



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In this season of giving thanks, new beginnings, and new blessings, we are blessed beyond measure to humbly bring our plan for the next state fiscal year to Governor Bill Lee and his team. We presented our plan for FY25 on November 15. The big themes for our proposed cost increases include continued support for provider rates and workforce, school-based mental health supports for Tennessee children, and more capacity to meet the surging need for inpatient substance use disorder treatment. You can read more about our proposal and watch an archived video of our presentation below.

[Link to Budget Presentation Video](#)

[Link to Budget Presentation Slides](#)

The administration works through the holiday period to design a budget proposal which will be presented to the members of the Tennessee General Assembly early next year at the State of the State Address.

We're so grateful to everyone who packed the hearing room and watched

online to share support. Your work matters and it truly is bringing hope and healing to the hurting Tennesseans we are blessed to serve.

Blessings,

Marie

First Funds to be Released from K-12 Mental Health Trust Fund

The first funds from Tennessee's K-12 Mental Health Trust Fund will soon be released. At the November 20 meeting of the K-12 Mental Health Trust Fund Board of Trustees, the membership voted to release \$6 million in FY24 and \$6 million in FY25 from the fund's proceeds. The funds will support the mental health needs of school-aged youth and will be granted through a competitive Announcement of Funding. TDMHSAS will release more details on our [Funding Opportunities page on our TN.gov website at this link](#).

TDMHSAS Welcomes New Director of Faith-Based Initiatives



Jaime's promotion to Director was celebrated at a gathering of the Faith-Based Community Coordinators, Lifeline Peer Project Coordinators, and Hybrid Lifeline Peer Project Coordinators on November 16. The TDMHSAS Faith-Based Initiative is housed in the Department's Office of Strategic Initiatives led by Jessica Youngblom.

TDMHSAS is excited to announce the appointment of James Harper as Director of Faith-Based Initiatives. The new role is a promotion for Harper who has served as Assistant Director for almost two years. Prior to joining the department in January 2022, Harper was a Faith-Based Community Coordinator serving middle Tennessee through the department's Faith-Based Initiative.

The TDMHSAS Faith-Based Initiative encompasses the department's four Faith-Based Community Coordinators, 10 Lifeline Peer Project Coordinators serving regions across the state, 10 Hybrid Lifeline Coordinators serving rural and distressed counties, and the Collegiate Recovery Initiative. The TDMHSAS Faith-Based Initiative is nearly a decade old and has certified close to 1,100 faith-based recovery partners to provide spiritual and pastoral supports to people living with mental health and substance use challenges. Connect with the initiative at this link: tn.gov/behavioral-health/faith

