



## Spring Has Sprung!

As the legislative session wraps up each spring, it's customary for the governor to make adjustments to the budget proposal in the form of an amendment. As outlined in presentations by Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin on March 20, here are the points in the amendment that directly affect TDMHSAS:

- An additional \$1 million in recurring funds (on top of the \$8.25 million in the original proposal) to provide substance abuse treatment and recovery services as part of TN Together
- \$1 million in non-recurring funding for contracted psychiatric hospitals in East Tennessee
- \$4.5 million recurring to support juvenile justice reform. The details of this program and our department's role in carrying it out are still being worked out.
- \$300,000 recurring to support the current funding for mental health treatment services for veterans.

A total of \$30 million (\$25 million non-recurring, \$5 million recurring) to improve school safety. TDMHSAS is one of several departments that will be responsible for carrying out this

initiative, and I am proud to serve on the governor's School Safety Working Group.

Outside of our department's budget, the amendment added \$2 million in nonrecurring funds for an addiction services research program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Here are some helpful links if you'd like to read more:

[Governor's News Release](#)

[Budget Amendment Overview](#)

We are really excited about these potential new funds. We look forward to final approval of the budget and will let you know when that happens.

Thanks for all that you do.

Marie



## **Kathy Haley Receives Governor Haslam's Excellence in Service Award**

Kathy works in the Office of Consumer Affairs & Peer Recovery Services and has served as a Helpline Advocate since 1999, assisting citizens in need of mental health and addiction services. She is often the first person people talk to when calling the department for help. Often, those that call are in crisis and needing assistance; Kathy consistently shows kindness and concern to each person reaching out for help. She is highly regarded by her colleagues and shows a sincere compassion for the people she serves



every day. In fact, one of her most often used skills is empathetic listening as callers share with her their struggles with mental illness or addiction. "I try to put myself in their shoes and do whatever I can to ease their pain, get them help, or just offer validation and encouragement," said Haley.

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## NEWSROOM

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# Tennessee celebrates milestones statewide in pre-arrest diversion

*10-year vision culminates with Knoxville ribboncutting; Mental Health Cooperative, Middle TN, breaks ground; Hamblen County gears up for crisis services expansion; TDMHSAS awards alternative transportation pilot grant*

Helen Ross McNabb - Knoxville



## *Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center Opens*

About 100 people celebrated the March 16 ribboncutting of Helen Ross McNabb Center's Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center located in West Knoxville. In attendance from the department were Commissioner Marie Williams, Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey, and Justine Bass (Operations, Mental Health Services). "This project has been nearly 10 years in the making," said Jerry Vagnier, Helen Ross McNabb Center's president and CEO. "Pre-arrest diversion services are much needed in Knox County, and the community's support has been integral in making this facility possible." The center is created to be a place where people with mental illness and/or substance use disorder, who have been arrested for non-violent crime, can get treatment instead of jail time. Mayor Madeline Rogero described the center as a "game-changer for Knoxville and Knox County." Gov. Haslam and the General Assembly helped fund the project with a \$3.4 million Pre-Arrest Diversion Infrastructure Grant awarded by TDMHSAS in August 2017.

[Link to local news coverage](#)

## **Mental Health Cooperative - Nashville**



Since 2006, the Davidson County Sheriff's Office has seen a rise in the number of seriously mentally ill individuals entering the local jail system. In response, stakeholders collaborated to look at ways to improve access to care. On March 6, this work culminated at a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Crisis Treatment Center to be located at Nashville's Mental Health Cooperative, the provider agency who was awarded \$2.6 million for the new facility through the Pre-Arrest Diversion Infrastructure Grant.





*Above (left to right): TDMHSAS Deputy Commissioners Bo Turner and Matt Yancey; Commisioner Marie Williams; Pam Womack, CEO and founder of Mental Health Cooperative; Mental Health Services' Justine Bass, and Morenike Murphy, Director of Crisis Services & Suicide Prevention. Below: The first ground is broken!*



**Madison Co. Government**

# ***TDMHSAS Awards Alternative Transportation Grant to Madison Co.***

JACKSON—The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services has awarded its first-ever Alternative Transportation Pilot Project grant to Madison County Government. The grant amount of \$333,000 will address the transportation requirements of people in need of involuntary psychiatric hospitalization.

