



A Message from Commissioner Williams

What does gratitude mean to you? For me, it means realizing the role and influence others have on my life and work and showing them as often as possible how much I value who they are and what they contribute. For each and every one of you who receive and read this newsletter, we are truly grateful for your work in the field of public behavioral health. We have such an amazing system of care across our state, and it's a testament to your passion, persistence, and purpose.


Another reason we have such a comprehensive system of care is the support of Governor Bill Lee. We gratefully presented our budget proposal for state fiscal year 24 to Governor Lee and his team earlier this month. In all, **we asked for more than \$58 million in increases** representing continued support for our amazing community providers, expanded residential substance use treatment options, and more. Make sure you click on the links below to get

more details on our proposal. We look forward to working with the administration through the budget process, and we're excited to see Governor Lee's proposal when it's released early next year.

Have a blessed day,

Marie

TDMHSAS Presents FY24 Budget Proposal to Governor Lee



TN Department of
Mental Health &
Substance Abuse Services

FY24 Budget Proposal
Total Cost Increase
Request: \$58,140,300

- Provider Rate Increase: \$18M
- Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative: \$10M
- Substance Use Residential Treatment Bed Infrastructure \$14.5M
- Residential Re-Entry Housing: \$13M
- Licensure Staffing: \$497,900
- Contract and Legal Staff: \$341,500
- Juvenile Justice Diversion: \$1.3M
- Major Maintenance: \$450,000

You can watch our budget presentation and download our presentation slides at the following links.

[TDMHSAS FY24 Budget Presentation Video](#)

[TDMHSAS FY24 Budget Proposal Slides](#)

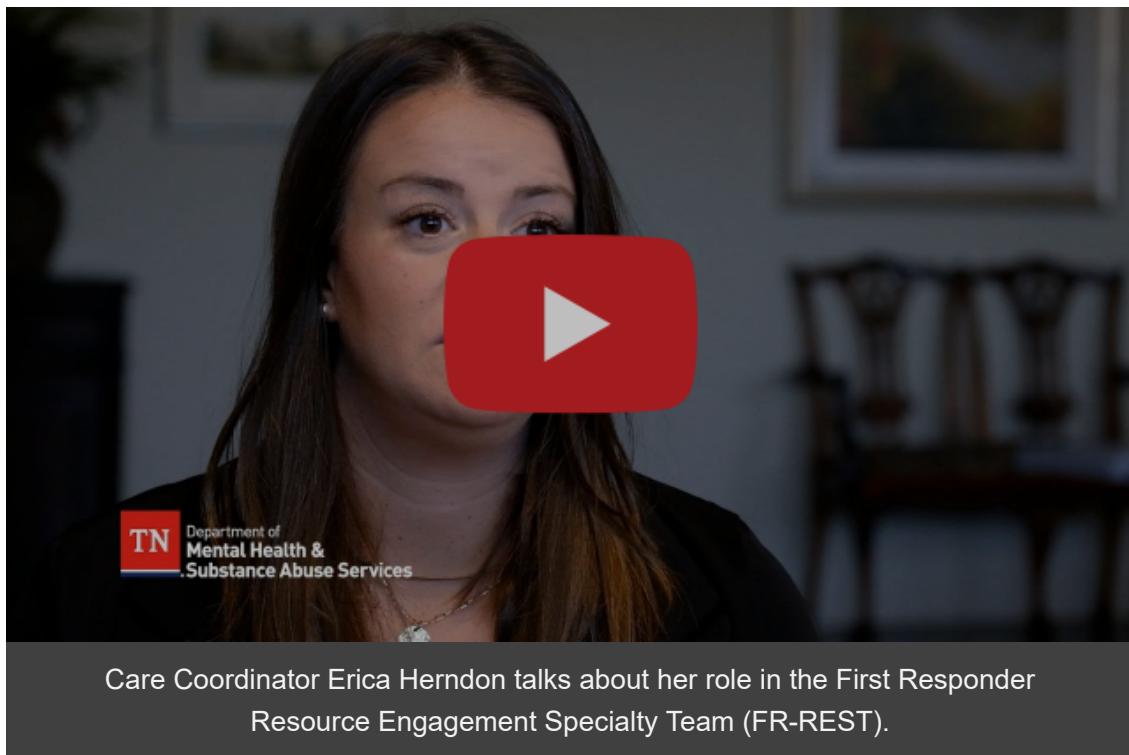
TDMHSAS Expands Proven Overdose Reversal and Substance

