



Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

Spring is upon us and what a hopeful time it is. Rebirth, renewal, and rejuvenation are upon us and, even if you suffer from seasonal allergies, it's a wonderful time to be alive! It's so exciting to see how many people participated in events for Tennessee's fifth Day of Hope earlier this month. A few stories down in this newsletter, you'll read how people marked the day and shared hope for healing and recovery. When we started this event in March 2020, we couldn't have imagined how it would bring out the creativity and the generosity of so many people in the behavioral health field, and the result has been collaboration, communication, and connection with so many countless lives changed.

We had our third and final budget hearing for the FY25 budget cycle on March 6th. Thank you to everyone who came out or watched online as we presented

Governor Bill Lee's plan for our department in the upcoming fiscal year. If you missed it and want to catch up, [you can watch the presentation at this link](#). The next step in the process is the legislature's debate, amendment, and passage of the budget. Thank you all for your support through this process.

Many Blessings,

Marie

New 988 Crisis and Suicide Lifeline Commercials Debut

TDMHSAS is proud to debut a new set of locally-produced commercials to promote the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in Tennessee. The commercials were produced by the department's Office of Communication and Office of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention. The new commercials feature themes especially applicable to young adults and families with teenage children including academic stress, athletic performance expectations, pressure of fitting in/being left out, and negative self-image/self-talk. All of the commercials feature real people who volunteered their time and talents to appear in front of the camera. Thank you to everyone who made this effort a success and to all the 988 crisis counselors across our state who are saving lives every day!



This YouTube playlist includes the four new commercials as well as our original Crisis Calltakers spot which was nominated for a regional Emmy Award.

Behavioral Health Scholarship Program Opens for Applications



Applications are open for a new, multi-million dollar behavioral health scholarship program. The Tennessee Behavioral Health Pathways Scholarship is designed to support the next generation of professionals working in mental health and substance use treatment careers as they earn the advanced degrees necessary to begin their journey.


Eligible students can receive up to \$15,000 in tuition assistance per academic year for up to two years as they pursue a master's degree in fields including counseling, psychiatric nursing, social work, psychology, or similar behavioral

health professions. In return for the tuition support, students must commit to working for a public behavioral health provider for the same amount of time they were on scholarship.

Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly appropriated \$3 million dollars for the scholarship program to the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. TDMHSAS partnered with the Tennessee Association of Alcohol Drug and other Addiction Services (TAADAS) and the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) to administer the scholarship and ensure graduates meet their commitment for public service.

[Learn more about the scholarship and apply at this link.](#)

New Home for Tennessee's Certified Peer Programs





FSS **CYAPSS** **CPRS**

CADRE

THE NEW HOME FOR TENNESSEE CERTIFIED PEERS

The CADRE system is an integrated web-based portal that will support the Peer and Family Support specialists of Tennessee with navigating their continuous professional development within their fields of practice throughout their lifelong pursuit of knowledge and growth within the profession. This supportive technology is called the Career Development for Peer Recovery Specialists (CADRE) system. will assist the peer field with monitoring, maintaining, and navigating the certification and experiential processes across the state.

  **CADRE.TN.GOV**

Tennessee's new home for certified peer programs is cadre.tn.gov! TDMHSAS is proud to present this portal for the three certified peer programs developed in partnership with the University of Memphis College of Social Work. Peers who are currently certified will want to visit this website to create a login, manage your certification, and enter into the renewal process if necessary. If you've ever wondered about the Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, Certified Family Support Specialist, or Certified Young Adult Peer Support Specialist programs, this is the site to learn more and apply for training!

Tennessee Day of Hope

Organizations across Tennessee celebrate Day of Hope



On Sunday March 10th, Tennesseans participated in the fifth annual Day of Hope. The ultimate goal of Day of Hope is to inspire a collective sense of statewide hopefulness in the face of our state's significant challenges in the fields of addiction and mental illness. Some community events included a prayer breakfast, high school speaking engagements and tabling events at local community centers. Some of the coalitions that participated were Lake

County Prevention, Obion County Prevention Coalition, Sevier County Prevention Coalition, Prevention Coalition 4 Success and Murfreesboro, Jackson-Madison Prevention Coalition, Hamilton County Prevention, among others. In total there were 15 events with a total attendance of 1,976.

Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute Pauses for Day of Hope



MTMHI Leadership and employees gathered around the flagpole and had a moment of silence and held hands in honor of those still battling and in recovery from mental illness. Diana Spencer spoke about what Day of Hope was about; what MTMHI staff does matters and is impactful to those people who have had mental illness in our community and across the State.

Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council Announces First Round of Community Grants

Tennessee's Opioid Abatement Council is releasing its first ever community grants totaling \$80,936,057. Programs funded through the grants will support work in response to opioid addiction throughout Tennessee for up to three years. The OAC is an independent body with TDMHSAS providing limited administrative support.

Organizations from across the state designed programs and submitted 396 proposals during the OAC's application period last fall. Council staff and members processed, evaluated, and scored the proposals. The Opioid Abatement Council debated and approved 116 grants during a meeting in Farragut on March 18.

