



tamho

tennessee association of
mental health organizations

A Chronologic Perspective of

Behavioral Healthcare in Tennessee



DATE 2008

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1947

- Chattanooga Child Guidance Center/Chattanooga Psychiatric Center/Fortwood Center begins offering services.

1948

- Knoxville Mental Health Clinic/Knoxville Mental Health Center/Helen Ross McNabb Center opens.

1953

- The Tennessee Department of Mental Health is created as a separate cabinet-level department of State government on March 13, 1953.
- The State adopts a policy to provide funding to communities on a 50-50 matching basis to expand local mental health services.

1955

- Mental Health Guidance Center of Middle Tennessee/Nashville Mental Health Center/Dede Wallace Center (now Centerstone) is chartered.
- \$200,000 earmarked in State budget community mental health “clinics”.

1957

- Mental Health Association of Clarksville/Montgomery County/Harriett Cohn Center (now Centerstone) is chartered.
- Jackson Mental Health Center/Jackson Counseling Center/Jackson Psychiatric Hospital/West Tennessee Behavioral Center /Pathways of Tennessee begins offering services.
- Kingsport Mental Health Center and Johnson City Mental Health Center/Watauga Mental Health Center (now Frontier Health) opens.
- Oak Ridge Mental Health Center/Oak Ridge Regional Mental Health Center/Ridgeview begins operations.

1958

- Bristol Mental Health Center/Bristol Regional Mental Health Center opens (now Frontier Health).
- **Organizational committee meets to draft bylaws for a proposed state association to be known as the “Tennessee Association of Mental Health Centers (TAMHC)”.** The meeting takes place at the Farragut Hotel in Knoxville on October 19, 1958. The committee is chaired by H. James Crecraft, M.D.

1960

- Cherokee Mental Health Center of Morristown/Cherokee Health Systems begins operations.

1963

- The “Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act” (PL 88-164) is enacted by Congress to provide direct funding to communities for construction and staffing grants.

1964

- The Maury County Mental Health Clinic/Columbia Area Mental Health Center (now Centerstone) is incorporated.

1965

- Northwest Counseling Center chartered (now Pathways of Tennessee). Its main office is located in Martin.

1966

- The State’s plan for a comprehensive community mental health system is approved by the federal government to call for the designation of catchment areas. In compliance with federal guidelines, each community mental health center is responsible for delivering specified essential

services to persons residing within its designated catchment area.

1967

- The Multi-County Comprehensive Mental Health Center/Highland Rim Mental Health Center (now Centerstone) opens to serve Coffee and four surrounding counties.

1968

- Rutherford County Guidance Center (now Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System) founded in Murfreesboro.

1969

- Plateau Mental Health Center (now Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System) established in Cookeville.

1970

- Paris Mental Health Center/Carey Counseling Center established.

1971

- **TAMHO is incorporated as a 501(c)(6) nonprofit corporation.**
- Tri-County Mental Health Center/Professional Care Services of West Tennessee begins offering services.

1972

- Nolachuckey Mental Health Center/Nolachuckey-Holston Area Mental Health Center opens in Greeneville (now Frontier Health).
- Sumner County Guidance Center opens with its main office in Gallatin (now Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System).

1973

- Southeast Memphis Mental Health Center/Southeast Mental Health Center is chartered.

- Hiwassee Mental Health Center established with main office in Athens ((now Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System).
- Wilson County Mental Health Center opens in Lebanon (now Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System).

1974

- Quinco Mental Health Center in Bolivar opens.
- Joe Johnson Mental Health Center begins operations with its main office in Chattanooga (now Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System).

1975

- Tennessee Department of Mental Health renamed Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.
- The Clinic Option is approved to support outpatient services provided by community mental health centers as part of the State Medicaid plan.
- Frayser Family Counseling Center/Comprehensive Counseling Network in Memphis is incorporated.
- Luton Mental Health Center, with clinics in Nashville, is chartered and named in honor of the first licensed psychiatrist in Tennessee – Dr. Frank Harper Luton.
- Overlook Mental Health Center in Knoxville is chartered (now Peninsula, a Division of Park West Medical Center).

1976

- **D. Craig Guthrie becomes the first Executive Director of TAMHC, the organization now known as TAMHO.**
- Grace House, a treatment program for women who have alcohol and drug abuse problems, opens in Memphis.

1979

- The General Assembly adopts SJR400 to establish an equitable distribution of state funds to community mental health centers on a per capita basis.

1981

- Enactment of the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Block Grant Act by Congress directs funds previously available to communities to go to states for distribution in support of community programs. TAMHC works with TDMHMR to implement a plan that permits community mental health centers with staffing grants to retain the same level of funding until the date the grant would have expired under the old legislation.

