

Report of the Executive Director

TAMHO Announces Staffing Changes

Recently, TAMHO announced the retirement of Ellyn Wilbur, Executive Director, and Alysia Smith Knight being appointed as the incoming Executive Director.

ELLYN WILBUR, RETIRING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Remarks provided by retiring TAMHO Executive Director, Ellyn Wilbur:

"In August of 2011, I assumed the role of TAMHO's Executive Director when Dick Blackburn retired, after leading TAMHO for close to 30 years. I have been fortunate to fill that role since then. As I plan for my retirement, I want to take a moment to thank the leadership of TAMHO who have given their time, expertise and support to the Association, while also leading their own organizations through what has been truly an unprecedented time. We have accomplished many great things together, and I couldn't be prouder of the work you do each and every day. I also would like to thank the many community partners and colleagues I have had the pleasure of working with. It truly does take a village to create and maintain a system that takes care of people and helps them become their very best. Each of you has played a role in that village and our collective accomplishments have been significant. And to the TAMHO staff, you all are the best. We have a great team, and the results speak for themselves.

My best to the new Executive Director, Alysia Smith Knight, who has been an integral part of the TAMHO team for more than 10 years. She will have strong support to continue the TAMHO legacy that began some 60+ years ago.

Thank you for all you do, and I encourage you to continue the good work you do to change lives and help individuals reach their full potential."

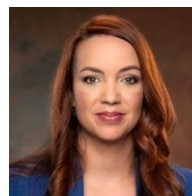
ALYSIA SMITH KNIGHT, INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For 64 years, TAMHO has promoted the advancement of effective behavioral health services and advocated for people in need of care. The word grateful does not begin to express the gratitude I feel to work for an organization, whose mission resonates with my life's mission of serving others.

Ellyn, thank you for the opportunity to serve as TAMHO's Director of Policy and Advocacy. This month, 11 years ago, I began working at TAMHO and learning from one of the best. You have been an incredible leader, mentor, and friend, and I wish you the very best in your retirement. TAMHO Board of Directors, thank you for trusting me to lead the future of TAMHO; I am excited about what we will accomplish together, as the Trusted Voice for Tennessee's Behavioral Health System!



Ellyn Wilbur



Alysia Smith Knight

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TAMHO HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES:

November 24-25
TAMHO Office Closed —
Thanksgiving Holiday Observance
December 23-26
TAMHO Office Closed —
Christmas Holiday Observance

TAMHO

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Phyllis Persinger | Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System

President Elect

Kristie Hammonds | Frontier Health

Immediate Past President

Florence Hervey | CMI Healthcare Services

Treasurer

Jason Lay | McNabb Center

Secretary

Brad Nunn, PhD | Centerstone

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Memphis | E. Florence Hervey, Chief Executive Officer

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Nashville | Ben Middleton, Chief Executive Officer

Cherokee Health Systems

Knoxville | Parinda Khatri, MD, Executive Director

Frontier Health

Gray | Kristie Hammonds, CEO

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Knoxville | Mona Blanton-Kitts, CEO

Pathways Behavioral Health

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 | Kelly Odum, Executive Director

Ridgeview Behavioral Health

Oak Ridge | Brian Buuck, Chief Executive Officer

Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System

Murfreesboro | Phyllis Persinger, President/COO

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Vanderbilt Community Mental Health Center

Nashville | George Hunter, Executive Director

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

AIM Center

Chattanooga | Anna Protano-Biggs, President & CEO

Ballad Health

Gray | Tammy Albright, CEO

Generations Mental Health Center

McMinnville | Kathy G. Campbell, President/CEO

Park Center

Nashville | Will Connelly, CEO

Tennessee Mental Health Consumers' Association

Nashville | Anthony Fox, Executive Director

Tennessee Voices

Nashville | Rikki Harris, Chief Executive Officer

TAMHO STAFF

Executive Director (Retiring) | Elyn Wilbur

Executive Director (Incoming) | Alysia Smith Knight

Director of Policy and Advocacy | Chloe' Ligon

Director of Member Services | Teresa Fuqua

Director of Administrative Services | Laura B. Jean

Project Assistant | Carrie LaFave

Statewide Peer Wellness Coach | Dina Savvenas

Director, TN Collegiate Recovery Network | Nathan Payne

Project Manager TNCODC | Mariam Hashimi

CHLOE' LIGON, DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Chloé Ligon is TAMHO's new Director of Policy and Advocacy. Chloé holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in English from Centre College and a Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) from Lipscomb University. Chloé has been in the healthcare industry for two years, having worked for Mercy Community Healthcare in Franklin and Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) in Nashville. Chloé joins TAMHO from her role as Administrative Specialist at Tennova Healthcare Clarksville Medical Center. She is an active member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Nashville Health Care Council. Chloé has experience volunteering for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and participating as a Family Court intern. From her experience in hospital and health center operations, Chloé recognizes the need for behavioral health services and accessibility across the state. Chloé began at TAMHO in mid-September, and is excited to join the team and contribute to TAMHO's mission.



Chloe' Ligon

CURRENT STAFF

The following staff remain in place to serve your needs:

- Teresa Fuqua, Director of Member Services
- Laura Jean, Director of Administrative Services
- Carrie LaFave, Project Assistant
- Dina Savvenas, Statewide Peer Wellness Coach
- Nathan Payne, Director, Collegiate Recovery Initiative
- Mariam Hashimi, Project Manager — TNCODC Consultant



Fuqua

Jean

LaFave



Savvenas

Payne

Hashimi

TDMHSAS Budget Presentation

TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams recently presented the department's budget to the Governor. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the slide presentation. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the Budget Presentation video file.



FY 24 Cost Increase Highlights

- \$18,000,000 Provider Rate Increase (recurring)
- \$10,000,000 Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative (non-recurring)
- \$14,460,000 SUD Residential treatment (\$12M non-recurring for infrastructure and \$2.46M recurring for operations)
- \$13,068,900 Residential Re-entry Housing (\$6.74M non-recurring for infrastructure and \$6.32M recurring for operations)
- \$1,322,000 Juvenile Justice Diversion (recurring)

There were also requests for department staff and maintenance improvements.

Many thanks to Commissioner Williams and her team for this budget request.

Legislative Activities

Alysia Smith Knight and Kelly Odum, CEO of Quinco Mental Health, attended the Senate Republican Caucus, where they met with Senators and the Governor to thank them for their support of behavioral health services. Mrs. Smith Knight, along with Melissa Cherry, Director of Children and Youth Services at Quinco, and Mary Katsikas, Clinical Vice President at the McNabb Center scheduled a follow-up meeting with the Speaker Pro Tempore, Ferrell Haile, to discuss important legislative efforts that support children, youth and families in the state. We are grateful for all the General Assembly has done to support mental health and addiction services.



Alysia Smith Knight, Governor Bill Lee, Kelly Odum



Alysia Smith Knight, U.S. Representative John Rose (TN-6), Chloe Ligon



Melissa Cherry, Kelly Odum, Speaker Pro Tempore Ferrell Haile, Alysia Smith Knight, Mary Katsikas

Dennis S. Freeman, Ph.D. — Long-Time CEO of Cherokee Health Systems Passes

Dennis S. Freeman, Ph.D., Cherokee Health Systems' CEO for 44 years, passed away quietly at his home on August 5, 2022, after battling a long illness. Dennis was known as a tireless and fierce advocate for the vulnerable and underserved patients of rural



Dennis Freeman, PhD



Appalachia and, eventually, urban Knoxville, Chattanooga and Memphis. Always focused on increasing access to primary, behavioral and dental care, Dennis and his team grew Cherokee from a tiny community mental health center with three offices to a state-wide community health center with 22 bricks and mortar locations, 1

mobile clinic and 23 school-based telemedicine clinics.