Use Treatment Program

TDMHSAS is excited to expand a proven program for reversing drug overdoses and connecting patients to addiction treatment to more parts of the state. The U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance is providing a \$6,000,000, 3-year grant to expand the First Responder Resource Engagement Specialty Team (FR-REST) program.

FR-REST takes [Tennessee's extensive and successful history of naloxone training and distribution](#) and targets first responders and law enforcement as the audience. FR-REST adds additional resources through care coordination and peer support provided by a person in recovery from substance use disorder.

[Read more about the expansion in this news release](#) or watch our video profile of the FR-REST pilot in southern middle Tennessee below.



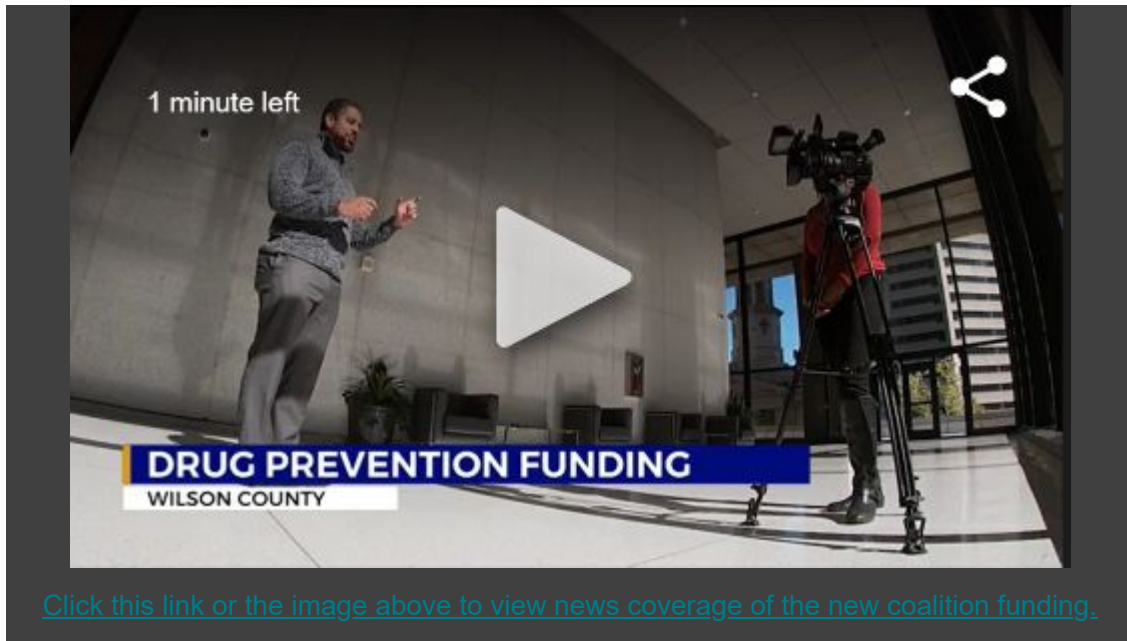
TDMHSAS Extends Grant Funding to New Substance Use

Prevention Coalitions

TDMHSAS is expanding its substance use prevention services with funding for three additional organizations. With new funding extended to Substance Use Prevention Coalitions in Wilson, Cannon, and Greene Counties, TDMHSAS funds 46 coalitions across the state.

