



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



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.

It is the only thing that ever has.

– Margaret Meade

A note from Commissioner Williams

Spring has sprung! And what a great season it is! The sun is shining, the flowers

are blooming, and everything is coming back to life after a winter's rest!

Here at the department, we've been busy presenting Governor Lee's budget proposal to the General Assembly. We've held our three legislative budget presentations (House Health Mental Health and Substance Abuse Subcommittee, House Finance, and Senate Health). All presentations went well thanks to the intense preparation of our team. We're truly grateful to have the support of our governor and our legislature for the work we do on behalf of the taxpayers of Tennessee.

You can watch our budget presentations and get a breakdown of the proposed \$23.5 million increase below.

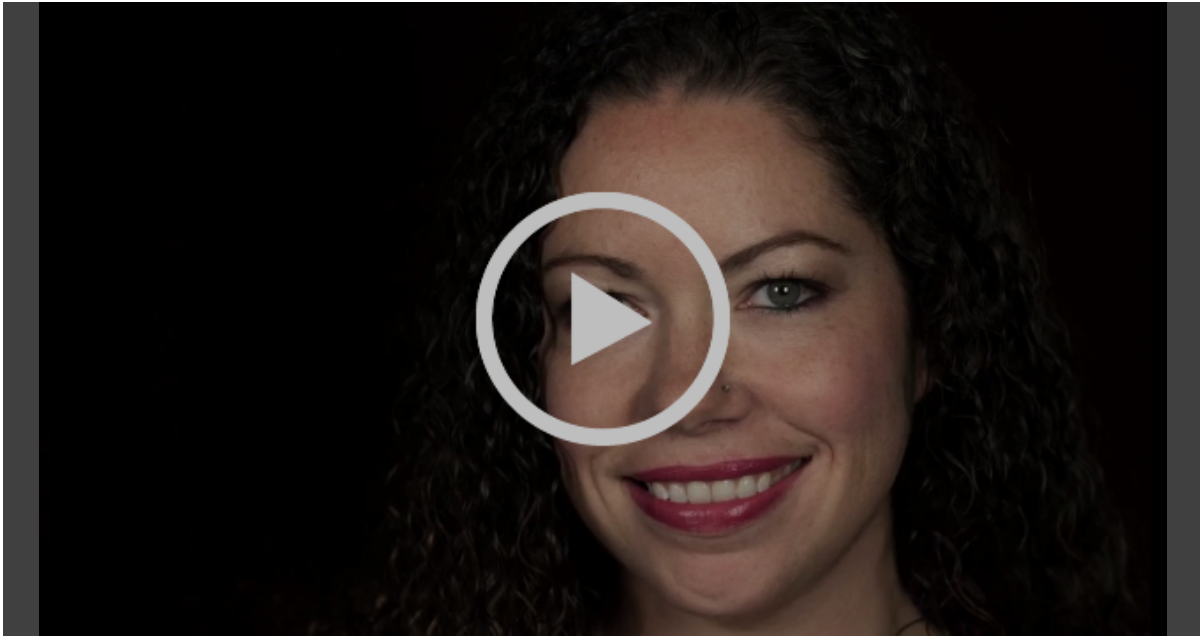
Governor's recommended increases for TDMHSAS FY2020		
	Program	State Funding
1	Behavioral Health Safety Net	\$5,000,000
2	Creating Homes Initiative	\$3,000,000
3	Recovery Court Expansion	\$1,700,000
4	Women's Residential Recovery Court	\$2,000,000
5	Criminal Justice Liaisons	\$1,000,000
6	Pre-Arrest Diversion Infrastructure Program	\$1,500,000
7	Tennessee Recovery-Oriented Compliance Strategy (TN-ROCS)	\$600,000
8	Naltrexone in Recovery Courts	\$1,000,000
9	Community Behavioral Health Medical Director	\$350,000
10	Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network	\$625,000
11	Youth and Young Adult Mental Health and Awareness Promotion	\$500,000
12	Regional Mental Health Institutes	\$6,194,900
	Total Cost Increases	\$23,469,900

