



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEWS AND EVENTS

WWW.TAMHO.ORG



the source for
BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH IN
TENNESSEE

July 2021
Volume 9, Issue 3

TAMHO Celebrates Three Retiring Board Members

Each of them has been instrumental to TAMHO's success through the years

Three TAMHO Board members are retiring in the coming days: Robert Vaughn, CEO of Carey Counseling Center, Bob Vero, CEO of Centerstone of TN, and Chris Wyre, CEO of Volunteer Behavioral Healthcare System.



Ellyn Wilbur
Executive Director

Combined, these men have more than 100 years' experience in the Tennessee public mental health system. They have observed many system changes throughout their careers and have successfully met each challenge that came their way. Each has mentored untold numbers of staff and watched thousands of clients improve and

experience recovery.

Each of these men has also been instrumental to TAMHO's success through the years. Combined, they served a total of 9 terms as TAMHO President, 9 terms as TAMHO Secretary, and 12 terms as TAMHO Treasurer. I can't count the number of committees and work groups they have chaired and supported.

TAMHO's Board, staff and special guests recently celebrated their retirement at a dinner at Mere Bulls.

It is impossible to quantify the positive change Robert, Bob and Chris have inspired in our system. We will truly miss them and wish them the best in their retirement!



Left to Right:
Robert N. Vero, PhD, Centerstone
Chris Wyre, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System
Robert Vaughn, Carey Counseling Center



Left to Right:
Ellyn Wilbur, TAMHO Executive Director
Robert N. Vero, PhD, Centerstone
Chris Wyre, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System
Florence Hervery, CMI Healthcare Services, TAMHO President
Robert Vaughn, Carey Counseling Center



Left to Right:
Robert N. Vero, PhD; Brian Buuck; and, Jimmie Jackson



Left to Right:
Rikki Harris, Meagan Frazier, and Alysia Smith Knight



Left to Right:
Ellyn Wilbur and Brian Buuck



Left to Right:
Laurie Powell, Kristie Hammonds, Florence Hervery, and Phyllis Persinger

Inside this issue

Tennessee Co-Occurring Disorders Collaborative (TNCODC)2

My Health, My Choice, My Life2

TAMHO Marked Behavioral Health Awareness Month3

Member Organization Happenings3

Statewide Happenings9

National Happenings15

TAMHO

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Florence Hervey | CMI Healthcare Services

President Elect

Phyllis Persinger | Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System

Immediate Past President

Jimmie Jackson | Professional Care Services of West TN

Treasurer

Kristie Hammonds | Frontier Health

Secretary

Brad Nunn, PhD | Centerstone

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alliance Health Services

Memphis | Laurie Powell, Executive Director

Carey Counseling Center

Paris | Robert Vaughn, Executive Director

CMI Healthcare Services

Memphis | E. Florence Hervey, Chief Executive Officer

Centerstone of Tennessee

Nashville | Ben Middleton, 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 Behavioral Health Services

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 | Donna Maddox, President

Ballad Health

Gray | Tammy Albright, CEO

Community Change

Knoxville | Kathy Gencay, 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 | Elynn Wilbur

Director of Policy and Advocacy | Alysia Smith Knight

Director of Member Services | Teresa Fuqua

Director of Administrative Services | Laura B. Jean

Project Manager TNCODC | Mariam Hashimi

Statewide Peer Wellness Coach | Dina Savvenas

Project Assistant | Carrie Ligon

The Tennessee Co-Occurring Disorders Collaborative (TNCODC)

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

On May 18th, the TNCODC conducted its annual summit. The virtual summit included two main topics, MAT as presented by Dr. Loyd, and Harm Reduction presented by Choice Health Network. The summit was attended by over 150 individuals, and received positive feedback.

On June 23rd, TNCODC held an informational session related to the audit process with Heather Gundersen, Deputy Commissioner for Administrative and Regulatory Services with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The session provided an overview of the audit process, particularly from the fiscal side. The recording as well as the slides will be available on the TNCODC website in the next couple weeks.

For information and to provide feedback about future resources and events, please reach out to Mariam Hashimi, TNCODC project manager at mhashimi@tamho.org.

My Health, My Choice, My Life

Peer Wellness in Tennessee

Hello warmer weather!

We hope you are finding some time to enjoy the great outdoors. Fresh air, sunshine and spending time in nature are on my personal list of wellness tools, and a



Mariam Hashimi



Dina Savvenas



walk in the park is one of my favorite physical activities. Studies have shown that walking for just 10 minutes a day can have profound effects on your physical and mental health.

Walking is considered a cardiovascular exercise and can increase circulation (especially for those of us who spend most of our work day sitting), oxygen levels, and feel-good endorphins without putting excess strain on your joints. You can listen to music or invite and talk with a friend or just practice mindfulness while walking.

To find out more about the amazing benefits of walking, please visit: Walking for Exercise | The Nutrition Source | Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/walking/>.

Another important thing to consider to improve your health and reduce the risk of preventable disease is tobacco cessation. My Health My Choice My Life facilitated a virtual Tobacco Free training in April and we plan to do more in the coming months, statewide. Please be on the lookout for an email announcement once those training dates are finalized. Quitting or reducing tobacco use is one of the most important things you could do for your overall health, and it's never too late! You can find more details about the program we utilize at DIMENSIONS: Tobacco Free Program – Behavioral Health and Wellness Program (bhwellness.org) <https://www.bhwellness.org/trainings/tobacco-free/>.

We have an opening for a Peer Wellness Coach at Cherokee Health Systems of Knoxville. If you, or someone you know, is interested in applying, please visit: Open Positions | Cherokee Health Systems <https://www.cherokeehealth.com/careers/open-positions>.

As always, be well!

TAMHO Marked Behavioral Health Awareness Month

Governor Bill Lee Proudly Proclaims May as Behavioral Health Awareness Month in the Great State of Tennessee

Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, recently proclaimed May as Behavioral Health Awareness Month in Tennessee and encouraged all citizens to join him in this worthy observance.

Behavioral health is essential to the overall health and well-being of every Tennessean and all Tennesseans face challenges in life that can impact their mental well-being, especially during a pandemic. Prevention and treatment are effective ways to reduce the impact of behavioral health conditions allowing people to achieve recovery and lead full, productive lives. There are practical tools that all people can use to improve their mental well-being and increase resiliency.