After graduating from Shenandoah High School, Dennis attended Wheaton College in Illinois and received a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1970. About leaving Iowa Dennis said, "I left. I had to. I always knew I would. There were things to do, places to see, but mostly there were things I *had* to do. Taking on a cause, and then, taking on anyone in its path." After a clinical internship at the Palo Alto/Menlo Park Veterans Administration Hospital and the San Mateo County Mental Health System in the San Francisco Bay area, Dennis returned to East Tennessee and worked at the Regional Mental Health System of Oak Ridge until he was named chief executive officer of Cherokee Health Systems in 1978. At the time, it was a floundering mental health center in Morristown, Tenn., with 33 employees serving a community starving for care. The mission of Cherokee Health

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

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.



Systems – improving the lives of “the least, the last and the lost” — became his life work. He had his cause.

With the help of many colleagues, Cherokee grew to become a nationally recognized community health care system, noted for its innovative clinical model of blending behavioral health and primary care. Today, Cherokee Health Systems spans the state of Tennessee, employs over 700 people and serves over 70,000 patients annually. The “Cherokee Model” has been replicated throughout the country by way of Dennis’s leadership and commitment to improving the nation’s safety net for the underserved and marginalized. His mantra of, “we go where the grass is browner,” has inspired the growth of health care in impoverished communities from coast-to-coast.

Dr. Freeman received many honors and acknowledgements for his life work, including the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award in 2010 from the University of Tennessee Department of Psychology. In 2006, the Tennessee Psychological Association presented Dr. Freeman with the Outstanding Contribution to Psychology Award. Under his leadership, the Morehouse College School of Medicine gave Cherokee Health Systems its Best Practice Award at its 2008 Annual Primary Care and Prevention Conference. Dr. Freeman and Cherokee Health Systems also received acknowledgements from the Tennessee Primary Care Association, the National Council of Community Behavioral Health and the National Association of Community Health Centers. He testified three times before the United States Congress, as well as consulted with dozens of health commissioners and state associations across the country to help shape health care policy.

In lieu of flowers, Dennis has asked that memorial donations be directed to Cherokee Health Systems’ Benevolence Fund for patients in need at www.cherokeehealth.com/how-to-help.

Bobby L. Freeman, Ph.D. — Former CEO for Plateau Mental Health Center and Long-Time TAMHO Board Member Passes

TAMHO is sad to share the recent passing of Dr. Bobby Freeman. Dr. Freeman passed away on Saturday, October 30, 2022. He served on the TAMHO Board of Directors for 28 years and



Bobby L. Freeman, PhD

served in various leadership capacities within the TAMHO Committee and Section structure.

Memorial services for Dr. Bobby Freeman, age 85 of Cookeville, will be at 11 a.m. Saturday November 12 at the Cookeville Chapel of Hooper Huddleston and Horner Funeral Home. BJ Jordan will officiate.

Dr. Freeman was born June 14, 1937, in Borger, Texas. He worked in the field of mental health and served as CEO of several state facilities in Tennessee. He relocated to Neosho in April 2022 from Cookeville, Tennessee. Bobby enjoyed golfing, sports and basketball. He is survived by five children, Cathy (Vernon) Bay of Webb City, Missouri, Cindy (Mark) Daugherty of Neosho, Missouri, Karen (Dale) Billingsley of Cookeville, Tennessee, Ashley (Karen) Freeman and Bobby L. Freeman, Jr. all of Nashville, Tennessee; sixteen grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents and sister, Faye Hadley. Contributions in memory of Bobby may be made to Tennessee Tech Girls Basketball Program, St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, or Open Doors Foundation.

NAMI Tennessee Recognizes Ellyn Wilbur with Their Professional of the Year Award

The NAMI Tennessee Professional of the Year Award is given to



professionals who exemplify the qualities needed to make a positive impact on the lives of those with mental illness and their family members. These individuals are considered role models who affect change in the existing service delivery system. Its purpose is to say “this is the kind of professional that really helps, and we want more like this one.” Ellyn Wilbur has been with the



Ellyn Wilbur

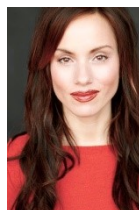
Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) for 13 years and Executive Director for 11. TAMHO is a statewide trade association representing the community of mental health service providers. TAMHO member organizations have been the virtual cornerstone of the community-based behavioral health system throughout the state since the 1950s. Under Ellyn’s leadership, TAMHO has been a collaborative partner with NAMI Tennessee, as we work to make things better for those impacted by mental illness. The following are a few of Ellyn’s accomplishments in

the past year: 1)Ellyn worked with stakeholders to advocate that telehealth flexibilities due to COVID-19 be made permanent. This legislation has greatly impacted access to life-saving services across the state. 2) Ellyn convened the 988 Planning Coalition to plan for 988 implementation in Tennessee championing the cause across the state. 3) Ellyn also participated on the TennCare / TDMHSAS Behavioral Health Workforce Work Group where she fought for needed provider rate increases to begin to address workforce shortages. As a result of the workforce report, both TennCare and TDMHSAS received requested budget increases for providers resulting in \$18 M for rate improvements from TDMHSAS and \$7 M for rate improvements from TennCare.

My Health, My Choice, My Life

Peer Wellness in Tennessee

On Friday, September 23rd, the My Health My Choice My Life Peer Wellness Coaches at Frontier Health in Johnson City, Julie Fann and Deven Hazelwood held a Championship Games for Peer Support Centers, Victory Centers, and group homes at Rotary Park. Friendly competition, including a Tennis Ball Throw, Relay Race, Tug-of-War, Clean-Your-Room and other yard games ensued. Awards were given to the top three places, for Most Team Spirit, and the Best Banner. The theme for the banners was “Back to Wellness,” and Kingsport’s Victory Center’s banner won by vote. A healthy lunch from Subway was provided, and a good time was had by all. Some of the Peer Support Centers made tie-dye t-shirts with the theme to showcase their team spirit. It was a beautiful, sunny, mild day, and a perfect setting for food, fun, and fellowship, while focusing on wellness. Championship Games is a longstanding tradition with the My Health My Choice My Life Peer Wellness Initiative, a favorite event of peers and staff alike, and it is typically held during National Wellness Week.



Dina Savvenas



Tennessee Collegiate Recovery Network



Nathan Payne

The Tennessee Collegiate Recovery Initiative hosted several outreach events this past quarter, one of which included a Collegiate Recovery Academy in conjunction with Lipscomb University. The Academy consisted of a Mental Health 101 training, facilitated by director Nathan Payne, as well as Suicide Prevention training facilitated by Jamie Harper, assistant director of faith-based initiatives with TDMHSAS. The follow-up academy spawned from a partnership that has been cultivated between the TDMHSAS and Lipscomb for over a year now, taking strides to create a more recovery friendly environment for students struggling with both mental health and substance abuse. Since its inception, the Initiative has trained over 1000 recovery allies at over 26 campuses across the state. For more information on the initiative and how your organization can get involved, contact Nathan Payne at npayne@tamho.org. Nathan Payne, Director, Collegiate Recovery Initiative, 615-244-2220 or Tollfree in TN 800-568-2642, Email: npayne@tamho.org

The Tennessee Co-Occurring Disorders Collaborative (TNCODC)

Strengthening individuals, families, and communities with hope, access to services, and recovery.

On September 30th, TNCODC held a COD and Peer Services panel event. The panel focused on the connection between COD and peer services and ways that peers can be a support with COD capabilities in agencies. The recording will be available on the TNCODC site.

Our final meeting of 2022 was held on November 2nd. The focus of the meeting was a refresher and review of the COMPASS-EZ, in collaboration with Ken Horvath from TDMHSAS. All agencies who submit the COMPASS-EZ were invited to participate.

COD is always seeking feedback regarding future events and resource development. Please email Mariam Hashimi, TNCODC Project Manager, with any comments or questions you may have at

mhashimi@tamho.org.



Mariam Hashimi



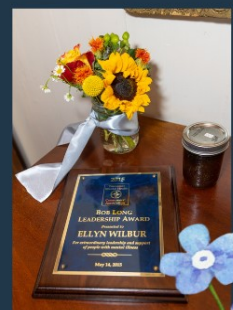


open house

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022 • 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
201 SEABOARD LANE | FRANKLIN, TN 37067



Celebrating Ellyn Wilbur's Retirement



View the full gallery at <https://tonyyoungphotography.shootproof.com/gallery/ellyn-retirement/home>.

