



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.

It is the only thing that ever has.

A note from Commissioner Williams

We would like to begin this edition of the *Update* with a quick note about Governor Lee and the budget process. The governor's budget hearings are over ([if you missed ours, you can watch at this link](#)), and his first State of the State address is fast approaching on March 4. We're grateful for Governor Lee and his team naming mental health as one of the five pillars of their first budget proposal.

Recently, Gov. Lee visited the [TAMHO](#) board meeting for a brief visit, and he spoke about increasing partnerships, working together, and producing results for the people of Tennessee.



Getting to know Governor Lee and his team over the last few months, it is clear that they have a heart for the work that we do and the Tennesseans that we touch. His interest in what we do, his passion for the positive outcomes that we produce, and his excitement for improving and expanding the services we offer is something we are grateful for and excited about.

Blessings,
Marie

New media campaign aims to spread awareness of Tennessee's Statewide Crisis Phone Line

The ad features real-life crisis counselors who are #serving TN



24/7 • 365 DAYS



MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE **855-CRISIS-1**

Over the next two months, ads for the TN Statewide Crisis Line (855-CRISIS-1) will be running on television and on social media. We're working to increase awareness of the crisis line and knowledge of options for people who are experiencing a mental health crisis. We appreciate everyone who has shared (and will share) this important resource. You can find the :30 spot produced for the campaign on our [Dept. facebook page](#) and also [at this link on Youtube](#).

Thanks to Centerstone and their calltakers for their help in producing this commercial!

Commissioner Williams to Receive National Behavioral Health Award

TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams has been named the recipient of the National Council for Behavioral Health's 2019 Excellence in Advocacy Individual Achievement award. The honor will be presented at the group's annual conference in Nashville in March.

"I am humbled and grateful to receive this award, and it truly wouldn't have been possible without the guidance, counsel, and example of so many colleagues and teammates," said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams, LCSW. "Starting out as a social worker in Memphis, I never could have dreamed of being in this position today, in a moment where so many currents are combining to create positive change for Tennesseans living with mental health and substance abuse challenges."

The National Council for Behavioral Health's Excellence in Advocacy award honors an individual who has demonstrated exemplary efforts and results over the last 12 months advocating for legislative or regulatory policies that increase access to mental health and substance use services.

NATCON19 will bring more than 5,000 behavioral health professionals to Nashville in late March to discuss solutions and outcomes that transform health care.

[Read the full news release at this link](#)

Crisis Treatment Center's opening is "Grand" in more ways than one

With great fanfare, the latest site in the Pre-Arrest Diversion Infrastructure Program (PADIP) opened to the public Jan. 29. Commissioner Williams and Nashville Mayor David Briley celebrated the grand opening of Mental Health Cooperative's Crisis Treatment Center with CEO Pam Womack. The facility unites MHC's mobile crisis, crisis walk-in center, 23-hour observation, and children and youth services under one roof.



Photo from the office of Mayor David Briley

MHC and Metro Nashville Government were one of seven grantees to receive funding through PADIP. With a \$15 million appropriation in the FY18 budget, PADIP aims to create infrastructure for alternatives to incarceration to ensure that people experiencing a mental health crisis get needed treatment. In the first year and a half of PADIP services, local grantees diverted about 4,100 people from jail, saving more than \$5.7 million in local resources. In our FY20 budget presentation, we asked Gov. Lee for an additional \$7.5 million in state appropriation to expand this model to 3-5 additional communities.

You can read more about PADIP at [this link on our website](#), and you can view [local news coverage of the grand opening at this link](#).

Toolkits for the Faith-Based Recovery Initiative are published, available online

Since 2014, our Director of Faith-Based Initiatives, Dr. Monty Burks, has been traveling the state organizing, growing, and inspiring faith communities to come together and fight a common enemy plaguing our country. With a personal story of recovery and a background in criminal justice and theology, Monty is passionate about reaching each and every faith-based organization with information and

