



Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

It is with much gratitude and great joy that we write to you to share news of the approved budget for TDMHSAS for the upcoming state fiscal year. In a year when economic forecasts encouraged us to prepare for little to no increase in our budget, Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly have come through with tens of millions of more dollars for public behavioral health services. As passed earlier this month by the Tennessee House and Senate, the FY25 budget for TDMHSAS contains increases of more than \$37 million which includes all of Governor Lee's items which totaled more than \$32 million. You can find a detailed description of each item in the grid below.

We are overjoyed with the budget for our department for the upcoming fiscal year, and we know that these funds which go to the services you provide truly are life-changing and life-saving for the Tennesseans we are blessed to serve.

Have a blessed day,

Marie

## FY25 Preliminary Approved Cost Increases

Program Name	Program Description	Amount
School-Based Behavioral Health Liaison Expansion	To provide recurring funding to add 86 contracted school-based behavioral health liaisons across the state.	\$6,000,000
K-12 Mental Health Trust Fund	To provide funding from the K-12 Mental Health Trust Fund to add 28 contracted school-based behavioral health liaisons and to enhance behavioral health treatment in schools through grants to localities. Of this cost, \$2,000,000 is recurring for liaisons, and \$4,000,000 is non-recurring for grants	\$6,000,000
Substance Use Disorder Treatment	To provide non-recurring funding for payments to substance use disorder providers to increase capacity and access to a continuum of treatment and recovery services.	\$2,000,000 NR
Community Mental Health Center Workforce Development	To provide non-recurring funding for the support of licensed behavioral health professionals supervising individuals seeking clinical licensure in a behavioral health profession.	\$1,000,000 NR
Children and Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) Expansion	To provide non-recurring funding for year two of CSU start-up funding to serve children who are experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis and need immediate access to diagnostic assessments, crisis intervention, treatment, and medication management. (Year two of two)	\$5,000,000 NR
Provider Rate Increase	To provide a pool of recurring funding for provider rate increases in the mental health and substance abuse programs within the department.	\$6,394,300
Addiction Recovery Program	To provide non-recurring funding to expand the Addiction Recovery Program, which includes services such as transitional housing, relapse prevention skills, and transportation. (Year one of four)	\$2,107,600 NR
Tennessee Sports Gambling Fund	To provide non-recurring funding from the fund for grants to develop and establish treatment programs and resources for gambling addiction and compulsive gambling, pursuant to TCA 4-51-319.	\$4,107,000 NR
Misdemeanor Forensic Screenings	Funding for misdemeanor forensic screenings per SB 2028/HB 1643	\$3,313,600
Inpatient Hospitalization of Incompetent Defendants	Funding for mandatory hospitalization of criminal defendants evaluated to be incompetent to stand trial per SB 1769/HB 1640	\$1,182,925
Directed Appropriations	Directed appropriations to 2 community providers	\$750,000
<b>Total Community Funding</b>		<b>\$37,555,425</b>

[Click this link or the image above to view a .PDF version of the budget increases.](#)

# Volunteer Opens Murfreesboro Crisis Stabilization Unit



Congratulations to the team at Volunteer Behavioral Health Care Services on opening their new Crisis Stabilization Unit and Crisis Walk-In Center in Murfreesboro. The location in Rutherford County brings Tennessee's total to nine with three more opening soon. This new CSU is one of four funded by Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The other expansion CSUs are located in Clarksville, Dyersburg, and Paris. [You can see more photos from the ribboncutting event at this link on Facebook.](#)

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## Improving Crisis Services in Rural Areas



The TDMHSAS Director and Assistant Director of Crisis Services recently attended a multi-day event with leaders from Madison County aimed at streamlining crisis services. The Madison County/TDMHSAS team was one of six to attend SAMHSA's Behavioral Health Crisis System Mapping Policy Academy with representatives from adult and children's crisis providers, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and community behavioral health. Throughout the event, the teams representing rural, remote, or tribal communities developed action plans to increase access to crisis care and strengthen the local crisis continuums in their communities. *Pictured above (L to R): Stephen Taylor (Clinical Manager, Pathways), Adrian Pillow (Madison County Sheriff's Office), Megan Barber (West Tennessee Healthcare Coordinator, Young Adult Homeless Services), Jennifer Armstrong (TDMHSAS Director of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention), Raquel Shutze (Director of Crisis Services, Youth Villages), Andy Lawrence (TDMHSAS Assistant Director of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention), Eric Echtenkamp (West Tennessee Healthcare EMS Operations Manager), Kim Parker (Director of Crisis and Family Services, Pathways), Tommy Ferguson (Jackson Police Department) Also attending but not in the picture: Pamela Bouchard (Madison County Juvenile Court Services).*

