

Gov. Haslam signs TN Together Legislation



On Friday, June 29, 2018, Governor Bill Haslam held his final ceremonial bill signing while in office. He put pen to paper to sign the Tennessee Together plan into law. The legislation aimed at reducing addiction and ending Tennessee's opioid crisis was the keystone of his legislative agenda for his final lawmaking session. The plan includes measures to target the crisis in three areas: prevention, treatment, and law enforcement. Highlights include increased funding for substance abuse treatment, incentives for inmates to complete substance abuse treatment programs while they are incarcerated, limits on opioid prescriptions for new patients and checkpoints for extended duration prescriptions, and updates to the schedule of controlled substances.

The bill signing event was held at Blount Memorial Hospital in Maryville, Tennessee. The location was specifically chosen to highlight the role of eleven people who will be serving as Tennessee Recovery Navigators. This innovative new program will employ people with lived experience of addiction who are trained as Certified Peer Recovery Specialists. The TN Recovery Navigators will work in hospitals in Nashville, Memphis,

Chattanooga, Knoxville, and the Tri-Cities. Their main job will be talking with patients who are admitted to hospital emergency departments after an overdose and connecting them with substance abuse treatment resources. TN Recovery Navigators employed by Cherokee Health Systems and Frontier Health were able to attend the bill signing and meet the governor. Monica Tucker and Polly Jessen who work in the Tri-Cities spoke personally with the governor and shared their experiences from the first month on the job. Hope Johnson who works in the Knoxville area was interviewed by a local TV station. [Watch at this link](#)

View photos from bill signing:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/governorbillhaslam/albums/72157692827381820>

New resource launches on TN.gov: Bookmark the TDMHSAS "Fast Facts" Dashboards!

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services. The header includes the TN logo, the department name, a search bar, and navigation links for Crisis Services, Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse Services, Hospitals, Licensing, Research, For Providers, and Who We Are. The main content area features several promotional tiles: 'TN TOGETHER ENDING THE OPIOID CRISIS' with a link to learn more; 'Mental Health Services' and 'Substance Abuse Services' with photos of people; 'Need Help Now?' with a photo of a person; 'Peer Support Centers' with a photo of people high-fiving; 'Suicide Prevention Campaign' with a 'BE THE ONE' logo; 'Fast Facts Data sources' with a link to find services; 'Planning' with a data visualization; 'Buprenorphine Treatment Guidelines' with a photo of hands; and '2018 Legislative Summary' with a photo of a legislative session.

The redesign of our popular Fast Facts feature allows visitors to TN.gov to interact with data that touches all facets of the department's mission and vision.

[View the Fast Facts portal at this link](#)

Topics covered by the new Fast Facts resource include substance abuse treatment and recovery services, crisis services assessments, psychiatric hospital admissions, and more. Visitors can hover over their county to learn about services delivered in their area and to locate nearby providers.

"Never before have we had the ability to drill down to the county level and show how we're touching the lives of Tennesseans," said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams. "This portal does an amazing job illustrating the exemplary and life-changing work of our community provider network and our state employee workforce at our regional mental health institutes and central office."

The Fast Facts portal also includes location and contact information for special initiatives including the department's network of Certified Recovery Congregations and Recovery Courts.

"I am grateful to the vision and dedication of our retiring director of research, Karen Edwards, Ph.D., and her talented team for bringing this data to life," said Commissioner Williams.

Edwards retired in June after 29 years of service to the state with TDMHSAS and other departments.

Mental Health America honors Commissioner Marie Williams with national social work award



WASHINGTON, D.C.—Mental Health America (MHA) awarded its 2018 George Goodman and Ruth P. Brudney Social Work award to **Marie Williams**, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The award was presented to Commissioner Williams in a ceremony June 15 at MHA's national conference in Washington, D.C.

"I'm truly humbled by this honor," said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams. "This recognition is a true testament to the meaningful work we have accomplished in Tennessee, and none of it would be possible without leadership from Gov. Bill Haslam, support from the Tennessee General Assembly, the support of my team, our state's community provider network, and the tireless efforts of advocates and people living with mental health issues."

In presenting the award, Mental Health America noted the extensive impact Commissioner Williams has had in Tennessee, starting with her work at Midtown Mental Health Center, Catholic Charities, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and teaching at the University of Tennessee.

Commissioner Williams' work in state government began in 2000 as the Director of Housing Planning & Development for TDMHSAS. She began the Creating Homes Initiative (CHI) which continues today. Through CHI, \$577 million has been leveraged to create almost 19,000 housing opportunities for people living with mental illness. [More information on CHI](#)

Congratulations also to Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network for being named the Innovator of the Year!



Images by *Laura DeSantis-Olsen*.