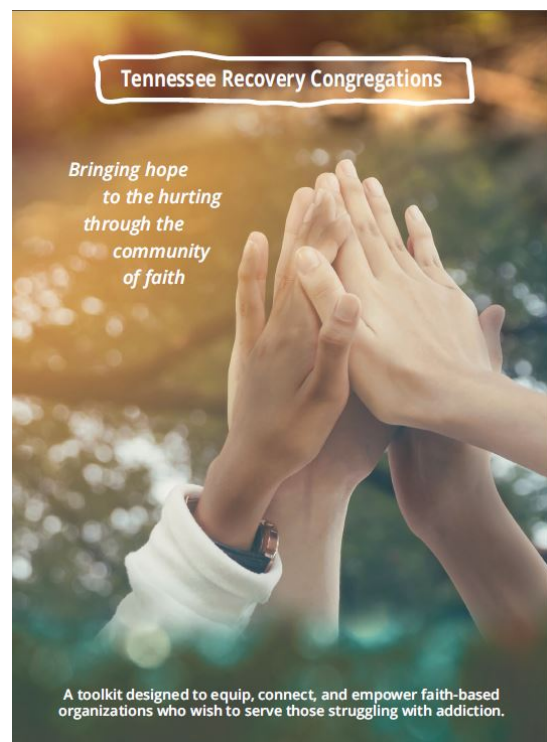


resources to help those suffering from substance use disorder.

To date, **430 faith-based organizations have achieved Certified Recovery Congregation status.** And now, with three new regional coordinators on board, the TDMHSAS Faith-Based Initiatives are ready to go to the next level!

We've just launched a new publication - a toolkit - that compiles what we are learning about how to engage and equip faith-based organizations to begin providing vital recovery supports. Any community of faith can participate and join the TN statewide network. From those who have resources in place and experience working with individuals in active addiction to others just getting started who have identified the need, answered the call, and are ready to reach out to become an agent of change in their community. All are needed and invited to join this amazing network helping one another save and transform lives and families.

Please feel free to [download the toolkit here](#) and share. And to learn more about the State of Tennessee's Faith-Based Recovery Network, including how to get your organization involved, visit our Faith-Based Initiatives page on our website located [at this link](#).



Recreation Therapist at Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute honored with Governor's Excellence in Service Award



Recreation Therapist Tim Dalton was recently awarded the Governor's Excellence in Service Award. A team member at Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute, Tim was among the Fall 2018 recipients of the award presented by Governor Bill Lee and his wife Maria. Tim (pictured, far left) accepted the award alongside his therapy dog, Jillian, who is affectionately known as Jelly Bean in the Forensic Services Program (FSP) where Tim regularly brings her for therapy visits. When a former dog handler could no longer visit the facility with his therapy dog, Tim wanted to continue to provide this service to the patients, so he adopted a dog, paid for her training, and made sure patients could continue to benefit from pet therapy. Tim, with the help of patients, also revitalized the FSP garden, planting vegetables, pulling weeds, watering and fertilizing the soil. The sense of pride and accomplishment from the patients were rewarding for all to see. Tim has more than 25 years of experience working in long-term care. Thanks, Tim, for providing excellent service and congratulations on your Governor's Excellence in Service Award!

TDMHSAS talks with former Commissioner, history-making physician Dr. Harold Jordan

By Leslie Judson

As we celebrate Black History Month, we honor and remember the service of Dr. Harold Jordan, the commissioner who led our department from 1975-1979 and also served as Assistant Commissioner for Psychiatric Services. A few years prior, Dr. Jordan made history as the first African-American resident physician at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. The very day after Dr. Jordan began his residency, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and employers could no longer discriminate or make hiring decisions on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. A young student doctor who accepted one of three available residencies that year, he recalls being mistaken for a janitor on several occasions as he made his rounds and cared for patients. Within 10 years, he would

be serving on the Executive Staff of Gov. Ray Blanton.



Dr. Jordan began his career in medicine in Nashville several years earlier at Meharry Medical College where he went on to serve as acting dean of the School of Medicine. Medicine, it turned out, is in Harold's blood. Both his grandfather and his great-grandfather were pioneering physicians with quite the stories of their own. You can read more of the remarkable family history on the website: [The Story of the Doctor](#) and in [this article](#) published in *The Atlantic*, and written by Dr. Jordan's daughter, Karen, who has fond childhood memories of accompanying her father to speaking engagements. "I recall an instance when he was scheduled to have a meeting at the White House," she said. "He ended up canceling because he found out some state employees had concerns they wanted to discuss with him. He always put his work and responsibilities and the needs of the patients statewide first."

