



A Message from Commissioner Williams

Dear Friends and Partners,

This month as the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline launched, Tennessee was in an enviable position. Our amazing network of statewide mobile crisis, growing number of Crisis Stabilization Units and Crisis Walk-In Centers, and experienced community mental health providers gave us a firm foundation for 988. All those factors plus about two years of planning and thoughtful and data-driven decision making with community behavioral health providers and stakeholders meant a successful start for this monumental development in behavioral health.

Of course systems like we have don't just happen by accident. They're built deliberately over years and decades. They're the result of significant

investment, hard work, and life-changing outcomes. Whether it's crisis services, our safety net, addiction treatment and recovery, school-based programming, housing, or our many programs that employ peers, our public behavioral health system is truly innovative and exceptional. When you talk to counterparts in other states, or people who are recent transplants from other states, I hope that you're as proud as I am to say that you're part of one of the greatest public behavioral health systems in the nation.

Thanks for all that you do.

Marie

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Launches



July 16th marked the launch of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. The new three-digit dialing code connects people to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, where compassionate, accessible care and support is available for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress. The Lifeline responds 24/7 to calls, chats or texts from anyone who needs support for suicidal, mental health, and/or substance use crisis, and connects those in need with trained crisis counselors. Help can be reached by calling, texting, or via online chat.

988 is a number change that people can easily remember when they are in crisis. The original Lifeline number and Tennessee Statewide Crisis Line (855-CRISIS-1) are still operating and will get you the help and resources needed. If you'd like to learn more about 988 in Tennessee and our preparations for launch, visit [TN.gov/behavioral-health/988](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/988)

TDMHSAS Crisis Director participates on the CARF International Standards Advisory Committee for Crisis Intervention



As 988 was nearing its official roll-out date, TDMHSAS Director of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention Jennifer Armstrong was representing our state's Crisis Services system on the national stage. She participated in the [CARF](#) International Standards Advisory Committee for Crisis Intervention Services in Arizona. The goal of the meeting was to update standards specific to crisis call center services, mobile crisis services and walk-in services/psych emergency services for CARF to then use for their provider accreditations. Jennifer was the only representative from a state mental health authority at the meeting. Pictured: Jennifer Armstrong (Third from Right) with members of the CARF ISAC.

Deputy Commissioner Yancey Honored with Fellowship



TDMHSAS Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey was selected as a member of the 2022-2023 Milbank Fellows Program. The Milbank Fellows Program (MFP) is a 9-month leadership program for senior executive branch and legislative state leaders who are committed to improving population health in their communities. Said Commissioner Williams: “We are so excited for Matt and grateful for his service. His selection as a Milbank Fellow is a testament to his ability to tackle complex problems, synthesize various opinions and inputs, and create impactful and lasting change for the people we’re blessed to serve.” [Read more at this link on TN.gov.](#)

Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Liaisons hold first conference



Tennessee's Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Liaisons gathered for their first-ever conference in June. Leadership from the Division of Substance Abuse Services including Assistant Commissioner Taryn Sloss (pictured above) and Director of Criminal Justice Services Rebekah Provost-Emmons delivered opening remarks. Presentation topics included recovery courts, overdose prevention and reversal, Behavioral Health Safety Net, housing, and more. [Learn more about our Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Liaisons at this link on TN.gov.](#)

New Video Series Highlights Medication Assisted Treatment Pilot Project

If you go to the emergency department for treatment, you're often sent home with a plan that includes medication. For people who experience an overdose or come to the ED in withdrawals, medication is available, but it's very rarely used in this setting. Thanks to a new pilot project between TDMHSAS and the Tennessee Hospital Association, three Tennessee hospitals are trying out

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in their EDs. This video series profiles the team at University of Tennessee Knoxville Medical Center and the amazing successes they've already had so far! Additional hospital partners in this project are Ascension St. Thomas Rutherford and West Tennessee Healthcare.



There are 4 videos in the series including perspectives on how this program fits into the current phase of the opioid epidemic and the life-changing role of the peers in recovery who are part of the program. Click the video player to watch!