Member Organization Happenings

Cherokee Health Systems Implements Leadership Transitions

Meeting the behavioral health needs of the underserved populations in Tennessee has been an institutional priority for Cherokee Health Systems (CHS) since the organization opened in 1960. To improve on the work that has already been accomplished within CHS's behavioral health sector, the organization recently implemented a few leadership transitions. On August 15th of this year, Dr. Cindy Perry was promoted to director of psychiatric services. Not too long after, CHS promoted Kate LaGrange, LCSW and Anna Taubenheim, PsyD to regional directors of behavioral health services.



"At CHS, our people are our most valuable resource. The selection of our key clinical leaders is not an endeavor that was undertaken lightly or quickly. We have been working on these leadership transitions for over a year," said CHS' CEO Dr. Parinda Khatri.

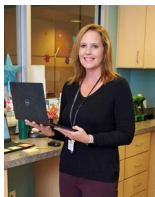
Dr. Cindy Perry is one of CHS' most seasoned clinicians and a highly respected leader in the organization. Over the course of her career at CHS, she developed CHS's education, mentorship and support of trainees, psychiatric nurse practitioners and psychiatrists when she worked as the associate director of psychiatric services. Overall, her work helped support Dr. Gregg Perry, former director of psychiatric services, who built an infrastructure for clinical practice and patient safety in psychiatric services that, over time, extended to medical, pharmacy and behavioral healthcare. CHS is eager to see the impact that Dr. Cindy Perry will have on the organization and its patients in her new position.



Dr. Cindy Perry

Kate LaGrange, LCSW and Anna Taubenheim, PsyD bring an extensive amount of expertise into their new roles at CHS.

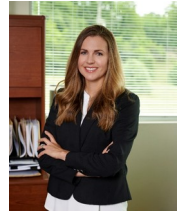
LaGrange joined CHS in 1999 as our first behavioral health consultant (BHC). She worked for many years as a BHC in both our Talbott and Center City Health Centers before being promoted to director of pediatric integrated care and social work education about two years ago. LaGrange has been instrumental in nurturing the growth



Kate LaGrange,
LCSW

of our social work workforce, through recruitment, training, mentorship and strengthening our continuum of behavioral health services for pediatrics. In her new role as regional director of behavioral health services, LaGrange will provide support and clinical oversight of behavioral health services provided at CHS's Center City, Cherokee Mills, Lonsdale, Talbott, Fifth Ave and 5th Street Health Centers.

Dr. Taubenheim joined CHS in 2013 as a pre-doctoral intern in CHS's Psychology Internship Program. After completing her postdoctoral fellowship at CHS, she worked as both a BHC and a school-based therapist before being promoted to clinical director of school services. Under Dr. Taubenheim's leadership, school-based services expanded significantly to provide high-quality clinical services to some of the most underserved counties within our service area. In her new role as regional director of behavioral health services, Dr. Taubenheim will provide support and clinical oversight of behavioral health services provided at our Alcoa, Lenoir City, Clinton, Newport, Blaine, Englewood and Tazewell Health Centers. LaGrange and Dr. Taubenheim will provide an additional layer of support for our Behavioral Health Leads who have provided critical leadership, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. To learn more about CHS, visit www.cherokeehealth.com.



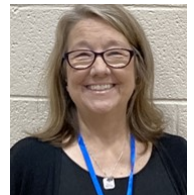
Anna Taubenheim,
PsyD

Frontier Health Staff Recognized at NAMI Tennessee Conference

Frontier Health is excited to share that  **Frontier Health** two of our team members, Heather

Proffitt and Jeanne Price, received two awards from the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) Tennessee Annual State Convention.

Jeanne Price was one of two recipients of the Professional Award. These awards are given to professionals who exemplify the qualities needed to positively impact the lives of those with mental illness and their family members. These people provide NAMI Tennessee with role models to effect change in the



Jeanne Price

existing service delivery system. Its purpose is to say, "this is the kind of professional that helps, and we want more like this one." Jeanne is currently the Director of the Regional Housing Facilitators across the state. She supervises the housing facilitators for mental health and substance use disorders. Jeanne was one of the first housing facilitators that worked with then Assistant Commissioner Williams in starting the Creating Homes Initiative in 2003. In her current role, she has brought over 17 million dollars for housing in the Northeast Region alone. In addition, she has worked with collaborators across the State to help create 28,000 housing opportunities across Tennessee.

Heather Proffitt was the recipient of the Behavioral Health Advocate of the Year Award. This award is given to someone who demonstrates an attitude of compassion and service directed to those living with mental illness as well as their family and friends.



Heather Proffitt

"Heather demonstrates this attitude and is willing to help those living with mental illness, as well as their family and friends. She understands the multitude of obstacles faced by those dealing with the issues of mental illness. Through continuous use of her CIT knowledge and skills and support of first responders, Heather, your work highlights outstanding dedication to the CIT program, CIT Services, and advancing CIT as a successful community program." - NAMI Tennessee

Heather has been with Frontier Health for eleven years; she started as a Case Manager at our Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU); she, then, worked for the Community Justice Program for nine years, advocating and facilitating treatment for inmates both in and out of jail. Heather is now the CIT Coordinator for the Community Justice Program, covering nine counties across Northeast Tennessee.

"We are so blessed to have these two individuals as part of our Frontier Health family! They are both truly amazing, caring and dedicated women who work diligently every day to serve. We are so excited to see them be recognized for their contribution and service."

Centerstone Promotes Becky Stoll to Senior Vice President of Crisis Services

Centerstone, a non-profit health system specializing in mental health and substance use disorder services, has announced Becky Stoll as the Senior Vice President for Crisis Services, effective September 1, 2022.



Becky Stoll

Stoll has over three decades of experience in social work and psychiatric care, and has worked at Centerstone since 1999, previously holding the positions of Vice President of Crisis and Disaster Management,



CENTERSTONE

Director of Crisis Services, and Crisis Call Center Program Manager. In this new role, Stoll will lead both administrative and clinical operations for Centerstone's robust crisis care continuum across its multi-state footprint, which currently includes crisis call centers, a 988 crisis chat/text national back-up center, mobile crisis response teams, crisis stabilization units and residential facilities for people in crisis. Stoll will also focus on implementing best practices and standards for crisis care, identifying new funding opportunities and ensuring the organization is providing patients with the best possible care at every encounter.

"The Centerstone leadership team and I are so pleased to be making this announcement," said Kevin Norton, Centerstone's chief operating officer.

"Becky has been a dedicated member of the Centerstone team for more than 20 years, and in that time, has become one of the country's foremost leading experts on crisis care and suicide prevention. There's nobody else who is as equipped as she is to take on this critical role."

Prior to joining Centerstone, Stoll served as the Director of Admissions, Utilization Management, and Social Work for First Hospital Corporation in Nashville, Tennessee, where she also worked as a Psychiatric Counselor.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to standardize care across Centerstone's crisis services continuum so that those in need are provided the best care possible anywhere within our footprint," Stoll said.

Stoll is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Tennessee, and a Bachelor's Degrees in Psychology from Tennessee State University. She presents on suicide prevention and crisis care services nationally and abroad, and serves on the Steering Committee for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Stoll also serves

on Advisory Councils for the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network and Tennessee Department of Health Suicide Prevention Program.

Centerstone Announces Retirement and Celebration of Senior Regional Psychiatrist, Dr. Ralph Barr

Centerstone, a nonprofit health system specializing in mental health and substance use disorder treatments, has announced that Dr. Ralph Barr, Senior Regional Psychiatrist, retired from his post effective September 1, 2022.

Barr has been a valuable and dedicated member of Centerstone for nearly 42 years and has served in a clinical supervisory and direct service role.

"Dr. Barr has been an integral part of Centerstone for over four decades. During this time, his commitment to his patients and his work colleagues is second to none. Over the course of his 40-plus years of practicing medicine, Dr. Barr helped countless middle Tennesseans find hope, healing, and recovery. We are grateful for the commitment he has made to Centerstone and to those living middle Tennessee. We wish him the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his journey," said Matt Hardy, Regional Chief Operating Officer for Centerstone.

