

## Message from the Executive Director

### Happy 2019!

This year has brought us a new Governor, a new Cabinet, many new Legislators, and will soon bring a new budget for fiscal year 2020 that starts July 1, 2019. We congratulate Governor Bill Lee on his successful gubernatorial campaign. We are so pleased Governor Lee recognized Commissioner Marie Williams' expertise and passion for this work and invited her to remain in her position at TDMHSAS. Other cabinet appointments are described on pages 12-13 of this newsletter.



**Elyn Wilbur**  
Executive Director

Governor Lee has outlined five priorities: K-12 education, criminal justice, mental health, health care and rural economic development. The administration has asked each state department to provide information on how they would make a 2% budget reduction and also where they would add revenue and why.

TDMHSAS budget presentation included cost increases in the areas of:

- additional \$6,194,900 to cover costs of operations at the

4 Regional Mental Health Institutes;

- additional \$9,625,300 to add 3 – 5 additional locations for pre-arrest diversion; 1,000,000 to provide Naltrexone in Recovery Courts; and \$1,125,300 to add an additional 10 Criminal Justice Liaisons to serve 42 additional counties;
- \$1,000,000 to support the East TN private psychiatric hospitals; and,
- \$500,000 for Youth and Adult Mental Health Awareness and Promotion.

Should budget reductions become necessary, TDMHSAS would reduce the total number of Peer Support Centers from 45 to 42 and the 400 individuals currently served in those 3 locations would be referred to other sites to receive ongoing support.

Commissioner Williams' budget is robust and expands effective services known to be effective. In addition, they echo Governor Lee's priorities, so we are hopeful that these items will be funded and that no budget reductions will be required.

Details and other budgets of interest can be found at this link: <https://web.nowuseeit.tn.gov/Mediasite/Catalog/catalogs/mediasiteadmin-tn-budget-hearings-2019>

Lee's budget is expected to be finalized by Feb. 8. He is set to address the legislature for his first State of the State address on March 4.

We look forward to working with the new administration and helping support the priorities that have been set.



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**TAMHO LEADERSHIP**

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- President**  
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- President Elect**  
Jimmie Jackson | Professional Care Services of West TN
- Immediate Past President**  
Brian Buuck | Ridgeview
- Treasurer**  
Richard French | Carey Counseling Center
- Secretary**  
Florence Hervey | Case Management, Inc.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Memphis | Gene Lawrence, Executive Director
- Carey Counseling Center**  
Paris | Robert D. Vaughn, Executive Director
- Case Management, Inc.**  
Memphis | E. Florence Hervey, Chief Executive Officer
- Centerstone of Tennessee**  
Nashville | Robert N. Vero, EdD, Chief Executive Officer
- Cherokee Health Systems**  
Knoxville | Dennis S. Freeman, PhD, Executive Director
- Frontier Health**  
Gray | Kristie Hammonds, CEO
- Helen Ross McNabb Center**  
Knoxville | Jerry Vagnier, CEO
- Pathways Behavioral Health Services**  
Jackson | Pam Henson, Executive Director
- Peninsula-a Division of Parkwest Medical Center**  
Knoxville | Liz Clary, Vice Pres. – Behavioral Services
- Professional Care Services of West TN, Inc.**  
Covington | Jimmie Jackson, Executive Director/CEO
- Quinco Mental Health Center**  
Bolivar | Marlin Medlin, Executive Director
- Ridgeview**  
Oak Ridge | Brian Buuck, Chief Executive Officer
- Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System**  
Murfreesboro | Chris Wyre, CEO/President

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

- Vanderbilt Community Mental Health Center**  
Nashville | George Hunter, Executive Director

**AFFILIATE MEMBERS**

- AIM Center**  
Chattanooga | Rodney Battles, President
- Generations Mental Health Center**  
McMinnville | Kathy G. Campbell, President/CEO
- LifeCare Family Services**  
Nashville | Kenny Mauck, CEO/Executive Director
- Lowenstein House, Inc.**  
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 Williams
- Director of Member Services | Teresa Fuqua
- Director of Administrative Services | Laura B. Jean
- Project Manager TNCODC | Patrick Slay
- Statewide Peer Wellness Coach | Dina Savvenas
- Meeting Assistant | Carrie Ligon

## TAMHO's Successful 2018 Annual Conference Focused on Technology and Behavioral Health

In early December, approximately 245 people attended the TAMHO Annual Conference at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Hotel in Franklin, Tennessee. The conference brought together some of the leading experts to focus on understanding the impact and implications of technology and how it relates to behavioral health.

