



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

Welcome to the new *Update!*

We're excited to be publishing this new digital newsletter to our state employees, contracted providers, and additional stakeholders. Kudos to Leslie Judson and Matthew Parriott in our Communications Office for their hard work! In this edition, you'll read a lot of great updates from the department, and you'll also read all about reorganization on our executive leadership team. As we enter the final year of the Haslam administration, we're adding new folks to the team, promoting some into new roles, and saying goodbye to some all star players.

The new year also means a new legislative session. It's going to be a busy one for us with lots of attention on topics that are important to our department including the opioid crisis. We're excited to continue our work and partnerships with community providers, the Governor's Office, and the legislature as we move forward to find solutions that will help Tennesseans struggling with addiction and mental health issues. We're also thankful for the unprecedented support they gave us last year and grateful for the new opportunities that funding has given us. Read on for more about this year's budget proposal from Governor Haslam.

Thanks for all the hard work you do each and every day. I couldn't ask for a better team of employees, providers, and stakeholders as we continue to serve Tennesseans suffering with mental illness and substance abuse.

Commissioner Marie Williams

TN  ***ENDING THE
OPIOID CRISIS***

TOGETHER

*Governor Haslam's final budget includes
comprehensive plan to address
Tennessee's opioid crisis*

We're excited to share the details of Governor Haslam's budget proposal that he announced at his final State of the State address. In all, he is proposing to add \$16,050,000 to the TDMHSAS budget. This year and last year mark the largest commitments of new funding this department has received to partner with our providers to provide prevention, treatment, and recovery services to Tennesseans who are on paths of recovery from

mental health and substance abuse issues.

Please see the following breakdown of the \$16,050,000 increase in our budget that Governor Haslam has proposed:

- \$10,050,000 for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
 - \$8.25M for community prevention, treatment, and recovery services—This funding will help us serve more Tennesseans who wouldn't otherwise have the resources to pay for services.
 - \$750K to expand the Lifeline peer recovery network—This item will add 10 additional Lifeliners positioned in emergency departments across the state to help people after overdose.
 - \$750K non-recurring for naltrexone in Recovery Courts—Funds will continue this current program in our recovery courts.
 - \$300K non-recurring for naltrexone county jail pilot project—This funding will go to a voluntary pilot program to supplement recovery efforts for people in participating county jails. If we receive this budget item, we will have an announcement of funding that is open to the 34 counties who have criminal justice liaisons. Participants in the pilot will be selected from that AOF.
- \$3M Targeted Substance Abuse Provider Rate Increase
- \$3M Targeted Mental Health Provider Rate Increase

As you will note, part of our proposed budget is outlined in the comprehensive plan called TN Together that's aimed at addressing opioid addiction in 3 different areas: prevention, treatment, and law enforcement. On January 22, Governor Haslam was joined by House Speaker Beth Harwell, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, State Supreme Court Chief Justice Jeff Bivins, and other legislative leaders to jointly express support for this plan.

In addition to funding for treatment services, TN Together addresses a number of other initiatives to include prevention and law enforcement. You can visit [TN.gov/opioids](https://www.tn.gov/opioids) to learn more.

[Learn More About TN Together in this Infographic](#)

We're excited to work with Governor Haslam and the members of the General Assembly as we move forward through the budget and legislative processes. [You can watch Governor Haslam's final State of the State address at this link.](#)

New Faces in New Places

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) is reorganizing one of its divisions under new leadership and adding a new deputy commissioner and a new assistant commissioner.

Matt Yancey has moved into a new role as Deputy Commissioner for Behavioral Health Community Programs. He started with TDMHSAS in 2015 as Director of Special Projects and most recently served as Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Mental Health Services. Yancey moves into the position held by former Deputy Commissioner Sejal West who resigned her position in early January after seven years of dedicated service

to TDMHSAS.

Rich Coté, Ph.D. joins TDMHSAS as the new Assistant Commissioner for Substance Abuse Services. He has extensive experience in organizational management with special expertise in behavioral healthcare. Dr. Coté's career includes 22 years of active-duty service with the U.S. Air Force. He retired from military service in 1993 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

As the department marks the retirement of Assistant Commissioner Marthagem Whitlock after a distinguished 41-year career with TDMHSAS, the Division of Planning, Research, and Forensics has been reorganized. Planning, Policy, and Legislation is now united under new Assistant Commissioner Kurt Hippel. Hippel's service with TDMHSAS includes nearly a decade serving as the department's voice in the legislature. He will be working closely with the department's new Legislative Liaison, Jim Layman, who comes to TDMHSAS from the Department of Health.