Substance Use Prevention Coalitions work to reduce dependence on harmful and potentially lethal substances such as prescription drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. Coalitions are visible in their communities working with schools, local leaders, and business partners to stop addiction before it starts. Coalitions also support innovative and proactive strategies to reduce addiction and support recovery by working with first responders and law enforcement, training individuals on overdose and distributing naloxone, and communicating the dangers of substance use.

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



[Click this link or the image above to view news coverage of the new coalition funding.](#)

October Take Back Day Recap



Fall National Prescription Drug Take Back Day was held Saturday October 28th. Coalitions and agencies across the state participated with law enforcement setting up outside of retail grocery stores, community centers, and pharmacies. The Drug Enforcement Administration released the results::

Collection Sites: 116

Total Weight Collected: 7,424 Pounds

Total Weight All-Time: 343,533

Congrats to Ellyn Wilbur on Retirement!



Congratulations to TAMHO's Elyn Wilbur on her well-deserved retirement! Commissioner Williams, Deputy Commissioner Yancey, and additional department staff were delighted to attend a reception honoring Elyn's amazing legacy of influence on the public behavioral health system. They presented her with a Certificate of Recognition from Governor Bill Lee.

We look forward to continuing our great relationship with TAMHO's leadership and membership including new Executive Director Alysia Smith Knight and new Director of Policy and Advocacy Chloe Ligon. TAMHO's annual conference is coming up in less than a month. [Click this link or the image below for details.](#)

A promotional banner for the 2022 TAMHO Annual Conference. The left side features a blue background with a tree on a rock and the text: "The Future of Behavioral Health in Tennessee: Enhancing System Resilience", "2022 TAMHO Annual Conference", "DECEMBER 8-9, 2022", "Sonnata Hotel Nashville Airport", and "Both in Person and Virtual Attendance Options". The TAMHO logo is in the bottom left. The right side features a portrait of Quint Studer with the text: "Quint Studer", "Founder, Healthcare Plus Solutions Group, Pensacola, Florida".

Commissioner Williams speaks at annual ThanksGIVING Breakfast



Commissioner Williams was honored to speak at the annual ThanksGIVING Breakfast benefitting Welcome Home Ministries on November 11. Welcome Home is a provider through the Addiction Recovery Program offering housing and recovery services to men after they get out of prison. Welcome Home has also used a grant through the Creating Homes Initiative to expand their housing opportunities. Congratulations to Daryl Murray, Kyle Duvall, and the whole team on a great event, and thank you for the work you do to change lives every day.



TDMHSAS Celebrates Employees

Monday November 14th TDMHSAS central office employees came together for a fall picnic. Commissioner Williams recognized veterans, service awards, and all employees for their continued dedication to serving all Tennesseans.





Western Mental Health Institute Celebrates Employee Appreciation Week



WMHI recently celebrated Employee Appreciation Week to thank employees for all they do daily. The hospital's Employee Engagement Committee planned many events during the week, and as the saying goes, "a good time was had by all!" They had photo booth with daily theme contests, a breast cancer awareness 5k, pumpkin competition, and cookout!

Winners of the Pumpkin Carving/Decorating Contest were:

- 1st Place – Sherry Dunavant with her "Pumpkin-in-a-Pumpkin."*
- 2nd Place – Brian Butler with "Old School Western Pumpkin"*
- 3rd Place – Alina Haro with "Day of the Dead pumpkin"*

The winner of the Chili Cookoff was Curtis Neal, and the winner of the Cornbread Cookoff was Chad Cranford.

WMHI Leadership would like to extend a big THANK YOU to the members of

the Employee Engagement Committee for their hard work in making all these events so successful.



