



## *A Message from Commissioner Williams*

Dear friends and partners,

Much like the sun rising above the snowy landscape in the photo above, 2022 is dawning and with it comes new opportunities: new teammates to welcome, new grants to startup, and new chances to change lives. The new year also brings the reconvening of the Tennessee General Assembly. Governor Bill Lee is set to give his fourth State of the State Address on Monday, January 31 at 6:00 p.m. CST. You'll be able to watch on the Governor's social media outlets as well as your local PBS station. We are excited for the speech and for the release of the administration's budget proposal and look forward to the process as state lawmakers have their input before passage.

Thank you for all that you do for the people we are blessed to serve,

Marie

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# TDMHSAS Awards \$6.5 Million to Support Children's Mental Health

*Grantees developed unique proposals specific to needs in their communities*

TDMHSAS has selected a total of ten programs across the state to receive \$6.5 million in new funding to expand mental health services for children and youth. The new state funding was budgeted by Governor Bill Lee and appropriated by the Tennessee General Assembly in the TDMHSAS budget for state fiscal year 2022.

In the department's announcement of funding, grantees were instructed to collaborate with community stakeholders including local education authorities and other partners to design proposals that would have the greatest impact and address outstanding needs. The selected proposals increase school-based services and respond to the increasing need for emergency psychiatric services for children and youth.

Grantees also designed proposals focusing on early intervention services for children from birth to 8 years old. Infant and early childhood is a critical period for determining a person's lifetime mental health, and funding will allow for the expansion of early childhood mental health training, coaching and consultation, as well as capacity development and awareness building.

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

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## FY 2021 Joint Annual Report

The TDMHSAS Joint Annual Report for state fiscal year 2020-2021 has been published! The report is produced by the Office of Planning in partnership between the department and the Statewide Planning and Policy Council. The purpose of the report is to provide information to the Governor, the State Legislature and other stakeholders and partners about the department's accomplishments and challenges from the past fiscal year. [The FY 2021 Joint Annual Report can be found on the Department's website at this link.](#)

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# Commissioner Williams Named to National Criminal Justice Reform Post

*Commissioner Marie Williams will oversee the CSG Justice Center's efforts to advance safety and second chances across 50 states and all three branches of government.*

The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center welcomes Marie Williams, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and current Advisory Board vice chair, as the organization's new Advisory Board chair. In this role, Williams will leverage her extensive leadership, policy, and oversight experience to help guide the CSG Justice Center's efforts to develop research-driven strategies to increase public safety and strengthen communities. As commissioner, Williams serves under the leadership of Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, whose focus on criminal justice reform has produced meaningful changes in the state.



“It is such an honor to be able to be part of this amazing group of changemakers from across the country. My time on the CSG Justice Center Advisory Board has been enlightening and impactful, and going forward together, we are truly shaping a future for our communities, our states, and our nation that is innovative, collaborative, and restorative,” said Williams.

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

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# New IPS Supported Employment

# Pilot Project

*Memphis provider testing efficacy of IPS model for people getting out of jail*

Employment is key to successful reentry for people getting out of jail, so why not take the evidence-based practice of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment and see if it's just as successful for this population as it has been in the past? That's what we're doing with IPS provider CMI Healthcare Services in Memphis, Tennessee.

Experience and decades of studies show us that IPS helps people attain and maintain employment at higher rates than just standard supported employment services, and we can't wait to expand IPS to this new and needed population.

Watch the video below, and learn more about IPS in Tennessee [at this link on TN.gov](#).



The CMI team describes starting this pilot project with the Shelby County Jail and talks about the kinds of services (and successes) they can offer the people they serve.

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## Sharing CHI Success Stories in West Tennessee

The Creating Homes Initiative is continuing to change lives across the state. Jason Postlewait who works as the CHI 2.0 Regional Substance Use Housing Facilitator through Aspell Recovery Center hosted a lunch and learn on January 14th. The idea was to share successes and spread awareness of this program which leverages funding to create housing opportunities for people in recovery from addiction. Thanks to the Jackson/Madison County Chamber for offering their space and to State Senator Ed Jackson for attending. Find more about CHI at this link: [TN.gov/behavioral-health/chi](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/chi)



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## TDMHSAS New Hires and Promotions

We have several new hires and promotions to share this month. We're glad you're part of Team TDMHSAS!