The event also included the annual TAMHO Awards and Recognition Ceremony. The highlights of the conference and ceremony are covered in the following pages.

**VIEW PHOTO GALLERY OR DOWNLOAD CONFERENCE PHOTOS BY VISITING:** <https://hisimage.shootproof.com/gallery/TAMHO-2018/>

**ACCESS AND DOWNLOAD SESSION HANDOUTS BY VISITING** <http://www.tamho.org/tamho-2018-annual-conference>

## TAMHO AWARDS AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM



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.

### President's Award

The Honorable Rusty Crowe,  
Tennessee State Senate

The Honorable Bob Ramsey,  
Tennessee House of Representatives



CROWE



RAMSEY

### Frank G. Clement Community Service Award

Albert Menefee, III (*posthumously*)  
Centerstone Board of Directors



MENEFEE

### Dorothea Dix Professional Service Award

Becky Stoll, Vice President for Crisis and Disaster Management, Centerstone

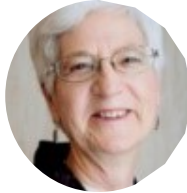


STOLL



### Distinguished Service Award

Teresa Kidd, PhD, President and CEO,  
Frontier Health



KIDD



GOINS

### Personal Courage Award

Angela Goins, Senior Program Counselor, Peninsula

### Media Award

The Tennessean | Editorial Staff



### Media Award - Best Use of Social Media

Joy McCray, Frontier Health Foundation



McCRAJ

### Program of Excellence Award

Helen Ross McNabb Center - Behavioral  
Health Urgent Care Center (BHUCC)



Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System  
- CHOICES Program.



During the event, our professional photographer captured many photos of our valued supporters and participants.

Please visit <https://hisimage.shootproof.com/gallery/TAMHO-2018/> to view these captures.

The downloads are complimentary but we do ask that, when possible, you give photographic credits to our photographer Tony Young.



## PLANNING & 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/2019-regional-  
council-meeting-  
schedule.html](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/research/data--research--and-planning/planning/planning/council-overview/2019-regional-council-meeting-schedule.html)

### DIRECT QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES TO:

**Avis Easley**  
(615) 253-6397  
Avis.Easley@tn.gov

**Amy Holland**  
(615) 253-3785  
Amy.Holland@tn.gov





### TAMHO Thanks the 2018 Leadership Team and Elects Leadership for 2019

The Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) recently elected officers for 2019 at the organization’s annual meeting held in Franklin, Tennessee.

**Jerry Vagnier**, CEO, Helen Ross McNabb Center, Knoxville, TN, will serve as **President**. He will succeed **Teresa Kidd**, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, Frontier Health, Gray, TN, who will remain on the Board as **Immediate Past President**. **Jimmie Jackson**, Executive Director, Professional Care Services of West TN was elected **President Elect**. **Richard French**, Fiscal Director, Carey Counseling Center, Paris, TN will remain on the Board as **Treasurer** completing the second year of a two-year term. **Florence Hervery**, Chief Executive Officer, Case Management, Inc., Memphis, TN, will serve a two-year term as **Secretary**.

#### 2018 TAMHO Executive Committee



Kidd Buuck Vagnier French Clary

#### 2019 TAMHO Executive Committee



Vagnier Jackson Kidd French Hervery

### TAMHO Recognizes 2018 Committee and Section Chairs

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

**ADDICTIONS COMMITTEE** | Michael Reynolds, *Centerstone*

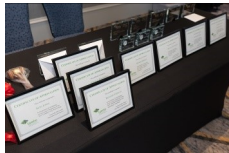
**COMPLIANCE AND QUALITY COMMITTEE** | Seth McCaskill, *Pathways*

**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, *VBHCS*

**CRISIS COMMITTEE** | Sean Jones, *Carey Counseling Center*



### TAMHO Bestows 2018 Service Awards

The TAMHO Service Award is presented in ten year increments to TAMHO Board members to honor their service. This year Dennis Freeman, PhD, Cherokee Health System was recognized for 40 years of service, Chris Wyre, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, for 35 years of service, and Pam Henson, Pathways Behavioral Health for 10 years of service.