Each business, school, government agency, health care provider, house of faith, organization, and citizen share the impact of mental health well-being and has a responsibility to promote mental well-being and support prevention and treatment efforts. Tennessee's citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools are called upon to commit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health well-being, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental well-being, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with behavioral health conditions.

Thank you Governor Lee for your recognition of Behavioral Health Awareness Month.



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

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

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

Member Organization Happenings

Centerstone Leadership Updates

New Roles for Ben Middleton, Dr. Brad Nunn, and Dr. Matt Hardy

Centerstone, a not-for-profit health system specializing in mental health and substance use disorder services, has promoted three key individuals within the organization.

BEN MIDDLETON NAMED REGIONAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR TENNESSEE, GEORGIA, AND NORTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS

Ben Middleton has been promoted to regional chief executive officer for its Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina operations, effective Monday, May 3. Middleton succeeds Dr. Robert N. Vero who retired from the organization after 40 years of dedicated service.

"Ben has so much heart and integrity." said David Guth, co-founder and chief executive officer of Centerstone. "He is deeply committed to everything in his life, no matter if it is family, work or anything else. He doesn't form light commitments – he forms incredibly deep commitments and he's been all in at Centerstone the entire time I've known him," Guth added.



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.



A substance use treatment provider by training, Middleton has worked for Centerstone and its legacy organization since 1985 and previously held the positions of regional chief operating officer, vice president for core services and director of substance use programming, among others. In his new role as regional chief executive officer, Middleton will lead every aspect of the region's operations — from evaluating and expanding service lines, talent acquisition and training, to ensuring high-quality clinical outcomes for clients.

"I'm a 'let's get it done' kind of guy. I'm constantly looking for how we can be better and how we can grow," Middleton explained in an interview. "And not just growing financially, but growing in terms of our service system and how we deliver our care, and thinking about new ways of doing things with new technology or evidence-based treatments. We've grown a lot since 1985 and I'm excited to see what opportunities we will have in the future," Middleton added.

In addition to his new role, Middleton also serves as the executive sponsor for Centerstone's Black & Brown Professionals Network (BBPN), one of Centerstone's employee resource groups working to promote diversity, equity and inclusion across the health system. Formed in 2020, Centerstone's BBPN members work to promote, lead, develop, advocate for and advance Black and Brown professionals within Centerstone.

DR. BRAD NUNN NAMED CHIEF CLINICAL QUALITY OFFICER

Dr. Brad Nunn has been promoted to chief clinical quality officer for its operations in Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina. Previously vice president of quality improvement, Nunn joined Centerstone in 1987 and has helped establish both research and data analytics functions at the organization.



Brad Nunn, PhD

In his new role, Dr. Nunn facilitates organizational planning for improvement in care and services. He collects and analyzes data to discover opportunities for improvement followed by suggested action plans that help ensure improvements are accomplished and documented. Dr. Nunn is also responsible for performing, coordinating, and facilitating quality assurance and performance improvement activities related to clinical practice.

"We're excited to have Brad on our executive team as chief clinical quality officer," said Ben Middleton, regional CEO for Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina operations at Centerstone. "His decades of experience as a provider and as a leader in clinical excellence standards are invaluable to Centerstone."

"I welcome the opportunity to further expand and formalize my role within this important organization," said Dr. Nunn. "I have always been interested in how to make things work better, and I look forward to continuing to help make our clinical services be the

best they can be to continue our mission of delivering care that changes people's lives."

Dr. Nunn received his PhD in clinical psychology from Auburn University and has been a licensed clinical psychologist in Tennessee since 1988.

DR. MATT HARDY NAMED CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Dr. Matt Hardy has been promoted to chief operating officer for Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina. Previously a regional vice president, Hardy joined Centerstone in 2000 as a therapist, specializing in the treatment of adolescents and adults with severe and persistent mental illness.



Matt Hardy, PsyD

In his new role, Dr. Hardy oversees all clinical and business operations provided by Centerstone in Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina. These include outpatient clinical services, community based clinical services, residential and housing services, veterans and military families services, and more.

"Matt's wide range of experiences as a clinical provider and leader at our organization for the past twenty years have prepared him well for this new role as chief operating officer," said Ben Middleton, regional CEO for Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina operations at Centerstone. "We're fortunate to have him on the executive team helping shape the future of Centerstone."

"I'm excited to continue working with Centerstone clients and staff as well as with our behavioral health partners in the communities we serve," said Dr. Hardy. "The need for life-changing and life-saving mental health services continues to grow, and I'm honored to be part of a team that is committed to delivering care that changes people's lives."

Dr. Hardy received his PsyD in psychology from Wheaton College and is a licensed clinical psychologist. Additionally, Hardy is a critical incident responder and also helped launch three Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinics at Centerstone, these provide mental health services to veterans, active duty soldiers, and their family members.

Centerstone Taps Blas Villalobos to Lead Its Military Services as Chief Executive Officer

Bringing more than a decade of specialized experience working with veterans and the military community

Centerstone, a not-for-profit health system specializing in mental health and substance use disorder services, has announced Dr. Blas Villalobos as the new chief executive officer for its



Blas Villalobos



Military Services division, effective July 1.

Villalobos comes to Centerstone with more than a decade of specialized experience working with veterans and the military community, most recently serving as the Director of Veterans Affairs for Chapman University in Orange, California. As the chief executive officer of Centerstone's Military Services, Villalobos will use his vast experience to lead the organization's delivery of mental health and substance use disorder services to veterans, active duty military personnel, and military families. Villalobos will also be tasked with growing the organization's partnerships with other military-friendly organizations, including existing partnerships with Wounded Warrior Project and Supportive Services for Veteran Families.

"When conducting our national search to fill this critical role within our organization, Dr. Villalobos was head and shoulders above the other applicants. His personal connection to the military community, his commitment to serve the veteran population, and his previous experience with these groups make him a stellar find. We are excited to have him on board," said Kevin Norton, chief operating officer of Centerstone.