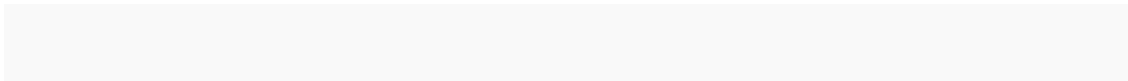
Welcome to Team TDMHSAS

Angela Jackson, a lifelong resident of Nashville, has joined TDMHSAS as the Assistant Director of the Department's Office of Legislation and Rules. Angela will serve as a legislative and rulemaking liaison to the governor's office, all state departments and entities, the Tennessee General Assembly, lobbyists, advocates, etc. for TDMHSAS. Angela has one daughter, Gianna, and is passionate



about her two rescue dogs (Bluebell and Bouncer), weightlifting, and the Vanderbilt Commodores.

Please welcome Paul Highfill to the TDMHSAS Office of Crisis Services, Suicide Prevention, and Disaster Management! Paul joined the team in September and serves as the Assistant Director of Disaster Management and Emergency Services. He will provide direct fiscal and operational oversight for all federal disaster programs, including both short and longer term services. In addition, he will provide clinical support for crisis providers and community partners. Paul and his wife have two children (ages 6 and 9), and they enjoy spending time at the beach, being on the lake, and traveling.



Shout Out!

Congrats to all the service awards recipients this year. Thank you for all you do!



5 YEARS



Yolanda Winters

Tasha Hamer

Joyce Chatman

Perez Jones

Henry Whitmore

Michael Tigner

Cynthia McQueen

Ku Yee Fu Lor

Lynette Pirtle

Nichole Brown

Keith Butler

Dawn Thigpen

John Giles

Mae Polk

Montravious Peeler

Sue Morgan

Ashley Williams

Shavon Robinson

Jan Amodia

Rachel Appleby

Marsha Bailey

Antionette Banks

Christopher Barton

Mae Boston

April Brewer

Allison Cannon

Jennifer Cannon

Curtis Chapman

Stephanie Dale

Timothy Davis

Lynnette Davis

Andrew Desrosiers

Dennis Farmer

Beverly Grooms

Angela Hicks

Carla Hodnett

Maria Hukkender

Robert Johannes

Patrice Johnson



5 YEARS



Tyson Keller
April Kelly
Kristina Kernea
Lee Kernea
Mishae Lindsey
Gwyn Little
Kelli Little
Velma Mead
Cruz Mitchell
Lesley Moore
Anthony Morgan
Cory Nichols
Yvette Petty

Emelito Pinga
Madeleine Ramirez
Raquel Rivero
Crystal Sims
Latashia Sledge
Julia Smith
Shabeetha Stargell
Shaland Thomas
Sean Tucker
Rebecca Vandergriff
Scott Wilhoite
Demosthenes Williams

Elizabeth Woodard
Edwin Alston
David Amoah
Romany Ayyoub
Michel Azizte
Wilson Barnett
Legesse Biru
Samuel Covarrubias
Ebonee Davis
Eric Doxy
Catherine Dublin
LaQuita Foster