The Office of Forensics and Juvenile Court Services, under the leadership of Director Jeff Feix, Ph.D., has moved under Bo Turner, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner of Operations and Hospital Services. The Office of Research, under the leadership of Director Karen Edwards, Ph.D., now reports to Matt Yancey, Deputy Commissioner of Behavioral Health Community Programs.

"All of these changes and more position us to produce the innovative solutions that Tennesseans facing mental health and substance abuse disorders need," said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams. "I am so happy to add Dr. Coté to our team and watch Matt Yancey and Kurt Hippel excel in their new roles. My team truly shares the drive and passion to make our department's vision a reality."





Top Row: Matt Yancey, Rich Coté. **Bottom Row:** Kurt Hippel, Jim Layman

Assistant Commissioner leaves a 40-year legacy **Marthagem "Gem" Whitlock Retires**

With the retirement of Assistant Commissioner Marthagem Whitlock in December, the department said goodbye and best wishes to one of its longstanding leaders. We celebrated with "Gem" and thanked her for her service at a reception held at Tennessee Hospital Association. "Today is a bittersweet day for us, because we will truly miss Marthagem's tireless commitment, loyalty, knowledge, and wisdom," said Commissioner Marie Williams. "Marthagem is the epitome of excellence in public service. She is a person of integrity, thoughtfulness, and compassion. She has served with honor over the last 41 years."

Marthagem's career at TDMHSAS began in 1976 when she was hired as a Forensic Consultant. Three years later, she was promoted to Director of Forensic Services. In June 1983, her title and role changed to Program Director. In July 1995, she served as Manager of Administrative Services Manager. In 2005, she was promoted to Mental Health Executive Director, and in Feb. 2013 became Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Planning, Research, and Forensics.

Celebrating 41 Years of Service
Marthagem Whitlock
*Please join us in honoring our "Gem" on her retirement
from the Tennessee Department of Mental Health
and Substance Abuse Services*

Monday, December 4, 2017
4:00 pm-6:00 pm (Central)
Tennessee Hospital Association
5201 Virginia Way
Brentwood, TN 37027

RSVP to Rachel L. Jones at Rachel.L.Jones@tn.gov or 615-532-6717
by November 27, 2017





Pictured, clockwise: 1) Fitting that Marthagem's retirement reception invitation featured a diamond! 2) Commissioner Marie Williams and Assistant Commissioner Marthagem Whitlock 3) Former staff members Lauren Allard and Mario Lehenbauer-Baum gather with current staffers Director of Research Karen Edwards (second from left) and Statistical Research Specialist Don Walker (far right). 4) Marthagem's cake! 5) Commissioner Williams thanking Marthagem for her many contributions. 6) Deputy Commissioner Bo Turner and Colleen MacLean, former Director of Forensic Services, credited with first hiring Marthagem at the Department.

Thank you, Marthagem!



[Click to watch a video from Marthagem's reception!](#)



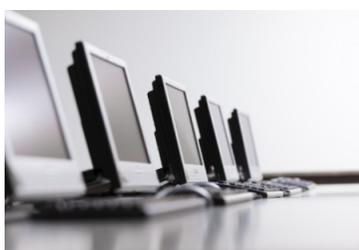
Office of Consumer Affairs & Peer Recovery Services **Sharing Education and Spreading Hope**

Depression is the leading cause of disability in the U.S., affecting 9.9 million adults each year. With treatment, 80-90% of people with depression can return to daily activities and maintain emotional stability.

Screening for depression is critical, and screening tools are one way to gauge what the underlying issue(s) may be. Every October on National Depression Screening Day, the Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services works to get the word out to fellow state employees, setting up mental health resource tables in seven office buildings. **(Above)** Consumer Advocates Kathy Haley and Gerald Pitts, Mental Health Services at the 2017 table in the Andrew Jackson Building.

Anonymous screenings for depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, substance abuse, and more can be found at tn.gov/behavioral-health.

TN.Gov website is upgraded to better serve you!