Blessings,
Marie

[House MH&SA Presentation](#)
[House Finance Presentation](#)
[Senate Health Presentation](#)

Video project shines a spotlight on the work being done in TN's Recovery Courts

TDMHSAS produces 19 videos featuring participants, staff



The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services provides support and leadership to 78 recovery courts with department funding supporting 61 of those organizations. A new video and photo project documents stories of the people who have received treatment - and found recovery - through the recovery court system as well as staff who work in the courts. Recovery courts encompass drug courts, mental health courts, veteran treatment courts, family courts, and juvenile drug courts. People who participated in the profiles share perspectives of their experience in recovery courts from judges and court directors to graduates, including some who are now employed by the court.

The videos will be shared on our [facebook page](#) over the coming weeks. You can [watch all 19 here](#). And [visit the State of TN Newsroom](#) to read the full press release about the project.

Commissioner Williams receives two prestigious awards

Marie Williams is recognized statewide and nationally for her leadership, advocacy, and service



*Commissioner Williams celebrates NATCON award with Tennessee's Chief Operating Officer, Butch Eley (left).
Commissioner Williams with Ty Thornton, Bo Turner, Vickie Graham, and Heather Gundersen (right).*

Commissioner Marie Williams was honored with a pair of awards on March 26. First, at the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare, she received the Sen. Douglas Henry Award for Service to Children and Families at Risk from the University of Tennessee College of Social Work, and then later in the evening, Commissioner Williams was honored with the Excellence in Advocacy Individual Achievement Award from the National Council for Behavioral Health.

Both of these awards recognize Commissioner Williams' tireless efforts and inspiring leadership in serving the people of Tennessee living with behavioral health challenges. Speaking at NatCon, Commissioner Williams said, "If we are so blessed to be able to join with others on this journey to make life better and more full for those among us who are suffering and in need of help, hope, and recovery, we indeed have created a little bit of heaven on earth."

Art for Awareness inspires!

Our 14th annual event was extra special with visit from Governor Lee





[Click this link for a full-sized image.](#)

The 14th annual Art for Awareness event was held March 20, following Behavioral Health Day on the Hill. Sponsored by TDMHSAS, Healing Arts Project, Inc. (HAPI), BlueCare, and United Healthcare, Art for Awareness is a highly-anticipated event that brings together Tennesseans in recovery from mental illness and substance use disorder who participate in the arts to help manage challenges, inspire, and empower themselves and others. That was certainly the case again at this year's event. In the spirit of the theme, "Let Art Move You," organizers coordinated several different activities that encouraged activity and artistry. Lynece Benton-Stewart, HAPI's new Executive Director, welcomed the artists and explained that their gift bags were also fabric canvases. Participants created artwork on their bags throughout the event; some shared what they had created with group. Several participants also took the opportunity to explain what art means to them and to their recovery as did a guest panel consisting of Certified Peer Recovery Specialists Christine James and Rosie Morton, Peer Educator and HAPI artist Eric Brito, and HAPI instructor Kay Kennedy.

Gov. Bill Lee delighted the crowd when he stopped by, chatted with some of the artists, and posed for a group picture. The event ended with a dance activity led by the Statewide Peer Wellness Coaches. More than 60 pieces of artwork were registered and on display. Some of the submitted pieces were purchased by attendees, and several will be display in legislator's offices until the end of session. We are already looking forward to next year's event, our 15th annual! We encourage you to keep creating and sharing your artwork!

[Watch the Nashville news coverage of Art for Awareness here!](#) And see a few more

of the photos from this year's event below!





Let Art
Move You!

Commissioner's Leadership Academy graduates inaugural class



Congratulations to the graduates of the Commissioner's Leadership Academy! Selected from Central Office and all four Regional Mental Health Institutes, participants met for several months and completed a customized leadership development program. Graduates are now charged with giving back, by serving and investing in others as they strive to grow as leaders.