5 YEARS



Tesfaye Gibenet

Eyelle Louis

Audrey Nana

Rosa Newton

Emily Wright

Dedrick Palmer

Erica Puryear

Kystal Rogers

Diana Spencer

Joselito Teves

Jake Timian

Belisza Veatch

Christina Douglas

Sheba Green

Amy Holland

Cherilyn Jones

Richard Osei

Kwame

Barbara Gilbert

Nancy Moore

Christina Teaway

William Ocaya

Kristen Connell

Tamela Scales

Kirby Fye



10 YEARS



Deborah Beavert

Zona Brown

John Kaiser

Antonio Mays

Alexandra Townsend

Candice Tucker

Allie Vincelli

Wanda Wallace

Burt Davis

Lori Kennedy

Martin Mitchell

Laura Young

Max McDonald

Randy Moore

Stacey Riffle

Kelley Holloway

Jeremy Bouge

Smith Mahometano

Krysten Velloff

Dwan Grey

Wesley Geminn

Alex King

Katie Lee

Patricia Debortoli

Shawanni Jones

Eunica Bush

Kenneth Calvert

Kelly Giambalvo

Franklin Hedrick

Randa Michel

Amy Ogle

Obofoni Osifoh

Taura Sherrell

Tamara Stephens



15 YEARS



Anastasia Chuvala

Kamesha Good

Allison Hughes

Rosetta Igou

Johnathan Johnson

Zackary Lacourse

Gary Quinn

Syed Raza

Levander Roberson

Regina Sawyer

Viola Willison

Jessica Russell

Bradwick Lax

Sharon Franklin

Jacanto Bills

Amy Borseth

David Linens

Jeffery Feix

Rachel Jones

Howard Burley

Tamarin Allen

Angela Boyce

Carol Dalglish

Theodore Salyers

Jeffery Elliott

Archana Halder

Joyce Kovacs

Hughes N'sumbu

Joseph Rhodes

Karen Richardson

Tammy Thomas

Luzviminda Rinoza

Jolly Rondubio

Brad Rumbaugh

Osamwonyi

Onaghinor



20 YEARS



Katina McNeal

Joshua Carter

Toriko Wooden

Shirley Woods

Michael Davis

Amanda Buchwald

Narada Smith

Clifton Lockett

Archie Reaves

Ronald Bianchi

Jeffery Flanagan

Glenda Johnson

Jeremiah Meier

Marie Williams

Olga Woods

Cobble Jeffery

Kendra Farliss

James Hockett

Catherine Ibezim

Joespha Idahosa

Wesley Johnson

Marvin Jones

George Laney

Rashaad Stewert

Ginalon Rasberry

Horace Pulse Jr.

Kristosser Jernighan



25 YEARS



Marvin Coby
Barrett Stevens
Terence Smith

Lockett Louise
Taryn Sloss
Pamela Curtis

Loretta Onaghinor
John Brown
Antionette Lloyd-Henley

30 YEARS

Angela Elsberry

Sidney Miller

Jimmy West

35 YEARS

Jacque Jackson

Carrie McGowan

James McGowan

Mary Bianchi

Sylvia Harris



40 YEARS



**Debra Burnette
Weaver**

Ira Lacy

45 YEARS

Denise Littlejohn

Dorothy Prather

**Shirley
McGowan**

**Linda
McCorkle**

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

Save-the-Dates

Planning and Policy Council Meetings

Statewide Planning and Policy Council

Tuesday, December 13, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. CST
Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute
Conference Center
221 Stewarts Ferry Pike
Nashville, TN 37214

Regional Council meetings are scheduled to resume in January 2023

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 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.



Resources

In the event of a mental health emergency ...

988 24/7 Crisis & Support



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



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

OUR MISSION: CREATING
COLLABORATIVE PATHWAYS
 TO RESILIENCY, RECOVERY & INDEPENDENCE
 FOR TENNESSEANS LIVING
 WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND
 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

OUR VISION:



AS A DEPARTMENT, WE VALUE:

<p>CUSTOMER FOCUSED: <i>An unwavering commitment to keep patients and those who serve them at the forefront of every decision.</i></p>	<p>COMPASSIONATE AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP: <i>The commitment to make effective decisions and inspire others through active listening and empathy.</i></p>
<p>INTEGRITY: <i>Honesty and truth in all we do.</i></p>	<p>SOLUTIONS AND OUTCOMES-ORIENTED: <i>The commitment to positive outcomes and meaningful changes in response to the critical needs of the Tennesseans we serve.</i></p>
<p>INSPIRED PURPOSE: <i>The call to action in service of a cause greater than one's self.</i></p>	<p>PARTNERSHIP: <i>Beyond teamwork, collaboration based on mutual success to the benefit of the Tennesseans we are blessed to serve.</i></p>
<p>EXCELLENCE: <i>The highest standards for services, efficiency, and conduct.</i></p>	

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.

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