

TDMHDD Update

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New Memphis Mental Health Institute Opens, Holds Ribbon Cutting



State and mental health officials join Commissioner Betts as she cuts the ribbon to open the new Memphis mental health facility.

Left to right: Dr. Hershel P. Wall, Chancellor of the UT Health and Science Center, Memphis; Peggy Troy, CEO of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, Memphis; Mike Fitts, State Architect; Larry Ventura, Chief Officer of the Memphis Mental Health Institute; Charles Garrett, Jr. Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Finance & Administration, Real Property Management; Virginia Trotter Betts, TDMHDD Commissioner; Nancy Lawhead, Special Health Advisor to AC Wharton, Mayor of Shelby County; and Dave Goetz, Department of Finance & Administration Commissioner.

Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Commissioner (TDMHDD) Virginia Trotter Betts, Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration (F&A) Commissioner Dave Goetz, and Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton, hosted the grand opening of the new Memphis Mental Health Institute on September 24.

A project spearheaded by the state, the new MMHI facility is the result of collaboration between the State of Tennessee and the Memphis medical community, both public and private, to improve the overall quality of health, pediatric and mental health services in Shelby County. Included in the collaboration were the State of Tennessee/Memphis Mental Health Institute, Methodist Healthcare System, The MED, UT Health Science Center, and Shelby County government.

“I am proud to say that this new, state-of-the art facility is the product of a public-private partnership that offers improved mental health and medical services to the citizens of Memphis

and Shelby County,” said Commissioner Goetz. “I would like to commend the collaborative approach of the folks at Methodist LeBonheur, The MED, UT, and state

and local government who worked together to make this unique project possible.”

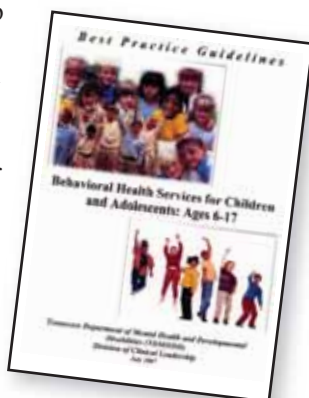
The new facility is part of an overall expansion of health care services in the Medical District and Biotech Center of Memphis. The result of this project will expand LeBonheur Children’s Medical Center, which will see an increase in the number of operating rooms, an expanded emergency department and increased research space, as well as enhance MMHI’s partnership with the UTHSC’s educational and research programs for psychiatry and mental health and the MED for improved crisis and medical services for persons with serious mental illness.

“We are extremely excited about this new building that will improve acute mental health services, as well as overall medical care in Memphis and Shelby County,” stated TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. “This effort is the result of

Report Provides Best Practice Guidelines for Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services

TDMHDD recently released *Best Practice Guidelines: Behavioral Health Services for Children and Adolescents online*. The guidelines will be used by psychiatrists, primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, psychologists, health service providers, nurses and social workers throughout the state.

“These guidelines are the result of a collaborative effort involving several of Tennessee’s top mental health experts,” stated TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. “The goal of these guidelines is to improve the care of children and adolescents with psychiatric disorders and to aid practitioners in diagnosis and treatment selection. The department has made every effort to include treatment recommendations based on evidence-based practices.”



The report promotes high quality care for children and adolescents served by Tennessee’s public health system as well as continuity of care through the establishment of uniform treatment options and the best use of multidisciplinary treatment resources. These guidelines also aid in identification, evaluation and provision of effective treatment for youth with severe mental illness and/or severe emotional disorders.

To view the best practice guidelines or additional mental health information, please visit <http://www.tennessee.gov/mental/omd/omdmission.html>. ■

CMS Awards TDMHDD Funds for Mental Health Recovery Initiatives

TDMHDD was recently awarded a Real Choice Systems Change grant from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The department will receive almost \$500,000 over the next three years.

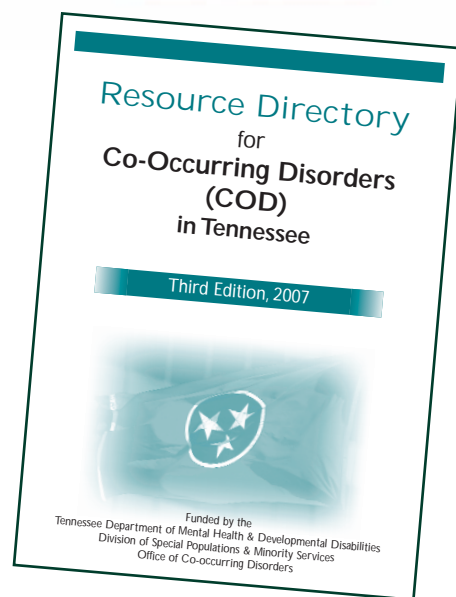
Funds will allow the department to implement three recovery initiatives including: 1) training of peer specialists throughout the state to teach Wellness Recovery Action Plan classes; 2) establishing a comprehensive, community-based, web resource directory; and 3) training practitioners to teach the evidence-based practice of Illness Management and Recovery. Funds will also be used to hire a state Project Director.