Freeman Wyre Henson

### 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 **Teresa Kidd, PhD**, Chief Executive Officer, Frontier Health, Gray, TN, was named the recipient of the **Volunteer Leadership — Board Member Award**.



Kidd

**Mary Katsikas**, Helen Ross McNabb Center, Knoxville, TN, was named the recipient of the **Volunteer Leadership — Committee or Section Award**.



Katsikas

### 2018 Annual Conference Program

Please visit the conference website at <http://www.tamho.org/tamho-2018-annual-conference> for additional information and session details.

### TAMHO Announces 2019, 2020, and 2021 Annual Conference Dates

Please mark your calendars for the **2019, 2020, and 2021 TAMHO Annual Conferences** to be held at the **Franklin Cool Springs Marriott Hotel** in **Franklin, Tennessee**.

**December 12-13, 2019**

**December 10-11, 2020**

**December 9-10, 2021**



## SPONSORS, EXHIBITORS AND ADVERTISERS

**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.

### TITANIUM



### PLATINUM

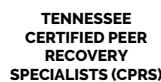
### GOLD



### SILVER



### BRONZE





Click here to watch TAMHO's 60th anniversary video!



The trusted voice for Tennessee's behavioral health system for sixty years

<https://vimeo.com/307296204>



TAMHO was honored to have former Board Members and the Former Executive Director in attendance at the 60th Anniversary Celebration. From left to right: *David Guth, Hershell Warren, Dick Blackburn, George Spain, Les Hutchinson, PhD, and Bud Reece*. Not pictured: *Kathie Moore*



## TNCODC Strategic Initiative Updates

### Recent Regional COD Learning Community Meetings

For the fall, all three regional meetings had the same agenda. Phase 2 of the learning communities was kicked-off with 25 new providers joining the community, bringing the total to 76 providers. The first focus of the meetings was to welcome the new providers and have everyone learn about the providers participating in the learning communities. The second focus was on sharing about progress toward improving COD capability across the state through the Strategic Initiative.

The Middle TN COD Learning Community meeting was held on November 13 with 14 agencies participating and a total of 24 attendees.

The West TN COD Learning Community meeting was held on November 29 with 18 agencies participating and a total of 36 attendees.

The East TN COD Learning Community meeting was held on December 5 with 12 agencies participating and a total of 26 attendees.

### Upcoming COD Learning Community Events

A statewide COD Summit will be held in early 2019. More information will be forthcoming.

The next round of regional will be in late spring 2019.

### Webinars on Developing and Improving COD Capability for New Providers

TDMHSAS' Office of Criminal Justice Services added 25 new providers to the Learning Community, as they are now required to work toward COD capability, including completing and submitting the COMPASS-EZ by December 31, 2018. To support this effort and to help in developing and improving COD Capability, webinars were held to offer the providers background on the process and the opportunity to pose questions to our COD Consultant, Dr. Ken Minkoff. It was a two part series of calls. The first topic was an overview of the Strategic Initiative and the CCISC model (Comprehensive Continuous Integrated System of Care), with 24 providers participating. The second Topic covered the 12-steps for Agencies Developing Co-occurring Capability and the COMPASS-EZ, with 24 providers participating.



**Patrick Slay**  
Project Manager  
Tennessee Co-Occurring Disorders Collaborative (TNCODC)

## My Health, My Choice, My Life — Peer Wellness in Tennessee — A message from Statewide Peer Wellness Coach Dina Savvenas

We are happy to announce that there is a new PWC at Frontier Health in Johnson City and a new PWC at Cherokee Health Systems in Knoxville, bringing us up to 7 PWC's and myself.