Dr. Jordan's contributions live on at the department, in our state, and beyond. The Harold Jordan Center on the grounds of the former Clover Bottom Developmental Center still serves Tennesseans through the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. And just last week, Vanderbilt's Dept. of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences established the Dr. Harold Jordan Diversity and Inclusion Lecture, honoring his work and his example which has helped bring new talent and important, new perspectives into the field of medicine.



Dr. Jordan, now 81 and retired, says he "liked everything about being Commissioner" and adds he is grateful for the support he received throughout his career. "I got advice from a lot of people of both races," he said. He is also quick to mention wife, Geraldine, who was a psychiatric nurse and nursing teacher. Like much of this family's legacy, their love story began at Meharry Medical College.

I asked Dr. Jordan if he had any words of wisdom for those of us currently serving the citizens of Tennessee. His words were (and are) just what the doctor ordered: "Be compassionate. Show compassion and be caring."

Thank you, Dr. Jordan, for your service and for your care.

Neru Gobin promoted to Director of

Housing & Homeless Services



Neru Gobin has been promoted to the position of Director of the Office of Housing & Homeless Services (OHHS). Neru brings more than 17 years of professional experience, including 12 years working as a crisis counselor. Neru served as the Assistant Director for the Office of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention and subsequently as the Assistant Director for the OHHS. In both capacities, he provided oversight of grant programs and managed the offices' day-to-day operations.

Neru brings his experiences and skills to his current role as Director of Housing and Homeless Services, collaborating with a variety of stakeholders and furthering the efforts to provide safe, quality, affordable housing opportunities for Tennesseans experiencing mental illness and co-occurring disorders. "Those of us fortunate enough to

know Neru know him to be genuinely dedicated to our mission and vision, articulate and knowledgeable advocate for both our service and those we serve, and a customer-focused visionary that will transform the OHHS," said Assistant Commissioner Rob Cotterman, Mental Health Services. "Neru brings a vibrant and exciting perspective to the OHHS."

Courts Director Rebekah Provost-Emmons is our new Recovery Court Administrator

Please help us welcome Rebekah Provost-Emmons. She has joined the Division of Substance Abuse Services as Recovery Court Administrator. Rebekah's previous experience includes serving as Director of the City of Jackson Drug Court, Director of South Central Human Resource Community Corrections Agency, and Deputy Director of Problem Solving Courts for the 17th Judicial District in Illinois.

Rebekah holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from Union University. Since 2013, she has worked as an adjunct faculty member with Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas.



Welcome new Chief Legislative Liaison Zack Blair



Welcome Zack Blair, our new Director of the Office of Legislation and Rules. Among his duties, Zack will serve as our chief legislative and rulemaking liaison. Zack is originally from Smyrna and is a graduate of Lipscomb University. He has been employed with the state of Tennessee in various capacities including as: legislative assistant to former Sen. Bill Ketron; legislative director for the Tennessee Department of Children's Services; and assistant director of the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission since 2011. Zack is an avid sports fan and the proud fur father of his dog, Ruger. Please help us welcome Zack!

Welcome Gayle Buckler to the Office of Forensic & Juvenile Court Services



We are pleased to welcome Forensic Specialist Gayle Buckler, LBSW, MS, to Central Office. Since 2012, Gayle has served as a treatment plan coordinator and social worker at Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute. In addition, Gayle has worked with community service providers including serving as Vice President of Clinical Services for a residential treatment center for people with brain injury and mental illness. She brings a broad range of clinical and administrative experience, and we are very happy

to have her here.

13th Judicial District Recovery Court graduates largest class to date



The 13th Judicial District Recovery Court held its largest graduation to date Feb. 4, graduating nine men and women out of the program. The graduation was covered in the Herald-Citizen, and the court made the announcement on its facebook page: "We could not be more proud of each of these individuals as they overcame many adversities and obstacles to be standing where they are today," the post read. "Keep up the great work and spread the word of Recovery!"

Pictured: Front row (left to right) are Court Director Julie Chambers; Addison Woody; Melissa Mee; Kimmberly Griffin; and Jennifer Swanson. Back row (left to right) are

Circuit Court Judge Jonathan Young; Brandon Gibson, Senior Advisor of Office of the Governor; Craig Fickling, public defender; Jonathan Griffin; Justin Cantrell; Joshua Porter; Billy Stinson; Robert Kinder; District Attorney Bryant Dunaway; Criminal Court Judge Gary McKenzie; and Criminal Court Judge David Patterson.

