

TDMHDD Update

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Creative Jobs Initiative Kicks-Off Across the State

Recently TDMHDD staff kicked-off the Creating Jobs Initiative (CJI) in seven cities throughout Tennessee.

CJI is a strategic goal of TDMHDD, Division of Recovery Services, to partner with local Tennessee communities to increase the number of persons with mental illness employed statewide, resulting in 2,010 persons with mental illness employed by the year 2010.

This initiative includes a targeted grassroots effort with local communities to create multi-agency collaboratives in each of the seven statewide mental health planning regions. The CJI vision is “for every

Tennesseean with a mental illness and substance abuse, who wants to work, to have the opportunity to choose, obtain, keep, and advance in a job.”

“There was an overwhelming response to the CJI roll-out event in each region, and the communities stated clearly that they are ready to address the employment issues faced by persons living with mental illness and co-occurring disorders,” stated Scott Wyatt, Director of Employment Planning and Development at TDMHDD. “Since the roll-out event, a second meeting was held in each region, and Tennessee’s communities have really shown their willingness to come to



the table and collaborate.”

CJI is modeled after the success of the nationally recognized Creating Homes Initiative (CHI) which has created or improved 4,468 housing options since August of 2002, far exceeding CHI’s initial goal of 2,005 housing options by 2005.

For more information on the Creating Jobs Initiative please contact Scott Wyatt at (615) 532-9439 or scott.wyatt@state.tn.us. ■

Art for Awareness

Celebrating the Works of Tennesseans in Recovery

An exhibit of more than 50 pieces of art displayed at the Tennessee Legislative Plaza on March 10 - 31, 2006, *Art for Awareness* represents the talent of Tennesseans living with mental illness and substance abuse disorders who are on the road to recovery. The works represent a broad spectrum of art media and contain pieces by several nationally known artists, such as Anne Ambrose of Nashville and Daniel Hepburn of Crossville.



Anne Ambrose’s *Angel of Hope*

The *Art for Awareness* collection was originally assembled for Mental Illness Awareness Week in October of 2005. The Legislative Plaza exhibit is sponsored by the Middle Tennessee Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition, the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (TDMHDD), the Tennessee Arts Commission (with support from the National Endowment for the Arts) and the Metropolitan Arts Commission. Many of the works have been exhibited across Tennessee in libraries, private art galleries, and mental health agencies such as the Mental Health Cooperative of Nashville.

Mental Health Cooperative of Nashville Holds Open House for Artists

Focus on Recovery through Art to Continue through 2007

The Middle Tennessee Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition's Creative Arts Project was supported in 2005 by funding from Centerstone, a Middle Tennessee mental health agency, through the Tennessee Arts Commission (with support from the National Endowment for the Arts), the Metropolitan Arts Commission of Nashville and TDMHDD's Division of Recovery Services. Gregory Fisher and Marie Williams served as the department's project coordinators, and Michael's retail store assisted in the project by providing discounts on art materials.

On January 20, 2006, The Mental Health Cooperative of Nashville held an open house for artists at its Metro Center location. Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts spoke at the event and talked with the artists about their works. Several exhibitors have won national competitions, including one for design on national name-brand blue jeans. The open house was a positive event for consumers, as well as their families and friends. Recovery from mental illness and substance abuse disorders requires an array of

medical and social services, and many consumers find art and creative activities are an important part of recovery. Project artists shared statements on how art helps them:

"It helps me to calm down, forget about problems and stay more focused."

"It takes me out of myself. I can feel free."

"Having my work on display made me feel respected and gave me confidence in myself."

The state and metropolitan arts commissions required matching funds from non-governmental sources be used to pay for the project, requiring the Mental Health Coalition to raise an

additional \$5,000 for the July 2005 – June 2006 fiscal year.

A joint project between TDMHDD and coalition partners, including NAMI Nashville, Park Center, and Centerstone, is the development of an

exhibit for 2007 at the Parthenon in Nashville's Centennial Park. The project is currently in committee with the Parthenon's curator and representatives for exhibit development, planning and promotional dialogue with the shared vision of opening a major exhibit April 17-July 8, 2007. To assist the Creative Arts Project by providing exhibit locations throughout the Middle Tennessee community and for more information contact Jane Baxter of NAMI Nashville at (615) 665-2914 or by email at janebaxter@comcast.net. ■



Allen Beech uses watercolors, pencil and ink to express his inner feelings. This was Mr. Beech's first time to exhibit his works.



Leslie Marable describes her creations as the works of a self-taught artist in love with big cats.