Way to go, graduates! [View more photos from graduation in this album](#) provided by

the State Photography Office.

Pictured seated, left to right: Natalie Jefferson (Division of General Counsel); Tiffeny Howell (Western Mental Health Institute/WMHI); Chandra Wilbourn (Memphis Mental Health Institute/MMHI); Tabitha Cheairs, MMHI); Nicole Rivers (Licensure); Alicia Robeson (Mental Health Services); Nancy Moore (Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute/MTMHI); and Nakita Odom (MMMI). **Pictured standing, left to right:** Eric Doxy (MTMHI); Janice Bunday (Human Resources); Jeremy Bogue (WMHI); Steve Blair (MTMHI); Chief Learning Officer Dr. Trish Holliday; Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey; Commissioner Marie Williams; Deputy Commissioner Bo Turner; Anthony Jackson (Substance Abuse Services); David Shankles (Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute/MBMHI); and Keye Blackmon (MBMHI).

Central Office Human Resources staff earn certifications from the International Public Management Association



The Office of Human Resources is very proud to announce that Janice Bunday, Greg Blackburn, and Cris Pollard recently received their International Public Management Association-Senior Certified Professional (IPMA-SCP) certifications. This certification is the credential of excellence and experience in Public Sector Human Resources, and those who have earned this achievement are considered

experts in their field. Please be sure to congratulate them when you see them!

Pictured left to right:

Cris Pollard, Talent Management Assistant Director; Greg Blackburn, Employee Relations Manager; and Janice Bunday, HR Manager 2.

Memphis Mental Health Institute announces Employee of the Year, 2018 Service Awards



Thanks to all Service Award recipients at **Memphis Mental Health Institute** for their dedication and hard work over the years.

Congratulations on this achievement!

Pictured left:

Two of MMHI's longest-serving team members.

(Right) Celebrating 45 years of service: Darlene Hill

(Left) Celebrating 40 years of service: Claudette Seymour

Celebrating 30 years of service: Gregory Gray

Celebrating 25 years of service: Jay Cleaves and Ray Sims

Celebrating 20 years of service: Eniola Richmond-Mckinney, Shoronda Monix,



Carla Gool, and
Bernice Powell
**Celebrating
15 years of
service:** Brenda
Wiley Brooks,
Vijaya Chandel,
Tijuana Williams,
and
Jennifer Newson
**Celebrating
10 years of
service:** Cynthia
Jones, Greta
Williams, Anthony

Ragland, and Ebonie Washington

Celebrating 5 years of service: Robert Hullett, William Odell, and Britney Dickerson



Above: Chandra Wilbourn, Training Specialist 2 - Staff Development, is named MMHI Employee of the Year. She is pictured with CEO Josh Carter.

Western Mental Health Institute

announces Employee of the Year, 2018 Service Awards



Thanks to all Service Award recipients at **Western Mental Health Institute** for their dedication and hard work over the years.

Congratulations on this achievement!

Pictured right: **Celebrating 45 years of service:** James E. McGowan (left) with CEO Roger Pursley from his 2015 Employee of the Year ceremony.

Celebrating 40 years of service: Cassandra Boyle, Robert Mae Joy, Melvin Ewell, and Sherry Peters

Celebrating 35 years of service: Patsy Allen and Terry Giles

Celebrating 30 years of service: Janet Brownlee,

Michael Lake, Michael Gibbs, Janice Morrow, Ruby Harvey, and Lori Nelson

Celebrating 25 years of service: Anthony Brashers, Annie McKee, Regina Brown, and Stella Perry

Celebrating 20 years of service: Bettie Douglas and Lisa Roy

Celebrating 15 years of service: Terrell Bowers, Arnell Polk, Jeanne Carrington, Frederick Rhodes, Randle Dickerson, Shimikius Rivers, Tiffeny Howell, Ira Todd, III,



Minerva Holloway, Dr. James Varner, Brenda Jarrett, Brenda Williams, Josephine Montgomery, Heather Williams, Shimika Perry, and Tony Woods

Celebrating 10 years of service: Gertrude Bills, Rita Kennedy, Michael Brown, and Tammy Maccarino

Celebrating 5 years of service: Kelvin Boyle, Angie Lunsford, William Elmore, Vonda Parra, Cater Hamer, Jr., Mary Smith, Doylean Harris, Antonio Whitford, Gregory Hudson, and Janet Young



Above: Kristopher Woods, Information Resource Specialist 5, is named WMHI Employee of the Year.