Villalobos began his academic career at Long Beach City College and holds doctorate and master's degrees in social work from the University of Southern California, as well as a bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University – Long Beach. He's a proud veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, having served honorably from 1999 to 2003. Villalobos is active in his community and currently serves on the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and Board of Directors for JVS SoCal. He previously served as a committee member for the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans and as a Board Member for the Los Angeles Community Veterans Engagement Board.

McNabb Center Announces Promotion of Mona Blanton-Kitts to President

Preparing McNabb for the future

The McNabb Center has announced their most senior regional clinical vice president, Mona Blanton-Kitts, has been promoted to president. As the Center's president, Mona will be responsible for all clinical services and the Center's operations.

"This organizational change will prepare the McNabb Center for the future," said Jerry Vagnier, McNabb Center CEO. "Mona is well positioned to lead McNabb in an amazing fashion and her promotion will further equip the Center as it continues to grow."


Mona recently celebrated 35 years with the Center. She has been recognized by the Tennessee Association of Mental Health

Organizations (TAMHO) with the Dorothea Dix Professional Service Award for her career accomplishments. During the course of Mona's career with the McNabb Center, she has overseen an expansive array of services and clinics across 29 East Tennessee counties. Her entrepreneurial approach has been a catalyst for much of the Center's growth.

Mona's promotion and new reporting structure will ensure the Center continues its focus on high-quality behavioral health care and provide innovative new services to meet community needs. Jerry Vagnier will maintain his role as McNabb Center's CEO and oversee the McNabb Center president, financial services, new business development and the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation.

Frontier Health Expands Access to Care for Children and Youth with a Children's Walk-In Center

One of many new programs resulting from a SAMHSA Certified Community Behavioral Health Center grant

In June of 2021, Frontier Health  Frontier Health® expanded its access to care for Children and Youth with a Children's Walk-in Center, one of several new programs resulting from the SAMHSA Certified Community Behavioral Health Center grant. As of June 1st, Frontier Health's Children's Walk-in Center started providing timely access to pediatric mental health services for children and adolescents under age 18 presenting in a mental health crisis. In addition, the children's walk-in center serves as an alternative treatment setting for those who need urgent (same-day) intervention but do not necessarily require the services of the emergency room.

We can provide the following services:

Assessment: A member of our mobile crisis team will conduct a focused mental health evaluation, assessing immediate safety concerns and further mental health needs. If indicated and urgently needed, medication may be started.

Coordination of care: Our team will coordinate with parents and caregivers to provide safety planning and explore treatment options.

Referral: Our case manager will provide resources and help with linkage to outpatient services.

The Children's Walk-in Center is located at Frontier Health's Turning Point facility in Johnson City, TN. It is open 24 hrs a day, 365 days a year, and there is no cost.



Mona Blanton-Kitts



CMI Healthcare Awarded NextGen Project Grant



CMI has received a federal research grant to provide job placement services to individuals that are being released from the jail systems in Memphis & Shelby County. The research grant is a project collaboration with Mathematica titled the “Next Generation of Enhanced Services for the Hard-to-Employ Evaluation Project” also known as the NextGen Project. The objective of the three-year project is to identify and evaluate innovative interventions designed to promote employment and economic security for individuals with complex challenges to employment.

CMI will provide job placement services utilizing two different employment service models, one of which will be the evidence based best practice model of Individual Placement and Support (IPS). Florence Hervery, CEO of CMI stated, “we are very excited about the opportunity to provide these services in hopes of reducing recidivism for individuals living with mental illness as well as assisting them to find their independence and normalcy post incarceration”.

Ms. Hervery shared that CMI Healthcare of Memphis is proud to be one of only four sites that were awarded this particular grant across the country. There are two sites in Arizona, and one site in South Carolina. Ms. Hervery also shared that she was very appreciative to the TDMHSAS Wellness and Employment/IPS staff, Mark Liverman and Nichole Phillips for their assistance and support during the process.

Ridgeview Awarded \$500,000 through Appalachian Regional Commission’s INSPIRE Initiative

Funds will strengthen recovery ecosystems in Scott and Campbell Counties

Ridgeview Behavioral Health Services was awarded \$500,000 by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to strengthen recovery ecosystems in Scott and Campbell counties. The three-year funding will support the introduction of the Dartmouth evidence-based Individualized Placement and Support (IPS) employment model. Program leadership will be provided by Nichole Garrett and the program will have county-specific Employment/Education Specialists and a Peer Recovery Specialist.

Ridgeview is one of 30 projects receiving more than \$9.4 million from Investments Supporting Partnerships In Recovery Ecosystems



(INSPIRE), an ARC initiative addressing Appalachia’s substance abuse crisis by creating or expanding a recovery ecosystem leading to workforce entry or re-entry.

“I congratulate Ridgeview for their INSPIRE award and commend them for their role in addressing the economic impacts of Appalachia's substance abuse crisis,” said ARC Federal Co-Chairman Tim Thomas. “ARC INSPIRE partners will help individuals in recovery obtain sustainable employment, further encouraging economic resiliency in the communities that will be served.”

Ridgeview CEO, Brian Buuck shared “We are very excited to have this opportunity to collaborate with our community partners and bring much needed employment supports to people impacted by addiction. Work not only provides an income, it offers stability and builds self-esteem, which are especially important in promoting recovery. The funding provided by ARC supports our ability to be responsive to needs in the community and allows us to further our mission of promoting hope, healing, and recovery to residents of Scott and Campbell counties.”

VBHCS Cleveland Campus Holds Open House for New Walk-In Center

On June 7th, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System (VBHCS) hosted an open house for their new Walk-In



Center (WIC) located at their Cleveland campus. The event was well-attended with representatives from local law enforcement, Bradley County government, United Way Ocoee, Salvation Army, Willow Bend Farms, Direct Primary Care Associates, and Tennova Pine Ridge among others.

Channel 12 News also covered the event. <https://wdef.com/2021/06/07/local-impact-53-million-state-mental-health-funding/>



Leah Pastula, VBHCS Senior Crisis Director and Melissa Zensen, Regional Crisis Director, give a tour of the WIC facilities to local law enforcement.



Sej West (Sr. VP Operations), Carrie Robinson (Sr. VP Operations), Tonya Ballew (Senior Director), Phyllis Persinger (President & COO), Leah Pastula (Sr. Crisis Director), and Melissa Zensen (Regional Crisis Director) at the Cleveland WIC open house.