Barr has a long history in the behavioral health industry. Prior to moving to Columbia in 1980 to assume the position of Medical Director of the Columbia Area Mental Health Center, Dr. Barr was an Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University and served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was named a Health Care Hero by *Nashville Business Journal* and he was elected President of the Maury County Medical Society.

Additionally, Ralph served on the medical staff of Maury Regional Medical Center, he was a partner in the Psychiatric and Counseling Associates and served on the Executive Committee as Chief of Psychiatry.

"I feel fortunate to have been able to receive my education and to practice psychiatry for so many years and to remain in the same community for more than 40 years. In my time working for Centerstone and also during the time of being in private practice, I have worked with and developed relationships with so many coworkers and patients and other members of the community," said Barr. "I want to thank all who have been a part of my



Ralph Barr, MD



professional life in Columbia, Tennessee. I look forward to being a more involved member of this community and to, hopefully, strengthen the relationships I've made. I also hope to participate in volunteer activities and spend more time with my family."

New App Aims to Provide Tennessee Youth with Mental Health Resources

News Channel 5 | July 25, 2022 | Olivia Michael | <https://www.newschannel5.com/news/new-app-aims-to-provide-tennessee-youth-with-mental-health-resources>

Rikki Harris knows how difficult it can be for some of her clients to seek help.



"I think everybody, at some level, hesitates, because it means we have to be vulnerable, and that vulnerability runs deep into our experiences in life that we might not want to talk about, or weaknesses that we struggle with that we're trying to overcome," said Harris, who is the CEO of TN Voices.

That's why she is excited about a new app that makes it easier for people to ask for help, especially for young people. TN Voices, a statewide mental health nonprofit, teamed up with Telemedicine Solutions to launch the MindPower app.

"We didn't make up anything new," said Harris. "We're using a research-based, qualified tool to help screen for depression and just help check in with students and see how they're feeling."

In the app, students can take part in a self-screening. At the end, the app will provide resources tailored to their needs.

"Do you have little interest in doing things? [It] Asks about your appetite, how well you're sleeping," said Harris. "These are all indicators that can tell us whether a person is functioning strong or having difficulty."

In the U.S., about [13% of 12 to 17-year-olds experience depression and about 32% of 13 to 18-year-olds experience anxiety disorders.](#)

Harris said, "I think our country is facing a crisis in terms of mental health, and we have a lot of work to do as a community to sort of steward the children in our communities and make sure that they're pointed in a direction to get the help they need, but also to be told 'it's ok not to be ok and it's definitely ok to ask for help.'" Last spring, the app was tested at

three Tennessee schools, including Lead Cameron Middle School and KIPP Academy Nashville Middle.

Children 16 and under will need parental consent to fill out the self-screening.

To download the app, click [here](#).

Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System Recognized with the NAMI Tennessee 2022 Sam Cochran Justice Award



Volunteer Behavioral Health recently received the 2022 Cochran Justice Award from the Tennessee chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). The award was presented during NAMI's 36th Annual State Convention. The honor was given to Volunteer in recognition of the organization's contributions to community-based, crisis intervention programs, which bring together mental health professionals and law enforcement to improve responses to mental health crises. On hand to accept the award were Laura Tedesco, Senior Vice President of Crisis Services; Kelsey Taylor, Community Response and Training Director; Sej West, Chief Business Development Officer; Donna Vize, Community Justice Coordinator; and Co-Responders Kasim Barnes and Dani Wiest. Phyllis Persinger, President & CEO of VBH was also in attendance with other VBH staff.



Cindy Sneed Joins VBHCS as the Senior Vice President of Addiction and Co- Occurring Services

On June 1, 2022, Cindy Sneed joined Volunteer Behavioral Health (VBH) as the Sr. Vice President of Addiction and Co-Occurring Services. Cindy has more than 20 years of experience in community-based mental health, substance use, and crisis services. In her new role, Cindy will provide executive level leadership for Volunteer's outpatient and residential substance use and co-occurring disorder treatment programs. "We are thrilled that Cindy chose to join the Volunteer family," said Phyllis Persinger, President & CEO. "With her knowledge and experience, Cindy will be instrumental in the strategic growth of the high-quality treatment services we offer to individuals and families in our region."



Cindy Sneed



Prior to joining VBH, Cindy was the Chief Clinical Officer for 16 years at The Next Door, a co-occurring treatment program for women. She has experience as a Consultant for Behavioral Health Programs and a Master Instructor for Therapeutic Options, a curriculum in neurorelational behavior support and emergency behavior management. Prior to 2004, Cindy was the Director of Emergency Psychiatric Services at the Mental Health Cooperative in Nashville. Cindy is a founding member of the Tennessee Licensed Professional Counselor Association (TLPCA) and served as its first President.

Cindy has received a number of awards in recognition of her contributions and leadership in the behavioral health field. In 2008, Cindy received TLPCA's Dr. Susan Hammonds-White Leadership Award, an honor recognizing outstanding leadership and advocacy in mental health counseling. In 2009, Cindy was selected by SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment as one of 18 leaders in the nation to be an Associate in their inaugural class of the Women's Addiction Services Leadership Institute (WASLI). WASLI cultivates emerging leaders in evidence-based, gender-responsive prevention, treatment and recovery services. Cindy also received the 2015 Outstanding Community Service Award from the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA). This annual award is given to individuals who have enhanced the counseling profession and significantly impacted their community through service.

Sej West, Volunteer's Chief Business Development Officer, said, "Cindy is a

compassionate leader with a long history of helping individuals recover and thrive. Her experience and leadership will help us meet the growing addiction and mental health needs in the communities we serve.”

Quinco Mental Health Center Meets with Senator Page Walley to Discuss Important Behavioral Health Initiatives



Sheila Overton, Senator Page Walley, Kelly Odum, and Mark Barber

QUINCO
MENTAL HEALTH

Williamson County Sheriff Partners with Agency to Provide Mental Health Responder on Calls

WSMV.COM | September 20, 2022 | Tosin Fakile | https://www.wsmv.com/2022/09/20/williamson-co-sheriff-partners-with-agency-provide-mental-health-responder-calls/?fbclid=IwAR0CQJAnW6iqdz2j3tuUESBGfjTHRixwjGEp9ULX9y0XDUIblg40_hvgIQI

The Williamson County Sheriff's Office is adding a new resource to better respond to mental health calls.



The sheriff's office has partnered with Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, which is providing a mental health co-responder.

“Law enforcement is usually the first response. There's only so much we can do when we get on the scene; so, we team up with Volunteer Behavioral Health and they provide someone that is assigned to Williamson County and they come out and assist the deputies until the situation calms,” Williamson County Sheriff Dusty Rhoades said.

Rhoades said about 75% of people at the jail have some type of mental health issue. He said they're not criminals, but they need help.

The sheriff's office said they get about three to four mental health calls a week.

“Natchez Trace Bridge, they're doing work on it now, but we've had several people jump off the bridge and ours in the county and cities,” Rhoades said. “There are people contemplating suicide on a daily basis, and these people, they need mental health help. That's why we're using the program.”

When deputies respond to mental health calls, they won't be alone anymore. They will have Alex MacNicol IV, the new mental health co-responder, along. He will step in after deputies have secured the scene.

“Mental health is a large book to read and these people dealing with this stuff, they spent years training with mental health,” Rhoades said. “The average police officer may get 40 to 80 hours.”

“Primarily my job is to evaluate. Is there a mental health crisis? Are we dealing with it, and how to best deal with?” MacNicol said.

MacNicol will provide wrap-around care for the person in the crisis.

“We're hoping what we're doing will put the message out in the community that calling law enforcement about mental health doesn't mean you're going to jail,” MacNicol said. “It means someone like me will come out to meet you and find an alternative.”

Experts said this is a service Williamson County has needed.

“Not all mental health is a crime. Maybe it's someone having a PTSD moment or someone that's having issue with schizophrenia, because they're not on their medication or the medication has plateaued,” MacNicol said.