Also, we have scheduled several trainings in East TN in the CDSMP (Chronic Disease Self-Management Program), DSMP (Diabetes Self-Management Program), and the CPSMP (Chronic Pain Self-Management Program) and we are working on adding more in East TN, and across the state.

We are in the planning phase for Art For Awareness that coincides with Mental Health Day on the Hill on March 20th. We play a big part in implementing that recovery-oriented event.

There is also a quarterly meeting scheduled for February 21st in Knoxville.

—Statewide Peer Wellness Coach Dina Savvenas can consult with organizations and assist providers with training. She can be reached at 615-707-0257 or [csavvenas@tamho.org](mailto:csavvenas@tamho.org)

To search for a Peer Wellness program:

#### EAST TENNESSEE

##### Cherokee Health Systems

865-934-6734

[www.Cherokeehealth.com](http://www.Cherokeehealth.com)

##### Helen Ross McNabb

865-544-3841

[www.mcnabbcenter.org](http://www.mcnabbcenter.org)

##### Ridgeview

865-481-6170

[www.ridgeview.com](http://www.ridgeview.com)

##### Frontier Health/Victory Center

423-975-6000

Greenville | Johnson City | Kingsport

[www.frontierhealth.org](http://www.frontierhealth.org)

#### MIDDLE TENNESSEE

##### Centerstone

888-291-4357

[www.centerstone.org](http://www.centerstone.org)

##### Park Center

615-242-3576

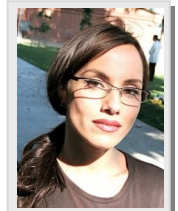
[www.parkcenternashville.org](http://www.parkcenternashville.org)

#### WEST TENNESSEE

##### Pathways

731-541-4545

[www.wth.org/locations/pathways](http://www.wth.org/locations/pathways)



**Dina Savvenas**  
Statewide Peer Wellness Coach

# TAMHO MEMBER ORGANIZATION HAPPENINGS

## Frontier Health CEO to Retire, Board of Directors Announce New CEO

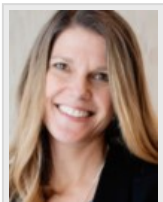
Frontier Health’s President & CEO Teresa M. Kidd announced her plans to retire effective February 1, 2019, after more than 36 years of service in both clinical and senior leadership roles.



Teresa Kidd, PhD  
Frontier Health  
Gray, TN

Frontier Health’s Board of Directors Chair, Duane Miller, said of Kidd’s role in advancing community mental health services in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia, “Dr. Kidd is known and respected statewide for her administrative efficiency, compassionate care and for her leadership. Throughout her career with Frontier Health, she has been committed to improving the health status of some of the region’s most vulnerable citizens by continuing Frontier Health’s excellence in service development and delivery. Dr. Kidd has been an effective advocate for those who cannot always speak for themselves.”

The Board of Directors appointed Ms. Kristie Hammonds as Frontier Health’s new President & CEO. She has served as Sr. Vice President of Operations since December 2014 and will assume the responsibilities of President & CEO effective January 7, 2019. “Ms. Hammonds’ extensive knowledge and experience in behavioral health care administration led the Board to unanimously appoint her as the next President and CEO of Frontier Health,” Miller said.



Kristie Hammonds  
Frontier Health  
Gray, TN

“Ms. Hammonds is known and respected locally, regionally and statewide for her understanding that individuals who are in need of behavioral health care for their mental illness, addiction, or intellectual or developmental disability must receive integrated care to meet both their physical as well as behavioral health needs,” Miller said. “Ms. Hammonds’ leadership skills and her ability to collaborate with others in the ongoing effort to provide quality care to the individuals of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia make her a natural successor as Frontier Health’s new CEO. The Board is very pleased Ms. Hammonds has agreed to take the helm of Frontier Health.”

Ms. Hammonds holds a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from Milligan College and a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work from East Tennessee State University.

## Frontier Health Buys Former Johnson City Specialty Hospital

ARTICLE REPRINT | Johnson City Press | January 11, 2019 | Zach Vance | <https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/Health-Care/2019/01/11/Frontier-Health-buys-former-Johnson-City-Specialty-Hospital.html?ci=content&lp=8&p=1>

Frontier Health has bought the former Johnson City Specialty Hospital at 208 E. Unaka Ave. with plans to expand its substance abuse and crisis services there, a Friday press release from the company stated.