New Hires

Dr. Rebecca (Becky) Hnilica is our new Director of Research. Becky earned her Ph.D. and Master of Science degrees in Social Work from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She is a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and a Licensed School Social Worker (LSSW) in Tennessee. She is joining us from UT where she served as an Assistant Director in the Center for Behavioral Health Research. Her most recent research involved



mapping mental health services in schools across Tennessee in partnership with TDOE and TDMHSAS.



Sarah Smith is an LMSW who recently joined the TDMHSAS Division of Clinical Leadership. She is a Tennessee transplant from Kansas City, Missouri. Her passion for working in mental health and substance abuse services comes from her 25 years in recovery. She began her career in 2009 working as a chemical dependency counselor in Missouri. She has resided in Middle Tennessee for the past nine years and received her MSW from MTSU. She has held various positions in mental health and substance abuse services in our communities such as CASA, Rutherford Mental Health Recovery Court, VBHCS mobile crisis specialist, and MAT.

Abraham Fernandez comes to us from DOHR as a Jr. Recruiter. Abraham has joined our Talent Management team to assist our Regional Mental Health facilities with their recruiting needs. Abraham obtained a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Arts degree at Tennessee Tech University. While working at Tennessee Tech, Abraham gained much experience in the areas of marketing, sales and promotions.





Joanna Risby is the department's pharmacy resident for the 2022-23 school year. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. Joanna says she's excited about experiencing diverse learning experiences that will simultaneously challenge and grow her professional and personal development.

Congrats, Melvin Smith!



Congratulations to Melvin Smith! The TDMHSAS Assistant Director of Treatment & Recovery Services received the Legacy Award from CrossBRIDGE at their recent fundraiser. The legacy award goes to someone who has been instrumental in helping to grow the agency. Tina Mitchell, executive director, described Melvin as a servant leader who doesn't seek honor or recognition but definitely deserves it as the work he does helps change and save thousands of lives.

Pictured above CrossBRIDGE Vice-President and General Counsel Bill Hart, Melvin Smith, and CrossBRIDGE Executive Director Tina Mitchell.

We Appreciate Team TDMHSAS

Fire up the grill! Our teams at Tennessee's four Regional Mental Health Institutes celebrated employee appreciation events at different times throughout the spring and early summer. We have more than 1,600 dedicated staff at these hospitals working around the clock to ensure that people who need essential psychiatric hospital services get the care they need. Thank you Team TDMHSAS!



Watch this video slideshow of photos from the events!

MBMHI Celebrates graduates from Mentor Tennessee

The state Department of Human Resources Mentor Tennessee program held its graduation on June 30th. The guest speaker was Keye Blackmon. Congrats to all participants and graduates!

Mentor Mary Young with Melissa Henning

Mentor Debra Weaver with Robert Johannes

Mentor Crystal Sims with William 'Evan' Carter

Mentor John Crawley with Locksley Hooker

Mentor Shaland Thomas with Brandi Humphrey

Mentor Shaland Thomas with John Curtis

Mentor Jane Meier and Mentor Bo Walker (Mentees not pictured)





Shout Out!

MBMHI hosts Summer Bash

The Retention & Morale Committee at MBMHI hosted a summer bash June 21st to help employees beat the heat!



Employees were able to fellowship while enjoying food and fun summer games.



MBMHI celebrates Employees and Managers of the quarter



Billy Joyce Gilbreath, Andre Ray, Marlon Craig, Mellita Hollis, Tracy Willingham

Congratulations!!!
Employees and Managers of the
Quarter!!!