The goals of the pilot project include:

- Assessing alternative approaches to safely and humanely transport some psychiatric patients to Regional Mental Health Institutes (RMHI) for assessment/admission
- Implementing identified approaches for the transportation or escort of individuals in need of emergency involuntary psychiatric hospitalization
- Evaluating identified approaches to assist in supporting replication and sustainability throughout the state

“In working with the Tennessee Sheriffs’ Association, as well as mental health consumer and community provider groups, we want to find ways in which we can avoid adding to trauma by developing more suitable methods to transport a person than a lengthy and difficult trip, often in the back of a police cruiser,” said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams.

[Read the Full Press Release](#)

**Helen Ross McNabb Center - Hamblen Co.**



Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey and Mental Health Services' Justine Bass delivered another "big check" in March, awarding Helen Ross McNabb \$184,000 for pre-arrest diversion services in Hamblen County and Morristown. Funding will be used toward crisis intervention training for law enforcement, community-based treatment alternatives for citizens with mental illness and substance abuse issues, and a post-incarceration work program. Also pictured is president and CEO Jerry Vagnier, Helen Ross McNabb; Rick Eldridge, Hamblen County Commissioner; and Sharon Reid, Director of Hamblen County Services, Helen Ross McNabb Center.

[Read More about the Pre-Arrest Diversion Project on TN.gov](#)

## **Electronic Medical Records Launches Successfully at Western Regional Mental Health Institute**





Congratulations and job well done to all who helped successfully launch the electronic medical records system and medication dispensing machines at Western Mental Health Institute on March 20.

"It is truly a historic day for TDMHSAS. This project has been a vision of Commissioner Varney and Commissioner Williams for over 7 years and many of you have spent the past couple of years working diligently to bring the vision to life," said Richard Zhu, TDMHSAS Executive IT Director.

The contractor who helped bring the system online at WMHI remarked that the event was one of the smoothest they have ever done which showed the planning and preparation by all staff involved.

WMHI CEO Roger Pursley added: "Moving from paper to ECR along with changing how we dispense medication in a 24 hour period is a major change and accomplishment in how we do business, but so far it has been received with a lot of energy & excitement from staff. Overall, I could not be more pleased with the outcome, and I know that we will definitely share our lessons learned as ECR comes on line at our other hospitals.

Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute in Nashville will be the next TDMHSAS hospital to launch electronic medical records.

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## Tennessee represented at White House Opioid Summit

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The White House Opioid Summit March 1 gathered people from all over the country to discuss the current crisis facing our nation. Providers, local and state officials, and families who have lost loved ones to addiction were invited. Attending from Tennessee: Judge Duane Sloan; Dr. Monty Burks, director of Faith-Based Initiatives; Debbie Hillin with Buffalo Valley, Incorporated; and Cheryl Godwin, CADAS. Cabinet members Alex Azar, Ben Carson, Ben Carson, David Skulkin, and Jeff Sessions addressed the group and answered questions from the audience.

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**TN Together campaign airs first message**

## on television



The first television spot for the TN Together campaign hit the air in early March. Thanks to members of our Lifeline Peer Project and the recovery ministry at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Nashville for participating in the video.

We've also been promoting the TN Together PSA competition on social media and in web ads. If you're the parent of a teen (or you encounter teens through the work that you do), share [www.tntogethercontest.com](http://www.tntogethercontest.com). The deadline for entries is coming up soon!

Over the next year or so, the campaign will continue to evolve to cover the state through television, websites, and social media. Look for additional spots focused on prevention, recovery, and treatment. We appreciate your help in spreading this important message!

