



Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

What's going to be your legacy? Have been thinking a lot about legacy over the last several weeks as we celebrated the 41+ years of state service of the legendary Rob Cotterman. From the first time I met Rob at a community meeting at Moccasin Bend, his inquisitive nature, helpful spirit, high energy, and incredible smile set the foundation for a legacy that endures today. Rob's legacy, built day in and day out, through his time at MBMHI, MTMHI, and Central office is that of a steady, thoughtful, and caring leader who was committed to making a difference for the Tennesseans we are blessed to serve. A quote that I think perfectly sums up not just Rob's legacy but also the legacy of Jeanne Price, a true trailblazer, and what we all should aspire to in our work comes from Mother Theresa: **“There is a light in this world, a**

healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is suffering, too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways.”

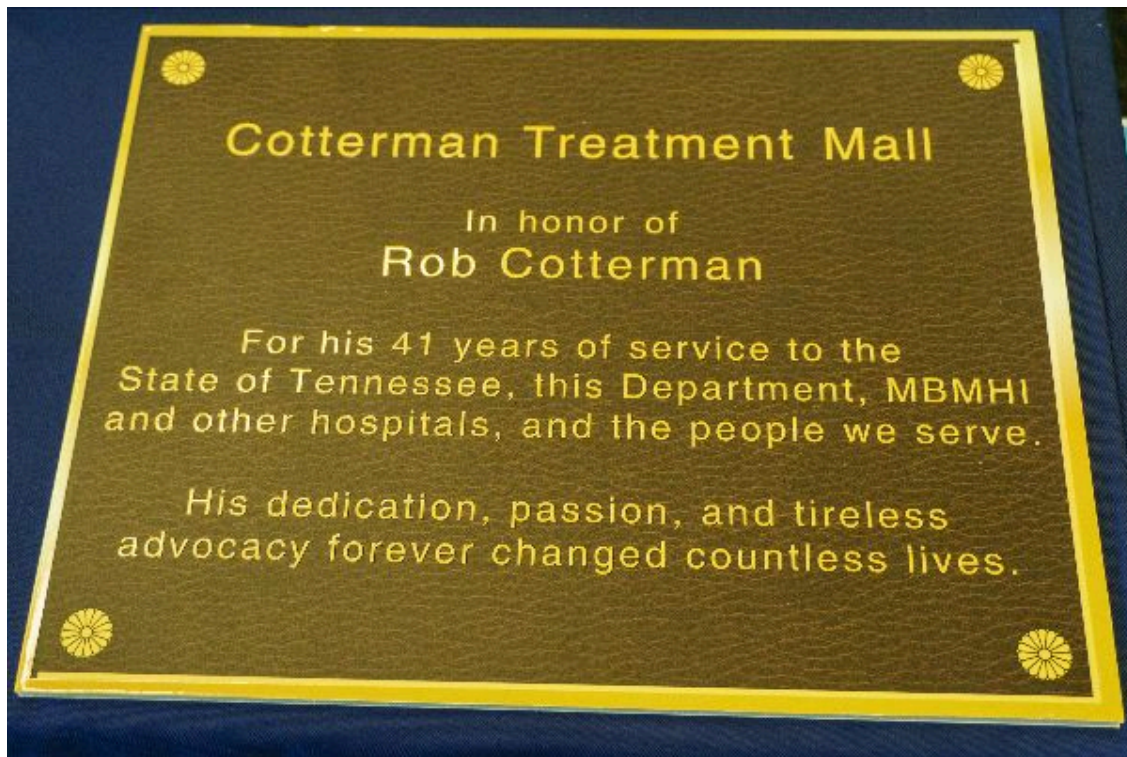
In closing, we know that each of our legacies, like our reputation, is something built over a career full of seemingly little interactions, supposedly small decisions which are actually major, and opportunities that you pursue. It is my hope that we all stop and think for a moment today about the people who have touched our lives and give thanks for their legacy of lasting impact.

Have a blessed day,

Marie



The department celebrated the amazing 41 years of state service of Rob Cotterman at a retirement part in late May. Among the many tributes offered for Rob, the Treatment Mall at Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute is being named in his honor in recognition of his service.



Remembering Jeanne Price



The department would like to extend condolences to the family of Jeanne Price and her colleagues at Frontier Health. Jeanne passed away in mid-May.

