



Planning & Policy Council Concludes Successful 2023



The TDMHSAS Planning and Policy Council held its fourth and final meeting of 2023 on December 12. Attendees included dozens of leaders from community providers, advocacy groups, consumer associations, faith-based-organizations, and more. The department was especially glad to welcome the Council's legislative appointees: Rep. Brock Martin and Sen. Page Walley. Attendees received an update on several important issues from Commissioner Williams. TDMHSAS Director of Treatment and Recovery Services, Linda McCorkle, shared information on the department's work in recovery housing, and Melissa Sparks and Andy Lawrence went through the Certificate of Need (CON) process. The next meeting of the Statewide Planning and Policy Council is set for February 13, 2023. The Council staff at the department want to express their gratitude for all statewide and regional council members who made 2023 a meaningful and successful year.

Tennessee Association of Recovery Court Professionals Celebrates 20 Years

Congratulations to the Tennessee Association of Recovery Court Professionals for two decades of helping people find new lives in recovery. TARCP

celebrated its 20th anniversary at its annual convention December 6-8 in Murfreesboro. Assistant Commissioner Taryn Sloss and Director of Criminal Justice Programs Rebekah Provost Emmons and their team represented the department as court professionals, judges, peers, and advocates gathered to learn from national experts and share their experiences. The TARCP also recognized excellence of several of its members with awards. This year, the award for judges was renamed The Seth Norman Making a Difference Award in memory of the founding father of recovery courts in Tennessee who passed away in September.



2023 Award Winners: Robin Ledford Garner (Top, holding flowers) receives the Christy Vernon Spirit Award, Judges Kenneth Bailey (Above Left), Stacy Street, and Lisa Rice (Above Right) receive the first-ever Seth Norman Making a Difference Awards.



Outgoing TARCP Executive Director Marie Crosson was honored with the Ellen L. Abbott Vanguard Award for her leadership and service in advancing the cause of recovery courts in Tennessee. In her decade plus as leader of the TARCP, Crosson was instrumental in the growth of recovery courts. For many years, Marie and Ellen worked closely, and it's a truly fitting honor for her to receive an award in memory of her dear friend. As Marie moves on to new opportunities, we at the department want to wish her the best in all that she does.

TAMHO Conference Focuses on Behavioral Health Workforce



The Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations took a workforce focus at its annual conference December 5-6 in Murfreesboro. The conference featured an opening keynote from Anthony Carter (Above left) who serves as the Director of the Center for Workforce Solutions at the National Council for Mental Wellbeing in Washington, D.C. TDMHSAS Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey (Above right) was proud to join colleagues and counterparts from TennCare for an insightful discussion.

Welcome to Team TDMHSAS

Elijah Mays recently joined TDMHSAS as the new Business Analyst for the Division of Hospital Services. Elijah obtained a bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies from California State University, Stanislaus in 2017. He is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration degree virtually from the University of Colorado, Denver, specializing in Information Systems. He most recently supported technologies and reporting for a local Tennessee nonprofit.



RIP Holiday Tips

4 RIP TIPS FOR WINTER BREAK

- 1 Keep Reasonable Expectations**
Know your child's limits & take breaks when needed
- 2 Consider Your Routines & Plan Ahead**
Keep wake & sleep times as normal as possible.
Offer a quiet time or a break from activities if a nap will be missed.
- 3 Create a Calendar With Your Child**
Use pictures to show what day an event or activity will occur
- 4 Quality Time Can Be Simple**
Children enjoy small moments. Read a book together or play uninterrupted.

TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services | **rip** REGIONAL INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The holiday season is full of exciting events and traditions, but it can also be a time of stress and uncertainty for children. The Regional Intervention Program

is here to offer 4 RIP TIPS for Winter Break ([click this link or the image above to see a bigger version](#)) to set you and your child up for success! Want to learn more about RIP and locations statewide? Visit: [TN.gov/parenting-that-works](https://www.tn.gov/parenting-that-works)

Moccasin Bend Hosts Community Food Drive



The team at Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute brightened the season for some of their neighbors with a food drive. To help drive donations, the members of the executive counsel agreed to a friendly contest: employees could donate food to the hospital leader they most wanted to see dress up in an elf costume at the hospital holiday party! The "winner" by a wide margin was Dr. Lydia Haren with 473 items donated in her box. In total Moccasin Bend collected more than 700 food items to benefit a local food bank.