Park Center Partners with the Nashville Public Health Department

One of 18 local organizations to provide vaccines for people experiencing homelessness

ARTICLE REPRINT | WTVF News Channel 5 Nashville | December April 6, 2021 | Seena Sleem | https://www.newschannel5.com/news/nashville-public-health-department-partners-with-18-organizations-to-provide-vaccines-for-homeless?utm_source=Park+Center&utm_campaign=8217bfd9fd-Monthly+Newsletter_April+2021&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fa6a697d38-8217bfd9fd-155733965

There's now a new push to get our homeless population vaccinated. The Nashville Metro Public Health Department is partnering with 18 other groups in the effort. The goal is to reach everyone by Memorial Day.



"We're bringing vaccines to the people where they need it," said Brian Haile, CEO of Neighborhood Health. "Our goal to make sure every person experiencing homelessness has the chance to get a COVID-19 vaccination by Memorial Day is within reach for two reasons. First, Metro Public Health braved the elements and vaccinated hundreds of folks during the ice storm. Second, 19 organizations serving the homeless came together to build on that early success and get shots in arms."

The Metro Public Health Department, Neighborhood Health, and St. Thomas Health are leading a collaborative effort, administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at homeless encampments, shelters, and clinics.

Efforts kicked off last Friday by offering the vaccine at the Nashville Fairgrounds emergency shelter. A total of 45 people at the shelter were vaccinated.

Unlike other initiatives, this one does not require folks to make an appointment ahead of time.

It also provides an opportunity for vaccine education. Haile says someone experiencing homelessness is disproportionately likely to have diabetes or other conditions requiring them to take medication; so a good number of them may not know it's safe to take with the vaccine.

Neighborhood Health will provide follow-up care to any patients experiencing side effects after they depart the observation area of the vaccination events. Patients may walk into the Downtown Clinic (entering through 705 Drexel Street).

Neighborhood Health will do subsequent "second pass" vaccination events at most of these locations to ensure all willing individuals can get vaccinated.

Neighborhood Health will provide onsite vaccinations at larger encampments, including but not limited to Centennial Park, Green Street Church, and other locations. Neighborhood Health will offer the vaccinations during weekday Street Medicine visits to these locations.

You can contact Metro Public Health at (615) 862-7777 or Neighborhood Health at (615) 953-0050 for more information or visit their website at www.nhtn.org/covid19vaccine [nhtn.org]

The following organizations are partners in the collaboration providing support for the outreach initiative:

- Colby's Army
- Community Care Fellowship
- The Contributor
- Crescent Community Health
- The Little Pantry That Could
- Mental Health Coop
- Metro Homeless Impact Division /Metro Social Services
- Metro Public Health Department
- Nashville Rescue Mission
- Nashville Street Project
- Neighborhood Health
- Oasis Center
- Open Table Nashville
- Park Center
- People Loving Nashville
- Room in the Inn
- Saint Thomas Health/Ascension
- Shower the People
- ShowerUp

Essary Cottage Ribbon Cutting

The McNabb Center celebrated the opening of its newest facility this month, cutting the ribbon at the Intensive Long-Term Support (ILS) program. ILS provides supportive living for adults recovering from psychiatric conditions who need assistance living with more independence.



ILS is a community-based program that focuses on recovery and includes treatment, social activities and skill building. The goal of the program is to help individuals achieve independence and live successfully within the community.

The McNabb Center began the ILS program in May 2013 when the Lakeshore Mental Health Institute closed. This new \$1.5 million building replaces and expands upon Willow Cottage, the Center's previous ILS location at Lakeshore Park, which will permanently close as Lakeshore Park is further renovated.

"We are excited to provide high quality care in a beautiful living environment," said Jerry Vagnier, McNabb Center CEO. "We are here to serve people in our community and the program at this facility will do that well."



This project was made possible by the Haslam 3 Foundation's Dee and Jimmy Haslam. Also, thank you to Buck and Linda Vaughn whose long-time support of the McNabb Center's mission contributes to this project.

McNabb Center Receives Trinity Health Foundation of East Tennessee Grant

The McNabb Center is excited to announce that it has been awarded a grant from the Trinity Health Foundation of East Tennessee to explore how to ensure patients with a behavioral health diagnosis have access to much-needed treatment. The Center will work with the University of Tennessee Medical Center and East Tennessee Children's Hospital to develop a preferred provider network for the hospitals' primary care patients.

Trinity Health Foundation of East Tennessee received more than 95 proposals and awarded more than \$220,000 in grants for their



Phase I application process. During Phase I, the Center will research and plan details for project operations and sustainability and will then apply for funding to implement the project.

Volunteer BHCS Provides CIT Training in Sumner County


News Channel 2 recently featured a story on Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) in Gallatin. <https://www.wkrn.com/news/gallatin-police-officers-to-be-trained-to-handle-mental-health-emergencies-in-the-field/>



Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System (VBHCS) is proud to be a partner in these efforts to build this collaborative infrastructure for answering mental health calls.



Sumner County CIT Train the Trainers class with instructors and representatives from Gallatin PD, Hendersonville PD, Goodlettsville PD, Sumner Sheriff's Department, and VBHCS. This training was spearheaded by the Sumner County CIT Task Force consisting of law enforcement, NAMI, and VBHCS.



TAMHO is Moving!

Our New Temporary Address is:

**Post Office Box 1274
Brentwood, TN 37024**

Statewide Happenings

Tennessee General Assembly Passes FY2022 Budget

Adjourns until next year

The 2021 session of the 112th Tennessee General Assembly adjourned on Wednesday, May 5. Lawmakers completed their constitutional requirement to pass a balanced budget for the upcoming fiscal year and also passed laws governing the state. Of specific note is the increases included in the TDMHSAS budget for FY22. In addition to the **\$250 million Mental Health Trust Fund**, the department's total state funding increase is **\$44,045,300**.