# National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day this Saturday

<b>THU 18</b>	<b>IMPORTANT</b> <b>FRI 19</b> Make plan to safely dispose of prescription drugs	<b>SAT 20</b> 
<b>THU 25</b>	<b>FRI 26</b> 	<b>EVENT</b> <b>SAT 27</b> <b>TAKE BACK DAY</b>

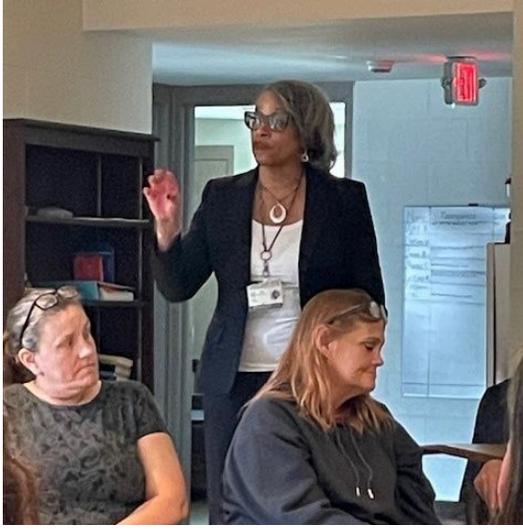
**TN** Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

This Saturday, April 27 is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. In Tennessee, coalitions funded by TDMHSAS have organized more than 100 events to collect expired or unneeded prescription medications. Take Back Day is organized nationally by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as a safe and convenient way for anyone to securely dispose of potentially addictive or harmful medications. For coalitions, the event is also an opportunity to create community connections, increase visibility, and share prevention messaging and resources. Find a Take Back Day event near you at this link: [tntogether.com/takebackday](https://tntogether.com/takebackday).

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## Women's Residential Recovery Court Visit





Several members of the TDMHSAS leadership team were welcomed to the Ellen L. Abbott Women's Residential Recovery Court on April 12. The ladies in the program, court staff, and Judge Angelita Blackshear Dalton led a tour and facilitated a great discussion about what's working well and lessons learned so far. Department leaders heard from the women as they enthusiastically shared what recovery means to them and how the program has changed their lives. Since opening in 2021, the WRRC has graduated 16 participants and currently has 24 participants enrolled. The visit to the program in Nashville was especially meaningful as the court staff left an open place setting and a Diet Dr. Pepper for Judge Seth Norman. The recovery court pioneer passed away last September. Judge Norman was instrumental in bringing the recovery court model to Tennessee and founded the first residential recovery court.

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## CHI 2.0 Ribboncutting in Jackson



Congratulations to Care Center of Jackson for cutting the ribbon on their new housing option for women in recovery from substance use disorder earlier this month! Care Center received more than \$350,000 in funding through the Creating Homes Initiative 2.0. The home will provide permanent supportive housing for up to 12 women and will include services for mothers and children to help keep families together. Learn more about CHI's 2+ decades of success in creating safe, quality, affordable housing just like this: [TN.gov/behavioral-health/chi](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/chi) Pictured below (L to R): Care Center of Jackson Executive Director Nathan Young, TDMHSAS Director of Housing and Homeless Services Neru Gobin, CHI Regional Substance Use Housing Facilitator Jason Postlethwait



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## TDMHSAS Celebrates Collegiate Recovery Week

The department's [Collegiate Recovery Initiative](#) and Recovery Allies on campuses all across the state celebrated Collegiate Recovery Week April 15-19. The week recognizes the benefits of collegiate recovery programs and principles and how they can help re-define the college experience for students who need support. Since 2021, the TDMHSAS Collegiate Recovery Initiative under the leadership of Director Nathan Payne has worked with more than 30 universities and colleges, public and private and trained more than 2,000 recovery allies. The CRI's latest program is a [Certified Recovery-Friendly Campus designation](#) for organizations that commit to the program's criteria and goals. So far, four institutions of higher education have achieved the certification: Motlow State Community College, University of Tennessee

Knoxville, UT Martin, and Vanderbilt University. [Read Governor Lee's proclamation for Collegiate Recovery Week at this link.](#)



Motlow State Community College President Dr. Michael Torrence was an early proponent of collegiate recovery in Tennessee, and Motlow State was one of the first institutions to earn the Certified Recovery Friendly Campus designation from TDMHSAS. In this video, Dr. Torrence describes the process, the benefits, and the future of collegiate recovery at Motlow State.