Penni Hunter produces dimensional works with a mix of materials, sometimes from her kitchen.



TDMHDD'S NURSE LEADER'S TRIP TO HAITI CALLS ATTENTION TO PEOPLE IN NEED

They walk for miles once a year in January, down the mountainsides from their tiny villages, and line up along the sidewalk for several days to see a doctor or nurse in an outdoor clinic. In the island nation of Haiti, a lack of resources and social services and government corruption creates a nation in poverty with some of the most medically needy people in the world.

Every year, various churches of the Catholic Diocese of Middle Tennessee sponsor free medical clinics in Haiti in the Parish Twining Program. For Candace Gilligan, RN, MSN and executive director for the TDMHDD Office of Managed



Candace Gilligan (seated center) sees patients in the five-day outdoor medical clinic. Registered Nurse Flora Pattawi (to her right) also serves as a nurse while clinic interpreter, Davidson (seated to the left of Gilligan) facilitates the Creole-English dialogue between patients and caregivers.

Care, the trip to Haiti is an exciting and rewarding opportunity to do hands-on nursing. Through St. Stephen Catholic Church in Old Hickory, Tennessee, Gilligan traveled to the Notre Dame of the Assumption Catholic Church in Petit-Guave Parish, Haiti, 50 miles from Port-au-Prince. Once there, Gilligan joined a small army of nurses, dentists, dental hygienists, laypersons trained to conduct eye exams, and a pharmacist, all of whom would treat patients for a broad spectrum of illnesses. Karen Mertins, RN, and director of Intervention Services for Summit Hospital in Nashville, served as clinic leader and head nurse; Shana Bush, Ph.D, served as the clinic pharmacist.

Four components of the free clinic's services included:

- eye exams and dispensing of reading and sunglasses furnished by the Lions Club
- well child checkups and adult physicals
- acute care and immediate intervention with medications and IVs
- adult and pediatric dental exams and care

The clinic ran for five full days, treating 1,700 Haitians. People with serious illnesses were sent to the hospital; basic illnesses, malnutrition and wounds were treated on the spot. Children were usually the ones who were malnourished or had worms. Women were predominant among the patients with a variety of problems, but men came, too, with injuries and disease concerns.

Haitian descendants of African slaves brought to the New World during times of Spanish conquest, have lived in poverty for generations. Their culture is a combination of African, Island Native, French and Spanish heritage and traditions.

"The clinic did not directly treat anyone for mental illness, but I saw depression etched on their faces when their guard was down, and I saw several people who had clinical symptoms of mental illness," Gilligan stated. "Yet, their general cheerfulness and friendliness is something unique to Haitians and keeps everyone

A mother with the youngest of her own half dozen children. The baby is healthy as long as he is breastfed. His sister, five years old and weighing less than 20 lbs., is suffering from protein deficiency and worms, and is generally malnourished—her gown hiding an extended abdomen. Pollution has destroyed shoreline fishing, so the clinic distributes jars of peanut butter to provide protein to children. Medicine does the rest, but the threat of starvation is always near.



One family: grandmother, daughters and grandchildren represent the overwhelming needs of women in the Haitian community. Although living in poverty and worrying daily over the lack of good food and fresh water, each mother takes particular pride in her children and their physical appearance.

going in spite of their poverty, but clinic patients were not the poorest of the poor,"

The poorest citizens lived at the local poorhouse, subsidized by the Catholic Church. Since they could not travel, the clinic came to them. Many of the poorhouse residents have no family and nowhere else to live. There are no respite or rehabilitation services. One patient was a woman over 100 years old who has lived in the poorhouse for 20 years. Another woman in her 40s had suffered a stroke that left her so crippled she could only get around by crawling. The clinic staff found several HIV victims and arranged for those individuals to transfer to a Sister of Charity facility.

"It's a real person-to-person experience in the Haitian clinic," Gilligan remarked. "For a brief time you wonder if you are making a difference; then you see the smiles, and you see healthy individuals you helped in previous years return for a checkup."

The St. Stephen Haitian medical clinic began in 2003. This is Gilligan's second trip, but she says it will probably not be her last. ■

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Commissioner Betts Kicks-off Overcoming *Stigma* Campaign in Columbia

Commissioner Betts recently rolled out her much anticipated overcoming stigma campaign at the Columbia Rotary Meeting on March 9th. In 2006, the focus of the campaign is on Tennessee community business leaders and the importance of understanding mental health and mental illness in the workplace. She will be traveling across the state in the coming months speaking to different business groups and encouraging them to learn more about the value of mental health and to join her efforts to overcome the stigma of mental illness. If you know of a significant group of leaders that should hear about mental health, please contact Jill Hudson at (615) 532-6597 or jill.m.hudson@state.tn.us.