- Behavioral Health Safety Net: **\$6,500,000**
 - To provide recurring funding to expand community-based safety net type services to serve additional uninsured Tennesseans, with a focus on children, who have a serious emotional disturbance.
- Creating Homes Initiative: **\$3,583,400**
 - Funding to expand the Creating Homes Initiative (CHI) for Tennesseans diagnosed with mental illness and/or substance use disorder, with a focus on the justice re-entry population.
- Statewide Residential Recovery Courts: **\$4,687,500**
 - Funding for operational costs of two additional residential recovery courts. \$2,000,000 is non-recurring.
- Criminal Justice Liaisons: **\$625,000**
 - Recurring funding to expand CJLs to serve all 95 counties across the state.
 - The CJLs coordinate with local jails to provide services to incarcerated individuals who present with mental illness or substance use disorder.
- Mobile Crisis Services: **\$354,300**
 - Recurring funding to support the statewide network of 13 mobile crisis providers while addressing the increased population of adults and children needing assessment and services during a mental health crisis.
- East Tennessee Private Inpatient Costs Support: **\$1,000,000**
 - Recurring funding to private providers the department has contracted with for inpatient care of uninsured patients in East Tennessee.

Three private psychiatric hospitals who have provided inpatient care for the uninsured population under TDMHSAS contract since 2012.

- RMHI Revenue Replacement: **\$10,105,100**
 - Recurring funding to reflect changes in patient mix and subsequent revenues collected at the state's 4 Regional Mental Health Institutes

- Patient revenue collections have decreased as fewer insured and more indigent patients receive emergency mental health services.
- Capital Improvements: **\$17,190,000**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE ON JANUARY 11, 2022.

TDMHSAS and TennCare Convene Public Behavioral Health Workforce Workgroup

Addressing workforce issues in the behavioral health industry

TDMHSAS and TennCare convened the first in a series of Public Behavioral Health Workforce Workgroup meetings on June 15, 2021. The group includes representatives



from mental health and substance abuse providers, advocacy groups, professional organizations, and university training programs.

The goals of the group are:

- To clearly identify gaps and needs in the public behavioral health workforce in TN
- To assess for strategies to address gaps, including proven actions to support effective recruitment and retention of behavioral health professionals in TN
- To develop a report for key decision makers to highlight gaps and offer short- and long-term strategies to address the identified challenges

TAMHO is represented on this workgroup by its Executive Director, Ellyn Wilbur.

TDMHSAS Receives More than \$53 Million in New Federal Funding for Post-COVID Mental Health and Substance Use Services

Additional dollars supplement previous state and federal investments

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) is receiving more than \$53 million in additional funding from the federal government to address post-COVID mental health and substance use needs.

The supplemental block grant funding will add more than \$27 million to mental health services and nearly \$26 million to substance use services over the next four years. The funding is part of a \$3 billion allocation included in the American Rescue Plan signed into law in March.

The new funding comes on top of significant supplemental funding from the federal government and new investment of state dollars. TDMHSAS has received an additional \$55 million in COVID relief funding from the federal government since the start of the pandemic, and Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly increased the department's budget for next fiscal year by more than \$44.1 million.

The most recent rounds of federal funding supplement the state's existing Mental Health Block Grant and Substance Abuse Block Grants. New dollars will expand the availability of evidence-based treatment services, strengthen the statewide network of crisis services, support the continued and expanded use of telehealth services, respond to the unique needs of children, and more. TDMHSAS and federal partners are both allowing room for mental health and substance use treatment agencies across the state to design programs that meet their communities' unique needs.

"With the outpouring of support for mental health and substance use needs in our state, we have a priceless opportunity to bring about significant change and make a difference for Tennesseans who are struggling. The mental health and substance use impacts brought on by the stresses of the pandemic are with us, and these generous investments at both the state and federal levels are going to make sure we and our community behavioral health providers can continue to rise to meet the need," said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams, LCSW. "We are tremendously grateful to our amazing network of providers across the state who answer the call and respond with compassionate care to help people find new lives in recovery."

During the pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention surveyed people in Tennessee and across the nation on feelings of anxiety and depression. Tennesseans self-reported symptoms of anxiety and depression at rates of more than 40% which is more than double the normal prevalence of any mental illness in a given year.

Tennessee also saw a tragic spike in drug overdoses in the first few months of the pandemic. Thanks to the work of the Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists and other harm reduction groups, the rate of drug overdose returned to normal levels, but still too many Tennesseans are dying from a preventable cause.

To learn more about services available for Tennesseans who have no insurance or no way to pay, visit [TN.gov/behavioral-health](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health)

Children's Behavioral Health Safety Net Media Campaign

Statewide multimedia campaign aims to increase reach of service

TDMHSAS has launched a statewide, multimedia campaign to promote the Children's Behavioral Health Safety Net. This campaign targets parents and other people who have roles in the lives of Tennessee children (teachers, coaches, pastors, etc.) as well as raising general awareness of supports for children and families. A wonderful level of participation and feedback has been received from providers in developing messaging for the campaign, and there is a lot of excitement toward seeing how it translates to the people who receive the ads. The media spot can be viewed by clicking on the video player below.

Services can be connected through the Children's Behavioral Health Safety net by visiting [TN.gov/BHSN](https://www.tn.gov/BHSN).



TDMHSAS Expands Peer Recovery Certification Programs with New Offering for Young Adults

Certification programs with new offering for young adults

TDMHSAS is releasing a new certification for peer support specialists designed specifically for young adults with lived experience of mental health and/or substance use challenges. The Certified Young Adult Peer Support Specialist (CYAPSS) program is tailored to young adults in both design and language with a target age range of 18 to 30 and a requirement of one year in recovery. The program was developed in collaboration with Youth Era and with significant input



from and review by the department's Young Adult Leadership Council.

The CYAPSS program includes a one week, 40-hour training session covering topics including responsibilities and expectations of a CYAPSS, strategic sharing, youth empowerment, positive youth development, the ladder of youth voice, and trauma-informed care. Through this training, CYAPSS will gain the knowledge needed to provide youth and young adult-friendly peer support services to people under the age of 30. Peers certified through the program are also required to complete service hours and continuing education to maintain their certification.

TN Department of Education Releases the Educator Emotional Support Video Series

Supports the mental health of Tennessee educators

EDUCATOR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT VIDEO SERIES

This video series recognizes educators experiencing significant pressure from many directions during a normal school year and this year has only added pressure. These videos focus on...



