill to tell Congress about critical legislation that would help respond to the addiction crisis, fight for parity, increase our workforce, educate about Mental Health First Aid and call for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) to finally be possible in every state across our nation.

Personal stories are crucial to educating legislators about the realities that impact our communities every day. Stand up and be heard!

Join the National Council and our advocacy partners June 23-24, 2020, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C.

Make a difference for those living with addiction and mental health.

The banner features a red background with a white banner across the middle. On the left, it says "SAVE THE DATE: HILL DAY 2020 JUNE 23-24, 2020 HYATT REGENCY, WASHINGTON, D.C." in white and blue text. In the center, the "HILL DAY" logo is displayed in large, bold, white letters with a blue outline, and below it, the slogan "OUR VOICES ARE LOUDER TOGETHER" is written in blue. To the right, there is a faint image of the U.S. Capitol dome. At the top of the banner, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Instagram, along with a navigation menu that includes "Hill Day Basics", "Program", "Partners and Supporters", and "Get Ready for Hill Day".

WHO gives advice on handling mental health toll from the Coronavirus

ARTICLE REPRINT | Recovery Update — Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | March 17, 2020

CNBC | The World Health Organization acknowledged that the coronavirus is causing stress in the global population and published mental health tips that include specific advice for health-care workers, caretakers of children or older adults, and people in isolation. The guidelines, which were released last week, were developed by WHO's mental health department and provide considerations for the general population. WHO advised people to not attach the coronavirus to any ethnicity or nationality. [READ MORE at CNBC](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update and Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently hosted a Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update and Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations webinar. The webinar was targeted toward all health care providers and provided clinicians with updated information on implementing infection prevention and control measures, assessing risks for exposures, and optimizing the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies. [CLICK HERE](#) for a copy of the slides [<https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/ppt/2020/>]
[COCA Call 03 13 20 Infection Prevention Control Guidance FINAL.pdf](#)

NAMI Board of Directors names Daniel H. Gillison, Jr. as new Chief Executive

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness and their families, today announced the appointment of Daniel H. Gillison, Jr. as Chief Executive Officer effective January 21, 2020.

"On behalf of the NAMI Board of Directors, we welcome Mr. Gillison, the incoming CEO for our organization who, with the mission-driven commitment and dedication of NAMI staff, will take NAMI into 2020 and a great future," said NAMI Board President, Adrienne Kennedy. "With his broad knowledge of the mental health movement and varied background in the non-profit and public sectors, Gillison's experience is a natural complement to NAMI's decades of representing individuals, families and mental health advocates."

The CEO search process was led by a NAMI Board of Director's search committee, assisted by the executive search firm Bridge Partners. Launching a nationwide search, the firm identified candidates with the values and leadership qualities necessary to ensure the future growth of the organization and its 650 state and local affiliates throughout the U.S.

"After a thorough search process, Dan Gillison emerged as the right person to lead NAMI," said Dave Stafford, NAMI Board treasurer, and Chair of the Search Committee. "Dan's experience in mental health and his servant leadership style makes him an ideal fit to lead NAMI to even greater future success."

Reflecting on his appointment as the new CEO, Gillison stated, "I am humbled by the opportunity to lead and work with an organization that has made such an enormous impact on how we address mental illness in this country. I am inspired by the people who work with and for NAMI and by their commitment to making a difference. As I begin my work with the organization, I want to thank each and every person, leader, board member, state organization and affiliate for what you do. I deeply respect the advances that NAMI has made over the last 40 years. Now we are at a tipping point where we have an opportunity to build on that great legacy and do even more."

Gillison comes to NAMI after the last seven years in non-profit leadership, first with the National Association of Counties (NACo) and most recently as the head of the American Psychiatric Association Foundation (APAF). As Executive Director of APAF, Gillison has been responsible for strategic planning, personnel management, board communications, oversight of APAF's public education programs and outreach, and formulating strategic alliances and partnerships to further APAF's mission. Prior to APAF, Gillison led County Solutions and Innovation for NACo where he was instrumental in repositioning the organization's programs to provide expertise in health and human services, justice and public safety.

I am thrilled we are welcoming Dan Gillison as NAMI's CEO," said Shirley Holloway, NAMI Board First Vice President. "Mr. Gillison brings passion, a comprehensive understanding of mental health communities and the organizational acumen to lead NAMI into a bright future."

In addition to his work in non-profit management, Gillison brings extensive private sector experience, first with Xerox and then in leading special divisions in the telecommunications industry including divisions within Sprint and Nextel Communications.

Steve Pittman, past president of the NAMI Board, and Chair of the Governance Committee also commented, "Dan Gillison comes to NAMI with a resume that prepares him to address the challenges and opportunities before us. Dan's leadership experiences align well with the new NAMI Strategic Plan."

Acknowledging the work of NAMI leadership and staff, Kennedy emphasized, "We are extremely proud of the organization's focused work throughout this transition. Angela Kimball, Acting CEO, has guided us through these past months with great purpose and focus. We are indebted to Angela and to all the staff for resilience, resolve and steadfast commitment to NAMI, to our mission and to those we serve."

For more information, please visit <https://www.nami.org/Press-Media/Press-Releases/2019/NAMI-Board-of-Directors-Names-Daniel-H-Gillison-Jr-As-New-Chief-Executive>

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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.



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2020 & 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCES

December 10-11, 2020

December 9-10, 2021

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FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

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Please contact the TAMHO office for more information about TAMHO, member organizations, collaborative arrangements with TAMHO, or contributing to the content of future editions of the Newsletter.

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