Photo by Paige Stanage, Herald-Citizen

Coalition Collage!

Just a few weeks into the new year, and Tennessee's anti-drug coalitions have hit the ground running! Here are some highlights from a few of our coalitions who are working to combat and prevent substance abuse in communities across the state. To get involved in a coalition near you, visit <https://bit.ly/2FP1xm0>.



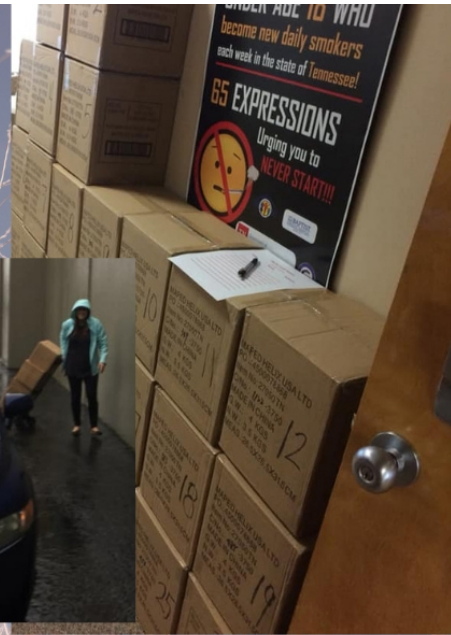
(Below) Memphis Area Prevention Coalition partnered with Hearts for Hope & Healing to host a town hall event Jan. 26 at Heartsong Church. Narcan training was also provided.



(Below) Members of the Clay Co. SADD/ Anti-Drug Coalition are ready to share info and save lives at Clay County High School ballgames. Go Clay County!



(Above) It was a soggy day in Obion County when prescription drug lock boxes needed to be delivered. So, the Obion Co. Prevention Coalition and community partners put on rain gear and made it happen! Need a lock box? Contact your community coalition.



Dietary services staff are the big winners in MBMHI food drive; collecting more than 600 lbs. of canned goods



Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute held a food drive in December to benefit the Chattanooga Area Food Bank. MBMHI held a competition between departments to see who could collect the most canned goods; the winning department would receive a pizza party. The dietary staff rose to the challenge and even inspired neighborhood friends to participate. The group's effort, driven by Barbara Edmonds and Michael

Robinson, collected 639 lbs, of food and was the hands-down winner. Overall, MBMHI staff donated a total of 715 lbs. of food!

Shannon Goodwin, Interim Director of Dietary, is extremely proud of her staff for all that they do. "I have a great crew," she said. "I can't do it without them. They are my backbone!" Included in the winner's photo are: Steve Lavendar, Barbara Edmonds, William Bell, Brian Singleton, Nautika Burrage, Sharonda Covington, Michael Robinson, Shannon Goodwin, Margie Barber, Debbie Ellis, Donna Sails, and Hiawatha Hill.

Staff at Central Office also collected food over the holiday season for Second Harvest Food Bank. Central Office donations came in at 267 lbs. of food which means between these two food drives, TDMHSAS staff donated almost 1,000 lbs. of food! Way to go!

Regional Mental Health Institutes honor team members earning 2018 Service Awards

Congratulations and thanks to all Service Award recipients at our hospitals for their dedication and hard work over the years. See next month's newsletter as we honor staff from Western and Memphis Mental Health Institutes.

Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute, Chattanooga

Celebrating 40 years of service: Robin Williams and Mary Robinson

Celebrating 35 years of service: Lisa Collins

Celebrating 30 years of service: Karen McAvoy, Sylvia Harris, Abigail Hammonds, John-David Shafer, Jim West, Mary Bianchi, Charlene Taylor, Blondie Johnson, Keith Brown, Steven Parker, Nathan Dubose, and Tim Gossett.

Celebrating 25 years of service: Karen Wilkey, Annie Kitchen, Janet Williams, Sid Miller, Angela Elsberry, Shawn Hassler, Shelia Townsend, and David Dayton.

Celebrating 20 years of service: Bertha Hudgins, Francis Lane, Uhonta McFarland, Ernest Nollie, and Duana Cooper.