Lisa Ragan receives the Clifford Beers Award



Mental Health America of Middle Tennessee honored **Lisa Ragan**, MSSW, with the Clifford Beers Award last month at its annual meeting and awards luncheon. Lisa serves as the Director of our Office of Consumer Affairs & Peer Recovery Services and oversees the TN Certified Peer Recovery Services program. The prestigious award is given to someone with lived experience of mental illness "who best reflects the example set by MHA founder Clifford W. Beers" and works "to improve conditions for and attitudes toward people living with mental health conditions."

Congratulations, Lisa! Thank you for the inspiring and important work you do everyday!

Congratulations also to all 2018 honorees in Middle Tennessee:

Louise B. Katzman Volunteer of the Year: Kyndyll Lackey

Outstanding Mental Health Professional: Mary Crnobori, PhD, BCBA

I.C. Hope Award: Gra-Mar Middle School

Board Member of the Year: Brian Jones

Business Partner Award: Vista Points

Collaborative Nonprofit Partner Award: Davidson County Sheriff's Office

Media Award: WKRN Channel 2

Lisa is pictured with MHAMT CEO Tom Starling (left) and Board Chair Matt Self.

Familiar faces serving in new roles

Please congratulate Ty Thornton and Rob Cotterman on their new roles!



With Zack Griffith's deployment overseas with the Army National Guard in April, **Ty Thornton** stepped into the role of Acting General Counsel and Assistant Commissioner. Ty joined the Department in

October 2010 as an Assistant General Counsel in the Division of General Counsel. In May 2016, he was promoted to Director of Legal Services.

Rob Cotterman has been named interim Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Mental Health Services. A 37-year veteran of the Department, Rob most recently served as the Director of Hospital Services within the TDMHSAS Division of Hospital Services. Prior,



Rob held various leadership positions including Chief Executive Officer of Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute and Assistant Superintendent for Program Services with Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute (MBMHI). Rob is excited to take on this duty and will provide valuable leadership to the Mental Health Services team.

Congratulations to retiring directors Dr. Karen Edwards and Debbie Shahla

Central Office staff recently celebrated the careers of two longtime TDMHSAS staff members. We wish them well and thank both for their service!



Dr. Karen Edwards, Director of the Office of Research, (pictured, left) retired from the department, effective June 30. She served the State of Tennessee for 29 years. "Dr. Edwards will most certainly leave a lasting impact on our department and the individuals and communities we are charged to serve," Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey said.

Debbie Shahla, Director of the Behavioral Health Safety Net program for more than six years, (pictured, right) retired from the department, effective July 3. Debbie has served the State of Tennessee for 37 years - including as Director of Planning - and considers her colleagues a second family. "Debbie's spirit, commitment, and compassion will be missed," Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey said.



Dr. Ellen Omohundro chosen to lead Research



Dr. Ellen Omohundro has been named the new Director of Research. Dr. Omohundro previously served the department as a Statistical Research Specialist. Her career also includes experience as an epidemiologist with United South and Eastern Tribes, the Tennessee Department of Health, and the Hanford Environmental Health Foundation. She has held adjunct faculty roles with both Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Northern Colorado. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Washington State University, a master's degree in Environmental Health from Colorado State University, and a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Western Michigan University. In her free time, Ellen enjoys kayaking, photography, hiking, and biking.

Moccasin Bend Recreation Therapist, resident musician retires after 40 years

Submitted by Susan Feltman, MBMHI Program Director

We just had one of MBMHI's most beloved people retire after 40 years with the state of TN, 35 years with MBMHI, and 5 years with Lakeshore.

Ted Caldwell (left) was a Recreation Therapist II in our AT Department who



specialized in Music Therapy. He was a gifted musician and often played with his band members at hospital events for the patients. His music therapy group was one of the most well-attended and sought after groups by patients. Ted was humorous and kind to others and touched the hearts of everyone he came into contact with. He was an icon at MBMHI and will be sorely missed. As one patient said, "he made everyone feel like a friend instead of a patient."

Ted is pictured with Ryan Beckett, Director of Adjunctive Therapy, who presented him with his 40-year Service Award. Thank you, Ted, for your excellent service and for sharing your gifts with all of us!

Mental Health Services welcomes a new consumer advocate for the Helpline

Aijahlon Carden joined the Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services July 2 as our newest Helpline Advocate.

Aijahlon comes to us from Volunteer Behavioral Health where she most recently served as a Crisis Intervention Specialist I with their mobile crisis team. She has a master's degree in social work from Middle Tennessee State University and completed her internship with our behavioral health colleagues at the Bureau of TennCare.

Please help us welcome Aijahlon!