TDMHSAS Partners for Safe Holiday Alcohol Campaign



ALCOHOL REQUIRES RESPONSIBILITY

**If the holidays are tough,
don't *rely* on alcohol.
Find a support system.**

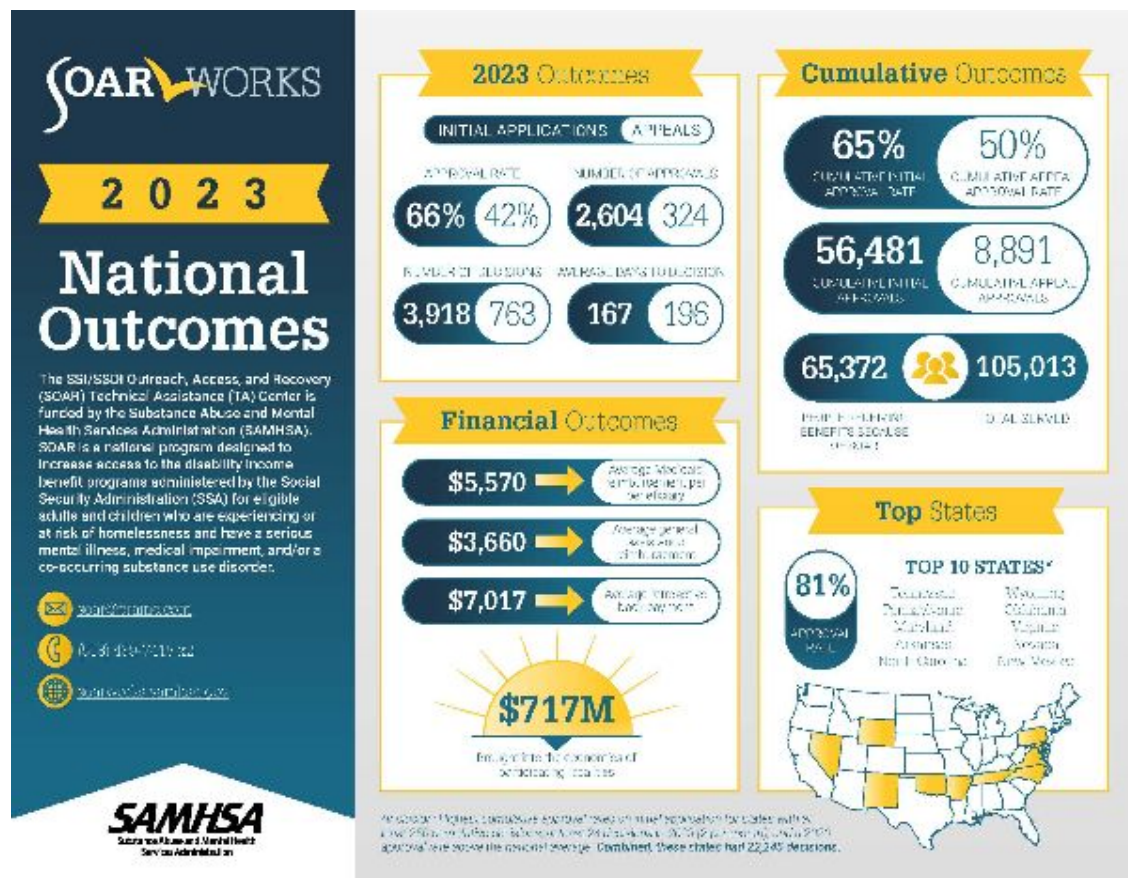
DON'T LET ALCOHOL RUIN THE HOLIDAYS

TN partnerships: Help is available. Speak with someone today, call or text 800.889.9789

TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services **TN** Department of Safety & Homeland Security **TN** Department of Health **TN** Alcoholic Beverage Commission

TDMHSAS is partnering with the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) and the Departments of Health and Safety and Homeland Security for a public health and safety campaign on safe alcohol consumption during the holidays. The campaign focuses on the dangers of binge drinking, drunk driving, and underage alcohol consumption. Campaign messages promote the Tennessee REDLINE (800-889-9789) for anyone needing to access treatment for substance use disorder. The partners in the campaign held a news conference just before Thanksgiving to bring attention to the subject. [You can watch the full news conference at this link on YouTube.](#)

Tennessee SOARs to New Heights



The state of Tennessee was ranked as the top state in the nation for the number of SSI/SSDI applications completed and having a high approval rating, using the SOAR (SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery) model. SOAR is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults and children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. [Learn more about SOAR on our website at this link.](#)

TDMHSAS Homebuilders Training in Manchester



On September 14, 2023, the TDMHSAS-HOMEBUILDERS grant project received permission from its funder, Children’s Bureau (CB)/Administration for Children and Families (ACF), to move from the Planning Phase into Implementation. Thus, TDMHSAS-HOMEBUILDERS could conduct activities that would result in program implementation. Critical to implementation was the training of program and other key staff in how the model should be implemented as required for fidelity.

The week of November 6-9, 2023, Therapeutic Intervention, Education, and Skills (TIES) program and evaluation staff, the TDMHSAS-HOMEBUILDERS Project Director and Program Manager, and the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services (TDCS) Program Specialist assigned to the South Central region participated in the required Core Skills training for the HOMEBUILDERS model.

