



A Message from Commissioner Williams

Here comes the sun! I don't know about y'all, but I say "ALL RIGHT!" After a long winter, we're finally emerging into spring, and it couldn't have come at a better time. The signs of renewal, re-birth, and reinvigoration are all around us.

So much of the work in our field revolves around new beginnings. No matter where you serve, you play an essential role in the lives of the Tennesseans we are blessed to serve, and you should definitely be proud of that. Thank you for all that you do today and every day to make Tennessee a better place to live, work, play, and raise a family!

Many blessings,

Marie

TDMHSAS Leadership Visits Criminal Justice Alternative in Jackson



Commissioner Williams, Sen. Ed Jackson, Sen. Ferrell Haile, and Madison County Sheriff John Mehr address the media after their tour in Jackson.

Commissioner Williams and TDMHSAS leadership traveled to Jackson earlier this month for a tour of the new Madison County Jail. The department's group and Senators Ed Jackson (R-Jackson) and Ferrell Haile (R-Gallatin) got a first hand look at how state funds are being used to provide alternatives for people needing mental health treatment who come in contact with the criminal justice system. The Madison County Sheriff's Office was the recipient of a \$3.1 million grant from the department's Pre-Arrest Diversion Infrastructure Program in the FY18 budget. They also received funding for alternative transportation which uses an unmarked van rather than a deputy's cruiser to transport someone for involuntary commitment.

You can view news coverage of the visit at these links:

[Jackson Sun](#)

[WBBJ-TV](#)

[TN.gov: Pre-Arrest Diversion Infrastructure Program](#)



Pictured L to R: Kim Parker, Pathways Director of Crisis and Family Services, Paula Terry, Pathways Chief Nursing Officer, Shelley Lawson, Pathways Clinical Manager for Inpatient Services, Commissioner Marie Williams, Pam Henson, Pathways Executive Director, Justine Bass, TDMHSAS Deputy Asst. Commissioner

Collegiate Recovery Academy

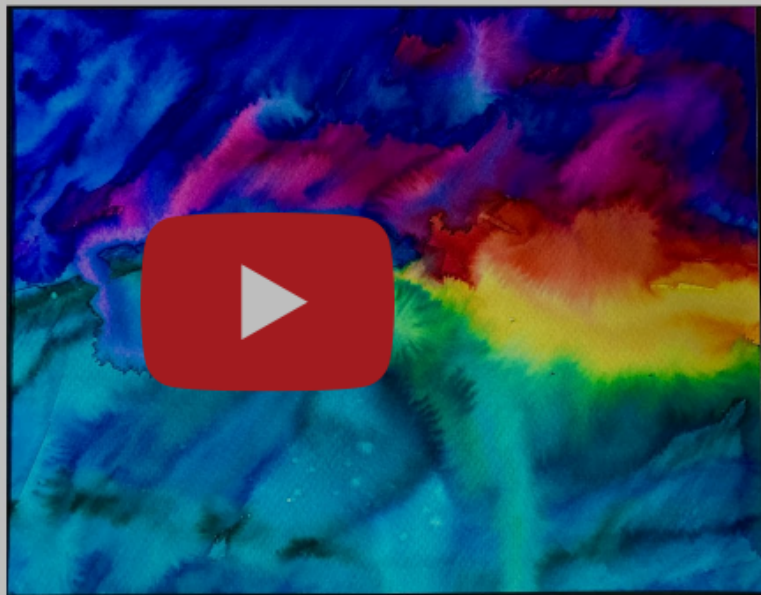
Collegiate Recovery Academies continue to build bridges to recovery on college campuses across Tennessee



Tennessee College of Applied Technology in Shelbyville and Motlow State Community College McMinnville were the latest schools to partner with the TDMHSAS Collegiate Recovery Initiative. Collegiate Recovery Academies bring lessons on creating recovery support resources and suicide prevention to faculty, staff, and students.

Upcoming Collegiate Recovery Academies are scheduled for [East Tennessee State University \(March 30\)](#), [UT Martin \(April 1\)](#), and UT Chattanooga (April 6). Learn more about the Collegiate Recovery Initiative at this link: tn.gov/behavioral-health/collegiate-recovery.

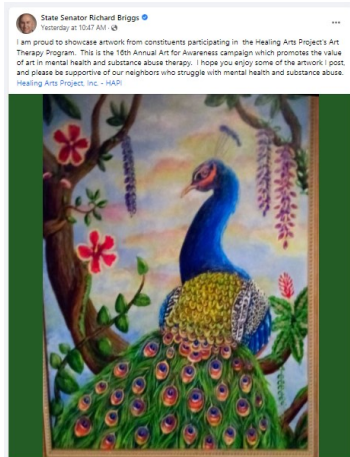
Art for Awareness



Deven Hazelwood
Waves of Change

Click the video link above to see this year's art show from Tennesseans in recovery.

The 16th annual Art for Awareness took place on March 8th. Artists in recovery from across the state had the opportunity to submit their artwork to be showcased. The event included a message from Governor Bill Lee, a meditation moment, and a self-portrait led activity. [Learn more about Art for Awareness on our website at this link.](#)



A fun tradition of Art for Awareness is connecting with state lawmakers and placing pieces of art in their legislative offices. Shout out to Sen. Richard Briggs who shared his constituent's art both in his office and on his Facebook page! Click the image to see the full post!

TDMHSAS New Hires

Please welcome Hayley Austin as the new Administrative Assistant in the Office of the Commissioner! In her role, Hayley will serve as the office receptionist and provide administrative support within the Office of the Commissioner. She comes to Team TDMHSAS from Motlow State Community College. Hayley holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with minors in Social Welfare and Sociology from Middle Tennessee State University.



