



### *A Message from Commissioner Williams*

Dear Friends and Partners,

It is with overwhelming gratitude that we write to you to share the details of Governor Bill Lee's budget proposal for TDMHSAS for state fiscal year 2024. Yet again, we are able to share another year of generous proposed additions totaling multiple tens of millions of dollars. The total investment in new state dollars proposed for FY2024 is more than \$110 million. In Governor Lee's proposed budget, you'll see many of the items that we presented at our hearing with him back in November. These investments will continue to increase support for the public behavioral health workforce, close the gap on substance use disorder treatment services, support the mental health needs of Tennesseans as they re-enter communities and re-start their lives, and more.

The next step in this process is legislative hearings with committees in the House and Senate (House Finance – March 6, Senate Health – March 8). They will work through the Governor's budget proposal over the next few months and pass it with their changes and additions later this spring. As always, we appreciate your support this process and appreciate your efforts

every day to increase the resiliency, recovery, and independence of the Tennesseans we are blessed to serve.

Many Blessings,

Marie

[Click the image or this link to see a full-sized PDF version.](#)

| Program Name                                                        | Program Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Amount               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Residential Re-Entry Housing Program                                | To provide funding to establish one position and operate six residential facilities. These facilities will serve individuals with severe and persistent mental health challenges reentering the community from incarceration. This program will provide funding for start-up and operational costs of the facilities. Of this total cost, \$6,320,700 is recurring and \$6,778,200 is non-recurring. | \$13,068,900         |
| Substance Use Residential Treatment Beds Infrastructure Enhancement | To provide non-recurring funding to increase substance use residential treatment bed capacity. Grants will be provided for the renovation or reconstruction of facilities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | \$12,000,000 NR      |
| Provider Rate Increase                                              | To provide a pool of recurring funding for provider rate increases in the mental health and substance abuse prevention programs within the department.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | \$9,000,000          |
| Alliance Healthcare Services                                        | To provide non-recurring funding for a grant to Alliance Healthcare Services for a crisis wellness center.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | \$7,000,000 NR       |
| Tennessee Sports Gambling Fund                                      | To provide non-recurring funding from the fund for grants to develop and establish treatment programs and resources for gambling addiction and compulsive gambling, pursuant to TCA 4-51-015.                                                                                                                                                                                                        | \$2,316,500          |
| Juvenile Justice Diversion                                          | To provide recurring funding to expand the juvenile justice diversion program to serve an additional 500 justice-involved youth with community-based treatment services.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | \$1,322,000          |
| Davidson County Residential Drug Court Contract                     | Reorganization of funding for Davidson County Drug Court moving from Department of Corrections to TDMH SAS. Total includes base amount of \$582,000 and \$180,000 increase in funding for FY24. Additional funding will be used to increase capacity in the program.                                                                                                                                 | \$1,162,000          |
| <b>Total Community Funding</b>                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>\$45,869,400</b>  |
| Licensure Positions                                                 | To provide recurring funding to establish four positions to support licensure and compliance due to an increase in treatment sites.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | \$497,900            |
| Contract and Legal Positions                                        | To provide recurring funding for three positions to assist in the creation and review of contracts due to an increase in workload.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$341,500            |
| <b>Total Department Funding</b>                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>\$839,400</b>     |
| WMH New Replacement Facility Phase 2                                | 62,884 Building gross square feet including an additional 25 beds and support space, adjunctive therapy space, dietary department and kitchen facility, administrative and education spaces, environment of care department, and IT and Performance Improvement space.                                                                                                                               | \$62,990,000         |
| Major Maintenance                                                   | To provide recurring funding to recognize maintenance cost inflation and State Building Commission policy changes regarding cost thresholds for capital maintenance projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | \$450,000            |
| <b>Total Capital and Facilities</b>                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>\$63,440,000</b>  |
| <b>Grand Total FY24:</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>\$110,148,800</b> |

# Statewide Planning and Policy Council Meeting



We were feelin' the love at our Statewide Planning and Policy Council on Valentine's Day! Council members and attendees heard an update on the FY24 budget proposal from Commissioner Williams, got the details on the new community engagement strategy from the Tennessee Council on Children and Youth (TCCY), learned more about the successes of the first six months of 988 in Tennessee, and heard updates from regional council and committee chairs.