You might not be able to tell a difference on the front end, but the TN.gov website has changed and it's better than ever. With the new site, you will likely have to update your bookmarked links. If you find a broken link on tn.gov/behavioral-health, or for website questions, please reach out to our Office of Communications at OC.TDMHSAS@tn.gov. Thanks for your patience as we locate and correct errors.



TDMHSAS Awards Pre-Arrest Diversion Infrastructure Grants

Since the fall of last year, we have awarded a total of seven pre-arrest diversion infrastructure grants across the state. Congratulations to: Mental Health Cooperative (Davidson County); Helen Ross McNabb Center (Hamblen County); Volunteer Behavioral Health (Hamilton County & Putnam County); Knox County Government (**pictured above**); Alliance Healthcare Services (Shelby County); and Madison County Government.

[Learn What These Grants Mean for TN Communities](#)

TDMHSAS and TDOC Team Up to Expand Crisis Intervention

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) and the Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to study, develop strategy, and expand the network of Crisis Intervention Teams.

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) model aims to improve outcomes for people experiencing a mental health crisis by enhancing communication among individuals and families, law enforcement, mental health providers, and medical professionals.

[Read the Press Release](#)

Tennessee's Faith-Based Recovery Network is growing quickly; fighting addiction statewide



Obion County Faith-Based Recovery Forum, September 2017

Tennessee congregations and faith-based organizations are making a difference in the fight against addiction! Since April 2015 (the launch of TDMHSAS' Faith-Based Recovery Initiative) 274 faith-based organizations have become certified members of Tennessee's growing Faith-Based Recovery Network. By April of this year, Dr. Monty Burks, Director of Faith-Based Initiatives, said all 95 counties will have held informational forums. These free events are open to the public. Addiction experts, community coalitions, and various local organizations team up to offer education, vital resources, and hope.

Read more about Tennessee's Faith-Based Recovery Initiatives in an upcoming issue of *Update!* To learn how to become a Certified Faith-Based Recovery Congregation/Organization in the State of TN, [visit our website](#) or attend a forum near you. Events are free and open to the public.

Feb. 9: Robertson County

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/robco-interfaith-anti-drug-coalition-tickets-42549177736>

Feb 22: Cocke County

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cocke-county-incorporating-recovery-support-within-your-congregation-or-faith-based-organization-tickets-38292125779>

Feb 25: Williamson County

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/breaking-the-silence-addressing-youth-substance-abuse-tickets-42124444347>

March 12: Rutherford County

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/moving-forward-community-meeting-awareness-for-generation-found-tickets-42689700042?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&aff=esfb&utm-source=fb&utm-term=listing>

March 27: Blount County

<https://www.facebook.com/RioRevolutionChurch>

*TN Certified Peer
Recovery Specialist
Conference inspires!*



Thanks to everyone who attended the Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Conference in Manchester in October. Thanks especially to our empowering keynote speaker, former Tennessee Titan turned mental health advocate, Dave Ball.

[You can read more about Dave's personal inspiration for working in this field at this link.](#)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Bob Currie Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Congratulations to the 2017 honorees at the Tennessee Association of Alcohol, Drug and other Addiction Services (TAADAS) Annual Recovery Banquet. Governor Bill Haslam was named the Voice of Recovery for his work during the 2017 legislative session to expand substance abuse treatment services, to fund crisis stabilization programs, and to support jail diversion programs. Our own Bob Currie, former Director of Housing and Homeless Services, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Excellence recognized at TAMHO Conference

Congratulations to the recipients of the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations' prestigious annual awards. The 2017 honorees (pictured above) are Former District Attorney **Randy Nichols**: Frank G. Clement Community Service Award; **Sheryl McCormick**: Dorothea Dix Professional Service Award; **Kathleen Strahan and Brad Nunn, PhD**: Distinguished Service Award; **Stacey Murphy**: Personal Courage Award; **WBIR - Live at Five at Four**: Media Award; and **Centerstone**: Best Newsletter. Program of Excellence Awards were given to: **Centerstone** (Early Childhood Services); **Helen Ross McNabb Center** (Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Continuum of Care); and **Peninsula Behavioral Health** (Transitional Care Task Force).

TAMHO honors the late Rod Bragg with the Leadership & Diversity Award



At the December 2017 TAMHO conference, a very special honor was awarded posthumously to the late Rodney Bragg, former Assistant Commissioner of Substance Abuse Services and tireless advocate. Richard MacKinnon, Executive Director of the Rod Bragg Music City Prep Clinic, accepted the Leadership and Diversity Award on Rod's behalf.

