



### *A Message from Commissioner Williams*

Dear teammates, colleagues, and friends,

I want to start this month's newsletter with a few notes of gratitude. To each of you who have reached out to share how the historic \$18 million provider rate increase has affected your agencies, thank you. Your words are so heartfelt and touching. Your stories of how increases and incentives are enabling people to continue their passion of serving really hit my heart. To our amazing team at the department who took on the task of getting these desperately needed dollars out the door, thank you for your overtime, your dedication, and your persistence. And to the amazing women and men who work at our Regional Mental Health Institutes, thank you for what you do on a daily basis. I've had the pleasure of visiting with many of you over recent weeks, and am excited about that the state has done and will continue to do to ensure that your

work environment is the best it can be and that your skills, talents, and legendary service are rewarded.

We're all put here for a purpose, and it's an amazing thing to receive so many reminders on a daily basis of the impact we can have together.

Have a blessed day,

Marie

---

## Governor Lee Joins Executive Leadership Team Meeting



TDMHSAS was proud to welcome Governor Bill Lee and Chief Operating Officer Brandon Gibson to our Executive Leadership team meeting on August 1. Governor Lee reiterated his immense support and gratitude for the work that everyone in the public behavioral health system does on behalf of our friends, neighbors, and fellow Tennesseans. He also stated several times his personal connection to the work that we do and his excitement at seeing the impact of innovative new programs in the community. We are grateful for his leadership and support!

---

## Team TDMHSAS Represents on National Stage

*Public Behavioral Health achievements highlighted in several*

## *presentations at NASMHPD Annual Conference*



Commissioner Williams (R) whips out her Bluetooth speaker for a moment of levity, and Deputy Commissioner Yancey (L) makes a point about Tennessee's 988 preps.

Several members of Team TDMHSAS had the distinct pleasure of sharing Tennessee's successes in several areas at the recent National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) annual meeting. Much of the discussion at the meeting revolved around the rollout of 988 and workforce challenges facing the industry. Commissioner Williams presented on a panel discussing the role of data and dashboards in decisionmaking, especially in the crisis services realm. Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey presented on a panel with Becky Stoll from Centerstone on Tennessee's work around 988. Director of Children, Young Adults, and Families Keri Virgo presented on a panel sharing her experience with SAMHSA's Transformation Transfer Initiatives. And Director of Wellness and Employment Mark Liverman presented on Tennessee's track record of providing employment services using the Individual Placement and Support model of supported employment.





# Responding to Workforce Challenges

*Mental Tennessee Mental Health Institute Hosts Rapid Hiring Event*



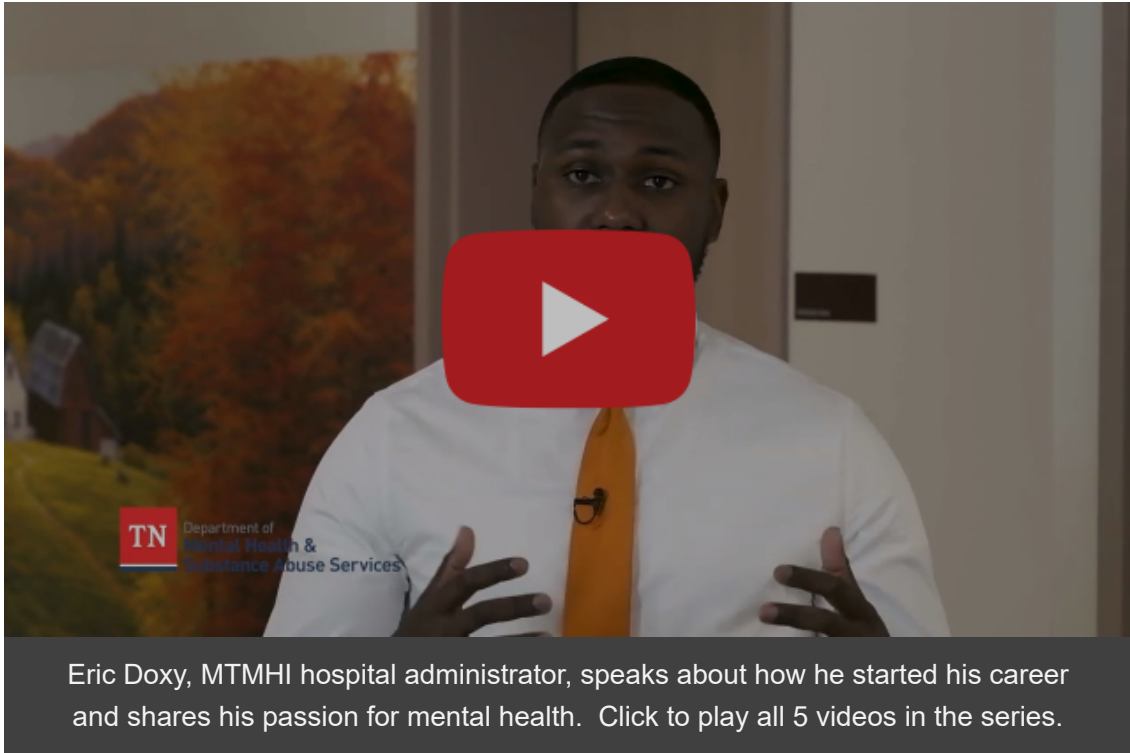
(L to R) Abraham Fernandez, Anna Baker, Janice Bunday, and Keye Blackmon