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## Connecting the Dots Event Focuses on Student Mental Health



Commissioner Williams was grateful to participate in a panel discussion on the state's efforts in supporting and improving K-12 student mental health on April 3. It was part of the "Connecting the Dots" Symposium organized by SCORE and NashvilleHealth. Additional panelists included Sen. Raumes Akbari, ETSU President Dr. Brian Noland, and Bledsoe County Director of Schools Selina Sparkman. You can watch recordings [from the event on YouTube at this link](#). Assistant Director for Children and Youth Mental Health Services Beth Goodner and members from the division also participated in the symposium and shared news of the services the department offers across the state.

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## Gov. Bill Lee signs the Tennessee Disability and Aging Act

On Thursday, April 11h, 2024 Tennessee Governor Bill Lee signed the Tennessee Disability and Aging Act which merges Tennessee's Commission on Aging and Disability (TCAD) and Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD), effectively creating the new **Department of Disability and Aging (DDA)**. The bill received unanimous, bipartisan legislative support and was backed by numerous stakeholders, including the **TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services**, represented as a member of the Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability by Alicia Robeson, Assistant Director in the Office of Behavioral Health Safety Net & Older Adult Services.

TCAD is Tennessee's federally designated "state unit on aging," currently

overseeing Older Americans Act programs and providing leadership relative to aging issues throughout state government. Tennessee is one of two states that did not previously house its “state unit on aging” within a cabinet-level agency. Elevating TCAD to a department will enhance its ability to lead strategic planning and coordination across state government relative to aging issues.

The law takes effect with the start of the new state fiscal year on July 1, 2024.

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## Diversity Marketplace Conference



Team TDMHSAS was well represented at a recent Marketplace Conference held by the Governor’s Office of Diversity Business Enterprise (Go-DBE). The annual conference allows state agencies to meet diverse and small business owners who want to do business with state as well as network with other state agencies’ procurement representatives. [Learn more about Go-DBE at this link.](#)

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# Behind the Leaders



Wednesday April 3rd, TDMHSAS Administrative Assistants Emma Culp, Haley Austin, Sarah Hughson, Diann Cox, and Sabrina Fisher attended the 'Leaders Behind the Leaders' Tennessee Administrative Professionals Conference. Along with their counterparts, they engaged in a full day of networking and skill setting. TDMHSAS is thankful for all the hard work they do to keep our department running smoothly.

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## Regional Intervention Program Events



The Regional Intervention Program (RIP) is holding a spring family festival on Saturday, May 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will feature resources, tours, snacks, food trucks, games, and door prizes! The festival is being held at the RIP "Mothership" [location on 5020 Darlington Dr, Nashville, TN 37211](#).

The RIP Nashville team has been busy with community outreach. They recently hosted a table at the annual Crieve Hall Women's League Spring Festival (pictured below).



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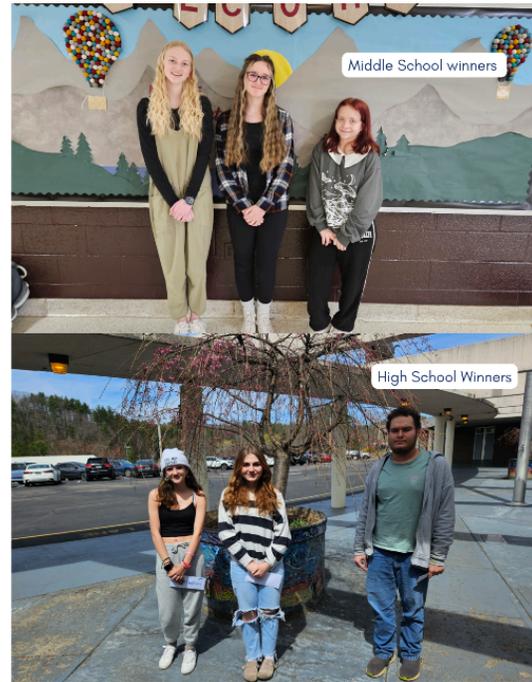
# Coalitions in the Community

*Prevention Alliance of Tennessee (PAT) Day on the Hill*



Prevention Alliance of Tennessee (PAT) Day on the Hill in Nashville was an enormous success! Over 200 coalition members and exceptional student leaders attended and participated in the youth mock session held in the House Chamber where they introduced, debated, and voted on legislation ranging from vaping products, Delta 8 packaging, Kratom and cannabis. Check out the photo gallery of the students in action <https://www.tncoalitions.org/>

# Action Coalition of Johnson County holds contest for Tobacco Quit Week



Action Coalition of Johnson County held a poster contest for Tobacco Quit Week in their local elementary and middle schools. For the high school, they held a Billboard contest and Danielle Duggar was the overall winner. Her billboard design will be displayed for the whole county to see.