“We have identified the need to increase the availability of services to individuals in our area who are in need of addiction services,” Frontier Health President and CEO Kristie Hammonds said.

“The purchase of this building will impact Frontier’s capability to reach these individuals through the expansion and enhancement to our existing substance abuse/crisis services.”

Frontier Health plans to combine its Crisis Stabilization Unit, Walk-In/23 hour Observation Services, Magnolia Ridge, Mobile Crisis and Triage services into the 66,000-square-foot facility.

The building has not been used for clinical services since 2010, when birthing and surgical services formerly operated by Mountain States Health Alliance moved to the newly constructed Franklin Woods Community Hospital.

Ballad Health currently uses the facility for information technology offices, but those offices will move to locations in Blountville and Kingsport.

“We are happy to see the building being repurposed to expand access to much-needed behavioral health services in the region. Frontier is a strong partner of Ballad Health, and we look forward to continuing our work together,” Tony Keck, Ballad Health’s executive vice president for system innovation and chief population officer, said.

Frontier Health will soon begin renovating the facility with plans to have it open by July 2019.

“Frontier is excited to have the opportunity to repurpose the building back into a clinical care facility,” Hammonds said.





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## Nashville's Oldest Lobbying Firm, Smith Harris & Carr is Now Harris Frazier Government Relations

*Firm's team boasts more than 50 years of combined experience.*

Nashville's oldest lobbying firm, Smith Harris & Carr, is now **Harris Frazier Government Relations**. The firm, originally known as Smith & Johnson, was founded in 1980.



"Two of our firm's named partners retired so it's time we change our name to better represent our current ownership," explained Estie Harris, who joined the firm in 1994 and has been a partner since 1996. "The name **Harris Frazier Government Relations** represents our new ownership and what we do."

"Original owner Anne Carr retired last year and Cleve Smith retired many years ago. We appreciate the excellent leadership they shared and we are excited to continue their legacy," added Meagan Frazier, who joined the firm in 2003 and became a partner in 2008.



**Estie Harris** began lobbying by being in the right place at the right time! It became the perfect career for her and she hasn't left. She has been working in or around the Tennessee General Assembly since the late 1980's.

Her broad experience in both the executive and legislative branches of government has greatly benefited Harris Frazier's clients. Both clients and legislators appreciate Harris' knowledge, compassion, and attention to detail in the political process. She does her homework and can switch gears rapidly.

Legislators and peers consider Harris to be a subject-matter expert in the state budget process and the unique needs of health care providers. She has impacted issues as diverse as judicial selection, farm credit, the Tennessee Lottery, special payments to hospitals, pay equity for those providing services to the intellectually disabled and mental health insurance benefits.

Harris serves on numerous middle Tennessee community boards and associations, participates in local charitable fundraising efforts, and is involved with her church, The Cathedral of the Incarnation.

A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Harris graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in agricultural economics. She is married and has two sons.



**Meagan Frazier** has a solid reputation for her hard work on hospital, health care, business and transportation issues. She is well known for her knowledge of the Tennessee General Assembly's rules and procedures as well as her relationships within all three branches of state government. She has successfully guided her clients through complex issues such as prescription safety regulations, state funding needs and professional licensing requirements.

Frazier knew she wanted to be a professional lobbyist prior to her arrival to Capitol Hill in 2001 and set out to reach that goal by working for the Tennessee House of Representatives and the state Treasury Department.

Frazier is the current President of the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Lobbyist Association. She serves in leadership positions on numerous non-profit boards and co-founded CASA of Dickson County to advocate for abused and neglected children in her community.

A licensed attorney, Frazier is a graduate of the Nashville School of

Law. She earned a B.S. in Public Relations at Middle Tennessee State University. Frazier is married and has three young daughters. A Dickson County native, she and her husband are members of the Walnut Street Church of Christ in Dickson.

Along with partners Estie Harris and Meagan Frazier, the firm's team includes:



**Lou Alsobrooks**, Associate, joined Harris Frazier Government Relations in 2013. A licensed attorney since 2012, Alsobrooks also serves as the firm's lead researcher, helping clients find answers to complex legislative and regulatory questions.

