



A Message from Commissioner Williams

Dear friends and partners,

I hope you're enjoying the cooler temperatures and changing seasons. Seasons are definitely changing here at the department-- we're getting into FY23 Budget season! The team will be presenting our proposal to Governor Lee and his team on November 1 at 10:00 a.m. In-person space is limited, but the hearings for our department and others will be streamed online. Stay tuned to TN.gov for information on how to watch. Whether in the room or watching on line, we always feel your support and appreciate it very much.

Speaking of funding, in this edition of our newsletter, you'll read about two new announcements of funding for the current FY22 budget year. [Make sure you bookmark our funding opportunities so you don't miss out on anything.](#)

Many blessings,

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day: Saturday, Oct. 23

Biannual event offers safe and secure opportunity to dispose of prescription medications

TDMHSAS and its partners at the Departments of Health and Environment and Conservation are encouraging Tennesseans to participate in the next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, Saturday, October 23 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

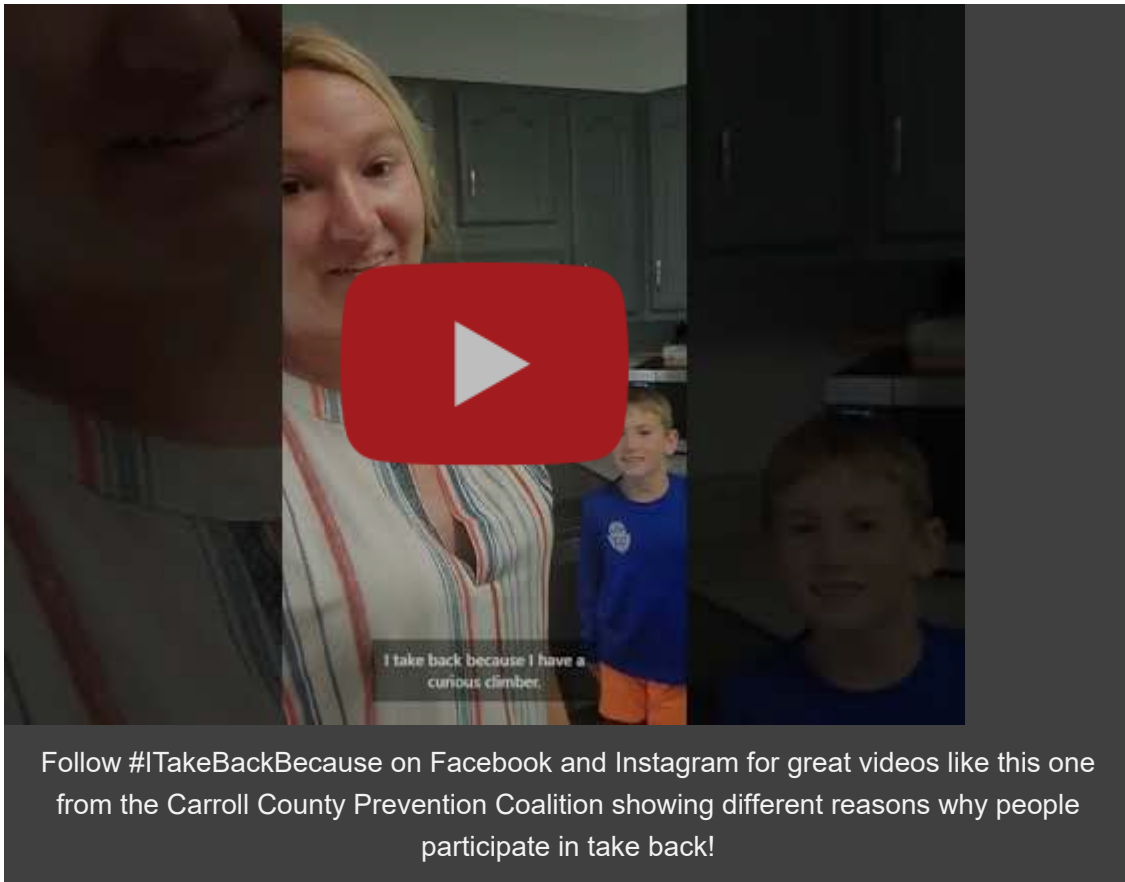
Organized twice a year by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Take Back Day encourages people to account for the prescription medications in their homes and safely and securely dispose of the medications they no longer need. [During the April 2021 Take Back Day](#), Tennesseans safely and securely disposed of more than 19,000 pounds of medications at 113 sites.