**TN Together Website**

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## **SOCAT Grows! Now serving more children in more Tennessee counties**

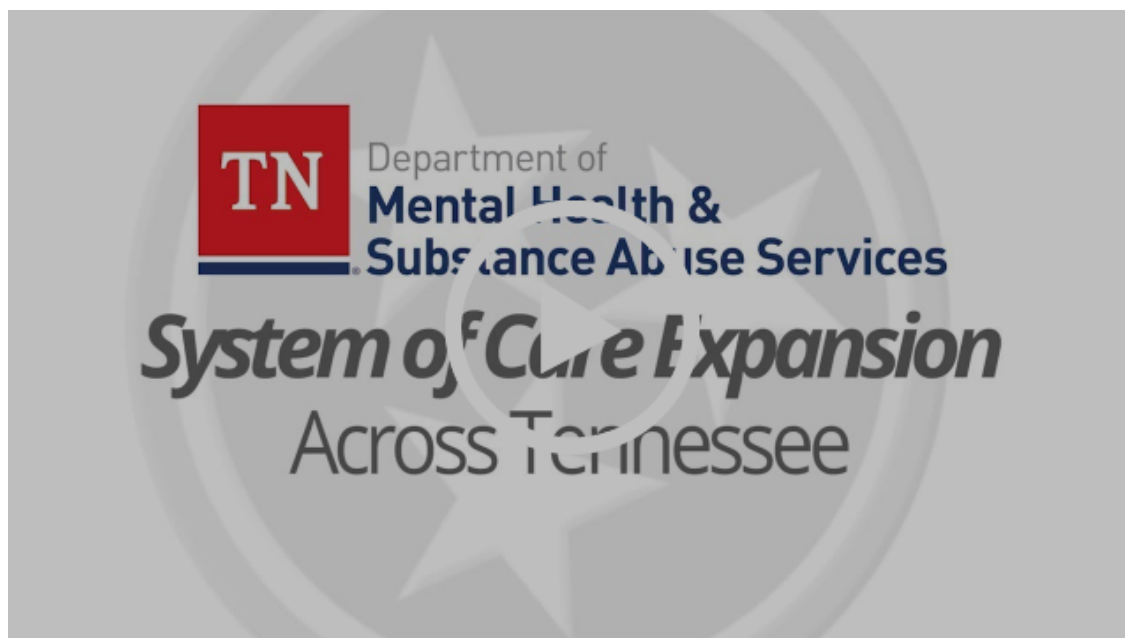
NASHVILLE—A program to support families with children, adolescents, and young adults as they address mental health concerns is expanding into seven new counties. The expansion of the System of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT) initiative builds on a program that was established in October 2016 by a 4-year, \$12 million federal grant.

“The SOCAT initiative really is how all state services should be designed: to wrap around people and make sure they receive the comprehensive supports they need,” said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams. “When you wrap services and supports around families and young people in a program like this, you have the opportunity to change the course of someone’s life, and that’s a really powerful thing. In partnership with Governor Haslam’s Children’s Cabinet and the Single Team | Single Plan initiative, we’re working hard to break down barriers between departments that often touch the same Tennesseans.”

The newest counties to receive resources through the expansion are: Clay, Cocke, Decatur, DeKalb, Johnson, Meigs, and Tipton counties. The new SOCAT sites will receive funding to hire a care coordinator and family support specialist (FSS) to work with families who have young children, youth, or young adults with mental health concerns.

“We’re already seeing the difference that SOCAT is making in our current counties, and this expansion is just going to spread this tried and true service delivery model even farther,” said SOCAT Project Director Keri Virgo. “We’re excited to expand this program to new counties where coordination of resources can often be complicated by factors that are unique to rural communities.”

[What are the goals of SOCAT? Read more here.](#)



[Learn more about System of Care Across Tennessee from Director Keri Virgo.](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### ***Dr. Terry Holmes is promoted to Chief Medical Officer***

NASHVILLE— Psychiatrist Dr. Terry Holmes has been promoted



to Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Holmes has more than 20 years of psychiatric experience with TDMHSAS. He has worked the last 15 years as Clinical Director at Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute in Chattanooga. "Dr. Holmes has been a great asset through his service and leadership at Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute, and now the whole state will benefit from his expertise," said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams. Holmes replaces Dr. Howard Burley who is moving on to new opportunities after 12 years of service to the state.