Monday, August 15th, and Tuesday, August 16th, the TDMHSAS Central Office talent management team and Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute hosted a rapid hiring event. The event was a huge success! Fifteen people were hired

in various positions, including psych techs, nurses, social workers, and environmental services.

### *MTMHI Employee Spotlight Videos*

To help promote the event and increase awareness of careers at our hospitals, we produced several employee spotlight videos. Across social media, recently promoted staff members shared what they find most fulfilling in the mental health field, why they chose MTMHI, and what keeps them returning. We look forward to producing similar employee spotlights at all of our amazing hospitals!



---

# Statewide Annual Coalition Meeting



Tennessee's Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions from across the state came together on August 16th and 17th for their annual coalition meeting. The Division of Substance Abuse Services Office of Prevention and Early Intervention Services had a jam-packed schedule of learning and sharing. In addition to the packed in-person room, more participants logged on virtually and shared in the opportunity. You can learn more about our coalitions at this link: [TN.gov/behavioral-health/coalitions](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/coalitions)

*Above: Director of Prevention and Early Intervention Services Anthony Jackson, Jr gets the day started off right. Bottom Left: A packed house joined in person at Lipscomb University's Spark Center with more joining virtually. Bottom Right: Assistant Commissioner Taryn Sloss shares updates from the department.*



# Project Rural Recovery Expands to 10 New Counties



Tennessee's Project Rural Recovery is growing. Thanks to \$6.3 million budgeted in the current fiscal year by Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly, Project Rural Recovery is expanding to ten new counties.

Pathways Behavioral Health Services will serve Crockett, Fayette, Hardeman, Haywood, and Lauderdale Counties in west Tennessee and Ridgeview Behavioral Health Services will serve Campbell, Fentress, Morgan, Scott, and Union Counties in east Tennessee. As with the current counties served by Project Rural Recovery, department leaders selected the expansion areas with an emphasis on rural, underserved, and distressed counties.

Project Rural Recovery seeks to address infrastructure barriers to access in rural communities with mobile clinics. The units offer two exam spaces, a restroom, a small waiting area, and a lift for accessibility. Providers offer integrated behavioral and physical healthcare for free or no cost to the patient. Through its first two years, Project Rural Recovery has served more than 1,600 Tennesseans.

[Read the full news release at this link.](#)

---

---



# Collegiate Recovery Academy



The Collegiate Recovery Initiative made a return visit to the campus of UT Southern in Pulaski on August 17th. Director Nathan Payne and [TSPN Regional Director Mary Anne Christian](#) were part of a UT System pilot bringing the Recovery Ally program, QPR suicide prevention training, and campus-focused resources to faculty and staff to start the semester. As always, we're grateful to the immense support from our partners at the University of Tennessee in spreading this work far and wide. You can find more about the Collegiate Recovery Initiative at this link: [TN.gov/behavioral-health/collegiate-recovery](https://tn.gov/behavioral-health/collegiate-recovery).