To read more about Rod's service to the State of Tennessee, in the field of behavioral health, and beyond, refer to pages 4-5 of the January 2017 TAMHO newsletter.

Vickie Harden, TAMHO Addictions Committee:

"Rod always seemed to see the world through a lens of compassion. He was steadfast in his belief about the good in people, and the good we can all do when we join forces in service to others. We honor and respect the life he lived, and the legacy he left behind, even in the wake of what feels like a tragic end. The real tragedy will be if we cannot follow his lead, and ensure the people of our state who are so vulnerable have a voice and are cared for from that compassionate, loving lens. Surely we can do that, if nothing else, to honor his life and work."



2017 TN Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Honorees

Congratulations to the following TN Certified Peer Recovery Specialists who were honored by their peers at the 2017 conference. **Pictured, left to right:** Ken Barton was named the Patsy Cronk Mentor of the Year; Jessica Collins, Advocate of Peer Recovery Services; and Len Pipkin, CPRS of the Year. **Not pictured:** Lori Rash, Community Service Award and Next Door, Advocate of Peer Recovery Services, Group/Agency.



Steven Redd Named TN Crisis Services Outstanding Employee

Congratulations to Steven Redd, our most recent Crisis Services Outstanding Employee! Steven, a shift lead/dispatch specialist at Alliance Healthcare Services in Memphis, was nominated by colleague and peer support specialist Fulya Sobczak. "Steven works well as a team member and provides excellent support," Fulya said.

Melissa Wilkes is the Director of Mobile Crisis. "Working at the crisis center, on the busiest shift, Steven has demonstrated calm under pressure. His potential has not gone unnoticed resulting on him rising in positions from crisis counselor to dispatch specialist and now as a shift lead. We are fortunate to have such a capable leader that is able and willing to step into whatever position and task needed."

First and foremost, Steven says, "I am an advocate. We want to make sure people know we're here." Steven says having patience and understanding are critical in his job. "Nothing really separates us from the clients except life circumstances. We must remember they are people, not just patients. And you have to meet people exactly where they are."

To nominate someone for the TN Crisis Services Outstanding Employee Recognition Program, and for more information about the selection process, visit <http://bit.ly/2D1AtSI>.



**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.

*To learn more about Crisis Services in the
State of Tennessee, [visit our website.](#)*