- Impact of stress on our physical and emotional health
- Mindfulness and state of awareness
- Dealing with grief and loss
- Importance of connection and relationships
- Self-care is a lifestyle, not a checklist



#TNSupportsTeachers

The Tennessee Department of Education released the Educator Emotional Support Video Series to provide free, optional resources to support the mental health of Tennessee educators, created in partnership with statewide partners.

Additionally, this video series builds off the Emotional Support Line for Pandemic Stress, launched in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and other statewide organizations, to provide free and confidential mental health support to all Tennesseans working in education, healthcare workers, and first responders.

The Educator Emotional Support Video Series consists of five videos, available on Best for All Central and the department's YouTube channel, including:

Introduction to Stress Response: This video session introduces the series, recognizing educators experience significant pressure from many directions during a normal school year and this year has only added pressure

Benefits of Meditation and Mindfulness: This video session focuses on mindfulness, state of awareness, and how to shift attention to focus on support.

Grief and Loss: This video session begins with practicing a mindfulness skill from the previous video. Additionally, this video session shares the stages of grief and associated feelings.

Maintaining and Managing Healthy Connections: This video session focuses on the importance of connection and relationships, including a grounding and connectedness exercise.

Self-Care: This video session highlights self-care as a lifestyle and how to create and implement a self-care plan.

SDOH Pilot Created to Determine Best Practices with Social Determinants

Five selected health care providers to participate

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Tennessee has partnered with five selected healthcare providers to determine best practices to assist members with their social determinants of health needs through a SDOH pilot created by TennCare. The SDOH pilot will run from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 - they hope to use their learnings to help effectively screen for SDOH needs, identify gaps in the social needs of Tennesseans depending on their location, refer for services and track efficiency of the processes put in place. They will be partnering with:

- Alliance Health Services
- Frontier Health
- Grace Pediatrics
- Meharry Medical
- Plateau Pediatrics

These partners were chosen because they provide high-quality value-based based integrated physical and behavioral health care to members in various regions of the state.

They look forward to evaluating the outcomes of the pilot and the opportunity to partner with key healthcare providers to create long-term solutions that help better serve their members. To learn more about their commitment to the communities they serve visit uhccs.com/TN.

Tennesseans Should do Their Homework on Mental Health Coverage Through Their Insurance | Opinion

In 2020, Consumer Insurance Services recovered more than \$10 million from insurance companies for Tennesseans through mediation efforts.

ARTICLE REPRINT | The Tennessean, OPINION | May 25 2021 | Jennifer Ramcharan, Guest Columnist | <https://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/2021/05/25/do-diligent-research-your-insurances-mental-health-coverage/7419470002/>

Mental health and substance use disorders are very real, life-threatening, debilitating illnesses. And, with proper care, they are often treatable.

Tennesseans can feel more at-ease knowing many health insurance plans can help cover the cost of treatment for these disorders – helping relieve families of major financial burdens.

In light of Mental Health Awareness Month and the upcoming Insurance Awareness Day on June 28, the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI) encourages Tennesseans to know more about their coverage when it comes to mental health and substance use treatment.

How insurance coverage of a mental health and substance use disorder works

According to the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, any health plan that covers mental health and substance use services must match its coverage with the plan's physical health coverage.

This means the copays, deductibles, number of days for staying in a hospital or treatment facility, prior authorization, prescription drug tiers and maximum benefit limits must be the same for both mental health and physical health services.

For example:

- If your plan covers 40 physical therapy visits, it must also cover 40 behavioral health visits.
- If your plan covers 30 days of an in-patient hospital stay, it must also cover 30 days of an in-patient residential treatment stay.
- If your copay for physical health services is \$30, it must also be \$30 for mental health services.
- This parity law was created to ensure fair coverage of mental health services.
- This applies to a variety of health plans, including those on the Federally Facilitated Marketplace, large employer plans, individual plans and some small employer group plans.

Some health plans are exempt from this coverage. Contact your health insurance company to better understand your coverage.

What is covered

Treatment for mental health may include therapy, in-patient and out-patient treatment, medication management for depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, psychotic disorder and Applied Behavioral Analysis for the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Treatment for substance use disorder from alcohol, tobacco and drugs may include detox medications, in-patient and out-patient

TDMHSAS PROMOTIONS AND NEW HIRES



CONGRATULATIONS ON THE RECENT PROMOTIONS AND HIRINGS

PROMOTIONS

Rebekah Provost-Emmons, *Division of Substance Abuse Services, Director of Criminal Justice Services*

Kristen Connell, *Assistant Director of Hospital Services*

NEW HIRES

Andy Lawrence, *Office of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention, Assistant Director, Disaster Management and Emergency Services*

Morgan Morris, *Office of Children, Young Adults, and Families, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator.*

Krysten Velloff, *Office of Legislation and Rules, Assistant Director*

Kearston Winrow, *Assistant Director of Communication*

treatment, step therapy, behavioral counseling and more.

Contact your health plan using the phone number on the back of your insurance card to get more details on your level of coverage.

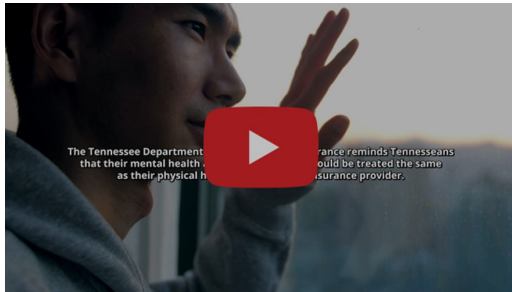
Jennifer Ramcharan serves as Education and Outreach Specialist for the Insurance Division of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. She can be reached at jennifer.ramcharan@tn.gov.

Mental Health Parity

Mental health benefits should be treated equally

During Mental Health Month, the Tennessee Department of Commerce (TDCI) partnered with TDMHSAS to remind Tennesseans that mental health benefits should be treated equally by insurance providers.

Under the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, if a consumer's health plan covers mental health and substance use services, the plan must match its coverage with the plan's physical health coverage.