Across her career, Jeanne Price worked tirelessly to create safe, affordable housing for Tennesseans living with mental illness, substance use disorders, and co-occurring disorders. Beginning in 2002, Jeanne assembled a group of individuals to create a new HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) for the state of Tennessee, known as Appalachian Regional Coalition on Homelessness (ARCH), which encompasses Eastern Tennessee and continues to function to this day. Jeanne applied for and successfully secured CoC funds to benefit the community of the Creating Homes Initiative (CHI) region one, including a Supportive Services for Veteran Families Grant totaling over 2 million dollars. She worked alongside area service providers to create more than 5,100 units of housing and secure funding to create and continue programs including Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, Shelter Plus Care, and many vouchers.

She received various awards from partners, including most recently, the 2022 NAMI Tennessee Professional Award.

TDMHSAS Director of Housing and Homeless Services, Neru Gobin, shared these thoughts on Jeanne's life and legacy: "Thank you for showing us what a pure heart looks like, thank you for keeping us encouraged, and thank you for sharing your love with us. I thank your family for sharing you with us. Your legacy is intact and will never be shadowed."

June Statewide Planning and Policy Council Meeting



The TDMHSAS Statewide Planning and Policy Council held its Summer quarterly meeting on June 11. The packed room of attendees got updates from Commissioner Williams, a report from the department's Division of Hospital Services, and a look at the resources on the Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council's website. Attendees also got comprehensive updates from the Regional Councils and Committees. [Find meeting dates for the Statewide PPC, Committees, and Regional Councils at this link on TN.gov.](#)

Criminal Justice Liaison Program Conference and Success Stories



Tennessee's Criminal Justice Liaisons held their 3rd annual conference on June 18th in Brentwood. More than 60 CJLs, CMs, and their supervisors attended. Special guests included Amber Coyne, Syndemic Coordination Director with TDOH, who discussed how language matters when serving the criminal justice population and James E. Moore, Program Manager of Diversity with TDOHR, who discussed managing diversity. CJLs working through eleven community behavioral health providers cover all 95 Tennessee counties. Learn more about the program and connect with the CJL who serves your area at this link: [TN.gov/behavioral-health/cjl](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/cjl)



TDMHSAS is excited to release a new video series about the Criminal Justice Liaison program. We had the pleasure of meeting several CJLs who cover a wide variety of counties through Volunteer Behavioral Health Care Services stretching from the Upper Cumberland to Chattanooga. We also recorded the perspectives of a client who received CJL services and a pair of rural county jail administrative staff who share what the CJL resource means to them. You can watch the full video series in the player above.

CADAS Celebrates 60 Years with \$4.4M Construction Project



TDMHSAS Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey was proud to join CADAS for its 60th Anniversary Gala on June 22. At the celebration, CADAS Executive Director Paul Fuchcar marked the department's investment of \$4.4 million in funding. The dollars will create a 36-bed women's unit bringing CADAS's adult treatment bed total to 114. The funding will also add 16 single occupancy sober living apartments for Tennesseans in early recovery bringing their total apartment program to 64. Executive Director Fuchcar said: "The need for infrastructure funding for substance use disorders in Tennessee is acute. CADAS is keenly aware that this funding is available because Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly foresaw the need and passed a budget that resulted in worthy projects such as these. CADAS is humbled and grateful for the opportunities afforded by this funding."

Tennessee Shines at IPS International Conference



Tennessee's work to support the employment and educational goals of people living with mental health, substance use, and co-occurring disorders through

Individual Placement and Support (IPS) supported employment was on full display at the International IPS Learning Community Annual Meeting in late May. At the conference, TDMHSAS Director of Employment and Wellness Mark Liverman received an award for leadership, and TN IPS Trainer Tiffanie Whitaker received an award for Excellence in IPS Training. Ruth Brock, formerly with the Department of Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, was also recognized for her role in getting IPS off the ground in Tennessee. The two day meeting held in Chicago was truly an international event with attendees from as far away as New Zealand sharing how the evidence-based model of IPS is supporting the independence and goals of people living with behavioral health challenges. Learn more about IPS in Tennessee at this link: [TN.gov/behavioral-health/ips](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/ips)

RIP goes from Tennessee to the Big Easy



Regional Intervention Program State Technical Assistance Coordinators Ashley Jasinski and Stacey Broyles were honored to present this June at the National Association for Education of Young Children's Professional Learning Institute.