[Read the Full News Release](#)

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### ***Office of Licensure promotes LeAnn Duncan; welcomes staffer***

**LeAnn Duncan** (pictured, left) former Office of Licensure surveyor, was recently promoted to Middle Tennessee Regional Licensure Manager. LeAnn began her career at the State of Tennessee with the Department of Children's Services in 2001, serving as a Child Protective Services Investigator. She moved to the Department of Health in 2005 to serve as a Care Coordinator for the Children's Special Services program. LeAnn was hired at TDMHSAS in 2015 as a East Tennessee Licensure Surveyor. LeAnn graduated from Berea College with a bachelor's degree in Child & Family Studies and holds a master's degree in Education from Tusculum College. She was a volunteer and founding member of Branches of Monroe County, a grass-roots organization which opened a self-sustaining domestic violence shelter and transitional housing complex for displaced women and children. There, she served one term each on the Board of Director's as the President, Vice President, and Secretary. **Amanda Pettry** (pictured, right) was born and raised in Birmingham, AL. She earned a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Auburn University and received her law degree from Samford University. Relocating to Sevierville, TN, she served as a legal advocate for the non-profit SafeSpace, providing crisis response and court advocacy services to victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and stalking. We are so pleased she accepted her current position of legal assistant with TDMHSAS. Welcome Amanda and congratulations, LeAnn!

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## ***Ken Horvath named new program manager***



**Ken Horvath**, MS, LADAC II, has joined the Office of Clinical Leadership and named Program Manager of TECBOT-TN, a three-year federal grant: “Targeted Efficacy and Capacity Building in Opioid Treatment. The program will serve Davidson, Hardin, Lewis, Shelby, Sullivan, and Washington counties to help individuals, families, and communities become stronger and more successful in their recovery from prescription drug and opioid addiction and co-occurring

mental disorder, if applicable. ([TECBOT Grant News Release at this link](#)) Ken has been with TDMHSAS since 1999, having served in the divisions of Forensic Services, Special Populations, and Substance Abuse Services. He has worked in the field of mental health and substance abuse treatment and recovery for quite some time in both clinical and administrative capacities and has been in recovery from addiction (a “friend of Bill’s”) since Aug. 8, 1989. “I am grateful and honored to continue to serve fellow Tennesseans through my new role,” Ken said. “I know that medication assisted treatment is essential to health, that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people and families do recover.”

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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## Lifeline Jason Abernathy wins college scholarship contest

Jason Abernathy, Lifeline Peer Project representative from Region 1, was awarded the College Dream Scholarship from King University. A former law enforcement officer and United States Marine Corps veteran, Jason will be pursuing a degree in social work and plans to continue what he calls his purpose - to "give back" and to share what he has learned, helping others as they conquer and recover from addiction. The contest was open to anyone who has always dreamed of completing a bachelor's degree, and the winner - chosen by the public - is awarded annually and announced live on the radio. Jason works with anti-drug coalition [Insight Alliance](#).

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## ***William Burney Named TN Crisis Services Outstanding Employee***

Congratulations to Quinco Mental Health Center's **William Burney**, our next Crisis Services Outstanding Employee! Burney (pictured, left alongside Crisis Director Jeff Helton) was a well-loved crisis responder who spent 24 years working at Quinco prior to his recent retirement. "He has worked worked day and night. He is always very positive and has a vast knowledge of the position of crisis responder. He has been one of our number one trainers for new crisis staff," Helton said.

Michelle Guia credits much of what she has learned to William Burney. "He has trained me and helped me grow as a mental health crisis worker as well as a mental health professional. It never failed; whatever time I called him, he was there to help me and answer my questions. He always had encouraging words for me. He was like the 'Super Crisis Worker of Quinco,'" she said. "I have learned from him patience and forgiveness. Without him, I

wouldn't be where I am today. He encouraged me to pursue my master's degree. He truly deserves this recognition. This is a man that I know loves his job and truly cares for people and their livelihood."