In meetings leading up to the grant application period, the Council decided percentages of funding to dedicate to each of six approved strategies. Final totals of programs funded in each of the areas are as follows:

- Treatment – \$32,775,972
- Recovery Support – \$18,970,500
- Primary Prevention – \$12,201,837
- Education and Training – \$8,173,701
- Harm Reduction – \$8,061,539
- Research and Evaluation – \$752,508

The 116 projects approved by the council are programs designed by 85 distinct awardees, 30 of the 116 projects are designed for statewide reach, and about \$5.7 million of the total amount awarded is for capital projects.

[Link to List of Funded Community Projects](#)

Leadership TN NEXT Presentation

The TDMHSAS team presented a complete picture of the public behavioral health system to a group of rising leaders at a meeting earlier this month in Chattanooga. The presentation to the current Leadership TN NEXT class included info on community-based services, hospital services, and a view of addiction treatment services from Paul Fuchcar with CADAS. Leadership Tennessee NEXT is a statewide leadership program focusing on Tennessee's existing and emerging leaders and spanning geographic and industry boundaries.



Pictured (From L to R): Arch Trimble IV, CADAS Board Member; Paul Fuchcar, CADAS Executive Director; Mary Young, MBMHI CEO; Heather Gundersen, TDMHSAS Deputy Commissioner; Commissioner Marie Williams; Matt Yancey, TDMHSAS Deputy Commissioner

Welcome to Team TDMHSAS



Charles Ferguson joined TDMHSAS central office as the Senior Associate Counsel. He is a Tennessee native and attended MTSU where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in History. After undergrad he attended Valparaiso University School of Law in Indiana before returning home to practice law. Prior to joining the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services he worked at the Tennessee State Employees Association, the Commission on Aging and Disability, and the Division of TennCare. He is currently the Tennessee Bar Association District 11 Young Lawyer Division Representative and the Williamson County Bar Association President Elect. Charles has devoted most of his career to public service and helping others. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with family, running, and playing games.

Shout Out!



A mock survey was performed February 6-8, to prep Memphis Health Institute for their anticipated survey with The Joint Commission. Thank you to all the leadership and staff for their hard work and dedication in preparing!

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

Wednesday, April 10, 2024
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CST
Andrew Jackson Building
Conference Room 5.1 South, 5th Floor
500 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Region VI

Tuesday, April 9, 2024
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CST

Pathways
238 Summar Drive
Jackson, TN 38301

Region III

Thursday, April 11, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST
AIM Center
472 W. MLK Blvd.
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Region VII

Tuesday, April 23, 2024
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. CST
Church Health
1350 Concourse Ave., Suite 142
Memphis, TN 38104

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.

Art for Awareness

18TH ANNUAL
ART FOR
AWARENESS



**RHYTHM OF MY
ART**

**APRIL 29, 2024, 11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM
TBI TRAINING CENTER
901 R. S. GASS BLVD, NASHVILLE, TN 37216**



Mental Health America's Annual Older Adult Conference 2024



Mental Health America's
Annual Older Adult Conference 2024

SILVER LININGS

Illuminating Mental Wellness in Later Life
Through Education and Resources

SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY
MAY 21ST

VIRTUAL

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM CT

In partnership with:

6 FREE CEs

Resources

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 

For questions about addiction treatment/referrals ...

TN
REDLINE
1.800.889.9789
CALL OR TEXT

TN Department of
Mental Health &
Substance Abuse Services

TAADAS
Tennessee Association of
Advocates for
Disease and Abuse Services

TN TOGETHER
ENDING THE OPIOID CRISIS

The image is a promotional graphic for the TN REDLINE. It features a white brick wall background. The text 'TN REDLINE' is prominently displayed in large, bold letters, with 'REDLINE' in red and 'TN' in black. Below this is the phone number '1.800.889.9789' in black. A red telephone handset icon is positioned to the right of the phone number, with a red wavy line representing the cord. Below the phone number is a red button with the text 'CALL OR TEXT' in white, and a black button with a white telephone handset icon. At the bottom, there are three logos: the TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services logo, the TAADAS logo, and the TN TOGETHER logo with the tagline 'ENDING THE OPIOID CRISIS'.

To talk with a TDMHSAS Consumer Advocate ...

Need help with mental health or substance use services?

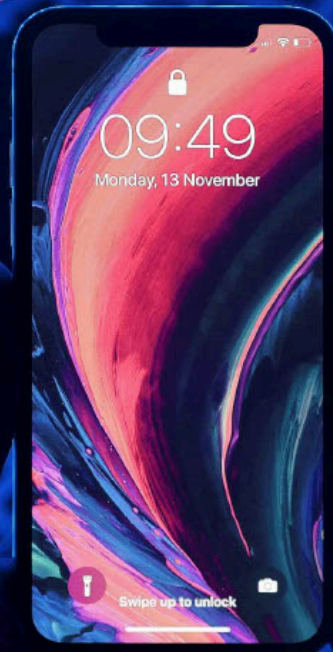
Call the TDMHSAS Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services

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://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!



Find us on
Facebook

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



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