VOLUNTEER
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
THE GUIDANCE CENTER
OPEN HOUSE
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

LOCATION:
1504 Williams Dr.
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

DATE:
July 15, 2021

TIME:
3:00 - 5:00
Central Standard Time

RSVP TO DANIELLE
DSMITH@VBHCS.ORG
615-278-6362

PLEASE JOIN US

OUTPATIENT SERVICES
GENOA PHARMACY
CRISIS SERVICES
CORPORATE OFFICES



Embracing The Spectrum

THE AGES AND STAGES OF EARLY PSYCHOSIS

A Tennessee Statewide Early Psychosis and Clinically High Risk Psychosis Virtual Conference

SEPTEMBER 1-2, 2021

DAY 1 | 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM (CENTRAL) • DAY 2 | 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM (CENTRAL)

Sponsored by

In Partnership with



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

Planning and Policy Council

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

[Statewide and Committee meeting schedule](#)

[Regional Committee meeting schedule](#)

DIRECT QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES TO:

Avis Easley

(615) 253-6397

Avis.Easley@tn.gov

Amy Holland

(615) 253-3785

Amy.Holland@tn.gov

STATEWIDE

CRISIS LINE

HELP IN A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

855-CRISIS-1 TN.gov/CrisisLine

855-274-7471  Department of
Mental Health &
Substance Abuse Services

**COVID-19 EMOTIONAL SUPPORT LINE
FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS**

Need to talk to someone about feelings of stress, anxiety, sadness, or depression related to work? The COVID-19 Emotional Support Line for healthcare workers can help.



888-642-7886

Calltakers are available: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. (CT), 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. (ET)



**LIKE AND
RECOMMEND TAMHO
ON FACEBOOK**



@TAMHOADMIN



tamho
tennessee association of
mental health organizations

**FOLLOW TAMHO
ON TWITTER**



@TAMHO



tamho
tennessee association of
mental health organizations

National Happenings



HEALTHY MINDS
STRONG COMMUNITIES

A New Name for the National Council

National Council for Mental Well Being

The National Council recently announced a name change: **National Council for Mental Wellbeing**.

A lot of time, research and consideration was put into picking this name. The Council wanted one that holds true to their history, reflects their role as a thought leader, acknowledges change and honors the contributions of members.

Learn more about the journey, access resources and watch their video!



Change in Leadership at CMS

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure sworn in as the new Administrator

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure was sworn in on May 27, 2021 as the Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), where she will oversee programs including Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the HealthCare.gov health insurance marketplace.



**Chiquita
Brooks-
LaSure**

A former policy official who played a key role in guiding the Affordable Care Act (ACA) through passage and implementation, Brooks-LaSure has decades of experience in the federal government, on Capitol Hill, and in the private sector.

As deputy director for policy at the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight within the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and earlier at the Department of Health & Human Services as director of coverage policy, Brooks-LaSure led the agency's implementation of ACA coverage and insurance reform policy provisions.

Earlier in her career, Brooks-LaSure assisted House leaders in passing several health care laws, including the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 and the ACA, as part of the Democratic staff for the U.S. House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee.

Brooks-LaSure began her career as a program examiner and lead Medicaid analyst for the Office of Management and Budget, coordinating Medicaid policy development for the health financing branch. Her role included evaluating policy options and briefing

White House and federal agency officials on policy recommendations with regard to the uninsured, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Nominated

Department of Health and Human Services

President Biden recently nominated Dr. Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon as Assistant Secretary Mental Health and Substance Use at the Department of Health and Human Services. She was appointed as Commissioner of the Connecticut State Department Mental Health and Addiction Services in 2015, and previously held the positions of Deputy Commissioner, Senior Policy Advisor and Director of the department's Office of Multicultural Health Equity.



**Miriam E.
Delphin--
Rittmon, PhD**

U.S. Finance Committee Recent Hearing

Mental Health Care in America: Addressing Root Causes and Identifying Policy Solutions

The US Senate Finance Committee recently conducted a hearing yesterday entitled **Mental Health Care in America: Addressing Root Causes and Identifying Policy Solutions**. Visit <https://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/mental-health-care-in-america-addressing-root-causes-and-identifying-policy-solutions> to view online.

STAY INFORMED BY SUBSCRIBING TO THE TAMHO NEWSLETTER.



Message from the Executive Director



Rural Communities teaches people how to notice and respond to signs of mental health and addiction challenges with a specific focus on the cultural and environmental factors related to life in rural areas.

Mental Health First Aid
Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an 8-hour course that gives people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The evidence behind the program demonstrates that it helps build mental health literacy, helping the public identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness.

Mental Health First Aid was created in Australia in 2003 by Betty Williams, a nurse specializing in health education, and Tony James, a respected mental health literacy professor. In the United States, the program is operated by National Council on Behavioral Health.

Just as CPR training helps a person with no clinical training assist an individual following a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid training helps a person assist someone experiencing a mental health crisis such as contemplating suicide. In both situations, the goal is to help support an individual until appropriate professional help arrives.

Since its beginning, several courses have been developed to address the needs of special populations:

Mental Health First Aid for Military: For some members of the military, the struggle doesn't end when they leave the battlefield. Mental Health First Aid for Military Members, Veterans and their Families teaches people how to notice and respond to signs of mental health and addiction challenges with a specific focus on the cultural factors related to military life.

Mental Health First Aid for Youth: Youth Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour public education program that introduces adults to the distinct risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention and teaches individuals how to help youth in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge.

Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety: Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety provides law officers and staff with more response options to help them de-escalate incidents and better understand mental illnesses so they can respond to mental health-related situations appropriately without compromising safety.

Mental Health First Aid for Older Adults: Mental Health First Aid for Older Adults addresses the specific mental health challenges people aged 50 and older experience and teaches participants how to notice and respond to an older adult who may be living with a mental illness or addiction.

Mental Health First Aid for Fire and EMS: Mental Health First Aid for Fire and EMS focuses on the experiences and needs of firefighters and EMS personnel and is a valuable resource that can make a difference in their lives, their families' lives and the communities in which they live.

Mental Health First Aid for Rural Communities: Mental Health First Aid for

Rural Communities teaches people how to notice and respond to signs of mental health and addiction challenges with a specific focus on the cultural and environmental factors related to life in rural areas.