Wendy Carroll, Whinolyn Jardoleza, Bo Walker

Honorable Mentions

Curtis Chapman
Adebayo Adeeko
Carla Johnston
Henry Hill
Derrick Kelly
Stephanie Sanders
Sandi Mayfield
Jamillah Dillard
Kristina Kernea
Kimberly Muhammad
Scott Lacy
Jeremy Wallace
Evan Carter
Michael Summerow
Kentanis (KT) Hampton
Bill Sanford
Austin Curtis
Bernadette Palumbo
Rose Igou
Maintenance Crew
India Houser
Tiffanie Williams

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 Committee

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CST

Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute

Conference Center

221 Stewarts Ferry Pike

Nashville, TN 37214

Children's Committee

Wednesday, August 3, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. CST

TDMHSAS

Conference Room 341, 5th Floor
Andrew Jackson Building
500 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Region I

Tuesday, August 2, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EST
Frontier Health Corporate Offices
1167 Spratlin Park Drive
Gray, TN 37615

Region IV

Wednesday, August 3, 2022
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CST
TAADAS
1321 Murfreesboro Pike, Suite 130
Nashville, TN 37217

Region V

Thursday, August 4, 2022
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. CST
TAADAS
1321 Murfreesboro Pike, Suite 130
Nashville, TN 37217

Region II

Wednesday, August 10, 2022
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST
Helen Ross McNabb Center, Training Room
201 West Springdale Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37917

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.

**ALZHEIMER'S
DISEASE &
RELATED
DEMENTIAS**



AN EVIDENCE-BASED UPDATE ON RESEARCH, EARLY
DETECTION, CAREGIVING, & MORE

FREE CONTINUING MEDICAL
EDUCATION

Conference
July 22, 2022 8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. CT
Online Sessions:
Available One Week After Conference

REGISTER HERE

Click Here for More
Information





SUICIDE PREVENTION IN THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN FAITH
COMMUNITIES COALITION



BIENNIAL SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE

WHERE

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

WHEN

AUGUST 23
9 AM - 1 PM CST

GET INFORMED
LEARN THE SIGNS & RISK FACTORS
DISCOVER THE RESOURCES
LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP

3.5 CONTACT HOURS AVAILABLE

REGISTER AT
[SPAAFCC0822.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://spaafcc0822.eventbrite.com)
QUESTIONS? CALL 615-532-6510



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
CAPITOL HILL



Metro Drug Coalition presents

International Overdose Awareness Day 2022

August 31st, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Volunteer Landing

Program of Events

5:00 - 6:00	Resource Fair
6:00 - 6:10	Mayor Glenn Jacobs - County Proclamation
6:10 - 6:20	Mayor Indya Kincannon - City Proclamation
6:20 - 6:30	Sheriff Tom Spangler
6:30 - 6:40	Judge Chuck Cerny
6:40 - 6:50	Lieutenant Heather Reyda
6:50 - 7:00	Overdose Prevention
7:00 - 7:10	Special Guest Dave Pelzer
7:10 - 7:20	Special Guest Amanda Hankins
7:20 - 7:30	Special Guest Nathan Wray
7:30 - 7:40	Special Guest Justin Casevechia
7:40 - 7:50	Special Guest Brooke Campbell
7:50 - 8:00	Candlelight Vigil



If you would like to honor your loved ones that you have lost to an overdose, please send a picture of them to: jstanley@metrodrug.org.



Overdose Awareness T-Shirts will be on sale at the event for \$25.



MDC will be selling commemorative bricks in memory of loved ones lost, or in honor of those in recovery for individuals to purchase at the event.



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)



Department of
**Mental Health &
 Substance Abuse Services**

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:

<p>CUSTOMER FOCUSED: <i>An unwavering commitment to keep patients and those who serve them at the forefront of every decision.</i></p> <p>INTEGRITY: <i>Honesty and truth in all we do.</i></p> <p>INSPIRED PURPOSE: <i>The call to action in service of a cause greater than one's self.</i></p> <p>EXCELLENCE: <i>The highest standards for services, efficiency, and conduct.</i></p>	<p>COMPASSIONATE AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP: <i>The commitment to make effective decisions and inspire others through active listening and empathy.</i></p> <p>SOLUTIONS AND OUTCOMES-ORIENTED: <i>The commitment to positive outcomes and meaningful changes in response to the critical needs of the Tennesseans we serve.</i></p> <p>PARTNERSHIP: <i>Beyond teamwork, collaboration based on mutual success to the benefit of the Tennesseans we are blessed to serve.</i></p>
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*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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