Jason Abernathy named Bachelor of Social Work Student of the Year

Submitted by King University

Jason Abernathy, Lifeline Peer Project, has been named the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Student of the Year by the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Abernathy enjoyed careers in the U.S. Marine Corps and law enforcement before accepting a position with TN Lifeline Peer Project, a statewide organization dedicated to removing the stigma associated with addiction.

Abernathy earned an associate's degree from Northeast State Community College and was awarded a full scholarship last year to complete a BSW at King University through the College Dream Scholarship program. Abernathy continues his role as a



TN Certified Peer Recovery Specialist. “Jason not only excels academically, but has an unmatched depth of compassion for meeting the needs of others,” said Professor Jodi Helbert, coordinator of King’s BSW program.

Congratulations, Jason!

Katie Lee returns to TDMHSAS as new director of Behavioral Health Safety Net

Please help us welcome Katie Lee as our new Director of Behavioral Health Safety Net.

Katie is a Licensed Master Social Worker who received her Bachelor of Science in Social Work from the University of Tennessee at Martin and her Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Tennessee. Before returning to TDMHSAS as Director of Behavioral Health Safety Net, Katie served as the Employment and Community First CHOICES Director at TennCare. Previously with TDMHSAS, Katie was the Director of Wellness and Employment, working with community mental health providers on evidence-based employment programs and peer wellness initiatives. Prior, she served as the Program Manager for *My Health, My Choice, My Life*, a peer-led health and wellness initiative funded through SAMHSA.

Katie has also worked in community mental health settings as a therapist, case manager, and statewide trainer for Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment programs. Raised in middle Tennessee, Katie lives in Hendersonville with her husband, Cody, and two-year-old daughter, Savannah.



TN represents at the national Research & Policy Conference on Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health



Submitted by Jules Wilson, TDMHSAS Youth & Young Adult Coordinator
Members of the Office of Children, Young Adults, and Families and the Office of Research traveled to Tampa, Florida for the 32nd Annual Research and Policy Conference on Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health and a national Healthy Transitions grantee meeting. Brenda Donaldson, Don Walker, and Jules Wilson from TDMHSAS and Crystal Hutchins, Kathy Rogers, and

Will Voss of Tennessee Voices for Children (TVC) presented a poster on “Enhancing Young Adult and Parent Leadership Abilities” with support from Keri Virgo and Jessica Mullins.

The poster presentation was the result of a partnership between TDMHSAS and (TVC). After collaborating last summer on a successful Peer Leadership Academy, the team decided to share their positive outcomes at the conference.



The two-day Peer Leadership Academy, held last fall, empowered young adults and Family Support Specialists by strengthening leadership and advocacy skills. Data confirms the results were positive with Family Support Specialists reporting a statistically-significant difference in 7 of 8 areas, and the young adults reporting a statistically-significant difference in 3 of 8 areas.



Pictured, top left: Brenda Donaldson and Crystal Hutchins at the podium with Scott Bryant-Comstock, President/CEO of Children's Mental

Health Network.

Pictured, top right: Jessica Mullins (center) and Jules Wilson reunite with former TDMHSAS colleague Kisha Ledlow (left) now working as the System of Care Project Director for the State of Texas.

Pictured left: Jules Wilson, Will Voss, Brenda Donaldson, Kathy Rogers, and Don Walker.