TDMHSAS-HOMEBUILDERS will continue to offer services in the same nine rural Middle Tennessee counties currently providing TIES services: Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marshall, and Maury. Transitioning from TIES to TDMHSAS-HOMEBUILDERS will add an evidence-based program in the South Central TDCS region in lieu of an evidence-informed program. Moreover, TDMHSAS-HOMEBUILDERS will be the first implementation of the HOMEBUILDERS model in the state through TDCS’ Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) plan. HOMEBUILDERS is the nation’s oldest and best documented intensive family preservation services

(IFPS) program designed to keep children safely at home with their families. The target population for TDMHSAS-HOMEBUILDERS is families with children at imminent risk of out-of-home placement due to parental substance misuse. Families with children being reunified following initial placement due to parental substance misuse also meet the eligibility criteria.

Coalitions in the Community

Power of Putnam partners with the community, schools, and youth to bring Red Ribbon Week to Putnam County.



Red Ribbon Week 2023 left a lasting mark on the school-aged youth of Putnam County. In elementary schools, Power of Putnam and the Putnam County Health Department partnered to bring Red Ribbon Week resources to LEAPS after school programs and Red Ribbon Week presentations to elementary schools. The middle schools participated in Red Ribbon Week by “planting the promise” with red tulips at their schools and signing a pledge to Be Kind To Your Mind and Live Drug Free. At the high schools, the Choices Matter program visited to teach students the importance of positive decision making and living a healthy lifestyle for Red Ribbon Week.

Moccasin Bend Hosts Art Show



The Adjunctive Therapy Department held an Art Show on October 19th in the Treatment Mall. This art show was made available for patients and staff to view and there was a sperate viewing scheduled for community providers. Shout out to the patients and the staff that made this art show possible!

Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute Celebrates Staff



MTMHI celebrated staff for their hard work and dedication at the 2023 Fall Festival. The festival brought out staff from many different disciplines along with laughter and smiles. Staff had the opportunity to enter a drawing to win baskets created and donated by each department. This day was full of fun, excitement, and food!!!

Shout Out!

Veterans Day Appreciation at Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute

Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute is fortunate to have a remarkable team of staff members who are also veterans. These individuals bring a unique blend of dedication, discipline, and compassion to their roles. Having served and continuing to serve in various capacities in the military, they now channel their skills and experiences into providing exceptional care for our patients and staff. Their commitment to service doesn't stop, and it's evident in the way they approach their work with a strong sense of responsibility and a deep understanding of teamwork. The presence of these veteran staff members not only enhances the efficiency of our hospital but also creates a supportive environment where everyone benefits from their valuable contributions.

Thank you to all of our veterans on Team TDMHSAS!



Rodney Francis
Army 82 Air borne rangers Fort Brags
125 infantry 2 infantry division
Fort Benning
E-6
Staff Sergeant



Aaron McMillian
Army
12 Bravo Combat Engineer
12 November Horizontal
Construction Engineer
E-6 Staff Sergeant



Martin Clausius
CW4, 255A: Data
Operations Warrant
Officer, Army National
Guard



Thomas Pillow
Army – 1981- 1988
76Y Supply Clerk and
re-enlisted as a 19D
Calvary Scout



Darrow Parrish
 E-3 Lance Corporal
 USMC
 VMA-231 Harrier Squadron
 1051 Legal Administration
 Marine Corps Air Station,
 Cherry point North Carolina
 USS WASP (LHD-1)



Kevin Kennedy
 Navy
 E-6 Petty Officer
 First Class
 CTT - Cryptologic
 Technician



Scott Lee
 Sergeant First Class
 (SFC), Retired (20
 years), 94W
 Electronic
 Maintenance
 Supervisor, United
 States Army

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.

Save-the-Dates

Planning and Policy Council Meetings

Statewide Planning and Policy Council

Tuesday, December 12, 2023
 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CST
 Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute
 Conference Center
 221 Stewarts Ferry Pike
 Nashville, TN 37214

Regional Council meetings are scheduled to resume in January 2024

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.

The Tennessee Association of recovery Court Professionals is celebrating 20 Years. To learn more and register visit: [TARCPCON2023-20th Anniversary Celebration](#) | [Tennessee Association of Recovery Court Professionals](#)



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.

A photograph of a family of four (mother, father, daughter, and son) sitting on a wooden floor against a white brick wall. They are all smiling and reaching their hands up to touch at the top, forming a star shape.

[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.

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