“My job is to figure out how best to help them.”

“The benefit is number one, hopefully, they're not coming to jail. We're getting these people the help they need, and they can have a productive life,” Rhoades said.

The sheriff's office said the hours they receive the mental health calls, will be the hours the co-responder works.

When that person isn't available, deputies, along with the Crisis Intervention Team, will respond.

Shelby County Leaders Raise awareness for Mental Health, Addiction Resources

Action News 5 | October 24, 2022 | Sydney Hawkins | <https://www.actionnews5.com/2022/10/24/shelby-county-leaders-raise-awareness-mental-health-addiction-resources/>

City leaders across Shelby County discussed the importance of mental health and addiction awareness Monday morning.



This roundtable breakfast was hosted by Alliance Healthcare Services.

Organizers called it a first-time event where elected officials of both the City of Memphis and Shelby County, Memphis Police Chief CJ Davis, first responders, law enforcement and mental health leaders from across the state will be present.

Alliance Healthcare is the largest non-profit behavioral health provider in West Tennessee, according to CEO Laurie Powell.

"It's the largest comprehensive behavioral health," Powell explained. "So we do everything from housing, crisis stabilization, outpatient services, and outreach in children, families, and adults. We serve around 22,000 individuals a year."

The event is set to raise awareness about mental health and addiction, as well as the resources available for people living here.

"I think the COVID-19 pandemic has really opened our eyes to what we need to do to take care of ourselves and getting help," Powell said.

Memphis Police Department Chief CJ Davis and Shelby County Sheriff Floyd Bonner both say mental health is just as important for their officers and deputies as it is for the community.

"Many times, we respond to various types of crime situations," Davis explained. "At least, the call may initially start out as that. And then we find out it's not necessarily a criminal act, it's a person that's in crisis. So it's important for our officers and also our community members to recognize the difference."

"Just having the conversation about mental health is long overdue and well needed in this community and all communities throughout the United States," Bonner said.

According to the Mental Health Cooperative, 20% of America's youth ages 13-18 suffer from mental health illness. It's something Shelby County

Juvenile Court Judge Tarik Sugarmon says he intends to address in our county.

"We've had a lot of mental health issues come to the forefront... especially since the pandemic," Sugarmon explained. "They have not had social activities or opportunities. They've been isolated because they were out of school for along period of time, so we have to address that and help these children get back on a firm footing."

According to the Mental Health Cooperative, 1 in 4 adults experience mental illness every year.

Of those 1 in 4, between 70% to 90% say they see improvement in their symptoms after participating in some form of treatment.

Fairfield Inn and Suites Donates Furniture to Veterans Program

Chattanooga Times Free Press | August 13, 2022 | Community Submission | <https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2022/aug/13/fairfield-inn-and-suites-east-ridge-donates-f/>

Mission Accomplished: Stable Housing (M.A.S.H), a program funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs and served by Volunteer Behavioral Health, provides support to eligible low-income veteran families throughout Tennessee and North Georgia.



We would like to salute the Fairfield By Marriott in East Ridge as an example of corporate support. The local owner, P.J. Patel, and management company, LBA Hospitality, donated more than 70 full rooms of furniture to the M.A.S.H program as the hotel undergoes a massive renovation. This will provide a much-needed boost to our heroes and their families as they start a new phase in their lives.

Mark Hart, general manager, said, "This country made a promise to these men and women when they signed up to protect America that they would also be cared for when their military service was finished."

Jerry Vagnier, CEO, McNabb Center, Named TAADAS CEO of the Year

Jerry Vagnier, retiring CEO of the McNabb Center, was recently named CEO of the Year during the TAADAS Recovery Month Banquet. Award recipients demonstrate extraordinary leadership and management skills. Through Jerry's leadership, the McNabb Center has grown to be one of the state leaders in mental health and substance use treatment. Please join us in congratulating Jerry Vagnier on receiving the 2022 TAADAS CEO of the Year Award.



Jerry Vagnier



McNabb Center Opens New Affordable Housing Community for Seniors



The McNabb Center cut the ribbon on Dogwood Springs, a 50-unit rental housing complex, providing much-needed low-income housing to senior citizens in the Knoxville area.

"There is a significant need for affordable housing in Knoxville, and the McNabb Center is proud to address part of that need," said Jerry Vagnier, McNabb Center CEO. "This project alone will not solve the housing crisis faced by our community, but it will provide comfortable, affordable apartments for 50 of our most vulnerable community members."

Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, Rob Cotterman, Assistant Commissioner for Mental Health for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and numerous donors and community partners celebrated this ribbon cutting.

The nearly \$8.5 million project is possible because of the financial support of Knoxville's Community Development Corporation, the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation, the City of Knoxville, Knox County, Federal Home Loan Bank-Cincinnati, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency and numerous private donors.



Dr. Alicia Ellis Named Chief Program Officer at Park Center

Park Center recently announced that Allica Ellis, EdD, LPC-MHSP, ACS, CST, MPA has been appointed their new Chief Program Officer. Dr. Ellis has over 20 years of experience in the mental health field. As CPO, Dr. Ellis will help carry out Park Center's strategic vision and support program development.



Alicia Ellis, EdD



Back to School and Mental Health

WKRN.COM | July 27, 2022 | Alicia Patton | https://www.wkrn.com/what-to-watch/newsmaker/newsmaker-back-to-school-and-mental-health/?fbclid=IwAR3_8OSkD3YZAFq4gbfThkDzE2mrHKwTLGdtcJHcb3296nPGJfbpoa_kvpXU

Between recent mass shootings and the pandemic, it's important for parents to keep an eye on their child's state of mind. Beth Walser, with Volunteer Behavioral Health, joins Nickelle Smith in the News 2 studio with more on ways to be proactive about mental health.



Walser says there are multiple signs parents can look for when determining if their child has any anxiety about returning to school.

"A lot of kids bring up little things like 'I wonder if that kid is going to make fun of me this year,' or 'What if my teacher doesn't like me,'" said Walser, "It's easy for parents to just say 'don't worry about it,' but really being able to open up that line of communication with your kids and ask 'What is worrying you?' is something parents can do to get them to open up about their fears and concerns."

To learn more about navigating mental health ahead of a new school year, view the entire interview accessible at the URL provided above.

Mental Health Resources Available for Teachers

WKRN.COM | September 22, 2022 | Alicia Patton | <https://www.wkrn.com/what-to-watch/newsmaker/newsmaker-mental-health-resources-available-for-teachers/?fbclid=IwAR2YBVohERPKBIkYH2FO4942s7EoxyJ7cTB5BITqKHOISVYZcvGoWBVYoHw>

Underpaid, understaffed, underfunded, underappreciated: These are just a few challenges teachers say they are facing in Tennessee.



Beth Walser, Clinical Director at Volunteer Behavioral Health System, joins Nickelle Smith in the News 2 studio with mental health options available for teachers.

"If you're a teacher and you feel burned out, that would feel like being numb, robotic, mentally exhausted, or just feeling like you don't want to get out of bed to go to a job you went to school for and see students that you love. Those are symptoms that should be a cry to get some help," said Walser.

Walser says a few things teachers can do when feeling burnout is:

- Set boundaries
- Focus on what you can control
- Don't isolate yourself
- Perform self-care acts to help re-center

For additional resources, [click here](#).

Children's Hospital Sees Increase in



Children Poisoned by THC in Marijuana Edibles

They resemble candy. They taste like candy. Some children have ended up in intensive care.

VUMC Voice | June 21, 2022 | Jessica Pasley | <https://voice.vumc.org/childrens-hospital-sees-increase-in-children-poisoned-by-thc-in-marijuana-edibles/>

What was once a random emergency room encounter is becoming more common – young children requiring treatment after ingesting THC-infused products.

Edibles, infused with THC — the substance that's primarily responsible for the effects of marijuana on a person's mental state — are consumed in small portions by adults, said Marla Levine, MD, associate professor of Pediatrics in the Department of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

"It's a danger to small children and is completely preventable."