This quarterly meeting brings behavioral health stakeholders together from across the state to provide feedback to and get updates from the department. We value their feedback, and the priorities they set inform our budget requests and priorities for expansion. If you'd like more information about the TDMHSAS Planning and Policy Councils, [please visit our website at this link](#).

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## Faith-Based Initiatives Team Starts New Series



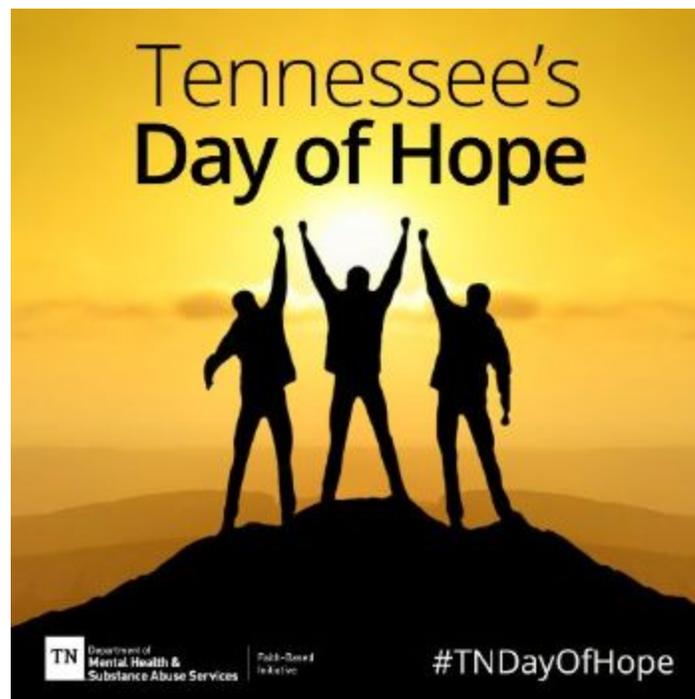
The TDMHSAS Faith-Based Initiatives team kicked off a new series of community education events called "Back to Basics: Faith and Mental Health Academy." The event held February 17th in Chattanooga featured a Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) suicide prevention training and a Mental Health 101 training. Attendees included faith leaders, community leaders, healthcare providers, community behavioral health providers, law enforcement, and more. Thanks to the Chattanooga Hamilton County Family Justice Center for hosting us!

The Faith-Based Initiatives team is planning more of these type events across the state throughout the year. Connect with them to collaborate on hosting a free training or stay up to date on their next event announcement:

[TN.gov/behavioral-health/faith](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/faith)



### ***March 10: Tennessee's Day of Hope***



March 10th is being celebrated again this year as Tennessee's Day of Hope. The first Day of Hope was proclaimed by Governor Bill Lee in 2020 to celebrate the role of hope in recovery. People across the state responded and kept the spirit alive for the last three years. We're excited to share several events in

# MTMHI Rapid Hiring Event



Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute is holding its second Rapid Hire Event February 27th and 28th from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Rapid hire events are a collaboration between MTMHI human resources and leadership and Central Office human resources talent management team to quickly fill as many open positions as possible. Positions available during the event include: nurses, social workers, psychiatric technicians, custodians, and more. You can always find all of the department's open positions on our careers page at this link: [TN.gov/behavioral-health/careers](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/careers)

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## Coalitions in Action

*Prevention Day on the Hill*



More than 115 coalition professionals and youth coalition members gathered in Nashville in early February to advocate for primary substance use prevention. Students had the chance to attend a Youth Mock Session, where they debated for or against policies, a JUUL settlement presentation (advocacy priorities outline), and they were able to meet with state lawmakers to share how their work impacts the communities they serve.

### ***CADCA National Leadership Forum***



Coalitions from across the state also traveled to Washington, D.C. in early February to attend the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Leadership Forum. The forum is a four-day conference packed with multiple adult and youth-oriented opportunities to learn the latest strategies to fight substance misuse and hear from nationally known experts and

policymakers with a full day dedicated to Capitol Hill events. The Forum is held in the Washington, D.C. area every year bringing together more than 3,000 participants representing community anti-drug coalitions, government leaders, youth, addiction treatment professionals, researchers, educators, law enforcement professionals, youth, and faith-based leaders.