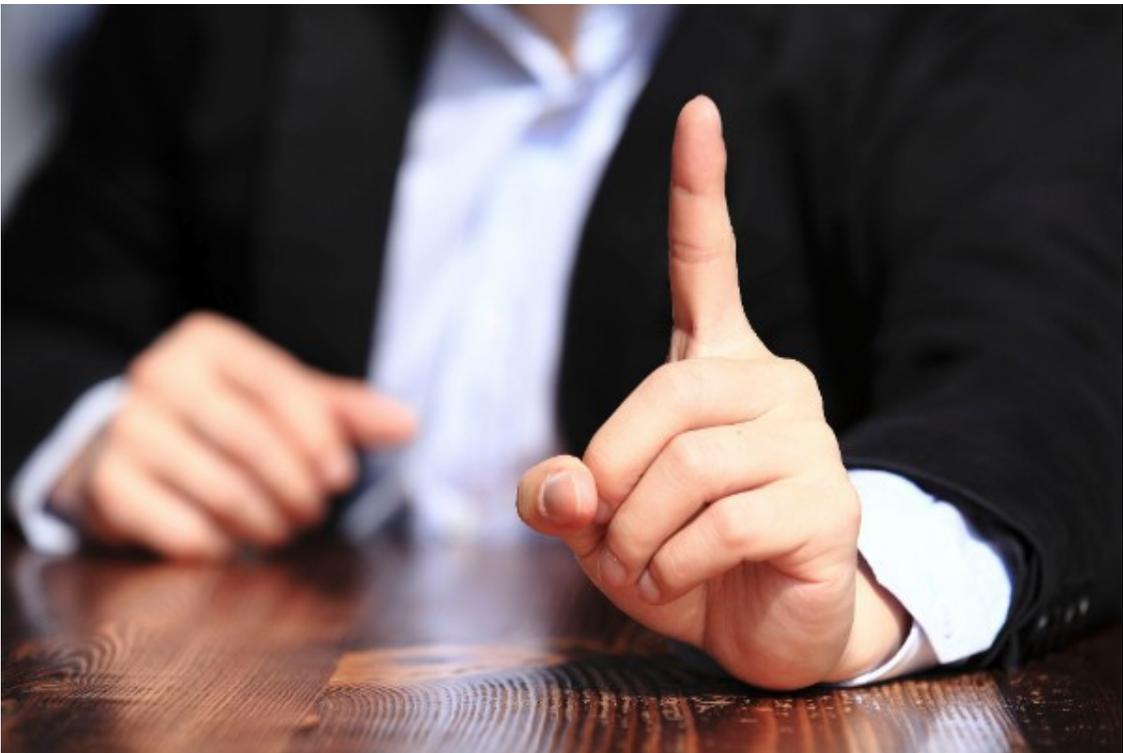
Give Back

Way to go, TDMHSAS!

Our Department raised \$17,888.60 in the annual Tennessee Employees Charitable Campaign. We surpassed our goal by more than \$3,500 and doubled the amount of participants this year. Thanks to everyone who participated! Your generosity has great impact in Tennessee and beyond!

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Be the One Initiative Launches Statewide



The Office of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention was busy in 2017 finalizing and implementing the "Be the One" Initiative which equips Tennessee workers with the tools and resources to save lives.

Three key components of the campaign:

1. Provides suicide awareness and social marketing strategies by providing information regarding suicide and serves as a reminder that suicide can happen at any time to anyone
2. Teaches participants how to recognize when someone may be thinking about suicide, how to ask the question directly and offers tips on how to

develop good listening skills, which is a key component of suicide prevention

3. Provides postvention suggestions in the event a suicide occurs to someone in the workforce.



For more information on how YOU can "Be the One," send inquiries to:

BeTheOne.Info@tn.gov.

[Learn more on our website.](#)



The Chronic Pain Self-Management Program is seeking leaders!

The first facilitators' training for the Chronic Pain Self-Management Program (CPSMP) was held in Knoxville in November. Congratulations to the following leaders for completing the training. **Pictured:** back row, left to right: Brianne Dunning, Ashlie Harrod, Tommy Angel, Suzanne Angel, Jane Kelly, Alleene "Anne" Pingnot, Ken Barton, and Rebecca Layman. Front row, left to right: Beth LaFontaine, Dina Savvenas, and Shannon Reynolds.

We are seeking additional facilitators for a March 2018 training in West Tennessee. CPSMP facilitators will be instrumental in teaching Tennesseans ways to deal with and manage their chronic pain in safe and healthy ways. Participants will learn: techniques for dealing with fatigue, poor sleep, pain, and other challenges; how to communicate effectively with family, friends, and healthcare professionals; exercises for improving strength, flexibility, and endurance; appropriate use of medication and alternative therapy; and additional ways to maintain active and fulfilling lives, including nutrition.

For more information and to register for facilitator training, contact Statewide Peer Wellness Coach Ken Barton at KBarton@tamho.org or Katie.Lee@tn.gov.

Save-the-Date!

Art for Awareness 2018 is March 7!



We hope you will plan to be in Nashville for Art for Awareness and Behavioral Health Day on the Hill March 7, 2018! It's one of our favorite days of the year!!

Registration details have been posted on recoverywithinreach.org, and we will be sharing exciting event info on the TDMHSAS facebook page. This year's theme is The Canvas and Beyond. Have fun creating!



Congratulations to our 2017 Service Award Winners!

Central Office

Dwan Grey, 5 years
Wes Geminn, 5 years
Katie Lee, 5 years
Alex King, 5 years

Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute

Brandon Anderson, 5 years
Tracy Chandler, 5 years
Tesfa Fesseha, 5 years

Patricia Debortoli, 5 years
Laura Young, 5 years
Barb Petty, 10 years
Suzanne Kay, 10 years
Gina Morton, 10 years
Dr. Stephen Loyd, 10 years
Dr. Jeff Feix, 10 years
Thomas Pitt, 10 years
David Linens, 10 years
Natalie Jefferson, 10 years
Rachel Jones, 10 years
Ellen Omohundro, 10 years
Willie Bassa, 15 years
Horace Pulse, Jr., 15 years
Kris Jernighan, 15 years
Taryn Sloss, 20 years
Pam Curtis, 20 years
Benita Hayes, 35 years
Ira Lacy, 35 years
Deborah Potts, 35 years
Linda McCorkle, 40 years

Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute

Alexandra Townsend, 5 years
Zona Brown, 5 years
Candice Tucker, 5 years
Denise Walker, 5 years
Cathy Pinion, 5 years
Wanda Wallace, 5 years
Susan Feltman, 5 years
Kimberly Muhammad, 5 years
Henry Heck, 5 years
Antonio Mays, 5 years
John Kaiser, 5 years
Patricia Holzheuer, 5 years
Bernice Jones, 5 years
Allie Vincelli, 5 years
Anthony Simmons, 5 years
Zachary Lacourse, 10 years
Rosetta Igou, 10 years
Marilyn Jones, 10 years
Anatasia Chuvala, 10 years
Jonathan Johnson, 10 years
Anthony Johnson, 10 years
Levander Roberson, 10 years
William Bell, 10 years
Gary Quinn, 10 years
Glenda Johnson, 15 years
Ellyn Burton, 15 years
Bessie Neal, 15 years
Jeremiah Meier, 15 years
Raymond Smith, 15 years
Jeffrey Flanagan, 15 years
Ronald Bianchi, 15 years
Bertha Hudgins, 20 years

Kelly Giambalvo, 5 years
Vician Haddock, 5 years
Cynthia Hinton, 5 years
Cody Melncore, 5 years
Randa Michel, 5 years
Kingsley Oboite, 5 years
Amy Ogle, 5 years
Obofoni Osifoh, 5 years
Inja Peters, 5 years
Pranab Ray, 5 years
Taura Sherrell, 5 years
Tamara Stephens, 5 years
Greg Bolden, 10 years
Angela Boyce, 10 years
David Drawford, 10 years
Caro Dalgleish Simmons, 10 years
Jeffrey Elliot, 10 years
Archana Halder, 10 years
Quenitra Hughes, 10 years
Mike Ibezim, 10 years
Joyce Kovacs, 10 years
Mary Linville, 10 years
Hugues N'sumbu, 10 years
Osamwonyi Onaghinor, 10 years
Kelvin Reed, 10 years
Joseph Rhodes, 10 years
Karen Richardson, 10 years

Western Mental Health Institute

Jeremy Bogue, 5 years
David Bowden, 5 years
Burt Davis, 5 years
Kelley Holloway, 5 years
Melissa Jackson, 5 years
Vicki Mahan, 5 years
Smith Mahometano, 5 years
Max McDonald, 5 years
Martin Mitchell, 5 years
Nakita Odom, 5 years
Keesha Reid, 5 years
Stacey Riffle, 5 years
Carol Werner, 5 years
Kendra Williams, 5 years
Geraldine Beauregard, 10 years
Amy Borseth, 10 years
Sharon Franklin, 10 years
Brandon Joy, 10 years
Bradwick Lax, 10 years
Jessica Russell, 10 years
Amanda Buchwald, 10 years
Micheal Davis, 10 years
Clifton Lockett, 10 years
Joan Young, 10 years

Memphis Mental Health Institute

Dr. Terry Holmes, 20 years
Shawn Hassler, 25 years
Jimmy West, 25 years
Sidney Miller, 25 years
Francis Graham, 25 years
Alexander Moore, 25 years
Sylvia Harris, 30 years
Steven Parker, 30 years
Dr. Patrick Craven, 30 years
Debra Burnette Weaver, 35 years
Robin Williams, 40 years

Reginald Chapple, 5 years
Edward Marshall, 5 years
Dorian Stanfield, 5 years
Johnathan James, 5 years
James Thornton, 5 years
Jay Bobo, 10 years
Maggie White, 10 years
Tamara Young, 10 years
Antonio Gibson, 10 years
John Coons, 10 years
Lois Boyd, 15 years
Dianna Madden, 15 years
Lovera Dorris, 15 years
Diane Knighten, 15 years
Eric Chatman, 30 years
Henry Holland, 30 years
Marcus Young, 30 years
Linda Bolden, 35 years

Thanks for reading!

If you have news to share (a story idea, accomplishment, provider news, etc.) or if you'd like to be added to the newsletter distribution list, please email the Office of Communications at OC.TDMHSAS@tn.gov.

[And to connect with us on social media:](#)



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