## New Behavioral Health Hospital Opens in Knoxville



Commissioner Williams had the pleasure of speaking and Chief of Staff and Hospital Operations Ty Thornton attended the ribboncutting for a new behavioral health hospital in Knoxville. East Tennessee Behavioral Health is a partnership between

---

# International Overdose Awareness Day Preview

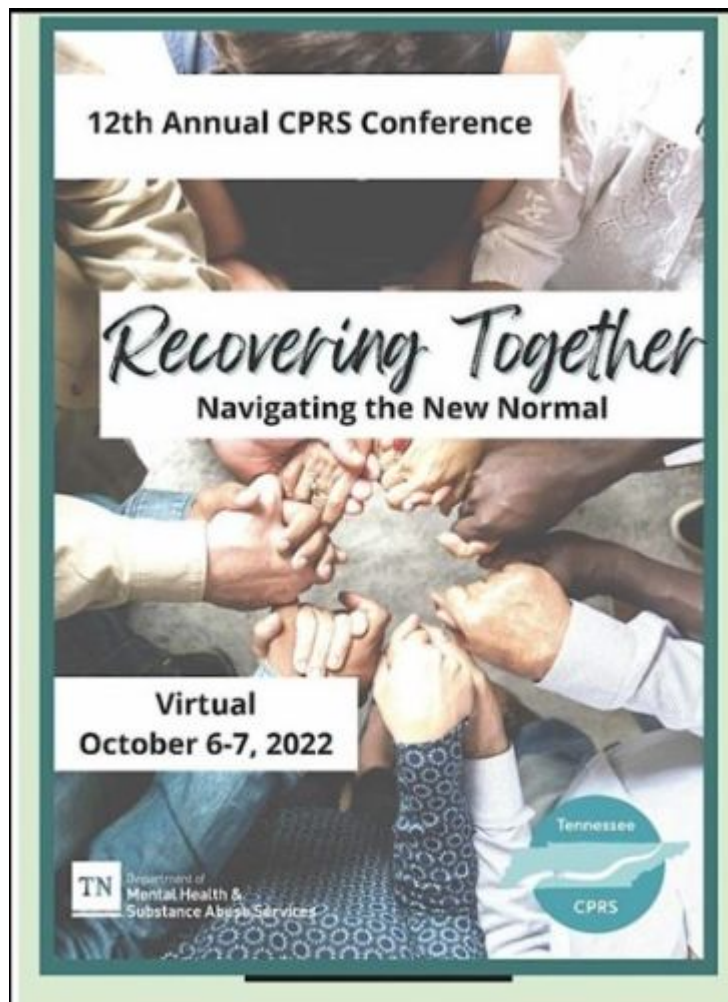
International Overdose Awareness Day is Wednesday August 31st. TDMHSAS will be partnering with the Department of Health and Tennessee Bureau Investigation to host a media event where experts and community advocates will come together to offer resources and information about overdoses in Tennessee and recovery efforts. Across the state, providers and coalitions will be hosting IOAD events. You can find an event close to you at [tntogether.com/iod](http://tntogether.com/iod)



---

# 12th Annual CPRS Conference

*Make plans to attend!*



TDMHSAS in conjunction with the statewide Consumer Advisory Board is proud to announce the upcoming **2022 CPRS Conference**. This will be our 12th anniversary and the theme is “**Recovering Together: Navigating the New Normal**”.

The conference is going to be **completely virtual** for the third time. **The awards ceremony will be Thursday evening at 5:00 pm CST, October 6, 2022. We will enjoy virtual dinner together as you B.Y.OD. (Bring Your Own Dinner) and enjoy time with others across the state with some special entertainment. The conference will start Friday morning, October 7th at 9:00 am CST and features keynote speakers from across the state. There will be plenty of workshops to choose from throughout the day on Friday with the conference ending at 4:30 pm.**

[Register at this Link](#)

---



# RIP Staff Earn Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement (IECMH-E®)

In May Hannah Dieckhaus, MS, IMH-E®, became endorsed in the category of Infant Family Specialist through the Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee (AIMHiTN), becoming the first Endorsed professional in the Department. Ms. Dieckhaus serves as RIP Lead Behavior Specialist.

In August, Melissa Binkley, MS, EMH-E®, became endorsed in the category of Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor-Policy through a partnership between AIMHiTN & The Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health. Ms. Binkley is identified as a member of the Ambassador Cohort, supporting the launch of the EMH-E® Endorsement in Tennessee. Ms. Binkley serves the department as RIP Program Director.