Please welcome Lane Llanusa, the Office of Planning's newest team member, to TDMHSAS! Lane will



serve as a Planning Coordinator for the department. In that role, she will be providing support for the department's Mental Health Block Grant administration activities. Before joining TDMHSAS, Lane worked in the nonprofit sector as the Operations Director at Thomas House Family Shelter. Lane is originally from Huntington Beach, California but has recently moved to Lebanon.

Please join us in welcoming Rachel Cook as the new Business Analyst in the Division of Hospital Services! Rachel comes to us from the Homeless Impact Division of Metro Social Services. In her new role as Business Analyst in the Division of Hospital Services, Rachel will be tasked with making important data more digestible and accessible to help programs and hospital services operate most effectively and efficiently.



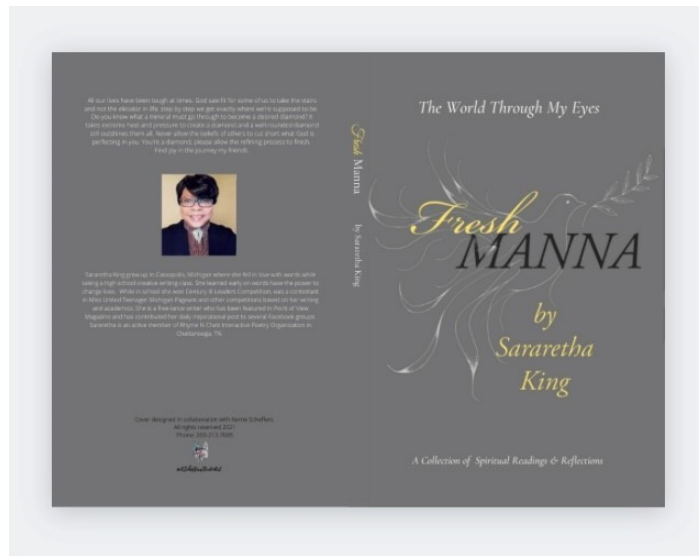
Shout Out!



Shout out to Stewart County Alliance For Substance Abuse Prevention! They partnered with their local school system to add the Tennessee REDLINE logo and information to all 35 school buses in the county.



Staff at Moccasin Bend did their best to capture the luck of the Irish with a St. Patrick's Day dress up contest for employees. The winners were Tiffanie Williams, Kathy Berger and Ron Bianchi! Looking good!



Congratulations to Sararetha King, a Patient Accounts Specialist at MBMHI, who can add published author to her resume! Sararetha published her book as an inspiration to others dealing with mental and physical challenges. Readers can count on motivational nuggets to help themselves to not only get through the day but to make loving themselves a priority.

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

Adult Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CST

Region VI

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. CST

Region III

Thursday, April 14, 2022

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

Region VII

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. CST

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.




Let's Lead the Way!

**The PATH to Re-Entry,
Restoration, and Renewal**

THE 2nd ANNUAL
HOUSING AND HOMELESS
SERVICES CONFERENCE

April 22, 2022
A VIRTUAL EVENT

Sponsored by  In partnership with 

This project was developed under Federal Grant Number 6X065M083700-01M001, Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) X065M083700-01 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or the U.S. Department of HHS, and should not be construed as such.

TN

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



SAVE THE DATE

HEALTHY TRANSITIONS SUMMIT



**A VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND
PROVIDERS
AS WE LEARN TO NAVIGATE
“THE NEW NORMAL”**

March 30th 9am- 12 pm CT
&

March 31st 12:30-3:30 pm CT
Virtual Meeting on Zoom

<https://tnhealthytransitions.org/>

This flyer was developed [in part] under grant number 5M081971 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or HHS.

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

For questions about addiction treatment/referrals ...

TN
REDLINE
1.800.889.9789
CALL OR TEXT

TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
TAADAS
TN TOGETHER
ENDING THE OPIOID CRISIS

To talk with a TDMHSAS Consumer Advocate ...

Need help with mental health or substance use services?

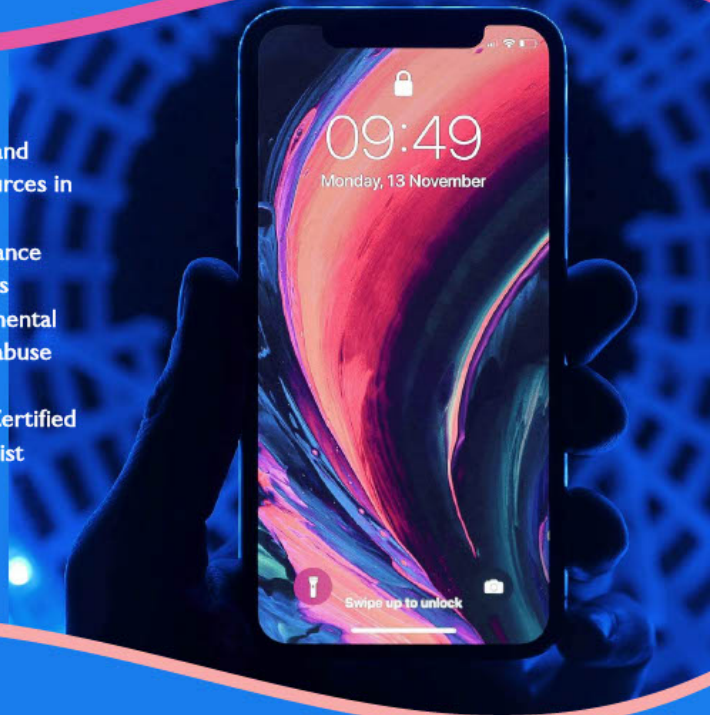
Call the TDMHSAS Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services

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://www.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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Facebook

Thanks to our [Facebook family](#) for "liking" us and sharing our posts!



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