Mental Health First Aid for Higher Education: Away from support systems that have been in place for the better part of their lives, college students may be at elevated risk for developing certain mental health and substance use issues. Mental Health First Aid for Higher Education teaches students, professors and other school faculty how to notice and respond to mental health and addiction challenges commonly experienced by youth in higher education settings.

Mental Health First Aid for Teens: This 90-minute training teaches high school students about common mental health challenges and what they can do to support their own mental health and help a friend who is struggling. It's equipping young people with the knowledge and skills they need to foster their own wellness and to support each other. In partnership with Lucy Gagar's Born This Way Foundation, this program is being implemented in the United States.

More than 1.5 million people have been trained in MHFA through 32,000 instructors throughout the USA and the momentum continues:

- Walgreens has announced they will work with the National Council to train more than 300 Walgreens team members with in-house resources in Mental Health First Aid as part of its commitment to workplace mental wellness.
- The US Chamber of Commerce Foundation recently announced its partnership with National Council to expand MHFA in the workplace, underscoring their belief that businesses of all sizes and in all sectors can benefit from empowering their employees with mental health awareness tools and skills.

This is such an important resource to educate the public about how to respond to signs of mental illness. All of us have friends and neighbors who could benefit from this knowledge. There are MHFA instructors across the state who are ready to assist. Please help us spread the word for more information:

<http://www.thenationalcouncil.org/about/mental-health-first-aid/>

<http://www.walgreens.com/go/health/mental-health-issues>

<http://www.mhfi.org/mental-health-issues/your-first-aid-course/>

<http://www.mhfi.org/mental-health-issues/becoming-an-instructor/>



| INSIDE THIS ISSUE | |
|--|----|
| TAMHO'S 60TH BIRTHDAY | 2 |
| TAMHO'S 60TH BIRTHDAY BUDGET | 2 |
| TAMHO'S 60TH BIRTHDAY STRATEGIC INITIATIVE | 2 |
| PEER WELLNESS IN TENNESSEE | 3 |
| TAMHO MEMBER ORGANIZATION HAPPENINGS | 4 |
| STATEWIDE HAPPENINGS | 8 |
| TRAININGS & EVENTS | 10 |
| NATIONWIDE HAPPENINGS | 13 |

Subscribe by scanning the QR Code
or by visiting:
<http://eepurl.com/gynY2P>



WWW.TAMHO.ORG

tamho

tennessee association of
mental health organizations



TN Department of
Mental Health &
Substance Abuse Services

Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services

HELPLINE

1-800-560-5767

OCA.TDMHSAS@tn.gov

We can help with

- finding mental health and substance abuse resources in your area
- questions about insurance
- where to find 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 am to 4:30 pm
- Closed on state holidays

If we cannot answer your question, we will work with you to find the appropriate resource.

www.tn.gov/behavioral-health

TN REDLINE
1.800.889.9789
CALL OR TEXT

TN Department of
Mental Health &
Substance Abuse Services

TAADAS
Tennessee Association of
Addiction and
Dual Diagnosis
Specialists

TN TOGETHER
ENDING THE OPIOID CRISIS

TRANSFORM HOW YOU HIRE & DEVELOP YOUR STAFF

Improve employee satisfaction, increase retention, and maximize quality of care

Visit relias.com to learn more

RELIAS

TN HOPE LINE

Connect with compassionate, trained, and loving listeners for help, hope, & encouragement.

ARE YOU

LONELY? AGE 60+?

M-F 9-3CT

844-600-8262

A partnership of The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, and Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

BECOME A
MEMBER

JOIN TODAY!

Affiliate membership is open to any not-for-profit corporation or governmental entity that is ineligible for regular or associate membership and is engaged in the direct provision of one or more treatment, rehabilitation, supportive, or preventive services to the mentally ill, emotionally disturbed, or chemically dependent consumer.

CONTACT TAMHO TO LEARN MORE

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1274, Brentwood, TN 37024

EMAIL: tamho@tamho.org

PHONE: 615-244-2220

TOLL FREE IN TENNESSEE: 800-568-2642



tamho

tennessee association of
mental health organizations

HOPE

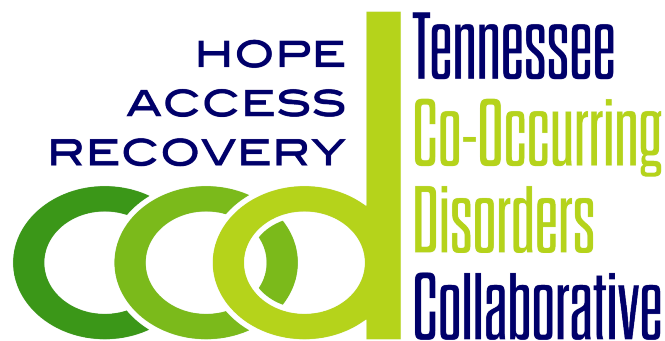
As long as there is life,
there is hope.

ACCESS

Staying informed will be
helpful when services are
necessary.

RECOVERY

is real!



www.tncodc.com

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1274, Brentwood, TN 37024

PHONE: 615-244-2220

TOLL FREE IN TENNESSEE: 800-568-2642

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

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

individuals in local communities and throughout the state and nation who have an interest in the advancement of behavioral health in Tennessee.

TAMHO does not currently accept advertising for inclusion in the Behavioral Health News & Events Newsletter but does recognize the support of sponsors of various projects and events by placement of their logos in the newsletter. Please contact the TAMHO office to learn more about sponsorship opportunities.

Information provided within the Newsletter does not imply support or endorsement in any way by TAMHO and/or its member organizations.

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

Executive Director | Ellyn Wilbur | ewilbur@tamho.org

Director of Policy and Advocacy | Alysia Smith Knight | asmithknight@tamho.org

Director of Member Services | Teresa Fuqua | tfuqua@tamho.org

Director of Administrative Services | Laura B. Jean | ljean@tamho.org

Project Manager—TNCODC | Mariam Hashimi | mhashimi@tamho.org

Statewide Peer Wellness Coach | Dina Savvenas | csavvenas@tamho.org

Project Assistant | Carrie Ligon | cligon@tamho.org

ADDRESS P.O. Box 1274
Brentwood, TN 37024

PHONE 615-244-2220

TOLL FREE IN TN 800-568-2642

www.tamho.org