Ashley and Stacey brought Tennessee's Building Strong Brains and the HOPE National Resource Center's Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE) framework to professionals from all over the country attending the institute.

Tennessee Government Professionals Institute Graduation



Congrats to Clifton Lockett and Dwan Grey on their graduation from the Tennessee Government Professionals Institute (TGPI)! TGPI is for high-performing employees who want to build upon their professional skills and learn from the experiences of other subject matter experts in similar positions. Clifton Serves as a Recreational Therapist 3 at Western Mental Health Institute, and Dwan is a Forensic Specialist in the Office of Forensic and Juvenile Court Services. Both were chosen through a competitive review process after being selected by the department as candidates to apply for this leadership program overseen by the Department of Human Resources.

Welcome to Team TDMHSAS



Gina Turley joined the Office of Housing and Housing Services. She joins as a Program Manager 1 and will be overseeing the Supportive Living, Community Targeted Transition Support (CTTS), Inpatient Targeted Transitional Support (ITTS), and Consumer Housing Specialist (CHS) programs. Prior to joining the team, Gina dedicated 21 years to the AIM Center as the Statewide Consumer Housing Specialist and served as a SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) regional lead. Gina also holds certification as a CPRS.

Office of Behavioral Health Safety Net and Older Adults

Jenna Robl has been promoted to Assistant Director of Strategic Operations. Jenna has been with TDMHSAS since 2015 and joined the BHSN Team in 2021. Skilled in data evaluation and big picture thinking, Jenna draws from her direct service experience in community mental health and working with justice-involved individuals. This new role will allow TDMHSAS to leverage Jenna's skillset and experience to strengthen and continue to improve the BHSN and other programs and initiatives inside the Office.





Marisa Whitsett recently joined the Office of BHSN and Older Adults as Assistant Director of Behavioral Health Safety Net. Marisa comes to TDMHSAS from Alliance Healthcare Services in Memphis, TN where for the last nine years she has worked with grant-based services, including School-Based Behavioral Health Liaisons, Individual Placement and Support Employment Services, Clinical High-Risk State for Psychosis, and the Tennessee MOVE Initiative.

Summer Kickoff at Moccasin Bend



On June 5th, the Adjunctive Therapy department at MBMHI had a summer kickoff event for patients and staff. The event included games and face painting as well as hotdogs and popcorn. The swimming pool, that was recently converted to a saltwater system, opened for the summer. Each unit had an opportunity to come down and participate enjoying the games and the food. Thank you to the AT department for organizing this event.

Coalitions in the Community

Scott County Coalition Event Engages and Uplifts Underserved Youth



STAND hosted a community event that brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to support and engage underserved youth within the community. Held at the sprawling Oneida City Park, the event attracted more than 2,500 attendees, making it one of the largest gatherings of its kind in recent years. The event was a testament to the power of collaboration. It featured a wide array of community coalition partners, including non-profit organizations, local businesses, health and mental health providers, local and state law enforcement agencies, and schools. Together, they created a vibrant and supportive environment, offering the community entertainment, food, and valuable information on resources and prevention activities.

Power of Putnam



In May, Power of Putnam partnered with ThinkFast Interactive and was able to have every student at Prescott South Middle School participate in the hour-long program! During this program students break into teams where they compete to answer trivia questions about mental health, substance use, and more! The coalition also distributed more than 500 resource packs to the students which included mental health, marijuana, and positive norms infographics. Ending the school year with knowledge and education to have a happy, healthy, and drug-free summer!

Hudson House Opens in Stewart County



Congratulations to the Stewart County Prevention Coalition on opening their new drop-in center called Hudson House! With a small amount of funding and

a lot of help and sweat from their partners, they opened Hudson House as a community resource for addiction treatment and recovery and other needs like housing, employment, and meeting space.