Thank you for your outstanding service to the state of TN, William Burney!

To nominate someone for the TN Crisis Services Outstanding Employee Recognition Program, and for more information about the selection process, visit <http://bit.ly/2D1AtSl>.

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**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](#).*

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## **EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

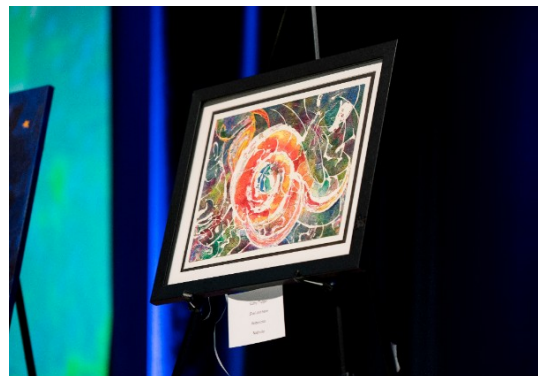
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# **Art for Awareness 2018!**

We had so much fun at the 13th annual Art for Awareness held March 7 in conjunction with Healing Arts Project, Inc. (HAPI). Thanks to everyone who participated, especially the 70-some artists who submitted artwork and shared what their art means to them! We want to thank the many volunteers who made the event possible, including our planning committee, musicians Broken Strings from Knoxville;

square dance caller Leslie Judson, aka assistant director of communications; and players from Nashville's Unscripted Improv! This year's theme: The Canvas and Beyond challenged us to think about different forms of art (like dance and improvisation) which can inspire, encourage, and heal!

*\*A special thanks to Theresa Montgomery, State of TN Photographic Services, for the wonderful event photos!*















Watch this video from the 2018 Art for Awareness Event



## ***Western Regional Mental Health Institute visits Tennessee College of Applied Technology***

Faculty at Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) identified mental health care as one of the areas they wanted to learn more about, so the school recently welcomed employees from Western Mental Health Institute to in-service training. Director of Social Services, **Melissa Norvell**, LAPSW, (pictured, far left) discussed how WMHI social workers work with patients and families. **Belinda Douglas**, Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurse, (pictured, center) spoke about statistics surrounding mental health and addiction, the need to “stamp out stigma,” and Adverse Childhood Events or ACES. The session ended with relaxation techniques to help with those who may deal with anxiety and helpful hints for those who deal with difficult people. Participants were provided resources. **Lisa Coleman**, WMHI legal assistant and hospital historian, (pictured, right) discussed WMHI’s rich history and its ties to the community. She also presented information about the hospital’s Legal Services Department and explained the admissions and hearing processes for patients.

## **TDMHSAS promotes heart health**

*Wellness Council organizes a Heart Walk with Deputy Commissioner Turner*





In conjunction with Go Red for Women Day, the TDMHSAS Wellness Council hosted a Heart Walk to encourage good heart health and to spread awareness. Deputy Commissioner Bo Turner led the walk on the first floor of the Andrew Jackson building. (Below) Wellness Council members in attendance: Jackie Talley, Kendra Wagener, Gina Morton, Michelle Smith, and Britney Bongang. (Bottom, left to right) Gwen Hamer, Clinical Leadership; and Karen Edwards, director of Research.







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## Save-the-Dates!



**DEA NATIONAL <sup>Rx</sup>  
TAKEBACK**

**Saturday, April 28**  
**10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**  
**DEATakeBack.com**



**Suicide Prevention Mini-Conference**

"Addressing ACEs to Empower Faith Communities and Others While Promoting the Wellbeing of Children"

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Stephen Chapel United Methodist Church  
Manchester, TN

This is a free conference. 3.5 contact hours available. For more information regarding registration, sponsorship, and exhibits, contact Gwen.Hamer@tn.gov. Call 615-532-6510.