On Take Back Day, Tennessee's Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions team up with law enforcement, pharmacies, retailers, and other community groups to host events. In addition to safe and secure disposal, coalitions offer information, education, and fun activities at their take-back events. [Find a Take Back Day event near you at this link](#).

“Take Back Day is every Tennessean’s opportunity to have a positive impact on our addiction and overdose crisis. By removing potentially addictive substances from homes and communities before they can be misused, we’re preventing addiction from starting,” said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams, LCSW.

Tennesseans who are unable to participate in Take Back Day can safely and securely dispose of prescription medication at one of more than 350 permanent prescription drug drop box locations. [Find a permanent drop box near you using this map](#).


If you're reading this after October 23, make sure you see the November edition of the newsletter for full coverage of Take Back Day.



TDMHSAS and Sister Agencies Warn of Deadly Counterfeit Pills

TDMHSAS joined sister state agencies earlier this month to warn Tennesseans of the increasing prevalence of dangerous and deadly counterfeit pills containing lethal amounts of fentanyl. Commissioner Williams spoke at a media briefing with TDH Commissioner Lisa Piercey and TBI Director David Rausch. [Download a onepager from the briefing at this link.](#)

The presentation also featured comments from one of our Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists who serves Nashville. Andrea Hancock shared about her work and her personal connection to it. Watch a video from the event below.





New Funding Opportunities

Four current opportunities for housing opportunities and services for children and youth

TDMHSAS has four grant opportunities open at the current time! First is the Tennessee Resiliency Project (TRP). TRP is the result of Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly appropriating \$6.5 million new, recurring, state funding this year to expand mental health services for children, youth, and young adults. TRP is a competitive grant process for providers across the state designed to allow local communities and providers the opportunity to be creative and innovative in their approach to the TRP goals.

The other three opportunities are through the TDMHSAS Office of Housing and Homeless Services: Creating Homes Initiative (CHI) 2.0, Creating Affordable Housing, and Intensive Long-Term Support.

[Learn more about these opportunities and stay up to date on new ones as they become available at this link.](#)

TDMHSAS Participates in Expect

Employment Report Presentation to Gov. Lee

Annual event celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month



Commissioner Williams poses with Gov. Bill Lee, DIDD Commissioner Brad Turner, TDMHSAS Director of Wellness and Employment Services Mark Liverman, and the IPS team From Frontier Health

TDMHSAS was excited to join with our fellow members of Tennessee's Employment First Task Force to present the 2021 edition of the Expect Employment Report to Governor Bill Lee on October 14. The report was presented at the new Martin Center for the Arts on the campus of East Tennessee State University. The annual report highlights the work done by taskforce members to advance employment opportunities for Tennesseans living with disabilities. Commissioner Marie Williams represented the department and gave remarks at the event. She said: "Too often people with mental illness or addiction challenges are stigmatized, but in reality, they have amazing abilities and talents. They have a great desire to contribute and be productive, and their employment helps them create a sense of community and a feeling of pride they might not have felt in a long time. We're so grateful to our amazing Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment providers across the state who continue to persevere despite the challenges of

the pandemic and help people with behavioral health challenges attain their employment goals, and when that happens, we all rise.”



One Team, One Vision

TDMHSAS hosted its third annual One Team, One Vision Event



The Department hosted its 3rd Annual One Team One Vision Event in September. This event gathered the TN Recovery Navigators, Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists, Lifeliners, and Faith Based Coordinators for a day of learning and sharing. They heard from the department on various resources including the Behavioral Health Safety Net, IPS, and the array of criminal justice services. They also were able to hear about the various programs offered by the Department of Health including HIV, Hepatitis C, and other services. Most importantly this day provided an ability to share successes and continue to create pathways of collaboration between all the programs. Special thanks to Anthony Jackson, Cate Faulkner, Monty Burks, and Jessica Ivey for the work they did to put this event together.