Metro Drug Coalition Holds Recovery Coach Academy



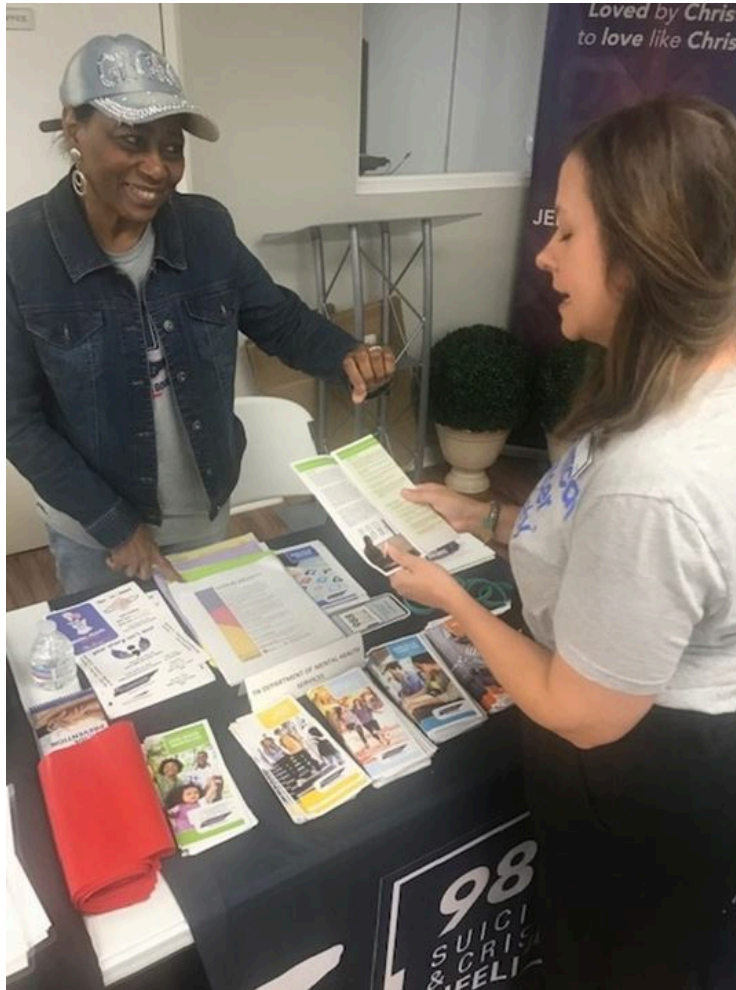
METRO DRUG COALITION
RECOVERY COACH ACADEMY

CONGRATULATIONS!

Metro Drug Coalition held another successful Recovery Coach Academy. The CCAR Recovery Coach Academy is an intensive training academy focusing on providing individuals with the skills needed to guide, mentor and support anyone who would like to enter into or sustain long-term recovery from an addiction to alcohol or other drugs. The graduates earned 30 CEUs for the training and are now equipped with the skills and knowledge to walk alongside individuals and help them break down the barriers to successful recovery. [Learn more about this opportunity on MDC's website at this link.](#)

Shout Out!

TDMHSAS represented in community health fair



TDMHSAS's Gwen Hamer represented the department and shared mental health, suicide prevention, and substance misuse information at a recent health fair organized by Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church in Nashville. TDMHSAS was one of 15 presenters at the event including several mental health agencies. Gwen reports that numerous attendees came to her table and a few of them were directly connected to community mental health services at this event.

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

Adult Committee

Wednesday, July 10, 2024
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CST
Andrew Jackson Building
Conference Room 5.1 South, 5th Floor
500 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Region VI

Tuesday, July 9, 2024
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CST
Pathways
238 Summar Drive
Jackson, TN 38301

Region III

Thursday, July 11, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST
AIM Center
472 W. MLK Blvd.
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Region VII

Tuesday, July 23, 2024
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. CST
Church Health
1350 Concourse Ave., Suite 142
Memphis, TN 38104

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.



**SUICIDE PREVENTION IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN
FAITH COMMUNITIES COALITION (SPAAFCC)**

8TH BIENNIAL *Conference*

Hope in Action: Preventing Suicides
in Black Faith Communities

**FREE
REGISTRATION**

<https://buytickets.at/spaafcc/1290540>



AUG | 8th | 2024
8:45 am - 3:30 pm

4 Free Contact Hours Available

Lake Providence Missionary Baptist Church
5891 Nolensville Pk, Nashville, TN 37211

This event is supported by:
Metro Public Health Dept, TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Services, Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network,
TN Association of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Services, and BlueCare TN

Resources

In the event of a mental health emergency ...

Call or text 988 and press 0 to speak to a crisis counselor.

You can also chat with 988lifeline.org.

There is hope.

There is hope.

There is hope.

There is hope.



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

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](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.

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