*Power of Putnam Presents at CADCA*



Pictured L to R: Dr. Steven Seiler, Dr. Meggan Graves, Bill Gibson

*Submitted by: Bill Gibson*

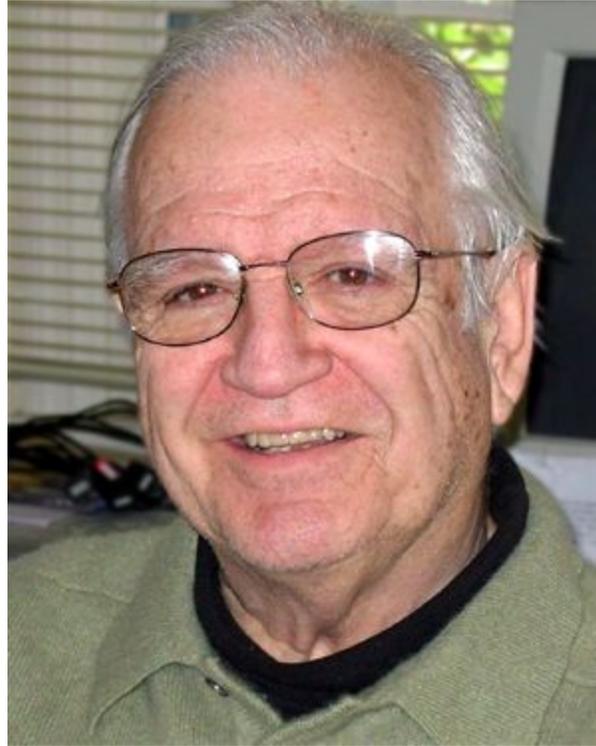
Power of Putnam, in collaboration with Tennessee Tech University, developed a project to divert controlled substances prescribed by Veterinarians for animal use. The project centers around a free, two-hour continuing education training on the topic for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians. During the first year, the training went from community level to statewide in Tennessee. During the second year, it was approved and deployed in the eight states surrounding Tennessee, and in year three, it went nationwide. The course is updated and reappraised for continuing education annually and is beginning its fourth year.

Three of the project developers, Bill Gibson, Coalition Director for Power of Putnam, Dr. Meggan Graves, Clinical Associate Professor of Veterinary Medicine at U.T. Knoxville, and Dr. Steven Seiler of Tennessee Tech University, were asked to present the project at this year's CADCA National Leadership Forum in a session titled "Paws Off Those Meds" Partnering with Your Local Veterinary Profession to Reduce diversion. The session was well received, and coalitions from around the country requested to receive additional information and a link to the 2024 updated course once it is approved.

Anyone interested in receiving additional information and distributable free access to the next release of the continuing education course, contact [bill@powerofputnam.org](mailto:bill@powerofputnam.org).

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## Remembering a Tireless Mental Health Advocate



George Patrick Haley, Jr. passed away on January 7 at the age of 89. Mr. Haley was a tireless advocate for mental health and volunteered his time with many different organizations. After retiring from a career in the apparel industry, Mr. Haley served as President of the TDMHSAS Planning and Policy Council starting in 1996. His other service includes chairing the Advocacy and Education Committee, co-chairing the Tennessee Criminal Justice/Mental Illness Taskforce, serving as Chairman of the MTMHI Board of Trustees, Chairman of TennCare Partners, President of NAMI-TN, and Chairman of the Board for Park Center Nashville. Mr. Haley's legacy continues with his daughter Kathy who works for the department and helps people and family members access help through the Office of Consumer Affairs Helpline.

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## Shout Out!