1982

- Federal grants are no longer provided directly to communities for their community mental health centers. The state begins to administer Block Grant programs for mental health and alcohol and drug about services in addition to the Medicaid program. TAMHC provides a critical link between its members and the State at this time.
- TAMHC representatives collaborate with TDMHMR to develop new standards and performance-based contracts for community mental health centers.
- Charles R. (Dick) Blackburn becomes the second Executive Director of TAMHC, the organization now known as TAMHO.

1983

- Governor Lamar Alexander unveils his community initiative program. TAMHC offers regional need-based plans to best utilize new resources allocated on a per capita basis by regions. The plans result in such developments as expanded day treatment programs, construction of a new private hospital, and additional psychiatrists for the community-based system.

- The State's Healthy Children's Initiative leads to the establishment of twenty-eight therapeutic pre-school programs operated by community mental health centers for abused and neglected children.
- TAMHC celebrates its 25th Anniversary at its Annual Meeting held at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis.

1984

- The TAMHC Awards and Recognition Program is initiated to recognize individuals, both professionals and volunteers, contributing to Tennessee's community behavioral health system.
- Park Center in Nashville begins offering vocational services for the mentally ill.

1985

- Watauga Mental Health Center opens Woodridge Psychiatric Hospital in Johnson City.

1988

- Sumner County Mental Health Center and Wilson County Mental Health Center merge to become Cumberland Mental Health Services (now Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System).

1990

- TAMHC representatives work with TDMHR and the Bureau of Medicaid to implement cost-related differential rates for community mental health centers.
- Case Management, Inc. in Memphis chartered.

1991

- TAMHC organizes a tour of New England states to learn first-hand about case management, mobile crisis services, and other cutting edge programs on which planning is focusing. Key TAMHC leaders participate in the tour.

1992

- Working closely with the administration of Governor Ned McWherter, TAMHC embraces the Mental Health Master Plan that greatly expands community support services through approval of the Medicaid Case Management and Rehabilitation Options. Within two years, the new services cut admissions to State psychiatric hospitals in half.
- TAMHC receives the National Council for Community Behavioral Health Care Public Policy Award for its role in the development and implementation of the Mental Health Master Plan.
- Legislation is enacted by the Tennessee General Assembly to define “Community Mental Health Center” in Title 33.
- The Mental Health Cooperative is founded in Nashville.
- Generations/Gaither Group forms; leads to opening of Generations Mental Health Center in Warren County (2002).

1994

- TAMHC changes its name to become the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO).
- The TennCare Program is launched. Surprisingly, all state-controlled funds for mental health and alcohol and drug services are rolled into the Medicaid waiver experiment. A two-year effort begins to determine how these services will be delivered under managed care and an interim payment system is arranged for community mental health centers.

1995

- TAMHO develops a white paper entitled “Preserving the Mental Health Master Plan” to convince legislators that a carve-out managed care model would better support programs already in operation that had proven to be very

successful. Governor Don Sundquist’s administration agrees to a behavioral health carve-out approach, to be known as the TennCare Partners Program, and initiates a procurement effort with eleven prospective managed behavioral health companies.

- TAMHO is instrumental in defeating legislation backed by Governor Sundquist to subsume the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation into the Department of Health and offers a counter proposal to update the existing mental health law instead.
- TAMHO discussions with managed Medicaid behavioral health companies to prepare for TennCare Partners contracting leads to an antitrust investigation by the State Office of the Attorney General.
- TAMHO purchases new office facility on Rutledge Hill in Nashville.

1996

- TAMHO receives National Council for Community Behavioral Health Public Policy Award for its advocacy work on the mental health carve-out issue.
- The TennCare Partners Program, a managed care carve-out, is initiated that privatizes behavioral health services with approximately \$380 million dollars through contracts with two Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs)—Tennessee Behavioral Health and Premier Behavioral Health Systems of Tennessee.
- TAMHO agrees to settlement with State Office of Attorney General; Agreed Final Judgment leads to long-standing contracting issues and legal proceedings between individual community mental health centers and TennCare Partners BHOs.

1997

- Frontier Health completes corporate merger of three community mental health centers.
- LifeCare Family Services, a faith-based mental health provider, is incorporated with offices in Nashville and Cookeville.

1998

- **The “Community Mental Health Center Cooperation Act” is enacted by the Tennessee General Assembly.**

1999

- Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System completes the corporate merger of five community mental health centers.

2000

- The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation is renamed the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities as part of a comprehensive update of the mental health code accomplished through the Title 33 Revision Commission.
- Centerstone completes corporate merger of six community mental health centers.

2002

- The Mental Health Cooperative is founded in Nashville.

2005

- The TennCare Program undergoes massive reform that results in disenrollment of 170,000 people, of which 26,000 are seriously and persistently mentally ill. **TAMHO advocates for special funds to support a basic level of services for this population, leading to the development of the Mental Health Safety Net Program.**

2007

- The TennCare Program awards contracts to new Managed Care Companies (MCCs) to implement health plans in Middle Tennessee with integrated physical and behavioral health benefits.

2008

- TAMHO celebrates its 50th anniversary.