These initiatives complement each other and help to ensure the success of the project. Through the comprehensive Web-based resource directory and IMR classes, Tennessee mental health consumers will obtain the information and education needed to develop a personalized WRAP. The assessment tools developed will better connect and integrate consumers within their community and will connect consumer’s caregivers to needed support resources. This WRAP-based system will offer consumers a positive pathway for sustained change in their quest for recovery and community integration.

“I am excited we are receiving these federal funds that support the department’s focus on consumer recovery,” said TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. “WRAP works because it is peers helping peers. The result of this successful program has been proven to be long-term, and I am grateful we will now be able to reach even more Tennesseans.”

These grants are specifically intended to help states and others build the infrastructure that will result in effective and enduring improvements in community-integrated services and long-term support systems that enable individuals of all ages to live in the most integrated community setting suited to their needs, to have meaningful choices about their living arrangements, and to exercise more control over the services they receive. ■

2007-08 Co-occurring Services Directory Now Online



The Office of Co-occurring Disorders, under the Division of Special Populations and Minority Services, recently released a new directory of service providers in Tennessee. Printed copies will be available November 1, and the online version can be searched and printed from the department’s website at <http://www.tennessee.gov/mental/specialops/cooccurringdisorders/coocc.html>

If you have additional questions or information to update the directory, contact the office program coordinator at (615) 253-4363 or at Ken.Horvath@state.tn.us. ■

Tennessee Awarded \$14.5 Million Substance Abuse Recovery Grant

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce it will receive approximately \$14.5 million from a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Access to Recovery (ATR) grant over the next three years.

This is a highly competitive grant process; Tennessee was one of 40 entities to apply, and one of only 18 states chosen. Even more significant, Tennessee is one of only 10 states to be awarded the grant for the second time.

The first ATR grant, awarded in August 2004, provided 12,800 Tennessee consumers with substance abuse problems, treatment and/or recovery

support services, greatly exceeding the three-year target of 8,250 consumers. In addition the number of treatment providers increased with 50 percent of the ATR providers being faith-based.

Building upon the successes from the 2004 award, Tennessee's reapplication proposed an innovative plan to provide a multifaceted array of treatment and recovery services. Enhanced referral collaboration with the criminal justice system; expansion of a statewide culturally competent provider network of both faith and community-based agencies; and the development of a strengths-based case management model will allow individuals to achieve and maintain recovery by offering consumer choice while improving access to clinical treatment and

recovery support services.

Access to Recovery offers broad treatment options and greater access to recovery support services. Allowing the consumer a voucher to choose the treatment options and providers they believe will help them succeed, encourages personal ownership in the recovery process," said TDMHDD Virginia Trotter Betts. "This grant also enables faith-based, community treatment and support providers to serve more consumers across Tennessee. The strong foundation of our prior ATR successes will allow even more Tennessee citizens the opportunity to recover from addiction." ■

HAPPENINGS

Rod Bragg, MA, M.Div, Named Director



Rod Bragg is the director of Employment Planning and Development in the Division of Recovery Services and Planning. His primary duty is to coordinate the Creating Jobs Initiative, which has a goal of helping 2,010 persons with mental illness and co-occurring

disorders to become employed by the year 2010 through an innovative, grassroots, community collaborative.

Prior to this new post, Bragg was a treatment consultant with the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services for three years. Before coming to state government, he was the clinical director for treatment and program director for a CSAP grant (Strengthening Families) with Foundations Associates, overseeing treatment, residential and prevention services. Bragg was also an original staff member at the Mental Health Cooperative, where he served on the first Mobile Crisis Response Team in Tennessee and was program director for Case Management Services. Reach Rod Bragg at (615) 532-9439 and Rodney.Bragg@state.tn.us.

Columbia Children's Wellness Fair Attracts Over 400 Participants

On Saturday, August 25, 2007, Shady Brook-Columbia Mall in Columbia TDMHDD sponsored a Children's Wellness Fair with CoverKids and the Mule Town Family Network. More than 15 mental health agencies, providers and state departments were on hand, including the Tennessee Department of Health, AmericChoice and the Tennessee Lives Count project. Over 400 parents, caregivers and children



Richard Edgar, director of Children & Youth Services for TDMHDD's Division of Special Populations and Minority Services, explains how to find help for a family member who has a co-occurring disorder.