Shout Out!

Memphis Mental Health Institute Chili Cookoff



(From left to right, Tabiltha Cheairs: ASA4, Tracey Davis-Moore: Assistant Superintendent-Quality Management, Jonathan Cole: Assistant Superintendent-Program Services)

MMHI held its first ever Chili Cook Off earlier in December. They had a great turnout with entries from various departments. The judges had the daunting task of picking a winner but after the smoke cleared, they had three entries that stood above the rest. The winners were Jonathan Cole from Program Services. Second place was Tracey Davis-Moore from the Quality Department. Third place was Tabitha Cheairs from the Administration Department. Kudos to the Retention & Recruitment Committee for planning this event!!



Shout out to Melissa Fields who leads the Stewart County Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention. Greg Keeling wrote in to highlight Melissa's leadership in creating recovery housing. Here's what he wrote: "Melissa leads a very active team in Stewart Co., providing awareness, events, and support for the substance abuse prevention, education, and recovery efforts there. With approval of their board of directors, the Stewart Co. ASAP modified their mission to include efforts in support of recovery housing. She and her team then developed a project, wrote a grant, and won Creating Homes Initiative funding of \$1,000,000 for the renovation of a Stewart Co. iconic old family-owned motel, the Sunset, and are re-creating it into Lakeview Women's Mission, which will provide recovery housing and support services for area women, including those who are attempting to regain custody of their children." Way to go Melissa! If you'd like to follow along on the renovations at Lakeview, you can get updates from the [SCASAP Facebook page at this link](#).

If you'd like to "shout out" to a TDMHSAS colleague, please send an email to Kearston.Winrow@tn.gov. Tell us who you'd like to recognize and why.

Service Awards

Congratulations to all of our amazing state employees who celebrated milestones in their service to the people of Tennessee this year. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the people we are blessed to serve.

Memphis Mental Health Institute

5 Years		
Ahmed, Aliya	Jones, Pamela	Bradley, Augusteen
Edmiston, Zachary	Martin, Panya J	Dorris, Angela
Brewer, Elicia M	Housley, Karen D	Williams, Aiisha N
Beck, Cornesha G	Blackledge, Darryl	Williams, Terri Icy E

10 Years	15 Years	20 Years
Ihaza,Norma Lee	Washington,Ebonie	Williams,Tijuana L
	Williams,Greta L	Newson,Jennifer Y
25 Years	30 Years	35 Years
Monix,Shoronda M	Sims,Ray A	Gray,Gregory D
Powell,Bernice		
45 Years		
Seymour,Claudette		

Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute

5 Years		
Black,Paul Clayton	Givens,Stephanie Charmaine	Pratt,Kenneth S
Clausius,Martin Joseph	Hasan,Emile Joseph	Rodriguez,Christina
Cook,Kevin ALan	Jimcoily,Alysia A	Slay,Susan Elizabeth
Cruz,Katrina Lyn	Laguesma,Michael Magadan	Soe,Kaythi
Drimer Kagan,Taly	Oldham-Clemmons,Kimberly	Thompson,Jennifer Lee
Fernandez,Abraham	Perry,Dekeivis Khalil	
10 Years		
Achebe,Emeka A	McKeever,Darius S	Steele Jr,William E
Adinde,Godwin O	Ringer,Daryl L	Tessema,Ayke A
Folorunsho,Femi J	Shrable,Boyd	Wood III,Henderson K
Grigsby,Michael L	Small,Arthur H	
15 Years		
Bowman,William L	Michael,Emad	Randall,Debra A
Francis,Rodney E	Morgan,Lance	Rowe,Minnie E
Graham,Genieve T	Parrish,Darrow L	Wells,Janet L
Lord-Smith,Lea V	Pillow,Thomas A	
20 Years		
Bass,Jessica S	Marsh,David C	
25 Years		
Bronaugh Sr,Terence D	Law,Jamma A	Odigie,Christiana
Brown,Lisa R	Maddox,Corey D	Vann,Preston M
Culver,Jacqueline M	McHollin,Vincent L	Wyer,Robb K
Fletcher,Valery	Misra,Sucheta R	
30 Years		
Griswold,Amelia L		
35 Years		
Hunter,Karen L	Selikoff,Richard M	Vann,Glenn A

Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute

5 Years		
Boston,DeAnna Mae	Boston,DeAnna Mae	Rivero,Raquel Naiaya
Careathers,Quartney	Careathers,Quartney	Shell,Randy L
Cleveland,Jacqueline L	Cleveland,Jacqueline L	Sims,Crystal M

Curtis,John A	Curtis,John A	Sledge,Latashia E
Dempsey,Charlotte Ann	Dempsey,Charlotte Ann	Smith,Barbara Anne
Edwards,Lizabeth Belinda	Edwards,Lizabeth Belinda	Whitehead,Carlton Lamont
Glenn,Lavonda Lynn	Glenn,Lavonda Lynn	Wilhoite,Scott A
Gueye,Rhonda Carol	Gueye,Rhonda Carol	Woods,Curtis Justina
Hime,Joseph H	Hime,Joseph H	Zachariah,Nishamary
Hollis,Jennifer R	Hollis,Jennifer R	
10 Years		
Allen,Monica K	Henning,Melissa R	Sanford,Christopher L
Gordon,Allen M	Hill,Hiawatha Naomi	Widener,Michael C
Greer,Jamichael	Polk,Delicia Shante	
Hatfield,Sheri A	Raymer,Mark A	
15 Years		
Bickel,Elizabeth S	Jones,Tiffany	Raza,Syed A
Coffelt,Vicky L	Moss,Linda G	Sanders,Stephanie K
Hughes,Allison S	Nunley,Rhonda G	Willison,Viola M
20 Years		
Bianchi,Ronald C	Mcclure,Sandra B	Woods,Olga A
25 Years		
Bell,Ursula D	Crutcher,Tabitha Y	Lane,Frances A
30 Years		
Elsberry,Angela C	Wilkey,Karen M	
35 Years		
Bianchi,Mary J	Hammonds,Abigail C	

Western Mental Health Institute

5 Years		
Allen,Christopher Lamont	Evans,Britney Leigh	Moore,Shelby Lynne
Barnes,Nicholas Elton Lee	Findley,Mary Annette	Reynolds,Christy Nicole
Bills Jr,Jimmy Louis	Foster,Brenda Lee	Rivers,Shentishia Shynette
Bishop,Jodi Leigh	Hill,Nakeyta Lanett	Ross,Summer Lynne
Borden,Paula Renee	Hopper,Mindy Raines	Wilkes,Alicia Reshea
Bufford,Mary Jean	Kirchner,Catherine Janine	Williams,Abbie Jane
Byrd,Vinnie Louise	Kuper,Betsy Jean	Woods,Auburney Tynette
Carnahan,Betty Sue	Lubrido,Ma Zianne Leigh Basinillo	Woods,Lisa Marie
Cheairs,Margaret Jean	Majors,Amber Brooke	
Cross,Gaylon Doral	Messenger,Undra Machell	
10 Years		
Bowden Jr,David	Hamer Jr,Cater	Whitford,Antonio T
Boyle,Kelvin Ray	Hudson,Gregory Montrel	
Elmore,William Roger	Smith,Mary F	
15 Years		

Bills, Maggie G	Kennedy, Rita S	
Brown, Michael	Maccarino, Tammy G	
20 Years		
Bills, Maggie G	Kennedy, Rita S	Bills, Maggie G
Brown, Michael	Maccarino, Tammy G	Brown, Michael
Bills, Maggie G	Kennedy, Rita S	Bills, Maggie G
25 Years		30 Years
Roy, Lisa L	Badejoko, Regina A	Mckee, Annie M
35 Years		
Brownlee, Janet R	Harvey, Ruby Gean	Morrow, Janice L
40 Years		
Allen, Patsy F	Giles, Terry E	
45 Years		
Boyle, Cassandra K	Peters, Sherry A	