Meet our Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists

Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists (ROPS) act as a point of contact for education on opioid overdose and are a key component in Tennessee's efforts in overdose prevention. They help distribute naloxone and train people how to use it in the event of an overdose. From Oct. 2017 to Feb. 2019, the ROPS distributed more than 35,000 units of naloxone with 14,000+ of those units distributed to law enforcement. TDMHSAS has documented at least 2,000 lives saved because of naloxone distributed during that time. Because of stigma and other factors, the department believes the actual number of lives saved is much higher. TDMHSAS has a total of 20 ROPS operating in 13 regional divisions across the state. [Learn more and connect with a ROPS in your area.](#)



Put a face to a name! The ROPS are pictured above at a statewide training meeting held last month in Nashville.

Pictured: Front row, left to right: Marissa Valentine, Susanne Angel, Brian Winbigler, and Tony Jackson, Director of the TDMHSAS Office of Prevention & Early Intervention Services. **Middle row, left to right:** Vanessa Spotts, Jill Carney, Josh Weil, Shaunna Mellons, Dianne Sherrod, Kaitlynn Jackson, and Nicole Ogle. **Back row, left to right:** Sherry Barnett, Trey Dees, TDMHSAS Program Manager Kelly Smith (State Opioid Response and State Targeted Response Grants), Barbara Brown, Eric Landry, Catherine Brunson, Melesa Lassiter, Tommy Angel, Josh Crews,

TN's Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists (ROPS) helping educate communities, save lives



*Submitted by Suzanne Angel,
RN/Regional Overdose Prevention
Specialist, 3 North*

“Hope for the Hurting - The Epidemic is Here” was held March 7 in Smith County with 72 community members in attendance. A naloxone training followed the event; overdose reversal kits were provided to participants. Thanks to everyone who attended and to the following participants including speakers: Jamie Harper, Regional Faith-Based Coordinator; Nathan Payne, Lifeline Coordinator; Nancy

Pettross, prayer team coordinator and coalition volunteer; Barbara Kannapel, Executive Director of Smith’s County Drug Prevention Coalition; and Lisa Tapley, mother who lost her son to overdose.

Thanks also to our expert panel members who took part in a question-and-answer session: Jude Michael Collins, General Sessions /Juvenile Court Judge for Smith County; Randy Wakefield; attorney and Youth Service Officer for Smith County; Colby Lane, Recovery Court Participant; Pastor Jackie Dawson, Full Gospel Church & Recovery Court Team member; and Registered Nurse Suzanne Angel, Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist. Bill Woodard, Smith County Chamber of Commerce Director, moderated the event ,and Mayor Jeff Mason made the introductions.



Refreshments were provided by Robert Valerio, Cumberland Heights Treatment Center.

Coalition Collage!

It's been another busy month for Tennessee's anti-drug coalitions working to combat and prevent substance abuse in communities across the state. Here are some highlights.

To get involved in a coalition near you, visit <https://bit.ly/2FP1xm0>.



March 20 was Kick Butts Day! Our coalitions helped lead the effort to educate and encourage students to quit tobacco and never pick up the habit. **Top right:** Student leaders from Drug-Free Tipton presented about the dangers of Juul at Day on the Hill. **Bottom:** Dekalb Middle School vowed to Kick Butts and to #BeDrugFree. Go Dekalb and Tipton counties!



Top left: The Obion County Prevention Coalition held a SADD Leadership Retreat educating and empowering student leaders. **Top right:** Cheatham Co. Community Enhancement Coalition partnered with the Cheatham Co. School District and Cheatham Co. Health Department to sponsor the 3rd annual Cheatham Strong Health Fair at Ashland City Elementary School. **Bottom:** The community filled the seats at the most recent Lawrence Co. Substance Abuse Coalition meeting held at Lawrenceburg Police Department.

Great idea: Rutherford Co. suicide prevention coalition helps distribute bags to the homeless with toiletries, resource materials, and lots of love

Submitted by Gwen Hamer, TDMHSAS Director of Education & Development

Members of the Rutherford County Suicide Prevention Coalition, coordinated by Rhonda Alley, recently joined Murfreesboro's Homeless Toiletry Bags Project sponsored by First Baptist Church, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority (Music City Zetas), and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.