Parents and children at the wellness fair learn about the equal importance of mental and physical health.



— HAPPENINGS —

were reached with wellness literature and promotional items. A balloon magician, face painters, door prizes and health food snacks were additional fair highlights.

TSPN Annual Awards Highlight Regional Programs of Suicide

The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network presented its annual awards and showcased the passage of the Jason Flatt Act of 2007 on September 12, Suicide Prevention Awareness Day. The event was hosted by the Tennessee Education Association at their headquarters in Nashville and was attended by local and state officials and the media.

Benjamin T. Harrington, executive director of the Mental Health Association of East Tennessee and chair of the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network Advisory Council, opened the event and acknowledged the special significance of the Jason Flatt Act of 2007 through the Tennessee General Assembly. The new legislation mandates the inclusion of two hours of youth suicide prevention training for every public school staff member in Tennessee, effective in the 2009-10 school year.

Harrington also acknowledged the support of State Senator Diane Black and State Representative Les Willingham in sponsorship and promotion of the legislation. Clark Flatt, president and CEO of the Jason Foundation, Inc., and father of the young man for whom the act was named, was also recognized. All three received TSPN pyramid awards and Certificates of Appreciation from Governor Phil Bredesen for their efforts.

Eight additional awards were made to individuals and groups for their regional suicide prevention programs across Tennessee. The annual Madge and Ken Tullis Suicide Prevention Award was an additional top honor. The names of awardees are as follows:

GREG COOKE, HOLLY HATCHER, AND JENNIFER SHUDAN, East Tennessee Region - Also Winners of the Madge and Ken Tullis Suicide Prevention Award

SHIRLEY MCGOWAN, Memphis/Shelby County Region

KIM RUSH, Mid-Cumberland Region

BILL AND PHYLLIS RUSSELL, Northeast Region

CAROL BURROUGHS, Rural West Region

PAM ARNELL, South Central Region

CINDY MCCROSKEY, Southeast Region

ANGEL SMIHERS BRIDGMAN, Upper Cumberland Region

2007 Heroes in the FightSM Awards

Tennesseans committed to helping others with issues of mental health, criminal justice and pathways to recovery were honored September 27 with eight *Heroes in the FightSM* awards. The Mental Health Association of Tennessee hosted nominees and award winners with a dinner at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel. Melanie Hampton, acting director of the Drug and Alcohol Services Division of TDMHDD, served as master of ceremonies. Individuals honored were:



MARY ANN HEA

Individual Allied Healthcare Professional (Nashville)

EVELYN YEARGIN

Individual Allied Healthcare Professional (Nashville)

REPRESENTATIVE JOE ARMSTRONG

Individual Community Supporter (Knoxville)

HONORABLE JUDGE JAMES NIDEFFER

Individual Community Supporter (Washington County)

HOLLY THOMPSON

Media Professional (WSMV Nashville)

DR. DAVID MANNING

Individual Psychiatrist (Helen Ross McNabb Center)

WASHINGTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Treatment Team (Washington County)

DR. DUANE PETERSON

Special Recognition, Posthumus Presentation to His Family (Farview and Franklin)

Heroes in the FightSM is a recognition partnership program established and sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company to celebrate dignity, courage, hope, and recovery in the ongoing treatment of persons with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) by



Greg Cooke, Holly Hatcher, and Jennifer Shudan, East Tennessee Region, were the recipients of the Madge and Ken Tullis Suicide Prevention Award.

— HAPPENINGS —



SPN chair, Benjamin T. Harrington, is joined by Jason Foundation CEO Clark Flatt, State Representative Les Willingham, Senator Diane Black and TDMHDD's executive director of Special Populations & Minority Services, Dr. Freida Outlaw, at TEA headquarters to recognize the passage of the Jason Flatt Act of 2007.

recognizing “heroes” who provide care and support for these individuals and their families.

The program recognizes and celebrates the heroic work of many people who fight for better mental health and better lives on a daily basis in their community. Persons who best exemplify ongoing care and dedication in this field are nominated by their peers within the local mental health community. To learn more

about the program and to nominate your hero, visit <http://heroesinthefight.org/index.jsp>

Mental Health Cooperative F.A.C.T. Team Honored by Court

The Mental Health Cooperative’s Forensic Assertive Community Treatment team was honored recently as an “Exemplary Program” by the Davidson County Mental Health Court. The Honorable Judge Daniel Eisenstein presented the award to the team during a graduation ceremony where some of the graduates were served by the program.