ECR Update: Two hospitals down; two to go



The team at Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute held their “go-live” for Electronic Clinical Records (ECR) June 19. Building on the successes and lessons learned from the implementation of ECR at Western Mental Health Institute March 20, the team reports that this go-live event was even smoother. Up next is Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute in mid-

September. With Memphis Mental Health Institute scheduled for early November, the Hospital Services and Information Technology teams are planning to complete the roll out of ECR by the end of the Haslam Administration. Great job, teams!

More than 200 providers gather for third annual Statewide Crisis Services Conference

Submitted by Meleah Brown, Intern in the Office of Crisis Services & Suicide Prevention | Images by Roland's Photography.

The department partnered with the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) to host the third annual Tennessee Statewide Crisis Services Conference June 27 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Franklin. The theme for this year's conference was "From Support to Community: Responding to the Culture of Tennessee's Communities." The conference welcomed more than 200 crisis service responders from across the state and a distinguished lineup of speakers covering an array of topics including: a discussion on mental health services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other co-occurring mental health disorders, the opioid epidemic and the role of prescribers and patients, the priority of self-care, as well as how to survive them sudden violent encounters. The final session included four panelists who shared how to provide unique and meaningful care for the crisis needs of individuals with an autism spectrum disorder.

The conference also featured a selfie station to promote social media participation and a game of Networking Bingo to encourage discussion and collaboration among crisis responders across the state. Conference-themed bags filled with mental health resources and other items were also provided to all of the attendees. With fun-filled activities, engaging speakers, lunch, and a great location, this year's conference was a huge success! Thank you to all who attended!



Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey welcomes everyone to the TN Statewide Crisis Services annual conference.



William Burney (holding certificate) was honored for being selected as a Tennessee Crisis Services Outstanding Employee. William retired from Quinco Mental Health after 25 years of service as a beloved crisis responder, trainer, mentor, and friend. He is pictured with

Deputy Commissioner Yancey, Quinco Crisis Director Jeff Helton, and Morenike Murphy, TDMHSAS Director of Crisis Services & Suicide Prevention. Thank you for your service, Mr. Burney, and enjoy your retirement!



Tennessee crisis workers are awesome! Here are a few more fun moments from #TNCrisisCon18.