Katrina Update *Making A Difference, One Person At A Time*

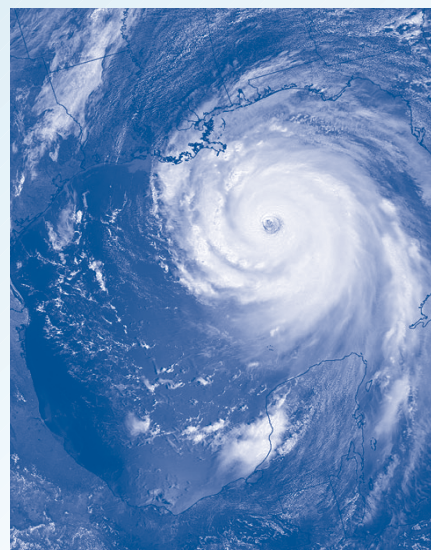
According to Pam Womack, the executive director of the Mental Health Cooperative of Nashville, nurse practitioner Frankie Hopkins in Crisis Services recently met a very sick consumer who could not identify his home or family.

“Basically all we knew, and all he could tell us initially, was he made his way up from Louisiana, possibly after Hurricane Katrina. Frankie gave him medications and had him transferred to respite at our Intensive Intervention Center [IIC],” Womack recalled.

Then, while Colleen Erickson, an intake assessment worker, was visiting the following week, she suggested that IIC look at the website for Missing Katrina Victims. Amy Hampton, director of IIC, found the patient’s name on a list and contacted the person looking for him. As

soon as Amy said the man’s name, the woman on the line replied, "That’s my son!" Within hours, she was on her way to Nashville to pick him up and take him home.

TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts said, “The staff of the Mental Health Cooperative deserve a big pat on the back. To everyone involved in crisis, clinic, IIC, and intake —*You Made a Difference!*” ■



Art for Awareness...cont.

“It is important and special that these organizations have come together in support of this exhibit. I am so pleased that these works are on display for the public to enjoy.” stated TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. “Many people do not realize that several of history’s greatest artists such as Vincent Van Gogh, Jackson Pollock and Georgia O’Keeffe experienced from mental illness.”

In addition to works on display in the central hallway of the Tennessee Legislative Plaza, Governor Bredesen, Commissioner Betts, and several members of the Tennessee General

Assembly will select works to display in their offices through the end of May, which is nationally recognized as Mental Health Month.

According to Jane Baxter, co-chair for the Middle Tennessee Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition, “The creation and appreciation of art is something all people have in common. For these artists, it is truly uplifting to have their talent recognized. The pride and self respect that comes from this exhibition is tremendous and will encourage the artists in spite of a brain disorder to continue on their journey to recovery.” ■

HELEN ROSS MCNABB CENTER RECEIVES GENEROUS GIFT TO BENEFIT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Clayton Homes and the Clayton Foundation recently gave the Helen Ross McNabb Center a gift of \$400,000 for two programs in Blount County that will improve mental health services for children—Child Net and Bridges.

Child Net provides mental health services for children ages 2-12 who experience trauma, mental illness, or behavioral problems. Bridges offers individual, group, and family counseling services inside school classrooms. Both programs focus on prevention and provide services, regardless of a family’s financial situation.

Clayton Homes President and CEO Kevin Clayton also plans to implement a \$1.5 million fund-raising campaign to sustain the programs for the next seven years, and he hopes to have this goal met by the end of May. ■

— HAPPENINGS —

• TDMHDD Staff Additions To Assist in Legislation and Justice

Aaron Campbell joins TDMHDD as a legislative liaison. A native Knoxville, Campbell graduated from MTSU with a B.A. in social work. Campbell interned at Nashville Cares and the Governor's Office and served at TennCare as Legislative Outreach Coordinator, working in the Legislature and continuing the Governor's TennCare constituent work. To contact Aaron Campbell, call (615) 741-4588 and e-mail Aaron.Campbell@state.tn.us.

Katie O'Brien has also joined TDMHDD as a legislative liaison. Following graduation from UNC Chapel Hill with a B.A. in political science, O'Brien worked in Florida's State Legislature. After coming to Nashville, O'Brien began her work with the state of Tennessee focusing on education. Contact O'Brien at (615) 532-6509 or Katie.Obrien@state.tn.us.