Judge Eisenstein said, “The F.A.C.T. team has been instrumental in helping the participants of this court to succeed. They are extremely dedicated, dependable and professional, and this court could not produce this level of success without them.”

The F.A.C.T. team assists adults who have been repeatedly involved in the criminal justice system and who are challenged with severe mental illness issues. The team is comprised of three case managers, a director and a dedicated psychiatric provider through community-based services. For more information on the team and the programs of the Mental Health Cooperative, Inc., call (615) 726-3340 and visit <http://mhc-tn.org>. ■

TDMHDD Celebrated National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in September

September is National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery month, and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities would like to recognize all Tennesseans who are currently in recovery and those who are working toward recovery due to past drug and alcohol abuse. With proper treatment and supports, recovery is definitely possible for all persons facing the illness of drug and alcohol abuse.

“Alcohol and drug use disorders have devastating health and societal consequences, and our community is certainly not immune to these problems,” said TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. “This month provides an opportunity to highlight the benefits of treatment and encourage people with drug and alcohol abuse issues to begin

their journey of recovery.”

The Recovery Month 2007 theme, “Saving Lives, Saving Dollars” encourages communities to support activities to enhance prevention and treatment of substance abuse and to improve local residents’ access to recovery. Recovery Month celebrates the successes of people in recovery and acknowledges men and women in the treatment field who dedicate their lives to helping people with alcohol and drug use disorders.

Sponsored by TDMHDD and the A&D Council of Middle Tennessee, “Hands up for Recovery” was an event supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. On Wednesday, September 12, at Centennial Park in



Nashville, individuals in recovery were encouraged to leave their painted handprint on a portable wall. Under the handprint, they wrote their first name and their sobriety birth date as well as something that defines their life other than their addiction. ■

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Betts Speaks at NAADAC

Commissioner Betts participated as an opening session speaker in the September 5-8 National Conference of the Association for Addiction Professionals at the Renaissance Convention Center in Nashville Tennessee. The conference was held in conjunction with the Tennessee Association of Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Counselors and the National Association of Lesbian and gay Addiction Professionals. Since NAADAC's first conference in 1976, the organization has been providing addiction counselors and educators with the latest skills and knowledge to better serve their clients. Each year, NAADAC holds a conference in one of its eight regions. At the local and state level, NAADAC state



Regional consumer artists offered their works at auction to raise funds for NAADAC.

affiliates hold their own conferences to educate members on the cutting edge skills needed to tackle the changing face of addiction. For more information about NAADAC visit www.naadac.org.

TAMHO Tennessee Prevention Congress



Commissioner Betts attended the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) Prevention Congress in September. Betts and other staff members spoke about the transition of the A&D Division to TDMHDD and the impact the merger has on the coordination of programs and services. Betts is pictured here with Sue Karber, SPF-SIG coordinator for the division.

Scholarship Named for Special Assistant

Angela McKinney Jones, special assistant for policy to the commissioner has been honored with a scholarship in her name at The University of North Carolina (UNC).

The McKinney Jones Shadow Day Scholarship is an annual \$500 award to a student who participated in the campus' Shadow Day. UNC's Shadow Day is the brainchild of McKinney Jones. Each fall and spring, high school juniors and prospective UNC students, shadow current UNC students around campus for a day. The program has been a tremendous success since its inception.

Jones was a member of The Order of the Bell Tower (OBT), an organization that seeks to strengthen the relationship between UNC students and alumni, while a student at the UNC. For more information on the scholarship, The Order of the Bell Tower or the UNC General Alumni Association, visit <http://alumni.unc.edu/obt/html/index.html>. ■

Ribbon Cutting...cont.

the hard work and partnership among many dedicated and persistent individuals, and I am grateful to be a part of such a successful collaboration.”

The new 75 bed facility is located on 951 Court Avenue in the Memphis Medical District and Biotech Center on the site of the former UT Bowld and Dobbs buildings. The construction team broke ground at the site on April 27, 2007, and stayed on target to meet this year’s anticipated completion date. Patients were moved into the new building on Monday, October 1. ■



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Newsletter Staff

Jill M. Hudson, Director
Lorene Lambert, Publications Editor
Mark Davis, Lorene Lambert and Arvis Wright, Staff Photographers

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Office of Public Information & Education (OPIE)
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425 Fifth Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
615.253.4812

Available online at
<http://www.tennessee.gov/mental/index.html>

Please send queries, suggestions and address changes to:
lorene.lambert@state.tn.us or jill.m.hudson@state.tn.us

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