The Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) recently conducted their Annual Membership Meeting and bestowed its highest honors during their Awards and Recognition Ceremony at Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

TAMHO Leadership for 2013

The Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) recently elected officers for 2013 at the organization’s recent Annual Meeting held in Murfreesboro. Charles Good, President and Chief Executive Officer, Frontier Health, Gray, Tennessee, will serve as President. He will succeed Gene Lawrence, Executive Director, Southeast Mental Health Center, Memphis, Tennessee, who will remain on the board as Immediate Past President. Robert N. Vero, Ed.D., Chief Executive Officer, Centerstone of Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee, was elected President Elect and Robert Vaughn, Chief Executive Officer, Carey Counseling Center, Paris, Tennessee will serve a two year term as Secretary. Andy Black, Chief Executive Officer, Helen Ross McNabb Center, Knoxville Tennessee, will remain on the board as Treasurer completing the second year of a two-year term.

TAMHO Recognizes Three Board Members for Their Years of Service

The Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations honored three long-time members of the Board of Directors with a TAMHO Service Award during the TAMHO 2012 Annual Awards and Recognition Ceremony at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

- 25 Years of Service – Robert J. Benning, Chief Executive Officer, Ridgeview, Oak Ridge, TN
- 20 Years of Service – Gene Lawrence, Executive Director, Southeast Mental Health Center, Memphis, TN
- 20 Years of Service – Robert N. Vero, Ed.D, Chief Executive Officer, Centerstone of Tennessee, Nashville, TN

In 1997, the TAMHO Service Award was established to annually honor those members of its Board of Directors who have contributed through longevity of tenure. The TAMHO Service Award recognizes tenure of service of ten or more years with presentations made at each five-year increment.
TAMHO Bestows its highest honors for 2012

TAMHO President's Award

E. Douglas Varney, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), Nashville, TN

The TAMHO President's Award is given at the discretion of the President of the TAMHO Board of Directors to recognize extraordinary contributions to the field of mental health.

Frank G. Clement Community Service Award

Terry Cunningham, Executive Director, Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Agency, Kingsport, Tennessee

The TAMHO Frank G. Clement Community Service Award honors individuals who have provided exemplary leadership and volunteer service on behalf of TAMHO or a TAMHO member organization to greatly benefit the community at large.

Dorothea Dix Professional Service Award

Patsy Cronk, Peer Support Manager, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, Cookeville, Tennessee (posthumously)

The TAMHO Dorothea Dix Professional Service Award honors a behavioral health professional who has provided significant contributions over an extended period of time to the behavioral health system that will have a far reaching and long lasting positive impact on the quality and/or scope of behavioral health services in Tennessee.

Distinguished Service Award

Kathy Benedetto, Vice President of Children’s Services, Frontier Health, Gray, TN

The TAMHO Distinguished Service Award recognizes extraordinary and long-standing dedication and achievement on behalf of TAMHO or a TAMHO member organization. Consideration is given to the longevity of service and the significant overall contributions to the community behavioral health organization, TAMHO, and the community based system at the community and state level.
**Personal Courage Award**

**Matt Cline, Centerstone of Tennessee, Clarksville, Tennessee**

The TAMHO Personal Courage Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies courageousness in facing personal challenges presented by mental illness in order to provide effective leadership, advocacy, or support for programs that serve others through the public service delivery system.

**Media Award**

**Cindy Sanders, Editor, Nashville Medical News, Nashville, Tennessee**

The TAMHO Media Award recognizes members of the electronic, print or radio media who have made outstanding contributions through their professional activities to Tennessee’s behavioral health system and the people it serves.

**Programs of Excellence Award**

The TAMHO Program of Excellence Award spotlights programs at TAMHO member corporations that have been exceptionally creative, achieved exceptional outcomes. This year, six (6) programs were recognized.

**Carey Counseling Center**

_Carey Counseling Center_ – Project Homeless Connect

**Ken Saeffkow, Training and Performance Improvement Manager, Centerstone of Tennessee, Nashville, TN**

**Peninsula Behavioral Health**

_Peninsula Behavioral Health_ – Outpatient Pharmacy

**Ken Saeffkow, Training and Performance Improvement Manager, Centerstone of Tennessee, Nashville, TN**

**Frontier Health**

_Frontier Health_ – Benzodiazepine Program

**Ken Saeffkow, Training and Performance Improvement Manager, Centerstone of Tennessee, Nashville, TN**

**Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System**

_Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System_ – My Recovery.vbhs.org

**Ken Saeffkow, Training and Performance Improvement Manager, Centerstone of Tennessee, Nashville, TN**