Please welcome Jaime Harper to Team TDMHSAS as the Assistant Director of Faith Based Initiatives. As you may know, Jaime served as the Faith-Based Community Coordinator in Middle Tennessee for the last few years. Jaime will be assisting Monty Burks with all things related to the initiative including data collection and reporting, assisting with contracts, and setting up follow-up strategies for Certified Recovery

Congregations and the Collegiate Recovery Initiative. Jaime will also assist in providing support to the Lifeline and Faith-Based Community Coordinator teams.

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Please join us in welcoming Ashley Siebert as the Program Manager for the TDMHSAS Office of Housing and Homeless Services. Ashley brings substantial experience in social services delivery at both the community and government levels, including housing and homeless services. She most recently served at the TN Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, where her skills and work ethic were a critical asset to the Department's case management program.



As Program Manager, Ashley will provide direct leadership and administrative oversight of various statewide programs within the Office including Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH).

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Anna Baker is joining the TDMHSAS HR team as our Talent Management Assistant Director. Anna comes to us from the Department of Human Resources where she has most recently served as the manager of their Recruiting division. Anna is a certified facilitator and will be facilitating training for Central Office.

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Memphis Mental Health Institute has a pair of promotions to announce this month!

Please join MMHI in welcoming **Connie Sanderson, RN**, as the new Risk Manager in the Quality Department. Ms. Sanderson has more than three decades of nursing and research experience including, (but not limited to) operating room care, critical care, med surge, ICU, interventional radiology, and of course mental health. Ms. Sanderson has worked with MMHI's Nursing Department, since 2019, providing notable direct care to our patients.



**Deadrick Dandridge** has been promoted to Director of Admissions at MMHI. Deadrick started with the Admissions Department in 2017 and has also worked in MMHI's HR Department. During his time at MMHI, Deadrick has worked tirelessly to help patients receive quality care and has challenged himself to grow and develop as a leader in our hospital.

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## MBMHI Honors Employees

MBMHI handed out their annual employee awards at their holiday celebration on December 16, 2021. Congratulations to everyone who was honored!

The **Chief Executive Officer Award** was given to Duana Cooper, Genetha Rowe, and the Patient Accounts staff.



The **Leadership Award** was given to Vicky Coffelt, Tim Rice, Dr. Melisa Couey, Jeremy Wallace, and Connie Lawson.





The **Employee of the Year Award** was given to Monica Allen, Valencia Roland, James “McKay” Nunley, Cindy Chamberlin, Jason Boswell, and Sandra Mayfield



Laura Young, Chief Nursing Officer, from Central Office volunteered to help in Nursing at MBMHI on January 13, 2022, throughout the weekend, and was given a Spot Recognition Award for her service.



# Shout Out!

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.

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## Save-the-Dates

### *Planning and Policy Council Meetings*

#### **Children's Committee**

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. CST

Toll Free Number: 629-209-4396

Phone Conference ID: 298 130 453#

#### **Statewide Planning & Policy Council**

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST

Toll Free: 415-655-0001

Meeting number (access code): 2314 816 2805

#### **Region I**

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

10:00 a.m. EST

Toll-Free: 629-209-4396

Phone Conference ID: 166 518 606#

#### **Region IV**

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

11:00 a.m. CST

Toll-Free: 629-209-4396

Phone Conference ID: 139 671 612#

#### **Region V**

Thursday, February 3, 2022

9:30 a.m. CST

Toll-Free: 629-209-4396

Phone Conference ID: 316 115 952#

## **Region II**

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

11:30 a.m. EST

Toll-Free: 629-209-4396

Phone Conference ID: 958 248 338#

To listen to recordings of past meetings, and to verify the schedule and plans for future meetings, please visit the department website at these links:

[Statewide and Committee meeting schedule](#)

[Regional Committee meeting schedule](#)

*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.*

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## Resources

*Call or text for emotional support for healthcare workers, first responders, and teachers*

# COVID-19 EMOTIONAL SUPPORT LINE FOR TENNESSEE

Need to talk to someone about feelings of stress, anxiety, sadness, or depression related to work? Calltakers with the COVID-19 Emotional Support Line can help.



Tennesseans working in education, healthcare, or first responder roles can call or text:

# 888-642-7886

Calltakers are available: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. (CT), 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. (ET)

The COVID-19 Emotional Support line is a collaborative project among National Association of Social Workers-TN Chapter and the following groups:



*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 ...*

**TN**  
**REDLINE**  
**1.800.889.9789**  
**CALL OR TEXT**

**TN** Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services  
**TAADAS**  
**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, with 'TN' in black and 'REDLINE' in red. 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. 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'.

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*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!*





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