First Training for Certified Young Adult Peer Support Specialists



The first ever Certified Young Adult Peer Support Specialist training was held September 27th through October 1st. Ten applicants successfully completed the week long, 40 hour, virtual interactive training. Attendees learned skills to better support the youth and young adults of Tennessee including: a deep dive into the history of peer support and why it is needed, how to use strategic sharing to

build rapport with young people, strategies to empower young people, and so much more. For more information on how to apply to become a CYAPSS please visit [Certified Young Adult Peer Support Specialist \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/cyapss). If you have additional questions contact CYAPSS.TDMHSAS@tn.gov or Morgan.Morris@tn.gov.

Davidson County Residential Drug Court holds graduation



On September 23rd, the Davidson County Residential Drug Court (DC4) held its first graduation ceremony since January 2020! Judge Jennifer Smith recognized the accomplishments and hard work of 16 graduates, and a trio of local businesses were also honored for employing DC-4 participants and supporting the program (Nashville Wire, Brasfield & Gorrie, and Nom Nom).

Judge Smith eloquently described the many difficulties the residential program has endured since the beginning of the pandemic. Most notably, DC-4 lost three beloved staff members due to Covid-19 related illnesses. Their family members were in attendance and given a plaque to honor their loved ones as they were part of the DC-4 family.

Judge Smith recognized the adjustments and the sacrifices made by staff members to keep the program running and the participants safe during the pandemic including Dr. Janet Hobson, DC-4's Director.

Welcome to Team TDMHSAS!



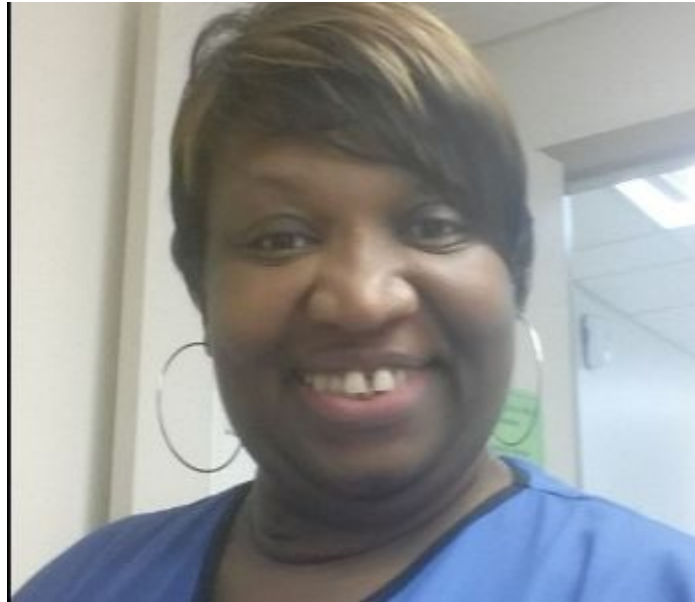
Jill Barrett joins our team as our new Recovery Court Administrator. Jill previously served as the first full time coordinator of the 10th Judicial District Drug Court in 2006. During her time there, she worked with four judges and implemented a recovery court, veterans treatment court, and mental health court. Welcome, Jill!



Please join us in welcoming Ashley Ewald to the Office of Prevention and Early Intervention Services in the Division of Substance Abuse Services. Ashley will

serve as a Program manager for providers with programs focusing on primary substance abuse prevention. Ashley enjoys working with providers to create sustainable and intentional programs to prevent the misuse of substance and promote healthier lifestyle. She comes to us with a wealth of experience on providing technical program assistance to providers who serve multi-cultural populations. We are lucky to have her on board and know that she will excel in this role!

Promotions



MMHI is pleased to announce the promotion of Tabitha Cheairs to Administrative Services Assistant 4 (ASA4). Tabitha joined Memphis Mental Health Institute in 2002 and has advanced progressively in her role as a Lead Psychiatric Technician. She has played a key role in both our staffing office and as a trainer. Tabitha possesses a wealth of experience, and we are excited to see how she will utilize her knowledge and skills in this new role. The departments which will be reporting to Tabitha are Environmental Services, Security, and the Switchboard.