Alsobrooks' deep understanding of the legislative and regulatory process in Tennessee coupled with his love for research have made him a valued asset to both clients and policy makers alike. He has worked successfully on numerous legislative matters during his career ranging from corporate taxation, workers' compensation reform, alcoholic beverage regulation, and housing development and zoning. Outside of the legislative arena, Alsobrooks helps clients successfully navigate the state government procurement process to generate new or maintain current contracts with state agencies and departments.

Alsobrooks grew up in Dickson, Tennessee, completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and obtained his law degree from Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville, Florida. He and his wife Lida reside in Nashville and attend Westminster Presbyterian Church.



**Merle Franklin**, bookkeeper/accountant, joined the firm in 1998. She has more than 20 years of experience working in both the for-profit and not-for-profit arenas. She previously worked for the Tennessee Alcohol & Drug Association (TADA). Still earlier, she worked for HCA, starting as an accounts payable clerk and working her way up to a senior accounts payable position.

Franklin manages all contracting and fiscal matters for the firm and is the "go to" person for vendors and for clients with billing or accounting questions. In addition, all financial questions that none of the rest of us can understand are referred to Franklin. Franklin is originally from Sussex, England, but calls Nashville home.

*Harris Frazier Government Relations* provides consulting, monitoring, and/or active lobbying services for those at the beginning of the effort and for those already engaged in the journey. Additionally, we offer assistance with the state procurement process, in-depth policy research, and issue forecasting. The firm has a reputation for being strategic, hardworking, effective, and ethical. Visit [www.harrisfrazier.com](http://www.harrisfrazier.com) for more information.

**Allie Jones** is the most recent lobbyist to join Harris Frazier Government Relations. Jones grew up in Germantown, Tennessee and has lived and worked in all three grand divisions of the state.

Jones joined the firm after working for federal legislators Senator Marsha Blackburn and Congressman Diane Black. In these roles, Jones worked in legislative and campaign capacities. As a representative for both legislators, she worked extensively with local, state and federal elected officials in East and Middle Tennessee. In addition to her political work, Jones served as a corps member for Teach For America – Nashville and served as a TFA liaison to parts of the Nashville community.

Outside of work, Jones enjoys exploring local Nashville restaurants and travelling to Memphis to visit her family and eat BBQ!

Jones received her undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in 2015 and attended Lipscomb University for graduate coursework.



**March 12, 2019**

*Details are forthcoming.*

[www.tamho.org](http://www.tamho.org)

# TAMHO ADVOCACY DAY



The trusted voice of behavioral healthcare.  
Making a difference for sixty years.

# COALITION DAY ON THE HILL

**March 20, 2019**



# STATEWIDE HAPPENINGS

## Governor-Lee Appointments Cabinet Heads

Tennessee Governor-elect Bill Lee announced his first cabinet appointments as well as several key appointments to his forthcoming gubernatorial staff.

“We have received a tremendous amount of interest from Tennesseans across the state who are interested in serving our administration,” said Lee. “I am proud to announce members of my cabinet and staff. They are highly qualified to lead in their respective areas and will be an important part in helping our state continue to grow.”

The Governor-elect named the following appointments to his cabinet today:

- **Danielle Barnes** – Department of Human Services
- **Stuart McWhorter** – Department of Finance and Administration
- **Marie Williams** – Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- **Jennifer Nichols** – Department of Children’s Services
- **Tony Parker** – Department of Corrections
- **Bob Rolfe** – Department of Economic and Community Development
- **Dr. Jeff McCord** – Department of Labor & Workforce Development
- **David Gerregano** – Department of Revenue
- **Gabe Roberts** – Division of TennCare

**Danielle Barnes** currently serves as the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Human Services, and she will continue in that role. Prior to joining DHS, she served as Deputy Commissioner & General Counsel for the Tennessee Department of Human Resources. In her capacity, she had oversight over all legal issues within the Department, offering counsel and advice to her agency, other

state agencies and individuals on employment law matters. Commissioner Barnes grew up in the Knoxville area. She received her undergraduate degree from Spelman College and her law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

**Stuart McWhorter** currently chairs inauguration planning efforts. He served as Finance Chairman for Governor-elect Lee’s gubernatorial campaign. McWhorter serves as Chairman and President of Clayton Associates, founded in 1996, an investment management company primarily focused on the early stage investment cycle in the healthcare and technology industries.