Participants assembled 20 bags (pictured left), which included necessary items such as shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, and soap. The group also placed suicide prevention resource materials in each bag and delivered them to Patterson Park where they were given to The Journey Home Homeless Program.

Some of the participants are pictured below. Great work, team!



Regional Planning & Policy Council meeting schedule

For a list of all scheduled TDMHSAS Planning & Policy Council meetings, including Statewide and Committee meetings, [please visit our website](#). Meeting dates are subject to change.

Upcoming Regional Planning & Policy Council Meetings

Region VI Tuesday, April 9 Pathways

	1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. CT	238 Summar Drive Jackson, TN 38301
Region III	Thursday, April 18 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. ET	AIM Center 472 W. MLK Blvd. Chattanooga, TN 37402
Region VII	Tuesday, April 23 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. CT	Lowenstein House East 6590 Kirby Center Cove Suite 103 Memphis, TN 38115
Region IV	Wednesday, May 1 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. CT	TAADAS 1321 Murfreesboro Pike Suite 130 Nashville, TN 37217
Region V	Thursday, May 2 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	TAADAS 1321 Murfreesboro Pike Suite 130 Nashville, TN 37217
Region I	Tuesday, May 7 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. ET	Frontier Health Corporate Offices 1167 Spratlin Park Dr. Gray, TN 37615
Region II	Wednesday, May 15 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. ET	Helen Ross McNabb Center, Training Room 201 W. Springdale Ave. Knoxville, TN 37917

Save-the-Date: IPS Conference scheduled

May 10: Join the statewide Supported Employment conversation

The Individual Placement and Support (IPS) one-day conference will be held Friday, May 10, at the Franklin Marriott in Cool Springs. Commissioners Marie Williams

(TDMHSAS) and Danielle Barnes (Department of Human Services) are scheduled to speak. More details to come via the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations [tamho.org] and our [facebook page](#).

Save-the-Date: National Suicide & the Black Church Conference is coming to UT-Memphis



SAVE THE DATE

STOP L   **K LISTEN**

**9th NATIONAL SUICIDE AND THE BLACK CHURCH CONFERENCE
IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, JUNE 12-13, 2019**

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, STUDENT ALUMNI CENTER
800 MADISON AVENUE (MID-TOWN), MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

HOST CHURCH: The Healing Center, 3885 Tchulahoma Rd., Memphis, TN 38118
Phone: (901) 370-HOPE, FAX (901) 370-5717
SENIOR PASTOR: DR. WILLIAM M. YOUNG, SR., LPC, CPT, MFT

PLENARIES, MUSIC, DRAMA, LUNCHEON & WORKSHOPS
WITH DYNAMIC SPEAKERS

PARTICIPANTS BUILDING A NETWORK TO SAVE LIVES...JOIN THE
FIGHT!
MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!!!

Save-the-Date: The TN Certified Peer Recovery Specialists conference is in Nashville, Oct. 6-7

Tennessee Certified Peer Recovery Specialists:
**Trailblazing
the Peer Frontier!**



Keynote Speaker: Addiction/Treatment Specialist Dr. Stephen Loyd

The 2019 TN CPRS Conference is in Nashville!

JOIN US!

Oct. 6-7: Get ready to blaze a trail to . . .



#TogetherInRecovery
#TNPeerSupport

Millenium Maxwell House
2025 Rosa L. Parks Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37228

*Be on the lookout,
trailblazers!*

More to come . . .

tn.gov/behavioral-health/CPRS

In the event of a MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY:

Call 855-CRISIS-1

***855-274-7471**

For confidential help
from a caring crisis professional
in your area, available
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This is a free call.

You can also text TN to 741741.

To learn more about Crisis Services



in the State of Tennessee, [visit our website](#).

For questions about substance abuse treatment,
Call the Tennessee REDLINE
800-889-9789

*We hope you've enjoyed this issue of the Update!
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provider news, etc.) or if you'd like to be added to the
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