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

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# Save-the-Dates

## *Planning and Policy Council Meetings*

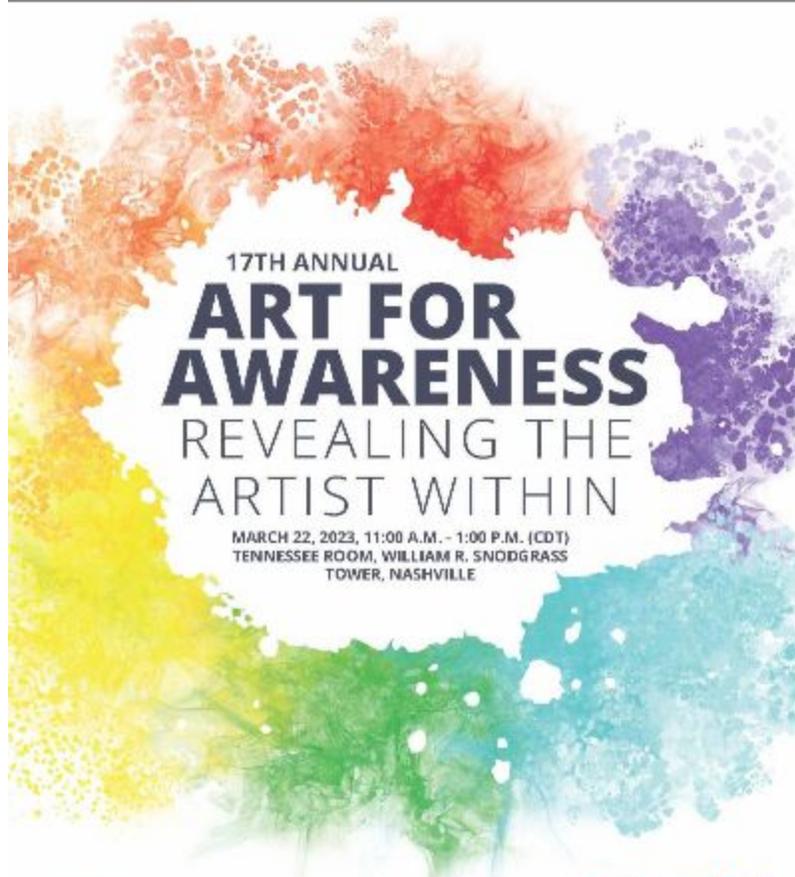
The TDMHSAS Planning and Policy Council Committee meetings will resume in April.

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](mailto: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.



17TH ANNUAL  
**ART FOR AWARENESS**  
REVEALING THE  
ARTIST WITHIN

MARCH 22, 2023, 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. (CDT)  
TENNESSEE ROOM, WILLIAM R. SNODGRASS  
TOWER, NASHVILLE



## METRO DRUG COALITION RECOVERY COACH ACADEMY

Metro Drug Coalition is offering the CCAR Recovery Coach Academy® again! This is an intensive training academy focusing on providing individuals with the skills needed to guide, mentor and support anyone who would like to enter into or sustain long-term recovery from an addiction to alcohol or other drugs.

Seats are limited! Reserve your spot by February 27th.

**March 6 - March 9**

For more information and to register, scan the QR code or visit the website below:

<https://metrodrug.org/product/recovery-coach-academy/>



**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily

**Location:** The Gateway  
530 W 5th Ave, Knoxville, TN 37917

*This training has been approved for 30 Continuing education hours approved for TN CPRS or 30 CEUs for professionals from the Connecticut Certification Board.*

TRAINING PROVIDED BY:



**SAVE** *the* **DATE**



*Anchored in*  
**HOPE**

Suicide and the Black Church Conference  
*20 years later*  
Wednesday, June 14th & Thursday, June 15th  
**2023**

For More Information: 901-370-4673 Email us at [thcsuicideconference@gmail.com](mailto:thcsuicideconference@gmail.com)

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## Resources

*In the event of a mental health emergency ...*



**988**  
**24/7 Crisis**  
**& Support**



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*For questions about addiction treatment/referrals ...*

**TN**  
**REDLINE**  
**1.800.889.9789**  
**CALL OR TEXT**

TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services  
TAADAS  
TN TOGETHER  
ENDING THE OPIOID CRISIS

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*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](mailto: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](mailto:OC.TDMHSAS@tn.gov).*

*And please connect with us on social media!*



Find us on  
**Facebook**

Thanks to our [Facebook family](#) for "liking" us and sharing our posts!



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Join us on  
**LinkedIn**



Website



Facebook



Instagram



LinkedIn

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