Crockett County native **Marie Williams** currently serves as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), and she will continue in that role. She leads the Department and their over 1,800 employees in assisting individuals in securing treatment and recovery services for serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbances, and substance abuse disorders. Prior to assuming the Commissioner role, she served as Deputy Commissioner and as the Assistant Commissioner of Mental Health Services where she worked collaboratively to expand consumer-based recovery services.

**Jennifer Nichols**, of Shelby County, currently serves as the chief homicide prosecutor in the Shelby County District Attorney’s Office. Previously, Nichols served the Criminal Court Judge of Division 10 in the 30th Judicial District. In addition to her service as the Shelby County Deputy District Attorney, Nichols served as the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Victims Unit where she handled child homicides, child physical abuse, child sexual abuse, elder abuse and other special projects. In her capacity as Chief Prosecutor over the Special Victims Unit, Nichols met daily and worked closely with Department of Children’s Services staff.

**Tony Parker**, of Obion County, currently serves as the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Corrections.

With more than 35 years of experience in the field of corrections, Parker previously served as the Assistant Commissioner of Prisons where he was responsible for the oversight of the department’s security operations as well as offender management. He is nationally recognized for his research regarding de-radicalization of prisons and was recently elected President-elect of the American Correctional Association.

**Bob Rolfe**, of Davidson County, currently serves as the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. During his tenure at ECD, Rolfe worked to land the Amazon expansion, a \$230 million investment to Tennessee that is slated to create 5,000 jobs and is considered the single-largest jobs announcement in Tennessee history. He is the former Chairman and CEO of Medical Reimbursements of America, Inc. and the co-founder of West End Holdings. From 2005 to 2011, he was Chairman and CEO of MyOfficeProducts, Inc. Rolfe spent the first 18 years of his career as an investment banker at J.C. Bradford and Co.

**Dr. Jeff McCord**, of Sullivan County, currently serves as the Vice President for Economic and Workforce Development at Northeast State Community College. McCord leads Workforce Solutions, a workforce development program that includes the development of registered apprenticeship programs and the Regional Center for Advanced Manufacturing (RCAM), a technical career academy. In addition to organizational leadership for the Adult Education programming for the First Development District, he also serves as the lead administrator for the nationally recognized Kingsport Academic Village. McCord has over 20 years of business and industry experience including a number of leadership positions and specific experience related to organizational effectiveness and corporate education.

**David Gerregano**, of Jackson County, currently serves as the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue. A 20-year veteran of the department, Gerregano has helped oversee various revenue functions, including the Audit Division, Enforcement





and Taxpayer Services. Since starting with the department in 1997 as tax counsel, he has held multiple legal and legislative positions such as administrative hearing officer, general counsel and assistant commissioner. Gerregano currently serves on the Federation of Tax Administrators Board of Trustees and previously served as president of the Southeastern Association of Tax Administrators.

**Gabe Roberts**, of Davidson County, currently serves as the Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of TennCare. Previously, he served as General Counsel. During his tenure at TennCare, Roberts 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 Z opiate epidemic in Tennessee. Before joining TennCare, he practiced law at the Nashville law firm Sherrard, Roe, Voigt & Harbison where his focus was corporate and business law.

On November 7, the transition unveiled a new website – [transition.billlee.com](http://transition.billlee.com). The site includes detailed information about the Governor-elect’s policy priorities, a section where Tennesseans can submit their resumes to potentially join his team, and most importantly, a section where Tennesseans can share their ideas with the Governor-elect and his team.

Since launching the site, the Lee Transition Team has received information from over

1,400 applicants who are interested in serving in the administration and more than 2,400 ideas for bettering state government.

### TennCare Appointments

Newly appointed Director of TennCare, Gabe Roberts, recently shared his excitement in announcing the appointment of two outstanding individuals who will join their team as deputy directors, one is currently a TennCare employee and one is currently a member of Governor Haslam’s staff.