Celebrating 15 years of service: Gayle White, Jeremiah Meier, Ronald Bianchi, and Gerald Lacourse.

Celebrating 10 years of service: Stacy Chuvala, Cindy White, Linda Moss, David Shankles, Viola Willison, Gina Hecks, Granda White, Zack Lacourse, Gary Quinn, Minnie Troupe, Nettie Liner, Terry Jones, Stephanie Sanders, Kamesha Good, Rose Igou, Jonathon Johnson, Randy Dupree, and Sharonda Covington.

Celebrating 5 years of service: Derrick Kelly, Ted Gleghorn, Ryan Beckett, Spring Watters, Brandi Humphrey, Melissa Henning, Antonia Mays, April Davis-Cranford, Heather Rose, Sarah Biskner, Marie Morse, Susan Feltman, Shelley Vatter, Nacy Higdon, Bernice Jones, Cathie Pinion, Sheri Hatfield, Allie Vincelli, Keye Blackmon, Zack Lacourse, Wanda Wallace, Candice Tucker, Alexandra Townsend, Anthony Simmons, Jermicheal Greer, Henry Heck, Barbara Edwards, Barbara Burrow, Enat Negussie, Tammy Cole, Zona Brown, Todd Patton, Larry Teague, Lincoln Williams, Marilyn Havis, Dawn Lamb, Ella Smith Kamesha Good, John-David Kaiser, Kevin Barton, and Mark Raymer.

CEO Mary Young also made some special presentations.



Employee of the Year Awards were given to Raub Kernea (left) and Chris Widener.



Leadership Awards were given to Corey Weldon (left) and Ron Bianchi.



Chief Officers Awards were given to Keith Brown, Parrish Forbes (center), and Kim Muhammad.

Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute, Nashville

Celebrating 40 years of service: Pam Barton

Celebrating 35 years of service: David Pedigo

Celebrating 30 years of service: Lori Abriola, Charles Hendricks, Karen Hunter, Vincent Mann, Richard Selikoff, Glenn Vann, and Patricia Smith.

Celebrating 25 years of service: Amelia Griswold, Lesa Hall, Edward Kovach, Pamela Rosado, and Thomas Smith.

Celebrating 20 years of service: Terence Bronaugh, Lisa Brown, Jacqueline Culver, Valery Fletcher, Kay Gunckel, Jamma Law, Glenn Macon, Corey Maddox, Vincent McHollin, Sucheta Misra, Christiana Odigie, Patricia Phipps, Anthony Samuel, Anubha Sinha, Preston Vann, and Robb Wyer.

Celebrating 15 years of service: Jessie Bass, Kimberly Hall, Saber Hanna, Marvin Jones, Carmen Taylor, and Toni Willis.

Celebrating 10 years of service: Erica Archibald, William Bowman, Rodney Francis, Ronald Gibson, Genieve Graham, Janice Jentzsch, Lisa Johnston, Emad Michael, Darrow Parrish, Thomas Pillow, Debra Randall, Karen Victory, Janet Wells, Jana Hill, and Lea Lord-Smith.

Celebrating 5 years of service: Emeka Achebe, Godwin Adinde, Josephine Chester, Timothy Dalton, Michael Ebert, Femi Folorunsho, Michael Grigsby, Brad Heimsness, Akugbe Igharo, Howard Kelley, Keith Kelley, Melissa McGhee, Darius McKeever, Jerry Mitchell, Kristy Noffsinger, Daryl Ringer, Boyd Shrable, April Shrable, Arthur Small, William Steele, Sonya Stophel, Ayke Tessema, and Henderson Wood.

Planning & Policy Council reconvenes in April

For a schedule of upcoming TDMHSAS Planning & Policy Council meetings, [please visit our website](#). Meeting dates are subject to change.

In the event of a MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY:

Call 855-CRISIS-1

***855-274-7471**

For confidential help
from a caring crisis professional
in your area, available

24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This is a free call.

You can also text TN to 741741.



To learn more about Crisis Services
in the State of Tennessee, [visit our website](#).

For questions about substance abuse treatment,
Call the Tennessee REDLINE
800-889-9789

*We hope you've enjoyed this issue of the Update!
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provider news, etc.) or if you'd like to be added to the
distribution list, please email:*

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