In the past six months, Levine and colleagues have seen an increase in the number of small children requiring treatment for toxic exposure after ingesting the THC-infused products.

"These edibles resemble candy, and to young children, they probably even taste like candy," said Levine. "They are not stopping at one bite or a nibble. They are consuming the entire piece or possibly pieces. They have no understanding that there are drugs inside."

"The doses that are in these products vary. There is no standardization. Children are exposed to a much higher dose of the drugs leading to a dangerous and oftentimes toxic level in their systems."

Levine reports that children are requiring immediate medical attention for excessive vomiting, seizures, altered states of consciousness and severe depression in breathing that has led to the need for intubation and admission to the pediatric intensive care unit.

The message: please store these products safely out of reach of children.

"You should be using the same vigilance in ensuring the safety of your child that you would with any other dangerous object in your household whether that's medication or a gun," said Levine. "You have to treat these products the same way. It's a danger to small children and is completely preventable."

The Tennessee Poison Center has reported 46 THC or marijuana exposures in children 5 years old and younger in the past six months.

The 24-hour hotline, 1-800-222-1222, is staffed by registered nurses, pharmacists and physicians. It is available for hearing impaired and non-English speakers.

TAMHO Opening General Session | How to Replenish Yourself and Those That Work with You

Speaker Introduction

Kristie Hammonds, BSW, MBA, TAMHO
Incoming President, CEO, Frontier Health, Gray,
TN

Guest Speaker



Quint Studer

Founder, Healthcare Plus Solutions
Group, Pensacola, Florida

General Session | Innovations in Workforce Development

Opening Remarks, Panel Introductions & Session Facilitation

Ben Middleton, MS, Chief Executive Officer,
Centerstone Tennessee, Nashville, TN

Panelists

**Alana Morris, LPC-MHSP, Clinical Education
and Supervision Liaison, Centerstone
Tennessee, Nashville, TN**

**Kristie Hammonds, BSW, MBA, Chief
Executive Officer, Frontier Health, Gray, TN**

**Rikki Harris, MAMFT, MACE, Chief Executive
Officer, TN Voices, Goodlettsville, TN**

The Future of Behavioral Health in Tennessee: Enhancing System Resilience

2022 TAMHO Annual Conference



DECEMBER 8-9, 2022

Sonesta Hotel Nashville Airport

Both In-Person and Virtual Attendance Options

General Session | Opioid Abatement in Tennessee

Opening Remarks and Speaker Introduction

Brian Buuck, CEO, Ridgeview Behavioral Health,
Oak Ridge, TN

Speaker



**Mary Shelton, Executive
Director, Opioid Abatement
Council, Nashville, Tennessee**

General Session | Innovation in Crisis Services

Opening Remarks, Panel Introductions & Session Facilitation

Sean Jones, LCSW, Carey Counseling Center,
Paris, TN

Panelists

**Jennifer Armstrong, LPC-MHSP, Director,
Office of Crisis Services and Suicide
Prevention, TDMHSAS, Nashville, TN**

**Lindsay Stone, MA, Senior Director of Children
and Youth Mental Health Programming,
McNabb Center, Knoxville, TN**

**Janice Davidson Winger, LCSW, Chief
Operating Officer, Alliance Healthcare
Services, Memphis, TN**

**Laura Tedesco, MSSW, LCSW, Senior Vice
President Crisis Services, Volunteer
Behavioral Health Care System,
Murfreesboro, TN**

TAMHO Awards and Recognition Ceremony and Breakfast

One of TAMHO's priorities is to annually ensure that remarkable individuals and organizations are recognized for their achievements and dedication to the behavioral health community in Tennessee. Join TAMHO as we bestow our highest honors during the 2022 TAMHO Awards and Recognition Ceremony and celebrate being the trusted voice for Tennessee's behavioral health system.

EVENT WEBSITE — REGISTRATION & EVENT DETAILS

<https://hopin.com/events/tamho-annual-conference-2022>

SPONSORSHIPS / EXPO HALL

<http://www.tamho.org/uploads/pdfs/2022%20Annual%20Conference/CALL%20FOR%20SPONSORS%20-%202022%20v4.pdf>

LODGING AT THE SONESTA NASHVILLE AIRPORT HOTEL

<https://www.sonesta.com/sonesta-hotels-resorts/tn/nashville/sonesta-nashville-airport?isGroupCode=true&groupCode=G113022TAMH&checkin=2022-12-07&checkout=2022-12-09>

Statewide Happenings

Meeting with SAMHSAS Assistant Secretary Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon



TAMHO member agency representatives Ben Middleton, Kristie Hammonds, Kelly Odum, Anthony Fox, Rikki Harris and Executive Director Elyn Wilbur were invited to meet with SAMHSA Assistant Secretary Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, along with Commissioner Williams, Stephen Smith, Dr. Victor Wu and other state leaders and community stakeholders on July 27 in Nashville. We were proud to highlight the great work being done in Tennessee and also share ideas with Assistant Secretary and members of her team.

Governor Lee Announces Leadership Transition at Department of Children's Services

Tennessee Governor Bill Lee recently announced the appointment of Margie Quin as Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS), effective September 1. Quin will succeed Jennifer Nichols, who has served the department since 2019.

"Jennifer is a committed public servant who has faithfully served Tennesseans since the beginning of my administration, and her leadership has been crucial in our work to ensure every child in our state has a loving, permanent home," said Lee. "As we continue these efforts, I am confident that Margie's experience in both the nonprofit and law enforcement sectors will benefit Tennessee children and their families."

Quin currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of End Slavery Tennessee, a nonprofit organization focused on efforts to end human trafficking. Quin has more than 25 years of experience in law enforcement, including two decades as

a special agent at the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). Quin earned her Bachelor's Degree at Auburn University and Master's Degree at Cumberland University.

Nichols came to DCS after two decades as a prosecutor who tried many child abuse, child homicide and high-profile cases, the last being the Holly Bobo murder. While Nichols was Commissioner, the department's Child Protective Services division was restructured to include specialized teams trained for triage and immediate response to crises involving serious child physical abuse. Nichols also implemented ChildStat, a statewide initiative that increases transparency and accountability by measuring and analyzing multiple data points for an integrated response by the juvenile justice, child programs, child protective services and legal teams. During Nichols' tenure as Commissioner, DCS, the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Administrative Office of the Courts, with support from the legislature, more than doubled the number of Tennessee's Safe Baby Courts, specialized collaborative courts that provide resources and support for parents and babies zero to three.

Elizabeth Foy Named TDoH Chief of Staff

Elizabeth Foy, Esq., has been appointed Chief of Staff for the Tennessee Department of Health. In this role, she will provide leadership to internal and external priorities that are essential to the department's overall success.

"Elizabeth has been an instrumental and critical part of our team and has quickly demonstrated her insightfulness, management skill, and commitment to public health," said Tennessee Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Morgan McDonald. "Her extensive legal and public policy background with the department and in private practice will ensure we continue to accelerate progress in improving the health of Tennesseans."

Foy was appointed TDH's Assistant Commissioner for Legislative Affairs earlier this year, after serving as Legislative Liaison for the department since 2021. As Assistant Commissioner, Foy developed TDH's annual legislative package and worked with key members of the Tennessee General Assembly on departmental initiatives.

Foy joined TDH after several years in civil private practice and after serving more than a decade as an Assistant District Attorney for the 20th Judicial District. Foy is a member of the Nashville Bar Association Board of Directors, the Tennessee Bar Association and is on the steering committee for the Nashville Bar Leadership Forum.

Foy earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Tennessee College of Law in Knoxville, Tenn., and holds a Bachelor of Arts from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. She and her husband reside in Nashville with their two children.

Mental Health America of the MidSouth Appoints a New Executive Director

It is with great excitement that Mental Health America (MHA) of the MidSouth would like to introduce our new Executive Director, Courtney Hatfield! While new to this role, Courtney is not a new face to the organization. Courtney served as the Chief Financial Officer with MHA of the MidSouth for over 4 years before continuing her career as Controller and Business Manager for the Tennessee Education Association in 2021. With over ten years of experience in her field, Courtney has positively impacted all of her workplaces to strategically realign the organizations for success. Courtney's true passion lies in mental health, which was the driving force behind her return to MHA. With her experience and personal investment in the mental health field, Courtney will play a crucial role in advancing MHA's resources and expanding our reach, assisting more lives than ever who are impacted by mental illness.