Central Office

5 Years		
Blackburn, Gregory S	Herndon, Jaime	Nguyen, Jennifer N
Culbreath, Sharnea V	Hurst, Erica Brooke	Provost-Emmons, Rebekah
Davis, Jasmine C	Jasinski, Ashley N	Raglin, Krystle L
Fisher, Sabrina N	Knowles, Donathan T	Reeve, Elizabeth A
Fulkerson, Beverly Rene	LaPlante, Christine	Robertson, Tiffani
10 Years		
Blackmon, Keye E	Mitchell, Leandra V	
Gobin, Neru L	Yarbrough, Benjamin P	
15 Years		
Delk, Jamie C	Haley, Kathleen R	Simpson, Katherine Q
Draper, Sherri J	Moser, Ronald A	Smith, Melvin
20 Years		25 Years
Griffith, Zachary S	Tyler, Cynthia C	
30 Years		
Gerdes, John T	Hamer, Gwendolyn	Sparks, Melissa A
35 Years		
	Ladd Jr, James B	
40 Years		
Cotterman, Robin L	Langdon, April D	Wright, Dennis
50 Years		
Parker Jr, Tirrill		

Save-the-Dates

Planning and Policy Council Meetings

Adult Committee

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CST

TDMHSAS

Conference Room 5.1 South, 5th Floor

Andrew Jackson Building

500 Deaderick Street

Nashville, TN 37243

Conference Line Numbers

615-253-5786 (local/Nashville)

866-249-0567 (long-distance)

Region VI

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CST

Pathways

238 Summar Drive

Jackson, TN 38301

Region III

Thursday, January 11, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST

AIM Center

472 W. MLK Blvd.

Chattanooga, TN 37402

Region VII

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. CST

Church Health

1350 Concourse Ave., Suite 142

Memphis, TN 38104

To verify the schedule and plans for future meetings, please visit the department website at these links:

[Statewide & Committee Meeting Schedule \(tn.gov\)](#)

[Regional Council Meeting Schedule \(tn.gov\)](#)

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.

PARENTING THAT WORKS!

**REGIONAL
INTERVENTION
PROGRAM (RIP)**

FREE

Parenting program for families with young children, under 6, who may be experiencing challenging behaviors: Tantrums, Aggressions, Non-compliance, Difficulties at School, etc.



[Learn More](#)

www.tn.gov/parenting-that-works



First Annual
**Women of
Worth Retreat**
*for Women in
Recovery
& Their Friends*

February 16-18, 2024



Registration Fee: \$125
*\$150 after 12/20/23



LODGE AT PARIS LANDING

*Use Code 1611 when registering for lodging to get discounted rate. Lodging separate from registration fee.
Lodge rooms - \$107/night, Cabins - \$214/night

Who can find a woman of worth?
Far beyond jewels is her value.



Film-Based
Initiative

REGISTER ON FACEBOOK OR EVENTBRITE
<https://www.facebook.com/events/850049263582417>



[Event page and more information](#)

Resources

In the event of a mental health emergency ...

STATEWIDE
CRISIS LINE
HELP IN A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS
855-CRISIS-1 TN.gov/CrisisLine
855-274-7471 

For questions about addiction treatment/referrals ...



TN
REDLINE
1.800.889.9789
CALL OR TEXT

  

To talk 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



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

OCA.TDMHSAS@tn.gov | [TN.gov/behavioral-health](https://tn.gov/behavioral-health)



OUR MISSION: CREATING
COLLABORATIVE PATHWAYS
TO RESILIENCY, RECOVERY & INDEPENDENCE
FOR TENNESSEANS LIVING
WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

OUR VISION:

A STATE OF *RESILIENCY, RECOVERY, AND INDEPENDENCE*
IN WHICH **TENNESSEANS**
LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS
AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS **THRIVE**

AS A DEPARTMENT, WE VALUE:

CUSTOMER FOCUSED:

An unwavering commitment to keep patients and those who serve them at the forefront of every decision.

INTEGRITY:

Honesty and truth in all we do.

INSPIRED PURPOSE:

The call to action in service of a cause greater than one's self.

EXCELLENCE:

The highest standards for services, efficiency, and conduct.

COMPASSIONATE

AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP:

The commitment to make effective decisions and inspire others through active listening and empathy.

SOLUTIONS AND OUTCOMES-ORIENTED:

The commitment to positive outcomes and meaningful changes in response to the critical needs of the Tennesseans we serve.

PARTNERSHIP:

Beyond teamwork, collaboration based on mutual success to the benefit of the Tennesseans we are blessed to serve.

We hope you've enjoyed this issue of the Update! If you have news to share (a story idea, accomplishment, provider news, etc.) or if you'd like to be added to the distribution list, please email: the Office of Communications at OC.TDMHSAS@tn.gov.

And please connect with us on social media!



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