Save-the-Date: CPRS Conference is Oct. 7-8

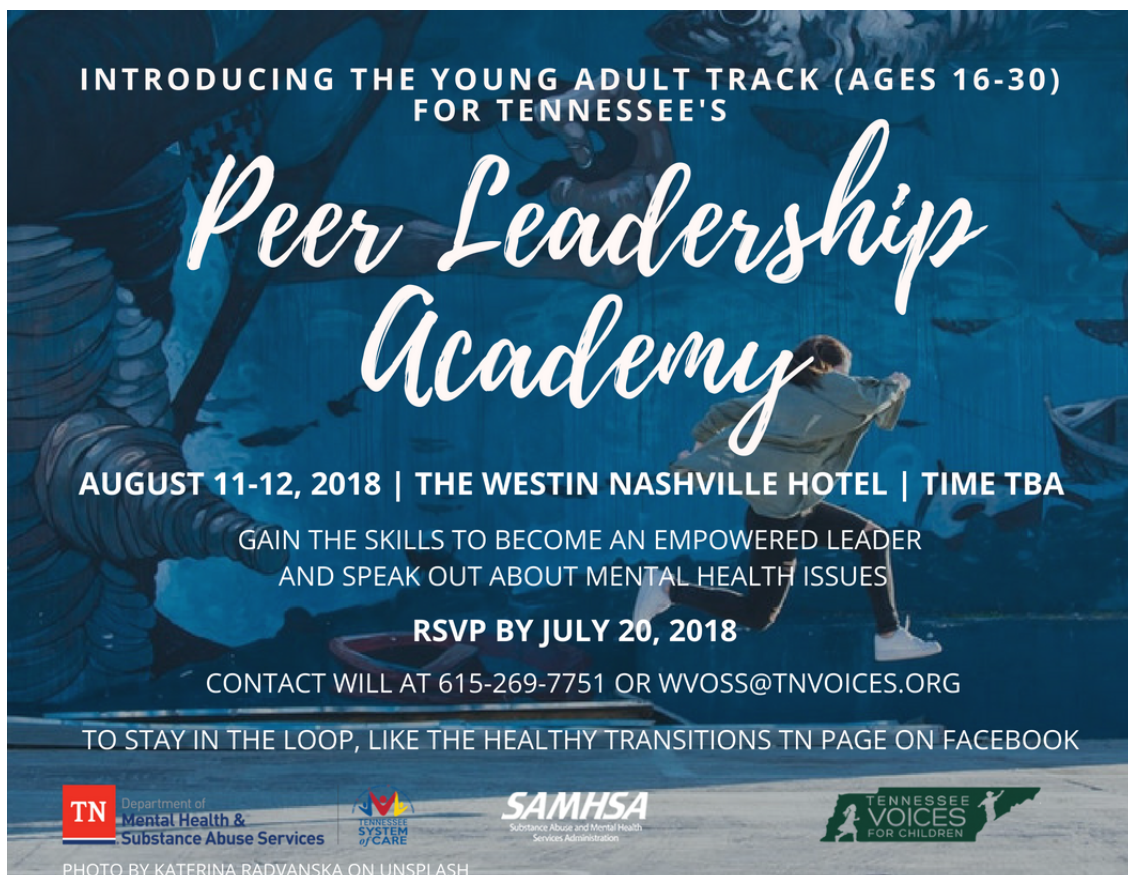


We are gearing up for the 2018 Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Conference scheduled for October 7-8 at Manchester Coffee County Conference Center. Our conference theme is: Together Toward Recovery! This annual statewide event will feature a keynote address, a variety of workshops pertinent to TN Peer Recovery Specialists, an awards ceremony, and more!

Do you know of an individual or an agency who goes above and beyond in their job(s) providing peer services? Through July 23, we are accepting nominations for the annual CPRS Conference Awards. Voting will be Aug. 1 to Sept. 1, 2018. Contact Dianne Sherrod for nomination ballots: dsherrod@tnlifeline.com

Stay tuned to recoverywithinreach.org and the [TDMHSAS facebook page](#) for registration information and conference details!

Please Share: TN youth and youth adults with lived experience are invited to our inaugural Peer Leadership Academy Aug. 11-12 in Nashville!

A poster for the Peer Leadership Academy. The background is a blue-toned photograph of a person in a light-colored jacket and dark pants, seen from behind, walking on a path. The text is overlaid in white. At the top, it says 'INTRODUCING THE YOUNG ADULT TRACK (AGES 16-30) FOR TENNESSEE'S'. Below that, the title 'Peer Leadership Academy' is written in a large, white, cursive font. Underneath the title, it says 'AUGUST 11-12, 2018 | THE WESTIN NASHVILLE HOTEL | TIME TBA'. Then, 'GAIN THE SKILLS TO BECOME AN EMPOWERED LEADER AND SPEAK OUT ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES'. Below that, 'RSVP BY JULY 20, 2018'. Then, 'CONTACT WILL AT 615-269-7751 OR WVOSS@TNVOICES.ORG'. At the bottom, 'TO STAY IN THE LOOP, LIKE THE HEALTHY TRANSITIONS TN PAGE ON FACEBOOK'. At the very bottom, there are four logos: 'TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services', 'TENNESSEE SYSTEM OF CARE', 'SAMHSA Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration', and 'TENNESSEE VOICES FOR CHILDREN'. At the bottom left, it says 'PHOTO BY KATERINA RADVANSKA ON UNSPLASH'.

RSVP: Upcoming TDMHSAS Planning &

Policy Council meetings scheduled statewide

The next TDMHSAS Planning and Policy Council meeting is Aug. 14. If you plan to attend, please RSVP via email or phone call.

Contact Amy Holland at 615-253-3785; Amy.Holland@tn.gov or Kirby Huffman at 615-253-6396; Kirby.Huffman@tn.gov.

Tuesday, August 14

10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute | Nashville

Thursday, December 13

10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute | Nashville

Upcoming Regional Planning & Policy Council meetings:

Region I

Tuesday, August 7 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. EDT | Frontier Health Corporate Offices (Gray)

Region II

Wednesday, August 8 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. EDT | Helen Ross McNabb Center (Knoxville)

Region III

Thursday, July 19 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. EDT | AIM Center (Chattanooga)

Region IV

Wednesday, August 1 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. CDT | TAADAS (Nashville)

Region V

Thursday, August 2 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. CDT | TAADAS (Nashville)

Region VII

Tuesday, July 24 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. CDT | Lowenstein House East (Memphis)

Meeting dates are subject to change. For more information on the TDMHSAS Planning & Policy Council and for a complete list of scheduled meetings, please visit our website: <https://bit.ly/2LLrUNq>

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

TENNESSEE STATEWIDE CRISIS LINE
There is hope.
855-CRISIS-1 (855-274-7471)



**Do you feel like you are
experiencing a mental health crisis?**

**Our Statewide Crisis Line is here to help individuals
struggling with a mental health emergency.**

This phone line is free and operated by caring, trained
mental health professionals, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Confidential help from anywhere in Tennessee is only a phone call away.

tn.gov/behavioral-health/crisis-services

Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Authorization No. 339517, June 2018, 1,000 copies. This public
document was promulgated at a cost of \$16 per copy.

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

[We have a new flyer for the Tennessee Statewide Crisis Line! Click to download and share!](#)

*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 distribution list, please email:

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