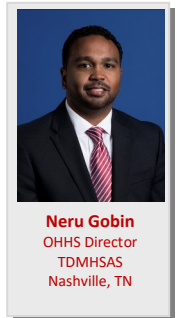
**Brooks Daverman**, who has served as the director for Strategic Planning and Innovation since 2012, will serve as our deputy director and chief operating officer. He has been instrumental in many of the major initiatives within TennCare including the delivery system reform initiative which has changed the way health care is paid for in Tennessee.

**Stephen Smith**, who is currently serving as the chief of staff to Governor Haslam, will be joining TennCare as deputy director and chief of staff. Prior to his current role, Stephen served as Governor Haslam’s senior advisor and policy director and deputy commissioner for the Department of Education. Stephen has many years of state services and brings with him a tremendous skill set that will complement the TennCare organization greatly.

Mr. Roberts expressed his excitement that Brooks and Stephen have agreed to take over these important roles at TennCare. They are both team-oriented and mission-driven individuals who bring skills, relationships, personalities, and work ethic that will be of great benefit to TennCare. Please join us in congratulating Brooks and Stephen and welcoming both to their new roles at TennCare.

### Neru Gobin appointed to Director of the Office of Housing & Homeless Services (OHHS) for the Division of Mental Health Services of TDMHSAS

Prior to joining State service in 2013, Neru worked as a Crisis Responder with Mental Health Co-Op. Since joining TDMHSAS he has served initially as Assistant Director of the Office of Crisis & Suicide Prevention Services and most recently as the Assistant OHHS Director. Congratulations, Neru!



## NATIONWIDE HAPPENINGS

### NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program

HRSA has initiated a loan repayment program to support the recruitment and retention of health professionals needed in underserved areas to expand access to SUD treatment and prevent overdose deaths.

To combat the nation’s opioid crisis, HRSA launched the NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program (SUD Workforce LRP).

The most effective treatment for opioid addiction is a comprehensive approach that incorporates medication and behavioral health counseling.

The program supports the recruitment and retention of health professionals needed in underserved areas to expand access to SUD treatment and prevent overdose deaths.

Please visit <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loan-repayment/nhsc-sud-workforce-loan-repayment-program.html> for details.

 **NATCON 19** **MARCH 25-27, 2019**  
GAYLORD OPRYLAND  
NASHVILLE, TN

Health care's behavioral health conference is here once again - [NatCon19 registration is live](#), and we're excited to see you all in Nashville from March 25-27, 2019.

We will be celebrating the National Council's 50th anniversary, and your hard work and dedication to making life better for those with mental illness and substance use disorders.

NatCon19 will feature a thought-provoking Addictions track and renowned speakers like Atul Gawande, M.D., the CEO of Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway and JPMorgan Chase' not-for-profit health care initiative.

Make sure to reserve your spot so you don't miss this special event in the country music's capital city.



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

[www.tncodc.com](http://www.tncodc.com)

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**ADDRESS** 42 Rutledge Street  
Nashville, TN 37210

**PHONE** 615-244-2220  
**TOLL FREE IN TN** 800-568-2642  
**FAX** 615-254-8331

**We're on the web!**  
[www.tamho.org](http://www.tamho.org)

Executive Director | Elyn Wilbur | [ewilbur@tamho.org](mailto:ewilbur@tamho.org)  
Director of Policy and Advocacy | Alysia Williams | [awilliams@tamho.org](mailto:awilliams@tamho.org)  
Director of Member Services | Teresa Fuqua | [tfuqua@tamho.org](mailto:tfuqua@tamho.org)  
Director of Administrative Services | Laura B. Jean | [ljean@tamho.org](mailto:ljean@tamho.org)  
Project Manager—TNCODC | Patrick Slay | [pslay@tamho.org](mailto:pslay@tamho.org)  
Statewide Peer Wellness Coach | Ken Barton | [kbarton@tamho.org](mailto:kbarton@tamho.org)  
Meeting Assistant | Carrie Ligon | [cligon@tamho.org](mailto:cligon@tamho.org)