Coalition Corner

Stewart County Alliance hosts Community Car Show



Stewart County Alliance partnered with local insurance agents to bring a car show to their community. The car show is part of their implementation plan to provide or partner with others to offer substance free activities. They invited all kinds of vehicles and have first responders come and let the children get in them. Other vehicles that were included in the show were classic cars, heavy equipment, motorcycles, side by sides, and military vehicles. They even had famous guest cars from TV and Film including Dukes of Hazzard, Smokey and the Bandit, and Starsky and Hutch!



Health Fair Month at Moccasin Bend



Moccasin Bend recently held its annual health fair for employees. The health fair was a hands-on experience combining information, education, and a good time. Organizers had prize drawings throughout the week and served goodies, coffee, and water. They also offered all vaccinations, including flu shots.

Nursing Hall Decorations



For Health Fair month at the Moccasin Bend, the nursing hall chose a “vaccine” related Halloween decoration for their wall. The nursing wall decoration has become something that patients and staff alike look forward to. They used the wall as a way to encourage staff and patients to get the upcoming flu vaccine as well as the COVID vaccine.

Shout Out!



The team at Western Mental Health Institute would like to give a shout out to their amazing Board of Trustees!

(front row, left-right): **Dr. Richard England**, Professor-FHU/Retired, Madison County; **Maria Howell**, Owner/Operator Local Restaurant, Hardeman County; **Josh Carter**, WMHI Chief Executive Officer; and special guest **Ty Thornton**, TDMHSAS Chief of Staff and Hospital Operations; (back row, l-r): **Dana Townsend**, Program Manager, Pathways, Carroll County; **Doug Teague**, Comcare Representative, Madison County; **Jason Lindsey**, Vice President, Hardeman County Bank of Fayette County, Hardeman County; **Dylan Hill**, Minister of Students and Education, First Baptist Church/Bolivar, Hardeman County; **Bobby Sain**, Real Estate Appraiser, Bolivar Insurance & Real Estate, Hardeman County; **Julian McTizic**, Bolivar City Mayor, Hardeman County; **Sara Hawkins**, Crisis Director-PCS, Tipton County; **Willie Spencer**, Former Hardeman County Mayor, Hardeman County; and **M. Sean Jones**, Crisis Director-Carey Counseling, Madison County. Board members not pictured are **Jeff Helton**, Crisis Director-Quinco Mental Health,

Hardin County; **James (Tony) Kirk**, President/CEO, Bolivar Energy Authority, Hardeman County; **Stephenie Robb**, Executive Director, BHI, Weakley County; and **Dianne Young**, Pastor, The Healing Center Full Gospel Baptist Church, Shelby County.



During Environmental Service Week the MTMHI team was recognized. Thank you for all you do!



Kellyn Guest RN3 hired on as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner at MTMHI thanked Unit F for being the Best Team.

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

Click the graphics for more information and to register!

COLLEGIATE RECOVERY ACADEMY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11
NOON – 3:30 P.M.

MOTLOW STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SMYRNA CAMPUS, HIATT-SPIVEY CENTER



NATHAN PAYNE, BA, CPRS
Director, Collegiate
Recovery Initiative



WILL TAYLOR,
NCPRSS, LADAC
Uplift Peer Project



MATT YANCEY, LCSW
Deputy Commissioner
TDMHSAS



MONTY BURKS, CPRS, PH.D.
Director, Faith Based
Initiatives

Who should attend?

Everyone who's interested in creating recovery supports on campus.

What will I learn?

- Information and resources to support recovery needs on campus
- Valuable connections to programs and professionals who want to support your work

Event Agenda

12:00 – Booth and Table Visit
12:30 – Opening Remarks – Dr. Michael Torrence
12:40 – TDMHSAS Remarks – Matt Yancey, LCSW
12:50 – Why Collegiate Recovery? – Nathan Payne
1:00 – The Necessity of a College Recovery
Community – Monty Burks
1:25 – Recovery Ally Training – Nathan Payne
2:25 – QPR Suicide Prevention Training – Will Taylor
3:25 – Where do we go from here? – Nathan Payne,
Will Taylor

Register to attend at this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/ehpwc3w9>





Crisis Intervention Team
Virtual (CIT) Conference

11.10.21

**GAIN TOOLS TO HELP PEOPLE IN
A MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS
LEARN WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO
HELP YOU HELP OTHERS**

**INCREASE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF MENTAL
ILLNESS AND CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING**

**THIS CONFERENCE IS DESIGNED FOR THOSE IN
MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND THOSE
WHO SERVE AS FIRST RESPONDERS**

Nominate someone for exemplary service in CIT

Register Today!