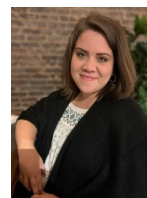


Courtney Hatfield

Ms. Hatfield recently stated: "I'm excited to work alongside so many passionate individuals to continue to break down stigmas related to mental health and provide vital resources to our community." Board Chair, Deb Hennessee also stated, "On behalf of MHA of the MidSouth's Board and Staff, we are very excited to have Courtney Hatfield as our new Executive Director. Courtney is not only well respected as a professional in the non-profit sector, but also deeply involved with our local community as well. She brings a new vision to MHA and I look forward to being a part of the change!"

TSPN's new Director of Operations

TAADAS and the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network wish to announce the selection of Monika Hauck as TSPN's new Director of Operations, effective November 9. Monika previously served as TSPN's Zero Suicide Initiative Director, starting in this position this past February. Before joining TSPN, she served as the East Tennessee Zero Suicide Coordinator for Mental Health America of the Mid-South.



Monika Hauck

The Director of Operations position is a revisioning of the previous Deputy Director position, overseeing the reporting of outcomes to the State of Tennessee and fulfillment of data requests from community stakeholders. This position will also handle mass communications on behalf of the Network, including the TSPN website, the TSPN Call to Action monthly e-newsletter, and press releases. The Director of Operations will also assist with the recruitment and onboarding of new TSPN staff and assist the Executive Director in the development and promotion of the infrastructure and goals of TSPN.

In 2016, Monika graduated with her degree in Psychology from the University of West Florida in Pensacola. Monika's passion for community outreach, education and prevention efforts started with fighting for and implementing her high school's first Gay-Straight Alliance organization to educate her classmates, teachers, and administrative leaders about the mental health and prejudices facing LGBT+ students. Monika continued her pursuit and passion in

Planning and Policy Council

Planning and Policy Council meetings return in 2022. To verify the schedule and plans for future meetings, please visit the Department website at these links:

[Statewide and Committee Meeting Schedule](#)

[Regional Committee Meeting Schedule](#)

DIRECT QUESTIONS AND
INQUIRIES TO:

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

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

college by joining Students for Suicide Awareness, which she later helped transition into Active Minds at UWF. Monika regularly collaborated with community partners, different university student groups and institutional departments to educate and implement change surrounding the stigma of mental health and suicide. Monika coordinated the yearly Seeds of Hope Walk and openly shared her struggles with mental health, attempted suicide and the courageous steps it takes every day to work on one's mental health and well-being.

As an undergraduate assistant, Monika found a passion for research-informed practices and interventions while she worked on the Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grant. This work included organizing focus groups, collaborating with healthcare organizations, conducting independent research projects and gathering data on the depression rates of UWF students and QPR pre/post-test data for training sessions administered to faculty, staff and students.

After graduation from the University of West Florida, Monika began working for Baptist Hospital in Pensacola, Florida, an inpatient psychiatric hospital, as a Psychiatric Technician II and later, a group counseling leader. This past June, Monika earned her Master of Science in Organizational Leadership from Columbia Southern University, refining her skills in crisis communication and project management, grant writing, public health administration and advocating for social and behavioral science in public health.

We look forward to having Monika inaugurate this new position, and to working with her to review and streamline TSPN operations, building the communications and logistical capabilities of TSPN.

Tennessee Celebrates Child Health Month

The Tennessee Department of Health is recognizing Child Health Month throughout October. This annual recognition celebrates and raises awareness about programs devoted to the health of Tennessee's children, our most important resource.

"As a parent and pediatrician I know the importance of keeping children healthy and safe," said Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Health and Director of the Division of Family Health and Wellness, Tobi Amosun, MD, FAAP. "From immunizations to nutrition tips, local health departments offer opportunities for parents and caregivers to make sure children receive the important care they need and deserve."

Tennesseans have faced many challenges in the last two years, and TDH is excited to celebrate this year's Child Health Month theme, New Beginnings. Together, with our local and state partners, TDH is ensuring parents, caregivers, teachers and community members are equipped with the tools they need to promote healthy practices to Tennessee's children.

TDH will promote a number of focus areas during Child Health Month to ensure children and families receive valuable information for their overall health :

- Tobacco and Substance Abuse Prevention
- Promoting Healthy Eating Habits and Healthy Drinks
- Weekly Child Health Topic Lunch and Learns
- Social and Emotional Health
- Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Preventing Childhood Trauma

Join TDH in celebrating Child Health Month! Visit tn.gov/health/CHM2022 to find activities and events in your community.

UT Nursing Awarded \$3.7 Million Grant to Provide Quality Mental Health Care Services to Rural Communities

University of Tennessee | News Medical Life Sciences | August 15, 2002 | Reviewed by Emily Henderson, B.Sc. | <https://www.news-medical.net/news/20220815/UT-Nursing-awarded-2437M-grant-to-provide-quality-mental-health-care-services-to-rural-communities.aspx>

The University of Tennessee, College of Nursing has been awarded a \$3.7M grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide quality mental health care services to rural communities with underrepresented and minority residents, seeing both insured and uninsured patients, through nurse practitioner-led mobile health units and telehealth equipment.

The project, titled *Mobile Health Training: Underrepresented Providers & Underrepresented Populations (UP & UP)*, will help to educate underrepresented and minority students in the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNP) BSN to DNP and certificate programs by offering a full scholarship to 18 students.

The selected students and their PMHNP preceptor provide telehealth services to Hamblen, McMinn, Morgan, Monroe, Sevier counties through mobile health care clinics one day a week.

Another component of the project is to integrate social determinants of health, health equity and access to care, health literacy, culturally sensitive care, leadership, and communication concepts into the current PMHNP educational curriculum to improve patient health outcomes.

HRSA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary federal agency for improving health care to people who are

geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable.

"The prevalence of mental health disorders is highest among those living in Appalachian regions of Tennessee," said Allyson Neal, Assistant Sean of Graduate Programs. "This fact, coupled with limited services for rural residents creates health disparities. This grant will impact the lives of rural Tennessee residents by bringing them care and by training PMHNP's to overcome the challenges unique to this population."

The project began on July 1 and will run over the course of four years.

TDMHSAS Expands Project Rural Recovery to Ten New Counties

Mobile clinics work to meet needs in rural and underserved communities.

Tennessee's Project Rural Recovery is growing. Thanks to \$6.3 million budgeted in the current fiscal year by Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly, Project Rural Recovery is expanding to ten new counties.

After a competitive grant award process, the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) selected Ridgeview Behavioral Health Services and Pathways as the community-based providers for the new service area.

Pathways Behavioral Health Services will serve Crockett, Fayette, Hardeman, Haywood, and Lauderdale Counties in West Tennessee and Ridgeview will serve Campbell, Fentress, Morgan, Scott, and Union Counties in East Tennessee. As with the current counties served by Project Rural Recovery, department leaders selected the expansion areas with an emphasis on rural, underserved, and distressed counties.

"Project Rural Recovery is changing lives and increasing resiliency in Tennessee's rural communities. We're so proud of this program and the impact that it's having for Tennesseans who otherwise would have to travel long distances or forego the care they need," said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams. "We're so grateful to Governor Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly for seeing the value in this program and deciding to double its reach with ten new counties."

Project Rural Recovery seeks to address infrastructure barriers to access in rural communities with mobile clinics. The units offer two exam spaces, a restroom, a small waiting area, and a lift for accessibility. Providers offer integrated behavioral and physical healthcare for free or no cost to the patient. Through its first two years, Project Rural Recovery has served more than 1,600 Tennesseans.