## Shout Out!

*Employee Engagement at Western Mental Health Institute*



Employee engagement is important and WMHI held their second annual March Madness Bracket Contest. Lead Psych Tech, Archie Reaves won and received a prize.

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, May 8, 2024

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

Andrew Jackson Building

Conference Room 5.1 South, 5th Floor

500 Deaderick Street

Nashville, TN 37243

#### **Region IV**

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. CST

TAADAS

1321 Murfreesboro Pike, Suite 130

Nashville, TN 37217

### **Region V**

Thursday, May 2, 2024

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CST

Volunteer Behavioral Health

1504 Williams Drive

Murfreesboro, TN 37129

### **Region I**

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST

Frontier Health Corporate Offices

1167 Spratlin Park Drive

Gray, TN 37615

### **Region II**

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. EST

Helen Ross McNabb Center

Training Room

201 West Springdale Avenue

Knoxville, TN 37917

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.

***Mental Health America's Annual Older Adult Conference 2024***



**6 FREE CEs**

**MHA**  
Mental Health America  
of the MidSouth

# SILVER LININGS

## Illuminating Mental Wellness in Later Life Through Education and Resources

**TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024**  
**9:00 AM - 4:30 PM CT**  
**VIRTUAL WEBINAR**  
**6 FREE CEs\***

In partnership with:

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

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Join us for our annual conference exploring the multifaceted aspects of mental and behavioral health among older adults. We will delve into crucial and current topics that affect this unique population and the caregivers that serve them. This conference brings together experts in the field to shed light on various aspects of mental health, including depression, delirium, dementia, and serious mental illness among older adults. Additionally, we will explore peer support interventions, workforce issues, healthcare and insurance options, grandfamilies and access to resources for overall health and wellness in older adults.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Develop a nuanced understanding of the mental health needs specific to older adults, including recognizing common conditions and challenges they may face
2. Navigate the complex landscape of healthcare options, insurance coverage, and support services available to older adults, enabling informed decision-making and advocacy
3. Learn about available resources and support systems for older adults struggling with mental health issues, empowering attendees to connect individuals with appropriate assistance

### REGISTRATION

For more  
information  
visit our  
learning  
website:



[Learning.MHAMidSouth.org](https://Learning.MHAMidSouth.org)

#### Continuing Education Credit Includes:

**Social Workers:** Approved for 6.0 CEs through the National Association of Social Workers, TN Chapter.

**Counselors:** Approved for 6.0 CEs. Mental Health America of the MidSouth is an approved continuing education provider through the National Board of Certified Counselors

**Assisted Living Administrators:** Approved for 6 CEs through ACLF

**Nurses:** Approved for 6 CEs through UT Martin. All credits for nurses are subject to a \$20 fee through the licensing board.

\*This conference offers 6.0 continuing education credit hours for professionals. Sessions may be attended individually for 1-6 credit hours total. Attendance will be reported by the individual and confirmed through zoom attendance.

For any questions regarding CEUs, grievances, or accommodations please contact: [forinfo@mhamidsouth.org](mailto:forinfo@mhamidsouth.org) or call Mental Health America of the MidSouth 615.269.5355.

Visit us at [MHAMidSouth.org](https://MHAMidSouth.org) for more information about Mental Health America of the MidSouth.



# Resources

*In the event of a mental health emergency ...*

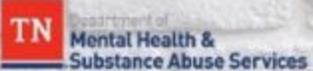
**STATEWIDE**  
**CRISIS LINE**  
**HELP IN A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS**  
**855-CRISIS-1** [TN.gov/CrisisLine](http://TN.gov/CrisisLine)  
**855-274-7471** 

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



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

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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](mailto:OCA.TDMHSAS@tn.gov) | [TN.gov/behavioral-health](https://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!

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Follow us on  
*Instagram*

Join us on  
**Linked** 

 Website

 Facebook

 Instagram

 LinkedIn