Contact lgray@namitn.org with questions or comments

SAVE THE DATE

*Wednesday
through
Friday*

December
8th-10th
2021

TARCPCON 2021



IN PERSON!

*Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Embassy Suites &
Conference Center*

Come one, come all! Recovery courts, specialty courts, supervision, and justice reformers!

Prepare to network like you've never networked before! Bring your best training gear for an optimal training experience!

Check the membership site [Events Page](#) for registration and conference details!

Planning and Policy Council Meetings

Children's Committee

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

9:00 a.m. CST

Toll-Free: 629-209-4396

Phone Conference ID: 320791864#

Region IV

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

11:00 a.m. CST

Toll-Free: 629-209-4396

Phone Conference ID: 730 582 343#

Region V

Thursday, November 4, 2021

9:30 a.m. CST

Toll-Free: 629-209-4396

Phone Conference ID: 883 921 863#

Region I

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

10:00 a.m. EST

Toll-Free: 629-209-4396

Phone Conference ID: 877 450 402#

Region II

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

11:30 a.m. EST

Toll-Free: 629-209-4396

Phone Conference ID: 184 373 931#

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.

Resources

Call or text for emotional support for healthcare workers, first responders, and teachers

COVID-19 EMOTIONAL SUPPORT LINE FOR TENNESSEE

Need to talk to someone about feelings of stress, anxiety, sadness, or depression related to work? Calltakers with the COVID-19 Emotional Support Line can help.



Tennesseans working in education, healthcare, or first responder roles can call or text:

888-642-7886

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

The COVID-19 Emotional Support line is a collaborative project among National Association of Social Workers-TN Chapter and the following groups:



In the event of a mental health emergency ...

STATEWIDE

CRISIS LINE

HELP IN A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

855-CRISIS-1 [TN.gov/CrisisLine](https://www.tn.gov/CrisisLine)
855-274-7471



For questions about addiction treatment/referrals ...



To talk with a TDMHSAS Consumer Advocate ...

Need help with mental health or substance use services?

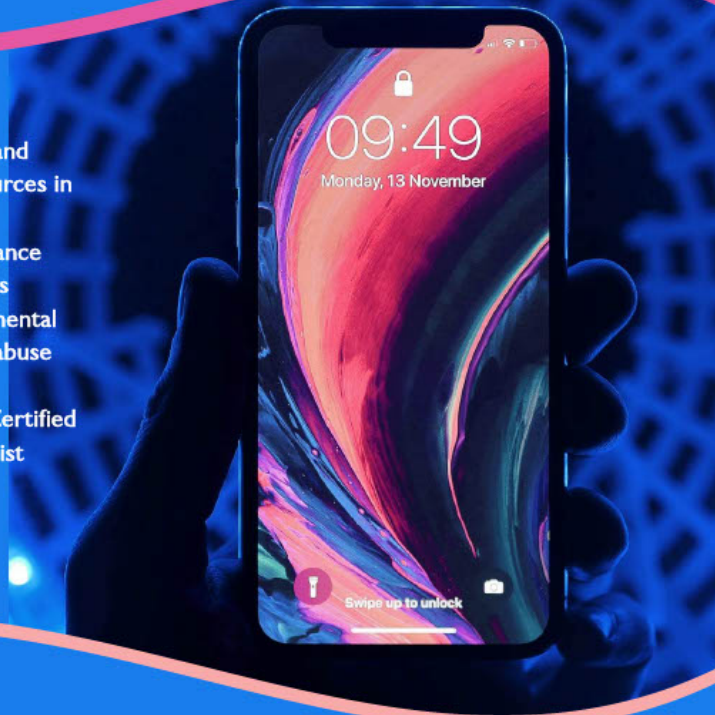
Call the TDMHSAS Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services

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

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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