"Rural counties in our state face so many unique healthcare challenges. Just by parking in a community and holding clinic hours one day a week on a regular basis, our mobile units can have an outsized impact on access to care and truly change the lives of the

people they serve," said Jessica Youngblom, LMSW, TDMHSAS Director of Strategic Initiatives.

Project Rural Recovery started in March 2020 with the award of a 5-year \$10 million federal grant. The new funding in the TDMHSAS budget is from the American Rescue Plan Act. Initial community-based providers included Buffalo Valley, Inc. serving Lawrence, Lewis, Marshall, Perry, and Wayne Counties in middle Tennessee and the McNabb Center serving Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hancock, and Jefferson Counties in east Tennessee.

Learn more about Project Rural Recovery on our website at : [TN.gov/behavioral-health/ruralrecovery](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/ruralrecovery)

'Moving in the right direction:' 988 Crisis Hotline Helps Hundreds in Chattanooga

News Channel 9 ABC | October 20, 2022 | Sam Peña| <https://newschannel9.com/news/local/moving-in-the-right-direction-988-crisis-hotline-helps-hundreds-in-chattanooga-suicide-prevention-volunteer-behavioral-health-mental-health>

Three numbers have made one big difference in the Chattanooga area since July: 988. The number is for those who are experiencing a mental health crisis, and are feeling like taking their life. Anyone can dial the number from anywhere in the United States.

Workers at Chattanooga's Volunteer Behavioral Health Center have been ready to answer what they say is a growing crisis.

Angie Duncan trains emergency mental health responders at Volunteer Behavioral Health, and has worked in this field for 29 years.

But she says she's never seen a crisis like she's seen in recent years.

"It's all the time, basically," Duncan told us on Thursday.

Duncan says operators at the center who hear from folks in trouble get all their information for clinicians and then, pass it on to the clinician on schedule.

Last year, Duncan's crew has serviced 100 percent of their calls from 29 counties in Tennessee.

It's a service put to use last weekend by the group's Director, Greg Lewis.

After one of Lewis's clients shared a suicide plan with him, he immediately contacted the 988 line.

"I feel like we're moving in the right direction," Lewis says.

But the crisis continues. The state of Tennessee's suicide rate is 29 percent higher than the national average.

Duncan and Lewis hope those startling stats will help their center expand.

Nationwide Happenings

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics Tackle Mental Health, Substance Use Crises with Expanded Access to Care

CCBHCs increase number of people served per clinic by 23%, according to a new National Council for Mental Wellbeing survey.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) continue to expand access to care, alleviate workforce challenges and strengthen the crisis care system, [according to new data](#) from the National Council for Mental Wellbeing's 2022 CCBHC Impact Report conducted by The Harris Poll — an online survey conducted between July and August, among 249 CCBHCs. CCBHCs offer access to mental health services much faster than the national average wait time and provide access to certain forms of substance use disorder treatment at vastly higher rates than non-CCBHCs.

The National Council for Mental Wellbeing, along with its members and state and federal policymakers, created the framework for CCBHCs more than a dozen years ago and have collaborated closely on implementing this new and transformative model. CCBHCs are clinics — either certified by their states as CCBHCs or recipients of a federal CCBHC grant — that receive flexible funding to expand the scope of mental health and substance use services in their community. They serve anyone who walks through the door, regardless of their diagnosis and insurance status.

Since 2017, when the first CCBHCs were established, the National Council for Mental Wellbeing has surveyed CCBHCs and grantees annually to glean insights into their activities and outcomes. This year's report provides further proof of the remarkable success of the program, demonstrating evidence-based clinical care supported with effective financing can dramatically increase access to care and provide comprehensive and lifesaving services nationwide.

The report comes on the heels of an [announcement from the Biden-Harris administration](#) that CCBHCs will be expanded nationwide: applications for planning grants are now available to using funding authorized by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. The announcement was made at a press conference on October 18, which included remarks from Xavier Becerra, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CCBHC legislative architects Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and Senator Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), as well as representatives from a CCBHC and law enforcement.

Key highlights from the National Council's 2022 survey of active CCBHCs:

CCBHCs are serving millions and providing thousands of new clients with needed care.

- 1.2 million people are currently served annually across the 249 responding clinics, which means an estimated 2.1 million[i] are served nationwide by all CCBHCs and grantees.
- CCBHCs and grantees who reported an increase in their caseload, on average, serve more than 900 more people per clinic than prior to CCBHC implementation, a 23% increase.

"The CCBHC model continues to represent our nation's best response to the ongoing mental health and substance use crises. CCBHCs expand access to comprehensive and integrated care at a time an overwhelming majority of people in the United States agree our country is experiencing a mental health crisis. Their proven ability to transform how people access care in their communities is a blueprint for the future of mental health and substance use continuum of care in America."

Chuck Ingoglia, president and CEO of the National Council for Mental Wellbeing

help more states implement the CCBHC model,

The CCBHC model is helping address health disparities, enabling clinics to improve access to care for underserved communities.

- Since becoming a CCBHC, 100% report taking steps to improve access to care and reduce health disparities among people of color and other historically marginalized populations. At the top of the list is staff training on culturally sensitive/competent care (94%).

CCBHCs deliver lifesaving crisis support services in their communities, which helps divert people in crisis from hospitals, emergency departments and jails.

- Either directly or through referral, 98% of respondents offer access to 24/7 crisis lines, 97% offer access to mobile crisis response and 94% offer access to crisis stabilization services.

CCBHCs and grantees are addressing the nation's opioid crisis by dramatically expanding access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

- 82% of CCBHCs and grantees use one or more forms of MAT for opioid use disorder, while only 58% of substance use clinics nationwide provide any MAT services[[ii](#)]

The CCBHC model is alleviating the impact of the community-based mental health and substance use treatment workforce shortage by enabling clinics to increase hiring.

- Responding clinics hired 6,220 new staff positions, or an average of 27 new staff per clinic, as a result of becoming a CCBHC, with an estimated 11,240 new staff positions added across all CCBHCs and grantees[[iii](#)].

Background

The CCBHC model was originally implemented in eight states in a 2017 demonstration program through the passage of the Excellence in Mental Health Care Act of 2014, with two states added to the demonstration in 2020. Since 2018, grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) have also funded clinics in dozens of states to take on the activities and services of a CCBHC.

These grants have proven to be a vital springboard to CCBHC implementation, positioning clinics and states for further delivery system transformations as they implement the CCBHC model in their Medicaid programs. Under the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the demonstration will expand to include 10 new states every two years, starting in 2024 — and will ultimately offer all states the opportunity to translate their grantees' work into a new, sustainable nationwide model of care.

Survey Methodology

The research was conducted online in the United States by The Harris Poll on behalf of the National Council for Mental Wellbeing among 249 certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHCs and grantees). The survey was conducted July 14th – August 26th, 2022.

Raw data were not weighted and are, therefore, only representative of the individuals who completed the survey.

Respondents for this survey were among the 449 total participating CCBHCs and grantees who were asked to participate — of which 249 participated in our survey and are included in the final results. The sampling precision of Harris online polls is measured by using a Bayesian credible interval. For this study, the sample data is accurate to within + 6.2 percentage points using a 95% confidence level. This credible interval will be wider among subsets of the surveyed population of interest.

All sample surveys and polls are subject to other multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including but not limited to, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments.



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Need to talk to someone about feelings of stress, anxiety, sadness, or depression related to work? Calltakers with the COVID-19 Emotional Support Line can help.



Tennesseans working in education, healthcare, or first responder roles can call or text:

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Calltakers are available: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. (CT), 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. (ET)
The COVID-19 Emotional Support line is a collaborative project among National Association of Social Workers-TN Chapter and the following groups:







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ENDING THE OPIOID CRISIS

To speak with a TDMHSAS Consumer
Advocate:

Need help with mental health or substance use services?
Call the TDMHSAS Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services
HELPLINE
1-800-560-5767

We can help with:

- finding mental health and substance abuse resources in your area
- questions about insurance
- finding housing options
- communicating with mental health and substance abuse providers
- questions about the Certified Peer Recovery Specialist program
- filing a complaint

We are available

- Monday through Friday
- 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CT
- Closed on state holidays

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