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*Correction: In our last newsletter, some of our longest-serving hospital staff from Middle Tennessee and Western Mental Health Institutes were incorrectly listed or mistakenly omitted from our Service Awards recognition. We apologize for this error, congratulate, and thank these additional honorees for their service.*



## **2017 Service Awards continued . . .**

### **Western Mental Health Institute**

Amanda Buchwald, 15 years

Michael Davis, 15 years

### **Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute**

Luzviminda Rinoza, 10 years

Clifton Lockett, 15 years  
Katina McNeal, 15 years  
Archie Reaves, 15 years  
Narada Smith, 15 years  
Richard Wiley, 15 years  
Toriko Wooden, 15 years  
Shirley Woods, 15 years  
Marvin Coby, 20 years  
Teresa Davis-McKinney, 20 years  
Lizzie Harris, 20 years  
Angela Hill, 20 years  
Antionette Lloyd-Henley, 20 years  
Louise Lockett, 20 years  
Irene Morrow, 20 years  
Michael Murley, 20 years  
Terence Smith, 20 years  
Barrett Stevens, 20 years  
Kevin Turner, 20 years  
Beth Young, 20 years  
Kenneth Crisp, 25 years  
Deborah Spencer, 25 years  
Lucy Vinturella, 25 years  
Lafonda Herron, 30 years  
Jacque Jackson, 30 years  
Diane Jones Cross, 30 years  
Sandra Malone, 30 years  
Vera Lockridge, 30 years  
Carrie McGowan, 30 years  
James McGowan, 30 years  
Beryl Perry, 30 years  
Jerry Lawson, 35 years  
Curtistine Gatlin, 40 years  
Denise Littlejohn, 40 years  
Shirley McGowan, 40 years  
Margie Pirtle, 40 years  
Dorothy Prather, 40 years  
Nancy Rogers, 40 years  
Joan Young, 40 years

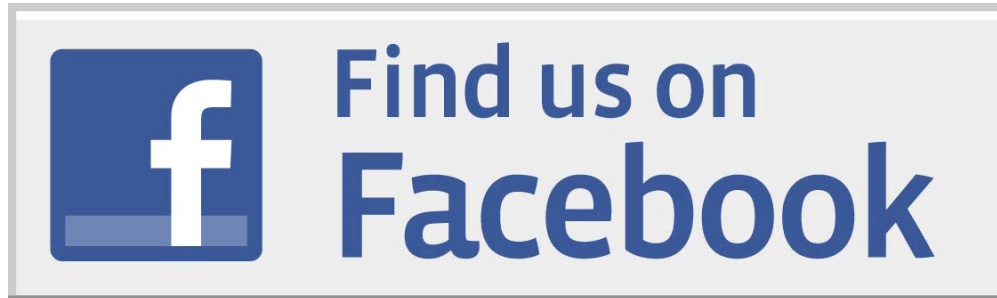
Jolly Rose Rondubio, 10 years  
Brad Rumbaugh, 10 years  
Tamarin Salazar, 10 years  
Theodore Salyers, 10 years  
Janice Smallwood, 10 years  
Tammy Thomas, 10 years  
Sherl Tyler, 10 years  
Van Wilson, 10 years  
Phyllis Allison, 15 years  
Jefferey Cobble, 15 years  
Kendra Farliss, 15 years  
Winnie Gill, 15 years  
James Hockett, 15 years  
Joseph Idahosa, 15 years  
Wesley Johnson, 15 years  
George Laney, 15 years  
Shannon Mayes, 15 years  
Ginalon Raspberry, 15 years  
Rashaad Stewart, 15 years  
Yvonne Stewart, 15 years  
Alma Edwards, 20 years  
Bernice Horton, 20 years  
Donna Lynch, 20 years  
Loretta Onaghinor, 20 years  
David Kelsoe, 25 years  
Stephen Stanley, 35 years  
Cynthia White, 40 years  
Barbara Nightingale, 45 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](mailto:OC.TDMHSAS@tn.gov).

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