Jonathan Stephens is a staff attorney in the TDMHDD Office of Legal Counsel. Previously, he was assistant general counsel for the state Department of Health, prosecuting licensure cases

before the health related boards. He is a graduate of the Nashville School of Law and received his undergraduate degree from UTK where he taught technical theatre for ten years. Contact Stephens at (615) 532-6520 or e-mail Jonathan.Stephens@state.tn.us.

Dan Gianotti joins the Office of Legal Counsel after working as a TennCare hearing officer for DHS. He is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and Roger Williams University Law School. Contact Gionatti at (615) 741-7673 or Daniel.gianotti@state.tn.us.

• Commissioner Betts Joins MMHI Staff to Celebrate Resolution of DOJ Lawsuit

On December 21, 2005, a fifteen year federal civil rights lawsuit and settlement against Memphis Mental Health Institute was dismissed based on a Joint Motion and Stipulation filed by the U.S.



Larry Ventura, MMHI Superintendent, Commissioner Betts, Major Sam Cochran, MMHI Board of Trustees Member, and Deputy Commissioner Carobene gather to commend MMHI staff efforts.

Department of Justice and the Tennessee Attorney General earlier this year. The parties agreed that MMHI made significant advancements in the care of patients at the facility, and that it was most appropriate to terminate the court's jurisdiction.

On February 24, 2006, Commissioner Betts, along with Deputy Commissioner Joe Carobene and key TDMHDD hospital services staff, joined the staff of MMHI, past and present, to celebrate and

recognize this great accomplishment.

"This achievement was accomplished by a highly motivated staff, both current and past, who have worked tirelessly for many years to improve patient care at MMHI," stated Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities' (TDMHDD) Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. "I congratulate the senior leadership and every single staff member of MMHI for this crucial milestone in the history of this important hospital."

The original Consent Decree was entered in 1996 and called for changes in staffing, treatment planning, discharge planning, and non-psychiatric medical care. Since then, MMHI has implemented major changes including an action oriented, centralized Treatment



Commissioner Betts and Becki Poling, TDMHDD Director of Hospital Services, brought pizza to the third shift of MMHI in recognition of their efforts at 1:00 a.m. on Friday, February 24th . They are pictured here with security guard Franklin Leake, Sr.

Mall. The Treatment Mall assures that all patients, each day, attend several therapy sessions designed to meet their individual treatment needs. The hospital has also improved staffing ratios, quality of nursing and psychiatric care, and treatment planning processes, (including discharge planning). MMHI's treatment planning process involves all levels of staff, including psychiatrists, registered nurses, social workers, psychologists, nurse practitioners, and psychiatric technicians, working together with the patient to identify treatment needs, objectives, and related interventions.

The order entered by The Honorable Bernice B. Donald on June 21, 2005, dismisses the fifteen-year-old court case and resolves all U.S. Department of Justice issues with MMHI and the Department of Mental Health and Development Disabilities.

• TDMHDD Licenses New Facility for Children with Autism

The Center for Autism is a new and state-of-the-art branch campus of The King's Daughters' School (KDS) in Columbia. As a highly-structured, co-educational campus, the Center for Autism provides individual attention to

Happenings...cont.

facilitate children ages 7-22 to learn to communicate and master self-help skills. The Center serves children from across the United States and internationally who have significant communication, sensory, social, daily living, and/or behavioral challenges.

Students at the Center for Autism benefit from a small student-teacher ratio (2.5 to 1, or lower for children who need more intensive supports) and a small capacity (just 20 students residentially and a small number of day students). This allows teachers and staff to focus on each child as an individual and tailor their teaching strategies to meet each child's needs and abilities.

The Center for Autism campus includes disability-specific classrooms, a multipurpose/recreation room, a clinic, and a cafeteria, as well as cheerful living areas, such as large, handicap-accessible restrooms, brightly decorated double bedrooms, relaxing community rooms, and a playground. Students at the Center also have access to all other KDS facilities: indoor and outdoor pools; a park with a running track

and basketball and tennis courts, and an eight-acre rustic camp.

The licensing process for KDS was unique. The school holds several licenses for mental retardation residential, day, and preschool services. However, the School's administration wanted to serve children who are seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) which includes children with



autism. These individuals require training and services different from KDS usual role of services to persons with mental retardation. In order to serve children with SED the school had to obtain a license to operate a mental health residential treatment facility for children and youth. In December 2005 the agency met the requirements and was issued a license by TDMHDD.

For more information on the KDS Center for Autism, please visit www.tkds.org or call (931) 388-3810. ■

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