From the Alliance: “Endorsement provides recognition of specialized knowledge and expertise in professionals working with or on behalf of pregnant people, children, birth through six, and their families. Endorsement is meant to honor professionals who apply infant & early childhood mental health (IECMH) principles to their practice. It is granted through documentation and verification of the required specialized education, work, in-service training, leadership and reflective supervision/consultation (RSC) experiences.”





# Jessica Mullins earns TIP Model Site-Based Trainer Certification



Jessica Mullins is now a Certified TIP Model Site-Based Trainer. The Transition to Independence Process (TIP) Model is a strengths-based, youth-driven, evidence-supported practice, that was developed for working with youth/young adults with emotional and behavioral difficulties (EBD). The TIP model prepares youth and young adults with EBD for their movement into adult roles through an individualized process, engaging them in their own futures planning process, as well as providing developmentally-appropriate services and supports. The TIP model involves youth and young adults, their families, and other informal key players in a process that facilitates their movement towards greater self-sufficiency and successful achievement of their goals. As a Site-Based Trainer, she will be able to provide training to agencies in this evidence-based practice.

[Transition to Independence Process \(TIP\) Model® - Stars Training Academy](#)

---

## Shout Out!

*Thank you Mark Raymer*



We would like to recognize Mark Raymer at Moccasin Bend Mental Health Facility for his continued support of our community whenever needed. Mark has been associated with the community's emergency preparedness group in the Southeast Region of Tennessee for the past several years. The reason for recognizing Mark is due to his dedication towards his work at both Moccasin Bend and the local emergency preparedness community. He has made himself available and assisted our group with moving equipment, consulting different on emergency topics related to facilities and a leader in community emergency preparedness. We are happy to have him in our group and we greatly appreciate all he has done for us. Mark's knowledge, experience and great personality are the qualities that set Mark apart and make him such an invaluable part of our Emergency Preparedness Community.

***Thank you for your dedicated service Debbie!***



Shout out to Western Mental Health Institute RN4 Debbie Spencer! She's retiring in October after 30 years of dedicated service to her patients and teammates. She's pictured with Commissioner Williams on a visit to WMHI in early August.

If you'd like to "shout out" to a TDMHSAS colleague, please send an email to [Kearston.Winrow@tn.gov](mailto:Kearston.Winrow@tn.gov). Tell us who you'd like to recognize and why.

---

## Save-the-Dates

### *Planning and Policy Council Meetings*

The TDMHSAS Planning and Policy Council Committee meetings will resume in October.

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](mailto: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.

**DrugFree WilCo**

# DOPESICK

September 8, 2022  
Capitol Theatre | Lebanon, TN | 6:30PM

A panel discussion around the popular book and streaming series, and opioid misuse in Tennessee and across the country.

**MODERATOR, CARRIE SHARP**  
NEWSCHANNEL 5 ANCHOR

**DR. STEPHEN LOYD**  
TN Physician,  
portrayed in Dopesick

**BETH MACY**  
Journalist and  
Dopesick Author

**DAVID RAUSCH**  
Director of TN  
Bureau of  
Investigation

**TARYN SLOSS**  
TN Department of  
Mental Health and  
Substance Abuse  
Services

THIS EVENT MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR PRESENTING SPONSORS:

CEDAR RECOVERY  
 Cumberland UNIVERSITY  
 VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY  
 Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital  
VANDERBILT HEALTH

**REGISTER HERE**



# AIMHiTN

Save the Date

AIMHiTN is inviting you to join us at the kickoff for the roll-out of the new

**EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH-ENDORSEMENT!!**

We saw the excitement of stakeholders and professionals when Infant Mental Health Endorsement came to Tennessee. And we have heard the cry from those who support children 3-6 and their families!

So, mark your calendars now, Tennessee, for

**Thursday, September 22, 2022.**

Join us as we kick off an exciting new era for Tennessee's Early Childhood Workforce!

(More information coming soon!)

---

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

---

*For questions about addiction treatment/referrals ...*



---

*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



**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](mailto: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!

---



Follow us on  
**Instagram**

Join us on  
**Linked** 



Website



Facebook



Instagram



LinkedIn

---

This email was sent to << Test Email Address >>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

TDMHSAS · 500 Deaderick St · Nashville, Tn 37243 · USA

